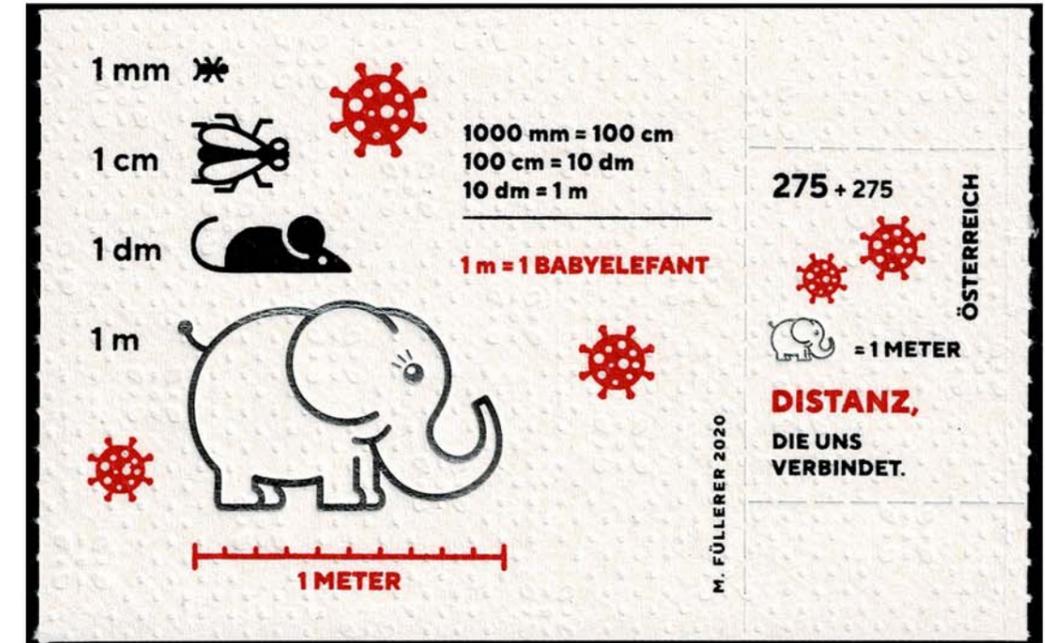Beethoven monument on Beethovenplatz, Vienna

The Corona stamp

Prague City Post

Social distancing in 1909

A selection of the items discussed in this issue

AUSTRIA 213 – Winter 2020 – Contents:

Edited by Andy Taylor

If this journal is undeliverable, please return it to the Editor

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is regularly updated and enhanced.**

AUSTRIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
HONORARY OFFICERS

AIDE MEMOIRE

Editorial 213

Or at least some of you...

All of the officers are getting older, and will some day be old. Bring some new blood and fresh ideas to your society's committee! The existing committee will not be offended if you step forward and say "I could do that job at least as well as you". Indeed, they'll probably lay down a red carpet, scatter rose petals in your path, and offer you a cup of coffee. Or any other beverage of your choice, if you volunteer as Auctioneer!

One of our life members writes*: I am sorry that the Festschrift has not caught on more rapidly. I will of course send you something. Do people realize that it is not expected to be expensive and rare, it has to be interesting*?!

Dr Hans Moser (Innsbruck) is working on a project to improve the listings of the cancellations used in the Tirol. Examination of large collections of these cancellations show that in many cases a single catalogue reference covers several visibly-different cancellations; and the dates-of-usage are unhelpfully broad. For example, the INNSBRUCK and INNSBRUCK STADT cancels each have around 10 variants. Nor do the changes from Post Office to Poststelle to Postpartner to Postagent help! He is seeking collaborators who collect Tirol cancels. Anybody interested is invited to get in touch with Andy Taylor or Joyce Boyer, who can send them the document Dr Moser has produced.

Stop press! I have just been informed of the death of Colin Tobitt, our Chairman, and a rock of stability in the surrounding chaos. My deepest sympathies to Veronica.

Andy Taylor

"Glücklich ist / Wer vergisst / Was doch nich zu ändern ist".

TIROL

The Tirol (sometimes written Tyrol in English) is one of the longest-standing parts of the Austrian Empire, surviving rivalries between Church and regional aristocracy and the presence of two major language-groups. For the most part, postal practices followed those of the rest of Austria, as described in Part 2. However, there were differences, highlighted in this chapter. Perhaps the most interesting time for the postal historian was the Napoleonic era when the Tirol was split into three and became part of three different nations with their own currencies, postmarks and rate-tariffs. The map shows the position of the Tirol province within the Austro-Hungarian Empire during the nineteenth century.

HISTORY

Early history

The history of the Tirol is very much bound up with its position on the important routes across the Eastern Alps from the major towns of the Italian peninsula to Bavaria and beyond The Brenner and other high alpine passes were used by merchants, militia, clergy and goods since at least Roman times. In the eleventh century, the Holy Roman Empire wanted to secure the route from the German States to Italy and Rome and created two bishoprics on the southern approaches of the Eastern Alps.

The bishop of Trento (Trient in German; Trent in archaic English) was granted further estates around Bolzano (Bozen) and in the Vinschgau valley. Meanwhile, the bishop of Brixen received territory in the formerly-Bavarian Etsch and Inn valleys. These two bishoprics formed the bulk of what would later become Austria's South Tirol. The Holy Roman Empire's reasoning was that obedient bishops would cause less trouble on the important trans-alpine route than ambitious princes and other aristocratic landowners.

This did not put off the Counts of Tirol, based at Tirol Castle, near Merano (Meran), after which the region is named. The Counts extended their control over the Tirol south of the Alps at the expense of the Holy Roman Empire and their power came to exceed that of the bishops, nominally their superior lords. The Counts of Tirol also gained control over the North Tirol. Count Meinhard of Gorizia (Görz) inherited the Tirol County in 1253 when he married the daughter of the last Count. In 1369, the Meinhard line died out, and the Tirol was bequeathed to the House of Habsburg.

The area around Lienz (East Tirol) was retained by the Counts of Gorizia until their line died out in 1500. The Habsburg Emperor Maximilian I added East Tirol to North and South Tirol to form the province that remained in that shape and under Habsburg control until the First World War, apart from a short period of occupation by Napoleon and his allies.

The princely-bishoprics of Trento and Brixen continued with some independence but with the prince-bishops appointed by the Habsburgs, and often members of the Habsburg family. They had both spiritual and temporal powers over most of the South Tirol. They came under threat from the Habsburg Emperor Karl VI who wanted to unite all the hereditary territories under the Habsburg crown. The bishops continued to fight for independence in the face of growing Austrian dominance, but the struggle ended with the Napoleonic Wars.

The Napoleonic period

Following the 1801 Treaty of Lunéville, the princely-bishoprics of Trento and Brixen were secularised in 1803 and became part of the Austrian crown-land of the County of Tirol in 1804. The two dioceses remained unchanged and the prince-bishops retained their titles, but their temporal powers were lost.

In 1805 Austria was defeated by Napoleon's forces at the Battle of Austerlitz. As part of the ensuing Treaty of Pressburg, the whole of the Tirol County was ceded to Napoleon's allies the Kingdom of Bavaria. During 1809, Innsbruck was captured several times by militia led by the patriot Andreas Hofer, but the city was always quickly retaken by the Bavarian and French armies.

In 1810, Napoleon reshuffled his pack; the mainly-Italian-speaking Trentino province was detached from the Tirol and added to Napoleon's puppet-state, the Kingdom of Italy. Bavaria retained the mainly-German-speaking

part of the South Tirol along with North Tirol. East Tirol was added to the French Illyrian Provinces. The Tirol was now divided between three different foreign countries.

In late 1813, Austria advanced into and recaptured the Tirol. The 1814/15 Congress of Vienna ratified Austria's rule over the Tirol, and the Princely County of Tirol and Vorarlberg became a crown-land of the Austrian Empire. Zillertal was added to the Tirol in 1817, and the territory then remained unchanged until 1861 when Vorarlberg was detached and became a separate Crownland.

Languages of the Tirol

The North and East Tirol were overwhelmingly German-speaking, but the situation in South Tirol was quite different. The northern part (approximately the Bolzano province) was predominantly German-speaking and the southern part (approximately the Trentino province) predominantly Italian-speaking. Additionally, the Ladin language was the main tongue in the blue area on the following map.
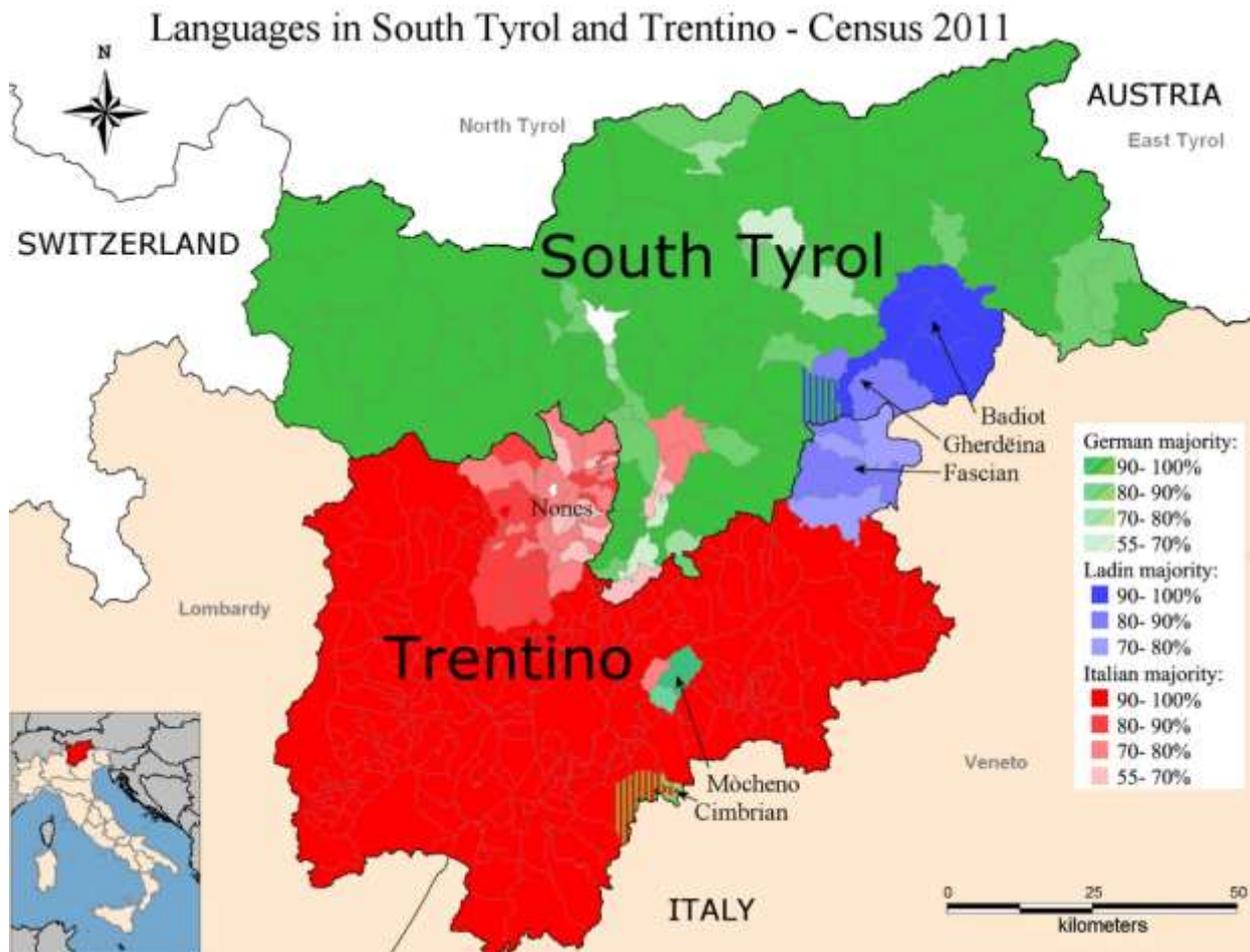
There are also some minor languages (eg Cimbrian) marked on the map.

Even today, a hundred years after the South Tirol was ceded to Italy, 62% of the inhabitants of the Bolzano province speak German as their first language, but this rises to over 90% in many hot-spots such as Klausen (91%), Lana (90%), Latsch (98%), Mals (97%), Niederdorf (92%) and Welsberg (95%). Ladin is by comparison a minority language, but in places such as Livinallongo (90%) and Colle Santa Lucia (95%), the vast majority claim Ladin as their mother tongue. The German/Italian language divide determined the South Tirol's administrative organisation, particularly during the Napoleonic occupation. It is also seen in the language of postmarks and other markings on South Tirol mail.

The postal history

The pre-Napoleonic era

The Thurn & Taxis organisation operated the early posts in the Tirol, with Janetto Taxis the first postmaster of the Tirolean routes in 1489. This was part of a network of international post-routes set up by T&T. As early as 1507, post was carried from the Low Countries via Innsbruck over the Brenner Pass to Rome and Venice. In 1770, the Austrian Imperial Post withdrew the privilege from Thurn & Taxis and took over the Tirolean letter-post themselves.

Folded parcel letter dated Trento, 12 May 1690, accompanying a box of samples to Verona and carried by the Thurn & Taxis post. The merchant's symbol, at centre-right, would also have been marked on the box so that it could be identified.

One Tirol postmark is known from the Thurn & Taxis period; a straight-line **v. Innsbruck**, first recorded by Müller for 1764. After the Imperial post took over in 1770, other postmarks began to appear: Bolzano and Trento first recorded for 1770, Borgo and Lienz in 1771, Rovereto in 1782 and Nassereit in 1789. These were the only seven Tirolean post-offices with postmarks when Austria went into its "postmarkless period" in 1790.

Cover and complete contents dated Trento, 12 May 1690, and addressed to the Count Lazara, canon of Padova cathedral. Carried by the Taxis post and marked 8kr to pay, increased to 9kr, probably a local-delivery charge. The squiggle at bottom-right is to stress urgency.
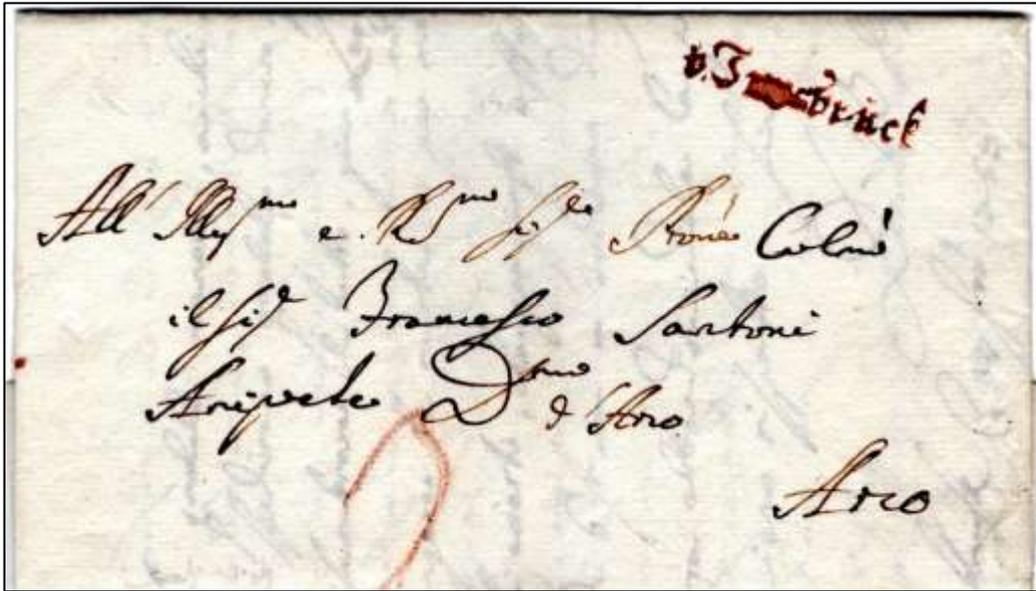
Folded letter dated Innsbruck, 23 October 1765 to Arco and bearing the Tirol's first postmark **v. Innsbrück.** *Marked* **3**kr *for the addressee to pay; for a half-paid letter weighing up to ½ Loth (1751 tariff).*
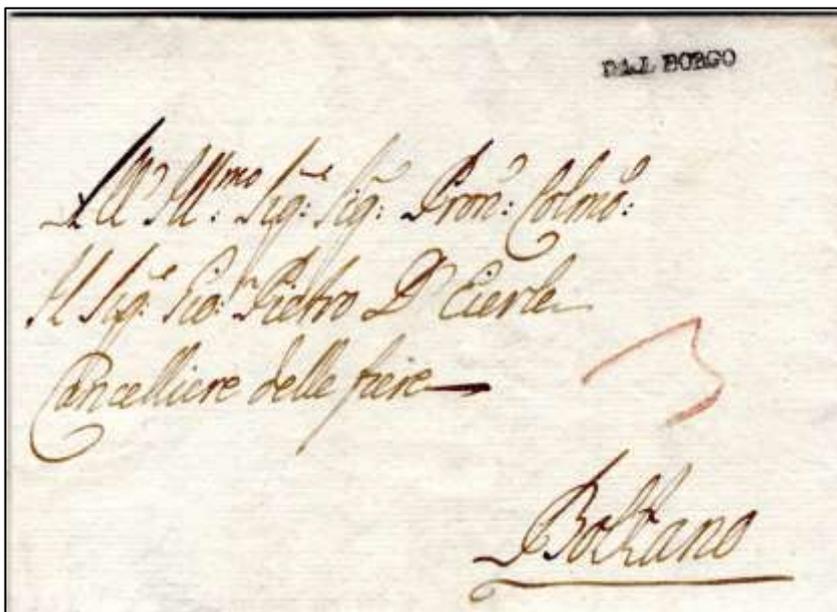
Folded letter to Bolzano dated Borgo, 7 November and postmarked **DAL BORGO**. *Half-paid letter marked* **3**kr *for the recipient to pay for a ½ Loth letter (1751 tariff).*

During the eighteenth and early nineteenth century it was normal for postage to be half-paid by the sender and half due from the recipient. From 1751 it was possible to fully pre-pay the postage, but this was very much the exception. In the table below, half-paid letters are expressed as, for example, 3 + 3kr. The Tirol rates were not always the same as in the rest of Austria. The tables below are adapted from Hubert Jungwirth's excellent book (see References).

From 1718

	to ½ loth	to 1 loth	to 1½ loth	to 2 loth
within Tirol	2 + 2kr	4 + 4kr	6 + 6kr	8 + 8kr
outside Tirol	3 + 3kr	6 + 6kr	9 + 9kr	12 + 12kr

From 1751

	to ½ loth	to 1 loth	to 1½ loth	to 2 loth
within Tirol	3 + 3kr	6 + 6kr	9 + 9kr	12 + 12kr
outside Tirol	4 + 4kr	8 + 8kr	12 + 12kr	16 + 16kr
foreign	6kr	12kr	18kr	24kr

The following is an uncommon example for this period of mail being sent fully prepaid and marked *franco tutto* on the front.
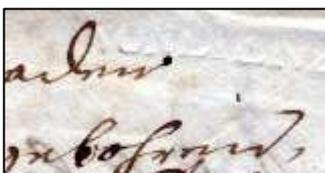
Envelope with full contents dated Lienz, 15 May 1778 to Gmund. Dry print of the scarce **VON LIENZ** *postmark at top-right. The imprint is not a fluke but is normal usage, recorded from 1771 to 1787. The pre-paid postage of* **16**kr, *marked on the back, is for a second-weight letter going outside the Tirol (1751 tariff). Right: false-colour version to more clearly show the debossed colourless postmark.*

From 1 January 1789

	to ½ loth	to 1 loth	to 1½ loth	to 2 loth
inland	4 + 4kr	8 + 8kr	12 + 12kr	16 + 16kr
foreign	6kr	12kr	18kr	24kr

Starting with this tariff, registration cost 6kr and a mailing receipt 3kr.

From 1 November 1789

	to ½ loth	to 1 loth	to 1½ loth	to 2 loth
inland	4 + 4kr	8 + 8kr	10 + 10kr	12 + 12kr
foreign	8kr	16kr	24kr	32kr

From 1 January 1791

	to ½ loth	to 1 loth	to 1½ loth	to 2 loth
inland	4 + 4kr	8 + 8kr	12 + 12kr	16 + 16kr
foreign	8kr	16kr	24kr	32kr

From 1 August 1798

	to ½ loth	to 1 loth	to 1½ loth	to 2 loth
inland	6 + 6kr	12 + 12kr	18 + 18kr	24 + 24kr
foreign	12kr	24kr	36kr	48kr

*Folded letter to Innichen dated Brixen, 12 January 1801, before the princely-bishopric of Brixen was secularised. Marked **v. Brixen** in manuscript during Austria's "postmarkless period". Marked **6** kr to pay for a half-paid ½ Loth letter (1798 tariff).*

From 15 November 1803

	to ½ loth	to 1 loth	to 1½ loth	to 2 loth
inland	8 + 8kr	16 + 16kr	24 + 24kr	32 + 32kr
foreign	16kr	32kr	48kr	64kr

For a letter crossing the border, the sender had to pay both parts of the half-rate tarif. The cost of registration was reduced to 4kr; a mailing receipt remained 3kr.

From 1 July 1808, postage for a first weight inland letter was increased to 10 + 10kr, a foreign letter to 19kr.

The Napoleonic era

The Kingdom of Bavaria occupied the Tirol in 1805. In 1806, to the annoyance of the Tiroleans, the Bavarians equated the higher-value Austrian kreuzers with the Bavarian kreuzers. In the rate tables below, therefore, "kr" can mean both Bavarian (rheinisch) kreuzers and Austrian kreuzers used in the Tirol.

When the Bavarians officially took over the Tirol post-office in February 1807, they brought Bavarian postal practices with them. Bavaria was divided into three postal rayons, which partly determined the postage rate. The Tirol was put in a new fourth rayon. While unoccupied Austria continued postmarkless, postmarks were reintroduced into the Tirol, and introduced into post-offices which had not previously had a canceller. From 1810, new postmarks were of typically Bavarian design incorporating the R4 rayon-designation as in the following example.

Folded letter to Salzburg from the district-court at Kitzbühel, dated 7 October 1813 and postmarked **ST. JOHANN AM ACHEN R.4**. (*Kitzbühel did not have its own post-office until 1840*). *The* **K.D.S.** *(königliche Dienstsache) marking is the Bavarian equivalent of ex offo, and no postal charges are shown on the cover.*

From 1 January 1809, an interim Tirolean tariff was introduced.

	to ½ loth	to 1 loth	to 1½ loth	to 2 loth
1 - 2 post-stations	4 + 4kr	6 + 6kr	8 + 8kr	10 + 10kr
within Bavaria	8 + 8kr	12 + 12kr	16 + 16kr	20 + 20kr
foreign	19kr	28kr	37kr	46kr

Austria itself was now of course a foreign destination for mail from the Tirol.

Folded letter from Rovereto in Bavarian Tirol to Augsberg in Bavaria-proper. Half-paid letter marked 8kr rh to pay by the sender and 8kr rh to pay by the addressee; for a first-weight letter for more than two rayons within Bavaria (1809 tariff).

In 1810, when the Tirol was split between three occupying powers, France and the Kingdoms of Bavaria and Italy, each had its own currency and its own postal tariff. The Bavarian tariff, effective 1 December 1810, could be paid either in full by the sender or in full by the addressee.

	to ½ loth	to 1 loth	to 1½ loth	to 2 loth
to 6 meilen	3kr	4kr	6kr	7kr
to 12 meilen	4kr	6kr	8kr	10kr
to 18 meilen	6kr	9kr	12kr	15kr
to 24 meilen	8kr	12kr	16kr	20kr
to 30 meilen	10kr	15kr	20kr	25kr

The registration fee was 4kr and a registration receipt cost 12kr.

Folded letter to Mühlbach dated Brixen, 3 February 1814, with the Bavarian postmark **R.4. BRIXEN 4 FEB 1814**. *still using the Bavarian tariff and marked* **4kr** *for a letter weighing ½ to 1 Loth for up to six Meilen.*

The southern part of the South Tirol (Trentino) became part of the Republic of Italy in 1810 and adopted its tariff from 21 May 1811. The Italian currency was 1 lira = 100 centesimi, but the rates were usually expressed in decimi (= 10 centesimi).

Folded letter from the Mayor of Roncegno dated 19 February 1811, posted at nearby **BORGO** *to the Finance Department in Trento. Addressee charged 2 decimi (marked as* **20** *centesimi).*

The following Italian tariff was introduced on 21 May 1811, with the weight-bands expressed in grams and the distances in kilometres.

	to 6g	to 8g	to 11g	to 15g
to 50km	2d	3d	3d	4d
to 100km	3d	4d	5d	6d
to 200km	4d	5d	6d	8d
to 300km	5d	6d	8d	10d

After Austria recaptured the Tirol, the Italian tariff remained in force in the Trentino province until 31 May 1814.
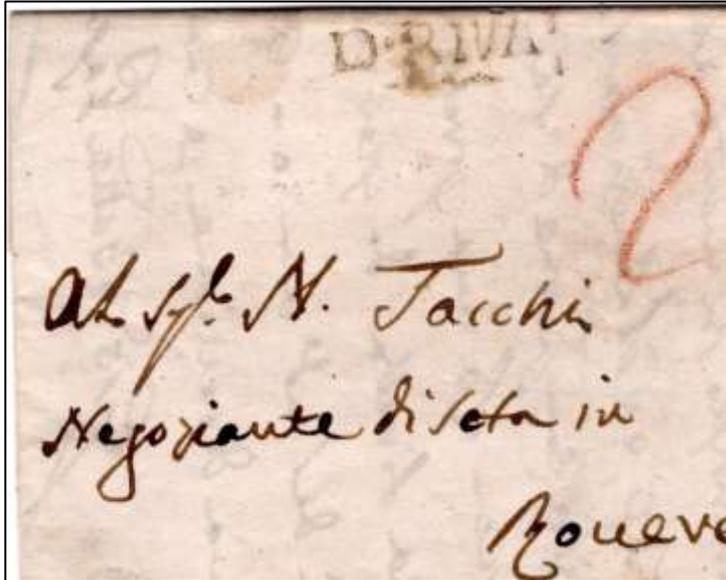
Folded letter dated Casto in Valsabbia, 4 March 1814 and addressed to a silk-merchant in Rovereto. Taken to Riva for posting and hand-stamped **D·RIVA**. *Marked* **2** *decimi to pay for the short distance from Riva to Rovereto.*

Folded letter dated 31 January 1814 sent unpaid from Rovereto to Bolzano and postmarked **Roveredo**. *Marked* **4** *decimi to pay; an 8g letter for 50 to 100km.*

East Tirol became part of the French Illyrian provinces in 1810. Effectively it had the status of a French department and postage was charged according to the French domestic tariff. Only Lienz received a standard French postmark LIENZ / ILLYRIE. By the end of the Napoleonic occupations of Tirol, forty-four post-offices were using postmarks, compared to only seven in 1790.

The post-Napoleonic era

After Austria regained the Tirol, a new tariff was introduced in the former Italian and French occupied territories in early June 1814, closely followed by the Bavarian territory on 12 June. It was a transitional tariff, not the same as prevailing in the rest of Austria at that time. The table shows the rates for half-paid letters, but it was also possible to prepay the full postage.

	to ½ loth	to 1 loth	to 1½ loth
to 4 postal-stations	3 + 3kr	6 + 6kr	9 + 9kr

4+ postal stations	5 + 5kr	10 + 10kr	15 + 15kr
to the border	8kr	16kr	24kr
foreign	12kr	24kr	36kr

The border rate was valid for mail to Bavarian Tirol, the whole of Austria and the Italian provinces of Belluno, Vicenza, Verona and Brescia. Registration cost 6kr and a mailing receipt 3 + 3kr.

*Folded letter to Verona dated **Rovereto**, 9 July 1814. Half-paid letter marked 8 kr to pay for a letter weighing up to ½ Loth for more than four post-stages (June 1814 transitional tariff).*

*Folded letter to Innsbruck dated Calliano, 21 December 1817 and postmarked **CALLIANO** during the last days of the "postmarkless period". Addressee to pay **10**kr for a ½ Loth letter over thirteen to fifteen postal zones (1817 tariff).*
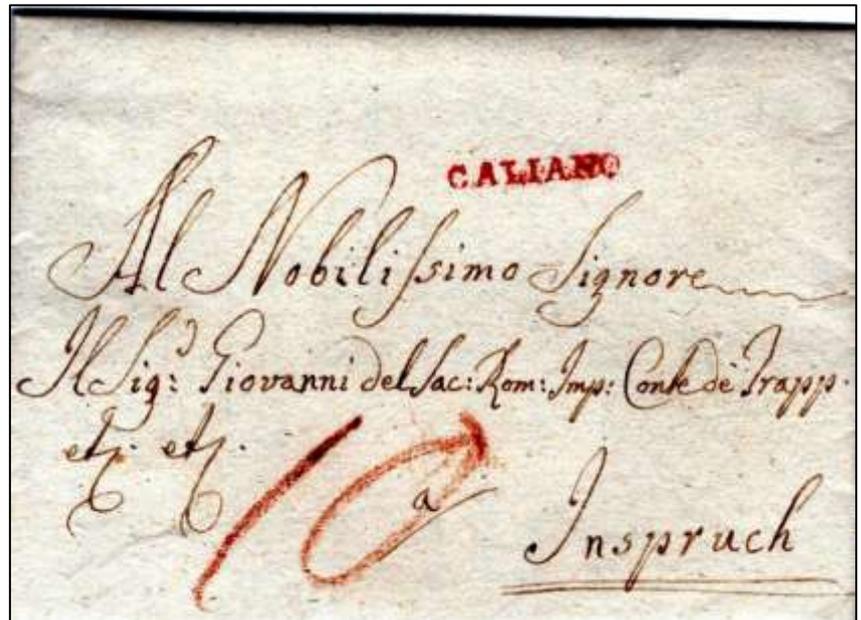
From 1 March 1815, the Tirolean tariff was brought into line with the Austrian tariff of 1 February 1814, and thereafter Tirol conformed to general Austrian tariffs and postal practices. As in other parts of the Empire, the usage of postmarks tailed off in 1815-1817 as the Tirol re-entered Austria's "postmarkless period". When use of postmarks recommenced in 1818, many of the Napoleonic era cancellers were brought back, some remaining in use until the 1830s.

The directive to use <u>dated</u> postmarks from the late 1830s led to the introduction of a distinctive double-circle cancel for many of the post-offices under the Innsbruck postal directorate. These were characterised by large lettering and often an ornament.

Folded-letter dated Branzoll, 5 May 1839 to Neumarkt (Tirol), postmarked **BRANZOLL / 5 MAI**. *The sender has pre-paid the postage of 2kr, the minimum rate on the 1817 tariff*
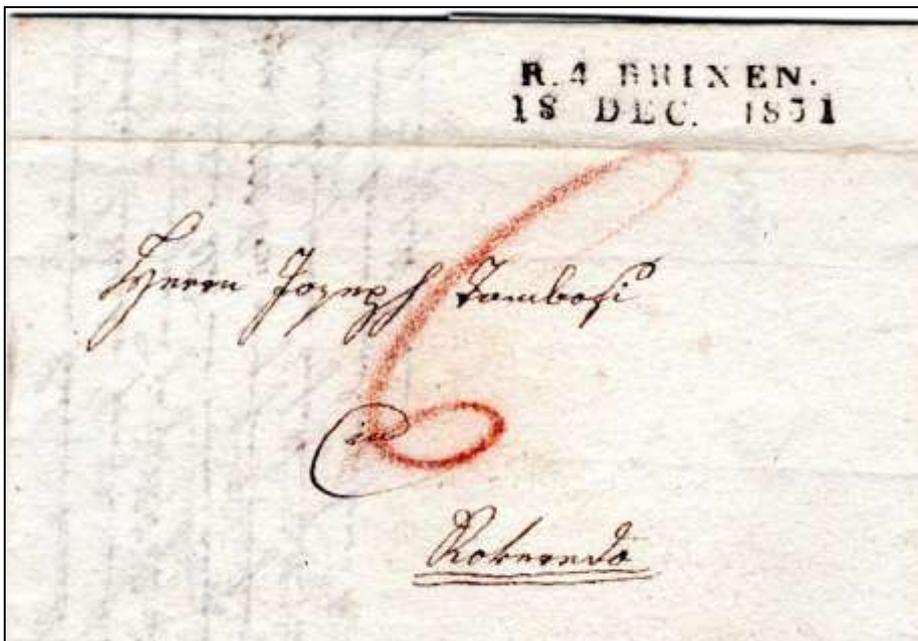
Folded letter to Rovereto dated Brixen, 17 December 1831 and still using the Napoleonic-era postmark **R.4. BRIXEN / 18 DEC 1831**. *Marked* **6** kr *to pay; a ½ Loth letter for seven to nine postal-relays*

*Unlike the other postmarks in the Tirol double-circle series, the Rattenberg handstamp always has the date inverted in relation to the place name. 1846 cover to Zell am Zillerthal. Marked **6**kr to pay for a ½ Loth letter travelling up to 150km (1843 tariff).*

The Tirol remained a crown land of the Austrian Empire until the end of the First World War. The loss of the South Tirol to Italy after the War meant that the North and East Tirol were no longer contiguous. Today they form the province of Tirol, with East Tirol an exclave of North Tirol.

This article on the Tirol, and the following one on City Posts, are from a new book which a collation of your colleagues is writing. The incentive was the 300th anniversary of the Postal Decree issued by Kaiser Karl VI on 15 June 1722, when he decided to "take back control" of the postal system from the Taxis and Paar families: so 2022 is its 3rd centenary. This book is being created to mark that anniversary. To keep it within sensible bounds, it is limited to pre-stamp philately and the accompanying history, so stops at 1850 when Austria issued its first adhesive postage stamp. It also meets the need for a book in English on this collecting area.

The book is divided into several parts:

❖ Part 0 includes a preface, a contents list, and an introduction;

❖ Part 1 describes the beginnings and development of a postal service available to everybody;

❖ Part 2 discusses the details of the services provided to the paying public;

❖ Part 3 considers the Empire as it was in the relatively stable period from the end of the Congress of Vienna (1815) to 1850; in adequate detail especially if 'different from normal';

❖ Part 4 looks at countries ruled by the Habsburgs in 1722 but lost to them before or during the Congress of Vienna (eg the Austrian Netherlands);

❖ And Part 5 covers that which remains: the runup to the issue of adhesive postage stamps in 1850, and all the appendices, followed by a list of the principal works consulted & further reading, and a comprehensive index.

Publication was originally planned for Autumn this year, but events overtook it… Autumn 2021 is not yet impossible, and is the new target.

CITY POSTS

Introduction

The Imperial postal service was originally intended to carry mail between towns, provinces and borders, but not locally within towns. The growth of large cities brought a need for a service for local mail so that the sender did not have to go a considerable distance to the central post office to post letters. Private initiative organised separate City Posts (the "Kleine Post", later the "Stadtpost") to serve the major cities and their suburbs and surrounds. City Post services are known for Vienna, Prague, Ofen-Pest and Graz. The existence of a City Post in Brünn has been suggested, and is also discussed below.

Their fees were centrally controlled: originally set at 2kr per Loth for up to 6 Loth in the central area and 3kr per Loth to the suburbs, a collection fee of 1kr for taking a letter to the state post office for onward transmission, and a delivery fee of 1kr in Vienna (2kr elsewhere) for bringing a letter from the state post office to the addressee. These posts were not a commercial success: most businesses continued to use their own messengers.

The most extensive and widely used was the Vienna City Post. Collectors will not find it difficult to assemble material carried by this service during the 1830s and 1840s; earlier material is more difficult. The other known city posts, in Budapest, Prague, and Graz, were little-used and to a large degree unsuccessful. It is interesting that most of them attempted to diversify by transporting parcels, running errands, queueing for tickets etc, which stopped when they either ceased operating or were absorbed into the inland postal service. There must have been an ongoing demand, because a Patent of August 1859 sought to control the trade in 'Fortbeamte und Diener' by subjecting them to legal obligations. In Vienna, a Dienstmann Institute was founded in 1862 to regulate the trade; it required a guarantee from a would-be Dienstmann of 50 Gulden which he could 'earn' by 48 hours of unpaid work. They became a much-liked part of Viennese society; however, of the mainly Jewish 180 in 1939 only 17 were left in 1945. A well-known song of 1949 by the Austrian actor Hans Moser is "*Ich hob' mir für Grinzing einen Dienstmann engagiert*"! See also the Pedoni of Milan.

The Vienna City Post

The "cessation of abuses, disorders and excesses in the postal system" was a tireless concern of Maria Theresia. Her predecessors had also made considerable contributions in this regard, but the reform-loving ruler remained unsatisfied because laws alone could cope neither with the official humdrum routine nor with the popular "black letters", the secret transport of mail by unauthorized persons. Obviously, new ideas were needed to make the use of the state post office appealing to the public. Maria Theresia lent an open ear to anyone with useful suggestions.

After many years of discussion, it was decided in 1770 that houses in Vienna should be numbered. This was not primarily for postal reasons, but to control censuses, army recruitment, taxes, and similar governmental requirements. (As Vienna expanded, several renumberings were carried out, and streets would change their names as dedicatees were replaced by newer ones.) The numbering extended to the floating mills in the Danube, and the coffee-stalls in the Prater! However, it had a postal spin-off: a letter could be addressed meaningfully, instead of the deliverer having to know who every letter-receiver was and where to find them.

One of those who had an interesting suggestion for improvement was the Frenchman Joseph Hardy. From his homeland, he knew that privately operated city posts could sensibly supplement the services of the state post office, which at that time mainly concentrated on long-distance traffic. And as far as the business side of the matter was concerned, the Paris experience was positive.

Hardy therefore worked out a detailed action plan for the city of Vienna and its surroundings and submitted it to Maria Theresia in June 1771 with a request to grant him the concession to set up a "Kleine Post" in Vienna. The proposal was well received by the ruler. Hardy and his business partners, the lawyers Johann Baptist Schoutten v. Bergestraeten and Carl Chevalier de Briennen received permission on 20 January 1772 for a period of 10 years to set up and operate a Kleine Post in Vienna. This privilege was linked to the obligation to keep proper income and expenditure accounts, to send them to the court chamber every year, and to deliver a quarter of the net profit to the state treasury. The term "Kleine Post" was intended to express that it was a regionally restricted private company. The official Austrian postal system, nationalized since 1722, would be called "state post".

The basic statements were supplemented by an imperial patent dated 8 February 1772 containing the detailed instructions for the Kleine Post. From 1 March 1772, Hardy was permitted to transport all letters and parcels that were voluntarily handed over to him or his employees for transportation within the city itself and its suburbs, as

well as to pick up from certain designated locations in the area. To have enough bases for this, a main office in the city centre and sub-offices all around should be established in sufficient numbers. The subordinate offices should stamp the incoming mail with an entry stamp and then forward it to the main office through a postman. From there, the central distribution of the mail items was planned, four times a day between 8am and 5pm.

Hardy had no influence on the tariff structure, which was prescribed by the 1772 patent. The postage for letters up to a Loth "within the Linienwall" (basically inside today's Gürtel) was 2kr per Loth; outside the Linienwall it cost 3kr. Heavier items were more expensive; letters or parcels up to 3 Vienna pounds in weight were accepted. The same postage rates applied to the return postal route. However, couriers were not allowed to accept mail items weighing more than 6 Loth if their recipient lived in the city or in the suburbs; Rather, the senders were asked to bring such items themselves to the collection points or offices, so that valuable mail – such as money or value items – could also be properly registered.

The Kleine Post established in this way thus provided local postal traffic in Vienna and the surrounding area from 1 March 1772. However, Hardy also announced services that had little to do with the actual postal operations. In addition to letters and parcels, Hardy's messengers could not only be handed circulars, subpoenas, death notices, etc for distribution, but they could also be used for other errands. Anyone in a hurry paid a special fee and was then served by express couriers.

The Kleine Post started promisingly, but did not bring the hoped-for financial success: the first year of operation ended with a deficit of 3,907 Gulden. Hardy ceded his privilege to Schoutten a short time later, to whom it was transferred on July 3, 1773 and extended on 3 February 1777 for another ten years.

Schoutten tried to increase the earnings of the Kleine Post by improved service. For example, he also offered his services outside of office hours, introduced six collections of letters a day, and ensured that most of the sub-offices outside the Linienwall received two deliveries a day from Vienna. The head office, which had moved to Singerstrasse, was opened all week from 7am to 8pm and sold sheets of paper and "stamped" (prepaid) envelopes there "for the convenience of the public". In addition, the Kleine Post now picked up the letters received by the state post office and delivered them to the recipient for a fee of 1kr and also took care of the transport of postal items to the Imperial Court Post Office.

The unmistakable "rattling postmen"

From 1773, the messengers of the Kleine Post wore uniforms consisting of a yellow jacket with black cuffs and a yellow waistcoat, and later a grey jacket. As contemporary pictures show, a black hat, black shoes or ankle boots and knee-length trousers of the same colour complemented the uniform, which was soon well known in Vienna. On a yellow cord, carried over the armpit, hung the "receptacle", a tin box with the number of the messenger ("collectors") to hold the letters.

A rattle (in German, Klapper) was also an essential part of the messenger's equipment. It consisted of a strong about-A5-size wooden panel with a flat iron plate on one side, to which a loose iron handle very much like a door knocker was attached at both its ends. There was another iron handle on one of the smaller edges for the messenger to hold. When he twisted his hand to and fro, the rattle made a characteristic clack-clack sound that signalled the arrival of the Kleine Post. Everyone could now come and hand over their letters, which after being stamped were put in the receptacle. The rattle not only gave the Kleine Post a higher level of awareness, but also the nickname "Klapperpost". Its messengers were called rattling postmen or simply rattlers. Old drawings and engravings preserve the memory of them to this day.

On April 22, 1783 Franz Anton Gilowsky of Urazowa, owner of Schloss Goldegg im Pongau, bought the rights to the Kleine Post from Schoutten for 30,000 Gulden. Emperor Joseph II extended the privilege to the new owner from 1783 to the end of February 1792. Gilowsky worked hard, introducing many innovations intended to reassure the public, especially with regard to the security of the Kleine Post. However, it had to be nationalised in 1785, although the name and organisation survived until the reorganisation of 1830.

Mailing receipt for a registered letter issued on 29 December 1813 by the Vienna Klein-Post (which handled delivery of mail within Vienna itself) from Mödling in the outer suburbs to Vienna. The Klein-Post had its own tariff, and charged 4kr for a mailing receipt. The 16kr total included 6kr postage and 6kr registration.
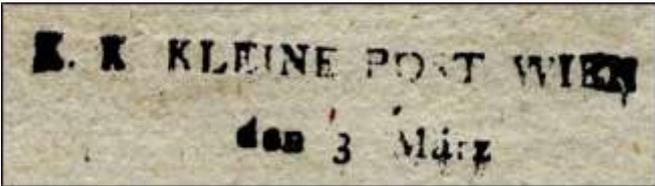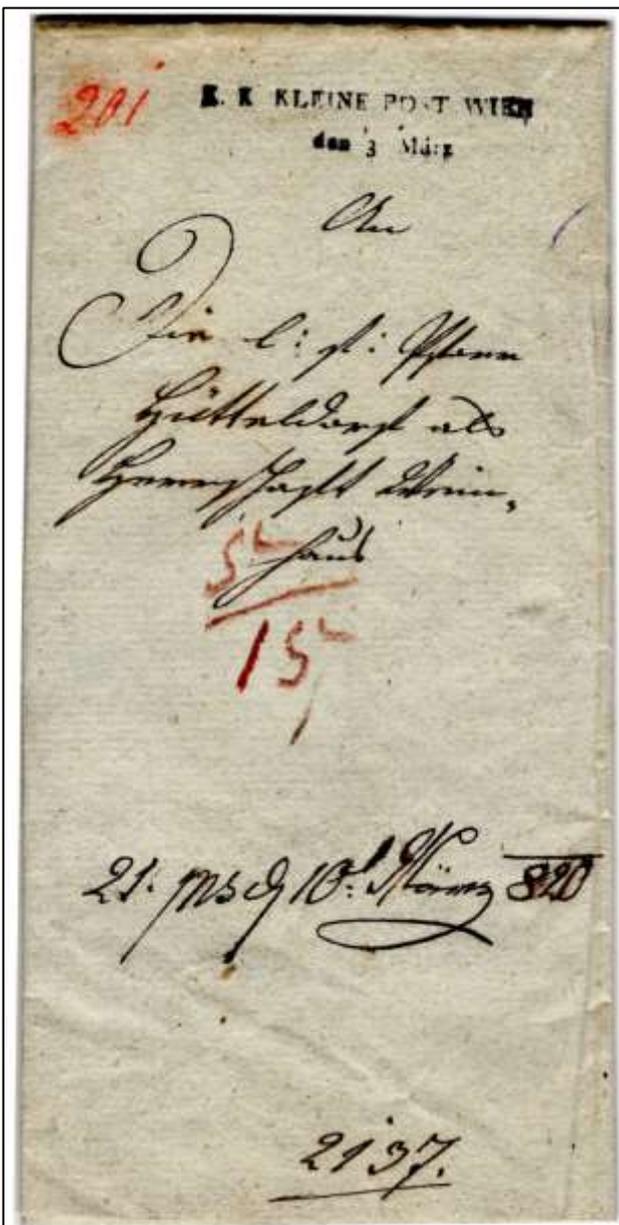
Folded letter dated 1820 from the Vienna Appeal Court to the Hütteldorf Herrschaft (estate) bearing the rare postmark **K.K.KLEINE POST WIEN / den 3 März** *shown enlarged above.*

< This is a filing note, dated 10 March 1820 - the year is shown as 820 with a line over the digits.

Mailing receipt for a registered letter to Brünn issued by the Klein Post in Vienna and dated 3 November 1825.

The 1830 and 1847 Vienna reorganisations

The Vienna postal service was reorganised in 1830 under the Imperial-Royal Senior Postal Administrator Ritter Maximilian Otto von Ottenfeld. The Kleine Post was dissolved and the Vienna City Post created. Its aim was to facilitate correspondence between the residents of the city, to accelerate the distribution of letters and mail arriving in Vienna and to make it more convenient for those living further away from the Imperial Post Office to mail letters and post. For this purpose, the city of Vienna and the suburbs were divided into six main districts, which in turn were divided into 46 delivery districts, which included the 73 "Imperial-Royal Letter Collections". Each

main district was given a Branch Post Office, while responsibility for overall management was placed in the hands of the City Post Administration in Wollzeile in Vienna. The Branch Post Offices and the City Post Administration were linked by small horse-drawn carriages, given the name cariole. They were light and manoeuvrable, having only two wheels and drawn by a single horse, and hence were only intended for the distribution of letter post. The name derives from the French word "carriole" for a ramshackle cart. These carriages were also used in towns and rural regions for delivering post, hence the term "cariole post".
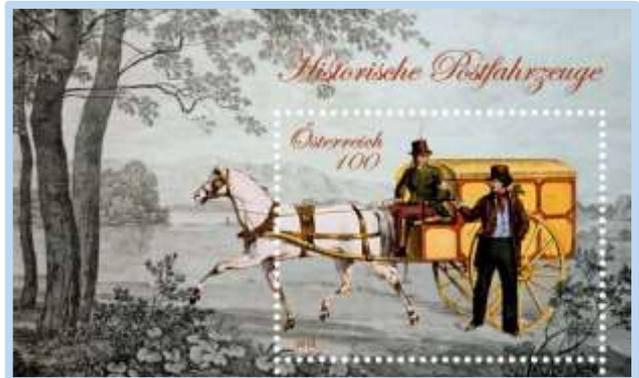
1841 folded letter from the Vienna City Court delivered to the suburb of Jedlersdorf by the Vienna City Post. Back-stamped

K.K.STADT /
POSTOBERAMT /
4 EXP 11 NOV.

The City Post grew so much that yet another reorganization was deemed necessary. On 11 October 1847, the General Post Office took over the City Post and replaced the sub-offices by 9 Main Letter Collecting Agencies (Hauptbriefsammlung). These supervised 87 Letter Collecting Agencies (Briefsammlung) in Vienna itself and 27 Rural Letter Collecting Agencies (Landbriefsammlung) in suburbs and towns near Vienna. In 1849 a special Sub Post Office was established to relieve the heavy burden on the General Post Office. Even earlier, in 1848, the Postal Administration started to turn the Rural Letter Collecting Agencies into independent regular post offices, thus concentrating the City Post to the city itself and the more closely connected suburbs.

1849 letter from a district police department in Vienna to the suburb of Hietzing.

*Initially postmarked **WIEN / 18 JUN** at the main post-office then handed over to the City Post who applied their own postmark **WIEN / 18 JUN / 1 EXP. 7½ F**. The City Post's 2kr delivery charge is confirmed by their **2 Xr** handstamp*

*Folded letter of 1848 from the monastery at Klosterneuburg to the Ober Döbling Herrschaft (estate) in Vienna. Postmarked on 1 August at the Klosterneuburg letter-collecting agency with the fancy "pennant" mark. The City Post took the letter first to Vienna, where it obtained a similar postmark. It was stamped **2 Xr** (2 kreuzer to pay) and then delivered by the City Post to Ober Döbling.*
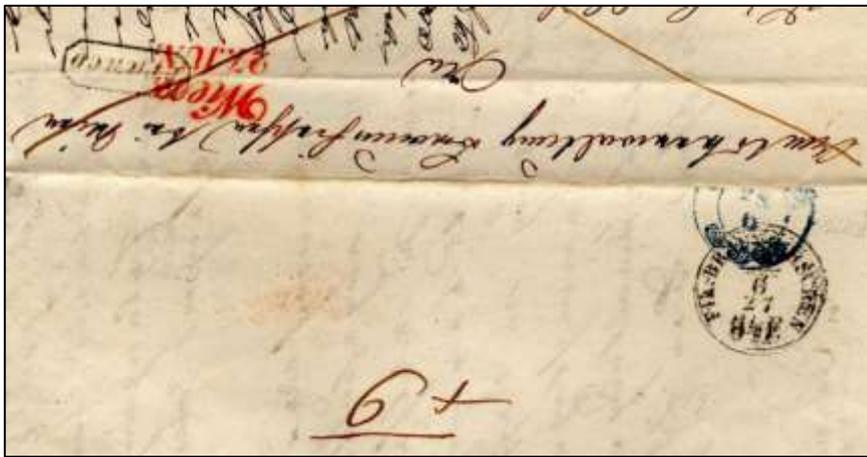
Folded letter from the Vienna suburb of Braunhirschen to Moravia dated 25 June 1849. The origin postmark FIL.-BRAUNHIRSCHEN / 6.27.8½ F is a new discovery, not recorded by Müller for the pre-stamp era.

The Prague City Posts

This letter was sent on 26 January 1791 from Prague to Weipert via Strakonitz and Horazdovitz. The black marking, which was applied upside-down, is an inverted "script P in circle", the mark of the Prague City Post.

Taken (with permission) from the Exponet display "PRE-STAMP MAIL ON FUTURE CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY 1564-1850" by the late Henry Hahn. Exponet reg number 66.

The need for a Prague City Post was urged by Franz Garsie (a Belgian, François Garcier) who after much pestering was granted an Imperial Patent by Kaiser Joseph II in summer 1782 – Prince von Paar overcoming the objections of Prague Head Post Office. The service soon began, for the collection and delivery of mail within the city and its suburbs. A letter up to 6 Loth cost 2kr to the city and 3kr to a suburb. Eight sub-offices were opened, from which letter-carriers operated. There were disputes with some suburban postmasters on who was allowed to do what, and Garsie was increasingly absent, leaving a deputy to run the business. Eventually a formal audit revealed a large deficit in the coffers, and the Kleine Post was nationalised in 1789. The Patent was cancelled in 1794

A Prague Ghetto-Post was established in about 1730, when it became expedient for the Jewish residents to have some control over their mail; it seems to have lasted until 1851. It may or may not have used a script-G-in-circle as its mark.

References: "Prag Kleine und Ghetto Post", Vol XV of ÖSTERREICHISCHE POSTGESCHICHTE, Dr R Wurth, 1991;

http://www.exponet.info/exhibit.php?exhibit_ID=364&lng=EN items 43 & 44;

Article by Henry Hahn, The Czechoslovak Specialist, Nov/Dec 2001, pp 8-13.

A unique money letter with 50 Gulden in banknotes from Prague to the town councillors of Ungarisch Skalitz (today's Skalica, Slovak Republic), paid in full on posting, sent by registered mail on 11.9.1783 – and marked in red that the recipient has to sign for it! The content of the letter was counted on posting and sealed according to the regulations with one seal of the sender and two seals of the office of posting, i.e. an office of the Prague City Post. A sharpened image of the seal is shown here; the inscription is **K.K.PR:KLEINE.POST.OBERAMT.**

The letter was dispatched for transportation by the head post office in Prague and cancelled with the first type of post office cancel, the single-line stamp "Von Prag", first used in 1782; it's in faint maroon, half way up the right-hand side.

The Ofen-Pest City Post

The operation of the city post in Buda (named 'Ofen' in German) is a very interesting although little-known event in the postal history of Pest, Buda and Óbuda, which were three independent towns until 1873. The first known mention of the city post in Buda was on 10 January 1786, when Joachim Götzel Spitzer submitted an application to the Council of the Governor-General for permission to set up a "Klapper Post" in Buda. This application was refused, but after some delays the city post in Buda was established on 1 October 1786, following the projects of a citizen of Buda named Stadler. The sub-prefect of the Pest county informed the inhabitants of the "royal free

boroughs of Pest, Buda and Óbuda" by a public notice about the establishment of the city post in Buda: "His Majesty ordered upon the demand of the public to set up a city post in addition to the Head Post-office." The city post of Buda operated in the cities mentioned, but it was also allowed to take over letters mailed to any of the postal stations along the postal routes leading to Vac, Esztergom and Szekesfehervär.

The head post office in the castle, the post office in the Wasserstadt and the branch post office also introduced a new service: they delivered the letters addressed to their districts. In order to do this the head post-office in the castle employed two so-called ordinary runners and two runners to deliver the express consignments. Four ordinary postmen worked in the Wasserstadt, three ordinary postmen and one dispatch-runner operated in Pest. The receipt of letters, the fixing of the postage and the postal administration were done by one post-officer in chief and two post-office-clerks. The postmen picked up letters to be mailed, too. For a little tip they also overlooked a letter addressed farther than allowed - which explains the existence of letters addressed over the district lines of the city post of Buda.

To collect letters on their journey, postmen had little boxes where the letters could be dropped in, and they also received the postage of 4 kreuzer for a ½ Loth letter according to the postal rate of that time. The same amount was to be paid by the addressee on delivery of the letter. The delivery of the letters as well as the collecting of letters took place several times a day.

The city post of Buda introduced also another important innovation. This post-office sometimes marked the date of posting beside the postmark. "KL.POST", "K: POST" or rarely "von Ofen". This fact is noteworthy, because the other postal stations first began to use written or stamped date postmarks in the 1820s

The city post provided other services to the inhabitants. In addition to the common postal services, the city post offered twelve others such as distributing of fly-bills, bringing smaller things to the pawn-shop, or delivering of theatre-leaflets.

The city post of Buda became very popular, so that it was made final after a year's trial. It is unknown when it was abolished, but its name is in the registry of the Council of the Governor-General for 1839.

The Graz City Post

The City Post of Graz (spelt Gratz at the time), created in 1796, was different to the others cities in this chapter because it covered a much larger territory; not just the city but almost all of central Styria to the borders of Karinthia and Hungary. A main post office, seven sub-stations in the suburbs and six postal stations in the main towns of east and west Styria were opened.

The Graz City Post used a distinctive series of letter and numeral hand-stamps. Hand-stamped letters were used from 1796 to around 1815. 'G' is the most common, but a number of other letters are recorded in the supplements to Müller.

*1806 cover from Graz to Strass-gang, a southern suburb, post marked at top-right with the **G** in circle of the Graz City Post.*
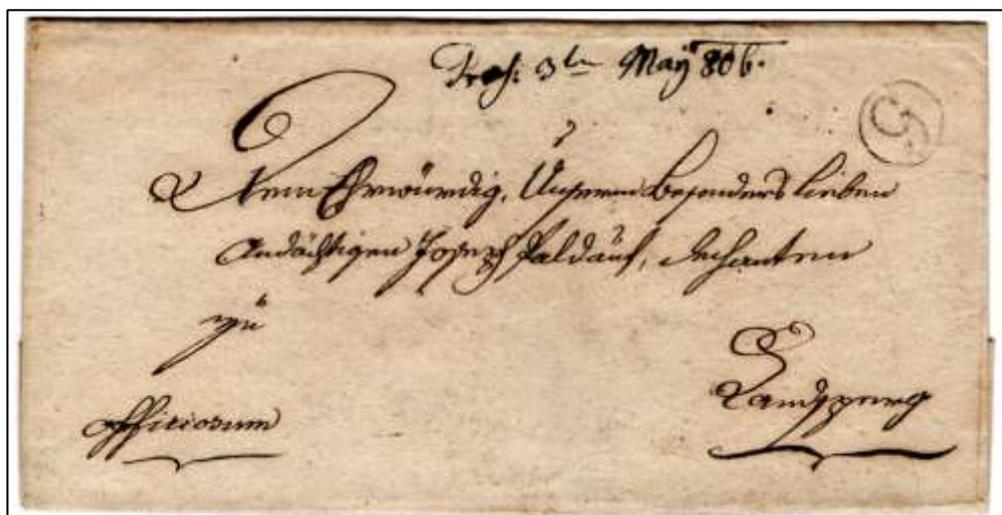
The rare mailing receipt below gives some idea of the area covered by the Graz City Post.
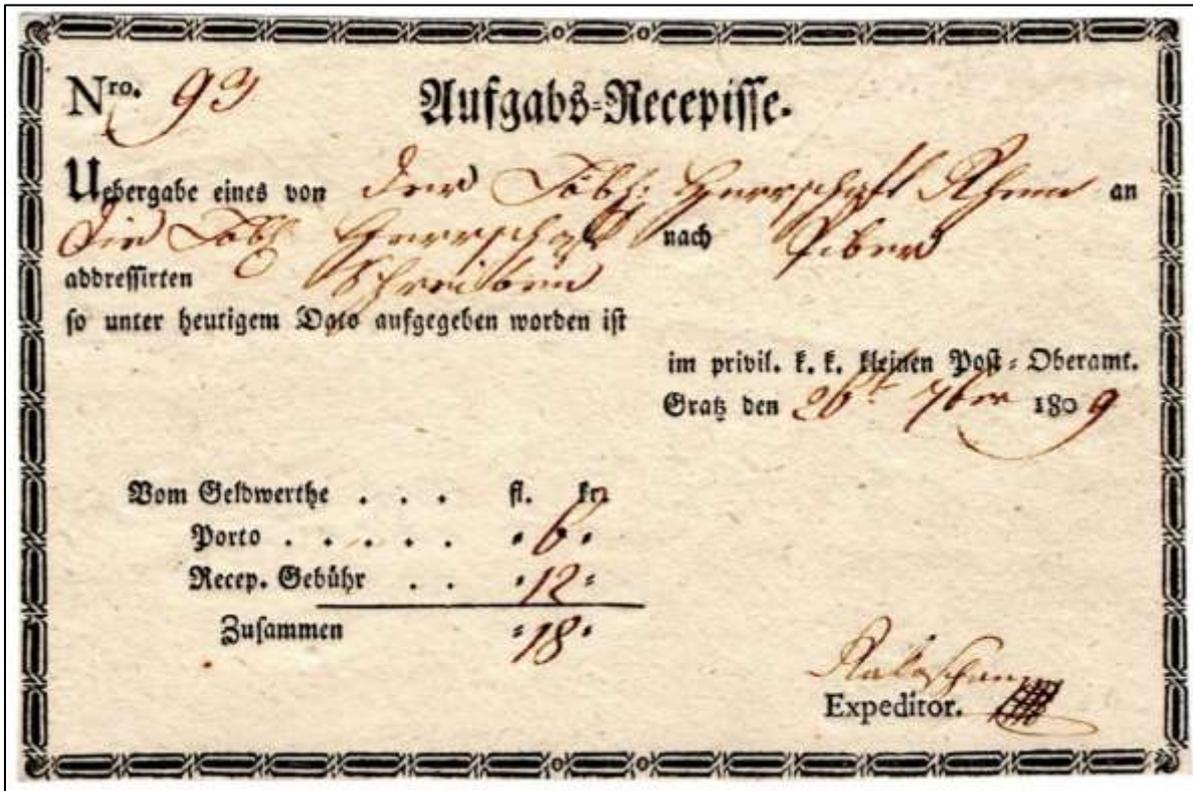
1809 mailing-receipt for 18kr (postage of 6kr and a return-receipt costing 12kr) issued by the k.k. Kleinen Post Oberamt in Graz for a letter to the Piber Herrschaft (estate). Piber is a village near Voitsburg, some 35km west of Graz, but still within the City Post area.

This modern road map shows how far Piber (arrowed) is from Graz! (The road through Voitsberg curves round and enters Graz beside the motorway, shown as a double orange line.)
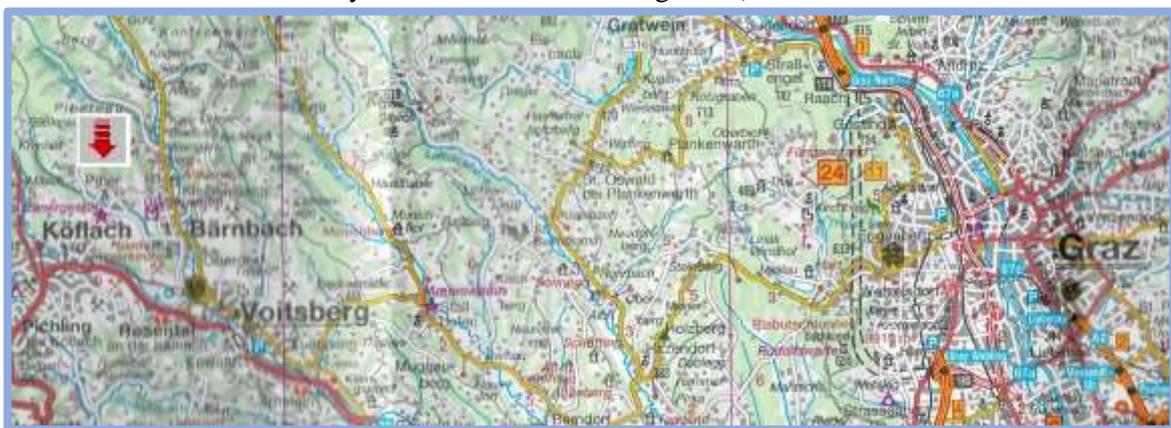
Incidentally, Piber is where the Lippizaner stud farm is located. It was founded in 1798, not long before the letter above was delivered.

Simple numeral-stamps, showing the rate to be paid by the addressee were also introduced in 1796, and continued in use until the 1830s.

1828 military cover from the No.1 Line Infantry Regiment in Graz to Wildbach, bearing the City Post rate-stamp 4. Wildbach is some 50km south-west of Graz.

In the mid-1830s, the distinctive six-point star rate-stamps appeared.
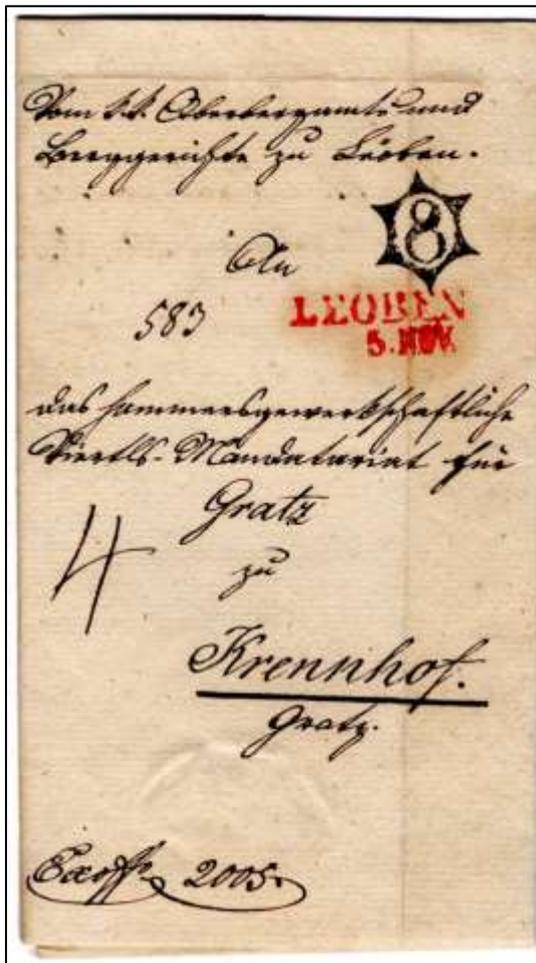
1839 official letter from Leoben (Styria). Sent unpaid through the Imperial post as far as Graz and marked 4 to pay on the front. Transferred to the City Post who delivered the letter to Krennhof in suburban Graz. Their fancy rate-mark 8 includes both the 4kr postage from Leoben to Graz and the 4kr local delivery
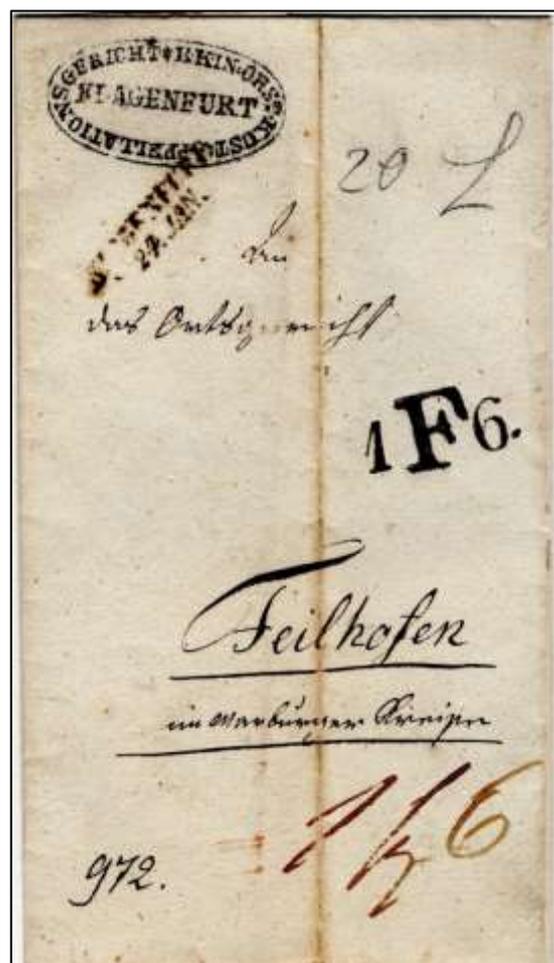
1846 official letter from the Klagenfurt Appeal Court to the local court in Feilhafen in the Marburg district. Delivered by the Graz City Post with their handstamp 1F6. The unusually-high rate of 66kr is due to the weight of the letter; 20 Loth, marked on the front.

The Graz City Post's territory reduced as the Government opened and serviced more post offices, and the organisation closed down in 1847.

Sources:

- E Müller - "*Handbook of the Pre-stamp Postmarks of Austria*", published New York, 1960.

- the three supplements to the above, published in Die Briefmarke

- S Kravcar - "*Handbuch der Vorphilatelistischen Abstempelungen der Steiermark*", 1987.

The supposed Brünn City Post

Müller states in his book that: "*In some documents, a city post at Brünn, the capital of Moravia, is also mentioned, but no further information is available.*" He goes on to say that in the absence of good documentary evidence, the supposition that Brünn had a city post is based on the existence of two "Brünn" postmarks on the back of incoming mail. From around 1839 the two postmarks, one dated and one undated, both appear on such mail. Three examples are shown here.

Müller says "*It can be safely assumed that the regular use of two arrival postmarks on letters was due to the fact that two postal organizations, the regular post office and a city post, also managed by the government, existed at Brünn at least during that period.*"

Postal Historians have generally accepted Müller's hypothesis as a logical explanation for the two postmarks used together. However, as Müller admits, it is based on circumstantial evidence rather than documentary proof.

In the 1890s, Václav Dragoun, who later founded the Postal Museum in Prague, copied all the entries regarding the postal services in national and regional archives. His work has been preserved in the Postal Museum, and APS member Hans van Dooremalen has been back to the original Czech documents and has discovered references to two attempts to introduce a city post in Brünn. The first proposal, made in November 1801 by Franz Xaver Pollack sought permission to establish "a small post" in Brno, based on the model successfully operating in Graz. This scheme did not go ahead due to bureaucratic delays and then because his sons had been conscripted into the army! Nearly twenty years later, in June 1820, Jeremias Munk asked the Moravian-Silesian postal administration in Brno if he could establish a "clapper post" in Brno. His application was rejected, apparently due to the stagnation of the Brno textile industry and to anti-Semitism: the applicant was of Jewish nationality.

It seems that, although several proposals were made, a city post was never established in Brünn. This still leaves the question of why the second postmark was used on incoming mail. Van Dooremalen suggests that the most likely explanation is that incoming mail went through two hands. At that time the post office already employed several letter carriers, so maybe it was applied by the person who prepared their rounds.

The correctness of this theory, van Dooremalen adds, is further enhanced by the fact that when two backstamps are present, they are always struck in exactly the same colour. This makes one believe that the same stamp pad was used, something which would not have happened if indeed a separate city post had existed.

The suggested Milan City Post

In Wurth's handbook, volume 15, he states that in December 1787 the Lombardy capital, Milan, had the idea of promoting a "Kleine Post" to promote inner-city communication, since one had already existed in Vienna (since 1772) and in Prague (since 1782) and others were in process of implementation. They applied to Vienna for the release of documents that would show them how best to control and manage such a Post; this was agreed.

However, the problems in Milan remained unsolved, and the project was not implemented. This might have been due to the Milanese tradition of "Pedoni" (= foot messengers), who were involved in the delivery of mail to the city and the surrounding area. These "Pedoni" were not paid, but received a portion (depending on their turnover) of the postal charges from the post office. This institution relied largely on the goodwill of the suburbs of Milan and also on the people selected for this function, because the Pedoni had to be trustworthy persons to whom one could safely leave letters to be collected and delivered. Since the city posts based their viability, among other things, on the inclusion of rural areas of their cities, the Milanese views in connection with the locally-oriented activities of the Pedoni could have prevented the establishment of a City Post. [Compare the Pedoni with the Dienstmann in Vienna discussed in The Vienna City Post above.]

The proposed Brussels City Post

In 1776, a Frenchman, the Chevalier Paris de l'Epinard, presented to the governor a project to establish a small letter post in Brussels, ie, an organisation transporting local letters exclusively within the city. Among other things, it would offer:

- the establishment of a general office in the centre of the city;
- hourly distributions;
- the possibility of pre-franking letters, by means of special marks;
- stamping of letters with a date and time stamp;
- the indication on the letters of the name and address of the sender;
- the transport of circulars at a reduced rate.

The Attorney General of Brabant, claiming that a "small post" office could only prosper in "big cities" such as London and Paris, concluded that the proposal should be rejected.

Brussels was under Austrian-Hungarian rule at the time, and that's why it's in here!

Europe's earliest circular stamp?

Originally by Bruce Henderson. bh@graphic-designer.com

One of the places I collect seriously is Bosnia-Hercegovina, and I was recently amazed to win an auction of a 1915 postcard from there with a circular multicoloured stamp on! Could this be Europe's earliest round stamp?

Bosnia 1915 postcard to Hungary with circular multicoloured 4f stamp. Postmark: **Bileca**, 29th August 1915.

The inscription surrounding the stamp is in Hungarian, VITÉZ ELESETT HARCOSAINK ÖZVEGYEINEK ÉS ÁRVÁINAK JAVÁRA, which according to British Google Translate means "OUR WITCHES OF VITEZ AND THE GOODS OF THE FALLS OF THE FALLING". However one benefit of the APS is access to a wide range of language skills and other expertise (thanks, RM) and a rather closer translation is "FOR THE BENEFIT OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF OUR VALIANT FALLEN WARRIORS". It was issued by the Royal Hungarian Ministry of Defence Military Aid Office.

So, I conclude this is a fund-raising stamp sold by the army to raise funds for relief of families of the deceased soldiers. But clearly, it was acceptable for use on mail, which must make it among the earliest circular stamps, and certainly the only multicolour stamp seen in the Bosnian Post Office back in that era of Austro-Hungarian rule (when all the stamps were single-colour engraved beauties.)

The black handstamp along the top reads (in German) **Artillery Occupation Department.** And the message is clearly written by a Hungarian, as the date is written in the Hungarian style (*915-VIII-29*).

Printed captions on the card say "Greetings from Bosnia and Herzegovina" and the printer is shown as "**J. Studnicka & Co., Sarajevo.**" The picture side shows a colourful scene of a Bosnian woman carrying a table, which is what persuaded me to bid on it! But now it has arrived, I think the circular stamp is the far more interesting part. And the card (and stamp) are in amazingly tidy condition after 105 years!

Bileća is a town and municipality located in Republika Srpska, an entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As of 2013, the town had a population of 7,476 inhabitants, so hardly the bigger metropolitan centre. And this is the first time I have seen its postmark.

Now I cannot work out whether to add this to my Bosnian collection, or my Hungary collection!

Editorial supplement:

Round stamps from Austria

Subject	ANK	Issued
Austrian Lottery	2430	2002-10-17
Giant Panda	2444	2003-04-14
Post from Another world	2609	2006-03-24
UEFA EURO 2008 - Adidas Europa	2750	2008-03-12
200th Anniversary of the Joanneum Graz	2938	2011-01-26
The Land of Forests	2970	2011-06-15
25 Years of the Lottery	2981	2011-09-07
200 years of Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien	3000	2012-01-01
Coin Vienna Philharmonics, 25th anniversary	3199	2014-11-05
Coin Vienna Philharmonics, 25th anniversary	3200	2014-11-05

(Next time the triangular ones?)

Letters to the Editor

Andy:

Austria 212, page 4 article by Frans Jorissen: Although I don't collect postcards of this era, I am impressed with the well-written article and the detailed and methodical approach to understanding the cards. Just before the epilogue, it was mentioned a lesson was learned and that it won't happen again. I think even forged items are great additions to a specialized collection as it tells another interesting aspect of the story. By the way, I'll bet most readers will not notice the images for figures 3 & 4 have been reversed.** Great article!

Regards,

Steve Schweighofer, Denver

**Nor will most Editors* ☹

Dear Andy,

The text on the card shown on page 35 of Austria 212 is "Den braven Verteidigern der Südwestfront meinen Dank und Gruß / Erzherzog Eugen / Weihnachten 1915"

At the end of 1915 Archduke Eugen was the military leader of the South-West Front (against Italy). For Christmas 1915 he gave a metal ring to each soldier on this front. We know of many cards and letters of thank for this prestigious gift. The Archduke wasn't startled - this is his usual expression when confronted with a photographic camera.

FPO 55 belonged to the 4th Gebirgsbrigade (Mountain Brigade) which fought at the Isonzo front during this period.

With my usual greetings - stay in good health

Helmut Kobelbauer

Why was this underpaid?

by Joyce Boyer

This was the heading of a message received from a local contact, who collects 'postage due' material, with the scan of the address side of a picture post card.

The card was sent on 29th August 1949 when the postage rate for postcards was 30g so on the face of it the franking was correct. However, I noticed the apparent outline round and below the stamp so asked for a scan of the picture side and was sent two and this solved the question.

This is not a postcard as defined by the post office but a letter and therefor the correct postage payable was 60g hence the surcharge of 60g being double the deficiency. The reason this is a letter is that the 'envelope' on the face opens up and reveals a strip of small pictures of Mariazell. [*See next page! Ed*]

After some dealing the card is now in my Costumes collection.
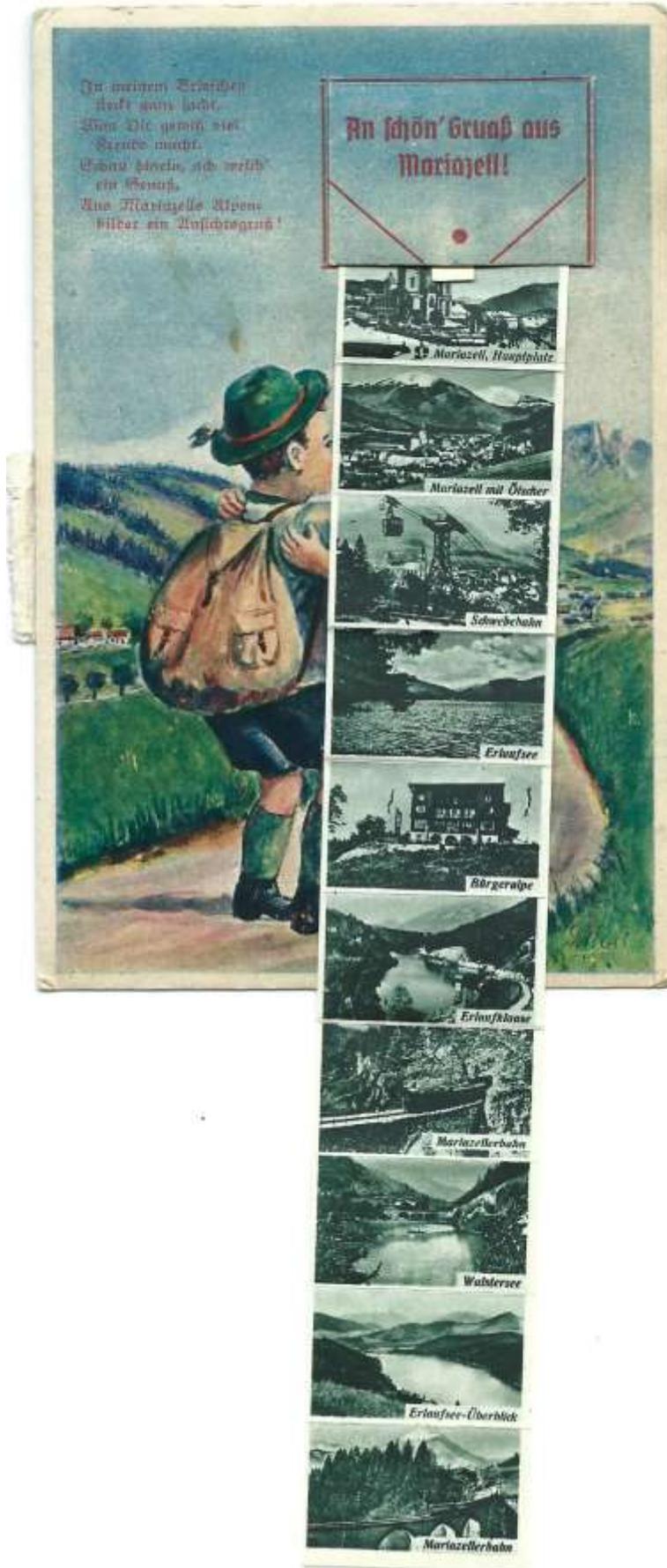
Ludwig van Beethoven: 250th birth anniversary

Ludwig van Beethoven, possibly the greatest of all composers, was born at Bonn am Rhein on 17th December 1770 – thus 2020 is the 250th anniversary and has been proclaimed as Beethoven Year. This stamp was issued by the Austrian Post Office on 30th September 2020 to mark Beethoven's birth anniversary on 17th December.

The article in Austria 210 provides a brief life history of Beethoven, so the version provided to accompany the stamp won't be repeated in full here. It observes that he "changed his place of residence dozens of times, probably not always voluntarily, because he often got into conflict with landlords or neighbours, for example when he played the piano late at night". The book "Vienna - A Complete Musical Guide" by Guy Hartopp (ISBN 0-9551480-0-6) makes a valiant (if oddly arranged) effort to locate every building in Vienna associated with classical music; it lists forty-four of Beethoven's known residences!

The first is IX Alserstrasse 30, in Alsergrund, the town palace of Count Karl Lichnowsky, a musical connoisseur and fine amateur pianist. This was Beethoven's first residence in Vienna after his arrival in 1792. Interestingly, Beethoven's last residence, the Schwarzspanierhaus at IX Schwarzspanierstrasse 17, was also in Alsergrund. He died on March 26, 1827, and his funeral took place in the eighteenth-century Dreifaltigkeitkirche (Holy Trinity Church) on March 29th 1827. The music was mostly Beethoven's own. So great were the crowds that the cortege took ninety minutes to cover the 500 yards from Beethoven's home to the church, and the pressure from the enormous throng was so great that many fainted. Ludwig van Beethoven was buried in the Währing cemetery. In 1888 he was moved to an honorary grave in the Vienna Central Cemetery, and the monument shown on the right placed over the grave.

In the history of music, Beethoven holds a special place as a central representative of Viennese classical music and a pioneer of romanticism. His "Ode to Joy" from the last movement of the 9th Symphony is the official European anthem today. The special stamp shows a section from the famous 1820 portrait of the artist by Joseph Karl Stieler as well as Beethoven's signature in silver foil stamping.

In 2017 a museum was dedicated to Beethoven at Probusgasse 6 in Heiligenstadt. This house had a special meaning for him: Beethoven stayed here in 1802, writing much music and also his "Heilegenstadt Testament", a letter to his two brothers in which he expressed his despair over his ever-increasing deafness - but the letter was never sent. It also has a special meaning for us: it's one of the very few existing buildings associated with Beethoven that's shown on an Austrian stamp!

Beethoven has left less of a mark on philately than on music and musicology – this year's stamp is only the fourth to show him. The first was in 1922 as part of the series "Austrian composers and musicians"; next in 1970 for Beethoven's 200th birthday; then 25 years later, unsurprisingly for his 225th birthday.

There's a little more 'on the ground'. The Beethoven Monument in Bonn was unveiled in August 1845, in honour of the 75th anniversary of his birth. It was the first statue of a composer created in Germany, and the music festival that accompanied the unveiling was the impetus for the very hasty construction of the original Beethovenhalle in Bonn (it was designed and built within less than a month, on the urging of Franz Liszt). A statue to Mozart had been unveiled in Salzburg, Austria, in 1842; Vienna did not honour Beethoven with a statue until 1880, described below and pictured on the back cover.

There is a museum, the Beethoven House, the place of his birth, in central Bonn. The same city has hosted a musical festival, the Beethovenfest, since 1845. The festival was initially irregular but has been organised annually since 2007. Vienna had organized a large number of commemorative events this year, but the Coronavirus has caused many cancellations and postponements.

The third largest crater on Mercury is named Beethoven in his honour, as is the main-belt asteroid 1815 Beethoven.

Beethoven is depicted here on the middle stamp of the top row, the 7½Kr value of the Austrian Composers issue of 24 April 1922

Beethoven Festival in Baden near Vienna, where he spent several summers. Dated 29.6.1947, the 120th anniversary year of Beethoven's death.
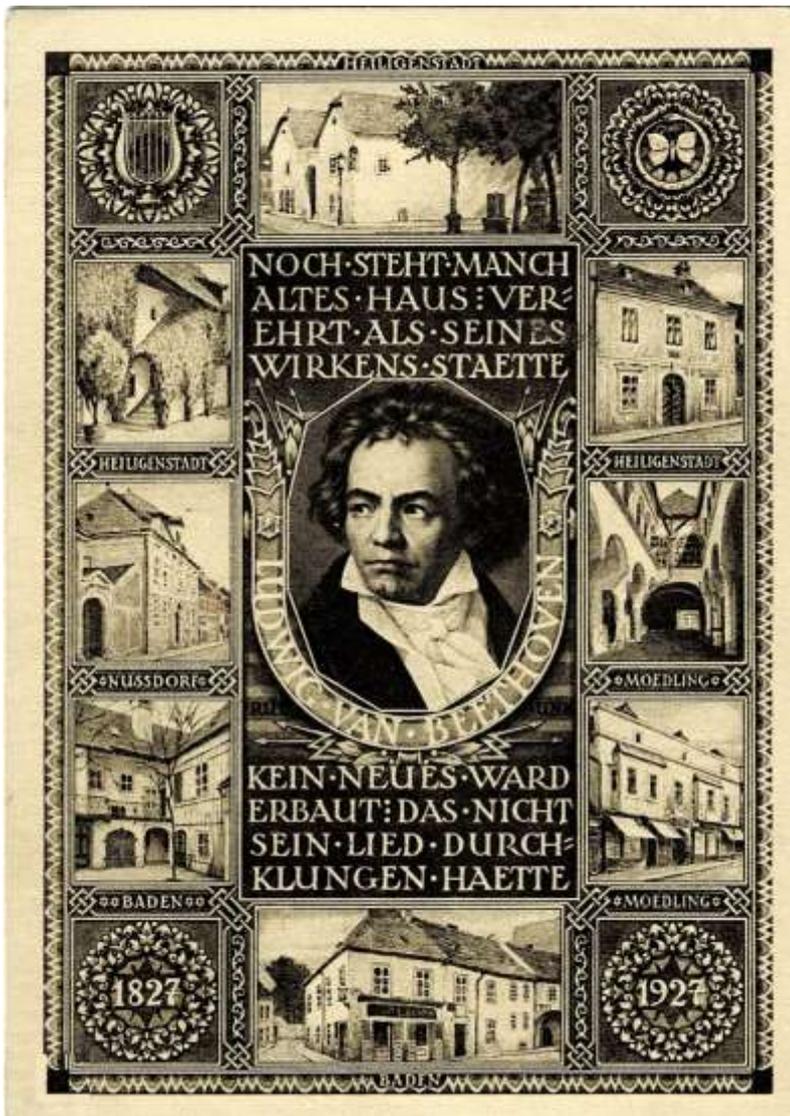
In 1927 Rudolf Junk designed a special postcard to mark the 100th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's death. Eight houses where Beethoven once lived are arranged around a portrait by Ferdinand Schimon. As is known, the master changed his place of residence in and around Vienna dozens of times during his life. Some of the houses he stayed in are still preserved today. The house on the top of the postcard is the one on Pfarrplatz in Vienna-Heiligenstadt, which can also be seen as the "Beethoven House in Vienna-Heiligenstadt" on the stamp from the definitive series "Austrian Monuments" from 1962 designed by Hans Strohofer. Beethoven lived there for two months in 1817.

Beethoven Monument in Vienna

The Beethoven monument on Beethovenplatz in the Austrian capital Vienna is a bronze statue from 1880. It is dedicated to the composer Ludwig van Beethoven; the sculptor was Caspar von Zumbusch.

The Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde set up a committee headed by Nikolaus Dumba on 7 February 1871, to consider the erection of a Beethoven monument. On 1 May 1880, the ceremonial unveiling of the monument took place. At first the monument stood with its front in the direction of Palais Gutmann. After the covering of the Wien River at the end of the 1890s, the monument was turned 180 degrees in the direction of the now more important Lothringerstrasse.

The monument (photo on back cover) shows Beethoven seated on a square plinth above a multi-tiered, laterally rounded pedestal, which was created by the master stonemason Eduard Hauser. At his feet the bound Prometheus (left) and Victory with a raised laurel wreath (right) as well as nine music-making putti as allegories of his 9 symphonies. The inscription "LUDWIG / VAN / BEETHOVEN" is on the front of the base and "ERRICHTET / MDCCCLXXX" on the back. The bronze figures were cast by Carl Turbain the Elder.

The cost of the monument was 46,000 gulden, with the Monument Committee raising 40,000 and the City Expansion Fund granting a further 6,000. The City Expansion Fund paid a further 3,000 gulden for the redesign of the surrounding green area.

Photo from Wikipedia; credit: "Feel free to use my photos, but please mention me as the author like © Bwag/Wikimedia or © Bwag/Commons or © Bwag/CC-BY-SA-4.0 (that's good enough)"

THE APS BOOKSHOP

To purchase any of these items, contact the <u>Librarian</u>. If you pay by credit card, it will appear as "German Railway Society" or "GRS" on your card statement. Some emails to "library@austrianphilately.com" are ending up in her spam bucket: instead, please use "mjoyceb@uwclub.net".

CDs

❖   *All CDs cost £10 or €15 including postage to anywhere in the world.*

❖   "**The History of Austrian Revenue Stamps**" by Dr. Stephan Koczynski. Enhanced and published on CD in fully-text-searchable form. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-07-4.

❖   **1910 Post Office Index.** This is the "*Verzeichnis der Post- und Telegraphen-Ämter in Österreich, Ungarn und in Bosnien-Hercegovina sowie der österreichischen Postanstalten im Fürstentum Liechtenstein und in der Levante*", published in Vienna in 1910. It lists all the Austrian post offices open anywhere at that date; with symbols indicating the facilities available at each. The CD contains deep-cleaned pictures of the original pages, not searchable text. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-08-1.

❖   **"Rohrpost" – the pneumatic post in Vienna**. Second completely revised edition, now in web-site format in full colour with numerous added appendices. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-10-4.

Books

❖   "**The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant**" is sold out.

❖   "**A Celebration of Austrian Philately**": the APS 60th anniversary 'Festschrift'. viii+162pp. A4 in full colour. ISBN 978-0-900118-05-0. Price £10; P&P £3 in UK, elsewhere at cost.

Other items

❖   **Back numbers** of "Austria" are **£1** each to members (**£5** to non-members), subject to us having stock. Some may be facsimiles or second-hand originals. <u>Be aware that they will not be reprinted when copies run out.</u> Postage extra at cost. Bulk orders by negotiation.

❖   Some back numbers of *Austria* are available to read on the APS website. They are selected from issues 127 onwards; we do not have electronic versions of previous issues. Go to the APS home page http://www.austrianphilately.com/index.htm and select Index of the APS Journal "Austria" in the left-hand box. webmaster@austrianphilately.com would welcome comments on this feature.

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*Not holding a Fest deprives members of the opportunity to show off their displays. There is an alternative: put them on the APS web site as a **Guest Display**, to join the three already there. Get in touch with the Editor and between us we'll make it happen!*

Crypto stamp 2.0

The Austrian Post is the official holder of a world record: Guinness World Records has awarded the golden unicorn to the fifth motif of the Crypto stamp 2.0, as the "digital stamp with the highest issue value". The stamp with a digital "blockchain twin" adorns a 1 gram gold bar from the Austrian Mint and has a face value of 500 euros - a world record. Post General Director DI Dr. Georg Pölzl proudly accepted the certificate.

SPECIAL STAMP SOLD OUT AFTER 20 MINUTES

The first 500 pieces of the world record stamp were sold out in the Swiss Post online shop after just 20 minutes. A further 499 copies were raffled among interested parties from the crypto community and philately, for example in the course of a paper chase from August to September, during which hidden QR codes had to be found in 50 selected post offices all over Austria.

At the beginning of October, a digital live event including a discussion about the future development of the crypto stamp was held. The 1,000 or so participants were not only able to submit their wishes and suggestions for new blockchain stamps, but also had the chance of a truly unique item. The 1,000 and last golden unicorn was a stamp with a 20-gram real gold bar. The winner was drawn live and contacted immediately - he is now the owner of a particularly valuable stamp.

Crackers at Christmas…

York, Great Britain to Austria via Tokyo

Dr. Hans Moser

(redacted)

AUSTRIA

The ceramic 'rose' stamp, still in its presentation pack, used for postage from Vienna to York. Balance paid in cash.

(redacted)

ENGLAND

2020 NEW ISSUES (4ᵗʰ instalment)

<div style="text-align:right">by Andy Taylor</div>

The information given here is face value ('c' is Euro-cents); issue date; quantity printed; designer; engraver if any; printing method; printer; and sometimes details on the design. Many issues are also available in mini-sheets, blackprints, 'Buntdrucke' (ie printed in different colours from those issued) etc. Austria Post seem to have adopted a permanently minimalist approach to both the English and the German descriptive details on their website, so I have to supplement most of the descriptions from sources including Die Briefmarke and both English and German Wikipedia.

Sorry, I missed this one last time.

Historic Postal Vehicles: Feldpost. 2Eu10; 29.08.2020

This year's motif from the "Historic Post Vehicles" series is dedicated to field post, which was essential for maintaining the morale of the troops in times of war.

The field post was the only way for soldiers at the time of the First World War Front to keep in touch with their families. For example, with pre-printed field postcards with the multilingual text "I am healthy and I am fine", at least one sign of life can be sent home even in times of temporary mail bans.

The k.u.k. Feldpost was an establishment of the Austrian Hungarian monarchy, with the job of transmitting official and private mail between the army in the field and home. Up to a weight of 100 grams, postcards and letters marked "Feldpost" could be sent post-free. Field post offices took care of the delivery.

The stamp block from the series "Historic Post Vehicles" shows one card from WWI based on a picture by the painter Karl Schnorpfeil. The two-horse field post truck loaded with mail bags is escorted by soldiers on horses, and destroyed houses can be seen in the background.

Beethoven's 250ᵗʰ birth anniversary. 1Eu80; Karin Klier; 30.09.2020; 160,000; Offset; with silver foil; Enschedé. The 'silver signature' only shows as silver if viewed at an angle. See separate article.

The **Centenary of Austria's** Constitution is described on the next page**.**

Bundes-Verfassungsgesetz. 1Eu+50c; Anita Kern; 30.09.2020; 125,000; Offset; Enschedé. As part of the series for the 100th anniversary of the VÖPh, this year's stamp is dedicated to the Austrian Federal Constitutional Act (Bundes-Verfassungsgesetz), which was passed 100 years ago.

The Austrian Federal Constitutional Law celebrates its centenary this year. To this day it is the core of the Austrian Constitution. Even if he wasn't the sole author of the law, Hans Kelsen (1881-1973) is often referred to as its "father". After the collapse of the monarchy in 1918, the lawyer was commissioned by State Chancellor Karl Renner to draft a constitution for the young republic. On October 1, 1920 the Constituent National Assembly approved the Federal Constitutional Law. Hans Kelsen was one of the most important legal scholars of the 20th century. He dealt with constitutional law, international law and Legal theory. Kelsen held a professorship for state and Administrative law at the University of Vienna and was a member of the Constitutional Court. He left Austria when the National Socialists came to power and taught in Cologne, Geneva and Prague before emigrating to the USA in 1940, where he studied at Harvard Law School and taught at the University of California. He died in California in 1973. The special stamp block with a surcharge of 0.50 euros from the series for the 100th anniversary of the Österreichischer Philatelistenvereine (VÖPh) shows the first articles of the Federal Constitution behind a portrait of Hans Kelsen. The parliament building in Vienna, in which the Federal Constitutional Law was passed in 1920, as well as the statue in front of Pallas Athena with the goddess of victory Nike in her hand, form the distant background.

Sport and Ball – Handball. 85c; Roman Lipner-Keck; 2.10.2020; 220,000; Offset; Enschedé.

Sport and ball – beach volleyball. 1Eu; Roman Lipner-Keck; 2.10.2020; 220,000; Offset; Enschedé

Sport und Ball – Basketball. 1Eu80; Roman Lipner-Keck; 2.10.2020; 190,000; Offset; Enschedé

In the "Sports" series, the focus this time is on ball sports. The ball is one of the most versatile pieces of sporting equipment and can be used for a broad range of activities by people of all ages and levels of athleticism.

Stamp Day 2020 - St. Pölten. 3Eu15 + 1Eu58 surcharge; Anita Kern; 2.10.2020; 180,000; Offset; Enschedé. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of BSV St. Pölten, the stamp is dedicated to the city of St. Pölten, where this year's ÖVEBRIA is also held.

Christ the Saviour – Spitz an der Donau, the Parish Church of St. Maurice. 1Eu35; Kirsten Lubach; 9.10.2020; 250,000; Offset; Enschedé. In its apostle cycle, the parish church in Spitz an der Donau houses a significant work of art from the Middle Ages. Embellished with engraving, the stamp from the "Religious art" series shows the sculpture of Christ the Saviour that stands at the centre.

Centenary of the plebiscite in Kärnten. 85c; Marion Füllerer; 10.10.2020; 210,000; Offset; Enschedé. The stamp commemorates the historic plebiscite, which joined South Kärnten to Austria.

Ski tip. 7Eu; David Gruber; 23.10.2020; 150,000; Serigraphy (silk screen printing); Variuscard Produktions- und Handels GmbH. As a "skiing nation", Austria has a long tradition in skiing as a sport. Fittingly, this year's stamp on the topic of technical innovation impresses with both its shape and its colour: a ski tip made with a genuine ski coating.

75 years of the United Nations. 1Eu80; David Gruber; 24/10/2020; 150,000; Offset; Enschedé. The United Nations Organisation was founded in 1945 as an international organisation to promote peace and security. Austria was allowed to join after the Austrian State was signed on 15 May 1955, and did so on 14 December 1955.

Corona. 2Eu75+2Eu75; Marion Füllerer; 30.10.2020; 300,000 in blocks of 1; "innovative" production by Variuscard Produktions- und Handels GmbH. The stamp is 40x50mm and the block is 140x90mm. I've scanned it on a black background, so that the perfs are clear – it's imperf by perf 3.64. Austrian Post writes:

"We have been dealing with the corona pandemic for months. This stamp reminds of how our lives are all clearly changed since the beginning of the measures against the spread of the virus. Protective mask, disinfectant and baby elephant - all these things and terms have been part of our everyday lives since the beginning of the pandemic. "Distance that connects us" is one of the buzzwords that we associate with this unprecedented situation: a distance of at least one meter to other people should help to prevent the spread of the disease as much as possible. Already, the proverbial baby elephant makes a vivid picture that will help us to correctly assess and maintain this distance, and this baby elephant can also be seen as a symbol on the stamp. Compared to the 1-meter elephant other animals are shown, representing various sizes from millimeters to a decimetre, and some very enlarged individual corona viruses.
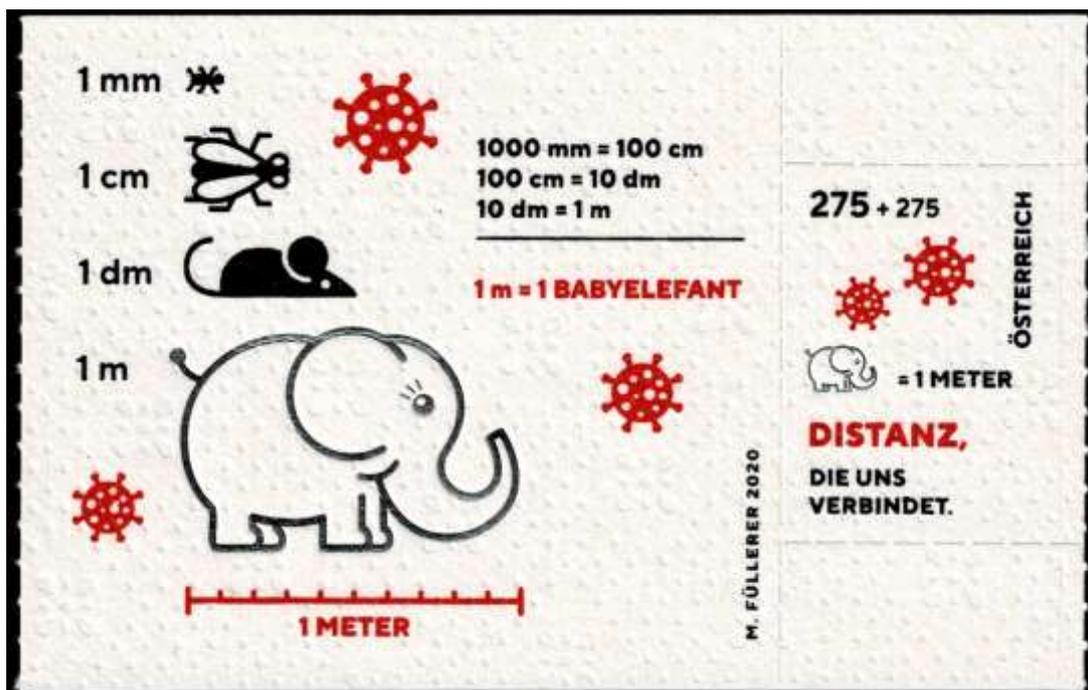
"Not only the motif, but also the material of the stamp is like a symbol of the beginning of the lockdown due to the pandemic. How can you get this extraordinary time on a particularly innovative postage stamp? The Austrian Post pondered this, and the idea was developed of using real toilet paper as an ironic allusion to the 'hamster-purchases' [*hamsterkaufen: hoarding or panic-buying*] of many concerned citizens.

"In co-operation with an Austrian manufacturer of toilet paper, the design was then considered, planned and tested, because processing this paper is difficult. Toilet paper is too soft, and tears when it gets damp, so wet

bonding was out of the question. The problem was solved by laminating to the back of the toilet paper a self-adhesive film made of natural fibre. The postage stamps can then be easily removed and used for franking. The perforation typical of toilet paper is also special to the stamp as well as the size of the block, which corresponds to a standard sheet of toilet paper.

"The production was challenging: the toilet paper was made in large rolls, then cut into sheets, coated with the film and finally printed - a process that takes many months to develop and optimize. The product has a serious background, and so the stamp has a surcharge of 2.75 euros for a charitable cause."

Christmas 2020 - A Winter Landscape with a Bird Trap. 1Eu; Kirsten Lubach; 13.11.2020; 1,300,000; Offset; Enschedé. A masterpiece of Flemish painting adorns this year's stamp on the topic of art: a wintry village scene with a bird trap depicted in pale colours.

Christmas 2020 - Christmas Star. 1Eu; Roland Vorlaufer; 13.11.2020; 675,000; Offset; Coil stamp; Enschedé. The design on this special stamp is sure to get you in the Christmas spirit: a Christmas star shining above an idyllic mountain village.

ORF Light of peace from Bethlehem - joint issue with Vatican City. 1Eu85; Kirsten Lubach; 20.11.2020; 260,000; Offset; Enschedé. Through this first joint issue by Austrian Post and the Vatican Post, the light of peace from Bethlehem is being celebrated as a beautiful tradition. The reason for this happy event is the ORF's Peace Light Campaign, a 30-year-old tradition in which children from Upper Austria bring the peace light from Bethlehem to Austria. The light of peace is traditionally also brought to the Pope - Pope Francis is shown with the peace light lantern on a stamp in the stamp block, including a pen drawing of St. Peter's Basilica. The second stamp shows the baby Jesus wrapped in a red cloth, in a depiction inspired by a painting by the Italian baroque artist Guido Reni.

Christmas 2020 - Christmas tree. 85c; Anita Kern; 27.11.2020; 2,000,000; Offset; Coil stamp; Enschedé. The Christmas tree as a symbol for Christmas celebrations – this unusual Christmas stamp shows all kinds of culinary and decorative elements from the most wonderful time of the year.

Christmas 2020 - The Birth of Christ; 85c; Theresa Radlingmaier; 27.11.2020; 3,100,000; Offset; Enschedé. A real treasure from the art of sacred book illumination is featured on this Christmas stamp: a medieval depiction of the birth of Christ in an initial from Codex 259/1 from the library of Vorau Abbey.

My Favourite Cover

by Carol Ralph

By definition all Rohrpost covers are scruffy: because they were folded to fit in the tubes and were well handled even before they got to their destinations. (They were hand-sorted/checked at every stop on their journey through the pneumatic system to their destination). This card is grubbier than most!

This is my favourite – it is very ordinary but has a little story. It has a funny little cartoon picture on the front and is a 'sorry I forgot your birthday' postcard, which the sender has amended to "Name Day"; something I have never heard of before. It is from Karl to his mother, Ida, and he says: 'Darling Mother, forgive me for sending late congratulations, however you are always in my heart". (Sons are all the same in every country!)

Karl wrote the card on 3 September 1930 but it did not get cancelled at Lienz post office until 7am the next day. From Lienz the card went by rail to Südbahnhof, Vienna, arriving at 9am, 5 September 1930, 2 days after it was written. The card then took an hour to travel between Südbahnhof Pneumatic Office No.76 and arrive at Pneumatic Office No.59 in Mittelgaße, District 6, just round the corner from the addressee's home.

It has the correct postage of 40 groschen, (the rate from 1 January 1928 to 31 August 1932 and made up of 10 groschen for the postcard and 30 groschen for express delivery), and an express label, not a Rohrpost label; so it was the post office staff who decided that the quickest way to deliver the postcard was by pneumatic post. From Pneumatic Office No. 59 the card would have been given to a boy on a bike to deliver by hand.

The stamp is ANK507. As well as the Lienz and two Vienna bridge datestamp cancellations, the post office clerk at No.76 Pneumatic Office has manually written in red crayon "59", the destination pneumatic office, 5 Offices west and about 4500 metres away.

> From the Editor: Carol sent this for Austria 175, but I'm reprinting it here as an excellent example of a possible Festschrift75 article. More, please!
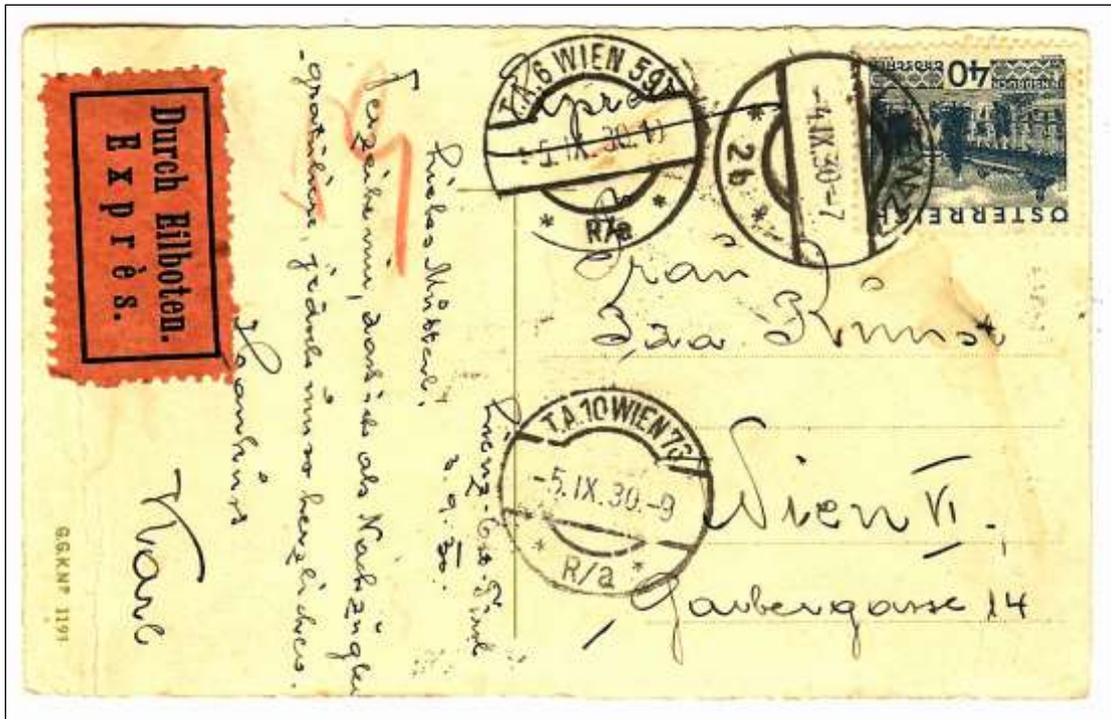
GHOSTS OF THE PAST

By Martin Brumby

Flicking through the Army Signals cover article in Austria 212, I can confirm that the ARMY SIGNALS cds is genuine but not genuinely used. The Ukraine stamp – ditto and would not have been accepted anywhere in occupied Europe with or without the 'bars', which have been drawn on with ink.

The various cachets (Land Commission / Gebuhr Bezahlt / ПOYTA CCCP / ZENSURIERT) are all completely bogus and will be found in many of this group of bogus covers. (See attached scans!) Both envelope and handwriting are similar to many I have seen. So certainly a total fake.

Conversely, the cover you show on p.44 is probably genuine. The lack of all the usual detritus adds authenticity. And I'm not sure that I have seen a bogus GRAZ cover.

NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS

Die Briefmarke

2020/9: Ovebria2020; post during the occupation period (=1945-55); historic post-routes – the 2020 Europa stamsp; the Austrian-Italian postal treaty (1861); the Carinthian plebiscite stamps: Heiligenblut; Beethoven stamps worldwide and an essay accompanying Austria's 250th anniversary issue; many MeineMarke from societies.

2020/10: 1881, when Austrian telephones began; Carinthian plebiscite: provisionals, vignettes, the main issues, Hochosterwitz; three-emperor-corners; production details of the ski-tip and corona stamps; thematic:UNESCO.

2020/11: from 2021 Die Briefmarke will have only 10 issues per year (including Jan/Feb and July/August); Advent cakes; Carinthian plebiscite: combinations; interesting post-WWII mail from refugees; thematic:postal history (2).

2020/12: BSV Favoriten's 90th birthday; refugee etc mail (2); the end of German postal services in Kleinwalsertal & Jungholz from 1-1-1951; Austro-German occupation of Udine in WWI; list of 2021's many new issues (subject to changes…); thematic:postal history (3); thematic: Dr Karl Renner.

And as always, each issue contains events and cancellations; society news; new issues etc etc.

Germania

Vol 56 Nr 4: Rex Dixon elected President for a 2-year term; philatelic and society effects of covid; Official mail in German-occupied Poland (5); a Bismark survivor; handstamps on mail from Italian POWs in Germany in WWII; postal effects of German reunification; etc etc.

Book review

CARINTHIA PLEBISCITE 1920 - NEW BOOK

Dear Andy: I have just received from Walter Leitner of the Kärntner Heimatdienst a copy of his new book on this topic (I had expressed interest in the subject to Igor Pirc who is the FEPA Secretary General and was visiting Klagenfurt on 10 October for an exhibition to mark the centenary of the plebiscite, and the next thing I knew, a copy of the book turned up). At a quick glance it is really a monumental study of the postal history of Carinthia at that time - well worth a look - especially in combination with the recent series of articles in Die Briefmarke describing in detail the various issues of privately-produced stamps intended to raise funds to support pro-Austrian propaganda. Anyone interested in this topic should have a look.

I attach a flyer that he sent me indicating how copies can be obtained. I thought you might want to mention it in Austria.

Bill Hedley

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