



A selection of the items discussed in this issue



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## Edited by Andy Taylor

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AUCTIONEER	<b>VACANCY</b>	

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## EDITORIAL 221

Your Editor is always happy to publish members' awards and achievements BUT you have to tell him! Congratulations to member Bill Hedley, who was awarded 93 points and a gold medal at Helvetia2022 for "*Postal service development in Poszony and its environs during the Habsburg era till 1920*". Some members have entered (and some of them have been accepted) for Essen in May 2023, which is about 25% oversubscribed.

Stop press: more medals - see page 11

The 2022 AGM was held by Zoom, with no technical hiccups - the planned Powerpoint-by-zoom-presentation wasn't so fortunate and had to be abandoned (an inconspicuous box hadn't been ticked!). Notable AGM-outcomes are that we have vacancies for Chairman, and Publicity Officer, and Auctioneer.

Several philatelic trips abroad have taken place and more are scheduled. Reports on some of them will be in the next issue (because all the space in this one is already promised to various authors).

The Tyrolphila Blog now contains a most interesting article **THE SALZBURG GENERAL POST OFFICE FROM 1 OCTOBER 1810** discussing when the Bavarian Rayon cancels were used and what happened before them. See <https://www.tyrol-phila.at/blog/post/salzburg-1810-11.html?store=en> (yes, three underscores).

In their fourth article on the first Austrian postal cards, the so-called "Gelblinge", Frans Jorissen and Lars-Olof Nilsson deal with card n° 8, issued in October 1871. This German card is the first one of a series that has the address line on back of the card on the right side. Since this card appeared only 4 months after card n° 2, with this address line on the left side, it could be expected that a new printing plate was only produced for the back, while the old plates continued to be used for the front. This article shows that this was not the case, and that entirely new plates (with new clichés) were also produced for the front. Only a very small number of clichés of the old plates were re-used, possibly at a later stage, to replace defective clichés. The authors also show that to a large extent, the printing office recycled old material to produce the new clichés and refrained from making new type-set originals. Read more here: <https://postalstationery.f-i-p.ch/resources/articles/>

The **Austrian Philatelic Society's Library** contained an extremely wide range of Austrian philatelic reference material - at its peak 469 books! Unfortunately, when our Librarian retired not even the offer of a free APS-supplied IKEA bookcase produced a successor. With considerable regret, the committee decided to dispose of the whole collection. Many of the books were bought by members in our auction sales, although several "fundamental and important" works attracted no interest. The unsold books have been offered to the library of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and a box almost too heavy to lift duly despatched. Anybody may visit the Royal's Library in London (non-members by appointment): see here: <https://www.rpsl.org.uk/Library> There is a link to the list of holdings. Ensure you select 'The Royal Philatelic Society London' and 'books' in the dropdown menus, not the default of almost all the philatelic libraries in the world! A keyword of unadorned 'Austria' produced 435 hits; there are 3280 books and 6546 not-books on Austrian philately in the world.

It has been suggested that APS members will have publications they may be willing to take to a meeting, or to look up on behalf of another member. Past experience is that our members do not participate in on-line discussion forums. So this would need active managing, and the supplying of lists to the manager. Anybody willing to organise this, or with a better idea, is invited to make themselves known - and you can live anywhere in the world!

Part of the disposing-of-the-library task is to deal with various pieces of paper concealed in or between the books. I have found two separate pages of corrections to Kainbacher. If anyone else has any such corrections please tell me; if anyone has copies of Kainbacher let me know and I'll send what's been found.

The 2023 Fest weekend will be in Peterborough from Saturday 16th to Monday 18th September. Further details on page 19.

New ArGe homepage: <https://arge-feldpost-oesterreich.at/>

☞ Check the APS web site - a new auction may have appeared!

## TWO POST-OFFICE COUNTER-BOOKS

by Keith Brandon and Martin Brumby

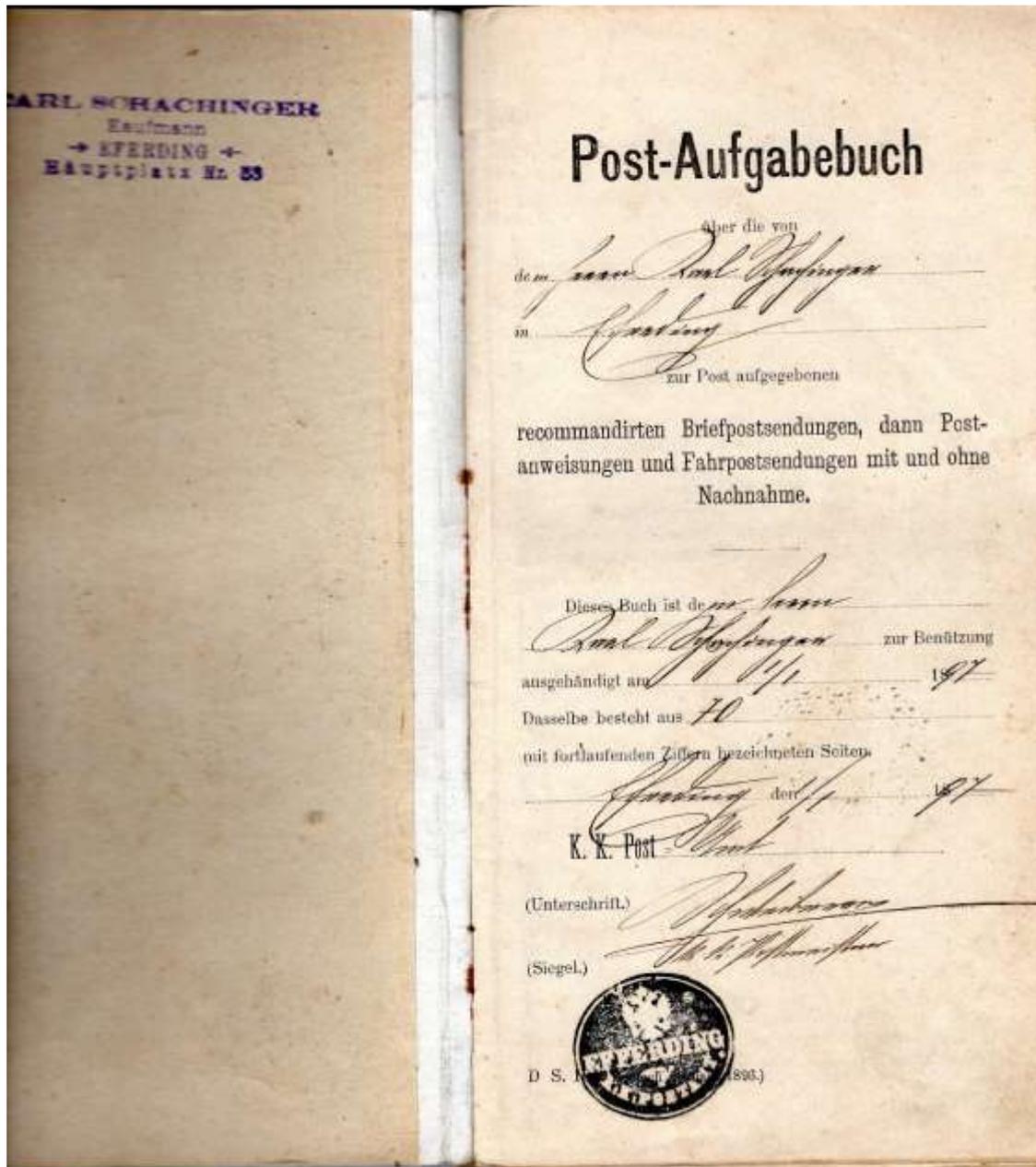
Post-offices in Imperial Austria were required to keep records of valuable mail that they handled. This formed part of a paper-trail to determine where lost items had gone missing. We discovered that we both had an example of the counter-book used to record all coach-mail (money-letters and valuables), registered mail and postal-orders despatched by a particular post-office official. Keith's book was from Eferding (Upper Austria), used from 1897 to 1900, and Martin's from Makarska (Dalmatia), used from 1892 to 1898.

The two books are superficially the same, but were used rather differently as we will see. Both were centrally-sourced; the Eferding book (on the left) has the re-order code D.S.101, while the bilingual Makarsca book has the code D.S. 106.



Eferding (formerly spelt Efferding) is a municipality in Upper Austria, 2km from the River Danube and 20km west of Linz. It was made a city in 1222 and has just celebrated its 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It claims to be the third-oldest city in Austria. The population in 1900, around the time of this counter-book, was 2077. Eferding has had a post-office since at least 1751.

The frontispiece of the Eferding counter-book shows that the book has been issued for use from 1 January 1897 and it has been stamped by the negative handstamp of the Eferding post-office. Opposite is the handstamp of the postmaster Carl Schachinger. He was a local businessman who went on to become the Mayor from 1903 to 1909.



The next two pages comprise instructions for using the book, and then the record begins in earnest. There is room for six mailings per double-page and it requires eleven columns of information to be completed. The image below shows the first double-page from the Eferding book.

The translation of the column headings is as follows:

1. Date	7. Weight
2. Sequential index number	8. Pre-paid postage amount
3. Type of mail	9. Cash on delivery
4. Addressee's name	10. Acknowledgment of receipt number of postal-orders, registered letters, coach mail items and their total value
5. Addressee's town	11. Notes
6. Value of mail in Gulden and Kreuzers	

1 1897.				1						
Datum	Post-Nr.	Gegenstand	Empfänger	Bestimmungsart	Betrag der Post-Anweisung oder des angegebenen Wertes, oder bei recommandirten Sendungen die Angabe „recommandirt“	Gewicht der Sendungen	Francobetrag	Nachnahme	Empfangsbestätigung Postamt unter Angabe der Anzahl an Postwörter, recommandirten B und Fahrpostsendetrag sowie des gesamt betrages und Ablo Aufgabestemp	Bezeichnungen
					Kr.   h.	Kil.   Grm.	fl.   kr.	fl.   kr.		
1897. 4. 1.	1	1/2	Kaas und Völkner	Wels	129.44				4.1.97 EFERLING 3-4 N	
5. 1.	2	1/2	H. Christ	Linz	224.50				8.1.97 EFERLING 2-3 N	
15. 1.	3	1/2	Sachleitner & Pollak	Linz	43.12				15.1.97 EFERLING 5-6 N	
27. 1.	4	1/2	Georg Schachinger	Linz	11.73				20.1.97 EFERLING II V	
20. 1.	5	1/2	Wöhrn, Gellinger u. Co.	Linz	870.50		48 30		20.1.97 EFERLING 5-6 N	
28. 1.	6	1/2	Friedrich H. mass	Linz	9.50				28.1.97 EFERLING 8-9 N	

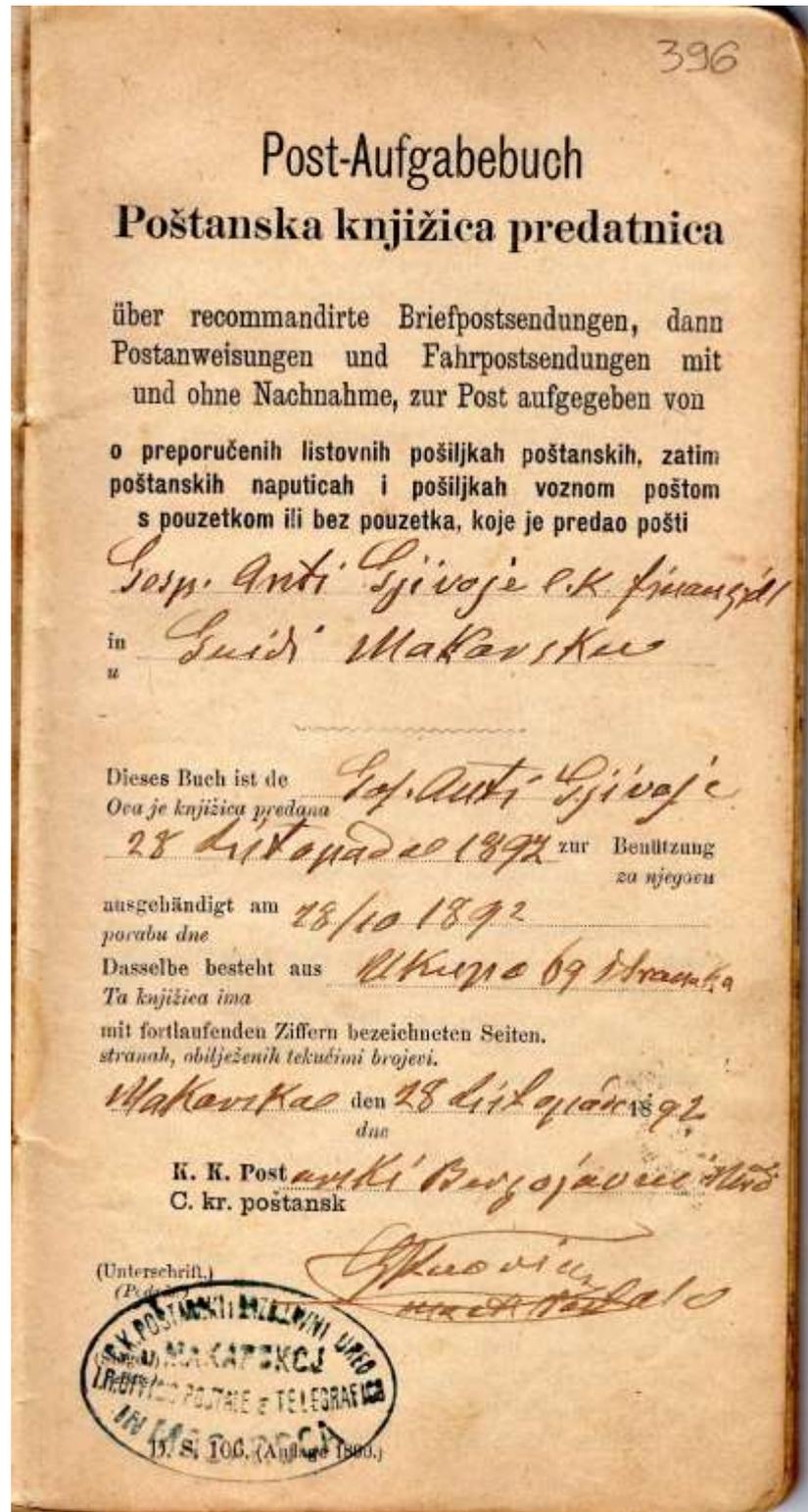
The book contains seventy double-pages, enough for 420 items of mail to be recorded. The pages are numbered so that none can be removed without detection. The first entry is dated 4 January 1897, and the last is 20 July 1900. From this we can calculate that the office handled 420 items of value in 3½ years, i.e. 120 items per year or ten per month. Each entry is endorsed by the post-office’s datestamp in a spare space, usually the last column.

During the life of this book, the Austrian currency used for postage changed on 1 January 1900. The Eferding postal clerk dutifully changed by hand the heading of column 6 to Kr(one) and h(eller).

6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
Betrag der Post-Anweisung, oder des angegebenen Wertes, oder bei recommandirten Sendungen die Angabe „recommandirt“	Gewicht der Sendungen	Francobetrag	Nachnahme	Empfangsbestätigung Postamt unter Angabe der Anzahl an Postwörter, recommandirten B und Fahrpostsendetrag sowie des gesamt betrages und Ablo Aufgabestemp
Kr.   h.	Kil.   Grm.	fl.   kr.	fl.   kr.	
10. —				
269.22				15.1.97 EFERLING 8-9 N

Turning now to Martin's Dalmatian book, the most obvious difference is that it is bilingual in German and Croatian throughout. The frontispiece (at right) is endorsed by the bilingual handstamp of the Makarska post-office. Makarska is a town on the Adriatic coastline of Croatia, about 60 km (37 mi) southeast of Split and 140 km (87 mi) northwest of Dubrovnik. There has been a post-office there since 1805. At the time this counter-book was in use, the population of Makarska was c.2700.

The usage of the book was quite different to the Eferding example and comes as something of a surprise. The first twelve entries, from 28 December 1892 to 2 June 1893 are for items mailed from Makarska, endorsed by the Makarska datestamp as expected. However, the next nine entries, from 16 September 1893 to 16 June 1894, bear the datestamp of Starigrad (Cittavecchia) on the island of Hvar. It doesn't end there. The next twenty-one entries, from 16 July 1894 to 4 April 1895, are endorsed by the datestamp of Sućurje od Hvara (San Giorgio di Lesina), also on Hvar. The next image shows this change, from Starigrad to Sućurje.



Datum	Gegenstand	Kaufhaber	Bestimmungsort	Wert	Eintrag	Postamt	Poststempel
Date	Product	Buyer	Destination	Value	Entry	Post Office	Postmark
2/11 93	18	Ferdinando Sadstädter formitore dell'...	Spalato	4		Starigrad	21 12 93
3/11 93	19	Ferdinando Sadstädter formitore dell'...	Spalato	4		Starigrad	21 12 93
24/10 93	20	...	Chianasso	...		Starigrad	21 12 93
16/6 94	21	Ferdinando Sadstädter formitore dell'...	Spalato	6		Starigrad	16 6 94
16/4 94	22	...	Cittavecchia	10		Starigrad	16 4 94
23 94	23	Ferdinando Sadstädter formitore dell'...	Spalato	3		Starigrad	15 7 94

Then the counter-book enters a period of brief usage in several different offices back on the mainland: Imotski (three entries in late 1895), Trogir (three entries in early 1896), Split (one entry in May 1896), and then Pučišće on the island of Brač (Brazza) (four entries from 1 June to 2 July 1896). Finally, the book moves to Sumartin, another post office on Brač, for thirty entries between 2 August 1896 and 12 November 1898. After that, the remaining fifty-five of the seventy pages in the book are blank. The map shows where Mr “have counter-book, will travel” Gjijove made entries in his book.

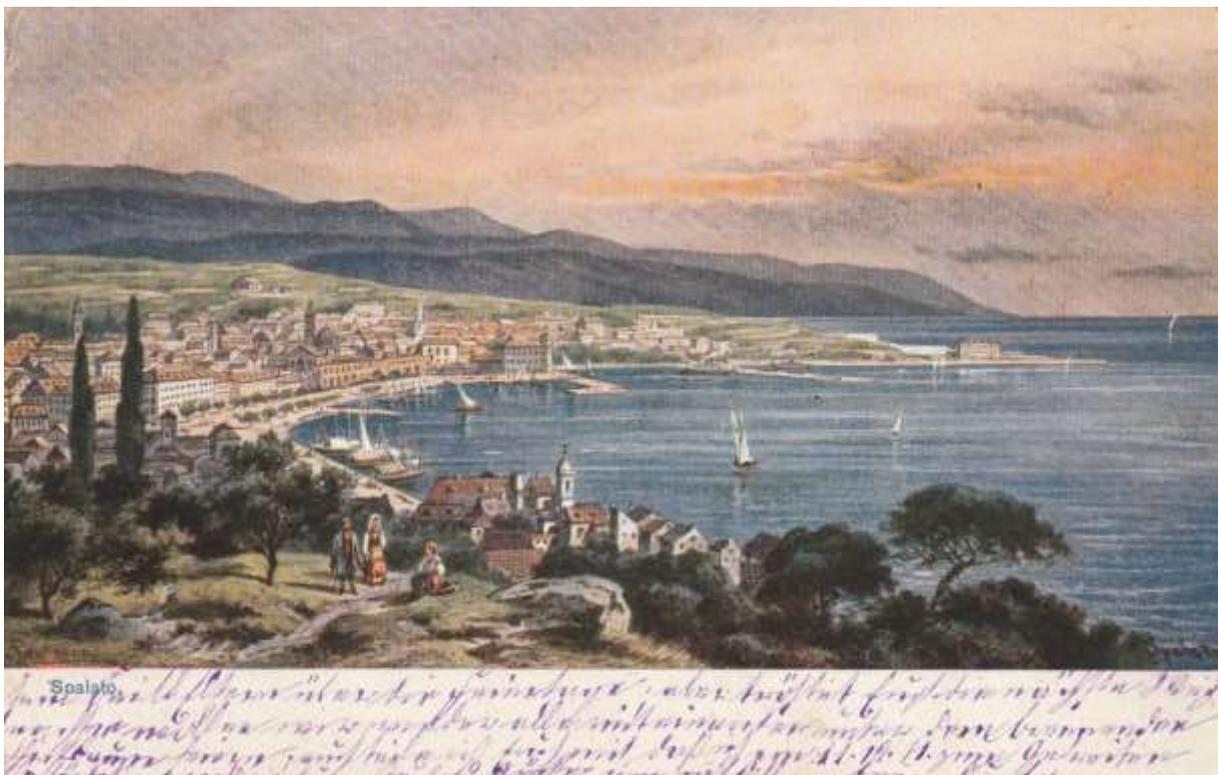


It is important to know that these counter-books were issued to named individuals, not to specific post-offices. Hence an individual could be held accountable if a discrepancy occurred. The Eferding book was issued to Carl Schachinger, not just the postmaster but a local businessman and involved in local politics. He probably had no desire to work in a post-office elsewhere.

The Makarska book was issued to Mr Anti Gijjove, and it appears to be the same handwriting used throughout the book. He therefore took the book with him and used it in eight different offices over a period of more than six years. Yet he only signed for eighty-four items of valuable mail, about one a month compared with Eferding's ten per month.

The authors' hypothesis is that Gyijove was in effect a postal locum, covering vacancies and illness and other absences in different post-offices as required. He spent six months in Makarska, nine months in Starigrad and nine months in Sućurje. This would seem to be consistent with covering a vacancy while a postmaster was recruited or covering for long-term illness. His role then seemed to change, and he just spent a few days in each office, perhaps covering planned leave. Finally, he appears to have come off the road and to have settled down in the Sumartin post-office.

The authors would be pleased to hear (via the editor) of other possible explanations and to see further examples of these interesting books.



(Thanks, JP)

# CHRISTKINDL FORGERIES

Joyce Boyer

At the beginning of July, I received firstly the July/August newsletter from BSV Favoriten, Vienna and then the July/August issue of Die Briefmarke both of which contained the same disturbing information. Someone was making and selling forgeries of registered covers from Christkindl dated 1950. As I have such a cover, shown here, I was naturally concerned to find out more about the forgeries. I am happy that this cover is genuine – I bought it almost 20 years ago.



## Background

The special Christmas post office at Christkindl near Steyr was opened for the first time on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1950 and closed on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1951. Specially designed rubber cancellers depicting the Christ Child on cloud holding a fir tree were used in green to cancel the mail. Initially there were three cancellers but another three were added later.

Whilst it was possible for more local people to visit the post office, travel from any distance would have been difficult – by steam trains sitting in unheated wagons on wooden benches or travelling by car on poor, probably snow-covered roads. So how could the general public, a resident of Salzburg for example, obtain the Christkindl cancellation on his Christmas/New Year letters? I decided to find out about the rules applying to mail sent to Christkindl for cancellation and asked our editor, Andy Taylor, if he had access to the relevant post office directive. He kindly e-mailed Mag.phil Eva Sinnmayer, his contact in Vienna, to ask and whilst she was unable to trace any directive of 1950 she did send copies of three newspaper articles which Andy sent on to me with ‘google translations’. The answer is in this translation of an article from the Salzburger Nachrichten of Monday 4 December which says:

“The town of Christkindl is located near Steyr. From 15<sup>th</sup> of this month to January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1951, the General Post Office will set up an occasional post office [Gelegenheitspostamt] in this location, which will be equipped with a special postmark and will accept letters up to 20 grams and postcards (greeting cards), both ordinary and registered, and express mail, but only for domestic traffic. The consignments are to be sent in a special envelope to the Christkindl occasional post office for stamping and forwarding. The envelopes in which the

items are sent to Christkindl are subject to the charges for letters. This year, the children will be able to receive answers directly from Christkindl to their letters to the Christ Child.”

A longer article from Wiener Zeitung dated Sunday 3 December expands on some aspects and includes a separate statement “Other shipments, especially shipments to foreign countries, are excluded from the posting”.

The issue of Wiener Zeitung dated Friday 29 December explains that the exclusion of foreign mail was because of the censorship that still applied for some countries. This paper also reports that the response by the public was a success with 38,006 items being dispatched from Christkindl between 15<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December.

The Christkindl Handbook records the total number dispatched for the period to 6<sup>th</sup> January as 42,330 of which 830 were ‘favour cancellations’ – are these the people who visited the post office and took their cover away with them rather than trust the post office to deliver it? There is no record of the number of registered items sent although two different rolls of registration labels were used – the first having the name, R and the number with the second roll having R 2 and the number.

In view of the low number of items cancelled in the first year, covers are not common and have a high catalogue value – Netto 2022/23 quotes the value of a basic cover at €530, first registered label €1,700, and the second label at €1,500. Selling prices tend to be lower than the catalogue price.

Forgeries of the actual cancellation have been known for many years. The six cancellers used were made from rubber and with hard usage resulting in some wear and distortion it does mean that there are variations and the forgeries are not always easy to tell.

### The Registered Cover Forgeries

Both of the reports mentioned in the opening paragraph say that public prosecutor's office ordered an investigation into high quality fakes which were devaluing true covers from the special Christkindl Post office. Die Briefmarke, and my contact Alfred at Favoriten, say that some doubts were aroused in 2017.



These illustrations are included in the report from Die Briefmarke; the Favoriten newsletter includes similar but different covers. The main aspect is that they are all business letters. This cover is also ‘cash on delivery’ – a service that was unknown at this time. The Christkindl cancellation is a fake.



On this cover, the Christkindl cancellation on the receipt is a fake and the Marchtrenk arrival cancel is also wrong. The Favoriten newsletter lists the registration numbers known to have been used on fake covers including R 2436 that was used twice!

*[The colour difference between front and back is a computerism! Ed.]*

The newsletter also explains why there were doubts about these covers soon after they began to appear but that it was not easy to convince others, however the use of quartz light did this.

One reason why some collectors were suspicious was because of conditions in and the history of Austria in December 1950 with the Russian occupation – a general strike with the aim to install a communist system. Austria and Vienna were occupied by the four powers with Steyr and Christkindl in the British zone but Vienna was surrounded by the Russian zone.



There were also ‘moral manners’ that applied in 1950 and continued until 1968; you either wrote a commercial/business letter or sent Christmas greetings but to combine the two by sending your commercial letter via Christkindl was impolite. (On a practical note, sending a business letter via Christkindl would have delayed delivery by several days!)

One exception to this practice was the C.O.D. letters sent by Verlag Adolf-Kosel of Vienna, publishers of the magazine ‘Austria Philatelist’. From 1951/52 until 1969/70 they sent their annual subscription request from Christkindl on 6<sup>th</sup> January each year but they were sending their request as a ‘philatelic cover’!

More information about forgeries of Christkindl covers is given in the September issue of Die Briefmarke including pictures (see next page) of further forged cancellations dated 1951 to January 1956.

The person making the forgeries has been found because brief details of how he did them is given – apparently he removed the previously paid postage, replaced it with other stamps and then added the fake cancellation. He also had a number of ‘certificates of authenticity’ suggesting the cover came from a find in a cellar!

In addition to the Christkindl covers it appears he also forged some ‘high value’ items covering the years 1945 to about 1960 using ‘Wien’ cancellations.



Above - the covers in the September issue of *Die Briefmarke*.



Above: one of the Favoriten examples, and an enlargement of the cancellation.

Using x10 magnification it was found that the cancellations are laser printed (note the 'staircase effect' on the diagonals!) whereas the original cancellations would have been applied by a steel canceller. That the two cancellations on the Renner cover are at an identical sloping angle is also suspicious.

In the latest amendments to the Christkindl handbook – reviewed in the last edition of *Austria* – it says that in 2022 criminal proceedings were proceeding. The accused appears to have confessed to producing the fake covers, and collectors are advised to look very carefully at their recently acquired covers and if necessary check them against known correct covers. These covers are known to have been sold on Ebay, through specialist auctions, and possibly other places. I have seen a suggestion that the forger may have sold items for a total value in excess of €100,000.

## Medals and awards

The FEPA European Exhibition was held in Liberec, Czech Republic, in October 2022. Some results, reported in Czechout, were:

Garth Taylor: A Study of the Third Issue of Czechoslovakian Airmail Stamps – Large Vermeil

Yvonne Wheatley: Czechoslovakia: The Masaryk 1920 & Allegory Issues 1920-1923 – Gold and Special Prize, National Class

At Autumn Stampex in London in September 2022, Peter Chadwick had two entries: *Remarks in England and Scotland* was awarded a Gold Medal; and *From Bishop to Ballpoint* (1 frame) received a Large Vermeil.

## 2022 FEST!!

*As reported by Andreas Kopfschmerz.*

The pent-up energies of many Fest habitues, reinforced by some 4 brand-new attenders, burst forth on Friday September 16<sup>th</sup>, once more in the Bull Hotel at Peterborough; and the auction material and audience were assembled in the late afternoon. A ‘secret passage’ had been revealed by the hotel’s helpful staff, so trolley-loads of books didn’t have to be manoeuvred up or down flights of stairs. The Auction consisted of 119 books and 136 not-books - more than half of which were sold. Dinner was in the restaurant and went very well despite many members forgetting what they had ordered only an hour previously!

Saturday was devoted to displays (see below) followed by a Bourse where members attempted to offload their surplus and reduce their bar bills. Again, a successful restaurant dinner. Sunday morning saw more displays followed by a discussion on ‘did it go well?’ (yes) and should we repeat it in 2023 (yes, and probably in the same venue). A much more relaxing homeward journey followed!

The first set of pictures are “people peopling”; the second are items from many of the displays.



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## *FEST DISPLAYS*

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These are nearly all in as-displayed order, although later reports are increasingly skeletal because, as became apparent on the Monday evening, your intrepid reporter was incubating Covid!

### Round 1

**Alan Berrisford:** WW1 Austria Military TPOs. Noted amongst the immaculate sheets were Vienna-Krakow, extension of routes by railway battalions, and a Book of Route Maps.

**Paul Taylor:** History of Austria. An old collection bought on Ebay but too good to break up. Stamps, cards, and background info. Photos of bombed Vienna especially memorable.

**Roger Morrell:** Austria-Hungarian Occupation of Albania. Occupation of Montenegro; then Albania. Sea access hindered by the Allies' Otranto Barrage so materiel had to be lugged overland. The card below shows Austrians marching to the right, Albanians strolling to the left!

**Carol Ralph:** One frame of railway station cancels and one frame of railway letter-box cancels. The illustration (below) is a letter passing through Vienna's Nordbahnhof with the rare Kandrzin - Oderberg Prussian TPO transit cancellation.

### Round 2

**Geoff Richardson:** Sonderstempel. We saw a wide range of special cancels and matching cards, from their beginning to 1938.

**Keith Brandon:** Emperor's Birthday issue. Stamps, proofs, genuine use - as the distribution was curiously restricted the higher values are difficult to find used.

**James Hooper:** Tax Stationery Cards. These are the cards issued to 'simplify' the payment of one's taxes. They were first introduced in Vienna and slowly spread across the Empire.

**Paul Taylor:** Pre 1850. A wide range of material from the period.

### Round 3

**Rex Dixon:** Kleinwalsertal was from 1891 in the German customs area and used its coinage. During and after WWII the post was run by the Germans, first as part of Bavaria, then as if part of the American Zone. In 1951 the Austrian Post took over. Rex also explained a confusion that existed in 1940-45 when Jungholz-in-Tirol and Jungholz-in-Alsace were both swallowed by the Reich and issued with identical German-style cancels!

### Round 4

**Keith Brandon:** Bodensee (Lake Constance). Initially the 5 countries fronting the Bodensee each had a shipping line - philatelic chaos ensued! In 1842 a co-operation agreement was signed, lasting till 1914.

**Joyce Boyer:** Innsbruck-Salzburg-Vienna TPOs. There were two routes: the quicker via Bavaria, and the scenic via Zell am Zee entirely in Austria. Registered covers posted **on** the train received Rnnn yellow labels with a train handstamp instead of a preprinted placename.

**Geoff Frost:** K & K army on cards. Some with disturbing pictures of warfare, some quite comic.

### Round 5

**Geoff Richardson:** Triest. Part of a **much** larger display. Also examples of early mail transport by railway.

**Joyce Boyer:** '*We can do it!*'. A display of the increasing range of materials that Austria Post are technically able to print stamps on: including the meteor dust; woven and embroidered; the ceramic rose; lace; embossed white-on-white; painted glass; miniature lederhosen, dirndl; toilet paper (mint!); tennis balls; wound plaster; miniature covid mask; bobble hat; ski mitt; *et hoc genus omne.*"

**Gerry Trumper:** DOAV wrappers, labels, covers and cards. Especially rare were the bundle-labels.

**Roger Morrell:** Western Ukraine, fake or fortune? The series of 1919 overprints on Austrian, Austrian Military Post, and Bosnian stamps for the short-lived Republic established in Bukovina, subsequently occupied by Poland, plus the CMT overprints by Romania for the southern areas. Help with identifying genuineness welcome!



At this point it was suggested that a Group Photograph be taken.... “High on a hill stood a lonely cat-herd”  
Eventually order was created, and the result was:



### Sunday morning - Round 6

**Alan Berrisford:** Galicia postal history. Galicia had its own shape of postmark. The cancellers were very worn by 1850, so good on-stamp ones are hens-teeth items.

**Nick Coverdale:**

1. Postal history Serbia to Austria-Hungary 1869 - 80. This showed mainly mail directed from Serbia to Austria and Hungary under the terms of the 1869 Postal Convention between Serbia and Austria-Hungary. Nick showed how following up a name and address on a cover could tell an interesting story.
2. A set of covers to and from a firm of architects and builders during the very early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in Polska Ostrava in Austrian Silesia.

**James Hooper:** First Republic. Overprints; tallthin vs shortfat stamps; parcel-control stamps; Linz-Vienna rail strike post.

**Geoff Frost:** Stamp Exhibitions. 1902-2001

**Geoff Richardson:** Third Reich. Registered covers used in Austria.

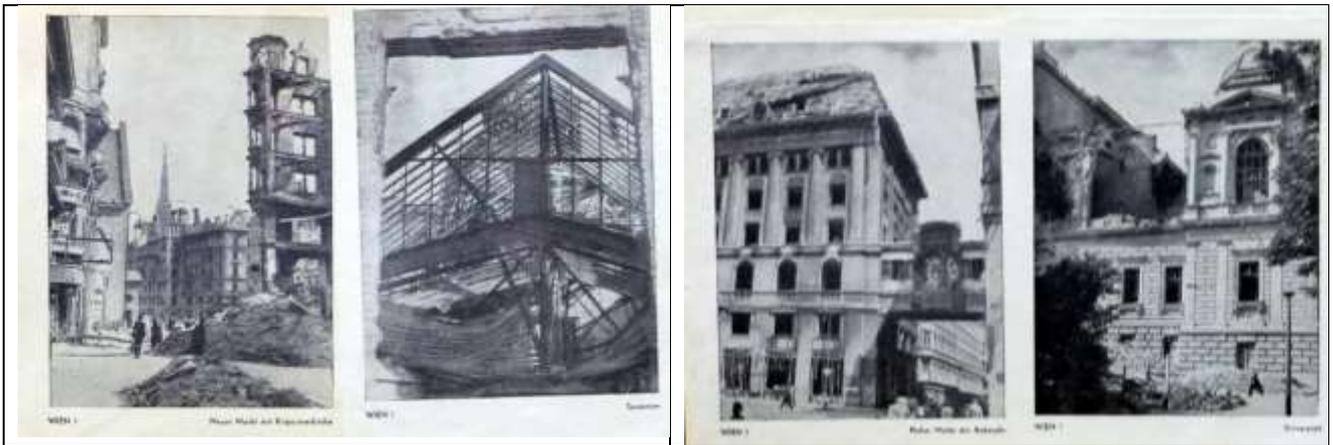
**James Hooper:** P.O.W. returning from Russia. The Heimkehr labels: see Austria 219 pp 7-8.

**President's Display: Andy Taylor:** Newspaper Post. A brochure with a 4-page essay was available. For pics see <https://www.austrianphilately.com/npprpost/index.htm> For details see articles from past years; and Andy's Book once he writes it. Overheard: *our horses have a rosette like that - so do my dogs!*



Above: Roger Morrell: Austrians marching to the right past Albanians strolling to the left!

Left: Alan Berrisford: Wien-Krakau bundle-label. (There's a matching Krakau-Wien for the return trip!)



Paul Taylor - postcards of war damage in Vienna



Carol Ralph - letter via Vienna's Nordbahnhof. Rare Kandrzin - Oderberg Prussian TPO transit cancellation

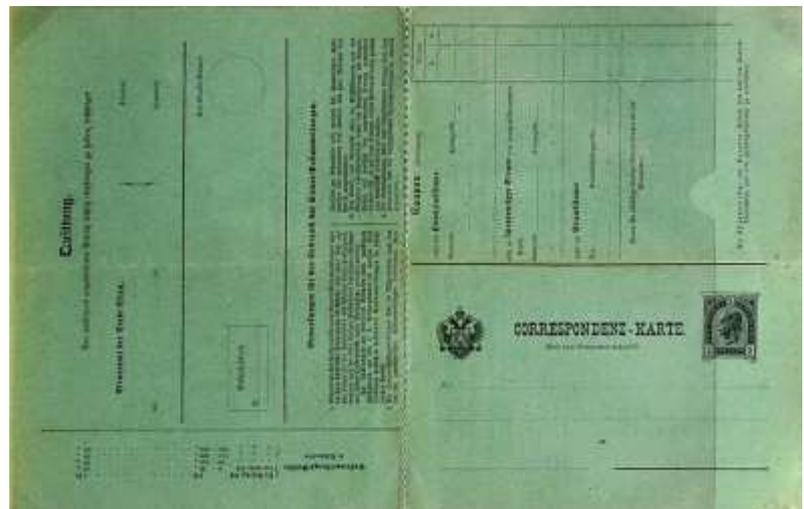


Keith Brandon - proofs of the Emperor's Birthday issue.  
An article on this issue is planned for 2023.



Geoff Richardson - Sonderstempel, 1934.

James Hooper: tax cards



Paul Taylor - prephilatelic material



Rex Dixon introducing "Kleinwalsertal", and members studying some of his exhibits.

Geoff Richardson: Trieste



Alan Berrisford - Galicia



James Hooper - First Republic

Joyce Boyer had been asked to show some of her collection of “Because They Can” items: postage stamps produced on strange materials. Unfortunately my photographs weren’t of useable quality; so here is a selection of the stamps. She also showed them used on covers - you’ll have to imagine them.



Covid inspired a baby elephant printed on toilet paper (A6, of course), an adhesive plaster, and a miniature mask.



Flowers are a favourite motive at Postal HQ: here we have a woven gentian, an embroidered rose, and a rose on porcelain.



A Dirndl dress; a jaunty hat; a polyester mitten; and a bobble hat!



Outside activities are catered for: a football (made from genuine football material); Lederhosen; and skiing (made from ski tip plastic).

Our spies tell us that the next “because-they-can stamp” will be printed on traditional rag paper made from recycled postal uniforms! See “New Issues” below ☺

## WELCOME TO THE 2023 APS FEST WEEKEND!

At the Bull Hotel, Westgate, Peterborough. September 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2023

After an enjoyable get-together in Peterborough in September 2022, it's time to look forward to another weekend of conviviality and Austrian philately in 2023. We will be returning to the Bull Hotel in Peterborough, where we were well-looked after this year. However, I have made one important change. Several attendees commented on the slow, heavy traffic on the Friday, while the rail-travellers complained of the scarcity of trains on the Sunday. We have therefore rolled the event back twenty-four hours, **starting Saturday late-afternoon and finishing at midday on Monday.**

For those who have not been to one of our Fests before, the plan is that we arrive during the Saturday afternoon in time to view the Auction lots at 5.00pm, then the Auction itself followed by dinner. On the Sunday we enjoy each other's displays, and there will also be a bourse where we can sell our duplicates and unwanted items. Dinner will follow in our own dedicated section of the hotel restaurant. Monday morning will feature further displays, and we have to finish by midday. The President's Invitation Display will be given by Roger Morrell who can always be relied upon to bring some unusual and interesting material. The whole weekend is very informal.

The Bull Hotel is a four-star hotel right in the centre of the city. Dating back to the seventeenth century and grade 2 listed, it has been tastefully refurbished to retain its olde-worlde character. Importantly, it has a large car-park, free to residents. The conference facilities are 50 yards down the road in a purpose-built modern building. You can find out more at <https://www.peelhotels.co.uk/bull-hotel/>

Peterborough is easy to get to from London and from the north of England and Edinburgh by road or rail. From the Midlands, there are good road and rail links from Birmingham. Peterborough station is ten minutes' walk from the hotel.

The hotel is right opposite the large Queensgate Shopping Centre. Apart from its attractions for shopaholics, the centre provides a direct, weather-proof 200 metre route from the station to the Bull. Peterborough cathedral is a short stroll from the hotel, as is the main restaurant quarter. Within easy range of Peterborough are Cambridge, Burghley House, Nene Valley railway and other attractions.

A booking-form will be found with this journal. If you'd like to know more, please contact me. I look forward to seeing many of you in Peterborough.

Keith Brandon, 2023 Festmeister,

01751 430 248 or email [duntrading@aol.com](mailto:duntrading@aol.com)



# NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS

From our New Issues Correspondent.

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

**9/2022:** 150 years of the Feldkirch-Schaan - Buchs railway; some new Tirol cancellations; 900 years since the Diet of Worms; Christkindl forgeries; new issues; society news; etc etc.

**10/2022:** "Gmunden" report; 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Max Planck's death; centenary of Ireland's own stamps; a postcard with many secrets; the new definitive series in glowing colour\*\*; new-issues and exhibitions news snippets; 1922-designs 'from the archives'; Zimmerl's Library bequeathed to VOePh; etc etc

\*\* casual orderers beware - some come in big rolls eg 2000!

## Germania

**Vol 58 Nr 4:** Meetings, successful and not; Prussian stamps colour guide (ii); Introduction to German colonial philately (ii); "proof of delivery of a court document" form (recipient has to sign it); Perfins; soldiers' postcards; stamp dispenser troubles; regional reports; rather gaudy new issues with matrix codes; etc etc.

## Vindobona Vereins-Nachrichten

**3/2022 November:** their charity auction raised almost 24,000 Euro; cancels of the first issue, centrally- and locally-made; the 1867-issue 3kr red error-of-colour; Austria-Egypt mail, 1850-1914; Thurn & Taxis freepost labels (cont); a round-the-world letter; private stationery 1903-1918 part III; etc.

## Stamps of Hungary

**Nr 230, September 2022:** The Portorozh Agreement for reduced postage rates in Europe, 1922 – 1939, Part I: Postage due mail, 1919-1921; The anatomy of a cover – from UK to Hungary; Imprints of the 1963 Transport and Communication issue – How many are there; Questions and Answers; etc.

## Czechout

**Vol 40/3 Sept 2022:** Curious Czech cancel causes collector considerable consternation; two-colour postmark in Heidelberg in 1948; the matrix method of producing printing plates; Anton Cermak, mayor of Chicago; some unissued Czechoslovak stamp designs; the prisoner of war camp in Brno-Jundrov.

**Vol 40/4: Dec 2022:** First Republic Airmails – The Pioneering Years; Startup problems for the Czechoslovakian post in 1919; Czech and Slovak Perfins; News and Notes; New Issues; etc

## Wiener Ganzsachen- Frei- u Poststempelsammlerverein

**Nr 2, Autumn 2022:** 6+ page excerpt of study on envelopes privately-printed between 1903 and 1938.



## 2022 NEW ISSUES (4<sup>th</sup> instalment)

by the New Issues Correspondent

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. Much of the detail is from Diebriefmarke, since the OPOst web site lacks it.

First, my thanks to Erich Böck who emailed to say that on page 8 of Austria 220 I showed the 15<sup>th</sup> set of Dispenser Stamps. The 85c stamp does not show "Burg Güssing", as described, but shows "Riegersburg" which is located on the top of an old volcanic crag-and-tail (like Edinburgh Castle in Scotland). Austrian post sent the issue to the subscribers, but not to the post offices. So it will become a rare stamp ☺ A corrected version is expected.



**150 years of the railway between Feldkirch, Schaan and Buchs.** 1Eu; David Gruber & Marion Füllerer; 09.09.2022; 130,000; Offset; Gutenberg AG. Issued as a strip-of-three with the Austrian 1Eu stamp on the left and postally-invalid versions of the Swiss and Liechtenstein stamps next to it. 150 years of the railway between Feldkirch, Schaan and Buchs - a railway that genuinely creates a connection! A joint commemorative stamp issued by the postal services of Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland is celebrating the opening of this transnational railway route 150 years ago.

**100 years of the Carriage Museum in Schönbrunn** 2Eu50; Theresa Radlingmaier; 13.09.2022; 450,000; Offset; Cartor Security Printing. 100 years ago, the most valuable objects from the fleet of imperial vehicles were handed over to the Kunsthistorisches Museum and housed in what was previously the winter riding school of Schönbrunn Palace.



**Day of the Stamp 2022.** 3Eu50+1Eu75; Anita Kern; 14.09.2022; 132,000 in minisheets of



10; Offset; Enschedé. Electromobility – a journey through time! Austrian Post has been using electric vehicles for over 100 years. This commitment to sustainable mobility will be celebrated over the next few years by the Day of the Stamp issues.

From the very beginning, Austrian Post was a pioneer in the use of electric commercial vehicles for delivery and distribution services. In the issue of June 20, 1913, the central organ for the k.u.k. Austrian post, telephone and telegraph system under the title "Introduction of the electric vehicle in the Vienna postal service"

reported that 29 electric vehicles were put into service. The postal stamp shown was also issued in the same year, printed in letterpress on ordinary paper without a watermark. It shows a portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph from 1848, the year he became Emperor, in the series designed by Koloman Moser and issued from 1908 on the occasion of the Kaiser's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**90 years of Lego.** 1Eu20; Chris Booth; 14.09.2022; 450,000; Offset; Cartor Security Printing. Brick by brick – building LEGO-love for 90 years. It all started in 1932 in a Danish carpenter's workshop with little wooden toys that were to go on to take the world by storm. Austrian Post is celebrating this anniversary with a commemorative stamp which also shows one of the symbols of Vienna.



**Sacred Art in Austria: an 'M' from Heiligenkreuz's Codex 26.**

1Eu50; Kirsten Lubach; 17.09.2022; 250,000; Offset/877C; Enschedé. Sacred art on a small scale! This work of art comes from the manuscript library of the Cistercian abbey Stift Heiligenkreuz. The initial "M" from Codex 26 is found on folio 170r (r for "recto", which means "on the front of the sheet"; the other side is "verso").



**150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vienna's University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences.** 1Eu90; Theresa Radlingmaier; 29.09.2022; 350,000; Offset; Enschedé. With the slogan "150 Years – Featuring the Future", the Austrian University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, also known as the BOKU for short (from its German name *Universität für Bodenkultur*), is celebrating this special anniversary.

**New Definitive series:** 1.10.2022. 12 stamps showing "costume ancillaries". Sold on cards and rolls, alongside a matching range of pre-franked envelopes and postcards. Issued to implement the rates-change. See below.

**50 years of Licht in Dunkel.** 2Eu30 + 50c; TEAM (B. Hammerschick / A. Just); 7.10.2022; 160,000; Offset; Cartor Security Printing. Putting solidarity into practice! LICHT INS DUNKEL is all about social cohesion and has stood for this for many years: this year will be the 50<sup>th</sup> time that the charity has appealed for support for people with disabilities and for families and children in need.



**Centenary of Niederösterreich.** 3Eu; Anita Kern; 10.10.2022; 160,000; Offset; Enschedé. The Origins of Austria: Austrian Post offers its congratulations to Lower Austria which is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an independent state within the Republic of Austria.

**Gustav Tauschek and the Trommelspeicher** (magnetic drum data store). 1Eu; David Gruber; 14.10.2022; 400,000; Offset; Enschedé. This stamp in the series "Austrian inventions" shows the drum memory storage system devised by Gustav Tauschek, a pioneer of information technology. The face value is hidden in the bottom right corner!



**Postlerhemd.** 8Eu20; David Gruber; 21.10.2022; 150,000; Offset by Variuscard.

Recycling instead of discarding: sustainability can be achieved in many different ways. A particularly original one is embodied by this special stamp, which was made from old postal workers' uniform shirts following the ancient techniques for making rag paper.

The idea developed at the post office is to use a very old technology for paper production: the hand-scooping of Rag handmade paper. The first hurdle was finding a paper mill who still uses this technique. The way led to Waldviertel, more precisely to Bad Großpertholz, where the only still existing Austrian mill stands, which has made hand-scooped handmade paper made from rags since 1789.

In a first step, about 950 old shirts were shredded, mixed with water and ground. The pulpy stock was then scooped by hand with sieves, the paper placed on felt and the water squeezed out. On the resulting sheets of rag paper, the stamps were finally printed.

To prevent any "wrong" use of the former "Postman shirt", on each stamp is the note: "Don't wash, don't iron, do not bleach – for franking and collecting!" expressed in Euro-standard washing label icons!

Aside: 8Eu20 is the rate for a normal magazine in an A4 envelope, posted to UK with delivery specified as "2-3 days".

## The 2022 Christmas stamps:



**Christmas – snowflake.** 1Eu20; Theresa Radlingmaier; 11.11.2022; 675,000 in rolls of 50; Offset; Enschedé. A snowflake is a delicate natural work of art!

**Christmas – Melk Abbey, Psalter from about 1260.** 1Eu20; Kirsten Lubach; 18.11.2022; 1,000,000; Offset; Cartor Security Printing. “The Adoration of the Magi” is on folio 8r, and is one of the many treasures of the Abbey library. It was made in Würzburg in 1255-1260.



**Christmas - the Holy Family, by Werner Berg.** 1Eu; Kirsten Lubach; 25.11.2022; 2,500,000; Offset; Cartor Security Printing. The painting is the middle part of his Altar of the Holy Family.



Werner Berg (1904-1981) spent most of his life as a farmer and painter on the Rutarhof, a mountain farm in the Carinthian Unterland. The rural environment also shaped his art, in which he depicted landscapes and people from his adopted homeland in paintings and woodcuts in his characteristic two-dimensional style. He created the Altar of the Holy Family in 1933 as a tender for an exhibition of religious modern art, but the design was rejected. The middle part shows Joseph, Mary and Jesus as simple peasants in front of a red background; on the four sides pictures of nocturnal scenes from the life of Christ can be seen in shades of blue. The altar is on display in the Werner Berg Museum in Bleiburg/Pliberk in Carinthia.

**Christmas - Lebkuchenmann.** 1Eu; Kirsten Lubach; 25.11.2022; 2,240,000 in rolls of 50 or of 2,000 (order with care!); Offset; Enschedé. A strip of 5 is available for collectors.

Colourful decorated gingerbread figures are particularly popular as a sweet treat at Christmas time and are easy to make yourself. Gingerbread is usually made with honey and is heavily seasoned: nutmeg, allspice, cloves, cinnamon and many other spices provide the typical taste. It contains very little fat and therefore has a long shelf life. Christmas figures such as stars, gingerbread men and Christmas trees can be decorated imaginatively with glaze, nuts or candied fruit after baking. The stamp's background shows an old recipe for a gingerbread man.



## The November set of Dispenser stamps.



The 100 shows the 100m high viewing tower at Keutschach am Wörthersee; the 120 the Lake-grotto, Europe's largest underground lake; the 150 the Great Maple Meadow in Tirol; and the 300 the manufacture of ornamental glass.

# 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2022 - POSTAGE RATES RISE



“These definitives were issued so that the new rates could be applied to items being posted.”

	Tariff/service	Stamp name	Value		Quantity
			Current	New	
1	Additional (make-up) stamp	Astrakhan fur hat - Seewinkel	0.05	0.05	50 (R)
2	Additional (make-up) stamp	Lake Constance Radhaube - Lake Constance	0.10	0.10	50 (R)
3	Prio letter S (domestic)	Steinfeder grass - Wachau	0.85	1.00	100 (R)
4	Prio letter S (domestic)	Kärntner Roserl rose - Carinthia	0.85	1.00	4
5	Prio letter S (domestic)	Fuhrmannsbesteck knife - Bad Ischl	0.85	1.00	25
6	Prio letter S (international within Europe)	Czismen I Schaffstiefel boots - Rechnitz	1.00	1.20	4
7	Prio letter S (international within Europe)	Knoschpen clogs - Ausseerland	1.00	1.20	50
8	Prio letter M (domestic)	Ranzen ornamental belt - Ötztal	1.35	1.50	4
9	Prio letter M (domestic)	Belt buckle - Bregenzerwald	1.35	1.50	50
10	Eco letter M (international within Europe) also Prio letter S (worldwide)	Lamberg hat - Salzburg	1.80	1.90	50
11	Prio letter M (international within Europe)	Saurüsselhaube hat - Neunkirchen	2.10	2.30	4
12	Prio parcel S (domestic)	Goiserer shoes - Bad Goisern	2.75	3.00	4
13	Prio parcel S (domestic)	Collar brooch - Vienna	2.75	3.00	25
14	Prio parcel M (domestic)	Bindlring ring - Bad Aussee	4.30	4.50	4

(R) means “in a roll”. Subscribers used to get strips-of-5, not the full roll; and only the front of a fan-fold card. However, this time we got singles cut from the cards and no roll stamps - perhaps to reduce the price of the order, although it still came to 15Eu40.

## A WWI BRITISH INTERNEE IN RAABS CAMP

By Andrew Brookes

Clarence Kelson Milnes (1894-1968) was born in London and his address in the 1901 census was 'Faircliffe', Cosbycote Avenue, Herne Hill. In August 1914 he was working for Adolf Volger at 23 Altgasse, Vienna XIII.

From a correspondence of about 80 postcards, it has been possible to understand how Clarence came to be interned in Raabs Internment Camp on the River Thaya in Lower Austria ([fig1](#)). Most of the postcards were sent by Clarence to his grandmother Lizzie Conn in Hamburg, with a few giving information on other family members.

The general feeling after the war was that Austro-Hungary had treated internees very satisfactorily. This was certainly the case for British and French internees but not always the case for many other nationalities, especially the Italians, Russians and ethnic Slavs. When war broke out enemy nationals were not allowed to leave Austro-Hungary and there were some restrictions of movement, with a few British arrested who were suspected of spying. Clarence would probably have had his movement restricted but may have continued to work with Adolf Volger. This changed in November 1914 when there was a sharp change of attitude to the British when stories of the ill-treatment of Austro-Hungarian internees in Great Britain appeared in the newspapers. It was at this time that Clarence was arrested even though 90% of the British in Austria were not. On the 24/11/14 he sent a postcard to Adolf Volger with the following message

*Very honoured Mr. Volger, Only a few lines in order to beg you to let my grandmother know that I am interned, so that she understands why only a little or nothing is heard of me at home... .. I don't know how long I shall be here. Have asked for things and food.*

Almost immediately after he had posted this from Vienna to Volger he was on a journey to the camps. On the 27/11/14 he sent a card to his grandmother from Gopfritz.

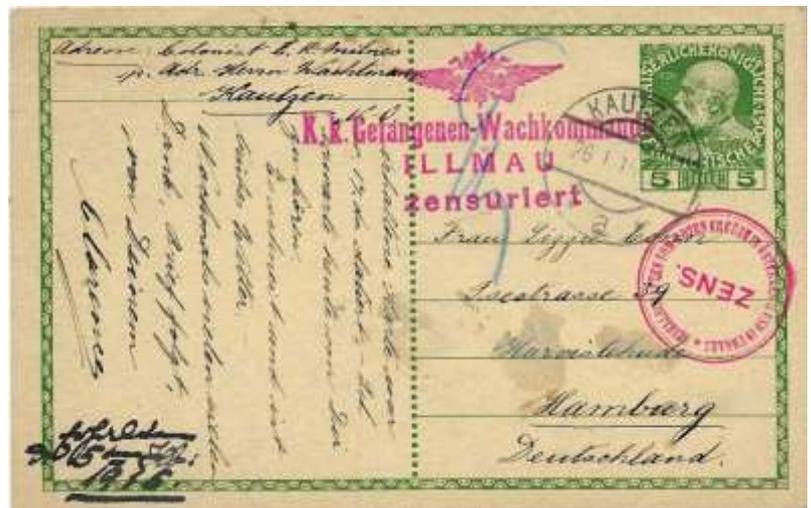
([fig2](#)). This could have been an overnight stop (130km north-west of Vienna) as another card was posted in Waidhofen on the 28/11/14 (25km to the north-west of Gopfritz). He arrived at his destination, Illman bei Kautzen on the 29/11/14 and sent another card. He was interned in Schloss Illmau for four months in the castle that had been requisitioned in 1914 under the War Services Act and that served as an internment camp for 150 Russians and Serbs from 1914 to 1916. All the cards sent from Schloss Illmau have the civil postmark for Kautzen, the nearest town. A variety of censor cachets etc, are recorded on the cards. It seems that a card took, on average, ten days to reach Hamburg having passed through Vienna where it would have been censored. This card ([fig3](#)) has an excellent strike of the unit/censor cachet for 'K.k. Gefangenen-Wachkommando / ILLMAU. (POW Guard HQ). Directly underneath this is the cachet 'zensuriert'. They are two separate cachets and this is seen on other cards. It also has a circular Vienna censor 'Gesellschaften vom Roten Kreuze in Osterreich und Ungarn' / ZENS.' 27.5mm in diameter. It was posted on the 26/1/15 and received by his grandmother on the 5/2/15.

Another card ([fig4](#)) written on the 25/3/15, postmarked 26/3/15 was received in Hamburg on the 6/4/15. It has the unit censor as a reverse of the normal i.e., the lettering is blank and the background is inked. As well as the Vienna censor, there is a boxed rectangular 'Prisonnier de guerre'.





②



③



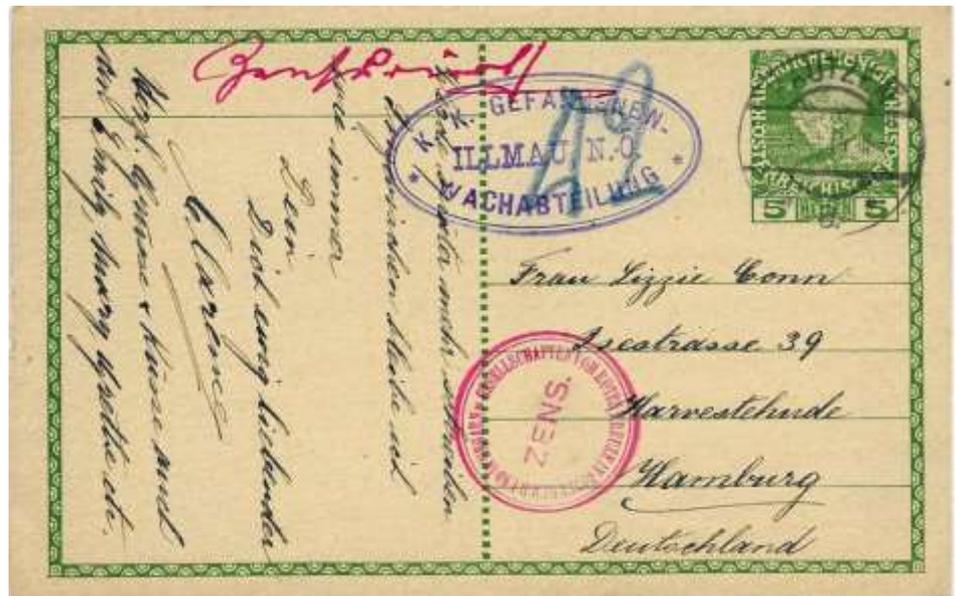
④

Some of the other cards (fig5) have an oval unit censor

'K.K.GEFANGENEN. / ILLMAU N.O. / WACHABTEILUNG. The Vienna censor 'Überprüft WIEN' boxed and 'Überprüft' (checked) in a rectangular box are seen on other cards.

Austro-Hungary used the term 'Confinement' as well as 'Internment' and this subtle use of terminology applied to Clarence, even though he always used the

wording 'British civilian prisoner of war', or similar, on his cards. Confinement was used for those foreigners who could afford to support themselves but who were not allowed to stay in the big cities. They were compelled to move to Lower Austria and reside in towns such as Waidhofen, Kautzen, Drosendorf and the place where Clarence was to spend the rest of the war, Raabs an der Thaya.



The move to Raabs Castle occurred about the 17/4/15 as on the card with this date Clarence has crossed out Kautzen and written Raabs. This town, also on the river Thaya was roughly 80km north of Vienna and quite close to the other towns previously mentioned. Clarence seems to have had a comfortable



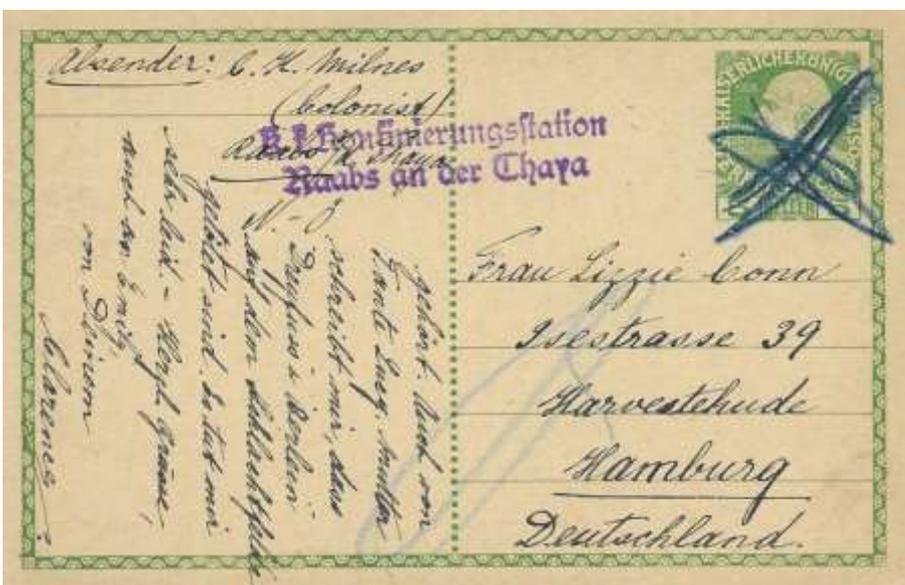
existence, although for a young man it must have been frustrating to be confined to the castle and its immediate surroundings. Some of those confined did complain that the locals were not always friendly and prices in the shops were double the amount the locals paid. The postcard of Clarence playing tennis (fig6) is typical of the many pastimes enjoyed by those interned at Raabs. A short time ago a considerable number of Raabs postcards were on sale on eBay,

including many groups of internees who were in various clubs e.g., Bridge, choir and other sports teams. Unfortunately, the reverse side of the cards were not shown and therefore it was not possible to see if the people were named.



An early card from Raabs (fig7) with the hatch type postmark was dated 18/5/15. It had the same circular censor as on the previous cards plus a strike, in Gothic print, titled 'Bürgermeisteramt der Martgemeinde Raabs' (Mayor's Office / Market Community Raabs).

In June another card (fig8) had a similar cachet 'Amtlich geprüft / Bürgermeisteramt Raabs' (Thoroughly checked / Mayor's Office).



Late in 1915 the unit censor 'K.k. Konfinierungsstation / Raabs an der Thaya' (Confinement Station) appeared on the cards (fig9). In Gothic script, it was in use until the war ended.



An 'Ausländer' cachet (Foreigner) (fig10) appears on many of the cards as well as the familiar Wien triangular censor cachet. The example shown, Thielk type 877, has the apex of the triangle squared off.

In the last section of this article there are more details regarding his family which are of interest. Clarence's mother, Annie Milnes was living in Hamburg with his grandmother in August 1914. Whether she was on holiday or there for a longer stay we do not know. However, what

is quite clear is her need to leave Germany and return to England as soon as possible. A card sent to her from Vedbaek on the coast just north of Copenhagen (fig11), written in German on the 29/8/14 hints at using the writer as someone who could forward mail to England.

*Hoybroplaets 21. 'Your letter has been sent to England. You can with pleasure use us for your mail, maybe it would be better if you used the above address. We like to help, especially our fellow countrymen, if you know any more of them. I have not read of any trouble in Hamburg in any of our newspapers but have heard of unpleasant incidents in other places. There is no censor with us here nor with you'*



On a card sent to his grandmother on the 11/12/15 Clarence confirmed that his mother had written to him from Holland and that from there she had continued to England and was staying with friends. In the same card he wrote that he was with 40 other French and English internees and could she send him socks and a sweater. He went on to say that his shoes were in good condition. Two further cards involved his cousins, Kathleen and Frank Ingham. Clarence sent a card to Kathleen on the 18/10/15 from Raabs. It was addressed to Smedleys Hydropathic Establishment, Matlock, Derbyshire but re-addressed to an address in Bournemouth. He wrote in English and said he was pleased to hear her health was improving. Cousin Frank sent a card to Clarence's grandmother on the 18/12/14 from Vienna. He had visited Clarence at Kautzen and repeated that he still needed his sweater and also some books. Clarence also wanted to know if his mail was reaching his grandmother as he was writing every day.

The first reference to the camp in Raabs that I came across was in Keith Tranmer's book where he mentions the cachet 'The British Gifts Committee Raabs a/d Thaya N.O. Austria'. In 1990 Bob Roberts published an article in the Society of Postal Historians on a correspondence from Raabs based on a collection of 25 cards.

Some would say that Clarence had an easy war but it was not his fault that he was trapped in Austria on the outbreak of war in August 1914. There is probably more that a family historian could reveal about his family; why did his grandmother live in Hamburg and why did he add 'Colonist' after his name on many cards?

# HOW TO POST AN OWL

Andy Taylor

Recently, many of the **POST- UND TELEGRAPHEN-VERORDNUNGSBLATT** became available on the Austrian National Library web site, at <https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex-day?apm=0&aid=pty> Needing some information concerning 1890, I found that the year is present but the contents index isn't - so I had to read all of the Blatts. A fascinating miscellany of laws, rules, instructions and Habsburgian bureaucracy! I didn't find what I sought, of course; but I did find "and newspapers similarly" at the end of a decree on Bahnhofbriefe which solved a problem of many months standing. I also stumbled over PTVOB Nr 15, Wien, 18 February 1890...

## Beförderung von lebenden Eulen mittelst der Fahrpost

Which Google and hard work (thanks, Martin) turned into

### Carriage of Live Owls by Fahrpost

*By agreement with the Royal Hungarian Ministry of Commerce and the Imperial German Imperial Post Office, from March 1, 1890, under the regulations for the transport of poultry and small mammals with the local regulations of June 12, 1876, Z. 15.756 (Post- V. Bl. ex 1876, p. 137) and September 3, 1889, Z. 37.122 (Post- u. T V. Bl. ex 1889, p. 331), stipulated modalities and conditions also for transport of live owls by means of the Fahrpost in internal traffic, as well as in exchange traffic with Hungary and Germany.*



*With regard to the packaging of such consignments, it is noted that, as is already the case in the existing general regulations, the containers used for transport must be of a quality appropriate to the nature of the animals and to safety. These requirements would best be met by soundly constructed wooden crates, which would be left open on one side for the purpose of allowing air to enter, and not only be provided on this side with wooden slats spaced a certain distance apart, but would also have to be provided with a fine wire netting.*

*It would also be advisable to provide these wooden boxes with handles for easier transport. However, other types of packaging that provide the same level of security can also be used and the assessment of the suitability of the packaging used is left to the issuing post offices.*

*The k. k. Post and Telegraph Directorates are to publish these provisions in the national newspapers.*

*Vienna, February 6, 1890.*

I'm left to ponder WHY there was a trade in live owls. Most places have their own, and apart from eagle owls they're not really big enough to eat. Did they have competitive mouse-hunts? Crufts for owls?



References for Internee article.

Bob Roberts. 'Internment camp and other marks found on the correspondence of Basil B. Jones'. 1990 Society of Postal Historians Journal.

Keith Tranmer. Austro-Hungarian APOs 1914-1918. 1973.

Dr. Gottfried Kohler. Arge Feld-und Zensurpost 1914/18. 1991.

Horst Thielk. Zivil-Zensur in Osterrich-Ungarn 1914-1918. © 1989.

## OBITUARY - DAVID BRAVERY

*"It is with deep sadness that I write to inform you that David passed away peacefully in his sleep on the morning of Tuesday December 20, 2022"* the Programme Secretary of Bookham Stamp Club emailed us.

Keith Johnson, our Examiner, knew him well, and writes:

To me David was a one in a million person. A person with a huge heart and great sense of humour. Right from the first time I met him he was warm, friendly and welcoming. He was not only chatty, but he was also inclusive, allowing others to have their say. He always offered advice when requested and was very supportive. David had an extensive knowledge of many subjects and as we know was a great collector of stamps and maps. It should not have surprised me to learn that he had a great collection of Arctic and Antarctic books, however it was incredible to learn that he had over 800 of them!

David was a true leader as well, illustrating this by being a founder member of the Christmas Charity Post, which over its 35 years of existence managed to raise over £100,000 for charities. We know he was a leading force in the Bookham Stamp Club doing an excellent job with auctions and valuations, as well as the Austrian Stamp Club where he was Publicity Officer and Chairman.

On a personal level I enjoyed meeting him on a regular basis for a coffee at our local South African Coffee Shop, GreenWise. He always referred to it as our South African Office, and when ordering coffee he would always ask if we wanted 'A Sticky Bun', I never found out what those were as we always resisted them, however every time he would ask! We would sit and chat over a coffee or two, sharing experiences and humorous stories. I shall never forget those times and will always miss them. He was an all-round great guy.



This picture shows the culmination of David's project to return to Austria the original brass dive-bell from the Austrian submarine U4 (SMU4), which he had acquired in 2014.

What is more, the beautiful little bell was given to him as a gift AND it came with a good provenance. How this bell ended up in a Surrey village is a wonderful story, and is told in AUSTRIA 194 Summer 2016.

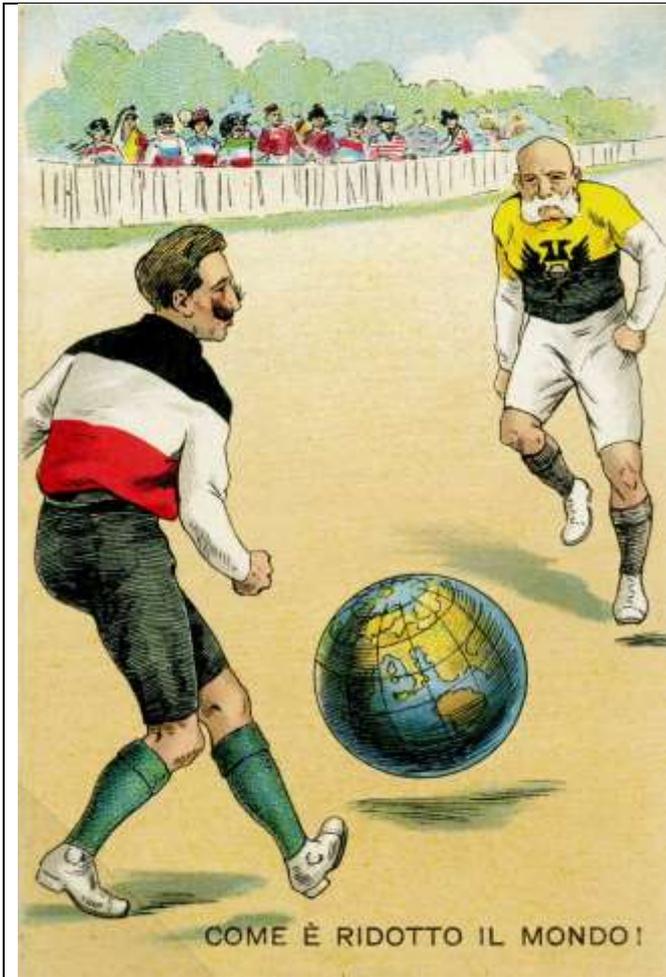
On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, Director Christian Ortner and Major Hans Broedl, together with their staff met David and his wife Heli at the museum and the bell was officially and ceremoniously handed over and placed in a specially prepared cabinet for display to the public. An oil painting of the U4's commander, Rudolf (von) Singule, was brought specially for the occasion from the Vienna Art museum and presided over the

event. Champagne flowed and David was presented with a special personal plaque to commemorate the occasion with the promise of a comprehensive book on the torpedo boats of the Austro-Hungarian Kriegsmarine to follow.

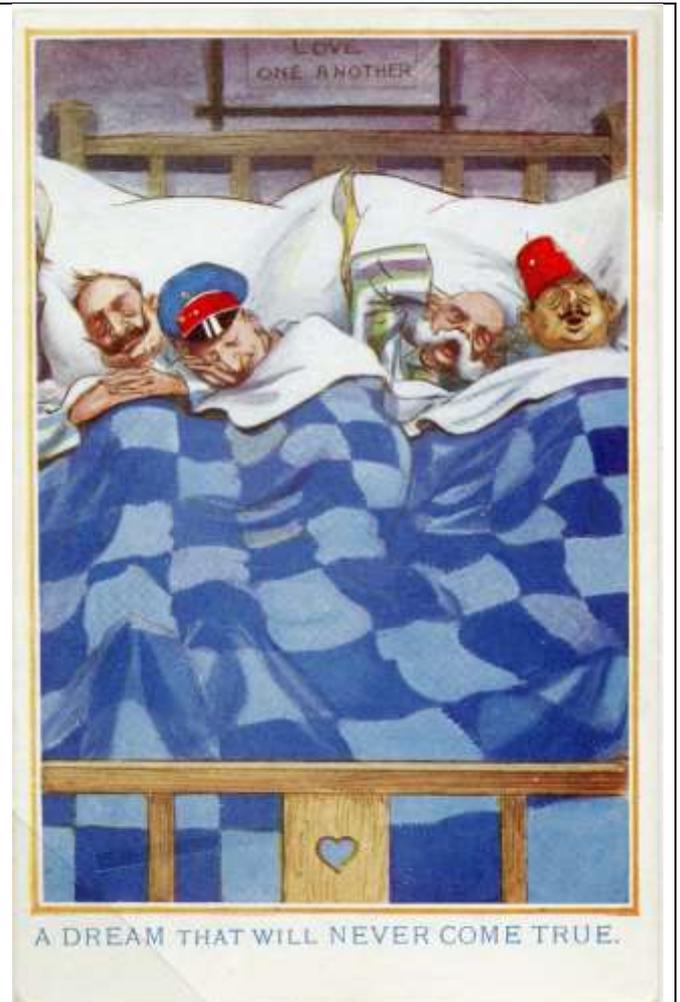
*We will miss him. Andy Taylor*

The next two pages are a snapshot of one of David's favourite themes ☺

Anti-Franz Joseph Propaganda cards, from David Bravery's winning entry at the 2015 Fest



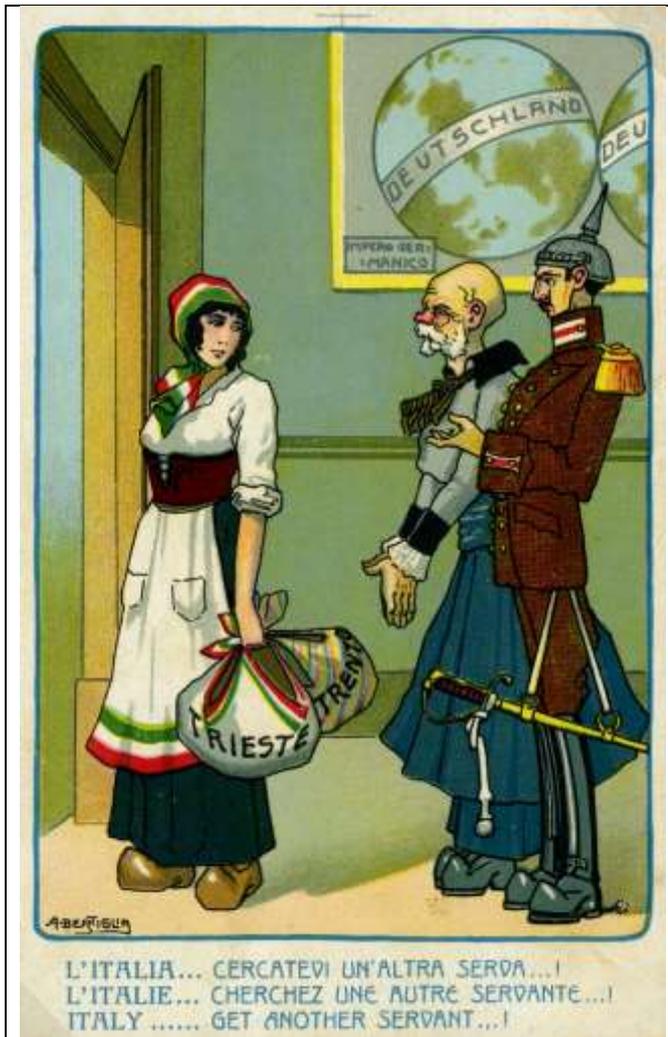
This 1914 Italian card shows Franz Joseph and Kaiser Wilhelm as footballers “playing with the world” with other nations such as UK, USA, France, Italy look on. The caption is “How the world has shrunk!”.



British 1916 card following Bulgaria's declaration of war on 14 November 1915. The sleepers are Kaiser Wilhelm, Tsar Ferdinand of Bulgaria, Franz Joseph, and Sultan Mehmed V of Turkey. The caption is “A dream that will never come true”.



British satirical card from 1915, following initial Austrian reverses and retreats from Serbian and Russian forces. The Russian bear chases the Austrians, to the consternation of the Germans.



Italy – “Get another servant”



“The door-keeper discharged”

– to ridicule the departing Austrians and Franz Joseph (even though he had died 2 years previously).

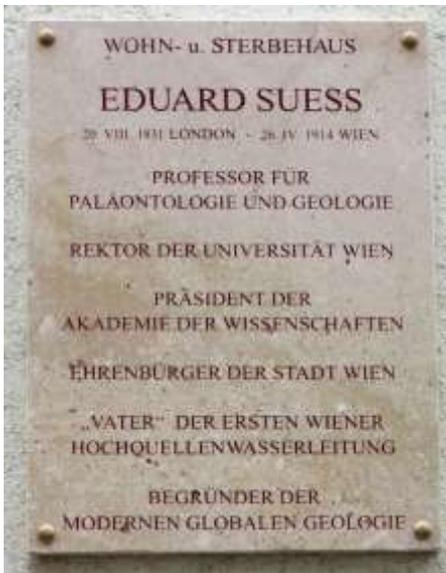


“The final loss”  
(Trieste and South Tirol).

# EDUARD SUESS

By Andy Taylor

A minor benefit of technology is that I can use Google Translate to read the Wiener Zeitung on-line. In July last year I noticed an article about the unveiling in July 2022 of a plaque to Eduard Suess on his house at Afrikanergasse 9 in Leopoldstadt, near Praterstern. The name rang a bell, so while in Vienna last December I investigated further.



Karl Adolph Eduard Suess was born in London on August 20, 1831. When he was three, the family moved first to Prague, and 11 years later to Vienna, where at his father's request he started studies at the Technical High School. In 1852, however, he took up a post at the Court Museum of Vienna to arrange and categorize its palaeontological collection.

The house in Afrikanergasse is directly opposite Tethysgasse, a small alley between Praterstraße and Afrikanergasse, named after the Greek sea goddess, whose name the geologist Suess used for the

geological ocean he discovered. The plaque is at street level, next to the door.



In 1857 Eduard Suess was appointed professor at the University of Vienna, first for paleontology and in 1862 for geology, without having the usual formal qualifications. Two major paleo-geographical discoveries can be traced back to him: the former supercontinent Gondwana, and the Tethys. He retired in 1901 when he reached 70, and from his other offices including the President of the Academy of Sciences in Vienna at 80. Suess died on 26 April 1914, aged 83. Worldwide, several streets, parks and physical features are named after Suess - as are a crater on Mars and another on the moon!

In addition to his academic work, he was active as a politician in the Vienna municipal council and as a member of the Liberals in the Lower Austrian state parliament. In these functions, he primarily masterminded the regulation of the Danube over a length of 14 km; its braided channel had previously caused repeated devastating floods in the low-lying parts of Vienna. Realising that the geology under Vienna (\*\*) was largely responsible for the contamination of the springs and thus the repeated epidemics of typhoid and cholera, he also pushed through the construction of the first Viennese spring water pipeline. For these achievements he received the honorary citizenship of Vienna, which at that time was still mainly reserved for the nobility.



\*\* Aside, from Austria 188 p27. The geology of Vienna provides the answer. Digging downwards from modern street level in the Inner City, you will first find up to 5m of anthropogenic deposits dating back to the Romans, then some meters of a fine earth called Loess, then about 15m of Pleistocene gravel and then some hundred meters of bluish marls (clay, sand) of Pannonian age, originating from a lake. Going deeper you will get the brackish and then the marine sediments, the transgression sediments and finally the Alps. Under them is the Bohemian Massif; the Alps were extruded over it when the African plate crashed into the European plate: but by now we're thousands of meters deep and only oil wells go there.



Suess began the planning and building of the first Viennese spring water pipeline, which from 1873 to the present day has been supplying clean water from the Rax-Schneeberg region, 90 kilometers away, to the federal capital. All of this is achieved in a natural gradient without the use of pumps through pipes and via aqueducts. Extensive technical details are available in the blackprint essay for this stamp, issued on 23-10-1973 for the centenary of the commissioning of the pipeline. It shows the building where the water from the Kaiserbrunnen in Höllental is captured and routed into the pipeline, to run mainly in a brick-lined

covered canal to the water reservoir on the Rosenhügel north of Mauer and Speising at an altitude of 244.50m.



Much of the route is clearly visible on the ground, as here soon after it reaches Vienna. The line is crossed by Alma König Weg in Liesing as it heads for the aqueduct over Endresstrasse.

The small picture of a 30-step staircase on Alma König Weg gives an idea of the height of the line above the immediate surroundings.



In 1928, a monument to Suess designed by Franz Seifert was erected on Schwarzenbergplatz in front of the Palais Schwarzenberg, near the Hochstrahlbrunnen built to celebrate the completion of the first Viennese high spring pipeline. Suess played a major role in the conception, route-surveying, and construction of this aqueduct. Removed during World War II (Suess had Jewish ancestors), the memorial was relocated from 1951 to 1969.

The monument is a bust of Suess on a tall sculpted rectangular plinth, remarkably difficult to photograph without a background clutter of tourists, trams, etc.

It seems to have been carefully angled so that he does not have to gaze at the Soviet war memorial - or as Google Maps labels it, the "WWII Vienna Offensive memorial" with which description many Viennese would concur. (Others are available.) The Palais Schwarzenberg is behind it.



There is a large bronze plaque on the ground, more or less where this photo was taken, marking the spot where Kaiser Franz Joseph stood on 24 October 1873 to set the fountain into action and declare the water pipeline formally open.

The larger picture below shows the fountain's name; the two plaques flanking it are now unreadable. It being early December, the fountain has been drained for the winter. The numbers of nozzles are 12 for the months, 365 smaller for the days, and so on.



Expansion of Vienna called (and still calls) for an ever-larger supply, and a 200km second pipeline was constructed and opened on 2 December 1910. This stamp, probably showing an aqueduct at Wildalpen, marked its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It speaks for the populist talent of Karl Lueger and for the historical oblivion of the Viennese that the construction of the second high spring water pipeline was celebrated during Lueger's mayoral tenure as one of his great political achievements. Suess' pioneering work, which still supplies around half of Vienna's drinking water today, is hardly associated with his name in public. The anti-Semite Lueger is still considered by many Viennese to be the "father of clean Viennese drinking water". However, it was Suess, a scientist with Jewish ancestors, who with his expertise and tenacity enabled, initiated and secured the security of Vienna's water supply.

This rather more abstract stamp was designed by Silvia Moucka and issued on 14 June 2010 to mark 100 years of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Viennese Mountain Spring Pipeline which supplies Vienna with water from the Hochschwab area in Styria. The 200-kilometre pipeline, consisting largely of ducts cut out of stone, crosses over 100 aqueducts and 19 culverts; the water takes about 36 hours to reach Vienna. The bottom right image is of the fountain outside the Town Hall, in summer.



## WISH YOU WERE HERE!

By Andrew Brooks

In part of any large family correspondence which survives today are many picture postcards, and quite naturally most but not all were sent from holiday to friends and family. The cards selected for this article are all from the Austro – Hungarian Empire (with slight exceptions) in the pre-1914 period.

They were sent to the family of Johann Beer in Reichenberg (Liberec today), either to them at home or when they were on holiday. The correspondence passed from Johann (died 1914) to his wife and then to his only child Arthur (born 1900). Johann's brother Adolf Beer (murdered in Auschwitz in 1942) played a part in Arthur's early life and a fair proportion of the correspondence is sent or addressed to him.



This is a random choice and I have tended to favour the countryside over the towns and cities even though there are many from Vienna, Prague etc when families went on what are called today 'City Breaks'. Other types of cards are prominent in the collection; there are many of spas and hotels and it seems that Johann took his students on field trips every year, probably to paint or study architecture. (He was a teacher in the State Technical School in Reichenberg).



Two cards were of places within 20km from Reichenberg but just across the border in Germany. The first to be described was posted from Luckendorf and dated 31/5/02. It was addressed to Johann's wife, Olga, and was signed by Johann and all the students on the field trip.



Another card from just across the border and a similar distance from Reichenberg was sent on 4/7/07. It shows the viewing platform, still a favourite tourist attraction, of the Nonnenfelsen sandstone rock formations in the Zittau mountains. However, it was posted in Austro-Hungary at Gross-Mergthal with a 5 heller stamp.

Another card sent from 'Summer Fresh' Sebusein am Elbe (40km east of Reichenberg) was again sent from a field trip but as this was addressed to Johann it was probably sent by another member of the department away with students.



A postcard sketch of Pains and the Parseiergruppe in the Tirol might remind the reader of an English Lakes scene drawn by Arthur Wainwright. It has a Pains postmark dated 5/8/11.

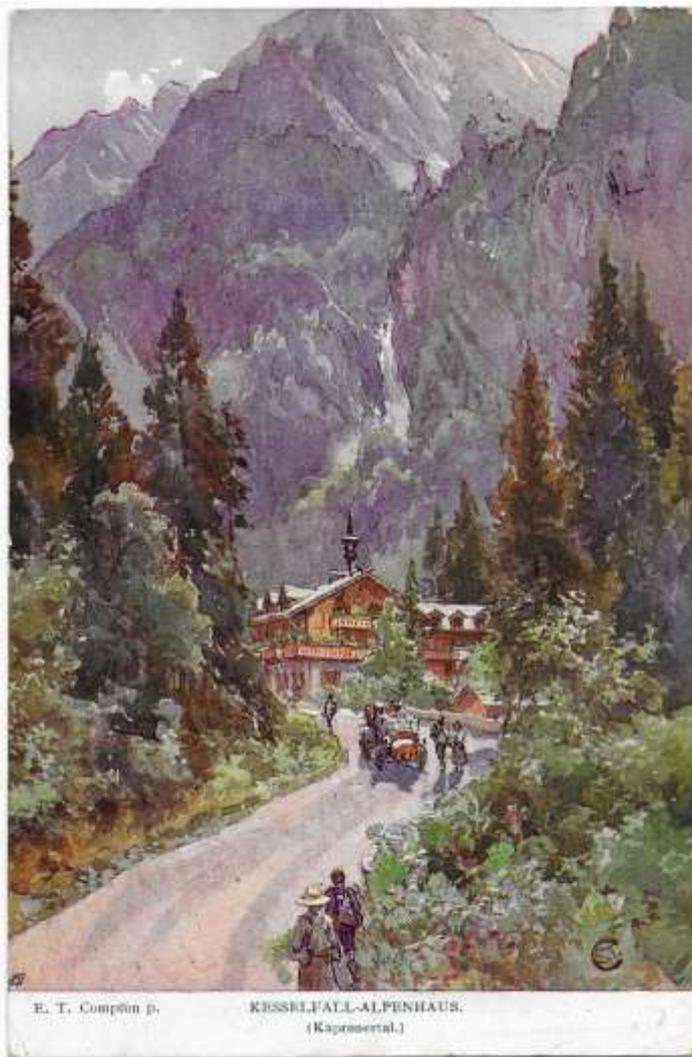


Many of the cards are of the ‘Gruss aus’ type. The first example is of the Munchener Löwenbräu Bier-Halle. This ‘Lion’s brew’ beer card was sent to the Beer family, possibly because of the family name.

Secondly, a card of a ‘winter scene’ from Mies (now Stribo in the Czech Republic). It was posted in 1899 and the central feature is the Town Hall, which can still be seen on modern postcards. As well as being a card where the printer has obviously added ‘snow’ to the buildings it also has a silvery frosted effect over the entire card, which unfortunately cannot be seen in this illustration.



Last of the ‘Gruss aus’ types, ‘Grüsse von der Schweizerer am Altvater’, which was the highest human dwelling in the Jeseniky Mountains (about 200km South-East of Reichenberg). A cachet stamped on the reverse of the card suggests that it was handed in here to be posted later.



Many hotels and guest houses seemed to have their own personal postcards and it is easy to check if they are still operating today. The view of the Kesselfall Alpenhaus, near Kaprun, sent by a friend, looks almost exactly the same today, albeit with extensions and updated facilities!

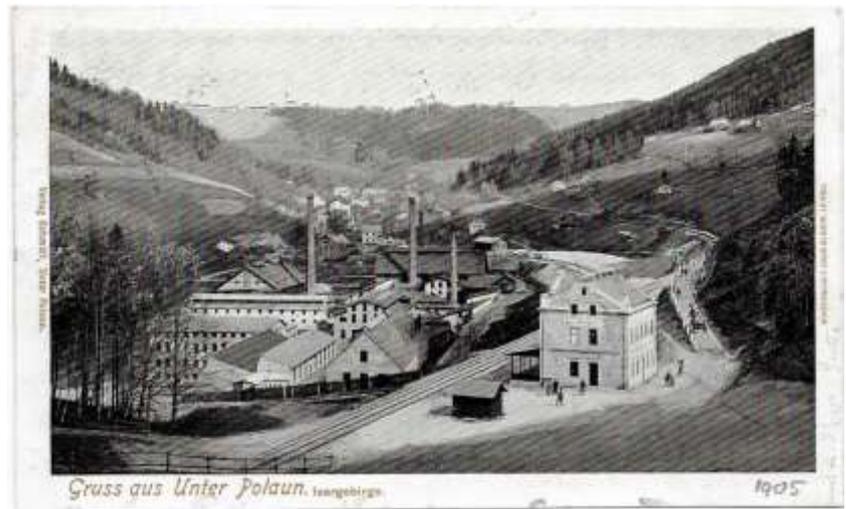
More adventurous friends sent a card of their route up the Dachstein, one of the highest mountains in the Dual Monarchy. It was first climbed in 1947 and the Simony hut they slept in before reaching the summit was named after the man who made the first successful ascent. The cachet reads 'Dachstein-Gebirge-Simonyhütte 2210m Deutschen u. Osterr. Alpen Vereins'; the card shows real climbers but their friends have pencilled in the route they took to the top.





The postcard of the Gasthof Stern in Oberdrauburg was sent to Johann and Olga on the 20/7/12. This is another hotel that can easily be picked out on an internet photograph of the village as it is today.

A few miles to the east of Reichenberg is the town of Unter Polaun. A friend sent this view of the glassworks to the Beers who were on holiday in Villach in the summer of 1905.



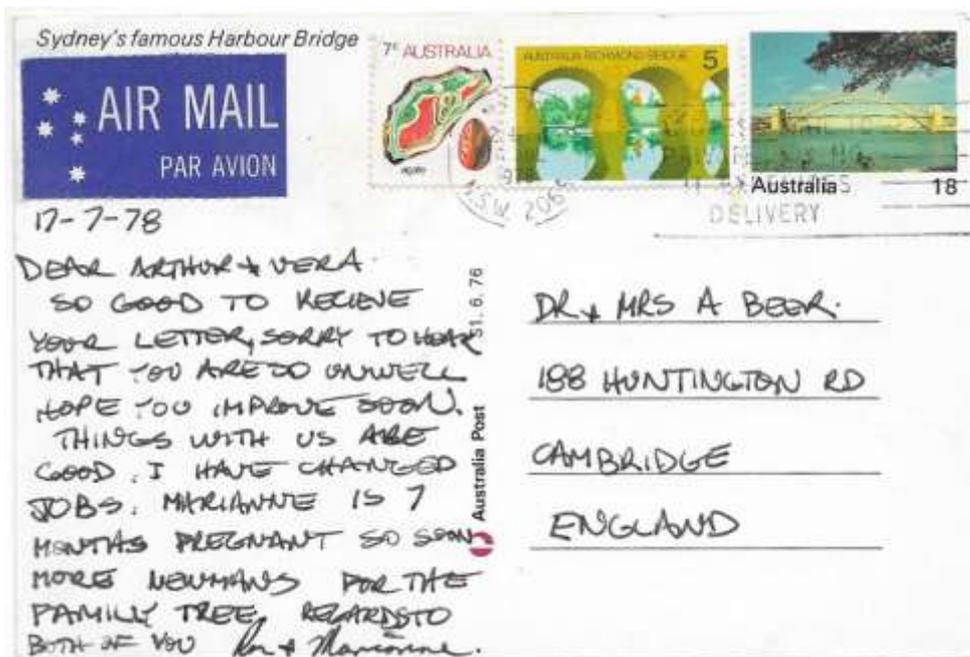
Another industrial scene is the colourful postcard of the ironworks at Witkowitz. The first iron and steel mill was built here in 1828; in 1843 the Viennese banker Salomon Mayer von Rothschild bought and enlarged the mill. His heirs founded the Witkowitz Bergbau und Hüttengewerkschaft which became the largest steel works in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy



In 1912 a holiday postcard of the Hotel St. Gertraud in Sulden was sent by Ernst and Grete Brevel to the Beer family. Johann Eller, curate and priest of Sulden was the first to initiate tourism in the valley. In 1869 the guestrooms for only six people in the rectory were no longer sufficient to accommodate the growing number of guests, and his two sisters decided to renovate it and gave it the name 'Guesthouse St Gertrude'. Before the turn of the nineteenth century, it was refurbished again and was now called 'Hotel Eller'. After World War I this part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was ceded to Italy.



Arthur Beer (1900-1980) carried on the family tradition of saving postcards when he moved with his family to London in 1934 and many of these also survive, although they were sent from all corners of the world!



## Wish you were here!

2023 Fest weekend - afternoon of Saturday 16 September till noon on Monday 18 September, at the Bull Hotel, Peterborough.

## Report of Northern Group Meeting, hosted by Keith Brandon on 19 October 2022.

Following welcoming refreshments, Barry Clark began the displays with **Postablagen from the Tirol** in his standard format: a posted item, a scan of the other side, a location map, and interesting information relevant to the item, the cancel, the place, etc. It was surprising how many of the locations had been visited during summer holidays by the members present!

Andy Taylor then showed the **Euro Definitives** - all of them, from their start 20 years ago up to the Costume Ancillaries of 2020. The recent supplementing of these for the rates increase of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 could only be shown by their Die Briefmarke illustrations, Andy's copies being somewhere in the post. The designs and presentations-on-cards failed to impress the audience, whose general preference was for Austrian stamps older than themselves. However, his collection had the advantage that all of it was postally valid and could still be used!

Lunchtime saw a lively political discussion, fuelled by large brown buns with three different fillings (lovingly prepared by our host that very morning) and a locally-made lemon tart - and "no-alcohol" San Miguel.

Keith then showed us examples of nearly all possible cancels introduced by the **Austria-Tuscany Postal Convention** of 1839. See Alan Becker's article in Austria 187 (Autumn 2014); Alan had done more work on the topic and more recently sold the collection to Keith who had merged it with his own and now showed us the impressive result. The major breakthrough of recent researches was to establish beyond reasonable doubt which marking was applied where: the cursive markings are the Austrian, the circular ones with AUSTRIA surrounding a number are the Tuscan.

Martin Brumby produced **Official Prepaid Post Cards**. These were supplied, initially at a nominal cost and latterly free, to everybody from the Emperor to the Acting Deputy Headmaster of Buxtehude Primary School who was entitled to free postage of his official (but not personal) communications. Introduced on 14 September 1884, many changes of trivial or sometimes major details made a sensible classification increasingly difficult. Especially with the later multilanguage variants, some versions seemed to exist only in the authorising decree, none being found in the real world, not even as mint. There were still well over 57 varieties! See also vol XII of Wurth's Handbooks.

Finally, Ian Bergel astonished us by producing real stamps - basically all of 'Bohemia & Moravia' mint & used, together with a few first flight covers

The meeting concluded mid-afternoon (to avoid York Ring Road at rush-hour, or the Blakey Ridge sheep after dark) with thanks to the host and unanimous agreement to hold another one, in Spring 2023, somewhere in the western regions of Yorkshire.

Note-taker's comment: it was interesting that the speakers had different presenting styles: introductory talk then pass round everything at once; explain each sheet and pass it round; explain each aspect of the theme and pass the relevant sheets.

*Wright-Herbert von Carry-on.*

Special Offer! Our Romanian member Octavian Tabacaru is offering about 100 back numbers of Austria, free but you pay the postage. Contact Andy Taylor, who has a detailed list.

Also, he can offer his catalogue for sale, all 9 volumes, in electronic format, on a flash-pen or memory stick, at a lower price than the printed edition. This is KuK Feldpost Mail 1914-1918. Each of the 9 volumes is profusely illustrated in colour. The cost will be 200 GBP for all 9 volumes, all costs included (i.e. the cost of the 16 GB stick itself, postage for registered air mail, Paypal fees, interbanking etc). Contact Andy Taylor.

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