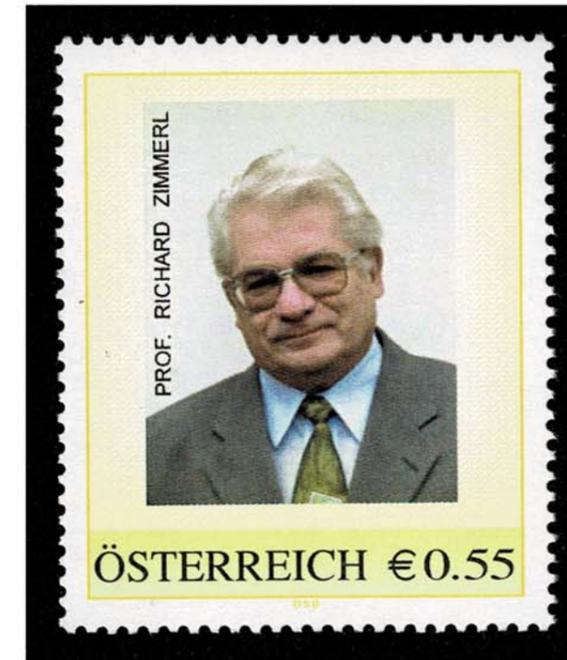
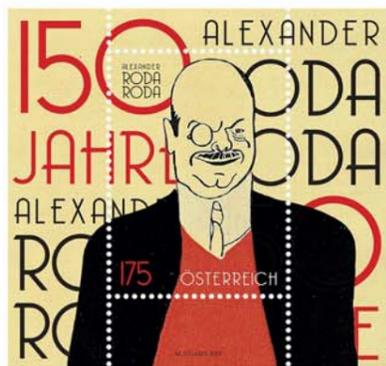




Nussdorferstrasse 4



A selection of the items discussed in this issue

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Edited by Andy Taylor

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EDITORIAL 219

Are you coming to the Fest? It'll be held from late afternoon, Friday 16 September to noon, Sunday 18 September at The Bull Hotel, Peterborough. Basic arrangements will follow the historic pattern. There is a Bourse; there isn't a Competition; and the AGM is on Zoom on 12 October. **A Fest booking form is enclosed for UK-resident members; everybody else is equally welcome and should email Andy Taylor.**

The Research Hub page of the **London Philatelist** says "*Broadening the scope of The Research Hub. If you are a member of any specialist society, particularly if you are the Editor of a society journal, [their Editor] would welcome contributions to this feature from your membership. Although understandably you might consider that your members represent the fount of all knowledge of the society's particular focus, you never know! [He is] aware of contributors, who are recognised as the principal authorities on a particular collecting area, who have been pleasantly surprised by responses to their research topics from previously unknown (to them) members who have provided information that hitherto had never been published. So please spread the word and ask your society's Editor to publicise this offer in your journal or through social media.*"

Sindelfingen is dead ... long live **Ulm**!! 27-29 October 2022, Messehalle Ulm, 89073 Ulm, Böfinger Str. 50. If you want to go but don't know how to, tell Andy Taylor and he'll pass your name along.

Are you looking for information on the addressee of a letter in Vienna? Try

<https://www.wien.gv.at/english/history/archives/ancestors.htm> and

<https://www.digital.wienbibliothek.at/nav/classification/2609> ("Lehmann" - **warning - huge files!**)

The entire remainder of the APS Library will be auctioned by post and at the Fest. If you are a member and receive 'Austria' on paper, an auction list and bid form should have been included - contact Andy Taylor if it wasn't. If you are an electronic member, you should get an emailed list. And anyone can see the auction information on the APS web site. Note that if you plan to bid for a lot AND you will be at the Fest, tell Andy Taylor and he'll bring it for inspection. If you don't, then for logistical reasons he won't. (I could fit my car into the Library...)

Member Frank MacDonald shared with me that on Thursday 5 May, he won the Irish Philatelic Society's Postal History & Continental Europe Trophies with his display entitled "Aspects of the Austrian Anschluss." I'd be more than happy to publicise all such achievements, but you'll have to tell me ☺

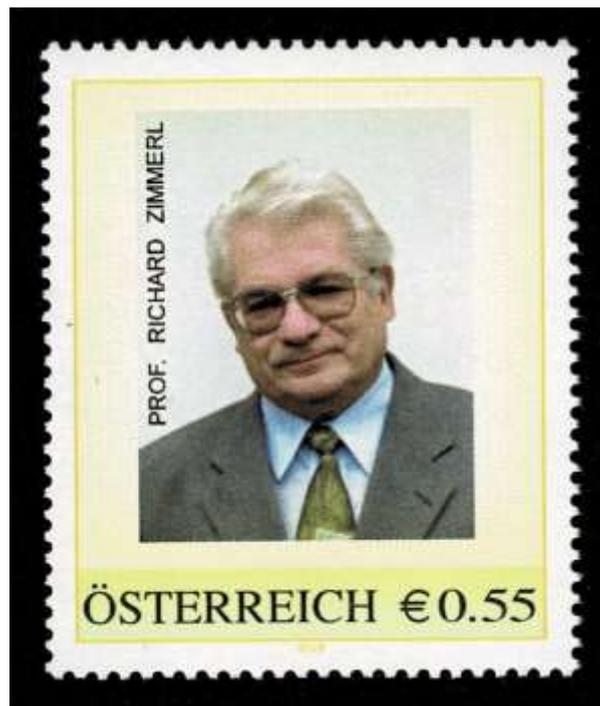
Andy Taylor

This year's not-at-the-Fest competition is how to use up about-to-be-obsolete UK stamps in a colourful manner. Doesn't look like the man with the canceller was impressed, but I was.



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

Richard Zimmerl



1939 - 2022

OStR Professor Richard Zimmerl died on 13 Feb 2022, leaving the APS with many happy memories and another gap in our sources of information.

“OStR” means Oberstudienrat, a title formerly awarded to teachers in the “higher” school system to recognise excellency. His booklet “Schule 1945” tells that he was born in 1939 in Vienna. Wartime memories of bombs, evacuation to a hamlet in Bavaria where he lived mainly on unsweetened apple puree, return to Vienna on a train delayed for 3 days by the Russians who commandeered the engine. He began school aged 6 in October 1945. No heating, no shoes, very little food. Paper scarce so they wrote on slates. “Land der Erbsen, Land der Bohnen / Land der vier Besatzungszonen...”. He was for 50 years involved with schools: learned, learned to teach, taught, taught teaching. Retired as Professor of Paedagogy.

Richard was the Chief Editor of Die Briefmarke from 1992 to 2006: that’s 180 issues.

My first record of Richard is the 1998 Vienna Trip; photographs survive of him with some of our party at the State Printing Works in Vienna, and at an evening meal somewhere in Grinzing accompanied by Mrs Zimmerl, Hannes and Margit Margreiter, Adolf Tuma, Nik & Susan Harty, and Robert Avery.



2001 saw some of us back in Vienna, and Richard took Nik Harty and me on a trip to the Roman remains at Carnuntum (and to the Zentralfriedhof). It was Nik who introduced Richard to the APS, and conversely.



In 2004 Austria introduced the Personal Stamp, and Richard featured on the fourth according to the ANK list; I show it above. Many annual visits followed, but Richard's next appearance in my archives is in 2012, when in conjunction with Numiphil many of the usual suspects gathered in the Neubauschenke restaurant to mark the presentation to Joyce Boyer of a Limited Edition Commemorative Stamp created by Hannes Margreiter; the face value of 70 heller is matched to the occasion.

In 2019 he joined the Usual Suspects at Meixner's in Favoriten, and on the Third Man Tour. Here he is exiting the stairs from the Wienerfluss, where the Vienna Sewers scenes were supposedly filmed (Hans Smith's Uncle Bert knew better: see Austria 207). The right-hand picture is in Mitzitante, with Richard on the right wondering if his meal will arrive before the last train departs.



(Strawinsky: who he?? In Austrian, 'w' is pronounced like a British 'v'...)

Richard was especially helpful when some obscure question arose, either from an APS member or an unknown person via email. He explained to me the Vienna Standard length and bread-loaf measures on the west wall of Stephansdom; managed to obtain for me the out-of-print Kolo Moser book; found information on Kapellmeister Taborsky; and gave his opinion of the Brexit Stamp. His last provision of information was in connection with the article on Repatriation stamps in this issue. And he escorted me to A&E when I broke my thumb!



He also resolved a minor mystery. If you visit Schönbrunn and climb to the Gloriette, you can see a prominent church tower behind the palace. It isn't Stephansdom, although many foreign visitors especially if arriving by autobahn think it is. It's actually the parish church of Rudolfsheim, Maria Königin der Märtyrer, at the East end of Meiselstraße. For 18 years, this was Richard's parish, and he lived very near to it in Kröllgasse.

He will be sorely missed.

Andy Taylor

Many tributes were published; some follow in whole or part, via Google Translate.

Wiener Zeitung, quoting Richard Zimmerl's book "Schule":

People's clothing varied greatly in 1945. Some had good pre-war clothes. Others had nothing when bombs destroyed their homes.

My school principal, at that time they said "senior teacher", was sitting in the office in leather shorts. He was wearing them when a bomb destroyed his house. Then he had nothing else to wear. Nobody laughed about it. A lot of people felt like that.

Once the teacher sent me to the office to get chalk from the head teacher. He filled my little childish hand with five (!) pieces of chalk. When I returned to the class, the teacher clasped her hands with joy. It was very difficult for me to say what the head teacher had instructed me to say: these five pieces of chalk were the supply for the whole school year!

The school gate looked like it does now. The school warden stood on the stairs in the morning with a stern expression. He was wearing a uniform cap. We had to greet with a bow. When it rained, he silently pointed to the large doormat. We knew what that meant: wiping your shoes long and carefully so as not to displease him.

We also had to greet the teachers and especially the head teacher in the hallway with a deep bow. When the head teacher came into the class, all the children had to get up in silence, no matter what we were doing, and stay there until he left. He came often and loved to talk to my teacher [whose house had been bombed and her husband and sons killed in the war].

Today you can no longer imagine the conditions more than 70 years ago. I can't say that we children were unhappy back then. We didn't know anything else.

Die Briefmarke 4/22

Completely surprisingly on February 13, 2022 shortly after his 83rd birthday one of the greatest connoisseurs of Austrian philately, OStR. Professor Richard Zimmerl, died. Born in Vienna in 1939, he experienced the horrors of World War II as a child. He conveyed these experiences regularly in schools and at numerous events as well as in press reports. OStR. Prof. Zimmerl studied mathematics, astronomy and meteorology at the University of Vienna. He then became a professor at the Pedagogical Academy. He held three teaching posts and was most recently head of practical school training for elementary school teachers.

Since 1974, OStR. Prof. Zimmerl was active in VÖPh: From 1975 as editor and from 1992-2005 as editor-in-chief of the association newspaper "Die Briefmarke". From 1988-1996 he also held the position of Deputy President of the VÖPh. 'But he was also a veteran of the exchange association for postage stamps in Vienna, where he was the chairman to the end. He was also deputy chairman at the BSV Donau and also editor of the "Donau-post". He regularly wrote the Austria pages in the German "Briefmarkenspiegel" and in the Swiss stamp newspaper. The ANK Austria postal stationery catalogue is also by him.

OStR. Prof. Zimmerl was a very sociable person with many friends. He maintained a special connection to BSV "Zwispallen" in Frankenburg. He was often a guest there and vice versa: there were 10 trips by BSV "Zwispallen" to Vienna, which led by OStR. Prof. Zimmerl became a special experience. OStR Prof. Richard Zimmerl will be remembered as a great man of philately. We express our deepest condolences to his widow Gertraud Zimmerl and all relatives. We will always keep him in honourable memory.

Erwin Hofbauer, Vizepräsident VÖPh and family friend

The BSV Favoriten newsletter said:

Born in Vienna in 1939, he began his school career at the end of the war in 1945, graduating from the University of Vienna with a teaching degree in mathematics, astronomy and meteorology (natural science). He held these three teaching posts at the Pedagogical Academy and was most recently head of the school pedagogical training for elementary school teachers. He had been retired since 1999, but by no means really retired. At Christmas 1947 his father gave him a small stamp album, which he kept and cherished until his death. Since then, he not only collected stamps, but literally settled into them, which established his phenomenal general philatelic knowledge and was reflected in specialist articles, the number of which can no longer be determined today. Until the very end he edited the Austria articles in the German "Briefmarken-Spiegel" and was also active as an official in several Viennese collectors' associations. His sudden death on February 13 is a painful loss not only for his family, but also for all collectors and philately in Austria.

And Joyce Boyer wrote:

I knew the name Richard Zimmerl from reading 'Die Briefmarke' and was pleased to meet him when members of the ASCGB [now the APS] visited Vienna to celebrate the Club's 50th anniversary in December 1998.

When the party assembled on the first evening my husband Tony was spoken to by some of the Austria visitors and expected to be the collector but they were all told otherwise. Whilst he was talking 'Semmering Railway' with one I met Richard and from then on was always referred to as 'The Lady Collector' – a name he still used when we met again at WIPA 2000.

At another meeting we spoke about my interest in the Tirol and I asked him if there was a club in Innsbruck that I might be able to contact or visit. He provided three names for members of the Innsbruck Merkur Club – Hans Moser, Klaus Schöpfer and Theo Bader. I contacted them and all replied welcoming me and providing details of their meetings. It was thanks to Richard that I made these and other friends in the Innsbruck area.

I have visited Vienna for Numiphil many times and for WIPA 2008 meeting Richard on most occasions and always being made very welcome – he soon dropped the name 'The Lady Collector' and greeted me as Joyce.

Richard was always very helpful in answering questions sometimes in English but more often in German. The latest question was about the 'Repatriation labels' that form the basis of the article in this edition of 'Austria'. Unfortunately, he did not see the finished article as it was sent to him on 14th February.

I will miss Richard on future visits to Vienna, and his birthday and Christmas messages will no longer arrive.

Joyce Boyer



“The meat in a Margreiter Sandwich!”

An interesting letter

By Joyce Boyer

I recently bought this letter unseen from an English auction house because the description indicated that it might be different. Why would a letter from Innsbruck have both an L.I. and L.A. cachet?

Having read Keith Brandon's article in Austria 217 [Winter 2021] I have looked at it again to see if it may have been 're-directed' mail or did someone make a mistake as I first thought.

The letter is written in English but there is no address given and it is undated. The writer is asking for several items to be sent to him via a party who are apparently travelling to Switzerland in mid-June. Our writer was planning to visit Bex, in south east Switzerland for two or three weeks. The writer mentions collecting plants on the Brenner 'yesterday', and that 'improvements to the road had resulted in Clausen Castle being demolished and a large projecting rock being blown away'. He continues to say that 'Botzen is delicious but Trent and its neighbourhood even more full of ?drawing? than what we saw'.

I had assumed that the writer travelled from South Tirol to Innsbruck where he posted the letter, paying the fee of 14 Kreuzers indicated on the reverse in red. The letter received an INNSBRUCK straight line cancellation in red and a boxed black L.I. [Letter Italienne] mark. It was realised that this was an error and this mark was crossed through in red and replaced by the black L.A. [Lettre Autrichienne] mark.

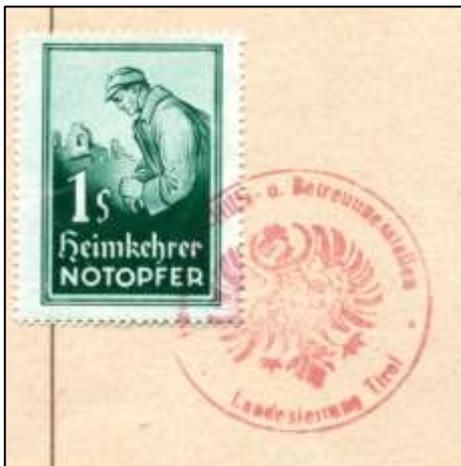
The letter was received in London on 5th June 1828, two cancellations on reverse and a charge of 18 was payable by the addressee.

If the writer had travelled from Innsbruck to South Tirol, I would have expected it to have received the cancellation for Botzen or Trient both in Austria. I have therefore decided that my first thoughts are probably correct and that Keith's interesting article does not apply in this instance.



Heimkehrer Notopfer or Returnee labels

Joyce Boyer and James Hooper



As librarian I received requests from members and non-members asking for information about an item they had and I did my best to reply (or send the request to the appropriate person).

The last request (a few days after the library books were removed) was for information on these 'Repatriation labels'. I believe they should be called 'Returnee' labels. [picture? card?]

I knew nothing about them but asked Hans Moser in Innsbruck if he could help. The answer was that neither he nor his usual contacts could help; however he does have a similar card and set of labels including one with a face value of 100 Schillings. The best information he could obtain was that the organisation had an obligation to search for missing persons and to support those and their families coming home from the war. One way of raising funds was to by selling these labels. He later

was able to provide this information.

At the end of WWII the Russians captured many soldiers in Vienna and other areas they occupied, and transferred them to Russian camps. Many were accused as 'Kriegsverbrecher' and were sentenced for 'war crimes'. These became the Heimkehrer or returnees. They were classed differently from the 'Kriegsgefangenen' or prisoners of war.

According to some treaty the 'Kriegsgefangenen' had to be sent home by 1949 – those from France were sent to Tirol/Vorarlberg, the British were sent to Styria/Carinthia, and so on. However the 'Kriegsverbrecher' were not covered by the treaty and it was not until 1955 that the last of these were freed to return home.

I also contacted Richard Zimmerl in Vienna and his reply was interesting and includes personal information. With Richard's permission I have translated and am quoting much of his reply.

“From about 1947 quite a number of groups were formed to support returnees from the war. Those prisoners of war who returned to captivity lasting for many years were described as ‘Heimkehrer’ in Austria after the war. Almost all of these came from Russia – some did not return until 1955. One of these was Richard’s uncle who was captured in Vienna and only returned after many years in a Russian prisoner of war camp. His father had

been in American captivity for only six weeks and returned home by walking for many weeks!

“The returnees came from Russia very often in long trains of cattle trucks without catering. Shattering scenes happened at the stations – I took part a few times as a child (age 7 or 8 years) and can still remember it. It was often touching with fear and uncertainty when families found themselves after a separation of many years. However there were many returnees for whom no one waited whilst many women stood on the platform holding a photograph of their husband hoping one of the returnees would recognise him and be able to tell her something about him.

“The returnees for whom nobody waited were poor – you had no-one and were alone in Vienna. It must be remembered the war and bombs had killed 26,000 women and children and 85% of the houses were uninhabitable being destroyed or badly damaged (my residential building was badly damaged but still stood). These men were in the war and then in captivity for several years but had survived (many had died) but their health was very bad. They did not have any accommodation, no food, no money, no help, nothing. They got



hardly anything from the young Austrian state because that had nothing either.

“Therefor quite a number of groups were formed to help these poor men. It was very hard to find the necessary means because most people did not have sufficient to be able to donate. Some groups tried it with donation vignettes or stamps. I do not have the stamps or know the organisation in your picture. What I notice is that your piece of evidence comes from the French occupation zone [Tirol], till now I have not known of the organisation mentioned or that there were such committees also in the western zones. Everyone whom I know was in the Russian zone.

“Further I notice that the labels have very high nominal values, but the context of the labels was publicity. Primarily 50 schillings was a lot of money - in 1947 this would have been one third of an official’s monthly salary so today this would be about €1,000 – I wonder who could donate something like this. Also 10 schillings was still a lot – the highest priced postage stamp at the time was 5 schillings.”

A few weeks after starting this I was looking at the index to Austria and saw ‘Cinderella stamps’ as a topic. I checked the references and found in Austria 104, Summer 1993 a letter from David Bravery asking for information on these labels but could not find any response in subsequent issues.

If anyone has more information on the labels, we would all like to hear from you so please write to the Editor who will pass it on.

The Austrian post office did make three issues of stamps with a surcharge for 'Prisoner of war relief fund' in 1947 [ANK 838-843], 1949 [ANK 949-952] and 1955 [ANK 1028]





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Exhibitions - some pictures, some results

by Andy Taylor's far-too-smartphone



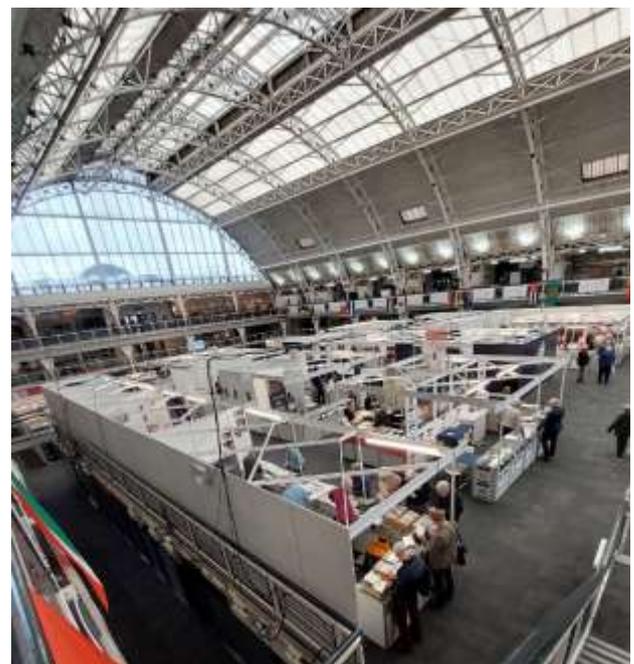
London 2022

APS-related results were in the Newsletter of Austria218...

The main hall, right



Reading Room



Main hall, left



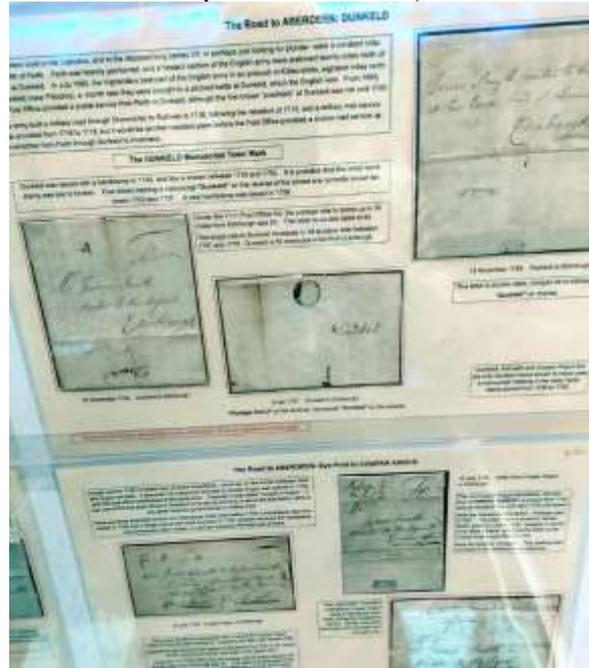
Decisions, decisions....



(It's almost impossible with the gear I have to take decent photos of exhibits)



Joyce Boyer



Peter Chadwick



Andy Taylor, in the Gallery Hall

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Apron dish of emmentaler egg noodles with a piece of Austria's most famous cheese and topped with fried onion - a real history favourite £16.00

| But let's blow our own trumpets! | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------|
| Class-Frame | Fr. | Name | Country | Exhibit Title | Result |
| 02-0847 | 1 | Joyce Boyer | UK | Austria -the change from Schilling to Euro | 70: Silver |
| 02-0853 | 8 | Peter Chadwick | UK | Postal routes and post offices in Scotland 1660-1750 | 93: Gold |
| 02-0977 | 5 | Garth Taylor | UK | Postal History of the Free Czech Army in WW2 1939 - 1945 | 78: Large Silver |
| 03-0897 | 5 | Andy Taylor | UK | The Newspaper postage stamps of Austria | 85: Large Vermeil |
| 03-0902 | 5 | Garth Taylor | UK | A study of the third issue of Czechoslovakian Air mail stamps | 87: Large Vermeil |
| 03-0915 | 8 | Yvonne Wheatley | UK | Czechoslovakia: The Masaryk 1920 & Allegory Issues 1920 to 1923. | 92: Gold |
| 04-0120 | 8 | Joyce Boyer | UK | Austrian Air mail to 1938 | 80: Vermeil |
| 06-0129 | 8 | Hans van Dooremalen | Netherlands | USA Postal Cards 1873-1913 | 95: Large Gold |
| 08-0223 | - | Andy Taylor | UK | "Austria" - The Journal of the APS | 83: Vermeil |
| 08-0263 | - | Brandon, Morrell & Taylor | UK | The Story of the Austrian Post up to 1850 | 90: Gold |
| 08-5038 | - | Yvonne Wheatley | UK | Czechout 2019 | 91: Gold |



Hunfilex, Budapest

31 March - 3 April

Left; Carsten Mintert and his exhibit "The Austrian Newspaper Tax 1789-1899" which got 96 points, a Large Gold, and nomination for the Grand Prize.

He also entered "Tarot, Piquet and Trappola" collecting 91 points and a Gold.

John Colton "Great Britain Undated Free Handstamps", one frame: 90 points.

Andy Taylor "The Newspaper Postage Stamps of Austria": 86 points, Large Vermeil

Bill Hedley "Postal Services in the Habsburg Kingdom of Hungary to 1900": 88 points, Large Vermeil, Felicitations.

Peter Chadwick "Handstruck Chargemarks of the Official London Posts" 90 points, Gold.

And in the literature class: Roger Morrell "Stamps of Hungary, the 2020 Issues": 75 points, Large Silver.

THE APS BOOKSHOP

To purchase any of these items, **contact the Editor**. If you pay by credit card, it will appear as “German Railway Society” or “GRS” on your card statement.

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 story of the Austrian Post up to 1850**”. 380pp. A4 hardback in full colour. ISBN 978-0-900118-11-1. Price £39; member’s price £32. P&P £4 in UK, elsewhere at cost.

Back numbers

- ❖ **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. Be aware that they will not be reprinted when copies run out. Postage extra at cost. Bulk orders by negotiation.
- ❖ **Issues from 127 onwards** are available as PDF files, either on CD for £10 per CD including p&p, or by web transfer for £5 per transaction. “All of them” will fit on two CDs.
- ❖ 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.

MARIAZELL IN MINIATURE

by Andy Taylor

You'll know the 1Sch buildings series stamp showing the Basilica at Mariazell. I've recently been doing some sorting-out and decided it was a good opportunity to classify my specimens, and to see if I had each catalogued type.

First, consult the catalogue: ANK of course, although not the latest version that I was going to buy in Vienna because as a non-essential tourist I wasn't allowed to enter the country! There are more types than I had thought, unsurprisingly. Scanning at 1200DPI and displaying on-screen makes study easier for older eyes than squinting through a magnifying glass.

ANK1044 issued 22-6-1957 in red-brown and dark-red-brown. Designed by H Strohofer, engraved by G Wimmer, and recess-printed. This is illustrated here ►► Examination of several copies of this stamp exemplifies the process of making a master-cliché; copies made; retouched; assembled into a forme; printed. Stamp-to-stamp differences are discernable, particularly in the clouds just below the top frame. Being recess printed, it feels slightly rough.

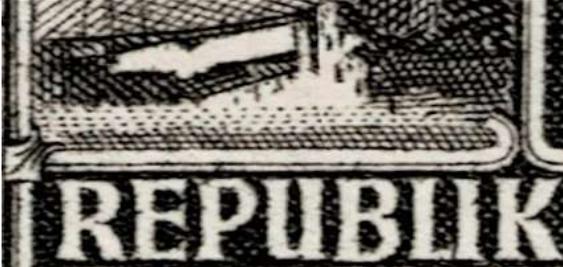
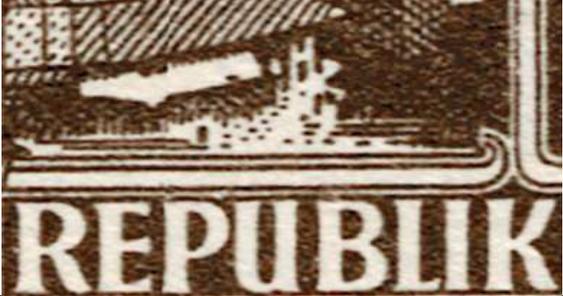
ANK1046 issued 25-10-1957 in chocolate-brown and dark chocolate-brown (or maybe dark-chocolate brown). Designed by H Strohofer, engraved by G Wimmer, and printed by typography. It's smooth to the touch. Some plate faults are listed.

ANK1097 issued 19-1-1959 in 4 shades of brown and on 4 different papers (although only 13 of the 16 possible combinations are listed). Designed by H Strohofer and printed by offset; Strohofer's name is in the middle as there's no engraver name. Several plate faults listed.

ANK1115 issued 1-2-1960 in a small format (21x18mm) for use in stamp dispensing machines. These were printed by Harrisons in Britain in rolls of 2000, and also in sheets. The roll-end-strips of card are highly-priced and collected! The strip-of-3 shown here has indentations at the bottom where the teeth of the stamp dispenser gripped it - they are the V-shaped marks between the design and the perforations, above the red indicating marks I've added to this false-colour image.



An interesting difference appeared when studying the blown-up images. Making the wild assumption that my paltry collection is representative, I've found another difference between the engraved & typos. Look to the left of the value tablet, above REPUBLIK.

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| <p>Recess</p> |  | <p>The recess printing has what looks like a white walking stick. Above it are 3 rows of cross-hatching; above them 3 rows of short dashes, above them what looks like people standing at a Xmas market stall.</p> |
| <p>Typo</p> |  | <p>The typo has an extra piece on the walking stick; no hatchings or dashes; and the area in front of the stall looks like a building site.</p> |
| <p>Offset</p> |  | <p>Same as typo, but sharper.</p> |
| <p>Mini single</p> |  | <p>The small stamps have a plain walking stick and almost no hatchings, no dashes, no debris; a few people.</p> |
| <p>Mini strip-of-3</p> |  | <p>Same as mini-single, but sharper and lighter. Possibly a later printing.</p> |

NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS

Note that most of the items described are not retained long-term by the Society, although copies may be available for a short period.

Die Briefmarke

2021/12: 75 years since the repair of Steffl, the big bell of Stephansdom in Vienna; Wurmbrand; Centenary of Burgenland: local issues; 2022's tentative stamp issue programme; the Xmas stamp of 1953; Franz Josef at Schönbrunn; society reports; etc etc.

1-2/2022: (a double issue: not sure if they're short of money or of paper) The Trombone; Porsche; the Postcoach; Centenary of Burgenland: Fieldpost; Book Review: Thurn & Taxis; new issues; Rudolf Junk's designs for the 1921 issues; society reports; etc etc.

3/2022: 500 years of Habsburgs; transition to Kronen-heller currency: the first stamps, 1899-1907; Centenary of Burgenland - the Aufständischen; centenary of meter marks in Austria; new issues; more 1921 new issue designs; society reports; etc etc.

4/2022: St Fidelis of Sigmaringen; 250 years since the Vienna Klein Post began; meter marks (ii); new issues; Henry Ford; collecting China; centenary of the Composers issue; society reports; meetings and exhibitions; etc.

5/2022: Raab-Ödenburg-Ebenfurt railway; 225 years since the Peace of Campoformio; Russian post in China; meter marks (iii); Macau; new issues; Austrian Post & Telegraph Museum, Eisenertz; a new Registration Label catalogue; Dachauer designs for the 1921 issue; society reports; meetings and exhibitions; etc.

Germania

Vol 58 Nr 1: The imperforate issues of Baden; Official mail in German-occupied Poland part 9: Financial services; The Germania inflation booklets, Part 1; Request to investigate delivery of a payment card; Naval zeppelin L-34: The Hartlepool raid 1916; German new issue programme for 2023; German letter rates from 1 January 2022; The new 'World of Letters' definitives; New values of the Flower definitives; usw usf...

Vol 58 Nr 2: The USSR stabs Poland in the back (*in 1939. Ed*); The Germania inflation booklets, Part 2; Berliner Gewerbe-Ausstellung 1896; June 1919 postcard to internment camp in Greece; Official mail in German-occupied Poland part 10: Industry and commerce; Damaged in train accident; German mail recovered from plane crashes; Correction re matrix barcodes; Matrix barcodes offer more than just tracking; More on the new 'World of Letters' definitives' etc

ARGE Österreich e.V.

The intended discussion with the ArGe at Numiphil didn't happen ☹️ Email contact thrives, however. Their extremely impressive **Rundbrief 130** contains in its 212 A4 pages: the Austrian Postoffice in Lagos (on Adriatic, not Atlantic); the Austrian Post in Thessalonica; a new catalogue of 1945 provisionals and locals; telegraphic money orders 1916-1945; the improved engravings of the 1850 issue; Austrian Newspaper Post stamps; the 2.Republic Costumes Series; Adrianopel; Mauthausen; etc etc etc.

Stamps of Hungary

Nr 228 March 2022: The civil post in the service of the army post office in Hungary, 1914-1918; Austro-Hungarian post-paid postcards, Part 1: General-use cards; Improving fraud attempt for the right stamp type and tariff; Questions and Answers: a black 'T' on a parcel card; the mechanism for paying for cash-on-delivery goods; the rates for COD parcels; station postmarks.

Nr 229 June 2022: HUNFILEX 2022 report; Paying for newspaper subscriptions – the newspaper money order; The Portorozh agreement for reduced postage rates in Europe, 1922 – 1939, Part II: Postage due mail, 1925 – 1939; More on millennium cards; Q&A; etc

Vindobona Vereins-Nachrichten

1/2022 March 2022: A rare visit and a unique history: Henry Pollak at Café Zartl; Tirol's wooden cancellers; Thurn & Taxis free-post label; private stationery 1903-1918; "please forward my mail" cards; the 1916 express rate to Hungary; etc.

FELDPOSTAMT 282 EXISTED!

Bogdan Briscu emailed enclosing scans of a postcard cancelled at K.U.K. FELDPOSTAMT 282 on 3 November 1917, proving that it existed. Dixon-Nuttall, available on the APS web site, says it hasn't been seen - see <https://www.austrianphilately.com/dixnut/dn8c1.htm> It's been seen now!



Bogdan Briscu <bbriscu@gmail.com> asks for assistance in identifying other cancels that he has on cards - volunteers please email him!

THE POSTAL ESPIONAGE OF PRINCE METTERNICH

by Keith Brandon

After the disruption of the Napoleonic Wars, the 1815 Treaty of Vienna reallocated all the fought-over territory and a period of relative peace ensued. However, there was still a feeling of unease and distrust between the former opposing powers.

The Austrian diplomat Prince Klemens von Metternich was a major figure in European politics for four decades as Austria's Foreign Minister from 1809 and Chancellor from 1821 to 1848. He relied upon espionage and censorship both to monitor developments in other European states and to suppress unrest at home. Zamoyski notes that: "Metternich employed hundreds of spies and battalions of men who were experts at unsealing letters, copying them and resealing them. Others would then decrypt and translate the copies. In order to extend the range of his surveillance, Metternich managed to divert various international postal routes through Austrian dominions, where interesting letters could be examined".

A major concern was that the Kingdom of Sardinia, with the backing of a traditionally-friendly France, would attempt one day to wrest Lombardy & Venetia from Austrian control. Metternich had little opportunity to examine suspicious mail between the non-Austrian Italian States and France because, for both topographical and political reasons, this mail travelled through the Kingdom of Sardinia (marked as Piedmont on the map¹) rather than over Austrian territory.

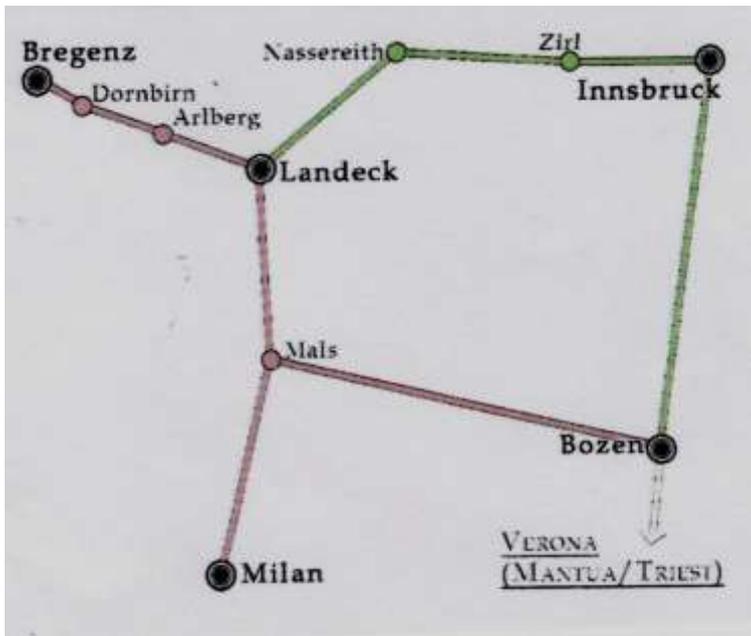


Portrait by Thomas Lawrence, 1815



The schematic map on the next page shows (in green) the long-existent route from the Italian States via Bozen (Bolzano), over the Brenner Pass to Innsbruck, turning west to Landeck, over the Arlberg Massif to Vorarlberg, entering northern Switzerland from Bregenz or Feldkirch. From there mail would traverse Switzerland to Basle and cross the River Rhine to the French exchange post-office at Huningue. However, this route was time-consuming and unattractive compared with the route through the Kingdom of Sardinia (Piedmont) to France.

¹ By Alexander Altenhof, based on many historical atlases.



Metternich's plan was to develop a fast route through Austria to France (in red on the map at left) that would attract Italian mail. This turned west at Bozen, and followed the Vinschgau valley through Mals, over the Reschen Pass to Landeck, rejoining the historic route to Vorarlberg and Switzerland. Prerequisites for Metternich's plan were the improvement of the horseback-post over the Arlberg massif between Tirol and Vorarlberg (achieved from 1822) and the foundation of a new express-route through the Vinschgau valley in western Austria (from 1823).

The Vinschgau route was seven postal stations fewer than the old route via Innsbruck. Not only was this faster, but it was cheaper too: 10 kreuzers vs 14 kreuzers from Bozen to Bregenz.

Folded letter from Bolzano (Bozen) to Dornbirn, in Vorarlberg, dated 12 July 1827. The letter is marked 10 (kreuzers) to pay and arrived after just two days. (The 14 marked is the converted rate in rheinisch kreuzers, still widely used in Vorarlberg, including 2 kr rh for the postal messenger from Hohenems to Dornbirn).



A further development in Metternich's plan was the Wormser Strasse (Bormio road) over the Stilfser Joch (Stelvio Pass). This was built mainly for military reasons - a faster way to move troops into Lombardy when required - but also provided a faster north-south link for mail transiting Milan.

The map on the left shows the Vinschgau route in more detail with the Bormio Road coming in from the southwest to Mals.

The road over the Stilfser Joch was an outstanding technical achievement for the time. The Pass was 2757m above sea-level and is today the second-highest paved pass in the Alps (the highest having been built a

hundred years later at the Col de l'Iseran in France, 2770m). The Pass had a maximum gradient of 12%. To achieve this, there were 75 hairpin-bends. Because of its strategic importance, the road was kept open and driveable year-round from 1825 to 1848, another impressive feat. (Today it is only open from May to November).



*Entire commercial letter dated Milan, 31 October 1839 and addressed to Schlumberger & Co, a cotton-weaving company in Guebwiller, Alsace (in France at the time). The letter went via the Stilfser Joch and the Arlberg to Bregenz, a journey of more than eighteen post-stations, and was pre-paid 14 (kreuzers), marked on the back, for the domestic stage of the journey. From there it went through Switzerland, entering France at **HUNINGUE**. The addressee was charged 10 (décimes); 7d for the Swiss charges and 3d for French postage.*

Herr Schlumberger spent some time working in the textile industry in England and smuggled out plans of the weaving machines, stitched into the lining of his coat. As a result, Schlumberger & Co moved successfully into the textile machine-tool business. No doubt Chancellor Metternich would have approved!

All the pieces were now in place for mail from the Italian States to France, the German States and beyond (or *vice versa*) to travel fast through western Austria and to enjoy the attention of Metternich's inspectors *en route*, particularly at the Bregenz post-office.

Vorarlberg's position at the western extremity of the Austrian Empire made it an important crossing-point for Austrian mail to the German States, the Swiss cantons, and thence to France. The border-exchange post-office was at Bregenz, on Bodensee (Lake Constance). The post-office there became a centre of postal espionage. As early as 1777 officials of the Vienna State Chancellery were opening and reading important-looking political letters in Bregenz. Of particular interest was mail coming via Milan to Bavaria via the old messenger route through Switzerland, the *Fussacher Bote*.

Metternich's new north-south route via the Vinschgau and Arlberg was successful in bringing mail from the Italian States to France through Bregenz where it could be examined. Mail to France was subject to the 1817 and subsequent Austro-French Postal Treaties which required particular treaty-markings to be hand-stamped on the mail at the border-exchange post-offices of Bregenz (and, later, Feldkirch).

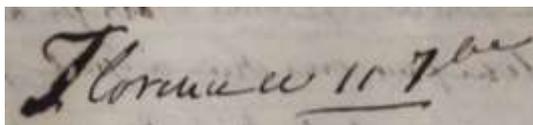
According to these Treaties, mail from the non-Austrian Italian States was officially supposed to travel via the Kingdom of Sardinia, not through the Austrian Crown Lands. The French Government retaliated to Metternich's diversion of letters through Austria by instructing the French border-office at Huningue that it could only accept mail originating in Austria (which included the Kingdom of Lombardy and Venetia) and must turn back mail from third countries.

Metternich was not to be outdone. His response was to intercept interesting-looking mail from the Italian States as it transited Lombardy & Venetia and to divert it to Verona or Milan. Here the original postmark was erased as far as possible and then over-stamped by a large Verona or Milan postmark. The letters were also hand-stamped **L.I.**; the Austro-French treaty-mark used for mail originating from Lombardy & Venetia. At Bregenz these letters were inspected and then mixed with genuine Austrian mail in the bag to Huningue.

These are known as "Metternich letters" and are highly-prized by collectors of Austrian and Italian mail of this period. The example below originated from the Grand Duchy of Tuscany but was diverted through Verona and given the Metternich treatment before continuing to France via Austria.



*Folded 1830 letter to Paris dated Florence (Duchy of Tuscany), 11 September. (See scan of Florence dateline below). The Florence postmark was erased in Verona and replaced by the **VERONA / 19 SET** postmark and the boxed **L.I.** Austro-French treaty-mark. The letter was accepted at Huningue as Austrian mail and was bagged to Paris. Arrival handstamp **Septembre 23 / 1830** and marked **15** (décimes) for the recipient to pay.*



References

- Rosé E - "Vorarlberg Stempelhandbuch von der Vorphilatelie bis 1900",
- Jungwirth H - "Fürst Metternich und das Briefgeheimnis" - <https://www.tyrol-philat.at/blog.html>
- Zamoyski A "Rites of Peace, The fall of Napoleon & the Congress of Vienna",
- Brandon K, Morrell R and Taylor A - "The Story of the Austrian Post up to 1850".

The first map and the portrait of Metternich are both from Wikipedia. The covers shown are from the author's collection.

THE EARLIEST AUSTRIAN RETURN-TO-SENDER LABEL?

By Douglas N. Muir RDP

The introduction of return-to-sender labels in Austria has been documented in this journal before.¹ In brief, at the instigation of Heinrich von Stephan, the Postmaster General of Imperial Germany, the Universal Postal Union instructed member states to use either labels or handstamps to explain the reason for returning mail abroad. Five common or standard reasons for non-delivery were provided (in French the international language of the UPU): “*inconnu*”, “*refuse*”, “*non réclamé*”, “*parti*” and “*décédé*”² (unknown, refused, unclaimed, gone away, and deceased). The handstamps or labels should have the text in French and the local language and were due to be introduced on 1 April 1887.

On 28 March 1887 the Austrian Ministry of Commerce announced that labels for non-delivery of mail were to be introduced³ (Figure 2, opposite). Texts (slightly different from the standard German) were:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Unbekannt./ Inconnu. | Nicht behoben./ Non réclamé. |
| Nicht angenommen./ Refusé. | Gestorben./ Décédé. |
| Abgereist./ Parti. | |

Until recently, the earliest example known of any Austrian label used was in 1889, some two years after their supposed introduction. Now, a much-travelled card has turned up with an “Unbekannt” label dating from October 1887 (Figure 1). This proves that the labels were available in 1887, even in outlying districts – quite how soon after April is not yet clear.



Figure 1

The journey the card took is quite remarkable and rather complicated. It had a lot to do with confusion over names, and the names being in both Czech and German; added to which is the location of many localities in what was then Austrian Silesia: always extraneous to most maps of the area, later incorporated into Czechoslovakia. I needed both a map current at the time and the very considerable help of a Czech friend of mine, Peter Gebauer, to sort out where it went. The map illustrations were annotated by him to indicate the often very small locations.

¹ Muir, Douglas N. “Austrian Return-to-Sender Labels” *Austria* Number 182, Summer 2013 pp 21-31

² Bureau international de L’Union postale universelle *Circulaires* No. 378/22, 20 January 1886

³ Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt für das Verwaltungsgebiet des k. k. Handelsministeriums No 29 1887 p. 113

113

N^o 29.  1887.

Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt

für das
Verwaltungsgebiet des k. k. Handelsministeriums.

Redigirt im k. k. Handelsministerium. Wien, den 6. April.

Inhalt: Angabe des Grundes der Unbestellbarkeit auf Briefpostsendungen des Weltpostvereinsverkehrs. — Verlegung des Postamtes Bösendorf nach Siebenbrunn. — Anhang: Concourse. — Verlustanzeige. — Fundanzeigen. — Einladung zur XV. General-Versammlung des Vereines der k. k. Postmeister und Postexpeditoren für Niederösterreich. — Concourse-Widerrufe.

Angabe des Grundes der Unbestellbarkeit auf Briefpostsendungen des Weltpostvereinsverkehrs.

S. Minist. B. 4691.

Von nun an ist auf den unbestellbaren Briefpostsendungen, welche aus den dem Weltpostvereine angehörigen Ländern herrühren, vor der Rücksendung nach dem Aufgabelande der Grund der Unbestellbarkeit in deutscher und französischer Sprache auf der Rückseite der betreffenden Correspondenzen mittelst nachstehender Worte anzugeben:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| „Unbekannt, inconnu“; | „Nicht angenommen, refusé“; | „Abgereist, parti“; |
| „Nicht behoben, non réclamé“; | „Gestorben, décédé“. | |

Zur Erleichterung für die Postämter werden in der Folge Klebezettel aufgelegt, welche in Druck die obigen Worte enthalten und seitens der Abgabepostämter je nach dem Falle auf eine freie Stelle der Rückseite der unbestellbaren Correspondenz haltbar zu legen sind.

Die Auswechslungspostämter haben darüber zu wachen, daß die vorerwähnten Angaben auf den ihnen zur Rückleitung in das Ausland zugehenden Correspondenzen angebracht sind, und haben in Unterlassungsfällen die nachträgliche Beifügung der fehlenden Auskunft von den betreffenden Abgabepostämtern zu erwirken.

Wien, den 28. März 1887.

P. u. T. V. Bl. 29

Figure 2

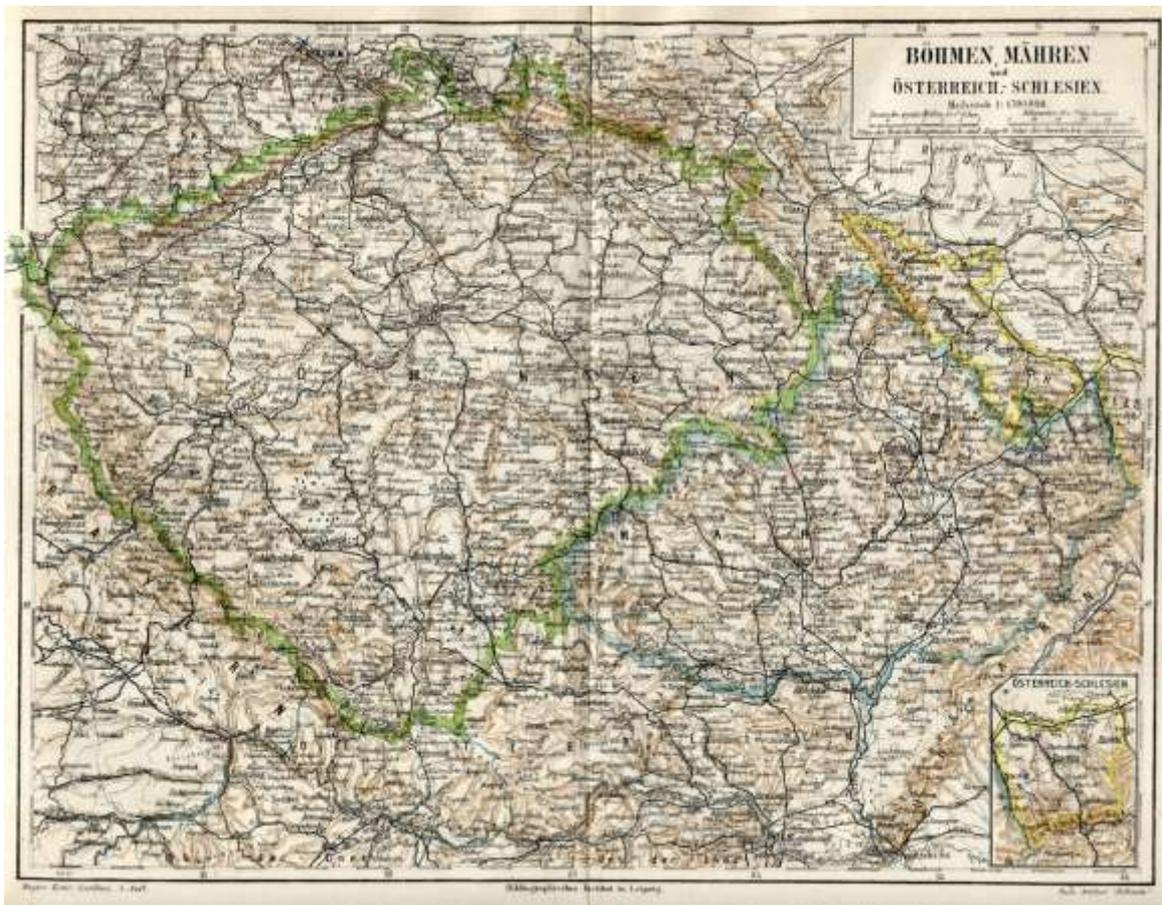


Figure 3

I managed to obtain an 1889 map of Bohemia & Moravia which included an inset of the relevant part of Austrian Silesia. (Figure 3). It is highly detailed with tiny type making it very difficult to read or find places. But the card started off in Hlinsko, south-east of Prague in Bohemia almost on the (green line) border with Moravia. Written in Czech it was sent on 21 October 1887 and addressed in Czech to Albrechtice ve Slezsku (now Město Albrechtice) which in 1887 was also known by its German name Olbersdorf.

And this is where the trouble started. Somebody, possibly a postal official, added in German “bei Chybi” so the card went to the railway station at Chybi in Silesia getting an arrival handstamp of Chybi Bahnhof of 22 October. Chybi was also the post office for “Albrechtshof” a farmyard and not Albrechtice nor Olbersdorf but you can see how the confusion arose. This lies not far from Schwarzwasser or Strumien in Silesia. (Figures 4 & 5).



Figure 4



Figure 5

Clearly, the addressee was not found there and they wrote “Post Freistadt” on the card and sent it to Albersdorf (in Czech Albrechtice as well) near Freistadt, in Czech Fryštát, now part of Karviná, on the Moravian side of the border with Silesia. (Figure 6, right) It arrived there on 23 October. However, this was not the post office for Albersdorf at that time, rather it was Ober Suchau; so the card went there, receiving transit marks of Karwin (Karviná) of 24 October on the reverse and 25 October arriving in Ober Suchau (in Czech Horní Suchá) on 26 October. This was still not right and it is probably here that the Unbekannt label was applied. The card was then sent back to Hlinsko in Bohemia with an arrival mark of 27 October.



On the reverse a short piece in German was added by the sender - “Einen schönen Weg hat diese Karte gemacht” – this card has gone on a fine journey – before being readdressed in purple ink, and in German for greater clarity, to Olbersdorf in Silesia (now Město Albrechtice) near Jägerndorf (Krnov) – as originally and correctly addressed, but in Czech. (Figure 7 (left)– adapted from a detail of Figure 3). It finally arrived at its destination on 29 October with the cancellation of Olbersdorf tying the label to the card. Although the card was resent from Hlinsko there is no indication of any extra franking which should have been required.

After all that, and its subsequent history, the card is not in good condition with a bad crease down the middle, but its importance lies in the early use of the Unbekannt label. This, it seems to me, must have been applied in Ober Suchau on 26 October before the card was sent back to Hlinsko. According to the internet the population of Olbersdorf in 1880 was just 1,532, the vast majority being Polish-speakers with only two people speaking Czech but rather more speaking German. The cancellation was, nevertheless, of the name in German as were most others on this card.

What this shows is that at some point in 1887 after April but before October, the labels promised in the official circular were distributed and not only to large centers in the Austrian Empire. (Hungary didn't introduce labels until 1892.) Equally, the instruction in the circular that it should be used on international mail which needed to be returned was not heeded, as this card even on its vicarious travels remained within the area of Austrian postal jurisdiction. Officials were obviously unclear as to their use, perhaps more so in small localities.

COVER STORY

by Andy Taylor and international friends

The basis for this article is a query presented to the membership in the March 2022 issue of **Czechout**, journal of the Czechoslovak Society of Great Britain.

The Czech side



The Austrian side



In Austria:

The letter is written to Frau Therese Skrabak at Wien, 66, / Nussdorferstr. 4, II-P./21 This is not the 66th district of Vienna (there isn't one) but means "Postamt Wien 66". This was at Porzellangasse 10 which was near Nussdorferstrasse, from where the letter would have been delivered had it not been sent Express.

Nussdorferstr. 4, II-P./21 means flat 21 in "Stiege 2" in the big building of Nussdorferstr. 4. Note: a Stiege is a separate part of a large building, accessed by a dedicated staircase. So Stiege 2 is simply the second staircase; it would have its own "front door".

<https://www.digital.wienbibliothek.at/wbrobv/periodical/structure/2384114> (the online Lehmann address-book of 1938) shows that at the address Nussdorferstr. 4, Stiege 2 lived a "Skrabak J. Wachebmt". Wachebmt (Wachbeamte) means he was a policeman. The sender has written his details on the back:

Joseph Skrabak, Pol. Krafftfahrer in Iglau, Pol. Batl. I/2 Zug. Landesirrenanstalt. "Pol." will be Polizei, "Stellg" Stellung, and "Zug." Zugehör. So, Police Driver in Police Battalion I/2, a position attached to the state insane asylum. Zug has more meanings in German than almost any other noun. But Stellg. zug. seems to have a period after it so might be an abbreviation for Stellung, a position of employment, an attachment to.... One could guess that he'd been called up into the military police. Nussdorferstrasse was/is in Bezirk 9 but the sender didn't write that on the envelope.

Also on the back are three cancels, all applied in Vienna. Reading from the right:

The 1 WIEN 1 bridge is the Head Post Office, and with 4ü letter-at-bottom is Stohl A2527lt (letter ell tee not number 1 tee). Known 1930-1936 and with stars flanking it - there's a faint dot on the scan at 5 o'clock that might once have been a star.

The WIEN 1 ring with Rb at bottom is a Rohrpost cancel from Head Post Office. Stohl R0005n, used earlier than he lists.

The segment cancel is mentioned by Stohl - in his "too difficult" table. However he must have relented: it's listed under WIEN73, as his A2504b, known 1931-1937. This is the cancel of Office 71 after it was moved to Office 73. It says:

TELEGR. AMT 73 WIEN IX/2 # R/a 19.IX.39-9- # DIENSTSTELLE DES P.A.71 (# means "new line")

Or possibly R/b.

It wasn't a Post Office, but a Telegraph Office. These also handled the pneumatic mail system - this letter was sent Express so handled in Vienna by "the most expeditious means available". The red **73** on the front is the pneumatic post's office number, which by 1939 was for a given office the same as the letter post office number.

The letter will have arrived (presumably by train) in a bag, taken to the head post office, arrival-cancelled 1 WIEN 1 at 8am, passed over to the pneumatic post department, cancelled WIEN 1 there at 9am, pneumatic'd to office 73, and delivered from there.

Exploding Torpedoes - the Sound of Music?

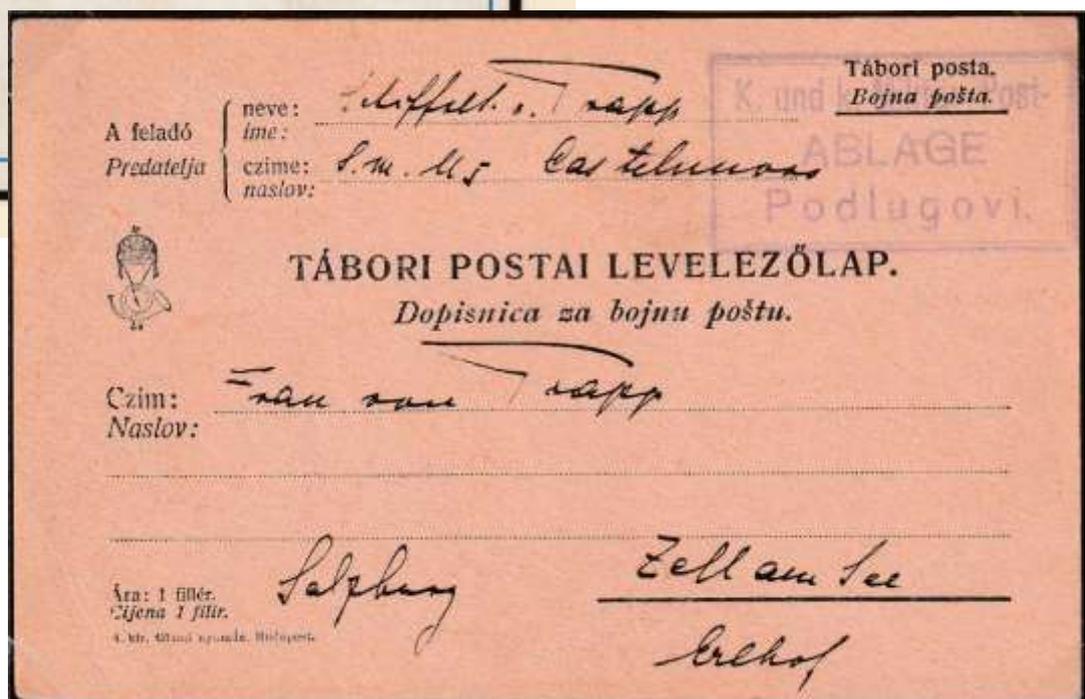
By J Pitts



Certainly so for Schiffsleutnant Georg von Trapp (head of the later to be famous singing family), captain of His Majesty's Submarine U 5 of the Austro-Hungarian Navy, who in April 1915 sank the French cruiser "Leon Gambetta". The commander of the French vessel went down with his ship, together with 683 crew members. The French fleet immediately withdrew from the Adriatic and such was the displeasure of the Italians at this attack on their French ally that they declared war on Austria-Hungary.

The card shows the spirit of Admiral Tegetthof, Austria's hero of the Battle of Lissa (1866), gazing down upon U 5's achievement, and an inset of Austria's new hero, Georg von Trapp.

Deutscher Schulverein official postcard, posted on board the cruiser K.u.K. Kaiser Karl VI (14.X.1915) addressed to Zilah, Romania, (cds ZILAH 15 OKT 15).



Postcard from Georg von Trapp dated 23.V.15 to his wife at the Erthof hotel in Zell am Zee, Salzburg, and posted at the military collecting agency of Podlugovi, near Sarajevo.

Returning to his base at Castelnuovo he writes (on the back) "On the way to Sarajevo. I'm getting flowers on the way, was photographed, want to have done with that sort of thing. I hope to be back on board in time, war is to be declared tomorrow - never was such a set of rascals. How are the children.... missing you already your Georg". War was in fact declared that day - 23.V.1915 - and he triggered it!

Austro-Hungarian Military Medical Services.

By Andrew Brooks

This article is based on postal history items from my own collection and information from various philatelic and non-philatelic publications. Picture postcards of the time illustrated the work of the medical staff as they dealt with the sick and wounded before they were moved from the front line to the hinterland if they required more specialist treatment.

Also, the article shows how Austro-Hungary identified its medical military mail with distinctive cachets, both near the front, in the base areas and in all parts of the Monarchy. Other participants in the conflict, with the possible exception of France, did not go to such lengths.

During the Great War 1914-18 the military medical services were confronted with a war of movement, trench warfare, infectious diseases and often extreme conditions in the physical world. It was clear almost from the beginning that there were extensive differences between the experiences on the Eastern and Western Fronts. When Romania joined the war on the side of the Allies in 1916, the Eastern Front extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea, a distance of 800 miles in a direct line, or more than twice that distance if measured along the borders between the opposing countries. The Western Front from the English Channel to the Swiss border was approximately 440 miles in length as it meandered through Belgium and France.

Although each country had variations in the military medical services that supported their armies when they went to war in 1914, basically they all would have followed a similar structure of organisation. War brought about changes, sometimes too slowly as the medical units could be hindered by pre-war regulations. However, the urgencies of war soon changed the thinking of the medical staff and they eventually adapted their methods to suit the treatment of the wounded and sick.

The first treatment on the battlefield would be by comrades or medics. Wounded would be brought to an aid post and given some treatment, even life-saving. They would then be passed back through the line to a field hospital. This would be at least 15km behind the front line and out of the range of the enemy artillery. Field Hospitals had to be ready to move as the front line changed. Wherever possible they were situated close to a railway line so that the patients could be sent to the large hospitals at the base or a specialist hospital at home.

In the hinterland, existing hospitals were adapted and enlarged by adding barrack-type buildings. Schools, universities, children's homes and even museums were requisitioned and used as hospitals. If possible, the attempt was made to accommodate war invalids who needed prolonged medical treatment in their home country within the Monarchy.

There was a decline in the three types of combat casualties (killed, wounded and prisoners) from the first year of the war to the fourth, and this is surprising as the troops who fought in the second half of the war lacked training. The most important reasons for this development were that both the officers and men had growing experiences of actual war lessons, that efforts were made to avoid useless bloodshed, and that the general amount of fighting was reduced. As the enormous casualties on the Eastern Front in the early years ameliorated it is noticeable that the casualties on the Southwestern Front increased.

From the middle of 1917 the reduction in casualties was offset by the increasing numbers of sick soldiers. This was put down to the fact that the physical strength of the men had suffered from earlier privations and they were less able to cope with heavy exertion because they were undernourished.

The infantry bore the heaviest burden throughout the entire war. It made up 38.7% of the ration strength and accounted for 95.9% of the wounded. This is compared with the Pioneers who were 2.8% of the ration strength but only 0.65% of the wounded.

As well as the problems caused by cholera, typhus and dysentery, malaria was prevalent in Albania and also (in 1918) for those stationed along the coast of Venetia. The danger of this disease was evident in 1916, when it quickly struck 10,000 men of the 47th Infantry Division in Albania, resulting in the deaths of 2,500. It was difficult to prevent especially with a shortage of quinine.

It was impossible to find sufficient numbers of doctors in the latter part of the war and an infantry regiment of three battalions was lucky to have three of its authorised five doctors. One-year medical students were drafted in to help in the hospitals.

An excellent account by the medical team of the Austrian 14th Infantry Regiment (see reference 2) gave an insight into their problems and successes throughout the war as they treated the sick and wounded from Galicia in 1914 and then from the South-West Front in mid-1916 to the end of the war.

They first went into action on 28 August 1914 at Oserdow, a small village on the Galician front. Many of the pre-war regulations were quickly dropped to cope with the reality of war. For example, the wounded were supposed to be brought into the Regimental Dressing Station during a lull in the fighting. This was soon discarded and stretcher bearers were soon operating in no-man's land, bringing in the wounded in the thick of the fighting.

They eventually learnt to deal with dysentery, cholera and typhoid but the need to have men in the front line meant that soldiers who had an infectious disease in a mild form were required to fight, and they then passed the infection to others. Inoculation against cholera was first carried out in November 1914 and proved to be successful. Even so in August 1915 the regiment suffered epidemics of cholera, typhus and dysentery, resulting in the decimation of the fighting men. During the severe winter in 1914/15 the medical staff managed to keep frostbite to a few cases, mainly because the soldiers were well provided with socks and gloves knitted by women in the homeland.

As they moved from one disease-ridden village to another, the greatest enemy was the louse, particularly as a carrier of spotted typhoid.

In March 1916 they were transferred to the South-West Front, around Trient. In this mountainous area the stretcher bearers had to be very strong and have a head for heights as carrying the wounded up and down precipitous slopes was extremely difficult. It took eight stretcher bearers to carry one wounded man over Mont Cimone.

In the summer of 1917, the regiment moved from the Tirol to the Asiago plateau where the conditions were again terrible. In the severe fighting in June and July 1918 the regiment was reduced from 1,538 rifles to 150 and thirteen stretcher bearers were killed.

There are few postmarks on this topic but a wealth of cachets is to be found on the mail. Statistically the most numerous cachets are for the field hospitals which are found close to the front line and usually have a field postmark. Other cachets that occur frequently are those for the reserve hospitals and as these are well behind the front in the hinterland or in the home countries, they have no field postmark and require other means of identification to gain free postage. Convalescent hospitals are another commonly found medical unit. Fortress hospitals and garrison hospitals are found fairly frequently, whilst there are many that are certainly scarcer to find such as the surgical groups and some of the medical railway units, for example the permanent military train for the sick and wounded.

Those hospitals or medical units well behind the front line and without a feldpost number needed some identification for free postage. Sometimes the cachet Von der Armee im Felde (From the Army in the Field) was sufficient. On many occasions the cachet Militärpflege (Military Care) or Militärpflege portfrei (Military Care Post Free) was used. Many cards also had a Zensuriet (Censored) cachet. Similar cachets were also applied in Hungarian etc.

Feldspital.



K.u.K.Feldspital No. 7/VII. Also, a Zensurirt cachet (is it a spelling mistake?). Was there a need for stamps of the Military Post General issue of 1915? The sender does not give their details on the front of the envelope and it has never been opened, so probably philatelic. K.u.K.Feldpostamt 603 is identified for the 94th Infantry Division and is dated 24/6/16. At this time the division was engaged in a battle on the Freikofel, a mountainous area near the Plocken Pass. The field hospital was probably near the village of Plocken.

Reservespital.



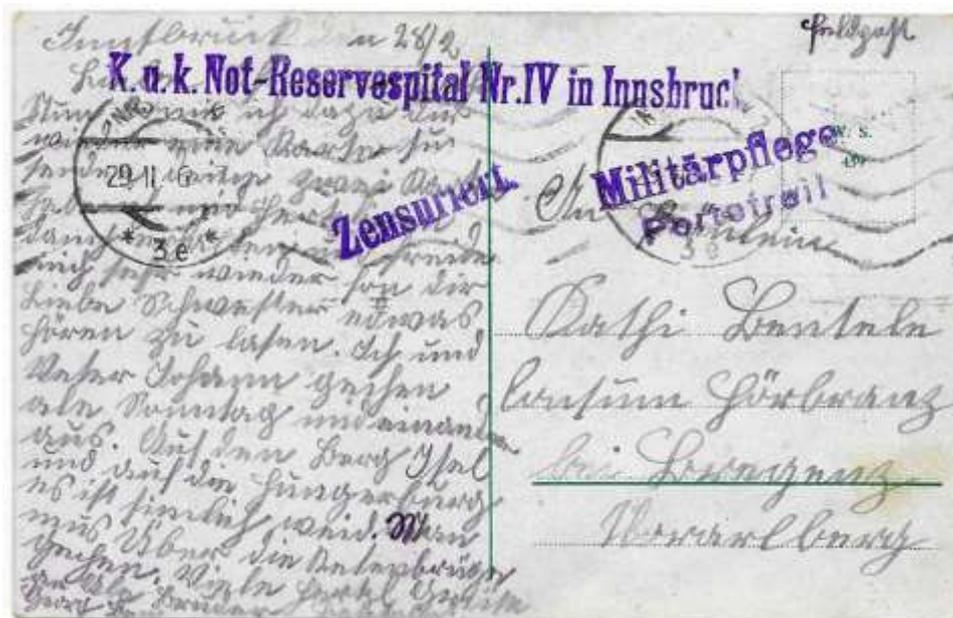
A card was sent with the cachet K.u.K. Reservespital Nr.9 in Wien/VI Mariahilferstrasse Nr.87 to another person in the same hospital (bed number 509). It also had another cachet FELDPPOST/(Militärpflege). It had the civil postmark Wien 6, dated 5/4/15. The message on the card is an Easter greeting. Even though it was to someone in the same hospital, because it went through the civil post it was contrary to regulations (no personal details in the left-hand section) and received a 10 heller postage due stamp!

Mobile Reservespital.



The envelope has the postmark K.u.K. Feldpostamt 201 and was dated 1/12/15. The circular cachet was for K.u.K.Mob.Res.Spital No.6/4. At this time F.P.201 was at 2nd Army Command H.Q. in Galicia. The sender was Dr. Sokolowska and it was addressed to his wife, another Doctor in Krakau.

Notfall Reservespital.



A picture postcard of the funicular railway at Hungerberg, Innsbruck was posted in Innsbruck on the 29/2/16. It has the cachet K.u.K. Not-Reservespital Nr.IV in Innsbruck. This was an Emergency Reserve Hospital. It also has a Zensuriert cachet and a Militärpflege/Portofrei cachet (Military/Postfree).

Filialspital. (Reserve).



A group of staff and patients was taken for this real photographic postcard. The cachet is for the Filialspital des K.u.K. Reservespitals in Teschen Gr. Kuntschnitz a./R. (Mähren). This was a Branch Reserve Hospital. Postmark is for Gross Kuntschnitz and dated 2/2/16. Weak censor mark.

Festungsspital.



A picture postcard sent from the K.u.K. Festungsspital Nr. 2 / in Trient. (Fortress Hospital). It also has a cachet in black, Von der Armee / im Felde. The rectangular Feldkirch censor cachet (Feldkirch omitted) is on the card as post passing through this town adjacent to the border with Switzerland was usually censored. However, this card was destined for Bregenz, the Austrian city on the shores of Lake Constance.

Garrisonsspital.



This feldpostkorrespondenzkarte was posted in Baden bei Wien, a spa town about 26 miles south of Vienna on 4/6/15. It has the cachet K.u.K. Garrisonsspital Nr.27 / Filialspital Goldenes Kreuz / Valeriastrasse 12. (Garrison Hospital Branch of Golden Red Cross). There is a Golden Cross Clinic in Baden bei Wien in 2021.

Rekonvaleszentenabteilung.



This card was sent from K.k. Rekonvaleszentenabteilung in St. Florian. (Convalescent Depot near Linz). Civil postmark for Florian in Ober Oesterr. Dated 16/12/15. Cachet for Militärpflege (Military care). Sent by the husband to his wife in Locau bei Bregenz.

Kriegsspital.



An envelope to Delft, Holland on the 13/2/18. It has the postmark Kriegsspital Sternthal Pettau (War Hospital). A member of the K. und K. Apotheke des/ Reservespitals Jungbunzlau in Sternthal sent the cover (this is on the reverse flap of the envelope) . Faint cachet Zensuriert / K.u.K. Zensurstellen Wien.

Chirurgen-Gruppe.



The card has the Hungarian-type Posthivatal 91 field postmark and was sent to Switzerland where a 10 centimes tax stamp was applied. Cachet; IV Chirurgengruppe / des souveränen Malteser-Ritterordens / Klinik Generalstabsarzt v. Hoche. (4th Surgery group of the Maltese Red Cross Director of Medical Services). At the time this surgical group were in operation during the 5th Battle of the Isonzo.

Mobiles Epidemiespital.



A Feldpostkorrespondenzkarte sent from K.u.K.Feldpostamt 223 on the 4/4/16 to a family in Wien. It has a cachet for Mobiles Epidemiespital Nr. 6 as well as Zensuriert and Desinfiziert cachets. The card has also been signed by Dr. A. Lucacin K.u/K. The writer was Ed. Gzeschka of the K.u.K. Infantry Regiment Nr.4. According to Nagel this unit was in the Tirol with XVIII Corps.

Conclusion

In my collection of picture postcards and field postcards there are cachets for many other medical units. Some are concerned with the transport of the wounded by train, others are dental clinics and many are simply nursing convalescent facilities. As it would be impossible to show them all, the above are selected examples. [The cards described above have been scanned with their title eg. 'Feldspital'.]

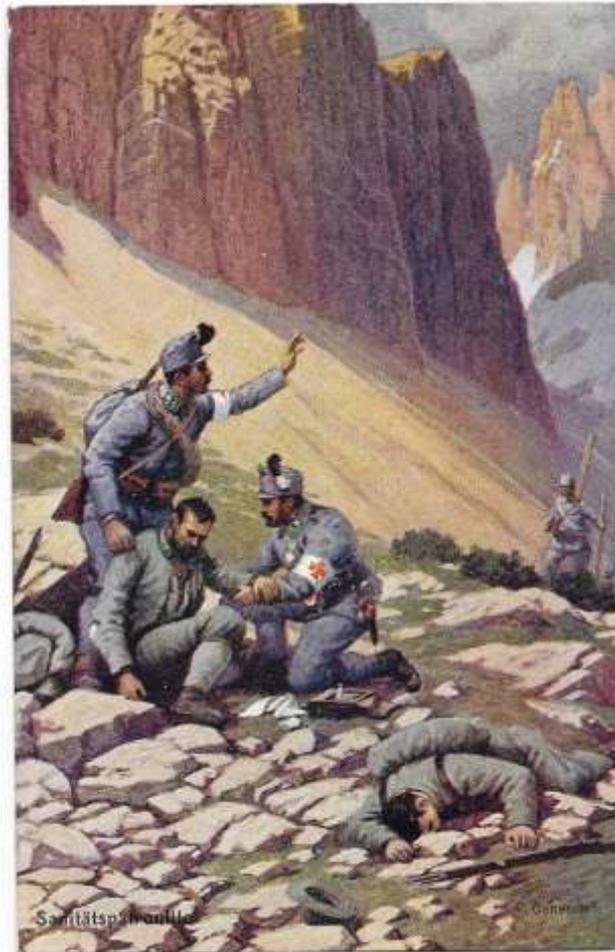
Hans Riedel describes the medical facilities in the Etappen (Base) sector of the Austro-Hungarian 10th Army in one of his books. This of course does not include the many field hospitals (at least one to each regiment) and other units near the front line belonging to the 10th Army. At the time the army was in the Karnten sector and the following information is for the period 1915-1917. He notes one Garnisonsspital, two Landwehrspitales, nine Reservespitales, eight Notreserve-spitales, two Zivil-spitales, six Baracken-spitales (two were for POWs), twenty Vereinsreservespitales (Red Cross), twelve hospital trains (some with sleeping berths) and many convalescent houses. There were also other specialised medical units. Austro-Hungary had four armies on the South-West Front alone and each would have had the same medical facilities as the 10th Army. Add the medical requirements of the Eastern Front and it seems as though one should be able to collect thousands of cachets from the front line and base medical establishments.

References.

- * <http://www.comroestudios.com/StanHanna/> A history of Austria-Hungary's Last War, 1914-1818. In English, with notes.
- * <http://www.vlib.us/medical/14th/intro.htm> Medical Services of the 14th Imperial Regiment Medical Services by Doctor Leopold Strauss.
- * Militar und Philatelie: Die Karnische Front 1915-1917. Die 10. Armee in Tirol. By Hans Riedel.
- * Katalog der K.u.K. Feldpostämter und deren Einsatzgebiete mit Truppen und Kriegsereignissen. By Heinz Nagel.
- * <https://www.austrianphilately.com/dixnut/index.htm/> The Austro-Hungarian army 1914-18 for collectors of its postal items by John Dixon-Nuttall

The patient journey

(Excuse the 2020s NHS jargon!) This series of illustrated cards shows the stages of an injured soldier's journey from the front line to a medical facility where he can either be restored to active service, or stabilised and discharged.



1. Reached by the 'Medical Patrol' who apply first aid and summon assistance.



2. A search dog, trained to bark on discovering an injured person, alerts a patrol.



3. Lice were a persistent problem. The title is ‘Our fieldgrey in the delousing station after the renovation is complete’ - ie the uniforms are being treated and the soldiers fed.

4. Shown on the next page is a military nursing feldpostkorrespondenzkarte for a wounded man to fill in. Like the ‘I am well’ card, it is in nine languages. This card has the ‘Krank’ (sick) column left open.



5. A First Aid Station, to which the injured recovered from the front are brought.

Militärpflege — Katonai ápolási ügy

Feldpostkorrespondenzkarte.

Militär-Barackenspital der k. k. schlesischen Landesregierung in Bielitz.

Name *Knud Mogensen*
 Charge *Truppschreiber*
 Truppenkörper *№ 4 - C*
(für den Verwundeten) *5. Leutnant*

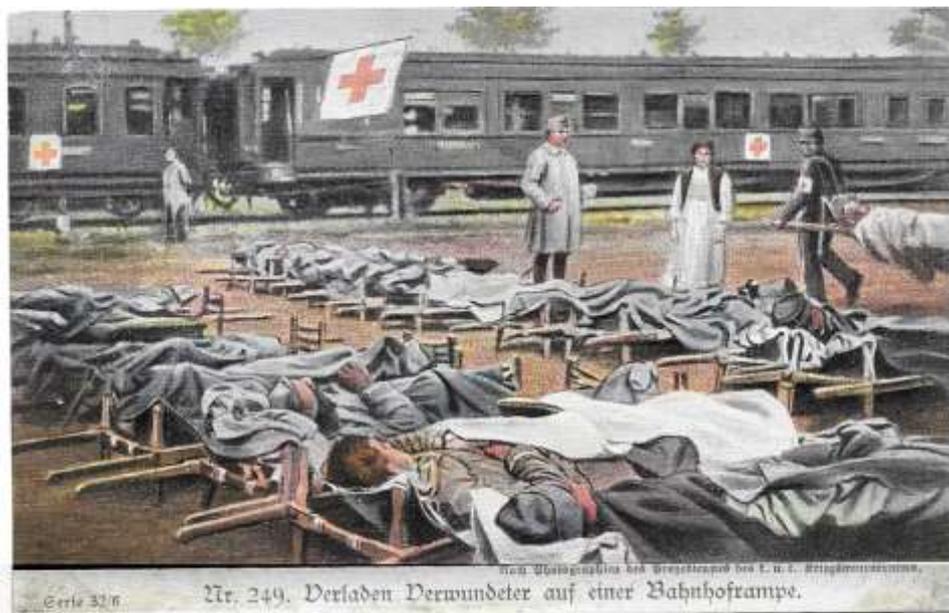
Ofterin K. Mogensen
at Gustav Gornitzky
Bielitz
Pol. Station

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| leicht verwundet | verwundet | schwer verwundet | krank | schwer krank |
| könny megsebesült | megsebesült | súlyosan sebesült | beteg | súlyosbeteg |
| lehce raněn | raněn | těžce raněn | nemocen | těžce nemocen |
| lekko raniony | raniony | ciężko raniony | chory | ciężko chory |
| tesko pamenit | pamenit | teško pamenit | xorut | teško xorut |
| leggiermente ferito | ferito | gravemente ferito | ammalato | grave ammalato |
| lahko ranjen | ranjen | teško ranjen | bolestan | teško bolestan |
| lahko ranjen | ranjen | teško ranjen | boian | teško boian |
| usor rānit | rānit | greu rānit | bolnav | greu bolnav |

The status report card for an injured soldier to send to his family. Knud Mogensen is ill but not very. *The space for the address has been electronically tweaked so that you can read what he wrote! Ed.*



6 The wounded are brought to the ambulance.



7 Loading wounded on to the Hospital train.

2022 NEW ISSUES (2nd instalment)

by Andy Taylor

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. The language-choice selection on the Opost web site is now in the black border at the bottom of each page instead of at the top right corner.



2021 Subscriber's Bonus Stamp. 85c; Brigitte Heiden; 5.3.2022; 280,000; Offset; Enschedé. Schwarze Tollkirsche in German, *Atropa belladonna* in Latin, deadly nightshade in English. Exceptionally beautiful to look at, but also dangerous: the black berries look tempting, but can even lead to death. Its Latin name is reminiscent of the Greek goddess of fate Atropos, one of the Three Fates in Greek mythology, who cut a person's thread of life after her sisters had spun and measured it - very appropriate for such a poisonous plant. The plant belongs to the nightshade family. Its bell-shaped flowers are brown-violet on the outside and yellow on the inside, the shiny black berries and the other parts of the plant contain highly toxic alkaloids.

A friend in Vienna suggested that "Subscriber's Gift" was a horrible German pun 😊

Corona sticking-plaster. 2Eu75; David Gruber; 15.03.2022; 150,000; created by Variuscard Produktions- und Handels GmbH using Tintenstrahl-flachbettdruck (no, me neither). "The easiest way to get the corona pandemic under control is vaccination. It offers good protection against the potentially severe course of a Covid infection." The message on the stamp means "Doesn't hurt at all!". The stamp is made identically to a normal medical plaster, and can be used as such. However, it is forbidden to use it to "frank" yourself and demand to be carried by post.



Rare Livestock Breeds: Steinhendl. 85c; Kirsten Lubach 25.03.2022; 360,000 in flocks of 10; Offset with Mintgreen Pantone 559C; Enschedé. The very pretty Steinhendl ("Austrian Bantam"??) is this year's motif in the "Rare Livestock Breeds" series. Particularly striking is the mostly colourful spotted plumage of this old native breed. Until the 1970s, the Steinhendl was still often found on farms in Styria and the neighbouring regions, today some breeders practice conservation breeding. The Steinhendl is one of the last representatives of the Central European country chicken in the Eastern Alps that has not yet been improved by breeding. Typical of this old breed is the

multicoloured speckled plumage in many shades or the rare wild colour. The chickens are small, robust, agile and very active. They hardly need any supervision, and like to spend the night in trees. The hens love to breed and are caring, which is why they are also used to raise other chicks. They defend their brood very vehemently, even though they hardly weigh more than half a kilogram themselves.

Austrian Film Museum. 2Eu75; Anita Kern; 31.03.2022; 200,000; Offset; Enschedé. In 1964, Peter Konlechner and Peter Kubelka founded the Film Museum in Vienna as a cinema, research and educational facility and as a place for collecting, archiving and restoring films. The special stamp shows the distinctive logo of the film museum, the mythical creature Zyphius. Gertie Fröhlich had seen this fantasy animal in a historical treatise and thought that an animal that can live on land and under water was a fitting symbol for the Film Museum: May it never perish. Gertie Fröhlich (1930-2020) studied, among other things, at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna under Albert Paris Gütersloh. In 1954 she initiated the founding of the St. Stephan Gallery by Monsignor Otto Mauer. She not only created numerous posters for the film museum, but also graphics for magazines, pen drawings and watercolours.





“Together for peace” 1Eu+2Eu Special Stamp; David Gruber; 31.03.2022; 200,000; Offset; Enschedé. *“Cohesion - the need of the hour: in difficult times, human solidarity proves to be a great and extremely important asset. It helps and gives hope, it comforts and gives strength. This special stamp with a surcharge is Austrian Post's solidarity contribution – at a time when war is breaking out in Ukraine, many people are being asked to give their all.*

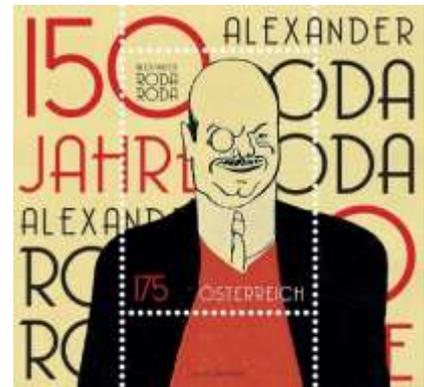
“Since the end of February 2022, there has been war in a European country that is not far from Austria. Millions of people are affected by the consequences, both directly and indirectly, whether on site or fleeing the hostilities. A wave of solidarity and willingness to help can be felt throughout Europe, a cohesion that gives hope despite

everything, because many people want to actively show their compassion and make a contribution to help. It is clear that help is urgently needed in any form and on any scale.

“With this additional stamp, we also want to help to provide support to those affected. The stamp has a nominal value of 1 euro for postage within Europe, half of the 2 euro surcharge goes to the organizations Neighbours in Need and UNICEF, which are partners in this special stamp. Even in previous crises, Austrian Post provided support for humanitarian projects with additional stamps, for example in 2016 in the course of refugee aid for Syria with the UNICEF stamp ‘A fair chance for every child’. The Corona stamp issued in 2020 also benefited aid projects from Licht ins Dunkel, UNICEF and Caritas.”

150th birthday of Alexander Roda Roda. 1Eu75; Marion Füllerer; 22.04.2022; 120,000 blocks-of-1; Offset; Enschedé.

Quirky personalities from the Habsburg monarchy and the k.u.k. Army were the protagonists in the texts of the Austrian satirist and cabaret artist. As a former officer, Roda Roda knew what he was writing about - not least because of his humorous stories, he was ultimately stripped of his officer rank. He then had a red waistcoat made out of his uniform; together with the monocle it became his trademark during his appearances on cabaret stages and can also be seen on the caricature by Albert Weisgerber on the stamp. He had officially adopted the name Roda or Roda Roda in 1906, he was born in 1872 as Sándor Friedrich Rosenfeld in Moravia. Roda Roda wrote plays, humorous stories and novels, and during the First World War worked as a war correspondent. He left Austria before the Anschluss, and died in the USA in 1945.



400th death anniversary of Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen. 1Eu35; Kirsten Lubach; 22.04.2022; 150,000; Combination print; Enschedé. In the series “sacred art in Austria”. Fidelis von Sigmaringen is particularly revered in Feldkirch in Vorarlberg. He is the town's patron saint and his head is kept in the Capuchin monastery in Feldkirch as a relic. Fidelis was born in Sigmaringen, Germany, in 1578 and entered the Capuchin order, a branch of the Franciscan order, in 1612. In 1621 he became a guardian (head of the house) in the Capuchin monastery in Feldkirch, which was founded in 1602. He preached in Switzerland to convert those who had converted to the Reformed faith back to Catholicism. In 1622 he was killed in an armed uprising in Seewis, Switzerland. Fidelis is considered the first martyr of the Capuchin Order

and was canonized in 1746. April 24, the anniversary of his death, is his memorial day. The coloured wooden sculpture depicted on the stamp shows peasants attacking the preacher. It probably dates from the 17th century and is set up in the refectory of the 5th monastery in Feldkirch.



UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site - Baden bei Wien. 85c; Anita Kern; 23.04.2022; 280,000; Offset; Enschedé. Since 2021 the city of Baden bei Wien has been a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Together with ten other important European spa towns, it forms a transnational World Heritage site “The Great Spa Towns of Europe”. They are Spa (Belgium), Baden-Baden, Bad Ems, Bad Kissingen (Germany), Vichy (France), Montecatini Terme (Italy), Franzensbad, Karlsbad, Marienbad (Czech Republic), Bath (England) and Baden bei Wien. The imperial city of Baden is known for its natural sulphur thermal springs, which are still used today for healing treatments. The stamp shows the Casino Baden, which was built in Neo-Renaissance style between 1884 and 1886 and served as a new spa building in place

of the old Theresienbad until 1934. Since 1995 it has been a casino, convention and event centre. The motif is based on a photograph by Romana Fürnkranz.

Austrian Young Art: Christian Eisenberger - “untitled (Head)”. 1Eu80; Theresa Radlingmaier; 26.04.2022; 140,000; Offset; Enschedé. Christian Eisenberger, born in Semriach near Graz in 1978, studied at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. He first attracted attention with cardboard figures, which he placed and numbered in public spaces. He still uses a wide variety of materials in his art today, such as cardboard, hair, aluminium, adhesive tape and ice. He works in a multi-media and interdisciplinary manner and combines his painting with photographs, sculptures and installations. A recurring theme in Eisenberger's art is heads. The special stamp shows a portrait designed with bathroom silicone and acrylic paint on canvas.



Ruster Ausbruch DAC, in the series Austrian Wine Regions. 85c; David Gruber; 30.04.2022; 360,000 in sheetlets of 10; Offset; Enschedé. Characteristic of the free town of Rust on the shore of Lake Neusiedl are the storks that nest on the chimneys and the wine - and above all the noble sweet Ruster Ausbruch. This is a golden-yellow sweet wine made from grapes infected with the ‘noble mould’ *Botrytis cinerea*. The drying of the berries increases the sugar content and the aroma. The Rusterbruch DAC must be made from hand-picked white quality grape varieties from the Rust area and have a minimum must weight of 30 °KMW. The old town of Rust with its well-kept town houses from the 16th to 19th centuries is conservation-listed. In addition to the historic buildings, the large stork nests on the roofs are particularly striking, making Rust the “town of storks”. Rust is also part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Ferto/Lake Neusiedl”, recognized in 2001.

EUROPA 2022 – the Eisenerz Wassermann 1Eu; Marion Füllerer; 7.05.2022; 200,000; Offset; Enschedé. The EUROPA stamp has been a symbol of the collaboration between the European postal services since 1956. This year's theme is “Stories & Myths” and the Austrian interpretation is “The Erzberg and its legends”. The special stamp has been embellished with a hot stamping foil.

The legend tells that people once caught a water sprite who lived at Lake Leopoldstein near today's town of Eisenerz. They thought he had great treasures. In exchange for his release, the prisoner promised them “gold for ten years, silver for a hundred years, or iron forever.” The people of Eisenerz chose iron, and iron has been mined on the Erzberg ever since. The karst spring in which the Wassermann is said to have finally disappeared is called the Wassermannsloch.

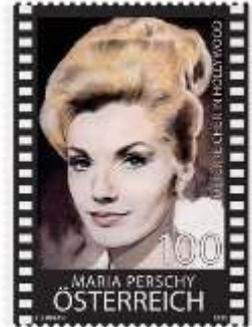


EUROPA stamps are intended to promote philately and emphasize the cultural and historical similarities between the countries.



900th birthday of Frederick I Barbarossa. 2Eu75; Karin Klier; 27.05.2022; 240,000; Offset; Enschedé. Frederick I was given the nickname “Barbarossa” because of his red beard. As the king of Germany and the Holy Roman emperor, he was one of the most important rulers of the Middle Ages.

Maria Perschy, in the series Austrians in Hollywood. 1Eu; Kristen Lubach; 27.05.2022; 360.000 in minisheets of 10; Offset; Enschedé. “From Burgenland to Hollywood” - An all-round talent and extremely versatile, Maria Perschy is one of the few Austrian actors who have also enjoyed success in Hollywood.



Landscapes, in the Beautiful Austria series. 5Eu95; Roland Vorlaufer; 27.05.2022; 130,000; Offset; Enschedé. “Natural treasures of Austria”: A new block of stamps for the “Beautiful Austria” series in the style of the Dispenser stamps shows a selection of the diverse landscapes Austria has to offer.



"150-year anniversary of the award of the operating licence for the Raab-Oedenburg-Ebenfurt railway". 2Eu75; Peter Sinaweil; 10.06.2022; 200,000; Offset/Intaglio/Pantone/5625U; Enschedé. 150 years ago, the groundwork for this railway between Hungary and Austria, which is still relevant today, was laid.



Augustiner Bräustübl Mülln. 1Eu35; Regina Simon; 10.06.2022; 180,000; Offset; Enschedé. Augustiner Bräustübl Mülln is a Monastery with a world-famous brewery in the Mülln district of the city of Salzburg, where beer has been brewed for more than 400 years. The adjacent Augustiner Bräustübl features a large outdoor dining area where patrons can enjoy their beer in style.