

AUSTRIA 224 – Autumn 2023 – Contents:

Page	Contents
1	<i>We cannot carry on like this!</i>
2	Officer's opinions
3	Two places called Jungholz
8	Visit Report: Northern National York 2023
9	An interesting item
10	Notes from Other Journals
11	2023 new issues (3 rd instalment)
14	Anti-Fascist Postal History in Post-war Austria
17	Advert: Stamp Insurance Service
17	No comment
18	The Second Siege of Vienna in 1683, part 1
37	Member's small advert
38	Joint Societies Meeting, Leeds, 12 August 2023
40	Thrice Three'd newspaper wrapper

Edited by Andy Taylor

This journal is published by the Austrian Philatelic Society for private circulation; and is not to be quoted without permission. Each article and feature in this magazine is © copyright whether on paper or otherwise, and must not be reproduced without the consent of the Editor and of the author. ISSN 0307-4331

To join the Austrian Philatelic Society, email or write to the Membership Secretary (details on inside back cover) or visit the society's web site at www.austrianphilately.com

We offer various items (books, CDs, etc) to buy. Order from the Editor and pay him, and he will arrange for whoever holds the stock to send it to you. More details can be found on the "Bookshop" pages.

The Society's web site on <http://www.austrianphilately.com> is regularly updated and enhanced.

AUSTRIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY HONORARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Andy Taylor	Tel 01642 71 15 59 president@austrianphilately.com
EDITOR	10 Eastfields, Stokesley, North Yorkshire, TS9 5EJ	editor@austrianphilately.com
TREASURER		treasurer@austrianphilately.com
CHAIRMAN	VACANCY	
PUBLICITY OFFICER	VACANCY	
SECRETARY	Nick Coverdale	Tel 01946 693707 secretary@austrianphilately.com
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	38 Hillcrest Avenue, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 6ST	membership@austrianphilately.com
PACKET SECRETARY	Barry Clark 65 Annandale Road, Kirk Ella, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU10 7UR	Tel 01482 653 789 clark65@clark65.karoo.co.uk
AUCTIONEER	VACANCY	

“This list may change at the AGM”

AIDE MEMOIRE

SUBSCRIPTIONS: are due on 1st April every year. UK and Europe £20. Airmail overseas £23. Please send membership applications (with payment) and queries to the Membership Secretary, but subscription renewal payments from existing members to the Treasurer. See below regarding ways of paying. You may pay in advance at the current rate for as many future years as you like.

ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP: If you wish to receive 'Austria' and any Newsletters by email, you can opt for e-membership. This costs only £10 per year. As well as notifying and paying the Secretary, you must send an email to the Editor from the address you want the journal sent to.

EXCHANGE PACKET: apply to the Secretary thereof. Non-UK members are welcome to sell through the packet, but cannot receive it because of tax and insurance problems.

NEW ISSUES: Write to Österreichische Post AG, Sammler-Service, Steinheilgasse 1, 1210 Wien, Austria. Or E-Mail sammler-service@post.at You can pay by credit card. They send "Die Briefmarke" free to their subscribers; if that's all you want contact the President.

APS INTERNET SITE: see <http://www.austrianphilately.com> for a wide variety of information, comprehensive indexes of 'Austria', expanded & illustrated versions of articles, etc.

ADVERTISING IN 'AUSTRIA': we welcome full or half page adverts.

WAYS OF PAYING: If paying by cheque, please send sterling cheques payable to 'APS' and drawn on a UK bank. Members wishing to use credit cards should contact the Treasurer. Visa and Mastercard are accepted but not Amex; the amount must be authorised in pounds sterling. You can pay by bank transfer: email the Treasurer for details. Finally, we have a Paypal account: use andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk as the account identifier. Please pay so that we receive the requested amount in pounds sterling, and state "who from & what for".

**A MESSAGE FROM
FORMER PRESIDENT
KEITH BRANDON**



We cannot carry on like this!

Dear Fellow Members,

Your Society is in many ways in robust health; membership is stable, finances are very healthy and we have a well-supported Journal, Packet and Auction. However, we are in serious danger of having to close down soon.

The reason is quite simple; we are running out of people to run the Society. Fewer and fewer people are now carrying the burden. In particular, Andy Taylor, who is doing five or six jobs at the moment, is approaching his eightieth Birthday, is not in the best of health, and wishes to retire imminently.

Don't think this is not for you. You can make a contribution in many ways, large or small. Existing roles can be subdivided if necessary. We are prepared to co-opt Members onto the Committee without portfolio so that they can better understand what is needed and how they can help.

We have recently lost many of the stalwarts who have led our Society since the last millennium. Joyce Boyer and Martin Brumby have retired, Colin Tobitt and David Bravery are no longer with us. Nobody can begrudge Andy his retirement after the service he has given.

We need the next generation; Members in their forties, fifties and sixties who can lead the Society through the next decade or two. So why not email or telephone our President, Andy Taylor, and ask "How can I help"? We are fortunate to have this great Society which helps us so much with our hobby, and has done for over seventy years. You don't want to see this fizzle out, do you?

Keith Brandon

Officer's opinions and gossip

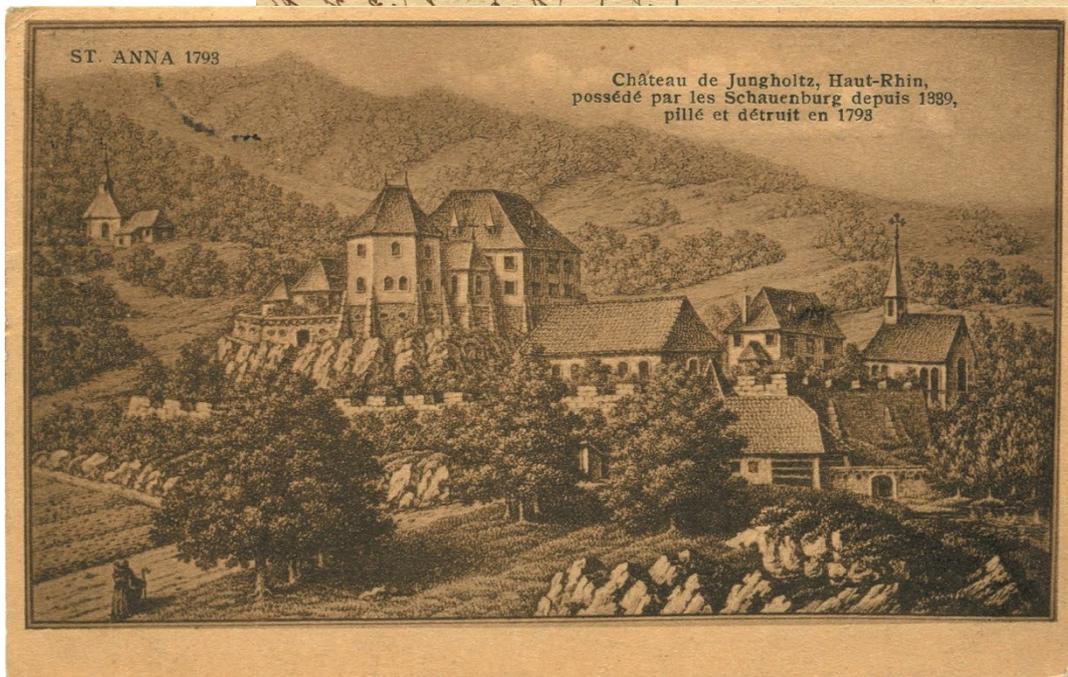
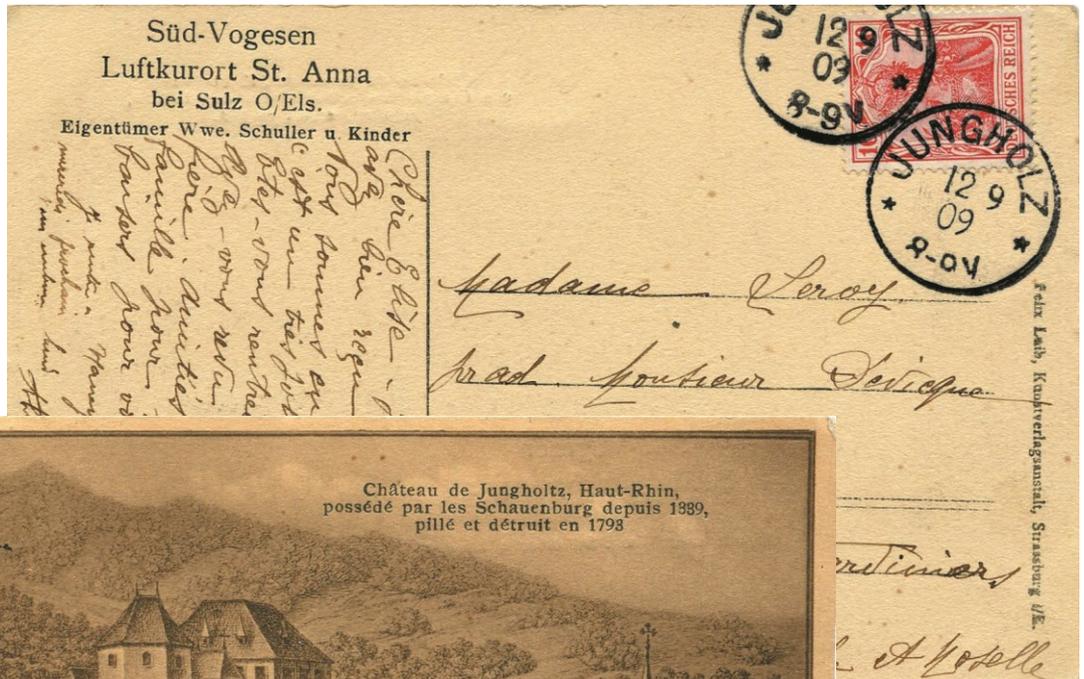
- ✓ The latest FEPA News is well worth a read; and it contains a Date for your Diary, electronic calendar, Post-It Note on the fridge, or whatever you use to plan your future. You can read your own copy here: <https://fepanews.com/> or sign up and get it free by email.
- ✓ The 2025 Europhilex British International Exhibition, being held in the National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham and not in London, has just been extended from 4 days to 5, and will now take place from Wednesday 7 May until Sunday 11 May. *“For the first time ever, Britain has decided to move its international exhibition out of London. Birmingham is the country’s second city, which is located in the centre of England, surrounded by a massive population and several other large cities.”* Regularly-updated information is here: <https://europhilex2025.co.uk/> There may be a coinciding APS And Like-Minded Colleagues Event....
- ✓ Apologies for overlooking Rex Dixon, who gained a Vermeil for ‘Germania’ in the literature class at Essen. Hopefully not in revenge, the Essen Stamp Fair, held regularly since 1976, has been discontinued. Efforts to create a replacement Stamp Fair are being made. Meanwhile, those who would have gone to Essen in 2024 will probably go to Ulm in the autumn instead.
- ✓ Clashes-of-calendars mean that there are only 2½ days available to your Editorial Team between the end of the Fest and this issue of ‘Austria’ going to press. On the positive side, that gives enough time to present a good report in the next issue, instead of a rag-bag of glimpsed impressions and hazy photographs.
- ✓ Clashes-of-calendars also mean that the results of the Election-of-Officers vote, held at the on-line AGM on 11 October, will be known the day after this issue is scheduled to be posted. Check the APS web site for details.
- ✓ John Beech writes that he still has www.ahnavy.net operating, and it welcomes visitors interested in Naval matters.
- ✓ And we think we have problems with deceased members’ estates ... *“The American Philatelic Society has released a request-for-proposals, seeking firms to sell on their behalf the philatelic estate of Alfred F. Kugel, a noted philatelist, researcher, exhibitor, and leader in the hobby, who died in 2022 aged 91. The Kugel Estate comprises 69 boxes of philatelic material (estimated at almost 2 million dollars) and 50 boxes of philatelic literature (a rather disappointing 12 thousand dollars).”*
- ✓ At Ulm, an on-line map appears to show a pleasant path meandering through the woods from my hotel to the terminus of the Line-1 tram that passes the Ulm exhibition hall. Closer study reveals the line to be the BadenWurtemberg-Bavaria state boundary!
- ✓ An Austrian postal rate change! Up till now, an item posted in a letter box was PRIO(rity) and normally took one day to be delivered. As of September, letter boxes are for ECO(nomy) items and can take 2-3 days for inland delivery. They don’t have to be in a special envelope, and three different designs of adhesive have been issued, all with face value 95 cents, to cover the “adjusted” cost. PRIO items can only be posted at a postal branch and they will (normally) be delivered next day.

Two places called Jungholz

By Rex Dixon

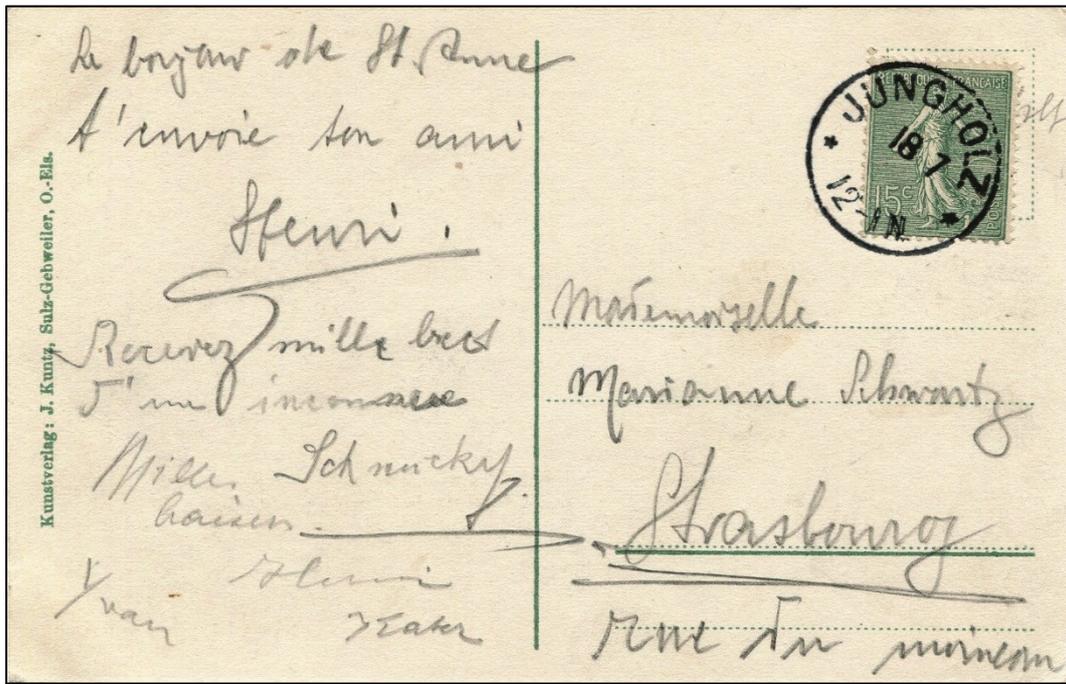
Jungholz in Alsace

Jungholz is a commune in the southern Vosges in Upper Alsace about 20km north-west of Mülhausen (Mulhouse). Most picture postcards show either the pilgrimage basilica at Thierenbach or the St Anna sanatorium, but this one shows the castle before it was destroyed in 1793. A postal agency was opened there in 1890, which used a single-circle datestamp simply reading “JUNGHOLZ”.



After the First World War the whole of Alsace returned to France. The top card below is from July 1919. The German datestamp is still in use but without any year, because the “19” year slug had not been supplied from Berlin. The registered letter under it is from November 1920 with the continued use of a German R-label; the new datestamp has the French spelling “JUNGHOLTZ”.

Between the wars there was no place in Germany called Jungholz.



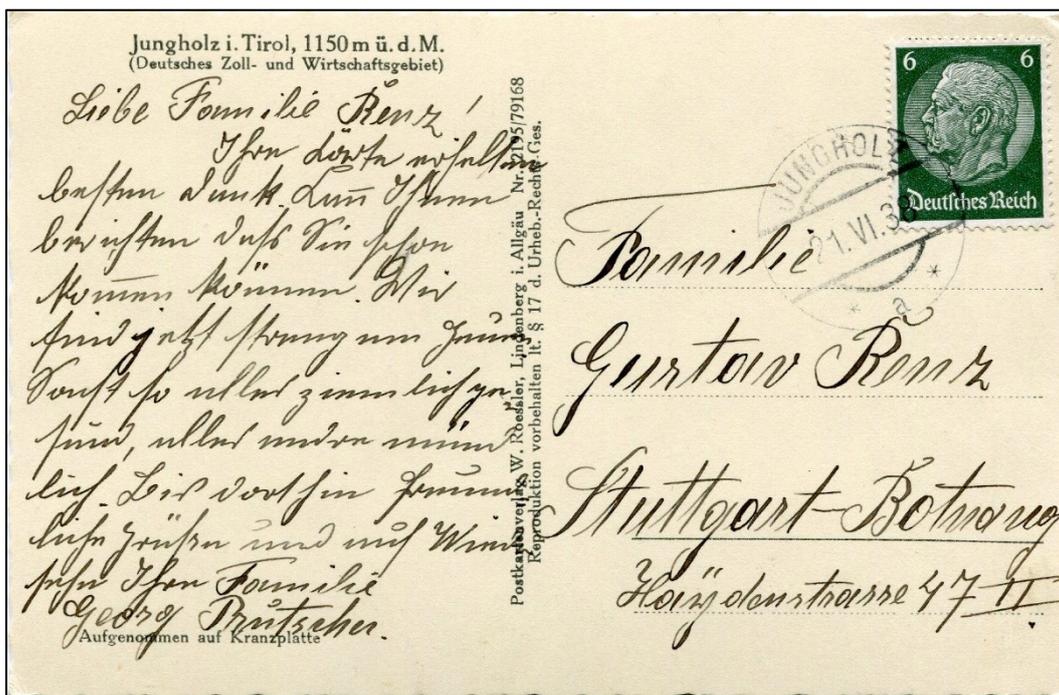
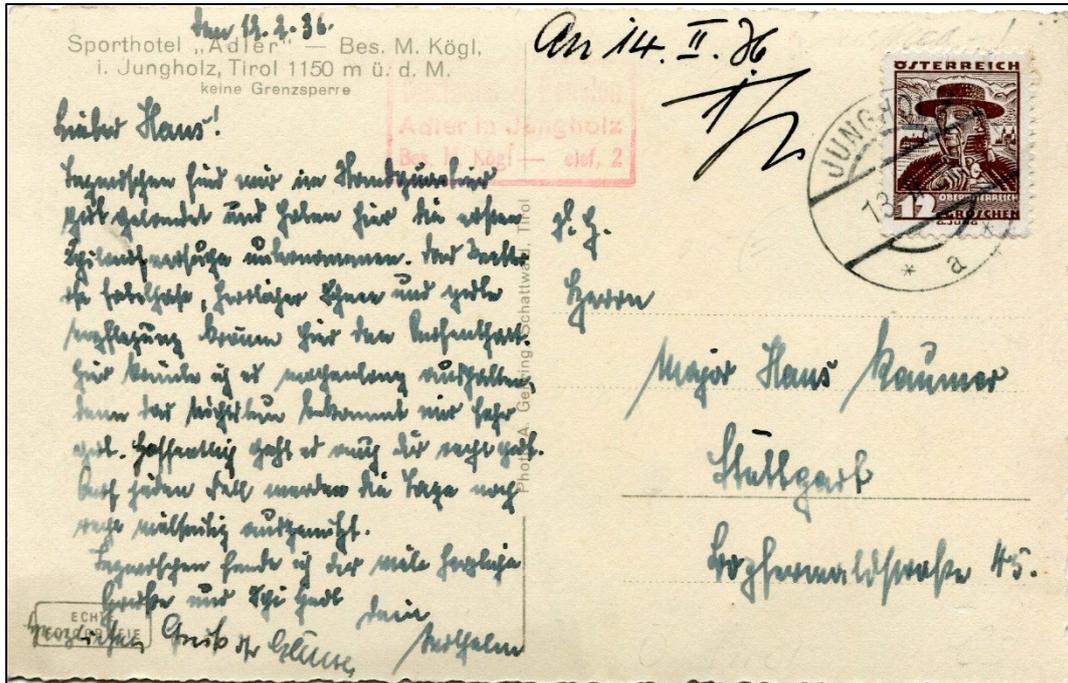
Card posted 18 July 1919 to Strasbourg. The German datestamp is still in use but without any year, because the "19" year slug had not been supplied from Berlin before the French occupied the area in November 1918.



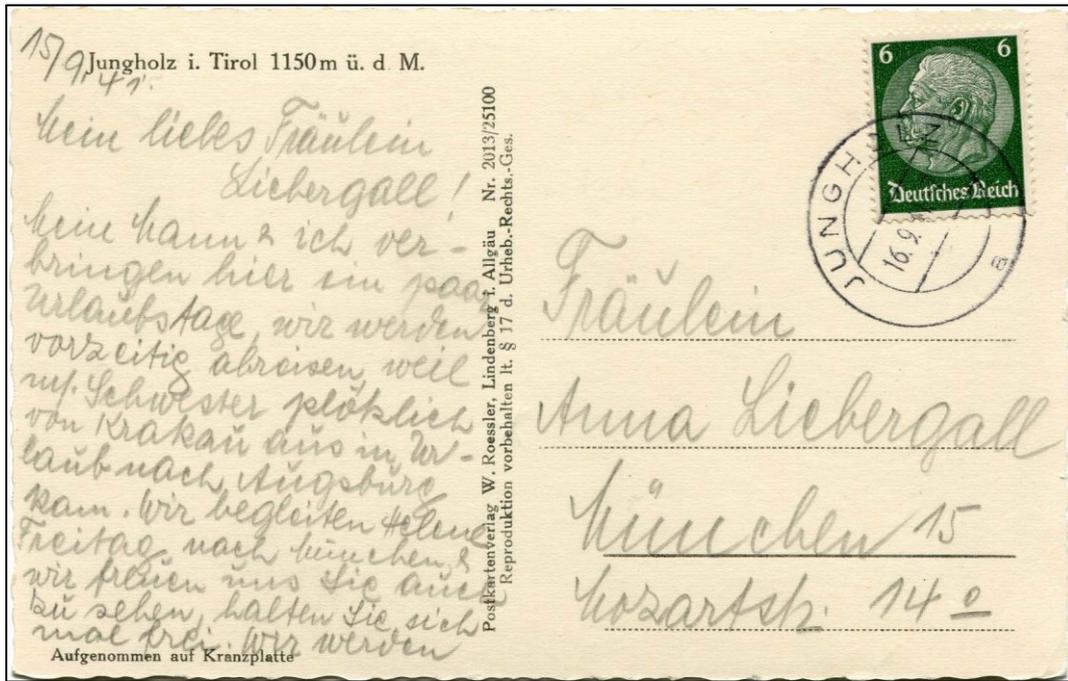
Registered letter posted 2(?) November 1920 to Colmar, still using a German R-label. The new French datestamp with French spelling "JUNGHOLTZ" was without the department name. By 1922 it had been replaced with one with "HAUT RHIN".

Jungholz in Tirol

There was a small village and *Gemeinde* (community) called Jungholz in the Austrian province of Tirol. The postal establishment there opened in 1869. The card below shows the Austrian datestamp in use in February 1936, simply inscribed “JUNGHOLZ”. Following the Anschluss of Austria in March 1938, this datestamp continued in use for several months as seen on the lower card dated June 1938.

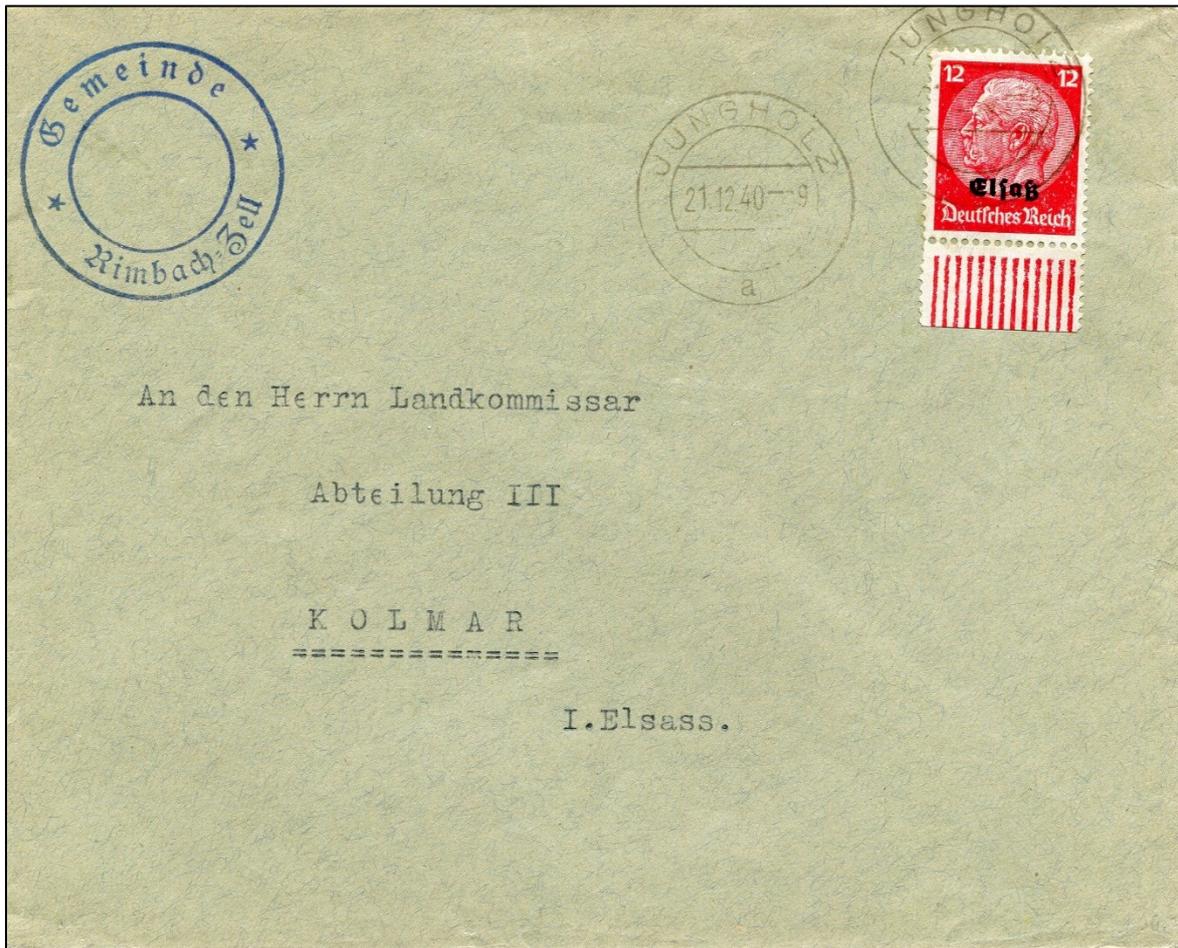


When the Germans manufactured a *Normstempel* in late 1938 the inscription was simply “JUNGHOLZ”, there being no other place in the Reich with that name. The example below is from September 1941.



Re-enter Jungholz in Alsace

When Germany occupied Alsace in June 1941, the Jungholz there became part of Germany once more. When the postal authorities in Alsace ordered a *Normstempel* they were presumably unaware that they were now the second place called Jungholz, so the one produced simply read “JUNGHOLZ”.



Two post offices with identical datestamps



Shown here are the two virtually identical datestamps, the one from Alsace on the left, the one from the Tirol on the right (there are subtle differences in the lettering if you look very closely).

I am not aware of any other examples like this. It could cause confusion: for example, if mail had to be returned to sender, to which post office do you return it in the absence of any other information? The 1944 *Ortsverzeichnis* did give the two offices distinct names but this was never reflected in the datestamps:

Jungholz (Oberels)

Jungholz (Schwab)

In 1945 after the war, the two places returned to France and Austria respectively and the datestamps were in due course replaced by ones reading “JUNGHOLTZ | HAUT-RHIN” and “JUNGHOLTZ / TIROL”.



Sources

- Bonnefoy, Laurent, *Éléments d'histoire postale en Alsace et en Moselle 1919–1940* (2019).
- Hass, Günther, *Deutsche Postorte 1490–1920* (Stuttgart: Peter Feuser, 2003).
- Stohl, Hans, *Postalische Abstempelungen im derzeitigen österreichischen Staatsgebiet von 1900 – heute, vol. A2* (Vienna: Verlag Pollischansky, 1997), 357.
- *Ortsverzeichnis I: Verzeichnis der Postämter und -amtstellen ... in Großdeutschland* (Berlin: Reichspostzentralamt, 1944).

Because of its unique location, the Jungholz in Tirol had a special customs and (since 1951) postal status, but that is another story entirely.

Visit report: Northern National York 2023

By Zöld Veltelini

It was nice to be back at the racecourse grandstand, although road works, train strikes, and intermittent heavy rain were less welcome. On the Friday, many visitors had come, although it was still easy to walk along the aisles. There were some under-21s there, but mostly at the coin dealers upstairs! Saturday seemed less popular with visitors. Austrian items were scarce; I found one dealer with some, and a colleague found another. However, if your penchant is for old stockbooks with indifferent contents you could have bought several vanloads!

Exhibitions are no longer feasible at Stampex in Islington, mainly due to the local authority restrictions on the movement of commercial vehicles. So, the major British National annual events will now take place at York (potential International entrants take note) where the possibility exists of expansion to a second floor; and a restricted event at the Royal's building in Abchurch Lane, London (which is not expandable!). Persistence paid off: the 2023 York exhibition was discovered on the second floor. Only two entries were from APS members.

Postal History: Prof Peter Chadwick: "Russian Zone devaluation of June 1948"

The devaluation in the Russian Zone of Germany had not been planned, and no postage stamps had been prepared. Temporary stamps were produced in each post office by handstamping overprints on the pre-existing stamps. There were about 20,000 different overprinted stamps: they had a validity of three weeks. Received 81 points and a Large Vermeil

Traditional: Andy Taylor: "The Newspaper Postage Stamps of Austria"

Austria issued special stamps for over 70 years, from 1 January 1851 to 28 February 1922, for the discounted inland postage of officially-registered newspapers. The exhibit shows these stamps, including shade variations, cancellations, perforations, official & private imprints, and type differences; with examples of them in use. Received 91 points, a Large Gold medal, and the **Best-in-show award**.



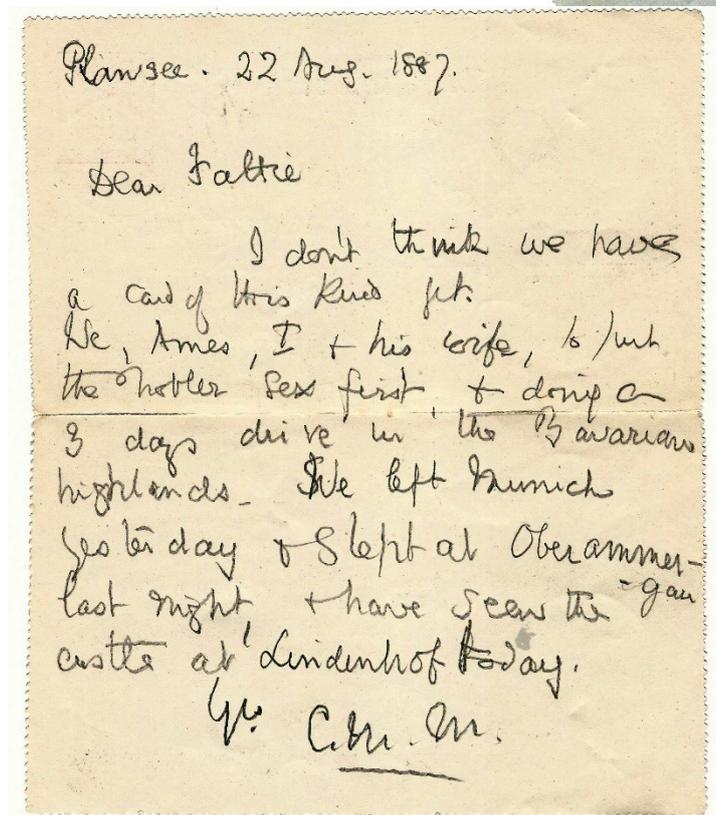
An interesting item

By Joyce Boyer

Looking in my box of 'odds and ends' I noticed this Karten-Brief. I have no recollection of buying it or why. A closer look suggests it may have come from an accumulation of material I had gather from the Reutte area that might have formed another collection but that I had decided not to pursue last year so put in the box.

The card was written at Plansee on 22 August 1887 and posted at the postablage on the lake. It was taken to the main office at Reutte who probably added the 'T' mark before being sent to the border at Fussen. The route to England is not indicated but it was received at the Foreign Branch in London where the 2½ surcharge was added. It then went by train to Swindon and Stroud, Glos where it was delivered on 25th August three days after posting – if only today's postal service was as good!

The postablage marking 'K. K. Briefablage Plansee' is listed in Kühnel as 1095a, used from 1887 to 1893 with a rating of 9 indicating it is not common. A Karten-Brief had an imprinted 5k stamp for the inland postage rate however the overseas rate was 10k hence the 'T' for underpaid.



Looking at the message it is clear that both the sender and addressee were philatelists as the message starts 'I don't think we have a card of this kind yet'. I am pleased to say that the card is now residing in another APS member's collection to go with his example of Kühnel 1095b.

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

5/2023: The **3kr red** error-of-colour; centenary of the 'Land capital cities' issue; forgeries of classic issues; new issues and cancels; Döbling and pneumatic mail; historic Hernalts; society news; etc etc

6/2023: The **3kr red** error-of-colour (ii); Sweden's half-millennium as a kingdom; on Mixed Frankings; the Leitner correspondence from Warasdin; new issues; Hernalts: Wien 105; first Republic forgeries; etc

7-8/2023: "When will there be another WIPA?"**; Phila-Toscana 2023 programme; 75th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift; Hernalts: Wien 106; 150th anniversary of the Prater World Exhibition and the Rotunde; New Issues for the autumn; the paddle-steamer Gisela on the Traunsee and Austria's first floating post-office; society news with lots of Meine-Marke; IBRA2023 (Essen) report; etc etc etc.

** *Partial answer - when auction houses, postal administrations etc can afford to - and choose to - sponsor it. A recent FEPA Newsletter noted that the TAIPEI 2023 – 39th Asian International Stamp Exhibition reached a final attendance of 330,000 people. Total cost of the show was nearly A\$2,000,000 which was mostly paid by Taiwan Post Office; however their sales at the exhibition were A\$5,000,000.*

Germania

Vol 59 nr 3: The use of gold francs by the German parcel service from 1 February 1920 to 30 September 1925, Part 1 (with extensive details on the Gold Franc and its interpretations by the Reichspost); The German hyperinflation Part 2: January to August 1923 - "The descent into madness"; German machine meter marks, Part 3; etc etc.

Vindobona Vereins-Nachrichten

2/2023: Society and AGM reports; Edwin Müller's 125th birthday; post from Austria to Russia and the now-separate countries that belonged to it, up to 1918 (30pp!) [*Andy Taylor has copies of the 1843, 54, 66 & 73 postal treaties*]; development of cancels (iii); etc.

ArGe Öst e.V. Rundbrief

132: 1/2023: Lengthy and lavishly-illustrated articles! Society news; usage of thimble cancels at Varna (24pp); earliest-known dates for official stationery in the Austrian inflation period; emergency paid-in-cash, 1945-1948; the Staatsdruckerei in Vienna (23pp); faulty Vienna Pneumatic Mail cancels (19pp); examples of the Express stamp in use (the rectangular lilac 50h stamp with the big arrow); private printed stationery (ii) 1919-1921; Austrian letter-cards; report from the Youth Section; genesis of the 1948-1964 costumes series; and many other interesting articles in its 194 pages. *If you can't beat them, join them.*

ArGe Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn Rundbrief

147: 2023/1: Society news; many short but informative articles; Museum-ship SAVA in Belgrade, the former Danube Monitor Bodrog; Know your Enemy - Italian WWI Field Post Offices in Tirol after they changed sides, and their military postal organisation; a similar article for Serbia; and another for USA - all three extensively illustrated; Arts and Crafts by the POWs in Russia; etc.

148: 2023/2: Society news; Essen Report; Hungarian fieldpost cards; extensive Donau-Post article from 1929 on the Przemysl flights in WWI; the POW and refugee camp at Leibnitz; Serbian Red Cross during the occupation of 1915-1918; Know your Enemy: Portugal and Romania; etc etc etc.

2023 NEW ISSUES (3rd 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 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 in one of its minimalistic-data phases.

Centenary of Inge Morath (1923-2023). 2Eu50; 10.6.2023; David Gruber; 200,000; Offset by Cartor Security Printing.



Inge Morath, one of the most important Austrian photographers, was born on 27 May 1923 in Graz and died on 30 January 2002 in New York City. Daughter of the scientist Edgar Mörath and Mathilde Wiesler, she was born in Graz but moved with her parents in the 1930s, due to their professional activity, first to Darmstadt and later to Berlin. Before she was admitted to study Romance studies and linguistics there, she did a one-year social service at a kindergarten in a working-class district of Berlin. Morath was just able to take her state exam before she was obliged to work for a "wartime" company in Berlin-Tempelhof. As a result of a bomb attack on the company, Morath joined a refugee train to Austria, where she found her parents' house again with difficulty. She first worked as a journalist in Salzburg, where a square was named after her in 2008, and then in Vienna where there is a Morathgasse in the 12th district. Supported by the photographer Ernst Haas, she was able to move to Paris in 1949, where she created texts for the Magnum photo agency.

There Morath got to know the fascination of photography. In 1951 she completed her photography training in London with an internship with Simon Guttmann. From 1953 she worked for Magnum, as well as for magazines such as Vogue and Paris Match. She soon became self-employed. Exhibitions in many important museums and galleries demonstrate their global importance. Morath was the first woman to join the legendary and until then all-male circle of the Magnum photo agency.

Morath travelled extensively and lived for a time in New York City. Henri Cartier-Bresson and Gjon Mili competed for the role of their favourite mentor. In the 1950s she began taking photographs herself and was one of the first female photographers to work for the Magnum agency. On the set of the film "Misfits" she met the American writer Arthur Miller, who was then still married to the leading actress Marilyn Monroe. Her marriage to Miller in 1962 in New York lasted until her death in 2002. She also undertook a number of journeys with Miller, which led to more and more new books with her photos. In addition, numerous commissioned works for agencies, magazines and publishers were created. Morath is best known for her portraits of well-known contemporary personalities, but she also travelled a lot and created photographic travelogues and photo reports with scenes from everyday life. Their daughter Rebecca Miller (b.1962) is a painter, screenwriter and film director.

Inge Morath was awarded the Austrian State Prize for Photography in 1991, and the Medal of Honour of the federal capital Vienna in gold.

New designs of Dispenser Stamps. Issued 1 July 2023. 1Eu: Kaiserschmarrn with Zwetschkenröster; 1Eu20: Friedenskircherl am Stoderzinken; 1Eu50: Strudlhofstiege, Vienna; 3Eu: Ossiacher See. No Post Office images found; these are from Die Briefmarke.



“Places worth seeing in Austria”. 1Eu+1Eu20+1Eu50+3Eu; 10.6.2023; Roland Vorlauffer; Offset; Enschedé. The third issue for the “Beautiful Austria” series, once again illustrated in the style of the dispenser stamps, shows a selection of the many sights Austria has to offer.



The Upper Austrian town of Schärding impresses above all with the late baroque Silberzeile with its colourful town houses and medieval town gates. Carnuntum, one of the most important ancient archaeological sites in Austria, is located on the Danube Limes in Lower Austria. The landmark of the region is the Heidentor, a triumphal monument from the 4th century. The Mittenwaldbahn, also known as the Karwendelbahn, was opened in 1912. It runs from Innsbruck and Seefeld in Tirol across the Austrian-Bavarian border to Mittenwald and Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The 5fingers viewing platform on the Krippenstein has offered an impressive view of the Salzkammergut and the surrounding mountain landscape since 2006

The pilgrimage church of Mariastein near Kirchbichl-Kufstein. 1Eu; 23.06.2023; Kirsten Lubach; 220,000;



Offset + Pantone 687; Enschedé. Mariastein, the subject of the stamp in the series “Churches in Austria”, is an unusual pilgrimage church: it is located in the massive tower of a 14th century medieval castle situated high up on a cliff above the small town of Mariastein in the Lower Inn Valley. On the top floor of the 42m high tower, which can only be reached via around 150 steps, is the originally Gothic Chapel of Mercy with a Madonna of Mercy made of lime wood from around 1450 and a Rococo altar from the 18th century. On the floor below, the Cross Chapel was set up for the numerous pilgrims in the 16th century. The former knight's hall of the castle now serves as a castle museum, which houses, among other things, a Tirolean archduke's hat and a sceptre donated by Archduke Maximilian III. The Archdiocese of Salzburg has managed the pilgrimage site since the 19th century.

Brunnwirt, Fuschl am See. 1Eu20; 13.7.2023; Regina Simon; 190,000; Offset; Enschedé. This year's stamp in the series “Catering with tradition” takes us to the part of the Salzkammergut region that falls in the province of Salzburg and to the traditional Brunnwirt inn, now run by the 6th generation of the Brandstätters, on the southern shore of Lake Fuschl.



Achenseebahn. 3Eu; 15.7.2023; Peter Sinawehl; 200,000; Kombidruck; Enschedé. Take the train to the lake!



This year's design for the "Railways" series is the Tirolean Achensee Railway with its nostalgic steam trains – now a popular tourist attraction. The Achenseebahn is a meter gauge rack railway which opened in 1889 with mixed operations (adhesion and rack and pinion) and is mainly used for tourist purposes. The nearly seven-kilometer route begins at Jenbach station, the only Austrian station with three different gauges, where the standard-gauge ÖBB, the 760mm narrow gauge of the Zillertalbahn, and the meter gauge of the Achenseebahn meet. It leads north from Jenbach in the lower Inn valley to Seespitz am Achensee. Through the foothills of the Karwendel and Rofan mountains, it overcomes a difference in altitude of 440 meters over a length of 6.8 kilometers. The track is only served by steam locomotives.

175 years of "Die Presse". 1Eu; 19.7.2023; David Jablonski; 220,000; Offset; Cartor Security Printing. The first issue of the daily newspaper "Die Presse" came out on 3rd July 1848, and it continues to be one of Austria's leading quality newspapers today.



Hans Kupelwieser "No Title". 1Eu20; 8.8.2023; Regina Simon; 190,000; Offset; Enschedé. The artist's 75th birthday; in the series Modern Austrian Art. Hans Kupelwieser was born in 1948 in Lunz am See in Lower Austria. He studied at the Graphic Teaching and Research Institute and at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. In 1995 he was a professor at the Institute for Contemporary Art at the Graz University of Technology. Many of his works are in public space; eg in 2004 in his birthplace Lunz, the floating stage was built according to his designs. Kupelwieser uses different techniques and materials in his work and thus creates cross-media Photograms, sculptures or space-filling installations. The stamp motif shows a relief from the year 2020, aluminium anodized, 170x180x30cm in size.



Contemporary Art at the Graz University of Technology. Many of his works are in public space; eg in 2004 in his birthplace Lunz, the floating stage was built according to his designs. Kupelwieser uses different techniques and materials in his work and thus creates cross-media Photograms, sculptures or space-filling installations. The stamp motif shows a relief from the year 2020, aluminium anodized, 170x180x30cm in size.

150th anniversary of the Vienna World Exhibition. 1Eu50; 23.8.2023; Anita Kern; 200,000; Offset with hot-foil-pressing; Cartor Security Printing. On 1 May 1873 the Vienna World Exhibition opened its doors for six months and gave Vienna the opportunity to present itself as a cosmopolitan city. For the first time in German-speaking countries, 35 countries took part in the exhibition. Under the architectural direction of Carl von Hasenauer, a gigantic exhibition city was created on the grounds of the Vienna Prater, with around 200 houses, pavilions and large halls in which the exhibitors could present themselves and their products. The huge industrial palace was almost a kilometre long. In the centre was the rotunda, the symbol of the world exhibition and largest dome of its time. In 1937 the rotunda was destroyed in a fire. Today, part of the University of Vienna campus is located there. Despite its high standards, the world exhibition was not a financial success, not least because of the stock market crash of 8 May and the cholera epidemic then rampant in Vienna.



Parasol (mushroom). 95c; 25.8.2023; Marion Füllerer; 350,000 in minisheets of 10; Offset; Enschedé. The name of the parasol (*Macrolepiota procera*) comes from its shape reminiscent of an open umbrella. The umbrella can be 50cm across; it has brown scales and a small hump in the middle. The distinguishing feature of the Parasol is the moveable ring on the long, thin stem. The mushrooms grow almost worldwide, in meadows and pastures, in sparse forests and at forest edges. The flesh of the mushroom is white, it tastes aromatic and slightly nutty. The great Parasol hat is often prepared like a schnitzel, and the dried stalks can be used to make spicy mushroom powder. There is a risk of confusion with other types of parasols, and also with the poisonous death cap mushroom. [Google translates its alternative German name of „Gemeiner Riesenschirmling“ as „Common Giant Parakeet“!]



Anti-Fascist Postal History in Post-War Austria.

By Andrew Brooks

Mauthausen Liberation 1st Anniversary.

Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp, twelve miles east of Linz, was liberated by the U.S. Army on the 5th of May 1945 and was the last of the large camps to be set free in Germany controlled Europe. It had operated from the Anschluss in 1938 until 1945 and was a *Stufe III* (grade) camp, one of the toughest, for the ‘incorrigible enemies of the Reich’. Its main aim was the extermination through labour of the intelligentsia. The death toll of the complex of camps is estimated at 120,000-320,000.

Simon Wiesenthal, a survivor of five camps, was in Mauthausen in 1945 and when released he helped the American intelligence service to gather evidence against war criminals. In 1947 he set up the Jewish Documentation Centre in Linz where he was living with his wife. Wiesenthal had been working in displaced persons camps and on the first anniversary of the liberation of the camp the two postcards illustrated (figs 1&2) were produced along with a special postmark dated 5th May 1946. It can be clearly seen that Simon Wiesenthal was the artist of the card titled ‘*SYMPHONIA DIABOLICA MAUTHAUSIENSIS*’ and it is very probable that he drew the other card as well although it is not signed. It has a cancellation in English and German. The words are set in two rows round the circular postmark (diameter 33mm). ‘*ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF K.Z. MAUTHAUSEN. LINZ / 5.MAI / 1946*’ is in the centre of the postmark. It is philatelic as it has no address. Many low value stamps from the 1945-47 set are cancelled with the handstamp.



Fig 1

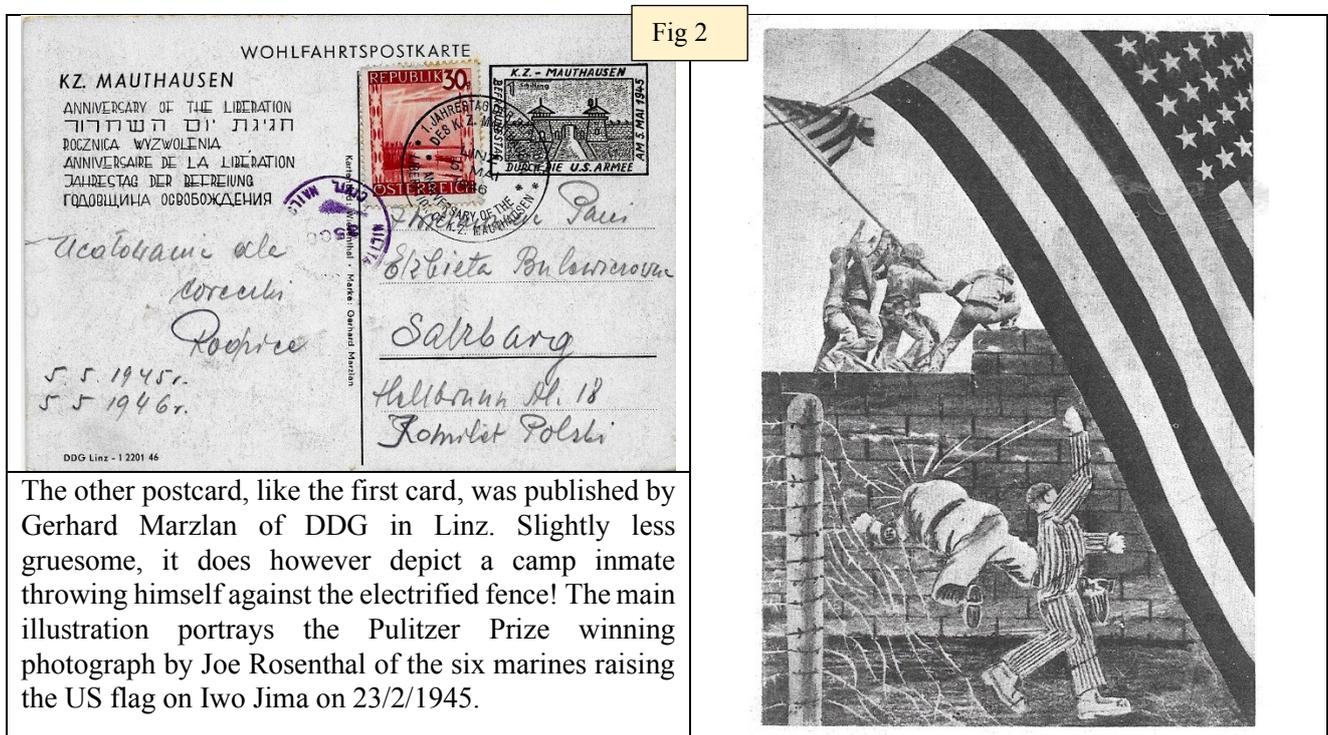


Fig 2

The other postcard, like the first card, was published by Gerhard Marzlan of DDG in Linz. Slightly less gruesome, it does however depict a camp inmate throwing himself against the electrified fence! The main illustration portrays the Pulitzer Prize winning photograph by Joe Rosenthal of the six marines raising the US flag on Iwo Jima on 23/2/1945.

This second card was postally used with a 30g stamp from the 1945-47 set and cancelled with the previously mentioned postmark. The title on this card of the liberation is clearly seen in six languages. I believe from information recorded when the cards came into my possession that the sender of the card was a previous inmate of the camp and it was addressed to another former female inmate who was now living in Salzburg.

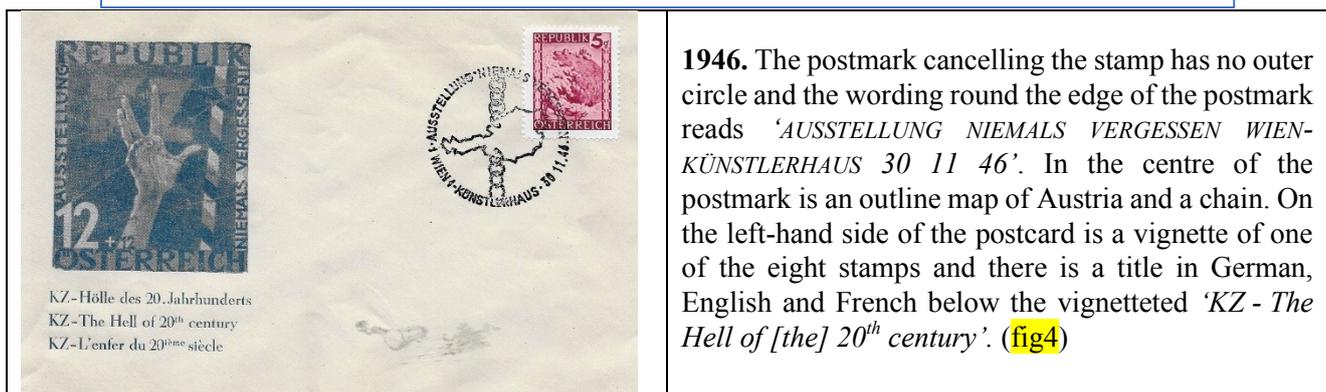
In about 1943 Hitler became interested in the works of the composer Anton Bruckner and planned to convert the monastery of St. Florian in Linz (where Bruckner had played the organ and is buried) into a repository for his manuscripts and musical compositions. The monks were evicted, but Hitler's plans for the monastery were never finished. I have wondered if Wiesenthal was influenced by Hitler's wishes for St. Florian when he drew this rather gruesome postcard of men (notes) being strangled by bars (ropes).

'Never Forget' – Anti-Fascist Exhibition- Vienna Künstlerhaus 1946.

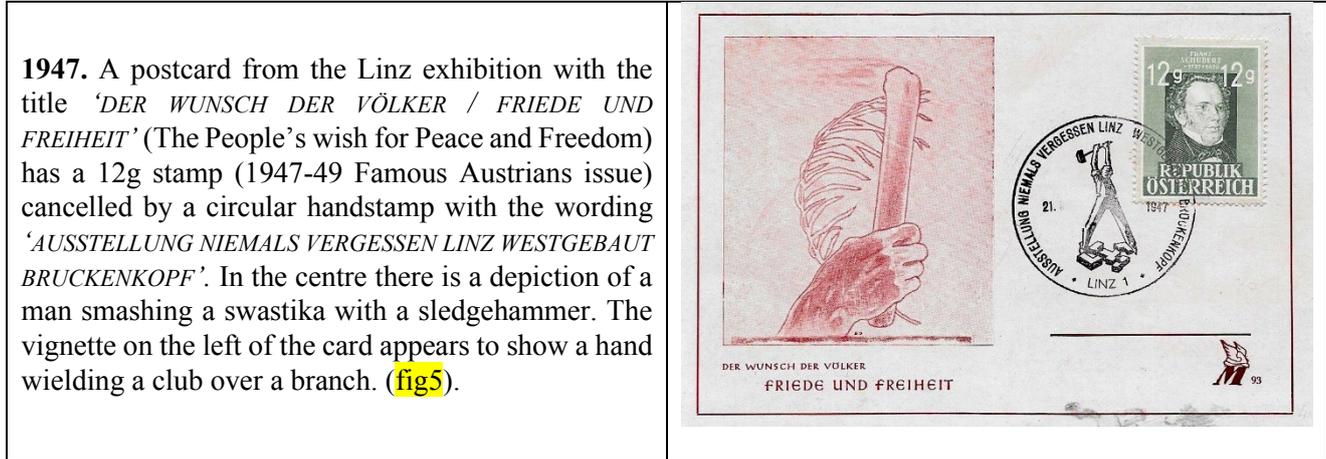
A few weeks after the end of WW2, a communist Vienna city councillor proposed that an exhibition be held in Vienna to educate the general public on the crimes of the National Socialists. The exhibition was supposed to take place in 1945 but the lack of resources in the immediate post-war period postponed the event until 1946. The original title of the exhibition 'ANTI-FASCIST VICTORY EXHIBITION' was changed to 'NEVER FORGET', with the subtitle 'ANTI-FASCIST EXHIBITION'. It opened on the 14th September 1946 and closed on the 26th December; it was held in the Vienna Künstlerhaus. The Chancellor of Austria, the Mayor of Vienna and representatives of the Allies were present on the opening day and an estimated 260,000 visited the exhibition in under 100 days.

It was intended that an adapted version of the exhibition should tour the provincial capitals but in fact, 'Never Forget' was only seen in Linz and Innsbruck in the summer of 1947. Plans to show the exhibition in Switzerland never materialised. A set of eight stamps were issued on the 16th September 1946 commemorating the event with various designs e.g., 5g+3g Dagger and Map, 6g+4g Broom sweeping nazi and fascist emblems (fig3). Postcards and covers were published for the 1946 and 1947 events.

Fig 3



1946. The postmark cancelling the stamp has no outer circle and the wording round the edge of the postmark reads 'AUSSTELLUNG NIEMALS VERGESSEN WIEN-KÜNSTLERHAUS 30 11 46'. In the centre of the postmark is an outline map of Austria and a chain. On the left-hand side of the postcard is a vignette of one of the eight stamps and there is a title in German, English and French below the vignetteted 'KZ - The Hell of [the] 20th century'. (fig4)



A folded item from the Innsbruck Exhibition has a perforated Cinderella stamp on the front page with the title 'ÖSTERREICH IST FREI! 13.4.1938-1945'. Above the stamp is the wording 'ZUM GEDENKEN / AN DIE OPFER' (To Remember the Victims) and 'ANTIFASCHISTISCHER'. Below the stamp is 'KÄMPFER ÖSTERREICHS' (Fighters of Austria) and 'NIE VERGESSEN'. When unfolded the right-hand side has three stamps from the 1947-49 issue cancelled with a similar circular handstamp to the Linz postcard, dated 1/8/1947. 'AUSSTELLUNG NIEMALS VERGESSEN INNSBRUCK 2 / INNSBRUCK HANDELSAKADEMIE 1947'. (fig6).





STAMP INSURANCE SERVICES
C G I Services Limited
 INSURING COLLECTABLES SINCE 1973



LET US INSURE YOUR COLLECTION
 REPLACEMENT VALUE, ALL RISKS, NO EXCESS

Includes whilst on display or on exhibition anywhere in Europe, worldwide cover can be arranged

Stamps and Postcards £6,250 cover- £30 p.a.* £10,000 cover- £42 p.a.*
ALL other Collectables £5,000 cover - £35 p.a.* £10,000 cover -£60 p.a.* * plus IPT

CIRCULATING PACKETS: Cups & Trophies, Auctions, Displays & Exhibitions.

PUBLIC LIABILITY for COLLECTOR SOCIETIES from £25 p.a. Limit of Indemnity of £5,000,000

SPECIAL SCHEME for SOCIETIES - Public & Employers Liability, equipment

DEALER'S COMBINED POLICY - Public & Employers Liability, Stock etc

Please write, email or telephone for a quotation

C G I Services Limited
 29 Bowhay Lane, EXETER EX4 1PE
 mail@stampinsurance.co.uk
 tel: 01392 433 949

Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No.300573

Royal Mail
 Something for you left

1 st Attempt		2 nd Attempt	
Date:	26/7	Date:	
Route Number:		Route Number:	
Initials:		Initials:	

TRACKED



36

ÖSTERREICH



285

R

EINSCHREIBEN
REGISTERED

@



RQ 59 528 213 5 AT

Mr.
 Andy Taylor
 10 Eastfields, Stokesley
 North Yorkshire, TS9 5EJ
 England

ne 26/7

No comment...

THE SECOND SIEGE OF VIENNA IN 1683: POSTAL HISTORY AND PHILATELY

By Dr Inger Kuzych

Part I: BACKGROUND AND POSTAL HISTORY

The two-month long Siege and subsequent Relief of Vienna in 1683 is universally recognized by historians as one of the significant military campaigns of European history; it is always included in any listing of major historic turning points. The battle marks the beginning of the political supremacy of the Habsburg Dynasty in Central Europe, as well as the end of the expansion of the Ottoman Empire into Europe. The allied Christian army's decisive victory delivered Central Europe from the centuries-old specter of Ottoman military conquest.

Vienna in the 17th century was not just the seat of the Habsburg Dynasty; it was also the capital of the Holy Roman Empire. The city was thus not only a rich prize to be captured but, by its very geographic location, it served as a gateway to the heart of Christian Europe (Figure 1). The Ottoman Turks – seeking to extend their power as well as the Muslim faith – keenly recognized the city's strategic importance and already in 1529 (the First Siege of Vienna) had unsuccessfully tried to take the city. They longingly referred to Vienna as “The Golden Apple” and viewed it as the key to their broader goal – the occupation of all of Europe.

Ottoman Moves Toward War

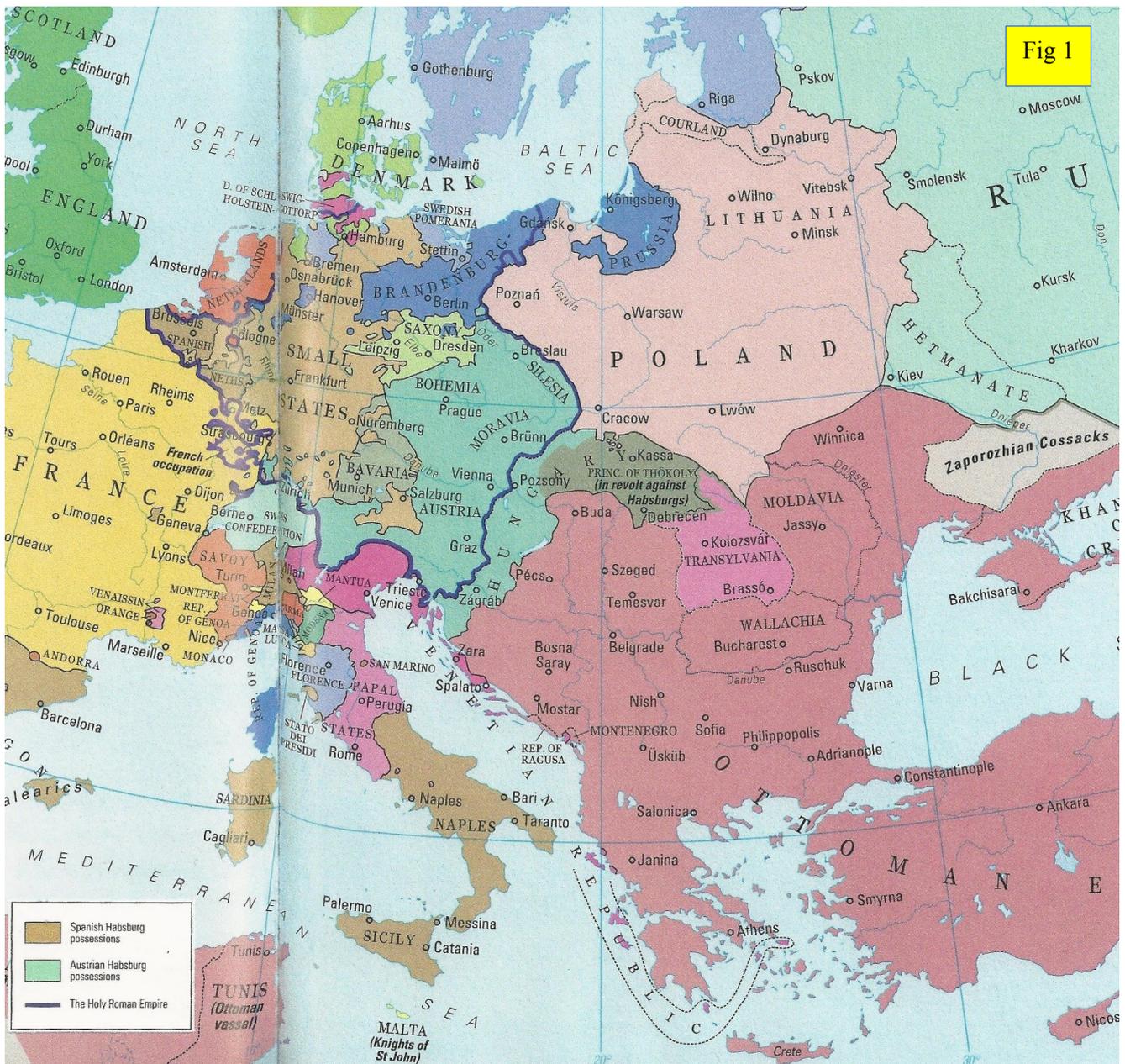
That the Turks were once again threatening the Habsburg capital after a century and a half was due to the altered geopolitical situation in Europe. The France of King Louis XIV (the Sun King) was beginning to emerge as the leading European power and regularly set about asserting its military strength. As French prestige grew, one of Louis' chief aims was to use any means to break the domination of the Habsburgs in Europe “since he, the most powerful ruler in Europe, also deserved the highest dignity of an emperor.”

As part of his grand scheme, Louis undertook a Franco-Ottoman partnership to facilitate his expansionist policies. As a Christian monarch, he refrained from entering into a formal alliance with the Muslim Ottoman Empire, but he maintained a cautious neutrality favorable to the Turks, encouraged them to open a new front against the Habsburgs, and effectively took advantage of their conflict with the Holy Roman Empire to further the territorial interests of France. Louis communicated to the Turks that he would never fight on the side of the Austrian Emperor Leopold I, and he instead massed troops at his eastern frontier with the Empire. These reassurances encouraged the Turks not to renew a 20-year Treaty of Vasvár with Austria signed in 1664 and to move to the offensive. While Habsburg attentions were diverted eastward, Louis was able to pursue a policy of “reunions” – capturing imperial territories on his northeast frontier (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. A map of Central Europe in 1683 shows how much of the European south had been overrun by Ottoman armies and how only a sliver remnant of Hungary remained as a buffer between the Turks and the Holy Roman Empire, ruled by the Habsburg monarch, Leopold I, from Vienna. Transylvania was an Ottoman vassal state and the Hungarian area in revolt was led by Imre Thököly, supported by the Ottomans, who recognized him as “King” of Hungary. The diverting of Habsburg attention and resources to the east allowed French King Louis XIV – informally allied with the Ottomans – to occupy imperial lands in the west. Reprinted by permission of HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, © Times Books 1994.

When in 1676 Kara Mustafa Pasha assumed the Grand Vizier¹ appointment in the Ottoman capital of Istanbul, the war party within the Ottoman Government secured the upper hand. A man of extremes, Kara Mustafa was arrogant, proud, and boundlessly fond of display, but also cruel, ambitious, and greedy for power, and resolutely set on war with the west. His aspirations thus easily overlapped with those of the French king.

¹ The Grand Vizier was second only in power to the Sultan. While the latter was the chief of state, the Grand Vizier was the head of government.



Meanwhile, concerned by the ongoing activities of Louis XIV on his western frontier, Emperor Leopold sought in every way to extend the Vasvár settlement due to expire in 1684. The Austrian ambassador to Istanbul, Georg Christoph von Kunitz, pursued this aim in 1681, but without success. Nor was Count Albert Capara, a special envoy dispatched from Vienna in the spring of 1682, able to secure a continuation of the peace. The Turks deliberately made Capara's journey as difficult as possible, but he persevered in his duties and succeeded in transmitting to Vienna detailed reports on the preparations for war that he observed during his journey.

The medieval Kingdom of Hungary was defeated by the Ottomans in 1526 at the Battle of Mohacs. The result was that the Kingdom came to be divided three ways: about 70% fell to the Ottoman Empire or to Transylvania, an Ottoman vassal state. The Habsburgs secured the smaller remainder, which came to be designated as Royal Hungary or just Hungary. The Hungarian revolt took place in the northeastern part of Hungary (see [Figure 1](#)).

It was in August 1682 that the Vizier was able to secure the support of Sultan Mehmet IV for a campaign against the Habsburg Empire. It was also in that month that Imre Thököly, a Hungarian rebel leader against the Habsburgs, received the title of "King" (of Upper Hungary) from Sultan Mehmed IV – a challenge to the Habsburgs as rulers of Royal Hungary and a clear indication that the Grand Vizier had chosen war over peace.

In October 1682, the Grand Vizier left the Ottoman capital of Istanbul for Edirne (Adrianople) where he spent the winter making preparations for the great campaign. Early in 1683, Sultan Mehmed IV sent an insulting declaration of war to Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I stating: "...above all We give orders to you to await Us in your residential town of Vienna to be beheaded; also you puppet-king of Poland, you likewise..."

At the end of March the Ottoman forces – led by both the Sultan and Vizier – set out for Belgrade, which they reached in early May. Sultan Mehmed decided to remain in the city, but he made the Grand Vizier commander in chief and passed on to him the green Flag of the Prophet, symbolically handing over to him the full responsibility for the campaign. The Sultan also presented his Vizier with a green silken cord, which the latter wore about his neck night and day. The cord was to remind the wearer of the seriousness of his mission: capture Vienna or be strangled. The Vizier was given a broad mandate to take Vienna and Prague, then to move right on through Germany, to take Paris, to move onto Rome, and to turn St. Peter's into a stable. Obviously all this could not be accomplished in one summer's campaigning, but it does reflect the sultan's grandiose expansionist designs

Spring rains and the necessity to repair bridges to handle the large baggage train and cannons caused serious delay to the expedition. The Turkish army brought with them a substantial number of medium- and light-caliber cannon field guns, but no heavy siege guns, the transport of which would have been very laborious and time-consuming. This omission, however, would prove to be a mistake, since it prolonged the effort needed to wear down the city's defences and allowed time for a relief army to coalesce. The Ottomans decided to gamble with their formidable sappers and to make trenches and mines their main instruments of attack. Their plan very nearly came off.

In the middle of June the Turkish army marched through Hungary and on the 6th and 7th of July overran the outer line of Austrian defences at the fortress of Győr (Raab), some 110 km (70 mi) southeast of Vienna. The Imperial army could only provide limited resistance and was forced to retreat. The Vizier left behind 25,000 Ottoman and 10,000 Tatar soldiers to besiege Győr and continued on to Vienna

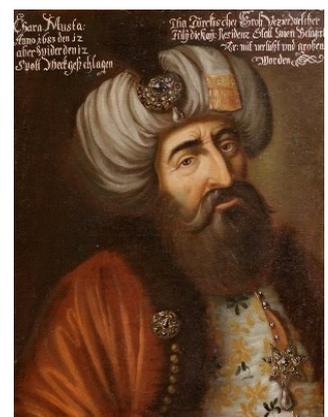
Who was who? Dramatis Personae in The Siege of Vienna

Leopold I (1640-1705) – Holy Roman Emperor, King of Hungary, Croatia, and Bohemia. Leopold ruled the Holy Roman Empire from 1658 to 1705, becoming the second longest-ruling Habsburg emperor (46 years and 9 months). He was both a composer and considerable patron of music. *Figure 2* shows a detail of a full-length portrait of Emperor Leopold I by Benjamin von Block (painted 1672).



Leopold's reign is known for conflicts with the Ottoman Empire in the east (the Great Turkish War of 1683-1699) and rivalry with French King Louis XIV, a contemporary and first cousin (on the maternal side; fourth cousin on the paternal side), in the west. After a decade and a half of warfare, Leopold emerged victorious in the east thanks to the talents of his military commanders. By the Treaty of Karlowitz (1699), Leopold recovered almost all of the Kingdom of Hungary, which had fallen under Turkish power in the years after the 1526 Battle of Mohács. In the west, Leopold fought several protracted wars against France, which resulted in the loss of some territories, the recovery of others, and the ultimate blunting of French territorial expansion.

Kara Mustafa Pasha (1634/1635-1683) – Ottoman nobleman, military figure, and Grand Vizier. *Figure 3* is his portrait. Of Turkish origin, he became governor of Silistria (Bulgaria) in 1659 and subsequently held a number of important posts. He served as a commander of ground troops in a war against Poland-Lithuania that resulted in a treaty recognizing the province of Podilia (Ukraine) as belonging to the Turkish Empire (1676). The victory enabled the Ottomans to transform some of the Cossack regions of southern Ukraine into a protectorate. When his brother-in-law died that same year, Mustafa succeeded him as grand vizier. In 1683, he launched a massive campaign northward into Austria, the grandiose culmination of more than 150 years of Ottoman effort at expansion. The operation came very close to succeeding.



Charles V (1643-1690) – Duke of Lorraine and Bar, was born in exile in Vienna, since both duchies that made up his patrimony were occupied by the France of Louis XIV. Charles spent his military career ably serving the Habsburg monarchy. He played an important role in the 1683-1696 Turkish War, which reasserted Habsburg power in south-eastern Europe, and ended his career as an Imperial Field Marshal. Figure 4 is a portrait of Duke Charles V of Lorraine.



In the opinion of the author, Charles is the person most responsible for the Habsburg victory at Vienna in 1683. While many figures made substantial tactical contributions, it was Charles' strategic vision that led to the success of the grand endeavour. It was he who maintained links with - and coordinated the movements between - the exiled Emperor in Passau, the various allied relieving armies and their self-important leaders, and with the besieged within the city. And, it was his plan of

battle that was adopted and implemented on the fateful day of 12 September 1683.

Ernst Rüdiger von Starhemberg (1638-1701) – Military governor of Vienna from 1680, he led the city's dogged defence during the Siege of Vienna. Notwithstanding injuries and ill health, he became the symbol of the city's resistance. This portrait of him (Figure 5) is engraved instead of painted.

He continued to serve in the imperial armed forces during the Great Turkish War (1683-1696) as a general and war minister.

Jan III Sobieski (1629-1696) – King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania



from 1674 to 1696. Born into the Polish nobility, he entered the army in 1648 and quickly established himself as an able commander; he fought in engagements against Cossacks, Russians, and Swedes, but his most famous victories were against the Ottoman Turks. In 1668, he achieved the rank of Grand Hetman of the Crown, the highest military rank in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and thus the de facto commander-in-chief of the entire Polish Army. In 1674, he was elected King of the Commonwealth. Figure 6 is a portrait of King Jan III Sobieski, painted ca. 1680 by Jan Triccius.



His 22-year reign marked a period of stability, a welcome relief following decades of turbulence in the Polish lands. He is best remembered as the leader of the allied coalition that defeated the Turks at the Battle of Vienna.

Habsburg Responses to the Threat

Emperor Leopold's envoys in Istanbul kept him aware of Ottoman war preparations in the latter part of 1682, so the Emperor too began making arrangements that year. His most important task was fund raising, since the Habsburg state perennially seemed to suffer from a lack of money. Enormous aid arrived from the reformist Pope Innocent XI, an ardent advocate of a Holy League alliance of Christian countries against the Ottoman threat. Over the next few years, he contributed more than 1.5 million guilders to the Habsburgs' efforts. But of even greater importance was the moral pressure the pope was able to place on Louis XIV not to side with the Turks. Innocent authorized the taxation of ecclesiastical property in the Habsburg lands to meet the emergency, and allowed the Emperor to make use of state revenues that had been handed over to the church for various purposes.

The monetary backing that Leopold received could, first and foremost, buy armies. As Holy Roman Emperor, he spared no effort in securing military aid from abroad and from parts of his empire. The support he received from the major German states was directly related to their sense of threat from the east. So it was that Bavaria, Swabia, and Franconia – who would be among the first victims if the Ottoman army triumphed at Vienna – promised substantial military contingents. Should the Turks push northwards, the Electorate of Saxony would be in their line of march, so that entity also pledged considerable forces.

The Spanish Habsburgs were prevented from directly aiding their Austrian Habsburg cousins with troops by the threat posed to Luxembourg (part of the Spanish Netherlands) by the French. In time, however, they did provide a significant monetary grant of 550,000 thalers.

Money was not just needed for war preparations, but was especially necessary for the provision of foodstuffs. In addition to the threatened city of Vienna, the imperial fortresses in Hungary along the Danube – Komarom, Győr, Pressburg – and those around Vienna also needed to be provided with supplies. These had to be purchased from all over Europe since, given the shortage of time, neither enough weapons nor enough food could be produced within the empire.

In addition to aid from abroad, the Emperor also had to come up new sources of income within his realm. Therefore, on 12 December 1682, he issued patents on property tax throughout the empire. **Figure 7** displays a receipt for 30 guilders of an “Extraordinary Turkish Tax” signed/sealed in Vienna by the court war payment procurer.



Figure 7. A receipt, dated 27 March 1683, for payment of a Turkish Tax; ex Baurecht, WIPA08. Taxes on property were one way that the Holy Roman Empire was able to raise additional funds for defence.

Defensive Measures.

Following a complete break in negotiations with the Turks at the beginning of 1683, feverish preparations got underway. While the Emperor and the city of Vienna were not sufficiently prepared for war, the situation was far from hopeless. Over the past century and a half since the previous Ottoman campaign against the city, more effective and modern fortifications had been added piecemeal to older defences.

The stockpiling of weapons and munitions was of utmost importance. In the end, 317 different guns and mortars were amassed within the city against 160 pieces of artillery brought by the Turks. The firepower of the defenders was, therefore, superior to that of the enemy. However, in the field of military mining, the defenders were able to

procure only a few expert sappers before the siege began. Nonetheless, the defenders quickly learned how to successfully counter-mine.

In May of 1683, Leopold bestowed the supreme command of the Habsburg armies to his son-in-law, Duke Charles of Lorraine. This conferral was not some grand show of nepotism, but a shrewd move to bring out of semi-retirement a very capable and courageous military commander – one whose greatest attribute was the affection and trust he inspired in his troops. The imperial army over which he received command, consisting of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, numbered 32,000 men.

The Trading Company Forchondt.

One of the largest European marketing companies in the 17th century was that of the family Forchondt (Forchandt, Forchoudt) in Antwerp, in the then Spanish Netherlands.¹ The Forchondt firm continued to receive many letters from all over Europe during the second siege of Vienna, which it then forwarded to the appropriate destinations. Forchondt served as a postal clearing house and most likely transformed into one of the biggest postal services during those troubled months in the middle of 1683.

Figure 8 shows a letter sent on 3 April 1683 by Alexander and Marcus Forchondt in Vienna to the parent company, Forchondt Trading House, in Antwerp requesting supplies. The partial paid letter was sent via the Paar postal system to the imperial border. The kreuzer charge for the segment of route covered by the Paar Post (which handled court messages) was typically not indicated on mail.² The letter was transferred to the Imperial Reichspost and travelled over the southern postal route Augsburg-Rheinhausen-Bichendorf-Asselborn-Flamisoul and from there by means of the Taxis Netherlands Post to Antwerp. The tax in Antwerp was 1 Brabant schelling (the standard unit of currency in the Spanish Netherlands), which equaled 6 stuivers in specie. Large trading companies like Forchondt had an account register with the post, and the schelling was the accounting currency entered in the register.



Figure 8. A pre-invasion commercial letter sent from Vienna to Antwerp: ex Baurecht. WIPA08.

The Flight. On 7 July, fear and excitement permeated Vienna when Emperor Leopold I decided to leave the city. The Emperor fled not only to prevent his family from being captured and then held for ransom, but to be free to organize resistance to the advancing invader and to make arrangements for the relief of the city. The flight followed the Danube River upstream: from Vienna to Langenzersdorf, Korneuburg, Krems, Melk, Amstetten, and to Enns; later, on to Linz and then Passau (**Figure 9**). Travelling with the Emperor were his family, the court, many citizens, the majority of the city's merchants, as well as countless craftsmen. Some 60,000 panicked inhabitants of the city followed the royals in the days that followed, including many women and children. On the other hand, an almost equal number of folk from the surrounding environs of Vienna fled to the city, trying to escape the marauding Tatars who were plundering and burning the towns. The streets were so packed that even the imperial convoy was only slowly able to make its way.

Count Carl von Paar, the Chief Postmaster of the Austrian hereditary lands, fled together with the Emperor. It was customary for the postmaster to follow the Emperor in order to make sure that imperial letters and orders

¹ In the 17th century, the Habsburg family was represented by an Austrian and a Spanish line. The latter held not only most of the Iberian Peninsula, but also the southern half of the Italian Peninsula and the islands of Sicily and Sardinia, as well as the Spanish Netherlands, which included much of what is today Belgium (see **Figure 1**).

² There were two main postal services that operated within the Holy Roman Empire. The post of the House of Paar handled the collection and dispatch of the letters of the Emperor and those persons attached to his court, while the Imperial Reichspost, operated by the Thurn and Taxis family, managed the posts in the rest of the Empire.

were forwarded in an organized manner. The postmen continually had to be informed of the exact location of the Emperor, so that messages could be delivered and forwarded quickly. Paar likely organized an ad hoc postal dispatch system to the northwest of Vienna, an area free of Turkish troops, and tried to keep his customers aware of the temporary imperial stopovers.

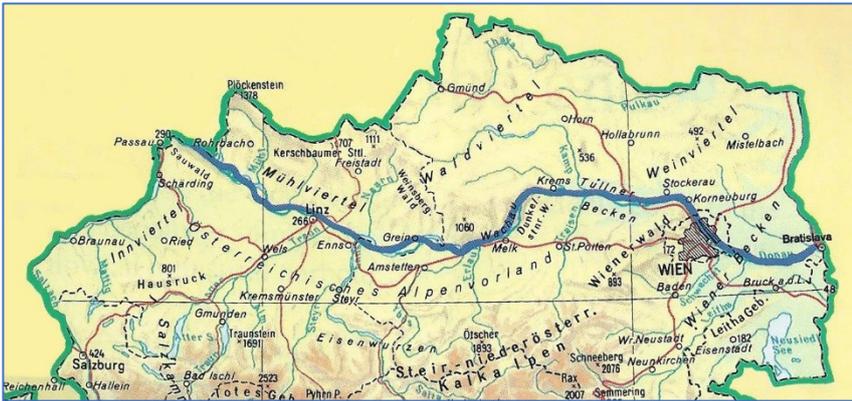


Figure 9. The towns traversed by the Emperor's party, starting at Vienna (Wien) and proceeding westward, may be seen on this contemporary map showing the northern half of Austria and the course of the Danube River (Donau).

These were chaotic times; the flight of the Emperor was not well prepared or organized. Additionally, various security measures had to be taken into account and implemented. Once out of direct danger, the Emperor immediately set about organizing the defence and liberation of the city of Vienna from his stop-offs. The following two letters, both written to the defenders of Vienna within hours of each other on 13 July, provide evidence of some of the Emperor's concerns.

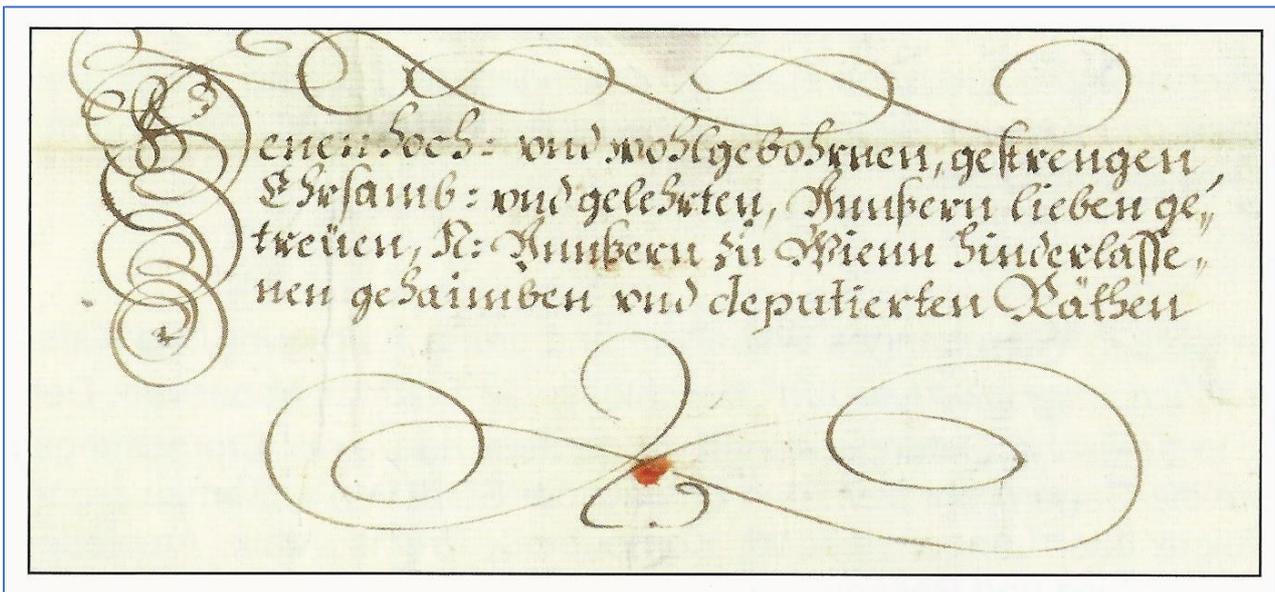


Figure 10 shows the cover of an imperial letter, sent from Enns to Vienna by the Emperor Leopold I during his stopover in Enns addressed to "...our dear faithful, our deputized Rätben who remains in Vienna." An excerpt from the contents: "Right Honorable Sir, ... We stress the utmost necessity that, in the case of the present danger and the approach of the hereditary enemy, all ships, barges, and ferries, on this side of the Danube (that is on the right side of the Danube) located below and above Vienna be hurriedly transferred from this [south] shore to the other [north] bank of the Danube so that the enemy will not be able to use them, but they may be of use to us for importation...." The letter was signed by Leopold. [Ex *Baurecht*, WIPA08]

Figure 11 (below) shows the first page of the other imperial letter sent a few hours later from Enns to the defenders of the city. The opening of the letter states “Leopold, by the Grace of God, Holy Roman Emperor, at all times augmenter of the empire.” The message emphasizes that “...the Vienna Woods should be fortified against the hereditary enemy...” The reference is to the clearing and entrenchment of the Vienna Woods, but with the order to keep free a passage for the return of the army of Charles of Lorraine. Both letters were dictated by the Emperor to his secretarial staff. [Ex Baurecht, WIPA08]

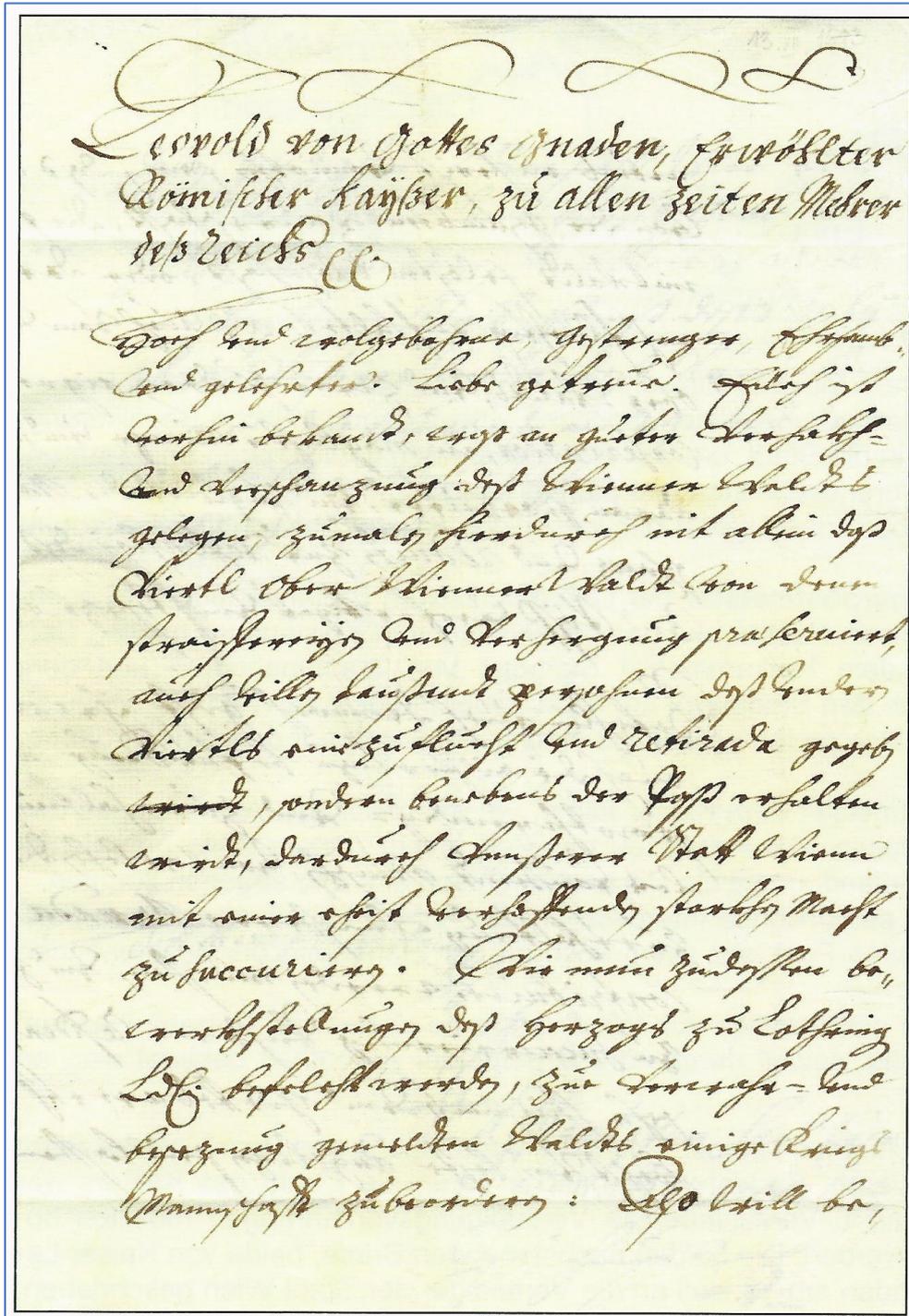
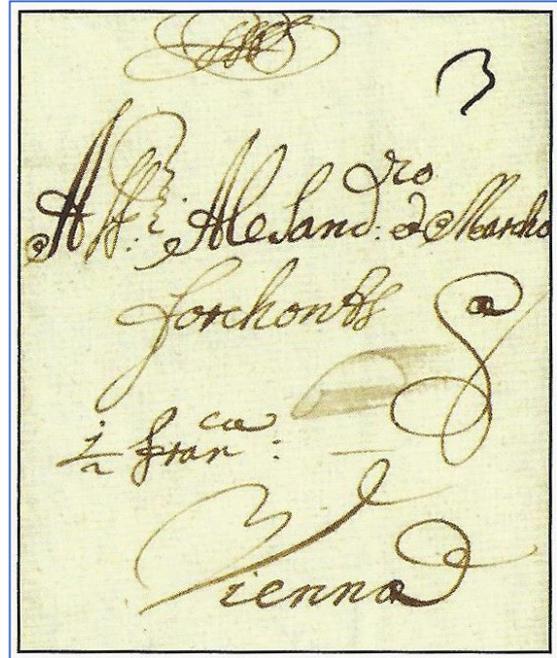


Figure 12 is a letter dispatched from Nürnberg to Vienna on 14 July 1683. The letter was forwarded to the border with the imperial post office (Taxis); the handwritten notation (lower left) indicates the item was half paid “1/2 franca”. By 15 July, Vienna was completely besieged by the Turks, so the letter could not be delivered. The sender was trying to reach a representative of the trading company Forchondt, but the Forchondt family had fled Vienna with the Emperor and on 14 July were headed in the direction of Linz and soon after would arrive in Passau. It is unclear how the letter arrived at its destination. The “3” [kreuzer] indication in the upper right is the Paar Post fee. That route was presumably via the Bohemian forest route of Retz-Waldmünchen-Prague-Vienna, but since the city was under siege, mail would have been held up somewhere along the route for a couple of months until the siege was lifted and normal deliveries to the Austrian capital resumed. Alternatively, since the Forchondt firm was a major postal customer and members of the family were accompanying the Emperor in the “provisional capital” of Passau, the trading house may have been able to arrange for letters addressed to them in Vienna to be forwarded to Passau. [*Ex Baurecht, WIPA08*]



Fortress Vienna.

When the Emperor departed his capital in the evening of 7 July, he left behind a shadow war government to manage the city's defence. That the city was made ready in time was due to the vigorous exertions of the Commandant of the City Guard, Ernst Rüdiger Starhemberg. Organizational assistance was also provided by Bishop Leopold Count von Kollonitz and Vienna's Mayor Andreas Liebenberg.

Starhemberg used the week before the Turks appeared to tenaciously complete defensive preparations. The surrounding countryside delivered timber for the palisades and landowners were “energetically requested” to provide the manpower necessary for their erection. The entire population of the city was mobilized and even the monks and priests labored with the laity. Work began just before dawn, continued throughout the day and into the night by the light of flares and torches. The city's two arsenals were completely stocked with gunpowder, shot, and musket balls.

On 8 July, Commander-in Chief Charles of Lorraine returned to Vienna with his cavalry from an extended reconnoitering expedition and his presence and those of his troops did much to calm the hysteria within the city. His infantry began to arrive on 10 July and they would form the core of the city's defenders, which are estimated to have numbered about 11,500. They were joined by about 5 thousand civilian fighters. The latter were untrained, however, and were used more for policing or guard duties, firefighting, and, at need, for fortification repair. Some 700 university students fit for military service formed an auxiliary Academic Legion.

While today Vienna sprawls across both sides of the Danube, in 1683 it lay south of the river and that is the area that would be occupied by the Turks upon their arrival. On the 14th of July, Lorraine pulled his sizeable cavalry of about 20,000 men out of the northern Viennese suburb of Leopoldstadt, breaking down the bridges across the Danube, and retiring to a new position north of the river. This redeployment was necessary to secure the northern approaches to the city from which the relief armies were expected to arrive.

On that same day the Ottoman army appeared from the south and began enveloping the city; the Turkish sappers set to work immediately digging trenches. A full-scale assault with the janissaries, the elite troops of the Turkish army, in the lead took place the following day but was driven off with large losses.

The Second Siege of Vienna

Although estimates differ among sources, there is no doubt that the size of the Turkish army was enormous. Figures in the range of 300 thousand include all of the hangers-on of a 17th century army (cooks, craftsmen, servants, livestock herders, camp followers, etc.). According to a muster list found in Kara Mustafa's tent the day after the final battle, the grand total of the army, including auxiliaries, was 174,500 men, but this represents, original, theoretical strengths of various units. A number somewhere in the range of 90 to 100 thousand is probably a fairly realistic total of the actual Ottoman men at arms that arrived at Vienna in mid-July of 1683. Included in this total were the best engineers, cannoneers, and sappers that could be procured to breach Vienna's formidable defences.

Much to everyone's surprise, the outer earthen rampart with its wooden palisade that had been so hastily erected in the lead-up to the siege proved to be a formidable barrier. Its steep incline and strength of construction, along with a determined defence, stymied the Turks for more than three weeks. While sections of this fence could be dug under and great mines exploded, the defenders had plenty of lumber and quickly repaired and replaced damaged sections. It was not until 7 August, the 25th day of the siege, that the Turks broke through this first obstacle and entrenched themselves in the floor of the ditch that encircled the city.

Defensive Strategy in the 17th Century

The strongest and most advanced defences in the 17th century were **bastion forts**, a type of fortification that evolved during the early modern period of gunpowder when the cannon came to dominate the battlefield. Early versions of such forts were first seen in the mid-15th century in Italy. When combined with **ravelins** and other outworks, they developed into what are called **star forts**. The defences at Vienna incorporated many of the features of a star fort.

The design of a star fort is normally a polygon with bastions at the corners of the walls. These outcroppings eliminated protected blind spots, called "dead zones", and allowed fire along the curtain wall (sometimes just called a curtain) from positions protected from direct fire.

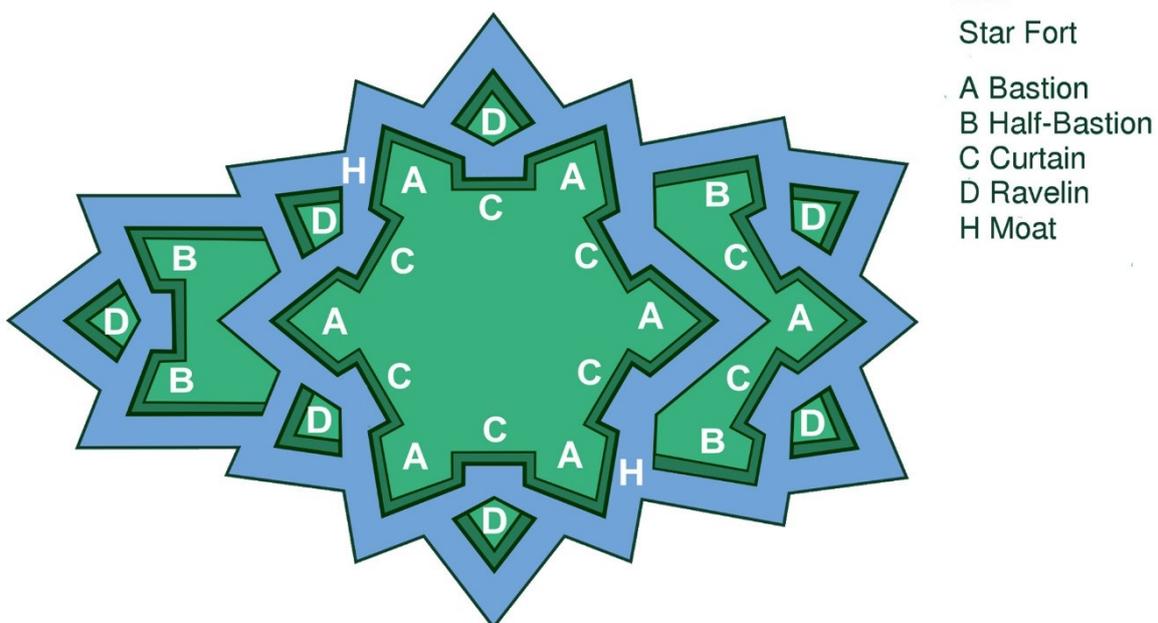


Figure 13. An idealized star fort, showing its major features. Various parts of the fort provide support and cover for other parts, e.g., fire from the bastions (A) and half-bastions (B) protects the curtains (C, also called curtain walls), while the ravelins (D, essentially islands of artillery outside of the main fort) protect both the bastions and curtains.

A **ravelin** was a detached minor fortification, usually triangular in shape, located outside a principal fortification in front of a curtain wall and bastion(s). The outer edges of a ravelin were configured to divide an assault force, and guns from a ravelin could fire upon attacking troops as they approached the curtain wall or bastions. Ravelins also impeded besiegers from using their artillery to batter a breach in a curtain wall.

The second phase of the fighting extended over the next 37 days until the final climactic day of battle on 12 September. The bitter struggle focused on a narrow strip of ground separating two of the city's major southwestern defensive structures: the Löbl and the Burg Bastions (Figure 14). The contested area was actually a large sunken area between the inner and outer lines of defence that came to be described as "the Pit of Hell." Day by day Ottoman diggings moved closer to a ravelin, (an external defensive fortification) covering the two bastions and curtain wall at this section of the city (see sidebar). One or two mine explosions daily weakened and brought down part of the defensive fortifications and would be followed by an assault from the Ottoman lines. The attack would be met by withering fire, lobbed grenades, and sometimes hand-to-hand fighting, as others worked furiously to set up new replacement structures (Figure 15). Occasional sorties by the defenders attempted to kill sappers, blow up tunnels, or take out gun emplacements, but these only proved marginally successful and were costly in lives. Additionally, the besiegers seemed to have a limitless number of men willing to die to enter their Muslim Paradise (Figure 16).

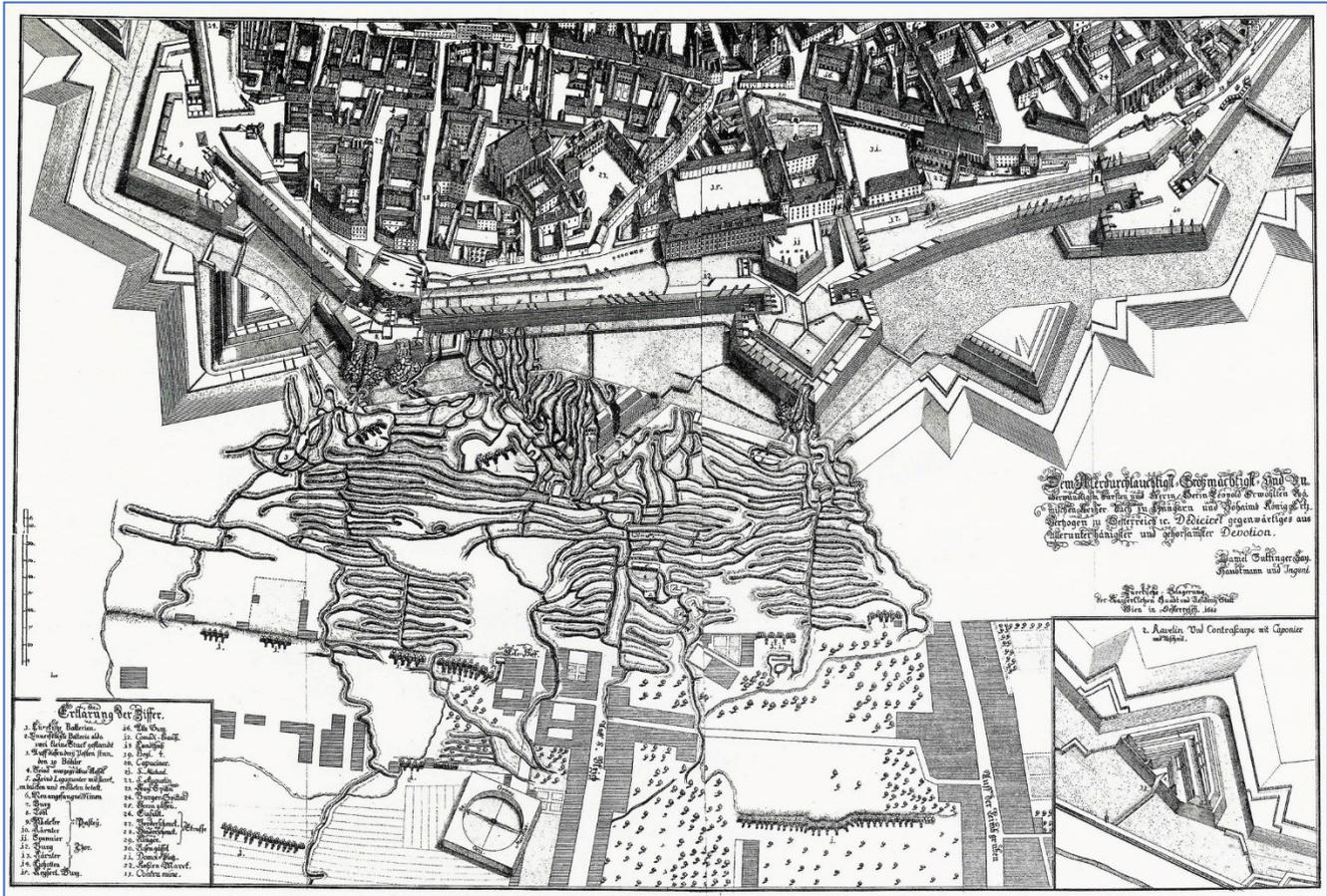


Figure 14. The siege works at Vienna as drawn by Daniel Suttinger in 1683. A gifted military engineer, Suttinger fought in the siege and after the relief of the city produced a series of detailed studies explaining how the city withstood the prolonged assault. His remarkably accurate plans were published throughout Europe. This rendering shows the web of Turkish trenches outside the city walls, the partially destroyed Löbl Bastion (8) on the left, the damaged Burg Bastion on the right (7), the curtain wall between them (J) and the completely destroyed ravelin (3) that had protected the bastions and wall until the 3rd of September; ex Broucek et al.



Figure 15. A. A colorized engraving made by the famous Dutch artist Romeyn de Hooghe a few years after the Relief of Vienna gives some idea of the ferocity of the Turkish onslaught against the walls of Vienna, as well as the determined defence that included women and clergy (delivering grenades and ammunition, at right).



Figure 16. Another de Hooghe engraving shows a sally of defenders beyond the city walls in the midst of a furious enemy bombardment.

Over time, parts of the ravelin were either completely destroyed or taken over by the Turks. Finally, on 2 September, a huge mine brought down what remained of the ravelin. A garrison held on to a sliver of land for another day, but it could no longer provide flanking fire to protect the two bastions and was then ordered to retreat behind the curtain wall (i.e., into the city itself). So, on September 3, after four weeks of effort, the Turks possessed the ravelin that had cost them a great deal of blood. All of Vienna's approach defences had been breached. It was the beginning of the end and both sides knew it.

North of the Danube.

Meanwhile, much else was happening north of the city. Duke Charles of Lorraine and his 20,000 cavalymen had not been idle. Toward the end of July, Lorraine received word that Imre Thököly, the Hungarian rebel leader, and a mixed force of Hungarians and Turks were thrusting westward along the north bank of the Danube River. If left unchecked, that movement could cut the lines of communication linking Vienna with any relief armies. It would also diminish the area still capable of providing supplies and forage for the Habsburg troops in the field. Recognizing the danger, Lorraine advanced eastward to Pressburg, and there, on 30 July, drove back Thököly and his forces. At Stammersdorf, on 24 August, Lorraine repelled a second Turkish-Hungarian advance, leaving free the routes along which aid could come from the German lands and Poland.

Lorraine's army continued to effectively patrol the northern Danubian shore, but the Duke's greatest concern was lack of intelligence on the progress of the siege. He eventually received word that powerful reinforcements were on their way (see further below), but these were marching from distant lands and their progress was very slow. Lorraine was forced to wait knowing that with time a larger and stronger relieving force would grow. Simultaneously, however, the chances for a successful Turkish assault on the city also rose. The uncertainty of the situation weighed heavily on all. A number of bold and resourceful messengers crossing into or out of the city delivered not only vital intelligence, but also provided hope to the besieged.

The Couriers.

Not all of the names of the brave volunteers who crossed the battle lines have come down to us, but we do have records of some two dozen letters that were sent in either direction, most of them delivered successfully (consult the sidebar). There is no doubt that the risk in undertaking such a trek was great. Inducements – such as a substantial monetary payment or the promise of a military promotion – were necessary to make such an effort worthwhile.

LETTER SMUGGLING DURING THE SIEGE OF VIENNA, 1683

During the Siege it was crucial for the three main parties coordinating the relief of the city to exchange information. These three groups consisted of 1. the Emperor and his court (which had transferred upriver to the city of Passau, and later Linz, and from where relief operations were being directed), 2. the imperial army led by the emperor's brother in law, the Duke of Lorraine, located across the Danube River north of the city, and 3. the defenders within the city. This table gives all the known details.

LETTERS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED INTO OR OUT OF VIENNA DURING THE 1683 SIEGE †

Nr	Date Sent	Arrived	Messenger	Sent From	Sent To	Message Summary
1	21 July	21 July	A cavalryman (cuirassier)	Lorraine	Starhemberg	Promise of speedy relief
2	21 July		The same cavalryman	Starhemberg	Lorraine	Messenger captured; the encrypted message he carried could not be deciphered
3	22 July	22 July?	Heider (Kuniz's servant)	Kuniz	Starhemberg	Enemy harvesting huge amounts of timber for trench works; they intend to mine through the defences
4	22 July?	22 July?	Heider	Starhemberg	Kuniz	Promise to resist
5	22 July?	22 July?	?	Starhemberg	Lorraine	Details of Turkish siege operations and determination to hold on
6	25 July	?	Heider	Kuniz	the city	Warning of mines likely to explode
7	25 July?		Heider	Starhemberg	Lorraine via Kuniz	Messenger captured and confined; life spared through bribe
8	4 August	4 or 7 August	A mounted messenger	Lorraine	the city	Delivered letters from Passau with details about the size of forces that might be assembled for a relief army
9	?	?	The same mounted courier	Starhemberg?	Lorraine	Courier captured; the coded message he carried could not be deciphered
10	8 August	15 August	Lt. Gregorovitz	Starhemberg and Caplirs	Lorraine	Delivered three letters; message describes how enemy is now in the counterscarp
11	13 August	15 August	Kulchytsky and Seradly	Caplirs	Lorraine	Grim conditions in the city, progress of the Turks
12	13 August	15 August	Kulchytsky and Seradly	Caplirs	Leopold	Progress of mining; conditions in city
13	15 August	17 August	Kulchytsky and Seradly	Lorraine	Starhemberg	Promise to relieve as soon as possible (by the end of the month or early September); news of victory by imperial army over Hungarian rebels at Pressburg
14	19 August	20 August	Seradly	Starhemberg	Lorraine	Conditions in the city
15	21 August?	23 August	Seradly	Lorraine	Starhemberg	Promise of speedy relief
16	Third week of August	?	?	Leopold	the city	Praise of defenders, with additional message in code
17	22 August	24 August?	?	Kuniz	the city	Imminent explosion of mines
18	27 August	?	Michaelovitz	Starhemberg	Lorraine	Serious conditions in the city, loss of manpower from casualties

<i>Nr</i>	<i>Date Sent</i>	<i>Arrived</i>	<i>Messenger</i>	<i>Sent From</i>	<i>Sent To</i>	<i>Message Summary</i>
19	27 August	?	Michaelovitz	Caplirs	Lorraine	Parlous conditions in the city, loss of manpower from casualties
20	1 Sept'ber?	1 Sept'ber?	Michaelovitz	Lorraine	Starhemberg?	News that relief is on the way
21	2 Sept'ber	2 Sept'ber	Michaelovitz	Starhemberg	Lorraine *	Progress of the enemy
22	2 Sept'ber	2 Sept'ber	Michaelovitz	Caplirs	Lorraine *	Progress of the enemy
23	5 Sept'ber		Seradly?	Starhemberg	Lorraine	Messenger either captured or defects. Message relates how the situation is becoming desperate with no more than 5,000 fighting men still available
24	8 Sept'ber		Two couriers	?	the city	Captured

* These letters were addressed to Emperor Leopold but were delivered to Lorraine. The Emperor and his court were at this time residing in Linz.

Notes: The Siege of Vienna lasted 61 days (14 July to 12 September). During the first stages of the Siege it was relatively easy to get messages into and out of the city. Couriers who swam the Danube kept their letters dry inside a pig's bladder tied to their body.

Letter writers:

Leopold – Emperor Leopold I, Holy Roman Emperor

Lorraine – Duke Charles V of Lorraine, brother-in-law to the Emperor Leopold I, imperial generalissimo

Caplirs – Zdenko Caplirs, Vice President of the War Council within the besieged city

Kuniz – Baron George Kuniz, Leopold's envoy to the sultan, detained within the besieging Turkish army, acted as spy by transmitting information into the city

Starhemberg – Ernst Rüdiger Starhemberg, Commander of the Vienna garrison

Messengers:

Heider – Jakob Heider, a servant of Kuniz

Gregorovitz – Infantry Lieutenant Michael Gregorovitz

Kulchytsky – Georg Franz Kolschitzky (Yuriy Kulchytsky), a Ruthenian (Ukrainian) polyglot merchant

Seradly – Stephen Seradly, servant of Kulchytsky

Michaelovitz – Georg Michaelovitz (Mihailović), a Rascian (Serbian) Oriental goods dealer

† Information mentioning letter transmission during the Siege of Vienna appears in a number of publications, but all of it is incomplete. The above table was compiled by the author from numerous sources and is as comprehensive as possible.

[The Couriers, continued]

For the first 10 days or so of the siege it was easier to get messages into or out of the city. Baron Kuniz, the Austrian envoy to the Ottomans, had been forced to accompany the Muslim army on their trek to Vienna. On July 22 and 25, he was able to get his valet, Jakob Heider, to smuggle letters into the city with information on the siege operations. Unfortunately, the daring courier was captured on his second trek back. He quick-wittedly threw away his message and loudly protested his innocence when caught, but it required a handsome bribe for his life to be spared and he was locked up as a suspicious character.

Easily the most famous of the messengers was Yuriy Kulchytsky (Georg Kolschitzki), who along with his servant Stephen Seradly, made a round trip out of and back into the city between August 13 and 17. They carried letters to Lorraine and to the Emperor detailing the conditions within the city. The return message from Lorraine let the

defenders know that relief would come as soon as possible, but that would not be till the end of the month or early September. Additionally, the two men brought back heartening news of the Austrian victory over the rebel Hungarians at Pressburg a few weeks earlier.

Kulchytsky is better known for his activities after the Siege when he established what became a popular coffee house in the city and helped create a tradition that continues to this day. Over time, his beverage contribution was inflated and he was credited with *introducing* coffee drinking into the city, which is not true since coffee houses were set up in the city prior to his. Nonetheless, his shop became very popular because of its proprietor's fame.

Yuriy Kulchytsky (Georg Kolschitzki) – Hero of Vienna and Father of the Vienna *Kaffeehaus*



One of the Viennese heroes during the trying days of the Siege was a Ukrainian polyglot named Yuriy Kulchytsky. Born around 1640 near Sambir in western Ukraine (but then part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth), he joined the Zaporozhian Cossacks in his youth, learned to speak Turkish, and became an interpreter, joining the Cossacks on various expeditions (Figure 17). This plaque in Sambir, Lviv oblast in Ukraine honours native son Yuriy Kulchytsky.

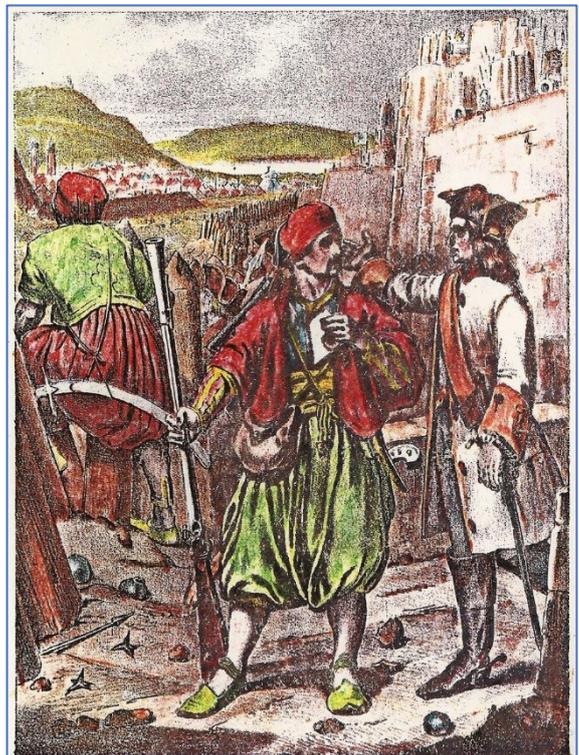
During one of those expeditions the young man was captured, taken to the Ottoman Empire, and imprisoned for several years. In captivity he perfected his knowledge of Turkish and the Turkish way of life and, perhaps not so surprisingly, developed a liking for coffee, then not widely known in Europe. Some Serbian merchants, who needed the young prisoner as an interpreter, purchased Kulchytsky's freedom. In Belgrade,

Yuriy was employed as a translator at a large Viennese commercial company and further developed his linguistic skills, becoming fluent in German, Hungarian, and Romanian – in addition to Turkish, Polish, and Ukrainian. He also became well-versed in the customs of the peoples who populated east central Europe. In 1678, Kulchytsky moved to Vienna, where he launched his own trading business importing oriental goods.

By the time of the Siege, Kulchytsky was serving as a volunteer in a company of civilians when his talent with languages was brought to the attention of Count von Starhemberg, Commander-in-Chief of the Viennese defence forces (Figure 18). The commandant needed a man who knew Turkish and could penetrate the enemy defences. (Earlier messengers sent to deliver letters to the allied troops had been intercepted.)

This drawing is reputed to show Count Ernst von Starhemberg, Commander-in-Chief of the Viennese defence forces (on the right), approaching Yuriy Kulchytsky with the proposal to cross the Ottoman lines and get word of the city's predicament to the relief armies. The illustration gives a fairly good indication of some of the city's defensive works and how the siege would have looked for the defenders. A large cleared area away from barricades and walls (the glacis) exposed attackers to the defender's gun and cannon fire. Turkish tents may be seen in the distance. Kahlenberg Mountain, after which the decisive battle would be named, appears in the upper left. It is doubtful that Starhemberg would have been wearing a heavy coat and periwig in the August heat.

For 200 ducats, Kulchytsky and his trusty Serbian servant Stephen Seradly accepted the perilous but vital mission of getting news of the city's worsening predicament to the imperial troops camped north of the city. Dressed in Turkish clothing and bearing forged passports identifying them as Turkish army merchants, they sneaked into the Ottoman camp



during the night of 13 August and the next day walked bravely past the enemy tents to successfully deliver the message for assistance entrusted to them. As well, the men passed on information on the condition of Vienna's defence and the progress the Turks had made with their siege trenches.

Shortly thereafter, the pair repeated their daring exploit by making a precarious return journey to the beleaguered city – this time coming very much closer to getting arrested by the Turks. They returned by August 17 with heartening tidings that help was on the way. This crucial intelligence as well as the extraordinary courage that they had shown boosted the morale of the defenders and strengthened their determination not to allow Vienna to be taken.

Kulchytsky later became famous for yet another remarkable achievement. Following the Siege, he asked for and was granted sacks of grey-green beans that the fleeing Turks had left behind and that were in danger of being tossed into the Danube. Kulchytsky recognized these as coffee beans from his time as a captive, and he helped popularize the drinking of this brew in the city. By adding milk and sugar to coffee, he transformed the drink into a delicious and refreshing beverage, palatable to Austrians and subsequently to the rest of Europe. Special coffee houses sprung up throughout Vienna as the consumption of the “Viennese specialty” caught on.

Kulchytsky and his wife set up one of the first Viennese coffee houses, called *Zur Blauen Flasche* (At the Blue Bottle), under a license granted by Emperor Leopold I himself. Contemporaries recount that people flocked in droves to Kulchytsky's cafe, initially not so much to drink coffee, which the Viennese took some time to appreciate, as to hear the brave Kulchytsky recount his “stroll” through the Turkish camp. Sometime later, in his free moments, Kulchytsky set down his experience in a pamphlet entitled: *The Tale of an Eyewitness Who, Disguised as a Turk, Went through the Enemy Camp and Came Back*.

Even though Kulchytsky did not establish the first Viennese coffee house, he did much to propagate and promote the consumption of the drink in the city and deserves the designation: Father of the Vienna *Kaffeehaus*.

Kulchytsky died from tuberculosis on 19 February 1694 and was buried in the graveyard of St. Stephen's Cathedral in the heart of Vienna. His services to the city were recognized in 1885 when the civic authorities erected a statue to the brave and innovative man. His monument still stands at the corner of a house at Favoritenstrasse 64 (Figure 19); it was sculpted by Emanuel Pendl and erected in 1885.



Just days after successfully concluding the round trip with his master, Seradly managed to complete another message delivery circuit on his own (19 to 23 August) and this time was able to collect all of the 200-ducat reward for himself. One other courier who successfully completed two trips out of the city (late August-early September) was Georg Michaelovitz who, like Yuriy Kulchytsky, was a merchant with a good knowledge of the Turkish language. The intelligence that he was able to transmit proved very helpful in the days leading up to the climactic battle on 12 September.

In summary, the couriers played a vital role in saving Vienna, for the reports from outside, telling of victories elsewhere or of preparations for the city's relief, kept hopes alive. A defender's short diary entry of 22 August reacting to news brought by Kulchytsky and Seradly encapsulates the boost in morale: “All the inhabitants of the city, spiritual or secular, of high or low status, were elated and revived.”

Figures 20-22 show three parts of an encoded imperial letter sent to the besieged city of Vienna from Passau where Emperor Leopold I continued to reside with his family and where he organized the relief of his embattled capital. The “Duplicat” inscription in the lower left of the cover (Figure 20) indicates that it is one of several messages dispatched to be sure that at least one would get through the Turkish lines and reach the beleaguered city. This letter is apparently the only one that survives (number 16 in the listing) of any of those successfully delivered into the besieged city.



Figure 20. The cover of a letter sent by Emperor Leopold to the defenders of Vienna; ex Baurecht, WIPA08.

In the letter itself (Figure 21), the Emperor attempted to offer encouragement to the defenders of the city. The introductory paragraph from page one of the Emperor's dispatch states that he was pleased to learn in a letter of the 12th of the manner in which his residence city, already for a fifth week, continued to resolutely defend itself. The letter he refers to is number 12 in the listing, which was dated 12 August but not carried out of

the city by Kulchytsky until the following day.

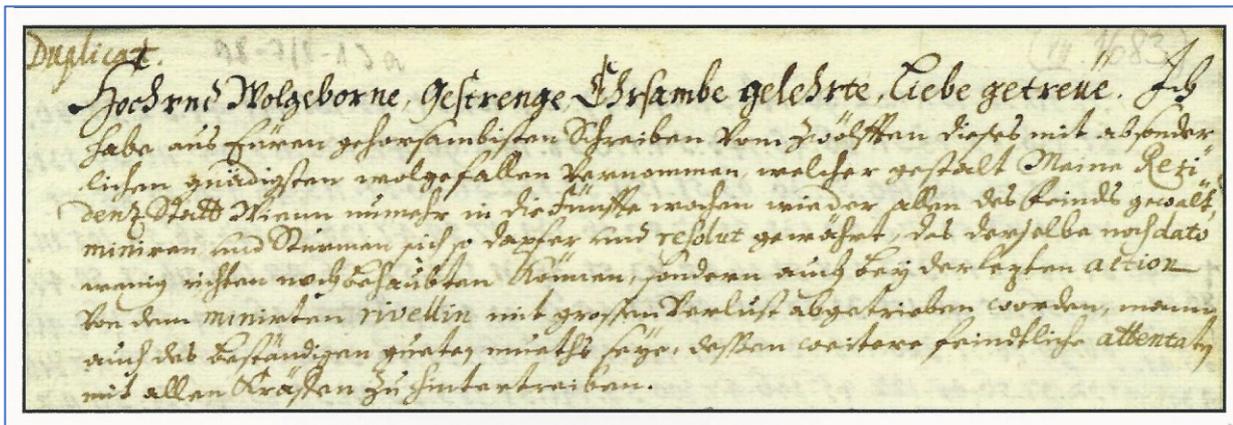


Figure 21. Opening paragraph of the Emperor's letter to the defenders of his capital; ex Baurecht, WIPA08.

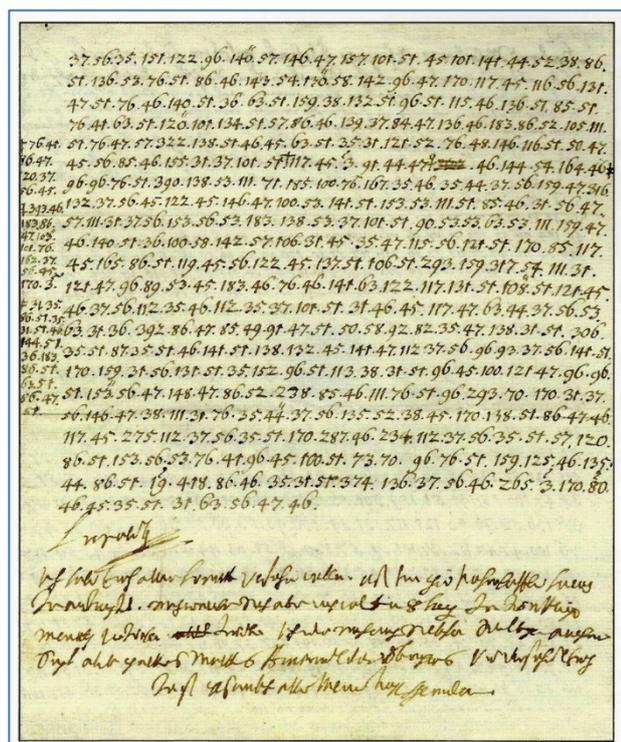


Figure 22 shows the second page of the letter's contents. It was set in code in case it fell into enemy hands; the encryption used in this section remains unsolved to this day. The message undoubtedly involved secret instructions and information dealing with the preparations for the relief of the city of Vienna. Should the letter have fallen into the hands of the Turks, they would not have been able to interpret its contents. The postscript and signature are those of the Emperor. [ex Baurecht, WIPA08].

Assembling the Relief Army

By the latter part of August, German relief forces from across the Holy Roman Empire began to converge north of the Danube. The first to arrive were 11,300 troops from Bavaria led by the Elector of Bavaria, Max Emmanuel, who in two years' time would become the son-in-law of Emperor Leopold. The states of Franconia and Swabia provided 8,000 men under Count von Waldeck.

The largest foreign contingent came from Poland, and its dispatch was the result of a mutual defence alliance between the House of Austria and Poland against the Infidel signed on 31 March 1683. By its terms, the Emperor was obligated to provide 60,000 troops whereas the Poles were to arm 40,000 men. If either Vienna or Krakow were besieged, the sovereign whose capital was not directly threatened was to hurry to the aid of the other and would be in charge to lead the relief effort. While the pledged numbers were somewhat unrealistic, the Polish King Jan III Sobieski was able to assemble a relieving force of roughly 20,000 men. Greatly assisting the muster effort was a substantial subsidy of 500,000 guilders sent from Rome by Innocent XI, as well as 200,000 thaler from the Emperor.

The Polish army traversed the Habsburg crownlands of Silesia and Moravia on their way to Vienna. **Figure 23** is a letter sent from Captain Johann Caspar in the imperial army and stationed in Breslau (the capital of Silesia) to the governor of Troppau, a Silesian town on the route the Polish army would be taking. The contents of the 10 August letter state that the governor is required to assist the Polish King and his troops – who are on their way to significantly strengthen the imperial relief army – to pass freely through Silesia and thus to comply with the official patent. The governor was also to provide sufficient food for the transiting troops. The Poles transited the town on the 25th of August.



Letter ex Baurecht, WIPA08.

Included in the Polish army were at least 3,000, possibly 4,000, Zaporozhian Cossacks¹ from Ukraine. These were the King's "ace-up-his-sleeve." He knew that the Cossacks were the Turk's most feared enemy and he was desperate to have them among his forces. In a letter sent 31 August 1683 from Sobieski to his wife, Countess Maria Kasimira, the King wrote: "I don't give a damn about anyone except the Cossacks, and I am yearning daily for their arrival. Again, I am begging you to send the Cossacks and to keep all available transportation ready for them because all other people we can spare."

Learning of the gathering of foreign forces and feeling somewhat more secure, Leopold and his court sailed downstream from Passau to the city of Linz on the 25th of August. The Emperor was painfully aware of how

¹ The Cossacks were nominally under the rule of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth but were in reality an autonomous military state. The name derives from *Zaporozhtsi*, which comes from the location of the Cossack's Dnipro River fortress, the Sich, in Zaporizhia, the "land beyond the rapids" (from *za* "beyond" and *porohy* "river rapids"). Papal envoy Marco d'Aviano presented King Jan III Sobieski with funds that would temporarily pay for a regiment of 3,000 Cossacks to fight under the papal standard (the pope was well informed of Cossack prowess). Cossack recruits continued to join the allies up to the eleventh hour, however. On the 8th of September, the envoy wrote to Rome: "*The Cossacks are joining Sobieski's army by the dozens. I think this regiment is the best we have and should be used in the first line of defence against the Turks.*"

embarrassing his hasty departure from Vienna on 7 July had looked. He now thought about taking the field with his army. He was, however, by no means resolute and he sought advice and exchanged letters with various officials. They, not wishing to offend, prevaricated.

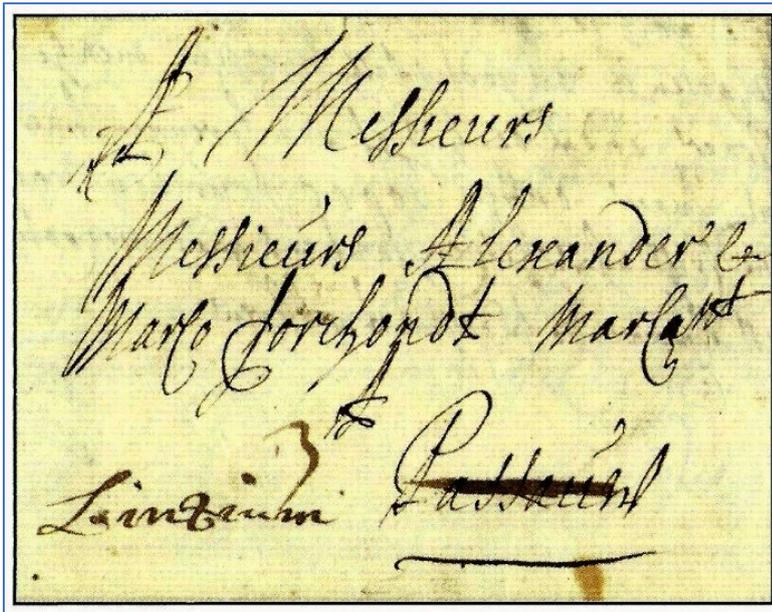


Figure 24 is a Forchondt letter posted from Antwerp to Passau on 23 August that was redirected to Linz. The item was paid for the route covered by the Taxis Netherlands Post and the Imperial Reichspost to Passau. However, by the time the letter arrived, the addressee had travelled with the Emperor to Linz, so the letter was sent on via the Paar Post. The “3” [kreuzer] indicates the added Paar Post delivery fee. *Letter ex Baurecht, WIPA08.*

On August 31, Sobieski, with an advance party of troops, met up with Charles of Lorraine at Oberhollabrunn where the Bavarian, Habsburg, and Franconian troops had assembled. The Duke’s imperial forces at this time numbered about 21,000 men. The numbers were further

strengthened on 6 September when the Elector of Saxony, John George III, brought an army of 10,400. The combined Habsburg and German forces, therefore, came to almost exactly 50,000, and with the Polish contribution, which arrived during the first week of September, the overall total reached about 70,000.

In general then, the numbers of the relievers were close to, and may even have slightly exceeded, those of the besiegers. On the eve of the final, fateful battle, the original Ottoman host in the range of 90-100 thousand had been reduced by 20-30 thousand. The dogged defenders of the city had inflicted maximum casualties and disease had also carried off considerable numbers of the besiegers.¹

Within the city, conditions were grim but not hopeless. As previously mentioned, occasional successful message deliveries from the outside sustained morale. Food supplies remained adequate so that there was no outright starvation, but there was a serious shortage of perishables. As the store of beef and fowl dwindled, some people turned to horses, mules, and even cats (which came to be called “roof rabbits”). Over time, besieged cities often suffered plague outbreaks. Miraculously, no such outbreak occurred during this siege, but the crowding in the city and the unhygienic conditions did bring on an epidemic of amoebic dysentery, which laid low large numbers of the defenders. However, dysentery has a relatively low mortality rate – one death for every eight cases – and so most victims eventually recovered.

Nonetheless, by the end of August and into early September the situation within the fortress was becoming critical. The ravelin had been captured on the 3rd of September and three subsequent monstrous mine charges (on the 4th, 6th, and 8th) opened up large breaches under different bastions. The ensuing enemy assaults were only barely driven off after hours of fighting (Figure 25, below). Food too was becoming scarce and the numbers of the defenders were more than halved,² either fallen in the line of duty, wounded, or laid up by dysentery. It was becoming increasingly questionable whether the fortress could withstand a fourth major attack.

Fortunately for the Viennese, Kara Mustafa at this time became increasingly aware of the approaching multinational Christian host. He was forced to divert his attention from the trenches to securing his rear.

¹ Recognizing the need for some sort of hygiene, the Vienna city authorities tried to implement basic measures but encountered many difficulties because of the crowded conditions. The Ottomans on the other hand did not undertake any sanitation procedures and consequently disease added to their large number of battle casualties.

² Estimates vary, but there were likely only 4 to 5 thousand able-bodied men remaining to defend the city on the eve of the fateful battle on the 12th of September.



Figure 25. Turkish Attack on the Löbl Bastion by the Austrian painter Leander Russ (1837). Multiple cheveux de frise (spiked defensive obstacles as shown at bottom) constructed by the defenders proved very effective in slowing down and impeding enemy soldiers and allowing the defenders more time to bring artillery and gun fire to bear.

The Battle for Europe: To Be Continued in the next issue...

SELLING MY DUPLICATES

The time has come in life when I must consider reducing the quantity of Austrian material that I have built up over the years. I will continue to sell through the APS Auction and Packet, but there is too much material for these outlets alone. So, I have started selling on Ebay, using the vendor-name "**kirkby333**" and I hope you will drop in to see what I have to offer

New material from various topics will be added every week, so please add "**kirkby333**" to your favourite sellers and check it out from time to time.

Thanks! Keith Brandon

Joint Societies meeting, Leeds, 12 August 2023

Reported by Roger Morrell

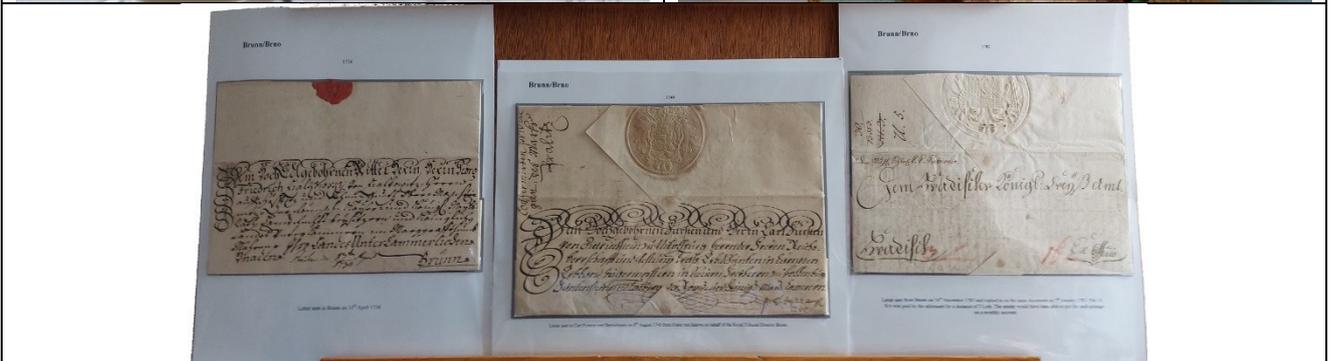
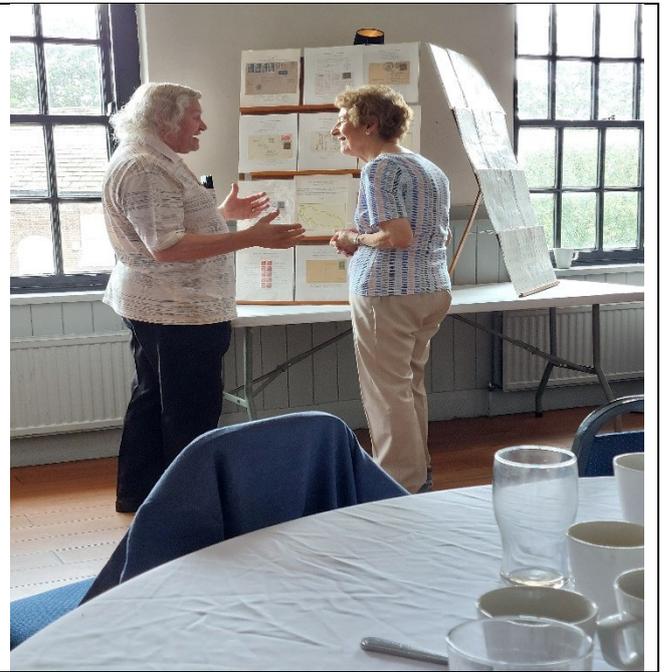
Compared with last year's baking summer, this year's event made much pleasanter travelling and attending. Although a little depleted in numbers, compared with last year, 17 souls enjoyed a wide variety of short displays on all manner of topics related to the participating Societies: Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Polish and Yugoslav. In fact, it was hard to cram them all in before closing time. In order, these were:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Alan Berrisford: | WWII Polish Corps mail from all locations where they were supporting the Allies. |
| Keith Brandon: | Saxon-Bohemian 'Switzerland', with postcards of this tourist-attracting northern region of Bohemia on the Elbe river, plus the Saxon-Bohemian Shipping Co. |
| Roger Morrell: | 'Hungary in WWI', a phantasmagorical look at its reluctant participation in all aspects of the conflict. |
| Jackie Jagielski: | Poland's struggle in WWI as commemorated in post WWII stamps. |
| Rex Dixon: | Kleinwalsertal, and it's postal rates during the adoption of the Euro. |
| Nick Coverdale: | Prince Michael stamps of Serbia and their various printings and postmarks. |
| Andy Taylor: | Mixed currency frankings of Austria – examples from every currency change. |
| Garth Taylor: | Second Czech airmail issue and route labels, and their usage to different countries. |
| Martin Brumby | Hungarian pengő banknotes from 1927 to 1946 including the hyperinflation time. |
| Joyce Boyer: | Celebrating anniversaries of the Semmering railway line, the first alpine line in Austria. |
| Yvonne Wheatley: | Mail from the Czechoslovak lands taken back by Hungary and Poland following the Munich Agreement in 1938. |
| Ian Bergel: | Stamp issue of Romania to 1938. |
| Peter Williams: | Meter mark usage from around Europe. |
| Richard Wheatley: | Czech famous airmen issue of 1945/6 and its usage on cover. |
| Martin Brumby: | Hungarian parcel cards 1939-1944 with usage, and rates with wartime inflation. |
| Jackie Jagielski: | Mail from Poland Post WWII. |
| Roger Morrell: | The insurgent mail of Western Hungary, 1921. |
| Rex Dixon: | Mail from the remote village of Jungholz in Tyrol, surrounded by Germany. |
| Alan Berrisford: | Czechoslovakian TPOs between the wars. |
| Garth Taylor: | Early postal history of Brno, with fancy addressing. |
| Joyce Boyer: | Innsbruck post office development and their postmarks. |
| Andy Taylor: | An early (1787) permit to emigrate from the Tirol to the independent country of Salzburg and get married, and its interpretation. |

With the buffet lunch and afternoon tea with home-made cakes (thanks to Yvonne) the meeting offered plenty of time to review, discuss, compare, contrast, explain and reminisce on Central Europe matters. Many thanks to Yvonne for organising the event and Richard for chairing the meeting which all went very smoothly. Looking forward to next year!

Roger Morrell

The phantom photographer was in attendance.



Thrice three'd newspaper wrapper

Andy Taylor

A heavily-marked newspaper wrapper recently joined my accumulation, and with the invaluable assistance of Rex Dixon and Eva Sinnmayer I've tried to work out what happened. Improvements welcomed!



The wrapper is German, with a 3pf Deutsche Reichspost imprint. This is the inland rate for printed matter (including newspapers) up to 50 grams; Austria counted as inland. It's cancelled on the Neustrelitz-Warnemünde TPO on 3 June 1887. It looks as if there were three newspapers, which would push it into the second weight band, 50-250 grams, with a rate of 10pf. The doubly-underlined "2" at the top left is the standard UPU way of showing this. The fiercely-applied "T" looks to be by the same hand. At some stage, maybe at the border crossing, somebody has applied a "T." in a circle (what looks like a circled mark at 7 o'clock is an ink fleck inside the closing flourish of the addressee's surname!). The item was 7pf underfranked, but there's no indication of this being charged.

Below the circled T is a big black crayoned 3, "out of focus". Its application possibly caused the paper tear into which its bottom disappears. Merging into that is a faint pale pinky-red marking, perhaps yet another 3. I can't resolve which is on top of which.

Halfway up the right margin is a pen-ink 6-and- squiggle; the latter is overinked and I think the faint mark arising from it is the squiggler wiping off excess ink! The squiggle doesn't resemble any normal currency mark; could it be a letter *z* and the marking be 6 Zimmer ie the addressee's bedroom number? A less intense blue crayon was used for yet another large 3, followed by X which means kreuzer.

Finally, there is a strip of three 1877-design 1Kr Austrian Newspaper Tax stamps. They seem to be half-slit between; and cancelled MARIENBAD/5/6/6-7F/87 which is 5 June 1887, 6-7 in the morning - so it's arrived overnight. The wrapper would have contained three German newspapers, privately sent, so a tax of 1Kr each would be due.

It's addressed to *Frau E Burchard geb Janentzky aus Rostock / Marienbad (Bohmen) / "Glocke"*. In these leisurely times, upmarket resorts published regular lists of guests arriving and departing; and there exists a digital version of the Marienbader Kurliste of 1887. Page 35 tells us that Frau Elisabeth Burchard, neé Janentzky, Pächterswitwe from Rostock arrived on 25 May and stayed at Hotel Glocke. ("*Pächterswitwe*" means the widow of someone who rented a property from a landlord.)