

A selection of the items discussed in this issue

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Edited by Andy Taylor

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EDITORIAL 222

Andrew Brooks wrote: You have asked members to let you know when they win anything. On Saturday my entry for the John Daynes Plate won. It is one of the two annual competitions held by the Forces Postal History Society. The reason I'm letting you know is because its title was the '**Austro-Hungarian Medical Services in WW1**'. 15 sheets. It was based on my article you published in Austria a short time ago. No pictorial postcards, all postmarks and cachets. Very little text.

Auction 152 has just closed, and I've been heavily involved as the Virtual Auctioneer's Assistant, aka Santa Claus, ably assisted by Martin Brumby as Chief Elf. However, we are getting older and the workload is getting beyond us ☹️ There will be an Auction at the Fest (another reason for attending it!) and probably another one between now and then. However, **unless someone new volunteers to take up the Officer's position of Honorary Auctioneer, this year's Festauction may be the APS's last.** Under the rules, all the Officers retire at the AGM every year, but are eligible for re-election. Help your Society continue - join the committee! It consists of President, Editor, Treasurer, Chairman, Publicity Officer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Packet Secretary, Auctioneer, plus up to two co-opted members. At the moment, the underlined posts have no occupant; and the other 6 are shared between three people.

See the Auctioneer Wanted advert on page 3!

The first International Exhibition held in Europe for some years is in Essen in May. I had hoped to have two exhibits on show, but owing to an Administrative Mixup they won't be there. However I will, hoping to see exciting displays, meet old and new friends, eat well, and continue my search for those elusive items that usually provoke a dealer to say "Yes, I know what you want, but I have never seen any".

I'm told that there is most unlikely to be an International Exhibition in Vienna for the indefinite future. However in May 2025 Britain will stage a 2000-frame International Exhibition, not in London but in Hall 12 at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham!! And before that, there's Bucharest and Copenhagen, both in 2024.

Andy Taylor, Editor

WELCOME TO THE 2023 APS FEST WEEKEND!

At the Bull Hotel, Westgate, Peterborough. September 16th to 18th

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 will be finished 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-worldle 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



Much to my surprise, an item I'd ordered from VÖPh in Vienna arrived with the stamps cancelled by a Richard Zimmerl Memorial Special Cancel - the inscription translates as "A life dedicated to philately".



Last week I wrote "You've never seen one as big as that before!!!! And we don't expect to see one again ☺" The picture is Auction lot 999 (ie, Austria issues 1-221) packed and awaiting the courier. (It's just arrived in North Carolina, having crossed the Atlantic by banana boat.)

Today, Andrew Pattman (andrewpattman@me.com) contacted me to say that his late father Jeffery Pattman was a member of the APS and left a complete run of copies of "Austria" from 1 to 169. Please contact him directly if you are interested. They are in Glasgow. His mobile number is 07900 691859.

AUCTIONEER URGENTLY WANTED

The auction is one of the most popular services we offer our members. Normally there are four auctions each year; one takes place as a combined postal/room auction at the Society's Fest weekend; the others are postal only. It's desirable that at least three auctions are held annually, and one year there were five.

The Auctioneer has considerable autonomy in how the auction is operated, and is free to run it in their own style and format. It is not tied to the publication schedule of 'Austria', and apart from the Fest auction the only constraints are not to have two auctions open at once, and not to despatch buyers' winnings during the Xmas postal rush! It is one of the most important and interesting roles in the Society, and the incumbent will join the APS Committee.

The post involves:

- accepting members' consignments, lotting and describing them where necessary, and keeping each member's material safe and identifiable;
- compiling a catalogue for each auction in Excel or similar spreadsheet;
- sending the catalogue as a PDF file to the Webmaster and/or journal Editor along with JPG scans of the lots;
- recording bids, preparing invoices and dispatching winning lots;
- sending vendors an account of their sales and agreeing what to do with unsold items; and
- sending the Treasurer a note of who need to be paid what for their sales.

Payments from bidders and payments to vendors are handled by the Treasurer, and the Auctioneer neither has to handle money nor prepare accounts. The Auctioneer is, however, expected to write a report for the AGM each year, and to set out a simple spreadsheet recording winning bids, postage, and any incidental expenses, together with an account of payment due to vendors for the Treasurer to action.

The Auctioneer needs to have a good all-round knowledge of Austrian philately, and the ability to work accurately and methodically. They need to be e-mail users and familiar with using computer spread-sheets. For political reasons rather than philatelic, the Auctioneer needs to be resident in mainland Great Britain.

Interested candidates are welcome to discuss the role with Andy Taylor or Martin Brumby, both of whom have recent experience in the role. If you wish to put yourself forward for the vacancy, please contact Andy.

The 2022 Fest Auction under way ☺



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

11/2022: 200th birthday of Gregor Mendel; Ödenburg, the forgotten heart of Burgenland; Tutenkamun's Tomb; the Christmas stamp issues; Christkindl this year; society news; and many other short articles.

12/2022: Nobel prizewinners; the Kronen-heller issues (1899-1907) part iii (money; telephone; telegraph; packets & their cards); the Burgenland Postdirektion; new issues; the "stamp products" planned for 2023; Dobling, Wien XIX; WWII POW camps in Australia; and many other short articles.

1-2/2023: Peter Anich, the Innsbruck Cartographer; the violincello; Lorenz Böhler, A&E surgeon; Röntgen, pioneer of X-rays and Nobel Prizewinner; Dobling (ii); Ferdinand Porsche and his many inventions; society news; and many other short articles.

3/2023: The language of honey-bees; About Forgeries; Burgenland: the 1919 division between Austria and Hungary; new issues; Windisch; Dobling (iii); etc usw.

Germania

Vol 59 Nr 1: Heligoland and Steinwärdler; Intro to German colonial philately (iii); meter marks; and many answers to member's questions.

ArGe Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn

Rundbrief Nr 146: many interesting 1-page articles; cultural activities in POW camps in Russia; Admiral Paul Fiedler (1861-1919); the marine-feldpostamt in Pola; censoring at Tomsk POW camp; evacuation of civilians from Pola; bombarding Belgrade in 1914; naval divers; military postal systems of the enemy (ie GB);

Vindobona Vereins-Nachrichten

[This is available on line - details from the Editor]

1/2023 March: meetings and awards; the DDSG postal service on the lower Danube; cancels of the first issue (ii); Austria-Egypt mail, 1850-1914 (ii);

Stamps of Hungary

Nr 232, March 2023: On the trail of the 1919 overprints, Part 20: "The Villány overprint – a spoof?"; The humble receipt, part I – the early days; The start of the postal stationery cards of 1874; etc

Czechout

Vol 40/4 December 2022: First Republic Airmails - The Pioneering Years; Startup problems for the Czechoslovakian post in 1919; Czech and Slovak Perfins; News and Notes; Book Review - The 185 Haler by Mark Wilson; Slovakia New Issues; Czech Republic New Issues; Seen Elsewhere; etc

Vol 41/1: March 2023: Translations of the First Four Volumes of the *Monografie*; Detecting Horizontal Comb Perforations on an Isolated Stamp; An analysis of the bilingual postal cancellations in the German-Czech provinces of Austria-Hungary during the period 1867-1919, part one; Startup problems for the Czechoslovakian post in 1919, part 2; News and Notes; Book Review – Falcon in Flight Newspaper Stamps: A Catalogue of Plate Identifiers by Vladimír Malovík and Michal Hauzr; Czech Republic New Issues; Slovakia New Issues; Seen Elsewhere; etc

Have you completed and returned your Fest-attending form - and reserved your room with the hotel?

A Vienna local post?



“PHILATELIE NEUES VON DER POST / PHILATELY NEWS FROM THE POST” said: {this} is an essay for a planned Viennese communal post. In 1874, the Municipality of Vienna considered franking its letters with its own stamps and taking care of the delivery itself. The estimate was 3 kreuzers for a single letter and 6 kreuzers for a double letter. Apparently, the idea of a local post didn’t meet with approval, and the project disappeared into the depths of bureaucracy. The essays for “Wiener Communalpost” remain much sought after by collectors today. In addition to the stamps, envelopes in two formats are also known. They are made of thin, strong, gray paper, measuring 155 x 122 mm, and bear the proposed 3 Kreuzer stamps in dark carmine (as illustrated), green, or black. Envelopes in a larger format of 358 x 122 mm with two overprints of 3 Kreuzer, one in dark carmine and one in violet, were planned for double letters.

The envelopes look well-made:



An article in a British stamp journal remarked

The stamp prepared for a local postal service in Vienna about 1874 has long been under a cloud, in fact whatever status it might have had was lowered when it was included in *Phantom Philately*, by Fred J. Melville; but there are certain factors which must cast doubt upon the arbitrary discarding of this item as being bogus.

In the early 1870s a plan was afoot to set up a local post in Vienna and stamps were presumably prepared, but the idea fell through. Some time afterwards an essay appeared on the market, purporting to be that of the proposed stamp. It is in a design showing the Viennese arms in an oval in the centre, with "Com. Frei-Marke D. St. Wien" around the frame and the value "3. K R." at the foot; the initials F M C W appear in the corners. The stamp was engraved and recess-printed on thin wove paper, and all the specimens we have seen were imperforate; the colour is dark carmine.

According to Melville the stamp was the product of a Viennese dealer, and in addition to the adhesive there was an envelope bearing two impressions, one in carmine and the other in lilac. Carl Schmidt, in his *Handbuch der deutschen Privat-Postwertzeichen*, was more non-committal and stated that information about the issue is lacking, but by no means condemned it as bogus.

There must be considerable doubt whether the stamp was indeed bogus, and it seems much more likely to have been a legitimate, though perhaps private, essay for an issue which failed to materialise. In the first place, few purveyors of bogus stamps have ever gone to the trouble and expense of having them recess-printed. The cost of this process, even in years gone by, was much too high to hold out the prospect of any profit to the instigator. Secondly, we have seen what appear to be authentic die proofs of the stamp, printed mainly in the usual carmine but with parts of the design in gold to show the effect of a second colour. The mere existence of these proofs, especially in different states, militates strongly against the issue's being of a spurious nature. Although after the passage of so many years it is probably impossible to establish the authenticity of the stamp, its inclusion in *Phantom Philately*, where several other quite legitimate issues were unnecessarily condemned, should no longer be held against it.



The DIY Messenger.....

Diane Tkocs and Andy Taylor

DT: I have been writing down memoirs told to me by my grandfather who was born in 1896 in a small village in Galicia of Austro-Hungary. Their village was too small to have its own postal office, and one of his stories was about the practice of each of the families having to take a turn to travel to the nearest village that had a post office and pick up the mail for the rest of their village.

He said the village had a "staff" which gave them the authority to obtain the mail for their village and take it back to distribute it. Showing the official "staff" at the post office would have authorized the postal workers to provide all the mail to the villager who had come to collect it and take it back home.

I would love to know what that "staff" looked like and I wish I had asked him while he was alive which village had the post office. I also wonder about how long the trip must have been from Michnowiec (his small village) to the larger village with a post office.

Do you have any information or can you point me in a direction to find out more details? His village was listed as Michnowiec, Galicia, Austria-Hungary on his first Declaration of Intention to become a U.S. Citizen.

AT Found it on Googlemaps, just on the Polish side of today's Poland-Ukraine border. I have the Austria-Hungary index of places and post offices, but it's not there. I have a book listing "every place that at any time was in what was Poland": not there. This is Austria under Kaiser Franz Joseph... there will be a Rule for it, otherwise it would not happen... Time To Ask A Friend. She said:

This is possibly a case of “Privat-Briefsammlungen”. Communities away from the post road could send the letters collected from local residents to the post office by hired messengers on certain days. These hired messengers could also pick up the letters from the post office and bring them to the residents. These “gemietete Postboten” (hired postmen or hired messengers) were not employees of the post. They worked on behalf of their community. The system is described in “Aloys Dessary: Die österreichische Post-Verfassung” Wien, 1848 p. 93.

Abgesehen von diesen Staats-Postanstalten werden übrigens, so weit es nach dem Gesetze gestattet ist, Privat-Briefsammlungen von einzelnen Obrigkeiten, städtischen und andern Gemeinden, welche außer der Poststraße liegen, unterhalten, welche mittelst ihrer gemieteten Postboten an bestimmten Tagen die gesammelten Briefe der Orts- und Nachbarinsassen an die Post senden, und die für dieselben eingelangten von dort abholen lassen.

Abgesehen von diesen Staats-Postanstalten werden übrigens, so weit es nach dem Gesetze gestattet ist, Privat-Briefsammlungen von einzeln Obrigkeiten, städtischen und anderen Gemeinden, welche außer der Poststrasse liegen, unterhalten, welche mittelst ihrer gemieteten Postboten an bestimmten Tagen die gesammelten Briefe der Orts- und Nachbarinsassen an die Post senden, und die für dieselben eingelangten von dort abholen lassen.

Which Google-Translate turns into: *Apart from these state post offices, as far as permitted by law, private collections of letters are maintained by individual authorities, municipal and other communities which lie outside the post road, which use their hired postmen on certain days to deliver the collected letters from the locality and neighbouring inmates to the post office and have those arrived for the same picked up from there.*

This is not to be confused with the Landbriefträger system (see Austria 127) which was the employment by a Post Office of a travelling postperson who delivered and collected mail.

Two USA-resident colleagues agree that your larger place is almost certainly Lopuszanka Chomina, which is about 10 miles east of Michniowiec. It had a post office, which opened before 1 June 1867.

I attach a drawing of a postal messenger, “Igor”. The colouring is mine, but the original is much older. Note the yellow badge, which was to show he was authentic. I think he was a messenger in Silesia. He doesn't have a staff, but he does have a sword!

DT: Thank you so much for this information! My grandfather talked about the mail situation often, because as a young lad in the village, he loved reading and writing. Many of the villagers had young family members working in America, and the mail was their only contact (except for a rare telegram). Because they couldn't read or write, they would have my young grandfather read the letters to them and then they would dictate a response and he would write back to their people in the U.S. (This was prior to 1913 when he himself travelled to the U.S. at the age of 17.) They would give him a “coin or two” as payment for his secretarial services, so getting the mail was really important to him!

A 10 mile walk to Lopushanka was probably not a big deal back then, although it seems pretty daunting to me. Love the picture! Thanks for mentioning the sword, as I would not even have noticed it. Seems very practical! My grandfather never mentioned any fear of being robbed, but he did have an interesting story about an attempted telegram fraud concerning his sister who immigrated here prior to 1913. Human nature doesn't change!



PARLIAMENTARY POST OFFICES

by Keith Brandon

Introduction

Until the mid-nineteenth century, the Austrian Empire was governed by the Emperor, his royal court and his appointees. There was no pretence of democracy. The revolutions which took place in several parts of the Empire in 1848 prompted a response. The Austrian Reichstag (“Imperial Diet”) of 1848 was the first elected Parliament in the Austrian Empire.

It lasted for less than twelve months, but had an important effect on Austrian history. The Diet consisted of 383 deputies from the German-speaking and Slavic crown lands of Habsburg Austria, but with no representatives from the Kingdom of Hungary. It met for the first time in Vienna on 22 July 1848. In October 1848 the Reichstag moved to Kremsier (Kroměříž) in Moravia. This was to avoid martial law in Vienna, imposed to quell rioting in support of the Hungarian rebellion and a desire for a constitutional monarchy.

The Assembly remained in Kremsier until 7 March 1849 when it was dissolved. A progressive new constitution had been drafted but was never implemented. Its main achievement had been the abolition of the feudal system.

A postal-agency was opened for the Vienna Reichstag on 22 July 1848, and closed three months later on 31 October when the relocation to Kremsier took place. A postal agency was set up for the Kremsier Reichstag on 22 October 1848 and was later upgraded to a full post-office. They used one postmark each, and the post-office closed on 7 March 1849 when the Government moved back to Vienna.

The two postal agencies and the post office serving the Reichstag existed for just a few months each, eight months in total, and material from them is hard to find. When the Reichstag was dissolved, the nation returned to Imperial rule, and it was not until 1861 that a new Parliament was convened.

A February 1861 decree established a bicameral Imperial Council (*Reichsrath*). The upper house was the House of Lords (*Herrenhaus*) and the lower house the House of Deputies (*Abgeordnetenhaus*). The two chambers met in separate buildings, each of which had a post-office with its own postmark. The two chambers came together on 4 December 1883 in the new Parliament Building on Vienna’s Ringstrasse. A post-office in this building served both houses.

The 1848/1849 Reichstag.

The letter below was posted at the Reichstag postal agency in Vienna, which operated from 22 July to 31 October 1848. As with any Austrian postal-agency, the agency hand-stamp was supplemented by the postmark of the supervising post-office.



*Folded letter dated Vienna, 6 August 1848 from Deputy Ferdinand von Thinnfeld to his son Hubert in Peggau, Styria. Bears the postal-agency handstamp **POSTBUREAU / REICHSTAGS / IN WIEN**, and then postmarked **Wien / 7 AUG** at the city’s main post-office. Arrival postmark **PEGGAU / 8 AUG**. Members of Parliament enjoyed free postage.*

After the move to Kremsier, a postal-agency was opened to serve the Assembly on 22 October 1848, and used a special handstamp. Mail from there was sent via the main Kremsier post-office who added their own postmark.



Another folded letter from Reichstag Deputy Thinnfeld dated Kremsier 4 December 1848, this time to his daughter in Peggau (Styria). Handstamped **POSTBUREAU / DES / OESTR / REICHSTAGES** at the parliamentary post-office, and then **KREMSIER** (with partial datestamp 6/12) at the town's main post-office. Arrival postmark **PEGGAU / 8 DEC.**

The writer of these first two letters was Ferdinand, Freiherr von Thinnfeld (born in 1793). He worked as minister of agriculture and mining under the young Emperor Franz Joseph I and was also involved in the drafting of the Constitution in 1849 (hence his presence in Kremsier).



1849 folded letter from Reichstag Deputy Škoda to a member of his family in Pilsen, free of postal charges. Postmarked **REICHSTAG P.A. / 7.2 (1849)**. Arrival date-stamp 10/2 on reverse.

The Škoda family owned the huge Škoda armaments and heavy-engineering company in Pilsen. The company diversified into the production of aircraft, locomotives, ships, machine-tools, etc. In 1924, the company acquired a car manufacturer which later became Škoda Auto, still a well-known brand today.

Towards the end of 1848, the parliamentary post-office at Kremsier was upgraded from a postal-agency, supervised by the main Kremsier office, to a full-status post-office in its own right. A new postmark was introduced to reflect this, and mail no longer had to be cancelled at the town's main office.



Cover (no contents) postmarked **REICHSTAG P.A. / 27.2** (1849) and mailed from Deputy Von Löhner free of postal charges to Vienna.

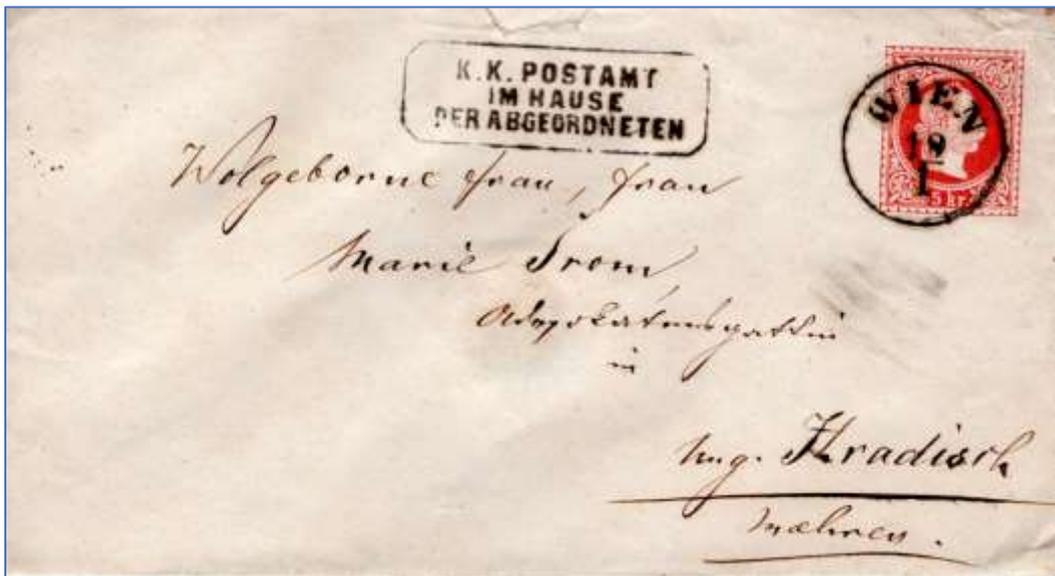
Ludwig Edler von Löhner (1812-1852) was an Austrian physician and poet. During the revolutionary period he spoke up for the Germans in the Austrian Monarchy. As a Member of Parliament he was from 1848-1849 a spokesman for the German left.

The House of Deputies, 1861 to 1883

In 1861, a new Parliament was established with two Houses, located in separate buildings. Each had a postal-agency for use of the Members of Parliament and staff. The House of Deputies agency was provided with a boxed postmark **K.K. POSTAMT / IM HAUSE / DER ABGEORDNETEN**. It is first recorded by Müller on Austria's fifth issue of postage-stamps, but the example below shows it on a third-issue value.



Undated cover franked third-issue 15kr, postmarked **K.K. POSTAMT / IM HAUSE / DER ABGEORDNETEN** and further postmarked at the main Vienna post-office with **WIEN / 8.6 cds.** Addressed to Mauthen, post Kötschach (today merged as Kötschach-Mauthen, Carinthia), with transit postmarks of Laibach, Oberdrauburg and Kötschau.



1867 issue 5kr postal-stationery envelope to Ungarisch Hradisch (Moravia) with handstamp of the House of Deputies postal-agency **K.K. POSTAMT / IM HAUSE DER ABGEORDNETEN** and then postmarked at the supervising main Vienna post-office with **WIEN / 19.1 (1876) cds**.



Receipt for a registered letter to Csorna (Hungary) issued on 31 March 1865 at the postal-agency in the House of Deputies, where it was hand-stamped **K.K. POSTAMT / IM HAUSE / DER ABGEORDNETEN**. The sender paid 15kr postage, 10kr registration-fee and 10kr for the registration-receipt, a total of 35kr.

The following cover is an example of incoming mail to the House of Deputies. The addressee, František Ladislav Rieger (1818-1903), was a Czech politician famous for his leadership of the early Czech nationalist movement within Austria, and was involved with the 1848 Revolution. When that failed to give autonomy to the Czechs, he boycotted the subsequent political structures and was not a Member of the House of Deputies to which the above mail was sent. He was, however, created a Baron in 1887, and was given a seat in the Upper House.



Part-cover (no contents) to F Ladislaus Dr Rieger, Reichsraths-Abgeordnetengebäude, Währingergasse, Wien. The bicameral Parliament was established in February 1861, and the House of Deputies was provisionally housed in a wooden building on Währingergasse (now Währingerstrasse). The letter was at first mis-sent to the outer suburb of Währing, rather than the city-centre street.

In 1878, the postal-agency in the House of Deputies was upgraded to a full post-office, and was then able to cancel mail posted there. A circular date-stamp ABGEORD-HAUS / WIEN was provided.



1882 envelope to Bozen (Bolzano, South Tirol) franked on the back 5kr, cancelled ABGEORD-HAUS / WIEN / 16.12.82.

The House of Lords, 1861 to 1883

The House of Lords (Herrenhaus) was also founded in 1861, and also hosted a postal agency which used the hand-stamp **K.K. POSTAMT / IM HERRENHAUSE**. Although using the term “Postamt”, the office, like that in the House of Deputies, only had the status of a postal-agency. Mail had to go to the supervising main Vienna post-office to be cancelled and put into the main postal network.

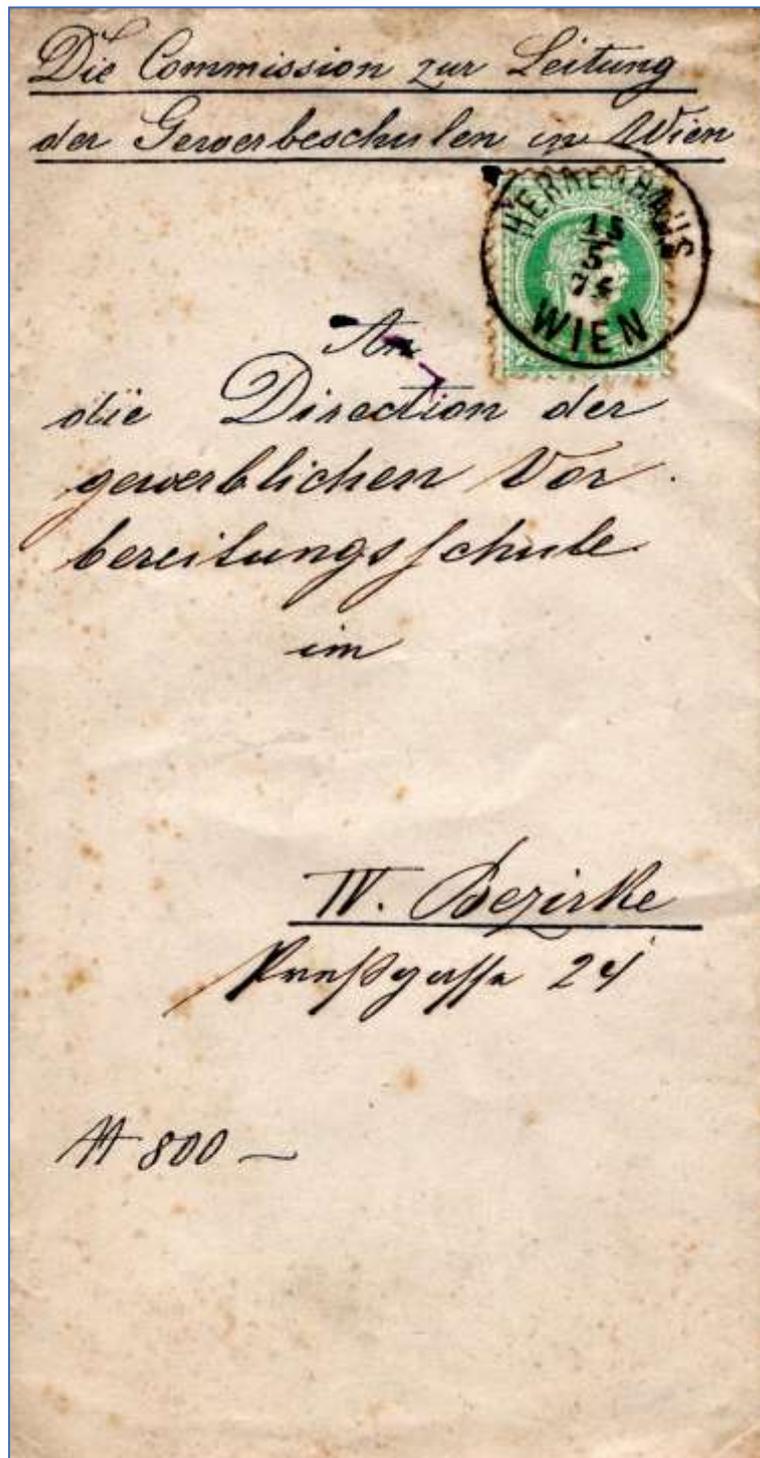


*Folded letter dated 28 February 1865 on the printed letter-heading of the Lower-Austrian Provincial Committee. Sent unfranked as official mail and hand-stamped **K.K. POSTAMT / IM HERRENHAUSE** and further postmarked at the main Vienna post-office with **WIEN / 2.3 cds**. Addressed to Stixenlehen, near Gaming (Lower Austria).*

Although the postal-agency in the House of Deputies was not upgraded to a full post-office until 1878, the House of Lords agency was upgraded much earlier, in 1866. A circular date-stamp **WIEN HERRENHAUS** was introduced then, followed in March 1874 by the similar **HERRENHAUS / WIEN** (with year in date).



*Undated cover to Wien 4 sent at the 3kr local rate and cancelled **WIEN / HERRENHAUS / 18.10**.*



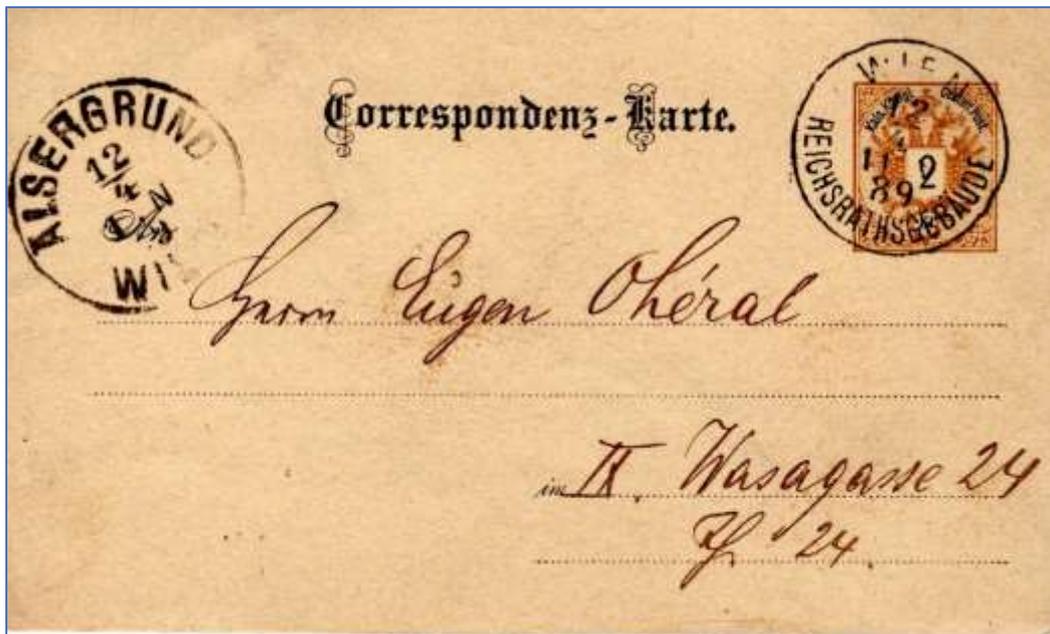
A May 1874 cover to the same address cancelled by the new postmark **HERRENHAUS / WIEN / 15.5.74.**

The Parliament Building, 1883

From 4 December, the two houses were brought together in the new, specially built Parliament Building (Reichsrathsgebäude) on Vienna's Ringstrasse.



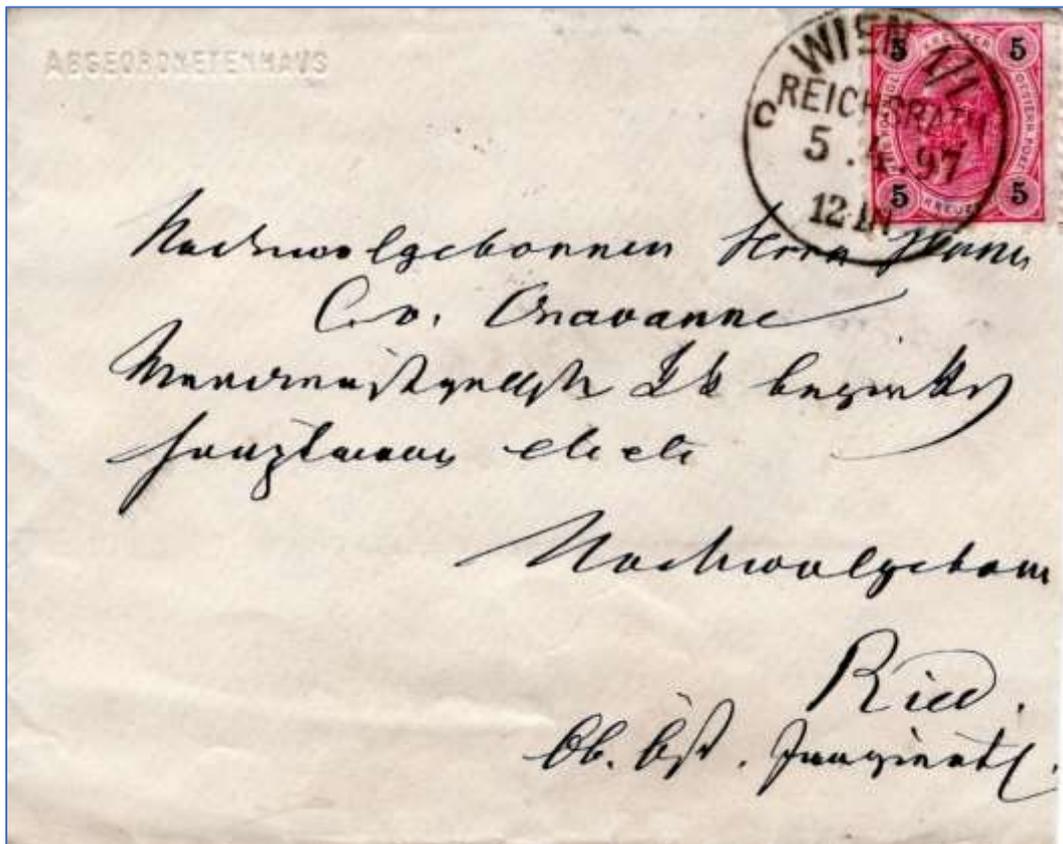
A post-office serving both chambers was established in the new building. The first postmarks were inscribed WIEN / REICHSRATHSGEBÄUDE, and then just WIEN / REICHSRATH from 10 January 1892.



2kr postal-stationery card sent locally within Vienna and cancelled WIEN / REICHSRATHSGEBÄUDE / 12.11.89



1889 1fl telephone card for a five-minute call from Vienna to Brünn cancelled WIEN / REICHSRATHSGEBÄUDE / 21.3.89



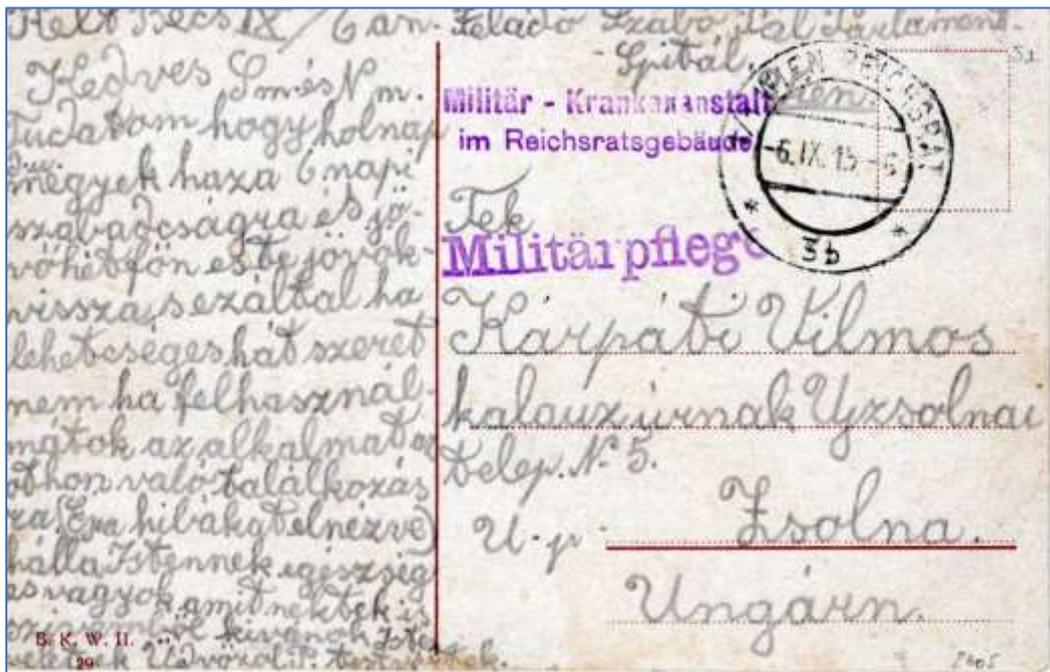
Envelope embossed ABGEORNETENHAUS (House of Deputies) and addressed to Ried (Upper Austria). Franked 5kr, cancelled WIEN / REICHSRATH / 5.4.97/c.



1916 registered envelope to Innsbruck from the Chancellor of the House of Lords with the Parliament’s postmark and registration label. The sender was exempt from postage but had to pay the 25h registration-fee.

In the early twentieth century, the final H was dropped from REICHSRATH.

During the First World War, a military hospital was accommodated within the Parliament building.



Picture-postcard to Zsolna in Hungary postmarked WIEN REICHSRAT / 6.IX.15. Hospital handstamp *Militär-Krankenanstalt/im Reichsratsgebäude* plus *Militärpflege*.

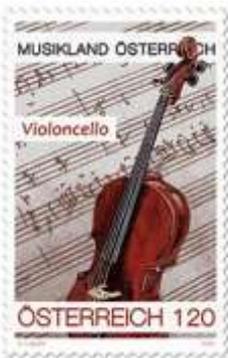
This article ends with the end of the Empire, but the Parliament building on the Ringstrasse continued to operate under the Republic and still houses the Austrian Parliament today. A post-office with its own postmark also remained in operation.

2023 NEW ISSUES (1st instalment)

by Zöld Veltelini, our 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 minisheets, 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 is currently giving only the date of issue!

Cello. 1Eu20; Kirsten Lubach; 18.01.2023; 360,000 in minisheets of 10; Offset; Enschedé. This time the focus for the "Austria, land of music" series is on the violoncello, usually referred to simply as the cello. Like the violin, viola, and double bass, it is a member of the viola da braccio family, but is held upright between the legs when played.



Max Oppenheimer - Tilla Durieux, 1912. 3Eu; Regina Simon; 19.01.2023; 180,000; Offset; Enschedé. "Art as a witness to the age" - with this portrait of Tilla Durieux, Max Oppenheimer, a Viennese protagonist of Expressionism, depicted one of the sparkling personalities of the 20th century.



Ferdinand Porsche – electric car. 1Eu; David Gruber; 27.01.2023; 360,000 in minisheets of 10; Offset; Enschedé. Innovative technology! Electromobility is a highly topical subject nowadays, but Ferdinand Porsche actually developed a car driven by electricity more than 120 years ago, and it is to this that the "Austrian inventions" series is turning its attention. Sheetlet of 10



KTM R100. 2Eu50; David Gruber; 15.02.2023; 160,000; Offset; Enschedé. The birth of a legend! The age of KTM motorbikes started in the spring of 1953, when the KTM R100 was first presented at the Spring Fair in Vienna. Even today, KTM continues to be a fixed star on the



Austrian motorsport scene.

KTM X-BOW GTX 2020. 1Eu50; David Gruber; 15.02.2023; 220,000; Offset; Enschedé. Pure performance! KTM is a traditional Austrian brand which immediately brings motorbikes to mind. However, in 2008, KTM brought its first car to the market: the X-BOW, pronounced 'crossbow'.

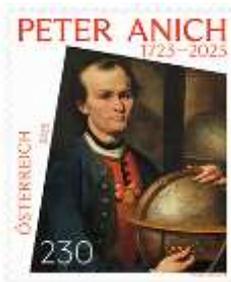


Glückwunsch 2023. 1Eu; 22.2.2023; Theresa Radlingmaier; 360,000; Offset; Cartor Security Printing. There are many reasons to congratulate someone: a birthday, passing an exam or any other

happy event. This cheerful "Congratulations" stamp will delight right from the moment your letter is received.



Trauer 2023. 1Eu; 22.2.2023; Theresa Radlingmaier; 360,000; Offset; Cartor Security Printing. "MOURNING" - Comfort in difficult times. Unfortunately, it is not only happy occasions that make us send cards or other missives. This simple mourning stamp lends an air of dignity to a notice of death or a letter of sympathy.



300th birthday of Peter Anich. 2Eu30; 25.2.2023; Theresa Radlingmaier; 120,000; Offset; Cartor Security Printing. “The peasant cartographer”. Peter Anich’s works are a valuable witness to what was known during his lifetime. On the 300th anniversary of his birth, Austrian Post is dedicating a commemorative stamp to the Tirolean cartographer.



Stamps of the Monarchy; 1916/18. 2Eu50 + 1Eu; 4.3.2023; Anita Kern; 115,000 blocks-of-two; Offset; Enschedé. The 1916/18 series of postage stamps was issued during the First World War. Of particular interest is their different designs, including the portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph I that appeared for the last time.

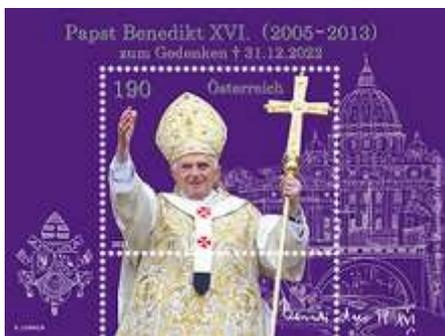
Of particular interest is their different designs, including the portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph I that appeared for the last time.

Subscriber’s Bonus stamp: Lily. 1Eu; 4.3.2023; Brigitte Heiden; 280,000; Offset; Enschedé.



Irises owe their Latin name “Iris” to their variety of colours: Iris is the Greek goddess of the rainbow. The colourful irises are a symbol of loyalty and constancy, as “rainbow flowers” they also symbolize the connection between God and man. All iris species have long, narrow leaves reminiscent of a sword, which in German is Schwert - hence the name Schwertlilie. The plants are hardy; they have no bulbs, but rhizomes from which they sprout again in spring. Irises are a species-rich genus that fascinate with their magnificent variety of colours and shapes. The outer petals of the three-part large flowers hang down. On the loyalty bonus stamp, with which the Post thanks its loyal subscribers, the German iris (*Iris germanica*) can be seen, a hybrid species with a striking yellow “beard” at the base of the purple hanging petals.

Pope Benedict XVI. 1Eu90; 4.3.2023; Kirsten Lubach; 120,000 blocks-of-1; Offset; Enschedé. On the occasion of the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Austrian Post is issuing a commemorative stamp block to celebrate his memory.



Butterfly. 1Eu20; 25.3.2023; advertised but...

Not on OPost web site.

The language of bees. 3Eu; 29.3.2023; Marion Füllerer; 180,000 blocks-of-1; Offset; Cartor Security Printing.

100 years of “The Language of Bees”: in 1923 the Austrian zoologist and ethologist Karl von Frisch (1886-1982) published his work “Über die ‘Sprache’ der Bienen”, in which he presented his decryption of the fascinating dance performed by bees. For this, he received the Nobel Prize 50 years later, in 1973.

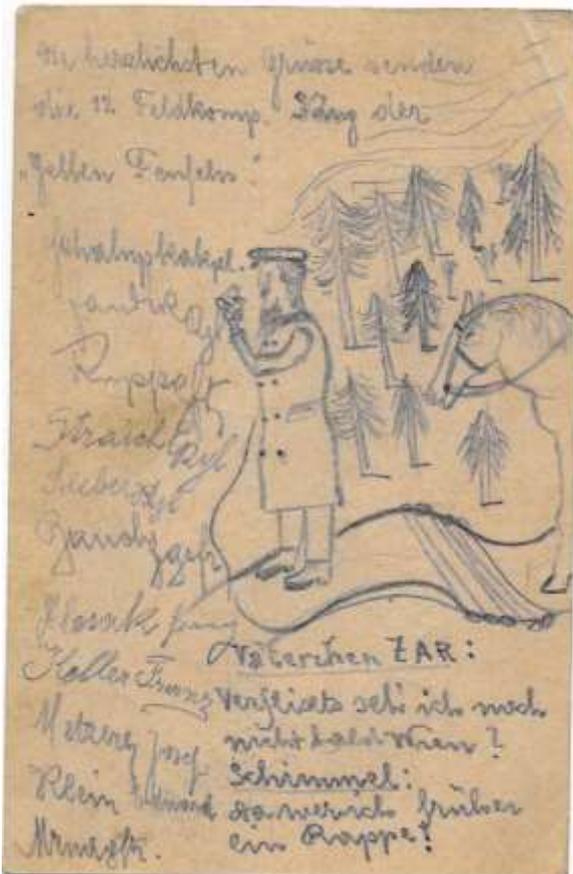


WWI hand-drawn illustrated Feldpostkarten of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

By Andrew Brooks

The article is limited to those illustrations found on feldpostkarten and it is seen that the quality of the sketches varies considerably from the very amateurish to the almost professional. Also, the drawings can be of a patriotic, comic, sentimental or romantic nature. The ten cards selected, nearly all from the front line in 1915/16, were destined for family, friends and newspapers. They are described in chronological order.

The first card (fig1) has a very simple sketch of a bearded soldier holding a pair of binoculars, standing on a log



road with his horse. They are surrounded by conifer trees. The message at the bottom right-hand corner seems to suggest the soldier is meant to be the Tsar of Russia. It was sent to a newspaper in Vienna, by soldiers (many signatures) from the 4th Infantry Division, 99th Infantry Regiment, 12th Field Company, 3rd Platoon. An incomplete feldpost stamp, dated 22/3/15 is present but there is no unit cachet needed for the free postage. However, the feldpost number is given in manuscript as 103. Nagel (Ref 1) places this regiment in the area of the Carpathians.

A more impressive sketch (fig2; for layout reasons figs 2-10 are after the text) with the cancellation K.u.K. Feldpostamt 17, posted on the 5/5/15 was sent by K.u.K. Wattenmeister Knapp (Armourer Serjeant) to his uncle, Anton Hofer. The greetings on the scroll translates as 'Warm Field greetings from the Carpathians'. Additional information in manuscript on the front of the card indicates that this is Machine-gun detachment No.4. Leut. Balzar 16 Group in 131 Brigade. There is also a Hungarian unit cachet. According to Nagel they were engaged in a battle at Tuchla (about 30km N.E. of Przemysl) between 2-6th May 1915.

Another card (fig3) was sent to the Illustrated Kronenzeitung in Pramergasse, Vienna (the card described earlier had also been sent to this newspaper). The paper was founded by Gustav Davis in 1900 and its contents included many illustrations and serialized novels. The sketch could be

interpreted as a carriage from a hospital train and the written message underneath the sketch translates as 'Are you feeling bad'. Men in hammocks and figures sitting down on benches are seen in the drawing. There is no feldpost cancellation, which is not unusual for medical units, but it has a red boxed 'Von der Armee im Felde' and a two-line 'Militarcensur / Sanok'. In manuscript it mentions feldpost 100. Nagel places this unit at Sanok (30km S.E. of Przemysl) during the Battle of Sanok 9-10 May 1915. On the front of the card under the address is written 'Waiting for this sketch to be published'. Again, about a dozen soldiers have signed the card.

The next sketch (fig4) is an impressive artistic drawing of a shell with a garland of oak leaves and acorns. The year is noted as 1915 and 'Hoch Mizzi' (Hi Mizzi) is written in Gothic script on the shell. It was sent by Kanonir Hans Wagner to his girlfriend Mizzi Hector in Vienna. K.u.K.Feldpostamt 186 dated 5/9/15 is recorded for Krakau Fortress HQ. There is a weak unit cachet for the Fortress Artillery. In manuscript Wagner gave his unit as the Fortress Artillery Regiment No.2, Marching Company 13.

An amusing sketch (fig5) in ink and colour depicts a soldier (Russian?) sitting next to a bomb. The title below the sketch is translated as 'In spite of the bombs and grenades they did not work in the Carpathians'. K.u.K. Feldpostamt 223 is dated 7/11/15 and the unit cachet is K.u.K. Festungartilleriebataillon Nr.1 Signaller Reperl Leimvither has also added '52 Half-Brigade' in manuscript. Another cachet, Uberpruft, indicates that the card has been checked. It was sent to his Uncle Johann and aunt in Vienna. At this time, he was writing from the

Saguna valley in the Tirol. Today the region is part of Italy but in 1915 it was still part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

The interpretation of this sketch (fig6) is not fully understood., but it seems to be some sort of bathing machine. A tank inside a building has pipes leading to dome shaped structures in a horse (?) drawn cart. The only clue is written in manuscript and it reads 'Hiegenie in Bad im Felde' which could be 'Hygienic bathing in the Field'. The cancellation is K.u.K Etappenpostamt 329 dated 10/11/15. A two-line unit cachet is K.k Kommando der Vereinigten / Marschhalbkompagnie (United half-company HQ). They were part of the Isonzo 5th Army, Quartermeisterabteilung Gruppe L.

I would imagine that this simple sketch (fig7) of a castle would have been close to where Karl Shots was stationed in the Isonzo Valley. Writing home to the family in Graz in February 1916, his unit would have been regrouping between the 4th Battle of the Isonzo which finished on 2/12/15 and the 5th Battle which commenced the 9/3/16. As the Austro-Hungarian casualties were very light in the 5th Isonzo, he may have survived. K.u.K Feldpostamt 32 is noted for the 6th Infantry Division and the unit cachet is K.u.K.Inft. Regnt. Nr. 27 / IV Baon. This regiment remained in the 6th Infantry Division (HQ in Graz) throughout the war. The other cachet Maschinen-gewehrabteilung (Machine-gun Detachment) confirms the other information he has given in manuscript.

Fig 8 shows a card sent to a newspaper in Graz and as there was no unit cachet a 10 heller postage due was written in blue crayon. It has a civil cancellation for Gross Steinbach dated 3/3/16 (about 25km east of Graz). The sender gave a manuscript feldpost number 57. This is recorded as the 25th Infantry Division, at this time in Galicia. The illustration is of a 5th Ulhan (lancer) on his horse. The translation of the comment on the right-hand side top edge reads 'Rise noble steed and brace yourself! There the Oak Wreath beckons.' The cavalymen who signed the card also sent their greetings to those at home.

A very simple sketch (fig9) sent from Gyor (about 50km west of Budapest) on the 30/12/16 is the only card sent of this group sent to a soldier in the front line. It was addressed to someone in feldpost 74 which is recorded for the 10th Corps HQ in Przemysl. Translated from the Hungarian: 'Ez egy sapkd' (This is a cap) and 'Ez egy eger!' (This is a mouse).

The final card (fig10), a sentimental example, has a sketch of a heart-shaped wreath of flowers in front of an anchor and a wooden cross. In the centre of the wreath are the words 'Vergiss mein nicht' (Forget me not). Rupert Obasse of the K.u.K. Infantry Regiment 59, 7/10 Medical Field Company sent this card to a lady in rooms at Dorf Fusch, an area at the foot of the Grossglockner Mountain. The K.u.K. Feldpostamt 223 dated 8/8/17 is identified for 181 Brigade based in the Tirol. The unit cachet is K.u.K.I.R. Erzherog Rainer No. 59 Komp.

Although I have collected British WWI Postal History for many years, hand-illustrated postcards were very rare. This was probably because the British did not have the equivalent of the feldpostkarte and relied on the Field Service Post Card and the picture postcard, both having little or no space to draw a sketch.

References.

Katalog der K.u.K. Feldpostamter und deren Einsatzgebiete mit Truppen und Kriegereignissen. By Heinz Nagel.
The Austro-Hungarian Forces in the Field, October 1918. Published by The Imperial War Museum Department of Printed Books and The Battery Press, Inc.



Fig 2

MAIL FROM EDWIN MÜLLER

by Keith Brandon with the help of Henry Pollak

Readers will be very familiar with the name *Edwin Müller / Mueller*. His handbooks of the postmarks of the pre-stamp and classic periods of Austrian Empire philately are still the “go-to” references, more than sixty years after their publication.

While sorting through my postage-due collection, I found a March 1916 postcard, shown below, sent by Edwin Müller. Could this be THE Edwin Müller? It is not an uncommon name; a Google search reveals several of them. And a distinguished Dutch philatelist Edwin Müller (no relation) was a member of the A.P.S for many years.

Müller was born in Vienna on 2 December 1898 and was interested in stamps from an early age. After the First World War, he took over the philatelic magazine “Die Postmarke” around 1922, and was given the task of organising the 1933 WIPA Philatelic Exhibition. Through his writing he became a distinguished philatelist with a worldwide reputation. After the Anschluss, Müller emigrated to the United States where he continued as a philatelic author, stamp-dealer and auctioneer. He died in New York on 4 October 1962.



If Müller had written my postcard, he would have been aged seventeen at the time. It was sent from Edwin Müller, Ringplatz 10, Budweis, Böhmen, and is postmarked **BUDWEIS 8 / BUDĚJOVICE 8**. The picture-side shows views of Gerthausen, a one-horse town in Thuringia, Germany. The sender's name **E. MÜLLER** is hand-stamped in red on the picture side.

The card was addressed to Sofia, Bulgaria and the text translates as: “I am disposed to continue to exchange with you. Please send me (them) soon.” Exchange what? Perhaps

stamps if it is THE Edwin Müller. But he did not put an Austrian stamp on the card! Or perhaps to exchange postcards. That might explain the card from the obscure Gerthausen. However, the card was either undeliverable or the addressee refused to pay the 20 stotinki postage due, and it was returned to Budweis where the sender was charged 20 hellers postage due (twice the deficiency).

I was no nearer establishing whether the sender of my card was the eminent philatelist or not. In particular, I did not know why the Vienna-born Müller was in Budweis (České Budějovice in the Czech Republic today). It could have been part of his schooling, or perhaps training as a military cadet, or perhaps it was another Edwin Müller altogether.





At this point I sought the assistance of Henry Pollak, one of the longest-serving members of the APS. Like Edwin, Henry emigrated to the USA from Austria, and the two of them got to know each other in American philatelic circles. Henry produced from his collection the postcard shown here. It is from Edwin Müller in Budweis to Constantinople. The sender's address is typed in the same way as on my card; it features Großröhrsdorf, another small town in Germany. The handwriting is the same, with the same red handstamp.

As before, the postcard was sent unfranked. A 1 piaster postage due was affixed, but the addressee could not be traced. An **Unbekannt / Inconnu** (unknown) label was applied, and the card presumably returned to Budweis (although no Austrian postage-due stamps are affixed). It begins to look as if Herr Müller was forming a collection of overseas postage-due stamps by sending postcards to fictitious addresses.



We now have two cards from Edwin Müller but still no certainty about whether this was the distinguished philatelist. At this point Henry Pollak pulled a rabbit out of his hat: a feldpost card from Edwin Müller, in the Cadet Corps, mailed from FPA 511a on 15 February 1918 and in the same handwriting (shown on the next page). On that date, Edwin Müller would have been aged 19 and would have had his university education suspended while he served in the army. Field post office 511a was on the Italian front and suffering a particularly miserable snowy winter. Possibly this was part of Müller's training to become an Officer.

2023 AGM: Notice is hereby given that the 2023 AGM of the APS will take place ON LINE on Wednesday 11 October 2023 at noon (12:00) U K time. There may be a philatelic presentation afterwards, technology permitting. All members, wherever they live, are invited to take part. Please email the Hon Secretary to register your intention; you'll then be emailed the link to attend shortly before the event, and also receive any documents distributed in advance.

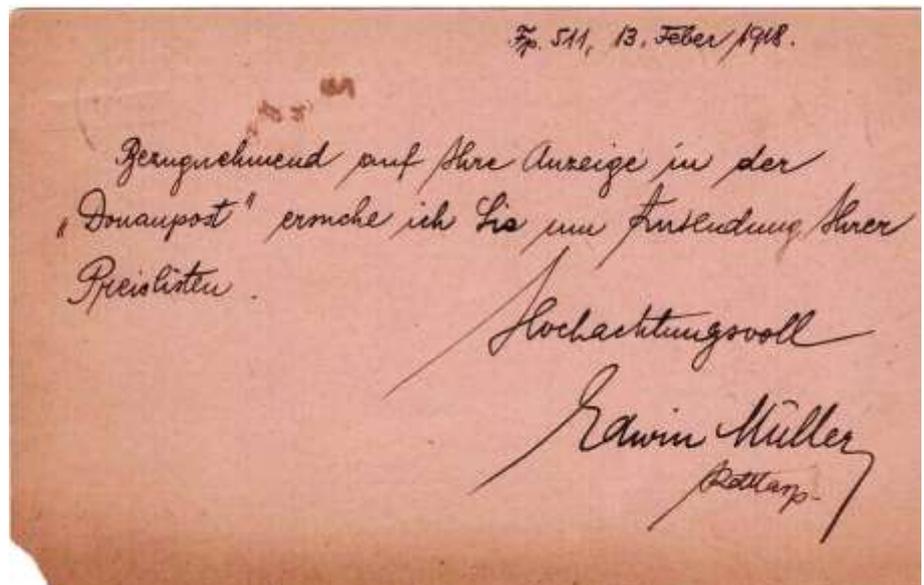


The card was addressed to Paul Gewelke in Berlin. Paul Gewelke (aka Pablo Gewelke) was a stamp-dealer specialising in the philately of Argentina and South America. In the late nineteenth century he had run his business from Buenos Aires. These are copies of his advertisements in the Philatelisten Zeitung yearbook for 1890/91 and the Birmingham- (England) based Philatelic Chronicle of January 1904.

Pablo Gewelke,
 Casilla 962, Buenos-Ayres
 (Argentinische Republik)
 offerirt alle Sorten argentinischer Marken, Provisorien, Officials, Ganzsachen, gebraucht und ungebraucht, sowie Postwerthzeichen von Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Corrientes etc. etc. unter Garantie der Echtheit.
 Preisliste 20 Pt. franko. 10

ARGENTINE STAMP CO.,
PAUL GEWELKE,
 Berlin, S.W., Friedrich Str. 14.
 Wholesale price lists of South America, sets, &c, post free. 63

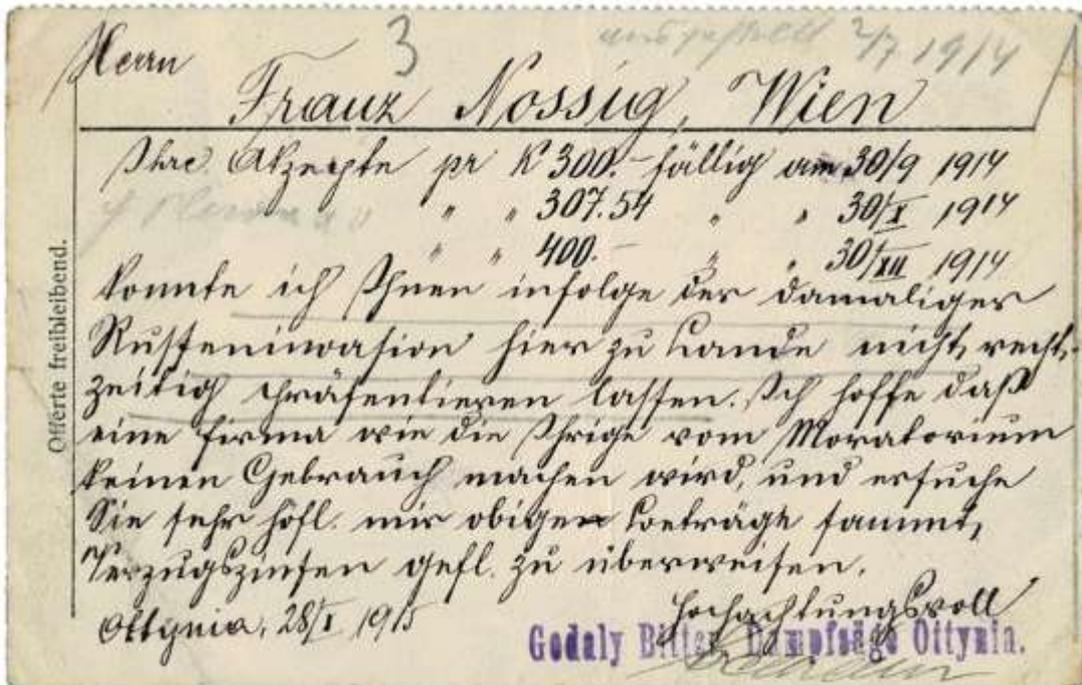
The text of Edwin Müller’s card from the trenches reads: “With reference to your advertisement in Donaupost, I ask you to send your price-list”. The timescale of these postcards and the sender’s interest in philately have convinced Henry Pollak and I that our postcards are from THE Edwin Müller, We are proud to have in our collections mail from this figurehead of Austrian philately.



Author’s note. As well as Henry, I would like to thank Andy Taylor for his assistance with this article. If readers have other material from Edwin Müller, I would be pleased to receive scans. World War One collectors may care to look at their mail from FPA 511a to see if it was written by Edwin Müller. They may also have a rabbit in their hat!

A postcard with complications

Question from GF: I have just bought a post card 1914 with a 5k stamp. Thing that intrigued me was that it had a 50h fiscal stamp. Is it some sort of receipt tax? I have heard of receipts for telephone items but this is just an ordinary business card. Any advice would be appreciated.



Reply: a Dampfsägewerke is a steam-powered sawmill. Kolomea, now Kolomyia, is a city located on the Prut River in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, in western Ukraine, about 200km from the border with Slovakia. The most likely explanation is that the senders had to sue the recipients for non-payment, and produced this document as evidence - for which there was a tax; I think flat rate. Or, it was a pro rata tax on whatever they were ordering - total price of 1007.54Kr. That seems less likely for a posted card.

Anyone with an explanation for the various cancels and cachets is invited to write to the Editor!

THE 1910 EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY ISSUE

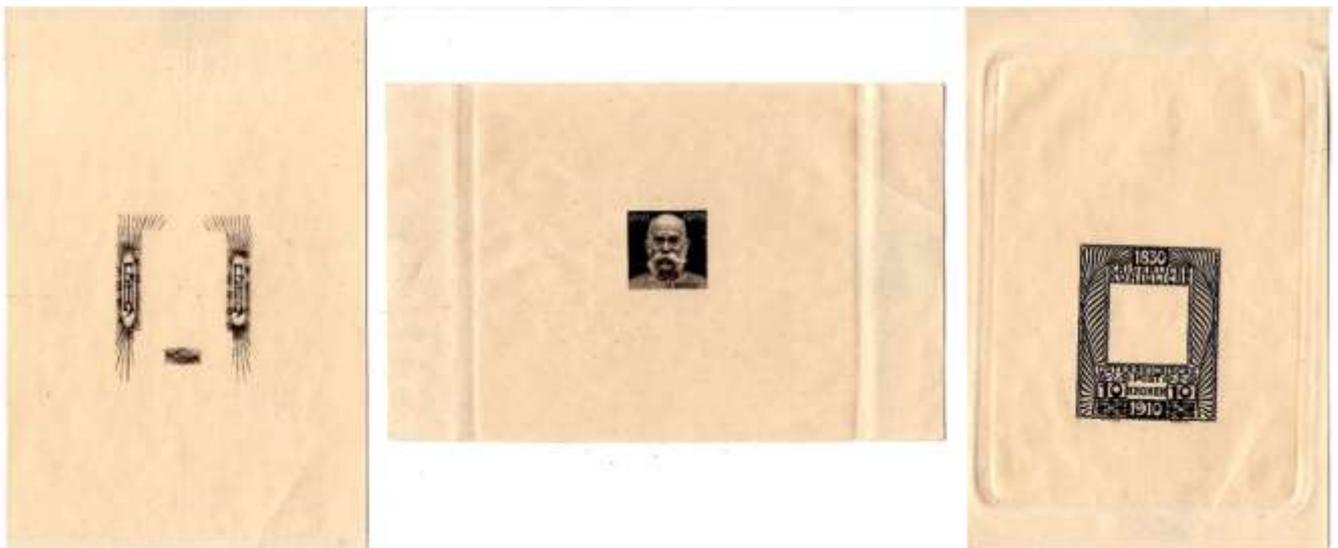
by Keith Brandon

A series of stamps was issued in 1910 to commemorate the eightieth birthday of Emperor Franz Joseph I. They were first sold on his actual birthday, 18 August 1910, and had a short life, being invalidated on 31 December the same year. This article sets out mainly to show the usage of these stamps.

The series of seventeen values used the designs from the 1908 Jubilee issue, but stretched vertically to incorporate the year dates 1830 and 1910. The Jubilee design was also adapted for the War Charity set of 1914 and the first stamps of Liechtenstein, for whom Austria provided postal services, in 1912. The Liechtenstein stamps portrayed their Prince John II. The 10 heller value of each of these sets is shown below.



A set of proofs of the Birthday set printed in black was also made available to collectors. The 10 kronen value, which was proofed and printed in three parts is shown below. The full set is listed in the 2008 Ferchenbauer catalogue (part II page 273).



Unlike the Jubilee series, definitive stamps used for eight years, the Birthday set was a commemorative issue, valid for less than four months and restricted in its distribution to post-offices. For most values, the initial issue was to large post-offices only and could not be re-ordered. Complete sets could be ordered in advance from the Vienna philatelic counter. Only the 5, 10 and 25 heller values were available to all post-offices on an unrestricted basis. These were the inland rates for a postcard, a letter weighing up to 20g and a letter weighing up to 250g respectively. The 25h value also served for a foreign letter up to 20g.

This usage was reflected in the numbers of stamps printed. More than eight million of the 10h and nearly seven million of the 5h values were issued. The other values up to 1 Krone each had between 120,000 and 160,000 pieces printed while the three high values each had between 25,000 and 30,000 stamps made. Apart from the three popular values, most of these stamps went into the philatelic trade, and most of them probably still exist today in collectors' albums! They are not rare. The high values are pricey, but are regularly offered in Austrian auction catalogues.

What is rare is the commercial, non-philatelic use of all but the 5, 10 and 25 heller values. The Jubilee definitives continued to meet the postal need for other values throughout and beyond the period of the Birthday issue.

This envelope shows one of the unrestricted values used commercially from a chemical factory in Salzburg to a paint factory in Bavaria - regular usage as a definitive stamp.



The first-day cover below uses the 1h, 3h and 6h Birthday values to make up the inland letter-rate. Was this sent by/to a stamp collector? Probably. It would have been more straightforward to use a 10h stamp but the sender wanted to use some of the “restricted” values.



But what about the next one? This is part of a registered envelope from a soldier in Linz to a military doctor in Sarajevo franked with eleven copies of the 5h Birthday value to make up the correct 55h (25h registration fee plus 30h third-weight letter). Is it a philatelic franking or were only low-value stamps available in the sender's camp?



The following example appears to be definite commercial use of the 1 Krone value. The envelope to Marienbad from the Union Bank in Prague uses the *Empfangsanzeige* (confirmation receipt) service, denoted by the **R.E.** handstamp. This service had been introduced for registered letters and enabled the sender to request that he (rather than the originating post-office) be notified by the destination post-office of the delivery of the letter. The 25h fee for this and the 25h registration fee were included in the 1K franking.



The three unrestricted values were of little help for local mail which benefitted from a 6h rate. Usually Jubilee definitives would be used, and it is worth looking out for examples with the rate made up from Birthday values. The letter below was mailed within Prague and uses a 6h plus two 3h Birthday stamps for the 12h postage for a second-weight letter.



The next example comprises a second-weight letter to Vienna posted in the railway-station letter-box in Bregenz. Coming from a silk-tape manufacturer, the envelope appears at first to be commercial usage. However, the 20h franking made up with a variety of Jubilee and Birthday values looks distinctly philatelic. You decide!



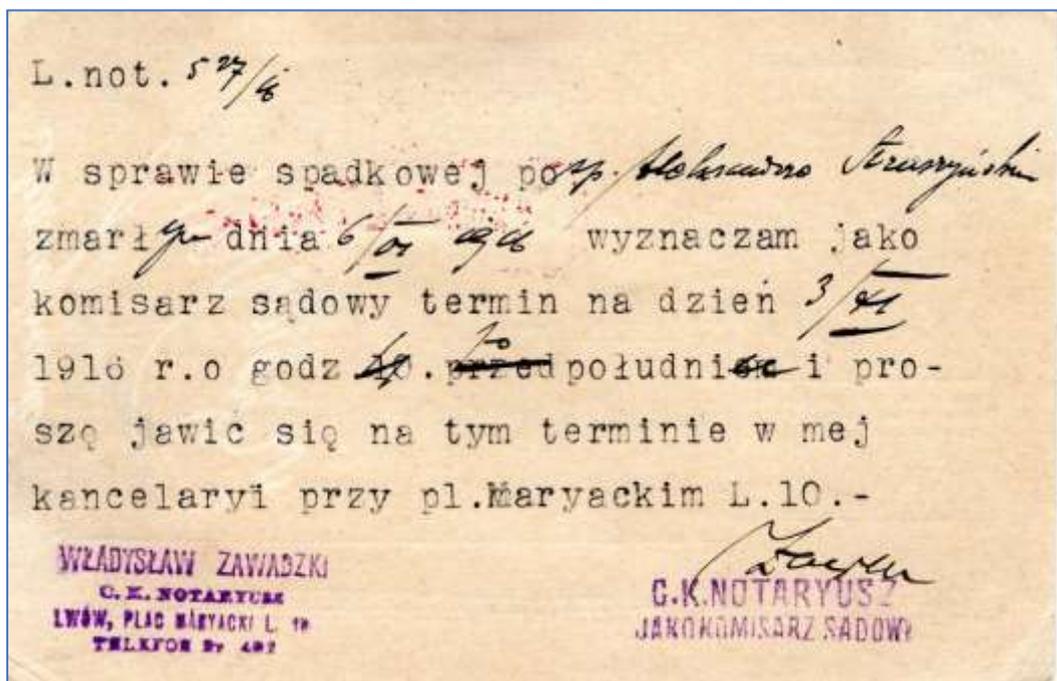
Finally, a piece of philatelic fun. This 1914 envelope from Salzburg to Eger bears the 5h green values from the Jubilee, Birthday and War Charity issues. The Birthday stamp was long-invalidated, but the other two adhesives are sufficient to pay the 10h postage.



AN INTERESTING ITEM OF LAW-COURT MAIL

by Keith Brandon

This post-free postcard was sent in October 1916 by a Lwów lawyer acting as Court Commissioner for Sadowa (50km to the west). It is addressed to the household of the deceased Aleksander Struszynski, with an invitation to discuss the latter's will in the lawyer's Lwów office on 3 November 1916 at noon.



When the lawyer sent mail from his private practice, he would have had to pay postage like anyone else. However, in his capacity as a Court Commissioner, he was entitled to send mail with the postage to be paid by the addressee. The addressee's post-office affixed 2 x 4h due-stamps for the amount to be collected. However, they could not find the addressee and marked the card *Chocimska 9 meznany* (=unknown at Chocimska 9) and *retour*. Because of the lawyer's post-free status, the due-stamps were invalidated with the **UNGULTIG** handstamp when the card was returned to sender.



The postcard raises two interesting questions. Why was the postage due assessed at 8h, rather than the postcard rate of 10h, and why are there no postmarks?

A discounted postcard rate of 8h was introduced on 1 October 1916 provided that a postal-stationery card was used. This card has no value imprint because the Court Commissioner was exempt from postage, but it still qualified as a postal-stationery card and for the discount.

Why no postmarks? The address was about 500m from the main railway-station, and the delivery office was probably therefore Lwów 2, located at the station. The Russians occupied Lwów during the early part of WW1 and used Russian postmarks. The city was liberated in June 1915, but it seems that many of the former cancellers had been lost, damaged or stolen during the occupation.

The Stempelprotokoll for Galicia records the Lwów 1 office receiving a batch of new cancellers on or about 10 October 1915, but Lwów 2 not until 30 March 1917. The station was set on fire by the retreating Russian troops on June 20, 1915, and this may have affected operations of the Lwów 2 post-office.

Author's note: My thanks to APS Members Ingerit Kuzych and Martin Brumby who helped me analyse this card.

WANTED! A 300DPI scan of a cover or postcard with a Deutschösterreich-overprinted postage due (any face value). Offers to the Editor, please.



IN SEARCH OF BITINJA

By Frans Jorissen

Recently, I acquired a small collection of Austrian postal stationery, in which I found a very nice card, cancelled by the very rare office of Bitinja in Krain.



The card, a number 1, type 2 (issued in June 1870) was sent on 19 January 1871 from Bitinja to Laibach (Ljubljana), where it arrived one day later. On the back is a transit cancel of St. Peter in Krain, nowadays Pivka in Slovenia.



In the Klein catalogue, the cancel of Bitinja is described as n° 334a, and it is indicated that the locality named Bitinje is situated in the crownland Krain, in postal district n° 1, with Adelsberg (now Postojna) as chief office.

The Klein catalogue also mentions that the post office of Bitinje has not always been operational. The post office was only created on 16 June 1867, but was closed on 22 September 1871. It re-opened for a short period on 1 July 1872, until 7 March 1873. The fact that this post office was open for less than 5 years in total should make this cancel quite rare, and accordingly, Klein rates it at 100 points.

Of course, I was tempted to find out where exactly this card was coming from. It is always interesting to find out from cards have been sent, and what these places looked like some 150 years ago. Normally this information is easy to obtain, but in some cases it is more difficult, and a real enquiry is needed to find the information. We can

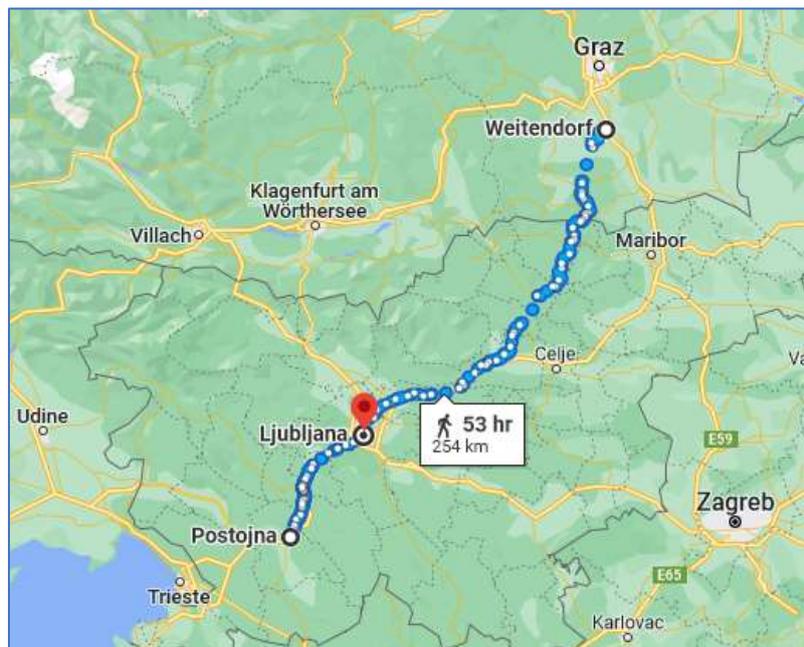
only wonder how the postmen of these times managed (most of the time....) to get the mail delivered to the right place.

Concerning this card sent from Bitinja, a look in Ritter's Geographisch-Statistisches Lexikon of 1883 didn't give the answer. No locality named Bitinja or Bitinje listed in there.

But fortunately, today we have Google. A first trial, with "Bitinja" and "Krain" brought me to Donja Bitinja (or Доња Битиња) in the present state of Kosovo. Now this is almost 1000 km south of Postojna, and this territory was never a part of the Austrian empire, so it is highly unlikely that this is the right place.



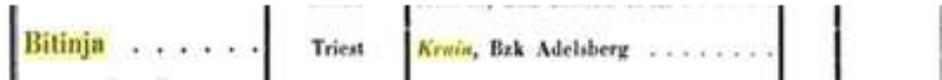
The next thing I found was a text mentioning a certain Betinja vas, or Bitinja vas, that in German was called Weitendorf. Weitendorf is a village in Austria close to the Slovenian border, much better!



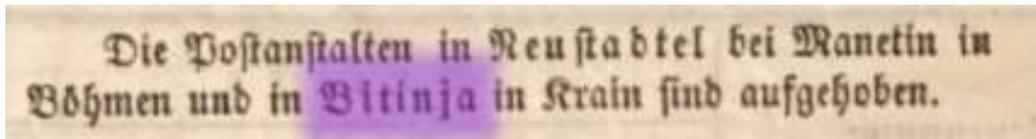
But unfortunately, today the village is part of Styria (Steiermark), and it is some 250 km away from Postojna. So again, this didn't seem to fit.

When I had nearly lost hope of finding the whereabouts of Bitinja, I found the place mentioned in some old official circulars and newspapers. First, in the "Meilenweiser" (the tables with distances between localities used to calculate postal rates) of the Prag post office of 1867, there was a short message telling that the place existed,

and was indeed to be found in the district Adelsberg (Postojna) of the Kronland Krain. So at least the information in Klein was correct!

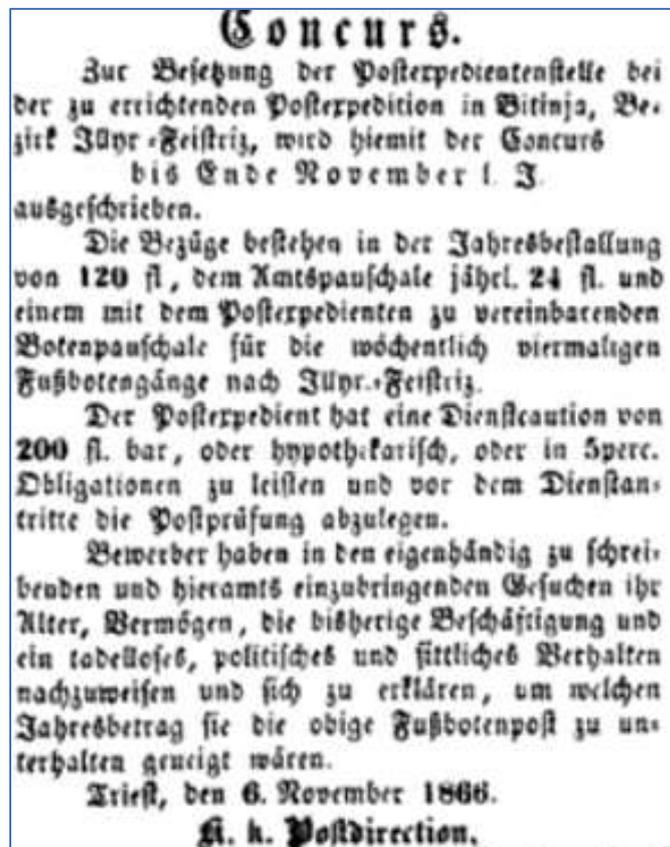


Even more interesting was a message in n° 21 of the Amtsblatt of the German Post, of 28 March 1873 informing the reader that the post offices in Neustadtel in Bohemia and Bitinja in Krain had been closed.



This fully confirmed the information given in Klein that the office was definitely closed on 8 March 1873, but still didn't tell me where to find this village.

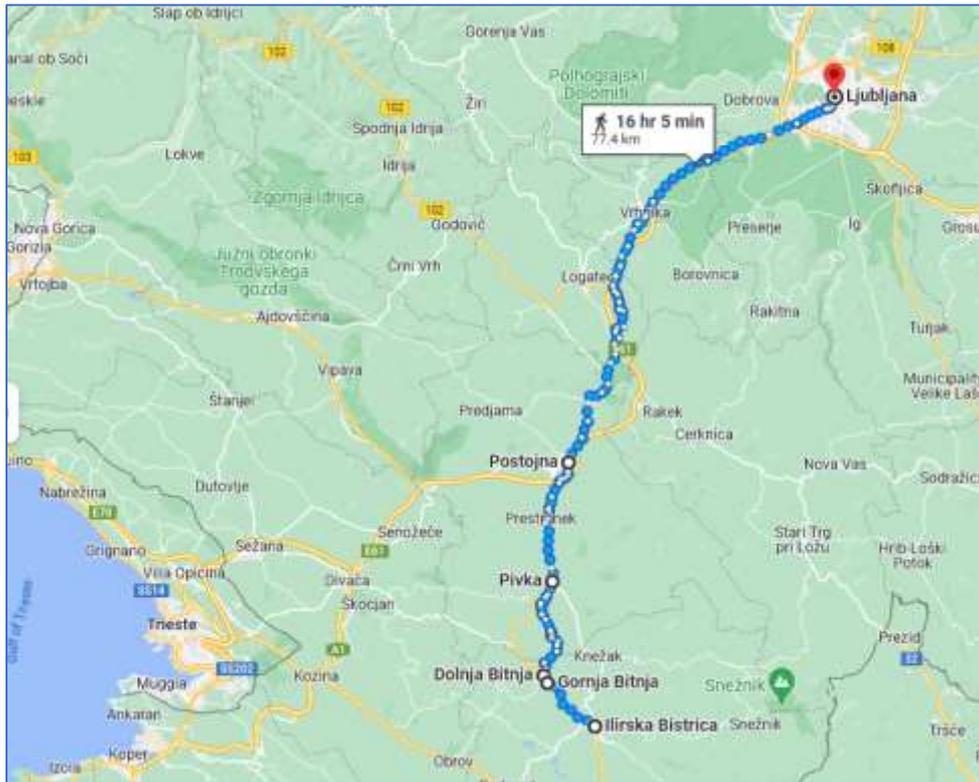
The final clue came from an advertisement in the local official journal of Ljubljana of 17 November 1866:



The advertisement calls for applications for the position of a postal employee at the office of Bitinja, that would be opened shortly. The salary amounted to 24 gulden per year plus a compensation (to be negotiated!) for the mail carrier, who had to walk 4 times a week to Illyrisch Freistitz (today Ilirska Bistrica).

So Bitinja had to be at walking distance from Ilirska Bistrica, which is indeed only 25 km away from Postojna. This had to be the right place!

Scrutinizing the surroundings of Ilirska Bistrica on the Google map finally brought the answer: 5 km NW of Ilirska Bistrica, and 20 km south of Postojna, there are two very small settlements named Dolnja Bitnja and Gornja Bitnja. In 2002 they had 74 and 42 inhabitants, respectively. Around 1870, these two settlements must together have formed the village of Bitinja. The transit cancel of St. Peter in Krain (nowadays Pivka) on the card sent from this village to Ljubljana (north of Postojna) now makes fully sense. The riddle was solved !



I even found a picture of the entrance of the main village. There can hardly have been more inhabitants in 1871 than today. It's amazing that a card sent from such a remote place ended up in my collection!



Frans Jorissen, jorissen@wanadoo.fr

Report of Joint CPSGB-APS Meeting, held at York Fair on Sat 21 January 2023

A baker's dozen of members and partners of one or both societies attended the meeting. It was in Box 1 on the very top floor, from which we could have literally had a grandstand view of the racecourse had it not been shrouded in fog. We thank the organisers for arranging for us to use the room free of charge, and the Wheatleys for bringing the frames.

Round 1 began with **Joyce Boyer's** "first village". This was Gries im Sulztal; when she was checking her collections against drafts of Hans Moser's new book, she found she had one not recorded anywhere. It is now.

Next, **Barry Clark** showed a collection he had recently bought. As it's so well written up, he'd decided to keep it rather than break it up. Each sheet features an Edwardian-era colour card of an Austrian town or village in the Tirol, with details about it.



Finally, **Yvonne Wheatley** educated us with a display of Pre-stamp Prague.

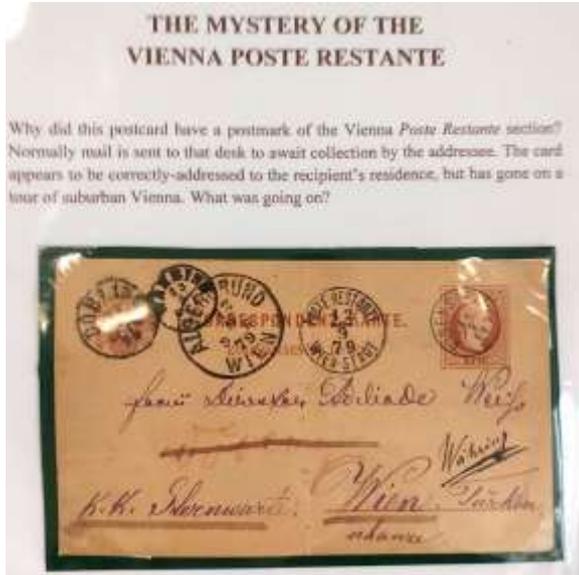
Round 2 commenced with **Andy Taylor's** Ragbag. He - like many others - had been clearing out cupboards, so filled 2 frames with the obligatory music item (Mozart on A3), Vienna Tram Day cancels, VOePh annual thanks-for-your-membership cards, etc

Apologies for the picture quality - they were all taken on an allegedly smart phone, and also suffered badly from light flare on the plastic protectors.



Alan Berrisford showed us more of his superb Austrian Poland.

Keith Brandon concluded the round with another cupboard item: The Mysterious Case Of The Viennese PosteRestante, first seen in AUSTRIA 155 of Autumn 2006.



Round 3 started with **Joyce Boyer's** second village: Huben, in Längenfeld. Outclassing Gries im Sulztal, she had not one but two unrecorded cancels, from 1899 and 1900.

Keith Brandon showed us Misdirected Mail, where sender error, postal ignorance, etc caused mail to be delivered to the wrong place. [Many years ago, Henry Pollak remarked that, statistically, this is most likely to occur with St. Georgen: Klein lists 19 St Georgens!]



Brief words of thanks preceded a return to "dealer-baiting" downstairs.

Ho van Beet.



John Pitts concluded proceedings with Air Mails from Austria and Czechoslovakia.



Ulm International Briefmarken Borse

By Andy Taylor

International Stamp Fair October 27-29, 2022, Ulm Fair

This venture is the reincarnated Sindelfingen fair, enhanced and improved. The official catalogue says:

A warm welcome to all at the International Stamp Fair in Ulm, the new meeting place for the stamp scene. Finally talking shop again among like-minded people, the latest collector trends, top-class lectures, special exhibitions and competitions at a high level.

Almost 80 specialist dealers, auction houses, accessory manufacturers and publishers offer everything a philatelist's heart desires. A large number of working groups (ArGe) round off the offer. Beginners and advanced users are sure to find what they are looking for here.

In Ulm, too, the International Stamp Exchange is under the patronage of the Association Internationale des Journalistes Philateliques (AIJP) - a special distinction that underlines the high standard of events with an international orientation.

The sponsors of the International Stamp Exchange in Ulm are The Regional Association of Southwest German Stamp Collectors' Associations and the Stamp Dealers' Association APHV. The event is held in close cooperation with Deutsche Post AG.

What's this stamp?



For the special day-of-the-stamp issue of 1st December 1954, the Austrian Post Office selected the rather unusual design of the “Ulmer Ordinari” passing along the Danube in front of the Abbey of Melk. This somewhat primitive vessel, propelled partly by oars, first started to provide a regular (thus “ordinary”) service along the Danube between Regensburg in Bavaria and Vienna on 24th March 1696. Starting at Ulm in Württemberg, it carried both passengers and mail, thus providing the first regular mail service on the river. Also called the “Ulmer Schachtel” (box or case), this large river barge provided the principal means of conveyance of mail, passengers and freight,

throughout the 18th and into the beginning of the 19th century.

The event

The Fair took place in the Ulm Messe-Halle, a modern building in walkable distance of city-centre hotels (or by tram from the station). It's lighter and airier than the Sindelfingen hall, and was filled with dealers' stands, displays, over 40 society stands, and a heaving horde of philatelists more than happy to pay the 5 Euro daily entrance fee. The show was on one floor, spread over two large halls.

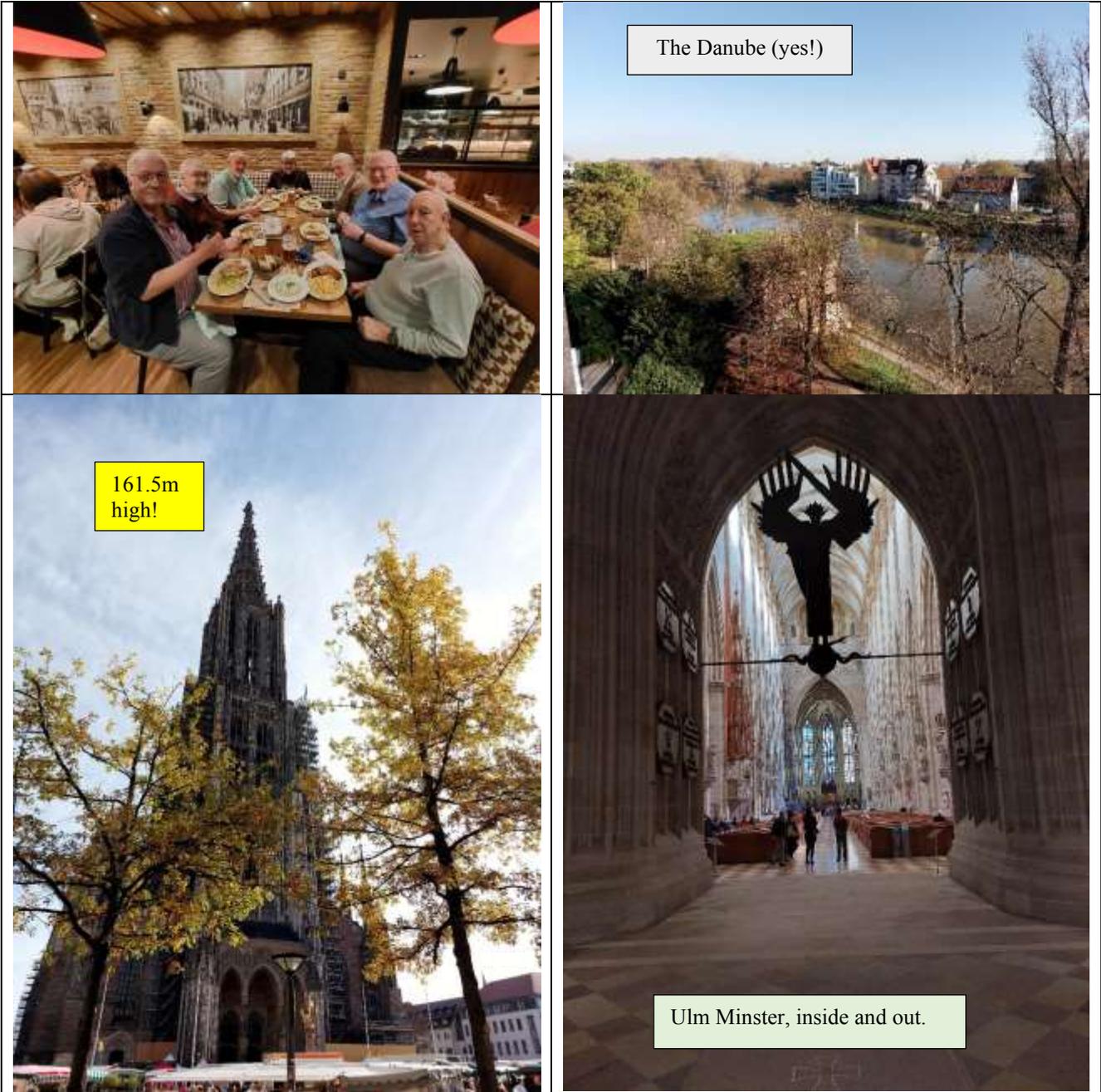
Deutsche Post and their counterparts (but not Austria!) brought an extensive range of new items and special postmarks (at least 5), cachets and other products. The stand of the BPP (Guild of Proofers) was prominently placed in the foyer, and was busy with collectors. There was also a Postal History Symposium with top-class speakers from Germany and abroad. The international competition exhibition “Postal History - Live” was an integral part of the International Stamp Exchange in Sindelfingen for decades and is now continued in Ulm. Entries came from Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland, and 3 from Austria. And the regional exhibition REMSMA 2022 had 36 entries, several on Austrian topics.

Was it worth the trip?

About a dozen philatelists from Britain were spotted, having travelled in various parties. The midlands-and-north group, *Last Of The Summer Wine Tours*, had decided to fly from Manchester. So, alarm at 04:30; leave house 05:15; meet up with colleagues; arrive Manchester 09:00, eventually clear airport security 10:30, arrive Frankfurt 14:00 to be directed politely but gleefully into the Foreign Countries queue at passport control. Passport stamps while you wait. ICE train arriving Ulm 18:00; taxi to hotel. Gold Ochsen Original beer is excellent! Weather unseasonably warm. Restaurants: one missing in action, one excellent, one superb. Ulm is a far more interesting location than Sindelfingen with more to see - its Minster has the highest steeple in the world.

We had to travel back to Frankfurt on Saturday afternoon to catch the Sunday flight; the “next the airport” hotel wasn’t walkable-to unless you like strolling along autobahns at night! However, a nearby Italian restaurant was well worth the orienteering needed to reach it. The hour’s time zone difference, plus the summer-to-winter change on Sunday, provoked much discussion: which devices would automatically change, which would need manual intervention? I was disappointed not to have found the few philatelic pieces I especially wanted, although five unlisted items were added to my bag. The most useful part of my 2-day visit was meeting in person several Austrian and German contacts that I only knew by email.

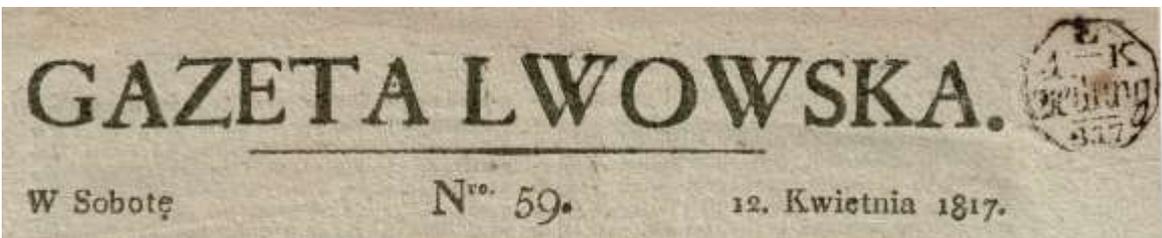
The good, the bad, and the scenery



The Danube (yes!)

161.5m high!

Ulm Minster, inside and out.



Andy’s goodie

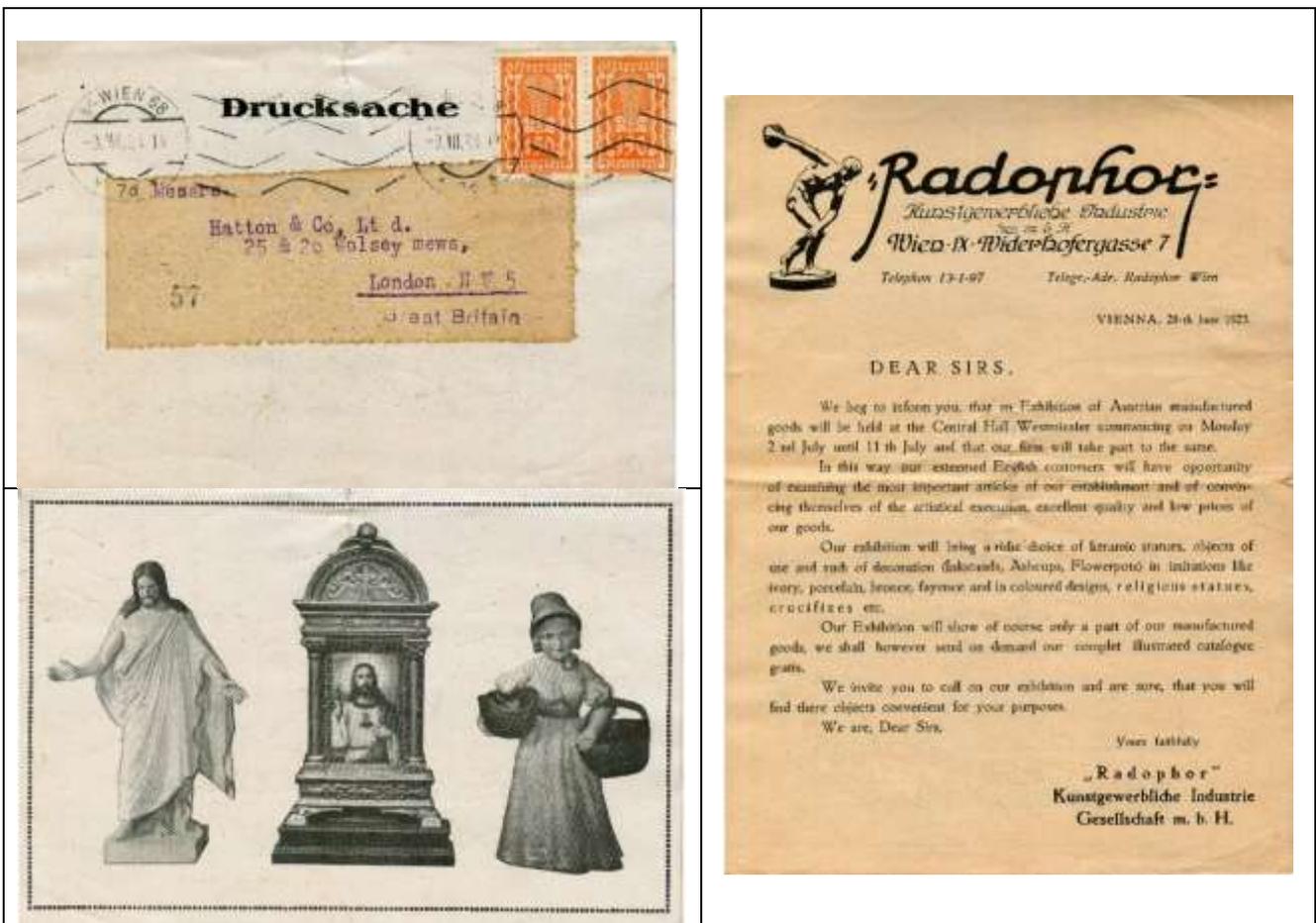
THE 1923 AUSTRIAN EXHIBITION IN LONDON

The what? Never heard of it, and it's not on Wikipedia so it doesn't exist.

There was an Austrian Exhibition in London in 1906, at Earls Court. 1923 saw an Exhibition of Australian Art in the autumn, at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. The London International Stamp Exhibition was held from 14-26 May 1923 at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London. And of course, the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley Park, London took place in 1924 and 1925. Is this yet another case of confusing Austria and Australia?

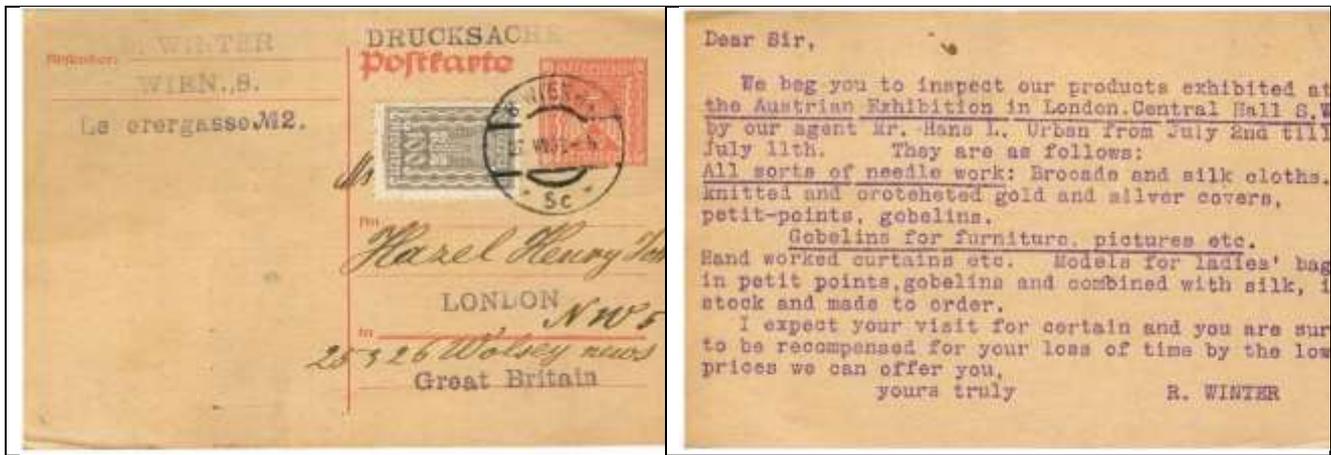
Roger Morrell sent the Editor scans of two interesting cards and some thoughts on their context.

Physically browsing through some foreign stock of a local eBay dealer, I came across a couple of 1923 printed matter items sent to the same address in London which I thought worthy of a closer look. The first is a folded advertising sheet from 'Radophor' Kunstgewerbliche Industrie of Vienna dated 3 July 1923 saying that there is an Exhibition of Austrian manufactured goods being held at the Central Hall Westminster from 2-11 July, and that 'Our exhibition will bring a riche choice of ceramic statues, objects of use and of such decoration (Inkstands, Ashcups, Flowerpots) in imitations like ivory, porcelain, bronze, fayence and in coloured designs, religious statues, crucifixes, etc.'



The second is a postal stationery card from R Winter of Vienna, posted on 23 June 1923, also recommending inspection of their products at the Exhibition and advertising 'All sorts of needle work: Brocade and silk cloths, knitted and crocheted gold and silver covers, petit-points, gobelins. Hand worked curtains etc. Models for ladies' bags in petit points, gobelins and combined with silk, in stock and made to order.'

The Editor adds that a **gobelin** is a piece of tapestry, not a small man with pointed ears!



So, I googled The Austrian Exhibition in London 1923, and got absolutely zero hits. There's not a Wurst about a 1923 one! I wonder if anti-Austrian feeling was so strong that it was a complete flop with no subsequent historical mention? Or was it the source of some of the 100-year old Austrian items that occasionally appear on the Antiques Roadshow?

Time to awaken the APS Research Department from its pre-Hogmanay torpor...

North Yorkshire Libraries have free access to Layer 1 of the British Library Newspaper Archive. You can discover that newspaper X has information on your chosen search terms, down to the title, date, brief summary, and page number. But, clicking on one takes you to Layer 2, where you need to apply for access even if it's free. We found that the 1923 Austrian Exhibition got a paragraph on page 3 of the Daily Herald for 3 July; and that plans were afoot for a repeat exhibition in May 1924. The Westminster Gazette had many mentions of the exhibition. And the Trades Committee of Barnstaple were incensed that such foreign exhibitions were allowed - especially since gloves were on display! Hiding behind an Eiger-shaped paywall is a mention of 'our' exhibition in The Observer for Feb 18, 1923.

Eva Sinnmayer discovered some mentions of the event in Viennese newspapers:



Internationale Maschinenwelt, Nr 57, 17 July 1923:

Austrian exhibition in London. The export exhibition in London, organized by the Vienna Chamber of Commerce, Trade and Industry, opened on 2nd July 1923. More than 100 companies took part. In addition to the original program, a special department for Austrian artistic graphics was added, arranged by the professor of the Kunstgewerbeschule Michael Powollny. As head of the exhibition, Chamber Office Director Dr. Pistor went to London in advance. In addition, about 40 of the exhibitors also went to London. An information department of the chamber was present at the exhibition. It is planned to repeat the exhibition next spring if necessary.

Reichspost (Vienna), 8 June 1923:

Austrian exhibition in London. A plenary meeting of participants in the London exhibition organized by the chamber took place in the Vienna Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was attended by an extremely large number of people and took an interesting course on the basis of the reports given and the debate that followed. The Chairman first gave an account of the current business situation in London and Great Britain and outlined the arrangements made during his stay in London. He also described the conference held under the auspices of the "Anglo-Austrian Society" under the chairmanship of the Austrian Ambassador Dr Frankenstein and the valuable interest expressed by this body concerning the prospect.

The exhibition in the Central Hall will give a very nice, coherent picture of the Viennese high-fashion industry as far as it is related to women's clothing and handicrafts, and will be attended by about a hundred companies. The large-scale plan of propaganda in England by sending out circulars at suitable intervals, contacting the English daily and trade press, and advertising to the English public met with approval from all sides. Fortunately, the majority of exhibitors will be making their way to London to personally represent their business interests. Those assembled resolved, in the interests of the possible promotion of retail wholesale business, to refrain from any retail sale to the public under any circumstances. The departure day for the exhibitors was Wednesday June 27th, at noon.

Reichspost, 22 February 1924.

Austrian exhibition in London. The meeting with interested parties held by the Vienna Chamber of Commerce on the 19th consistently showed a keen interest in the intended repetition of the exhibition of Austrian industrial and applied arts products held in the previous year in London, Central Hall, Westminster, probably from June 2nd to June 11th this year. Registrations have already been received for a considerable part of the net space in question. The Chamber of Commerce therefore requests that applications be submitted to the Chamber of Commerce, Export Department, as soon as possible, but no later than March 15th.



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