LITERATUR
AUS
ÖSTERREICH

95 ÖSTERREICH
INGEBORG
BACHMANN
2023
Die Wahrheit ist
dem Menschen
zumutbar.

190
ÖSTERREICH
POSTBUS ET 13 [1913]   D. GRUBER 2023

100 JAHRE
BAMBI
ÖSTERREICH   120

Parasol
Macrolepiota procera
Österreich
95

INTERNATIONALE BRIEFMARKEN - BÖRSE

ÖSTERREICH 120   ÖSTERREICH 120   ÖSTERREICH 120

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ULM

AUSTRIA 225 – Winter 2023 – Contents:

Edited by Andy Taylor

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

A newly-issued stamp marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Ingeborg Bachmann (b. 1926 in Klagenfurt; d. 1973 in Rome). She was a famous literary figure in the German-speaking world, though almost unknown in the English. The stamp has her portrait and a quotation from a speech she delivered once, **"Die Wahrheit ist dem Menschen zumutbar.**"I asked 6 friends (4 Austrian, 2 Brit) and got 8 translations, plus another 4 on-line. Perhaps the original meaning is best represented by "**It is reasonable to expect mankind to face up to the truth**.".

AUSTRIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
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AIDE MEMOIRE

Officer's observations

At the Society's AGM, held by Zoom on Wednesday 11 October, the existing Officers were all re-elected unopposed. The list is on the inside back cover. Soon afterwards, we received some amazingly welcome news: **our member Ken Dyke has volunteered to become the Auctioneer**. The setup will be that Keith Brandon will be a Joint Auctioneer responsible for receiving, processing, selecting, and listing all material; and Ken Dyke will be the other Joint Auctioneer responsible for running the auctions, despatching the winnings, and preparing the invoices. Payments will be handled by the Treasurer, as at present.

Meetings!

1. The usual joint CPSGB-APS meeting will be held at York Fair at **13:30 on Saturday 20 January 2024**. All welcome, especially if they bring something new to display. The exact location will be posted by the lift on the ground floor.

2. We have decided to hold our **2024 Fest** at York on **Friday 19 to Sunday 21 July 2024**, in the same hotel as the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. This is the York Fair weekend. Some meetings will be held together, some will be separate. Reserve the date in your diaries; fuller details will follow.

3. The 2024 "Brown Cow" joint meeting has been fixed for 10 till 4 on **Saturday 10 August 2024**. Details later.

4. Stampex 2024 will be held a month later than usual, on **23-25 October 2024**, still at the Business Design Centre in Islington but in a different (and smaller, thus cheaper to rent) space.

5. We are also attempting to arrange a meeting at the international exhibition EuroPhilEx, being held at the British National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham from **7 to 11 May 2025**. Again, keep the date!

Gongs!

This year's AGM approved the committee's Honorary Life Membership nominations for two members, to join the existing five of Geoff Frost, Henry Pollak, Martin Brumby, Joyce Boyer, and Andy Taylor. They are:

➢ **Barry Clark** for his work in running the Packet for {cough} years.

➢ **Keith Brandon** for his work in organising Fests, and in keeping the Auction going while we had no Auctioneer.

Sundries!

The latest in the Austrian "because we can" series of stamps made in improbable materials is described in the New Issues article. This issue will probably reach you on Christmas Day in the Gregorian calendar, so after your lunch of baked carp and red cabbage relax by thinking of the most unlikely material for a postage stamp; then tell me what it is. How about having the design laser-etched into the middle of an ice cube? Carved from a block of frozen carbon dioxide? There may be a prize for the best entry...

The first Universal Postal Convention was signed on 9 October 1874, so next year is its 150th anniversary. Austria has produced two series of stamps featuring the UPU (ANK 955-957 on 8 Oct 1949 and ANK 1186-1193 on 15 June 1964. Does anybody know of more, or have any UPU-relevant Austrian philatelic material?

Several members and colleagues from other societies visited the International Bourse at Ulm, and many found useful new material. A report will appear in the next issue.

Small chuckle… if an article written in German includes "Weblinks", Googletranslate says "Webleft".

And finally: for non-philatelic reasons this issue was completed in late November 2023, but not posted until January 2024. "Other Journals" has had to be postponed (no room), and "New Issues" doesn't contain the Christmas issues, whose writeup will appear in April. If anyone wants the data earlier, email Andy Taylor.

2023 NEW ISSUES (4ᵗʰ instalment)

by Zöld Veltelini, our New Issues Correspondent

The information given here is face value ('c' is Euro-cents); issue date (dd.mm.yyyy); 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.

Postbus ET13. 1Eu90; 25.8.2023; David Gruber; 140,000; Offset; Cartor Security Printing. In the 'historic vehicles' series. This stamp is the first motif of the series "Historical postal vehicles" not to be issued as a block. The Postbus ET 13 marked the transition to the postal service's motorized passenger transport. In 1907 the first post bus line between Neumarkt and Predazzo in South Tirol came into service. Soon, numerous different bus types were in use, therefore the postal administration introduced the ET 13 in 1913 ("Unit Type 1913"), a uniform post bus model to reduce maintenance costs. Standardized parts from various Austrian manufacturers were assembled in the Postautomobil company garage. The 40hp engine came from Austro-Daimler, clutch and transmission from Austro-Fiat and so on. By 1918, a total of 100 examples of the 16-passenger ET 13 had been manufactured. After the end of the war, many of the vehicles that had been in the military could be used again for the postal service.

Definitive stamps. 95c; 1.9.2023; printed as required; sold in various philatelically-unhelpful multiples up to rolls of 2,000. Austria-Post have announced a change to the PRIority and ECOnomy services for inland items - effective September 1. PRIority items have to be taken to your Post Office and will (normally) be delivered the next day. Pillar-boxes are now to be used for ECO letters, with a target delivery of 3 days. 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. Unsurprisingly, the rate goes up, from 80-something to 95 cents. They have produced three new stamps, all with face value of 95 cents: Lederhosen, Posh Shoes, Hip flask.

Lederhosen with »Türl« - Traunviertel. The bib [Latz] of leather trousers, which is buttoned onto the waistband, is often designed in a particularly elaborate manner. In the case of high-quality leather trousers, the artistic, colourfully highlighted embroidery is handmade, so it looks particularly three-dimensional. The example illustrated is from the Trauensee area of the Salzkammergut. HB comments that *a Türl is literally a little door, but in dialect we call the way you do up your trousers a Hosentürl: 'flies' in colloquial English. The flap on Lederhosen is also called a Türl, and on posh Lederhosen they are often embroidered. Lederhosen are not pink!* The colour is very difficult to describe (and the OPost website doesn't even try!) Closest I can find is "pink" in the old Stanley Gibbons Colour Key; "milk pink" has been suggested.

Traditional Tirol costume shoes. Black traditional shoes with fringes and a silver buckle are often worn with men's costumes, especially in music bands - which is why they are also called "musician's shoes". The lacing of the shoes is covered by the decorative buckle.

Hip flask - Carinthia. The small, slightly curved bottle can be easily slipped into the breast pocket of a Janker. It is usually made of stainless steel. Protective cases are often decorated with artistic quill embroidery, an ancient craft that was designated part of Austria's intangible cultural heritage in 2019. The Janker is a boxy hip-length jacket originally worn in the Alpine region. They are made of Loden, a cloth made from the coarse, oily wool of mountain sheep and traditionally having a bluish-green colour.

Another little-known Austrian invention! **100 years of Bambi**. 1Eu20; 16.9.2023; Marion Füller; 300,000; Offset; Cartor Security Printing. 100 years ago, the Austro-Hungarian writer Felix Salten (1869-1945) wrote "Bambi. A life story from the forest" originally as a serial for the "Neue Freie Presse". The story was published as a novel in 1923. It was unusual in that the main character is an animal that is threatened by humans and is not itself a danger. In 1942, Walt Disney created the cartoon "Bambi" based on the novel, which still makes many children and parents cry. In the film, however, Bambi is not an ordinary deer, but a white-tailed deer - native to America. "Bambi" was translated

into more than 30 languages, and Salten wrote a sequel called "Bambi's Children" in which Bambi is now the wise old roebuck who helps his children survive.

**150 years of Vienna's first drinking-water supply pipeline**. 2Eu50; 20.9.2023; David Gruber; 220,000; Offset; Enchedé. Vienna's water is famed for its high quality and excellent taste: few other capital cities can say the same! It's no wonder that Viennese water is so appreciated, since it has been coming straight from the mountains to the city for 150 years. On October 24, 1873, the first mountain spring water pipeline was opened, which carried spring water from the Rax-Schneeberg area to the city, and at the same time the high-jet fountain on Vienna's Schwarzenbergplatz was put into operation. The mountain spring water pipeline was planned by Antonio Gabrielli, and the geologist Eduard Suess was head of the water supply commission that decided to build a supply pipeline for clean drinking water in Vienna. Since then, the water has flowed from several sources over a difference in altitude of around 280 meters and via numerous aqueducts in a free fall to the first reservoir on the Rosenhügel in Vienna. Slightly more than half of Vienna's water reaches the city via this pipeline. For more details see the article in Austria 221 on Eduard Suess, who designed the system.

Julia Haugeneder - Faltung 139,2020. '*Young art in Austria'* series; 95 cents; 26.9.2023; Theresa Radlingmaier; 250,000; Offset; Enchedé. The young Viennese artist Julia Haugeneder is known for her unusual folded objects. She produces the material for her works of art herself. Using a mixture of bookbinder's glue, stone powder and pigments, she pours out large areas, and the resulting thin and flexible foils are then folded, crumpled or rolled into various objects. "For the artist, folding is a movement that creates order and can bring two previously distant points into contact with each other. It is a dialogical process and an intensive examination of the material, which acts as a membrane between inside and outside when there is a fold. The colour and surface structure of the material are of great importance." Julia Haugeneder works in series; the folded objects are numbered. The stamp motif "Folding 139" was created in 2020 for an installation in the Sophia Vonier gallery.

It's a stamp, Captain, but not as we know it…

"100 years of the ÖBB". 6Eu50 block; 30.09.2023; David Gruber; 181,650; Variuscard. All on track - Austrian Federal Railways, or ÖBB for short, has been transporting passengers and goods for 100 years. The official description tells us that the stamp is made from recycled acrylic glass 1-2mm thick (*my vernier caliper says 2.2mm*); mine is 53mm wide x 50mm high including the Kufstein station nameplate, 36mm high without it; the stamp can be broken off at the predetermined breaking point; there are 1031 varieties, one for each of Austria's 1031 railway stations; the printing is behind the glass which is then covered in white. The total issue provides 176 stamps per station, so for a mere 6,701 Euro 50 cents you can have a complete set.

The front	The back	The back, revealed
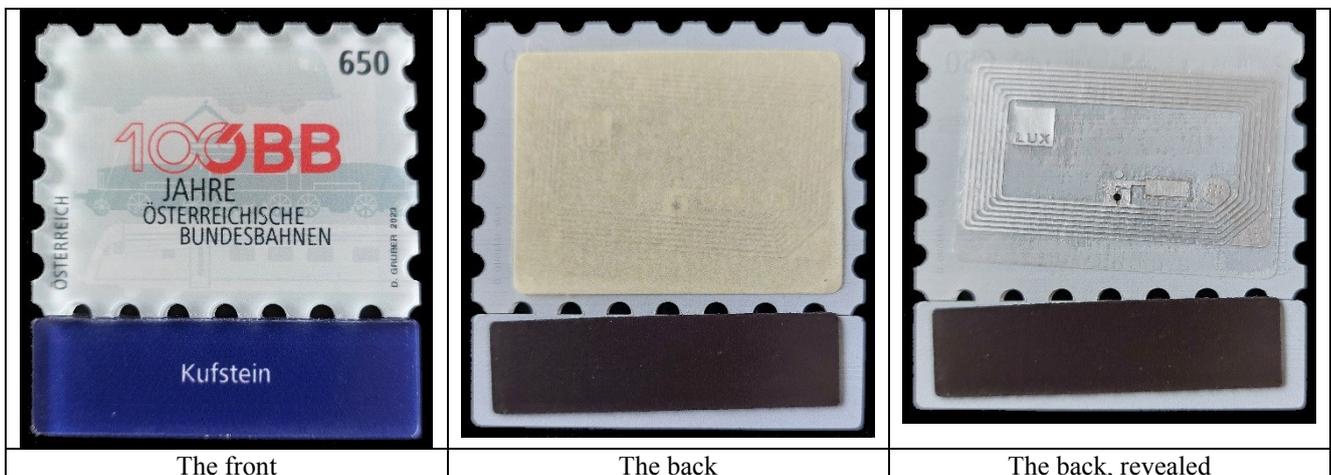
As a special highlight, the stamp has an RFID chip that can be activated using a smartphone with Bluetooth enabled. 'An augmented reality animation' then shows a historic steam locomotive entering a tunnel and emerging as a modern ÖBB locomotive. [*I tried: it works!!*] The black weakly-magnetic strip attached to the back means

that the stamp can also be used as a refrigerator magnet. And when times get really hard, you can remove the paper protecting the glue and stick the stamp on a letter. *All I can say is, Donnerwetter!!*

St. Elizabeth and the Miracle of the Roses. Issued in memory of Empress Elisabeth. From the series "Religious art in Austria", featuring a mosaic of St. Elizabeth from the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Vienna's Mexikoplatz. 1Eu90; 6.10.2023; Kirsten Lubach; Offset/877C; Enschedé.

On the occasion of the 50th Jubilee of Emperor Franz Joseph I in 1898, it was decided to build an Emperor Franz Joseph anniversary church for the area that had been newly populated after the Danube was regulated. The striking church was built in 1900 according to plans by Victor Luntz and consecrated in 1913. To commemorate Empress Elisabeth, who was murdered in 1898, the Empress Elisabeth Memorial Chapel was built in the west aisle of the church, one of the most beautiful sacred spaces in Vienna, richly furnished with marble and Art Nouveau elements. The Elisabeth mosaic was designed by Carl Ederer and designed by the Tirolean Stained Glass and Mosaic Institute. The inscription next to the medallion decorated with gold and gemstones says: "In pious memory of the Empress and Queen Elisabeth". A maximum card was issued for the special stamp.

Ingeborg Bachmann. 95 cents; 11.10.2023; Roland Vorlaufer; Cartor Security Printing; Offset; 300,000 in minisheets of 10. Ingeborg Bachmann (1926-1973) was one of the most important Austrian writers of the 20th century. The first stamp in the new "Austrian Literature" series is dedicated to her, and was issued on the 50th anniversary of her death.

Ingeborg Bachmann was born on June 25, 1926 in Klagenfurt and studied philosophy, psychology, German and law. She published her first stories while she was still a student, followed by numerous poems, radio plays, opera librettos, novels and essays. In 1963 she was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature. Bachmann died in Rome on October 17, 1973 at the age of 47. After she was seriously injured in a room fire caused by falling asleep with a lit cigarette, the doctors treating her at the Sant'Eugenio Hospital failed to recognize that she was addicted to recreational drugs, which meant that she died from withdrawal complications.

Her literary estate, which comprises over 6,000 pages, is located in the Austrian National Library and can be viewed there in the literary archive. Since 2018, there has also been a partial estate containing more than 1,000 pages of writings and letters from her time as a student.

She wrote poems, radio plays, opera libretti, novels, stories and essays and was honoured with numerous awards. Many of her correspondences, for example with Paul Celan or with her long-time partner Max Frisch, have also been published. The quote printed on the stamp "***Die Wahrheit ist dem Menschen zumutbar***." (= It is reasonable to expect mankind to hear (or bear) the truth".) comes from Bachmann's acceptance speech, which she gave in 1959 on the occasion of the awarding of the War-Blind Radio Play Prize for her radio play "The Good God of Manhattan". Since 1977, the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize has been awarded annually in memory of the artist as one of the most important literary awards in the German-speaking world.

Pullover. 4Eu50; 21.10.2023; David Gruber; Cartor Security Printing; Offset; 150,000 single stamps.

With the right clothing you can enjoy the great outdoors even in the cold season. This not only strengthens the immune system, but is also fun. After the mittens and the balaclava, it's now the turn of the sweater, which further complements the philatelic winter wardrobe. Not only does a sweater have to be warm, it should also look good or at least stand out, and this stamp definitely does that. The little red penguin on it is surrounded by snowflakes and fir trees, which really makes him want to go for a winter walk. Popular sweater motifs, especially at Christmas time, include traditional patterns and animals as well as funny cartoons or Santa Claus. The stamp was printed on flocked paper, and the sweater shape with the perforation typical of postage stamps was punched out.

THE SECOND SIEGE OF VIENNA IN 1683: THE BATTLE FOR EUROPE

By Dr Ingert Kuzych

By 7 September, all of relief forces were concentrated south of the Danube near Tulln, some 40 km (25 mi) northwest of Vienna (Figure 26). It was also at about this time that various leaders of the Christian troops decided that, "If his Imperial Majesty [Leopold I] does not appear, the supreme command will rest with his Majesty the King of Poland, each prince retaining command of his own troops." However, by the 8th of September, Leopold's barge had advanced downriver as far as Dürnstein (just west of Krems and about 50 kilometers (30 mi) from Tulln; see Figure 9 in Part 1). The Emperor still fancied joining his forces himself, but by this time everyone was against his coming. The King, the Duke, and the generals all let him know that his presence would be more burdensome than useful. They had agreed amongst themselves on a plan of attack (largely formulated by the Duke of Lorraine) and for the overall command to go to the King. Not only did he have highest status, he had the most experience in battle against the Turks and had defeated them on many occasions.[1]
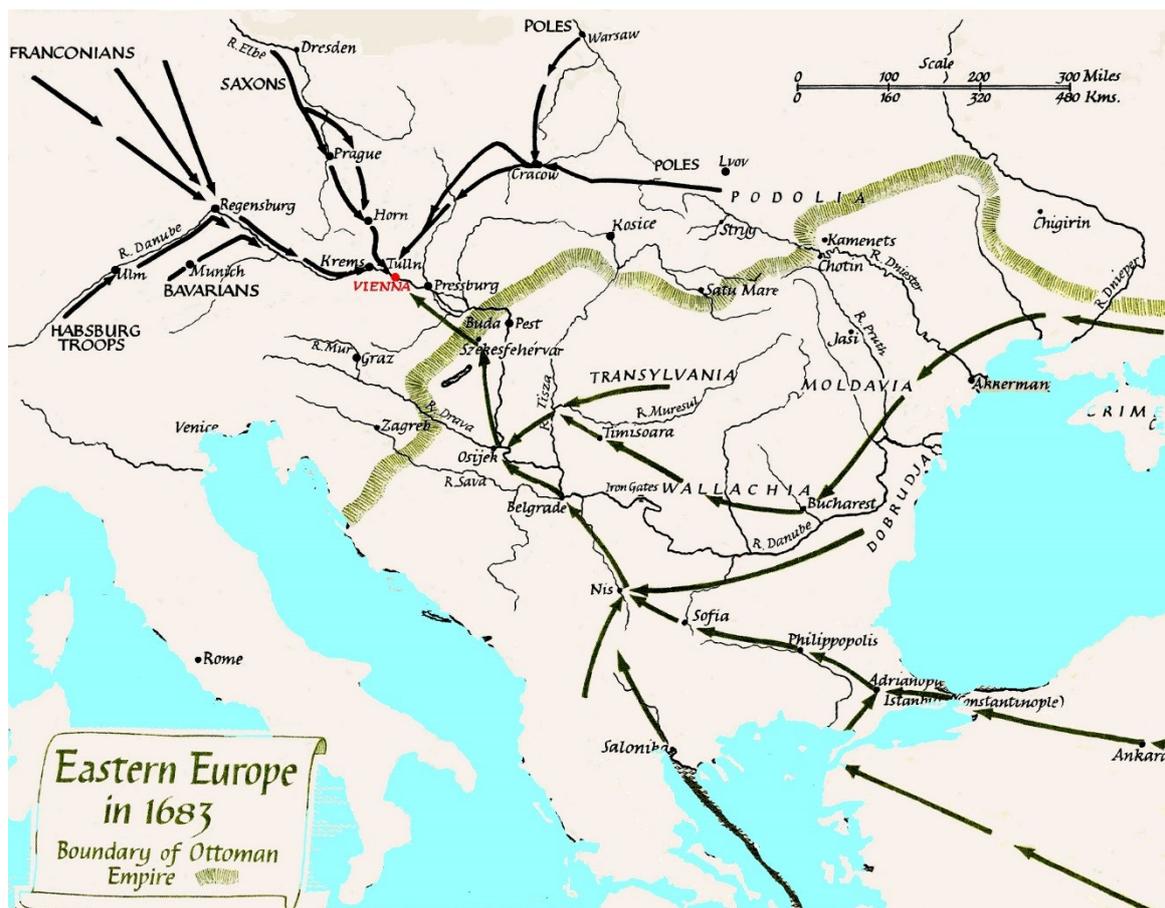
Figure 26. The Great Convergence. The Turkish forces that marched on Vienna (olive arrows) mobilized from many parts of the Ottoman Empire, including various Middle Eastern and Balkan provinces, Hungary, Moldavia, Transylvania, Wallachia, and Crimea (Tatars). Similarly, the allies that assembled at Tulln (black arrows) represented many parts of Christendom. In addition to Austria, these included Bavaria, Franconia, Swabia, Saxony, Poland, and Podilia and Zaporizhia (today both regions of Ukraine).

On 9 September, the allied deployment of forces began eastward across the Vienna Woods (Wienerwald). On the Christian left stood the Habsburg troops and the Saxons; the Bavarians and other German contingents held the center; on the right wing rode Sobieski with the Polish forces. By 11 September, the army was on the Kahlenberg Ridge, only eight kilometers (5 mi) from Vienna.

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[1] Leopold was indisputably the first monarch of Christendom in questions of protocol and would have outranked all – including the Polish King. In the interest of allied harmony and Vienna's salvation, the Emperor swallowed his pride and remained in place awaiting developments.

The decisive battle for Vienna that took place on 12 September is sometimes referred to as the Battle at Kahlenberg, a prominent hill at the periphery of the Vienna Woods and right next to the Danube River. The date was fixed following the arrival of the last contingents of the Polish forces and the emplacement of 160 cannon (many of which had to be dragged into place over the hills and ravines of the Vienna Woods).

Sidebar

Kahlenberg/Leopoldsberg

The tall hill or small mountain (425 m or 1,394 ft) at the northeast edge of the Vienna Woods overlooking the Danube was called Kahlenberg (Bald Hill) for centuries. Its southern slope – bare of forest and used for vineyards and grazing – gave the mountain its name: *kahl* (bald) and *berg* (hill or mountain). The hill's most prominent landmark is a church that stands at its peak and is clearly visible from Vienna below.

The original structure on the spot was a chapel, built in 1679 in the shape of a cross with a central cupola and dedicated to Saint Leopold. During the Turkish invasion, the recently completed building was plundered and set on fire. The chapel was rebuilt and expanded into a church and consecrated in 1693. At that time the hill was renamed the Leopoldsberg.

The Battle for Vienna (aka the Battle at the Kahlenberg) began at the foot of the Kahlenberg when the imperial troops of Charles of Lorraine began their advance on the enemy from this spot at daybreak on the 12th of September. One of the first villages captured was Kahlenbergerdorf the banks of the Danube. The settlement, with the Kahlenberg/Leopoldsberg in the background, appears on a 1-schilling Austrian Landscape Scenes definitive from 1975 (Figure 27). The Saint Leopold Church on the crest of the hill may be discerned in the upper left.

Underestimating the size of the relief army, Kara Mustafa split his troops. He left some 15,000 in the trenches working furiously to try and breach Vienna's defences before the relief armies could arrive. He moved the remaining 50,000 or so into a battle line to oppose his enemies.

The daylong battle began at dawn (about 5 am) on the 12th with the Duke of Lorraine setting the whole of his left wing in motion against advancing Turkish forces. Lorraine's forces, strengthened by the Saxons, soon encountered the Ottoman right wing along the Danube. The Bavarians and Franconians at the center of the Christian line descended from the slopes further inland and joined the struggle against the Ottoman right wing and the middle. Progress against the Muslim foe was slow but steady. About noon there was a pause in the fighting, not only to recover breath but also to allow the Poles on the Christian right – who could only advance more slowly because of difficult broken and wooded terrain – to get into position. By 1 pm the Polish vanguard reached Dornbach where the woods and slopes die away and over the next few hours the Polish wing of the army fought and caught up with the left and center (Figure 28).
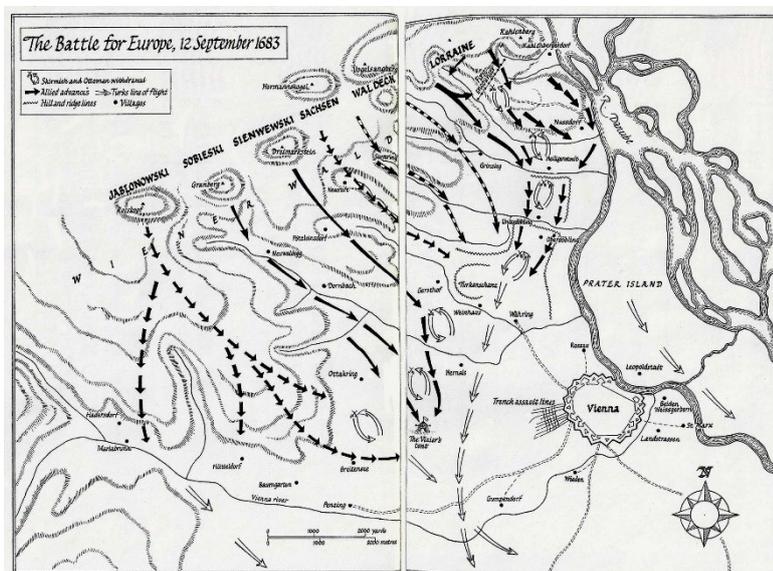
Figure 28. A map showing the three main allied troop movements at the Battle for Vienna, 12 September 1683. The combined Imperial and Saxon forces of the allies' left wing (over 31,000 men; far right) was joined by almost 20,000 Bavarians, Franconians, and Swabians positioned centrally who steadily pushed the enemy back and worked their way south and westward (to their right). Meanwhile, roughly 20,000 Poles and Cossacks (mostly cavalry) made their way over rough terrain and joined the battle late, but their overwhelming numbers caught the enemy in a giant vice causing a complete collapse and a disorganized flight southward.

The Danube River flows from north to south along the far right of the map, breaking up into numerous wooded islands in the vicinity of Vienna. It was actually only an arm of the Danube that flowed along the northeast wall

of Vienna; the main river channel passed further east. Nonetheless, the side channel was wide enough – and the ground conditions moist enough – that no Ottoman mining or attacks were attempted from the east.

Preparations were next made to mount an overwhelming attack along the entire front. At 3:20 in the fiercest heat of the day, fighting resumed. The Ottoman left wing was unable to withstand the charge of the Polish cavalry and the Cossacks who together were the first to reach the main Ottoman encampment. The total collapse of the Turks occurred when the besieging soldiers still in the trenches were ordered to come to the rescue of the camp but instead fled. Kara Mustafa himself then retreated in disorderly haste, taking only the Moslem standard (the Flag of the Prophet) and the bulk of his treasure. By 5:30 or 6 pm the battle was essentially over (some scattered resistance persisted till about 10 pm), Vienna was saved, and the plundering of the rich Turkish campsites began. Fleeing in disarray, the Turks left just about everything they brought behind. Decades later, in 1705, many of the cannon captured after the Siege were cast into a massive 20-ton bell (the Old Pummerin) and hung as the main bell in Vienna's Stephansdom (St. Stephen's Cathedral). (The church steeple had served as the headquarters and observation post for Count von Starhemberg, the leader of the city's defence forces during the Siege.) At the close of World War II, the bell's wooden cradle burned and the bell crashed onto the stone floor of the church. A New Pummerin was cast in 1951 from the Old Pummerin's metal shards (supplemented by metal from some of the remaining captured Turkish cannons at Vienna's Heeresgeschichtliches Museum (Military History Museum).

Casualty estimates are varied, but generally cite 10 to 15 thousand for the Turks (some estimates go as high as 20 thousand), while for the allies the number is in the range of 2 to 4 thousand[1]. Some 10 thousand of the Turks were also made prisoner. At his first breathing stop, the retreating Grand Vizier Kara Mustafa executed many of his senior officers using the traditional silken cord to strangle them. However, before he could reach Istanbul, the Grand Vizier himself was throttled on orders from the sultan.

The Ottomans made many mistakes in their campaign to take Vienna: they underestimated the tenacity of the defenders and how long it would take to capture the city; they failed to fortify their encampments around the city; their intelligence of the surrounding countryside was poor; and even when they became aware of the gathering relief army, their main effort continued to be focused on capturing the city.

While Vienna was saved, the cost was high. Tens of thousands died, not only within the city but in many of the depredations that the Turks inflicted on the surrounding towns and villages of Lower Austria. It would take about a quarter century for the population in the region to return to its pre-war levels.

Leopold returned to his capital city on the 14th and met briefly and formally with Sobieski the following day. The exchange on horseback took place in Latin. The Emperor expressed his gratitude and the King praised Lorraine and the Habsburg soldiers (Figure 30). Nevertheless, the meeting was a bit frosty. The Austrians were upset that the King had entered the city as the conquering hero the day after the battle (upstaging the Emperor) and that his army has absconded with the lion's share of the vast booty. The prickly King, who had a penchant for self-aggrandizement, felt he was snubbed when his son and some of his officers were not sufficiently recognized by the Emperor. The Emperor did not stay long in devastated and pestilential Vienna but soon made his way back upstream to Linz. The Habsburg court remained in the provincial capital for almost a year – while rebuilding took place in Vienna – and did not return until August 1684.

Figure 30. A painting by Polish painter Artur Grottger (1859) depicting the meeting of Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I and Polish King Jan III Sobieski at Schwechat on 15 September 1683, three days after the Battle at Kahlenberg and the successful Relief of Vienna. The Polish monarch is in the centre, greeting the Emperor who is on a white horse.

[1] One estimate places the casualty disparity more in the range of 10:1, with the Turks suffering 15,000 casualties compared to 1,500 for the allies.

Eugene of Savoy

One other Austrian stamp has a Siege of Vienna tie-in and deserves mention – a 1963 1.50-schilling Prinz Eugen von Savoyen (Prince Eugene of Savoy, 1663-1736) commemorative, issued on the 300th anniversary of the great military commander's birth (Figure 29).

Born in Paris, Eugene was brought up in the court of Louis XIV. By the age of 19, he had determined on a military career, but he was rejected by Louis for service in the French army (*ostensibly because he wasn't tall enough*). When Eugene's brother, Louis Julius, serving in the Austrian imperial army was killed in 1683, Eugene moved to Austria where in mid-August of that year he met the exiled Leopold I in Passau and transferred his loyalty to the Holy Roman Empire. (Although Eugene was not of Austrian extraction, he did have Habsburg antecedents. He served his new patrons faithfully for the rest of his life.)

Eugene immediately showed where his allegiance lay when he joined the imperial forces moving to relieve Vienna. The 20-year-old volunteer, distinguished himself in the battle, earning a commendation from Lorraine and the Emperor. He later received a nomination for the colonelcy and was awarded a regiment of dragoons by Leopold I.

This was the start of a career spanning six decades in which Eugene served three Holy Roman Emperors: Leopold I, Joseph I, and Charles VI. During the next several years he served with distinction under his cousin, Louis William of Baden (also a refugee from the French court), and quickly rose through the ranks. By 1687, at age 24, he was promoted to lieutenant-general, and in 1693, he became a field marshal. His fame was secured with his decisive victory over the Ottomans at the Battle of Zenta in 1697, earning him European-wide fame. Eugene enhanced his standing during the War of the Spanish Succession where, in partnership with the English Duke of Marlborough, he secured victories against the French on the fields of Blenheim (1704), Oudenarde (1708), and Malplaquet (1709). He gained further success and consolidated his reputation with additional victories over the French and Ottomans over the next decade.


During the late 1720s-early 1730s, Eugene's influence and skilful diplomacy managed to secure the Emperor powerful allies in his dynastic struggles with the Bourbon powers. In Austria, Eugene's reputation remains unrivalled to this day. His greatest achievements were trifold: he helped save the Habsburg Empire from French conquest; he broke the westward thrust of the Ottomans, liberating parts of Europe after a century and a half of Turkish occupation; and he was one of the great patrons of the arts whose building legacy can still be seen in Vienna today. Napoleon considered Eugene one of the seven greatest commanders in history.

Figure 29. Austrian stamp of 1963 showing an engraved portrait of Prince Eugene of Savoy wearing the Order of the Golden Fleece. Eugene's military career began at the Battle for Vienna.

Re-establishing a Postal Service

With the departure of the enemy, some semblance of normalcy was restored in Vienna and its environs, and a fully functioning postal service was reinstated. Marcus Forchondt, who had fled Vienna with the Emperor in early July, accompanied him back and immediately dispatched a letter to his brother, Alexander, in Antwerp on 15 September (Figure 31). In the missive he mentions: "…Brother, I have just arrived in Vienna, the baggage (carpets and tapestries) are not yet unpacked…" and further "…today I still heard cannon fire, the enemy is still entrenched in Altenburg…" The Paar postage rate, as usual, does not appear on the letter. In Antwerp, the "6" stuivers delivery fee was first indicated, but then scribbled out and the "S 1:-" (1 schelling) entered in the postal account register to the debit of the Forchondt trading house. The letter was delivered on 19 September and thus arrived in four days.

Figure 32 shows a letter sent 10 September from Antwerp to Linz that was then forwarded on to Vienna since the siege was ended and Forchondt was back in the capital city. The "n. Wien." in the lower left indicates "nach Wien" (to Vienna); the "3" [kreuzer] in the upper right is the Paar Post tax.
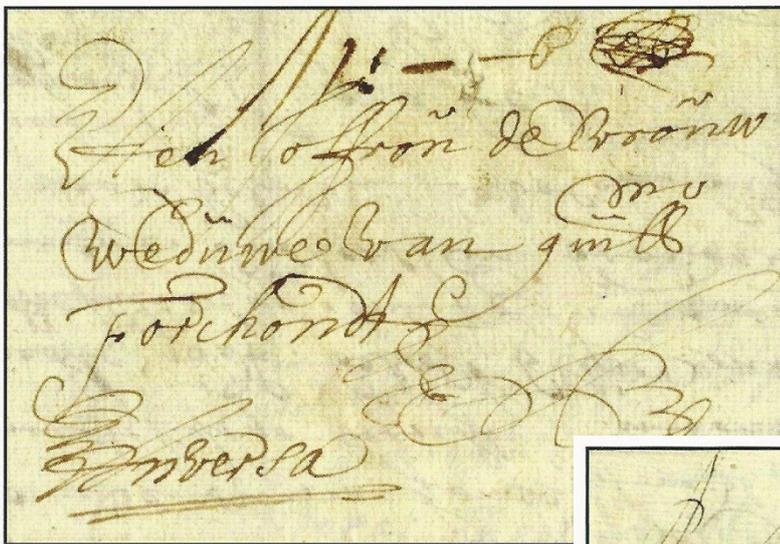
Figure 31. Letter sent from Vienna to Antwerp just three days after the decisive Battle of Vienna; ex Baurecht, WIPA08.

Figure 32. A letter conveyed from Antwerp to Linz and then on to Vienna, arriving after the siege had been lifted; ex Baurecht, WIPA08.
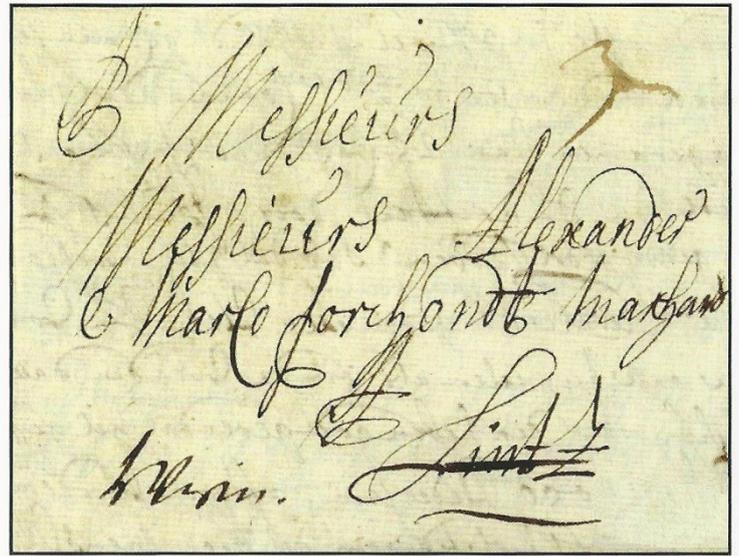
It did not take long for trade relations to be reestablished. Figure 33 is a letter written on 25 September by an Italian merchant in Bozen (Bolzano) – 13 days after the lifting of the siege – to his customer in Vienna in which he offers to once again send him supplies. From the contents it becomes apparent that the letter did not travel via the direct postal route through the hereditary Habsburg lands, but instead took a circuitous route north and then west: Innsbruck-Kempten-Augsburg-Regensburg-Passau-Vienna. The Turkish retreat to the southeast took some time to complete and so this alternate northwestern route was chosen to insure the message's safe delivery. The recipient in Vienna paid the "3" [kreuzer] Paar Post fee.

Figure 33. Letter posted from Bozen (Bolzano) to Vienna by an Italian vendor – some two weeks after the siege – seeking to restore commercial contacts; ex Baurecht, WIPA08.

Aftermath

The allies realized that only a rapid pursuit of the enemy would allow for the fullest advantage of the new situation. Nonetheless, there were serious difficulties hindering such a pursuit – the shortage of supplies at Vienna and the ravaged state of the lands down the Danube. Several days rest were certainly necessary, but Lorraine and Sobieski wanted to press forward and on 17 September the campaign was once more in motion. Marching east into Hungary, the Habsburg and Polish forces met the Turks at Parkany, where a bridge to the great Ottoman fortress of Esztergom crossed the Danube. There on 9 October, the combined Christian armies entrapped and all but obliterated the Turkish forces, blasting and collapsing the bridge that offered the enemy its only hope of retreat.

By 19 October, pontoon bridges were brought into position allowing for a crossing of the Danube and on 22 October, the allies laid siege to Esztergom. The Turkish garrison, seeing no hope of relief, surrendered on 27 October. This event brought to an end the military operations of 1683. It was during this fall campaign that the partnership between the Habsburg and Polish governments – strained in the immediate days after the Kahlenberg Battle – gradually improved.

In December of 1683, Charles of Lorraine turned over the command of the Turkish pursuit in Hungary to General Rabatta. The order for the transfer of authority reached the general on 20 November while he was in Poland. Figure 34 is a 24 November proof of mailing receipt from Woynitz (near Krakau) for a package handed over by "General Field Marshal Count von Rabatta".
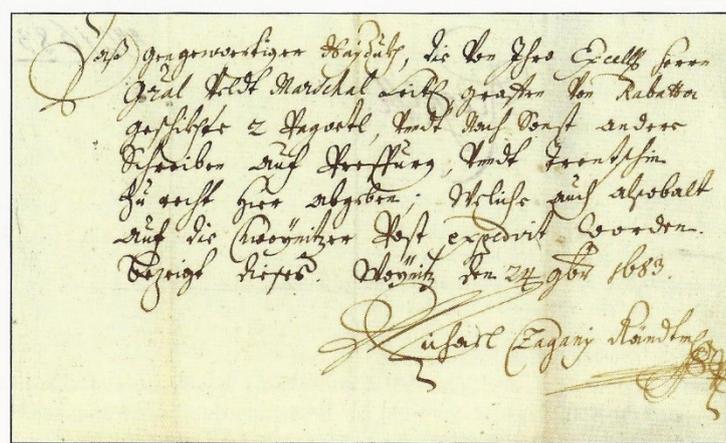
Figure 34. A proof of mailing receipt conveyed to Count von Rabatta, one of chief officers serving under Charles of Lorraine; ex Baurecht, WIPA08.

Building on the momentum won by the great victories of 1683, the prosecution of the war against the Turks would continue into subsequent years – but the effort would require funding. Once again money was in short supply and even the disbursements of the pope did not suffice. The Emperor was forced to convene the various provincial diets in a fundraising endeavor. Figure 35 is a formal printed invitation of the Emperor Leopold I to attend the First Provincial Diet for Lower Austria on 10 January 1684, sent from Linz and with the Emperor's signature. [*ex Baurecht, WIPA08*] Within the document the Emperor requires all of the members to appear and asks them for funds to continue the pursuit of the Turks and for the reconstruction: "…from the [depredations caused by the] fanatical hereditary foe the burnt out and, as it were, still smouldering cities, markets, castles, and villages of our beloved fatherland…"
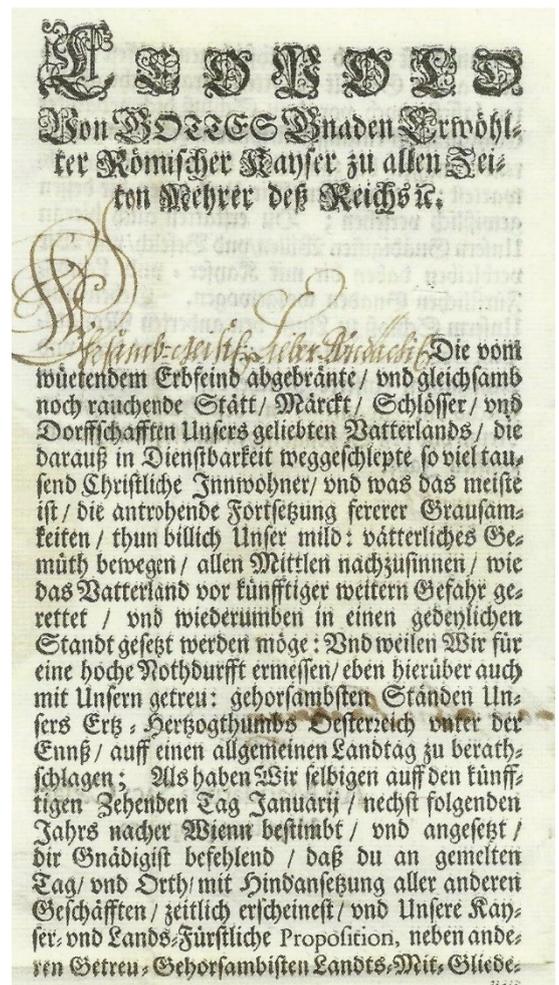
The siege and relief of Vienna became a great and famous event, celebrated throughout Europe. At Linz in March of 1684, a Holy League coalition – headed by the Austrian-led Holy Roman Empire, but including Poland-Lithuania, Venice, and (later) Muscovy – was formed against the Ottoman Empire. Over the next decade and a half, the League won a series of remarkable victories (1683-99) in a crusade that has come to be called the Great Turkish War. The campaign significantly reduced Ottoman holdings in Central and Eastern Europe, considerably weakened Ottoman power, and greatly curtailed the incessant slave raids. By terms of the Treaty of Karlovitz (1699), Austria expanded and secured its eastern and southern frontiers, and Poland reacquired some of its southern lands lost to the Turks in 1672. The Habsburg Monarchy thus established itself as the dominant power in Central Europe – a position it would retain until World War I.

THE SECOND SIEGE OF VIENNA IN 1683:
Part II: PHILATELIC COMMEMORATIONS

Austria: The 1933 Relief of Vienna Stamp Set and its Proofs

Austria has never forgotten the heroic struggle of 1683 and it made sure that the 250th and 300th anniversaries were appropriately commemorated. The first issue, the 1933 Relief of Vienna stamp set of six stamps – each printed in a different color and line perforated 12.5 – was released on 6 September 1933 in conjunction with the 9th Pan-German Catholic Congress (7-12 September 1933).

The stamp values (in groschen) were as follows: 12 gr. Dark green, View of Fortified Vienna; 24 gr. Violet, Marco d'Aviano; 30 gr. Carmine, Count Ernst Rüdiger von Starhemberg; 40 gr. Blue-black, King Jan III Sobieski of Poland; 50 gr. Blue, Duke Charles V of Lorraine; and 64 gr. Brown, Johann Andreas von Liebenberg (Figure 36). The stamps were only sold in sets and at twice the face value (440 groschen or 4.4 schilling total) with the surcharge (2.2 schilling) allocated to various Catholic Youth charities. Only 50,000 sets were printed by the Austrian State Printing Works; the stamps were valid for just five months, i.e., until 31 January 1934.

Figure 36. A registered cover sent from Vienna to Long Island City, New York on 12 September 1933 bears all six of the stamps making up the Relief of Vienna set from that year. The date is the exact 250th anniversary of victory over the Ottoman army; the inscription on the circular date cancel marks the Pan-German Catholic Congress held in Vienna in conjunction with the anniversary.

Originally, however, 12 designs – all by the same artist, Maria Victoria Attems – were submitted for this issue. The six unused designs were illustrated in a special publication *100 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke (100 Years of Austrian Stamps)* released in 1950 (Figure 37). In 2013, an Austrian auction house offered a set of "unique archival materials" that displayed all 12 original designs of the issue in greater detail on three "Silberkopieproben der Vorentwürfe" (silver copy proofs of preliminary drafts). The lot consisted of three cards, each bearing four of the proposed designs (Figure 38), which will be described below.

Figure 37. The six unused Relief of Vienna designs as shown in a special publication celebrating the centenary of Austrian stamps in 1950.

Before proceeding onto the card descriptions, however, mention should be made of general *dissimilarities* between the designs as they appear on the proofs and the eventual printed stamps. The most obvious difference is in the value designations. On the proofs the value numbers are very large and prominent, generally appearing along the bottoms of the designs. On the completed stamps the values (in a different font) are considerably reduced and confined to square boxes located (in five of the six designs) in the lower right. Descriptions of the stamp subjects on the proofs range from strips of text, to ribbons, to a box, or to an oval frame. On the completed stamp set all of the descriptions are confined to ribbons.

Figure 38. A set of three silver copy proofs of the 12 designs originally proposed for the 1933 Relief of Vienna stamp set.

The first card displays four portraits: beginning in the upper left and proceeding clockwise are images of Maximilian II Emanuel, Elector of Bavaria and leader of the Bavarian relief contingent, on a 6-groschen stamp design; Count Ernst Rüdiger von Starhemberg, Commander-in-Chief of the Viennese defense forces, on a 12-groschen stamp design; Johann Andreas von Liebenberg, Mayor of Vienna, on a 30-groschen design, and Prince Eugene, described as "the noble knight," on a 24-groschen design.

Two of these designs were retained for the final completed stamp set: those of von Starhemberg and von Liebenberg. This selection is understandable since both men were "true Austrians" while the other two personages could be considered "foreigners." Maximilian was, of course, German, while Eugene was originally French (although he did have some Habsburg antecedents) and in 1683 was not yet the great general that he would soon become. He did distinguish himself during the Relief, his first military action, earning a commendation from the Austrian commander, the Duke of Lorraine, and a nomination for a colonelcy.

In the stamp set of 1933 the value of the von Starhemberg stamp became 30 groschen while that of von Liebenberg was changed to 64 groschen. Additionally, the von Starhemberg portrait was altered to give its subject a moustache. Various other minor design detail changes may be distinguished on these two stamps.

The second card presents three portraits and one scene of Vienna under siege in 1683. A 40-groschen design shows Marco d'Aviano, the papal legate who was so instrumental in negotiating allied aid; a 50-groschen design depicts Polish King Jan III Sobieski, the Commander-in Chief of the relieving army; a 64-groschen design presents Abraham a Santa Clara, an Augustinian preacher whose real name was Ullrich Megerlin and who sustained the city's religious morale during the siege; and a 1-schilling design showing part of the besieged city, its walls, and some of the surrounding Turkish tents.

In this instance, three of the designs were utilized for the eventual six-stamp set but with the values altered and with some design details changed. The city scene stamp design became 12 groschen, the Marco d'Aviano stamp design acquired a 24-groschen value, and the Sobieski stamp design took on a 40-groschen designation.

The third card once more highlights four personages, but here only one design was eventually used for the completed stamp set. The first design for a 3-groschen stamp presents the beloved bagpipe player of the 17th century "Der Liebe Augustin (The Dear Augustin)." This subject, however, is not one that I have been able to directly link to the Siege of Vienna. Augustin's exploits date to 1679 and the Great Plague of Vienna. Augustin was a popular street musician who, according to legend, fell into a pit with bodies of plague victims late at night when he was drunk. Augustin did not contract the disease and was able to effect his rescue by playing his bagpipes and alerting the Viennese of his plight. The link to the Siege may be that the song "Oh du lieber Augustin" was sung by the defenders giving them hope for deliverance and from pestilence.

The next design for 5 groschen displays Georg Franz Kolschitzky (Yuriy Kulchytsky), the canny messenger who in disguise relayed messages from the besieged city to the Duke of Lorraine, and who later set up one of the first coffee houses in Vienna, see sidebar. A 10-groschen stamp drawing features a portrait of Duke Charles of Lorraine. Of the four images on this card, it is only this design that was used in the final stamp set – but it is also the design that was most altered. The initial rendering depicted the Duke in an oval frame with his name and surrounded by military paraphernalia. The completed 50-groschen design omits the frame and has the description in an overarching ribbon.

The final design is for 8 groschen and shows Leopold, Graf Kollonitsch, the Bishop of Weiner-Neustadt, who administered in Vienna during the siege. Kollonitsch was able to provide money to pay the troops defending the city. He also established emergency hospitals in the monasteries there. Following the siege, he oversaw the care of some 450 orphans whose parents had been killed in the conflict. Kollonitsch eventually became a cardinal.

Austria: The 1983 Relief of Vienna Souvenir Sheet

For the 300th anniversary of the struggle over Vienna, the Austrian Post decided to release a single-stamp souvenir sheet (perf. 13.75), valued at 6 Schilling, reproducing a detail of a famous painting of the relief battle by Franz Geffels that today hangs in the Vienna Museum (Wien Museum Karlsplatz). Figure 39 shows the complete work of art.

Figure 39. The Frans Geffels painting of the Relief of Vienna is not a fully accurate representation of the battle, but it does provide an idea of how the city was enclosed by a vast sea of thousands of enemy tents, the extensive Ottoman siege trenches and the destruction wrought on the bastions and ravelin that were the chief Turkish army focus, and the sloping approach to the city. The relieving allied armies are seen pouring in from the left, capturing the Grand Vizier's tent, while the Ottoman army with its red and gold pennants flees to the right.

A total of 3,800,000 souvenir sheets (90 x 70 mm) were printed and released on 9 September 1983 (Figure 40). The inscription on the souvenir sheet reads: "300 Jahre / Entsatz von Wien" (300 Years / Relief of Vienna).

Figure 40. The simple but attractive 1983 Relief of Vienna souvenir sheet incorporated about a quarter of the Geffels painting.

Austria: The 1983 Commemorative Cancellations and Stationery.

Figure 41.

However, to really make collectors happy, the Post also prepared about two dozen commemorative cancellations and a whole series of special first day and anniversary envelopes and cards that were released at a variety of Siege-related events. These are described below.

Pre-September 1983 Remembrances. While most of the Austrian commemorations of the Siege were held in the late summer-early fall (on or about the fateful anniversary date of 12 September), some exhibitions took place earlier in the year. Figure 41 presents two springtime cancellations from earlier Ottoman-related exhibitions: held at Kematen on 10 April (showing a Turkish tent pole decoration) and in Döbling from 17-19 May (illustrating a broken Turkish bow and arrow).

An almost six-month long exhibition (18 May-2 October 1983) held in Klosterneuburg had its own promotional cancellation showing the carved head of a Turk (Figure 42). The image is based on a figurine from the pommel of a knife

found in an ancient Klosterneuburg rubbish dump dating to about 1683. The inscription on the cancel translates as "Exhibition Klosterneuburg 1683, Turkish Attack and Defense." The town, which is just north of Vienna, was assailed by the Turks and also besieged. It was only after great sacrifices that the town was relieved on 8 September 1683.

An Early September Commemoration. On 8 September 1983, the Stamp Collectors Club-Donau (BSV-Donau) set up an exhibition in Perchtoldsdorf, a town south of Vienna. In July of 1683 the Turks effectively destroyed the town, killing or enslaving many of the residents. The mass slaughter came after the Ottoman troops had offered a traditional demand for surrender and the keys to the town were indeed handed over. The commemorative envelope shows part of the memorial stained glass Turkenfenster (Turkish window) in the parish church of St. Augustine that depicts the burning of the town and the massacre of its inhabitants. The cancellation illustrates Grand Vizier Kara Mustafa (Figure 43).

When in the same month the Viennese garrison commander Count Ernst Rüdiger von Starhemberg heard of the post-surrender sacking and brutality at Perchtoldsdorf, he decided he could not trust a similar offer from the Ottoman commander Kara Mustafa. It was the atrocity at Perchtoldsdorf that helped stiffen the resistance and resolve of the Viennese defenders.

First Day of Issue Tributes. The first day of issue for the Relief of Vienna souvenir sheet was 9 September 1983; about a dozen first day cancels with this date were created. Figure 44 is a first day cover showing King Jan Sobieski kneeling at the Mass offered for the relieving army shortly before setting out for battle. The liturgy was conducted by Marco d'Aviano, the papal legate who was sent expressly by Pope Innocent XI to bless and console the Christian crusaders. Both men are shown facing each other on the cancel and envelope cachet, which were prepared by the St. Gabriel Philatelic Society.

Figure 45 is a first day cover whose cachet presents a very basic – but easily understood – map of the decisive liberation battle that occurred on 12 September 1683. The cancellation in the shape of a stylized Turkish tent was created for the Workers Stamp Collectors Club-Oberlaa (ABSV-Oberlaa). The first Austrian Workers Stamp Collectors Club (ABSV) was established in 1927 and dozens of others have followed since. The aim of the association was to promote the social and cultural development of common workers and employees. Although Austrian stamp collector clubs had already existed for many years in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, they were seen as being the purview of the bourgeois elite. The ABSV retains its ties to the Social Democratic Party. Oberlaa is a former Lower Austrian municipality, now part of the 10th District of Vienna (Favoriten).
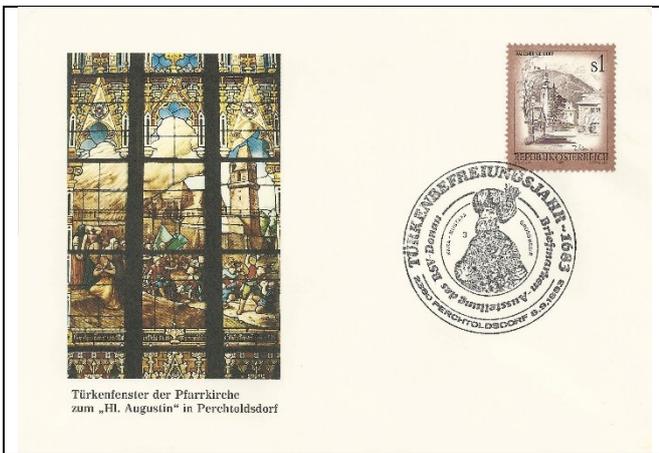
Figure 43. Special cover created by the Stamp Collectors Club-Donau (BSV-Donau) for an 8 September 1983 exhibition in Perchtoldsdorf

Figure 44. First day cover prepared by the St. Gabriel Philatelic Society shows Papal Envoy Marco d'Aviano and King Jan III Sobieski on both its cancel and cachet.
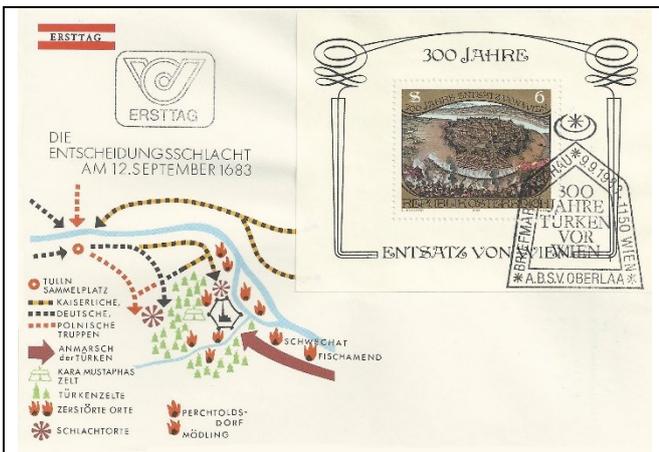

Figure 45. A first day cover with a special cancel prepared by ABSV-Oberlaa presents a simplified plan of the Battle at Kahlenberg on its cachet.
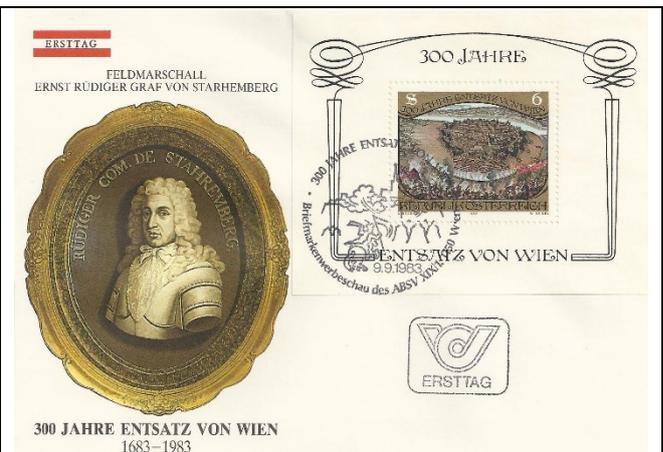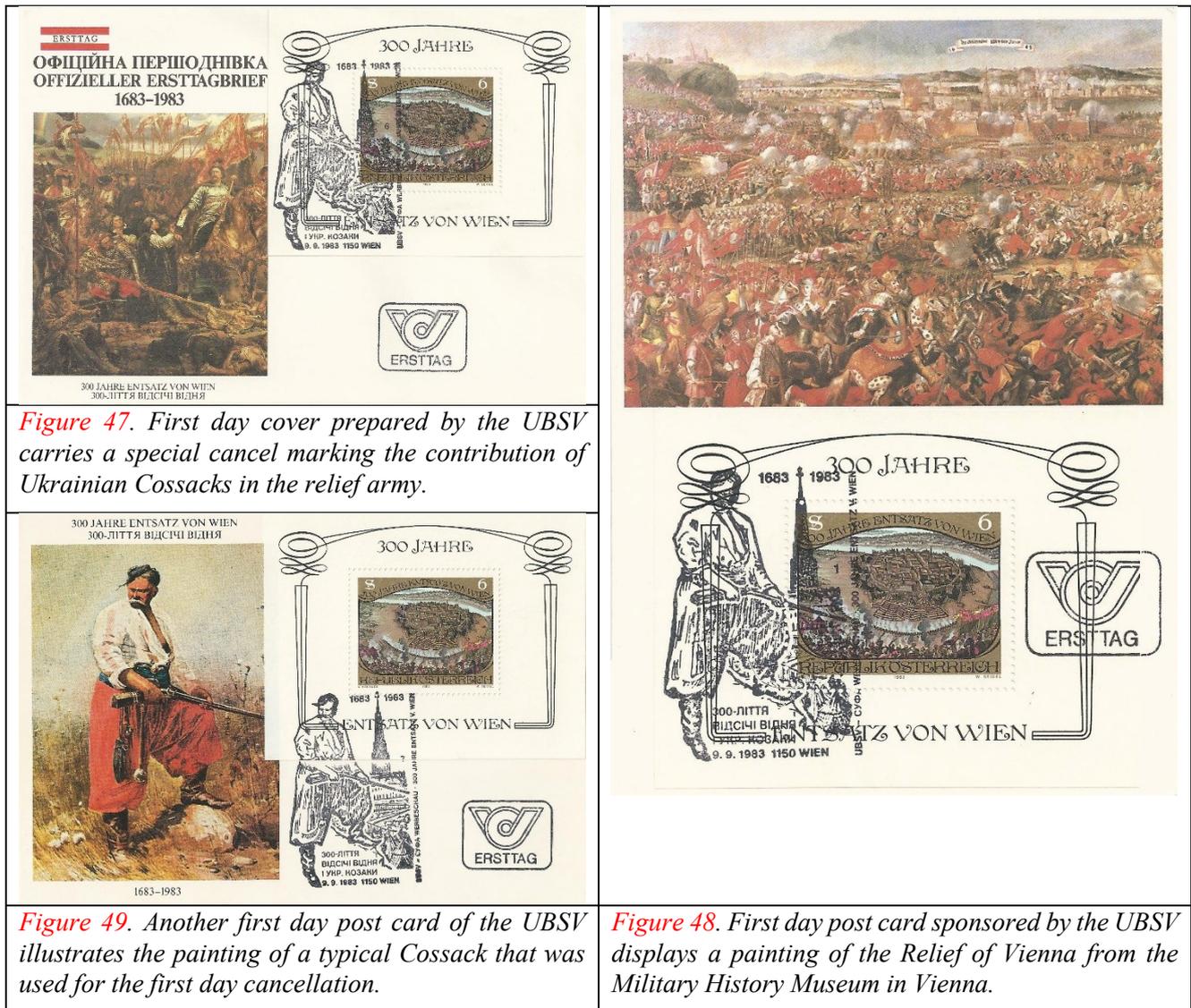

Figure 46. The first day cover with a special cancel prepared by ABSV XIX/1 shows a portrait of Count Rüdiger von Starhemberg on its cachet.

The Workers Stamp Collectors Club XIX/1 (ABSV XIX/1) was responsible for a stylized cancel showing fighting around the besieged city; it appears here on a first day envelope whose cachet depicts a bas-relief bust portrait of Count Ernst Rüdiger von Starhemberg, the head of the Viennese defense forces (Figure 46). Although the inscription identifies him as a field marshal, he only acquired this title from the emperor after the Siege had been broken.

The Ukrainian Stamp Collectors Club of Austria (UBSV) went all out in helping commemorate the Siege and the contributions made by Ukrainian Cossacks as well as by Yuriy Kulchytsky. For the first day of issue it created a special first day envelope as well as two distinctive post cards. The illustration on the bi-lingual (German-Ukrainian) envelope presented part of a famous painting "Sobieski Sending a Message of Victory" (further details appear below). The special bi-lingual cancellation depicted a Ukrainian Cossack holding a musket; behind him are the steeple of St. Stephen's Cathedral and some Turkish tents (Figure 47). The first of the UBSV post cards reproduced another painting showing the Relief of Vienna (Figure 48), this one by an anonymous artist and located in the Museum of Military History in Vienna. The second card displayed the painting of the Cossack that the cancel design is based upon (Figure 49).

Figure 47. First day cover prepared by the UBSV carries a special cancel marking the contribution of Ukrainian Cossacks in the relief army.


Figure 49. Another first day post card of the UBSV illustrates the painting of a typical Cossack that was used for the first day cancellation.

Figure 48. First day post card sponsored by the UBSV displays a painting of the Relief of Vienna from the Military History Museum in Vienna.

A few other special covers were printed to correspond to Siege-related commemorations and some of these ended up becoming first day covers. Figure 50 presents Emperor Leopold I on both its cachet and cancellation. (This particular example does not carry the Relief souvenir sheet and so is not really a FDC.) The cancel, from Korneuberg, a town 14 km (9 mi) north of Vienna, celebrates the ruler's stopover in that town on 7 July 1683 during his flight from the capital. The cover in Figure 51 portrays images of a mounted Duke Charles of Lorraine on its cachet as well as its cancel, the latter issued in the town of Hollabrunn. King Jan Sobieski and his troops marched through this town some 50 km (30 mi) north of Vienna on their way to do battle.

Other first day cancels – appearing on various previously described envelopes – include one from Tulln (the meeting place of the allied armies) showing a portrait of King Jan Sobieski (Figure 52), and another from Schwechat where Emperor Leopold and King Jan Sobieski met after the battle. Schwechat is today a city district in Vienna and home to Vienna International Airport as well as Austria's largest oil refinery. The cancellation combines the coat of arms of Schwechat with the Kugelkreuz monument in the city (Figure 53). The latter is an obelisk mounted on four Turkish cannon balls and commemorates the meeting of the two sovereigns on 14 September 1683.

Two further first day cancellations were created for special exhibitions. One cancel was applied for an ABSV showing on the Kahlenberg, the mountain overlooking the city and after which the relief battle was named; it depicts the walled 17th century city of Vienna as well as the capital's old coat of arms with a double-headed eagle (Figure 54). The other exhibit was at Perchtoldsdorf and its cancel design shows the Türkenkreuz, the memorial to the victims of the Ottoman massacre that took place there (Figure 55).
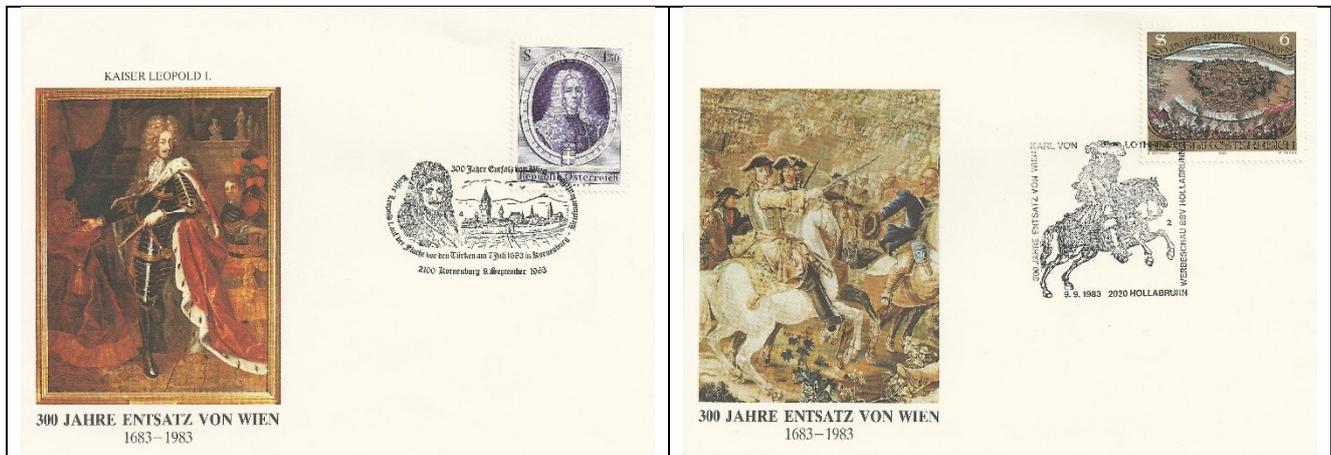
Figure 50. Cover showing Emperor Leopold I on both its cachet and cancellation.

Figure 51. First day cover commemorating Duke Charles of Lorraine on its cancel and cachet. Only the stamp portion of the souvenir sheet is affixed.
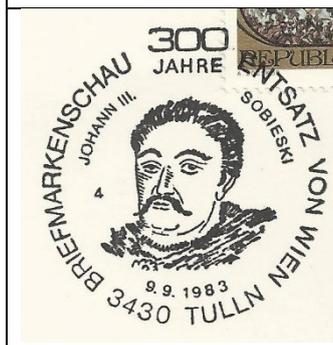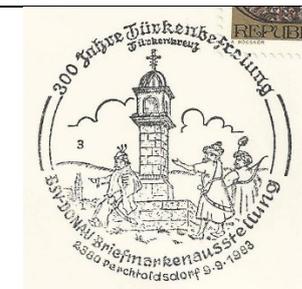
Figure 52. First day cancel from Tulln shows a portrait of King Jan III Sobieski

Figure 53. The first day cancel from Schwechat merges the coat of arms of that Vienna district with the obelisk Kugelkreuz monument.

Figure 54. First day cancel from Vienna combines a 17th century view of the city with its old coat of arms.

Figure 55. The first day cancel from Perchtoldsdorf displays the Türkenkreuz in that town.

One more first-day-of-issue item needs to be mentioned – a special presentation folder (215 mm x 152 mm in size) apparently created by the Austrian Post Office for the Siege of Vienna souvenir sheet. The colorful folder cover replicates a tapestry entitled "Die Entsatzschlacht" (The Relief Battle) from the Kunsthistorisches Museum (Art-History Museum) in Vienna. Prominent in the left foreground of the wall-hanging, Duke Charles of Lorraine on a white horse directs his troops forward. Reproduced inside the folder is a reduced relief map from the Heeresgeschichtliches Museum (Military History Museum) in Vienna showing the three main allied troop movements (red arrows) at the fateful battle. The opposite page allowed for plenty of space to apply the souvenir sheet, a first-day marking, and a commemorative cancellation (Figure 56).

Additional UBSV Siege of Vienna Tie-Ins. UBSV's participation in the Relief of Vienna celebrations actually took place over four days (9-12 September) and consisted of an exhibition held in Vienna's famous Café Central in the city's Innere Stadt district. A special temporary postal station was set up at the Café for the four days and different bi-lingual (German-Ukrainian) cancellations were prepared for each day; the one for the 9th (the first day of issue for the souvenir sheet) was described above and shown in Figures 47-49. For the 10th, the commemorative cancel depicted a portrait of Yuriy Kulchytsky, which was applied to a jubilee envelope reproducing a painting of Kulchytsky serving coffee at his Blue Bottle Kaffeehaus (Figure 57a). The UBSV also prepared an uninscribed post card showing the portrait of Kulchytsky that the bi-lingual cancellation was modeled upon (Figure 57b).

300 Jahre Entsatz von Wien 1683–1983

Figure 56. A presentation folder likely prepared by the Austrian Post Office for its commemorative souvenir sheet depicts the rout of the besieging Ottoman army on its cover. The center of the folder (reduced) shows a plan of battle for Vienna and the souvenir sheet with first-day-of-issue markings.
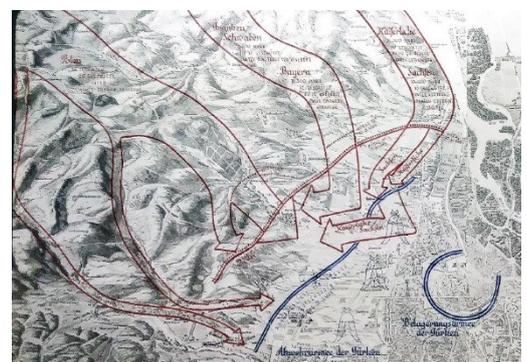
Figure 57a. Commemorative cover of 10 September 1983 honours Yuriy Kulchytsky (Georg Kolschitzky) on both its bi-lingual cancel and cachet.


Figure 58. Commemorative cover of 11 September 1983 celebrates the 300th anniversary of Vienna coffee houses on its cachet and cancel.

Figure 57b. Post card showing a portrait of Yuriy Kulchytsky (Georg Kolschitzky) and the bi-lingual cancellation modelled after that picture.

On 11 September the theme of the cancellation was "300 Years of the Vienna Coffee House." The cachet of the commemorative envelope reproduced an old drawing of the courtyard arcades at the Café Central. The special postmark presented a typical Viennese coffee house scene: a coffee table and chair flanked by a hat/coat stand with a newspaper holder (Figure 58). [*The theme was actually misleading since, as previously mentioned, coffee houses were already found in Vienna a few decades preceding the Siege. However, the expansion of coffee houses in the capital city does date to just after the traumatic event*]

For the anniversary date of 12 September, **two** special bi-lingual cancellations were issued. The first recognized the contributions of the Cossacks in the Relief effort and showed a Cossack flag and seal (Figure 59). This postmark was typically applied to a commemorative envelope that resembled the first day envelope used three days earlier but now had the first day inscription removed (see Figure 47). The second cancel commemorated the mounted mail service set up by the Cossacks in Ukraine (a "Cossack Pony Express"); it was affixed to a special postcard showing Cossack riders. The cancel design illustrated a Cossack brandishing a sabre (Figure 60).

To top off the tercentennial celebrations, the UBSV organized a "Cossack Pony Express" on the 12th of September. Three horsemen clad in traditional multi-coloured Cossack uniforms transported a sack of mail from the Palais Ferstel (in which the Café Central is located) to Vienna's Main Post Office (a distance of about one kilometer) shortly after noon. The contents of the mail sack consisted of all of the postcards and other commemorative stationery items that had been postmarked at the Café that morning by the postal employees operating the special postal station.
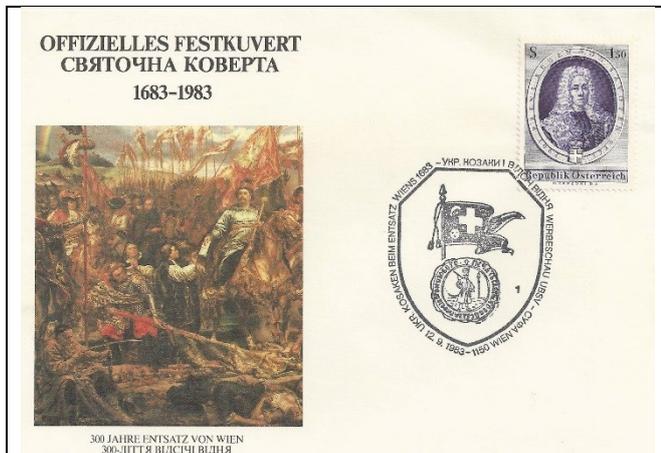
Figure 59. Anniversary cover of 12 September 1983 recalls the contributions of Ukrainian Cossacks in the battle to free Vienna. Shown on the bi-lingual cancellation are a Cossack flag and seal.
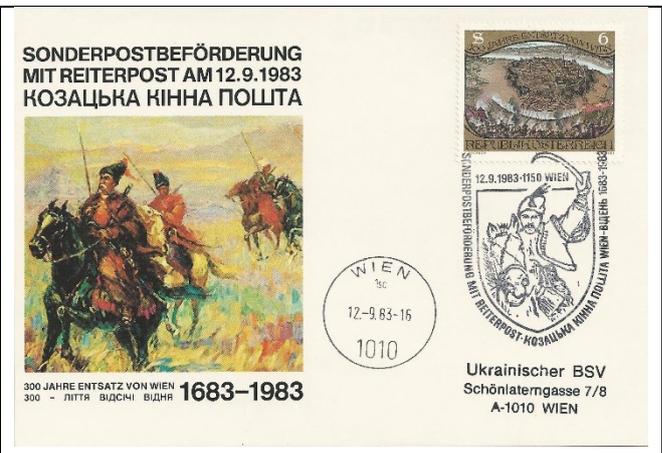
Figure 60. Anniversary post card of 12 September 1983 recalls the Cossack mounted post on its bi-lingual cancel and cachet. The card was created for the "Cossack Pony Express" re-enactment held on that day.

A Few Further Siege Cancellations. The Workers Stamp Collectors Club XIX/1 (ABSV XIX/1) followed up its first day cancellation (Figure 46) with another for 10-11 September showing Turkish tents with the Kahlenberg in the background (Figure 61). Likewise, the Workers Stamp Collectors Club-Oberlaa (ABSV-Oberlaa) created a second cancel on 12 September to accompany its earlier first day production (Figure 45). This additional marking showed a mounted King Jan Sobieski (Figure 62). Both of these commemorative devices accompanied ABSV exhibitions.

Figure 61. Special cancellation prepared by ABSV XIX/1 for 10 September 1983 displays Turkish tents surrounding Vienna.

Figure 62. Special cancel arranged by ABSV-Oberlaa for 12 September 1983 shows King Jan Sobieski riding a horse.
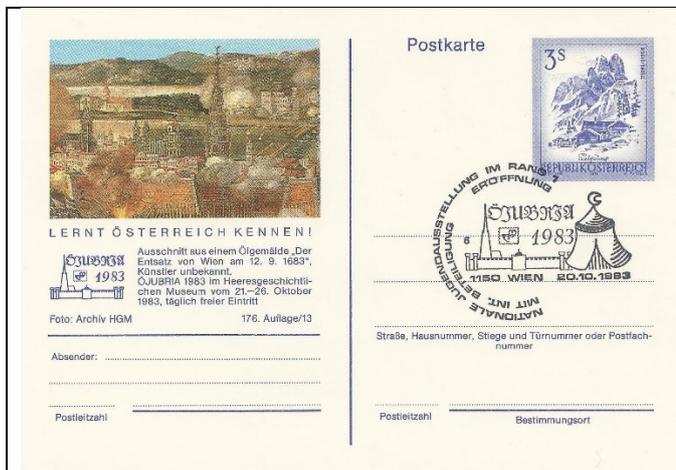
The last Siege of Vienna philatelic tribute known to the author took place on 20 October 1983 for the opening of the week-long National Youth Philatelic Exhibition (ÖJUBRIA) in the Museum of Military History in Vienna. For this event a 3-schilling postal card was overprinted with a detail from the anonymous painting of the Relief of Vienna that hangs in that museum (see Figure 48) and an appropriate commemorative inscription. The cancellation depicted a stylized view of Vienna's city walls, the Stephansdom (St. Stephen's Cathedral), and a Turkish tent (Figure 63).

Subsequent cancels for the next six days of the event incorporated the Vienna walls and the cathedral into their designs, but gave no specific indication of any connection with the Siege anniversary, i.e., the themes included Youth Day, Nations Day, UN Day, etc. So, they really are not considered Siege-related items.

Poland's Siege-related materials.

The 1933 Commemorative Stamp and 1934 Surcharged Stamp

Having concluded a review of the Austrian Siege-related materials, we can turn to those produced by Polish postal authorities in 1933, 1934, and 1983. Poland likewise considers the Relief of Vienna a pivotal historical event and its participation in it as one of the most glorious chapters in Polish military history.

On 12 September 1933, the exact 250th Anniversary of the Relief of Vienna, Poland issued a beautifully engraved 1.20-złotego stamp showing a scene from a painting by Jan Matejko entitled "Sobieski Sending the Message of Victory to the Pope" (Figure 64). Printed in dark blue ink and perforated 11.5 x 12.5, the stamp depicts the central portion of the famous work of art (Figure 65), today displayed in the Vatican Museum. The King is shown handing the letter to an emissary on his right. The King's 15-year-old son, who accompanied his father on the expedition to Vienna, is seated on a horse to his left. The missive to the pope is famous for its Latin quote: "Venimus, Vidimus, Deus vicit" (We came, we saw, God conquered).

The following year, a portion of the available stamps were surcharged: a red overprint obliterated the two original value indicators in the upper corners, while a new value of 1-złoty was inserted in the lower center (Figure 66).

Figure 64. Jan Matejko's famous painting of Polish King Jan III Sobieski dispatching a victory message to the pope.

Figure 65. The 1933 Polish commemorative stamp that depicts a portion of Matejko's "Sobieski Sending the Message of Victory."

Figure 66. The 1933 stamp was overprinted and surcharged the following year.

Poland: The 1983 Commemorations

For the 300th Anniversary of the Relief of Vienna, Poland decided to go all out with philatelic commemorations issuing a souvenir sheet, two stamp sets, a number of postal stationery products, and various commemorative cancellations.

The 'Military of the 17th Century' – Postal Cards. In April of 1983, the Polish Post, Telegraph, and Telephone agency got things rolling with the release of two postal cards depicting soldiers of the 17th century and some of their equipment. A 5-zl. card shows 17th century swords on the imprinted stamp and the cachet displays a bust view of a winged hussar (Figure 67). The 15-zl. card presents a hussar helmet on the imprinted stamps and a fully armed hussar (but without the winged paraphernalia) on the cachet (Figure 68).
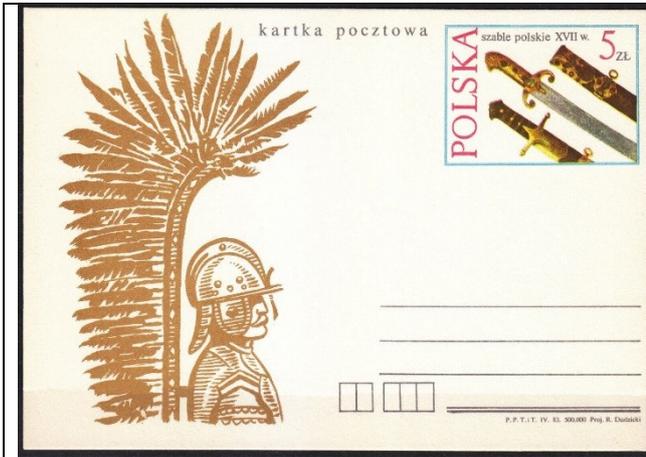
Figure 67. The 5-zl. postal card illustrating 17th century swords and a winged hussar.

Figure 68. The 15-zl. postal card highlighting an elaborate 17th century helmet and showing such head gear worn as part of a hussar's armour.

The 'Military of the 17th Century' – Stamps. Five stamps highlighting "The Army of Jan III Sobieski" were released on 5 July 1983. Depicted on the stamps were various types of 17th century soldiers: dragoons on one 5-zl. stamp and an armored mounted lancer on the other, two infantrymen on the 6-zl., a light cavalryman on the 15-zl., and heavily armed hussars on the 27-zl., including a winged hussar on the right (Figure 69). Three colorful, complementary envelopes illustrating military banners were unveiled at the first day of issue ceremony in Warsaw, while the circular commemorative cancel depicted a winged hussar (Figure 70).

Figure 69. The five-stamp set depicting elements of "The Army of Jan III Sobieski."
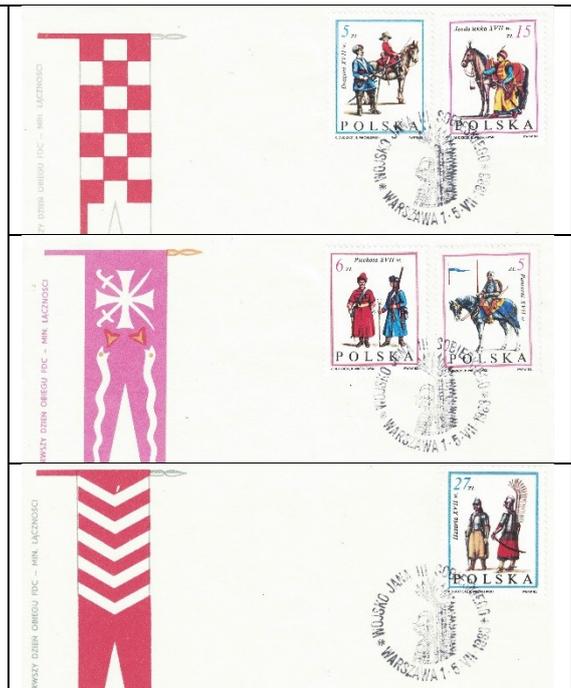
Figure 70. The three different first day covers prepared for the 17th-century military personnel stamps.

Airmail Commemorations. On 11 September 1983 in Warsaw, a special "Sobieski at Vienna 1683" airmail cancellation – showing an airplane and the Stephansdom (Vienna's St. Stephen's Cathedral) – was applied to mails sent on a special flight to the Austrian capital. Figure 71 shows the cancel on a 27-zl. airmail envelope whose imprinted stamp displays a military banner while the cachet depicts the Jan III Sobieski Monument in Warsaw (this stationery was created for use throughout the anniversary year). A circular Vienna cancel shows arrival the following day (the 300th anniversary of the momentous battle).

Anniversary Day Commemorations. On the exact tercentenary day, the Polish Post unveiled both a four-stamp set honoring King Jan III Sobieski and a "300th Anniversary of the Relief of Vienna" semi-postal souvenir sheet. The former consisted of portraits of the King on different values (5-zl., 6-zl. (2), and 25-zl.; Figure 72), while the latter showed the complete Jan Matejko painting of "Sobieski Sending the Message of Victory" (Figure 73). The surcharge on the 65 + 10 zl.-value souvenir sheet went towards the Polish Philatelists Union.

Figure 72. The set of four Sobieski portrait stamps issued on the anniversary day of the lifting of the Siege of Vienna.

Figure 73. The "300th Anniversary of the Relief of Vienna" semi-postal souvenir sheet issued on the exact tercentenary of the lifting of the Siege.

The two philatelic releases shared matching, but not identical, first day envelopes. They all displayed a "300th Anniversary of the Relief of Vienna" inscription reading upwards on the left side along with an elaborate sword, consecrated and presented to Jan III by Pope Innocent XI in 1675. That design sufficed for the souvenir sheet first day cover, which required extra space for the sheet as well as the first day cancel (Figure 74). However, for the two envelopes that each bore two of the four Sobieski portrait stamps, there was plenty of room for additional embellishment: one flaunted a line drawing of the King on a rearing steed, while the other presented accouterments of a mounted hussar (steel helmet and wing frame). The circular commemorative cancel showed a galloping winged hussar (Figure 75).
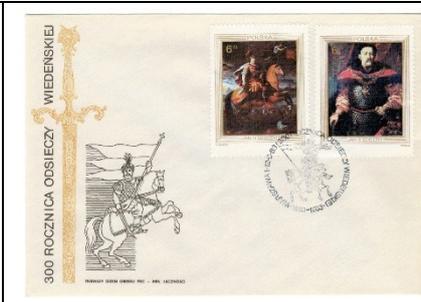
Figure 74. First day cover of the Relief Anniversary souvenir sheet.

Figure 75. The two first day covers of the Sobieski portrait stamps.

A number of additional commemorative cancels were issued in country during the anniversary year. An 11 September 1983 city of Krakow cancel stated "300 Year Relief of Vienna" (Figure 76). The design on the cancellation encapsulated the conclusion of the Siege and Relief of Vienna: a rider less Turkish horse being chased by a winged hussar. Figure 77 presents a special cancel created for the Museum of Post and Telecommunications in Wroclaw on 23 September 1983, which shows a hussar helmet and a banner proclaiming the "300th Anniversary of the Relief of Vienna." A Krakow cancel from 13 November was prepared for a "Philatelic Exhibition on the 300th Anniversary of the Relief of Vienna" (Figure 78). The image on the cancel is that of Jan III Sobieski.
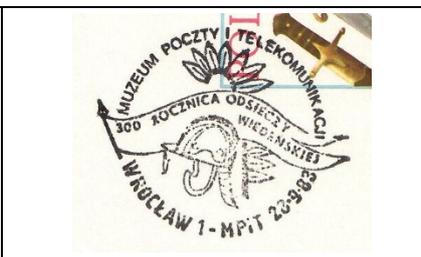
Figure 76. An 11 September 1983 commemorative cancel from Krakow carries a "300 Year Relief of Vienna" inscription.

Figure 77. The Post and Telecommunications Museum in Wroclaw used this commemorative cancel on 23 September 1983.

Figure 78. A 13 November 1983 Krakow cancel showing King Jan III Sobieski.

The 300th Anniversary celebrations of the Siege and Relief of Vienna certainly engendered a profusion of philatelic commemorative items in both Austria and Poland – especially when compared to the 250th Anniversary releases. It will be interesting to see what sort of philatelic celebratory materials will be produced for the 350th Anniversary celebrations less than a decade from now.

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Note: This article is modified from "The 1683 Siege and Relief of Vienna: Postal History and Philately" – a submission that appeared in *The Congress Book 2023* (Cleveland, OH: The American Philatelic Congress, pages 145-195) – and contains some additional text and illustrations.

Juridisch-Politischer Leseverein.

By A Brooks

This letter was posted in Vienna on the 23/5/1906 and was addressed to Miss Luise Peters, Somerville House, St. Leonards-on -Sea, by Hastings, Sussex, England. On the reverse of the envelope is a 25 heller stamp of the 1904 issue cancelled Wien I; and the St-Leonards-on Sea receiving mark for 26/5/06.

The Juridisch-Politischer Leseverein was an association of lawyers, civil servants and professors, founded in 1841 as a reading club and discussion forum. One of the oldest associations in Vienna, it is still active today in close cooperation with the Vienna Bar Association and it publishes works on legal history and awards prizes for journalism.

The eight-page letter on headed society notepaper was sent to Somerville House, which was a school for girls founded in 1895 and looks as though it has been formed from two large semi-detached houses. It was still a school in the 1920s.

Gustav who wrote to Luise was probably a boyfriend or fiancé and he was replying to her 40- page letter! The salient comments in his letter have been summarized; he was worried about her situation in England and about her health and kept on about his concern throughout the letter. He asked her not to be angry with her mother who was also worried about Luise. He advised her to move the inkpot from her bedroom so that she cannot write at night and then she might be able to get off to sleep. Other comments suggest that she is neither a pupil at the school nor a teacher so she may have been working as part of the visiting staff. Gustav asked her to move somewhere else as the owners did not seem to be treating her very well. Luise has made a trip to the Isle of Man and had also spent time in London but was expected home in the autumn. Gustav ends the letter as follows 'I hold you tight in my arms, I am your Gustav'.

Translation by Christa Carne.

Juridisch-politischer Leseverein
Wien, I., Rotenturmstraße 13.

Mittwochabend, 8.

Erst heute Mittag fand ich Deine beiden sehnsüchtig erwarteten Briefe vor.

Aber ich kann mich der Freude darüber nicht recht hingeben, wenn ich die physische Mühe des Schreibens abschätze, die diese Briefe Dich kosten müssen.

Liebe, liebe Du, ich danke Dir herzinnig dafür, aber ich bitte Dich, tu mir den Gefallen und schreibe nicht mehr im Bett. Es beängstigt mich, dass Du über Kopfschmerzen klagst, es beängstigt mich, dass Du schlecht aussiehst. Deshalb wiederhole ich wieder: Lebe vor allem Deiner Gesundheit. Und richte Deine Handlungen einzig in dieser Richtung ein. Es ist so außerordentlich wichtig, dass Du jetzt, wo Du noch im letzten Stadium der körperlichen Entwicklung nach oben Dich befindest, diese Entwicklung nicht leichtsinnig hemmst. Du stimmst ja wie ich dem Gedanken zu, dass nur gesunde, kräftige Menschen eine Ehe schließen sollen und schon deshalb denk vor allem daran. Das Vergnügen, das mir Deine Episteln in so hohem Maße bereiten,

An analysis of the bilingual postal cancellations in the German-Czech provinces of Austria-Hungary during the period 1867–1919 – Part one

By Frans van Loo

Introduction

Inspired by a lifelong fascination with the language struggles between neighbouring peoples in Austria-Hungary, I have built up a collection of postal cancellations. An interesting and influential article by Edwin Müller from 1925 [1] drew my attention to the provinces of Bohemia, Moravia, and (Austrian) Silesia, which currently form the Czech Republic. Müller paints a picture of official authorities and local postmasters embroiled in a continuous language struggle between the Czech and German communities that was supposedly reflected in the names and spellings of the places where the post offices were located, and the way they were displayed in postal cancellations. This picture, however, does not correlate with some precise historical census data I uncovered. My findings show that the names on the postal cancellations, and their position therein, say a lot less about the language spoken near the postmaster's office than assumed by Müller.

I do not speak or read the Czech language and have no access to official sources on the relevant postal history, which could very well throw more light on this topic. I hope to receive comments and additional data from readers to enrich – and possibly correct – my knowledge on this subject.

Historical background

Before 1867, the Austrian or Hapsburg Empire consisted of twenty-four provinces and was inhabited by a number of nationalities: Germans, Italians, Slovenians, Czechs, Poles, Ukrainians, Slovaks, Hungarians, Romanians, Croats, and Serbs, all speaking their own language (Fig.1).

Fig. 1: Ethnic groups of Austria-Hungary in 1910 according to Distribution of Races in Austria-Hungary *by William R. Shepherd, 1911.*

Throughout this empire, German was the only official language, and public officers of all ranks had to read and speak German. Emperor Franz Joseph in Vienna had many problems reigning over all these provinces, which had different and often conflicting ambitions. During the period of Italian unification, he first lost Lombardy in 1859 and then Venice in 1866, after a defeat in the disastrous war against a temporary alliance of Italy and Prussia. The King of Prussia wanted to annexe Bohemia but his Chancellor, Bismarck, opposed the idea [2]. The Bohemians did not like that idea either and hoped to get more freedom by entering into an agreement with Vienna. The Hungarians, however, had learned lessons from their failed revolution in 1848 and used the opportunity provided by Viennese weakness to make contact with Bismarck. They forced an agreement with Vienna, the so-called *Ausgleich*, that led to the creation of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, in which Austria and Hungary were equal partners. Both countries had their own constitution and their own legislative bodies. Only the emperor and certain common institutions (the ministries of foreign affairs, war, and finance) united them. In June 1867 Franz Joseph was officially crowned King of Hungary and so a permanent solution for the relationship with Hungary was reached. The original Hapsburg Empire was now split up into a Western (Austrian) part called Cisleithenia and an Eastern (Hungarian) part, Transleithenia (Fig.2). The Czech provinces of Bohemia (Böhmen), Moravia (Mähren) and Silesia (Schlesien) in the Austrian part were now separated from the linguistically related neighbouring people of Slovakia in the Hungarian part.

Fig. 2: Division of the Hapsburg Empire into Cisleithenia (coloured brown on the map) and Transleithenia (coloured yellow).	Fig. 3: The three provinces of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia – coloured yellow, green and pink – can be seen to the north-west of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

Inspired by Hungary's success in forcing the *Ausgleich*, Bohemia wanted to achieve a similar arrangement with Austria. In 1871 Franz Joseph came to an agreement, but the Germans in Cisleithenia and the Hungarians in Transleithenia were very strongly opposed to this idea and it was cancelled. But on one issue there was a breakthrough: the Cisleithenian government granted all nationalities full equal rights for the use of their own language. Although this concession was withdrawn soon after, the postal officials had acted immediately. Before 1871, the names of the places that had a post office were monolingual – German – regardless of the language of the local people. This was seen as an insult by the Czech population and the post offices acted to address it. For Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, it meant that the local name appeared on the cancellations next to the German name: they became bilingual. In Bohemia and Moravia, the Czech name was used. For Silesia, it was either the Czech or the Polish name.

Hungary, meanwhile, never gave equal language rights to their ethnic minorities (Slovaks, Ukrainians, Romanians, Serbs, and Croats). In 1918 the Czechs and Slovaks were united in the new Republic of Czechoslovakia but fifty years of separate development probably contributed to their troublesome relationship, which ended in the Republic's split into Czechia and Slovakia in 1993.

The demographic situation in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia in the year 1900

The three provinces of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia were situated in the north-west of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (Fig. 3). Fig. 4 shows the percentage of the German-speaking population in each district (the only other ethnic group included on Fig. 4 is Czechs). In the most eastern part of Austrian Silesia, however, there were also significant numbers of Poles.

Fig. 4 shows that the German-speaking population is concentrated in the border areas of our region of interest. In the central parts, nearly 100% of the population is Czech-speaking and there was a very sharp demarcation between both groups (for brevity, in the rest of the text I will simply use the terms 'Czech' and 'German' to mean 'Czech-speaking' or 'German-speaking'). There are only a few districts where the average population is truly mixed, as Table 1 below shows. This is especially true for the big cities, as can be seen from the *Gemeindelexikon* [3], which gives the results of the population census taken in 1900 in Cisleithenia.

Since this touches on the main subject of this article, I put a lot of effort into finding the details of the language situation in each place where a post office was present in 1900. Specifically, I combined the data in the *Gemeindelexikon* with the philatelic data in Klein's *Handbuch* [4]. Klein mentions 2,127 post offices being active in 1900 in the three provinces of concern and shows all cancellations found from all these offices over the period 1867 to 1900.

The richness of the data in the *Gemeindelexikon* is astonishing: from the smallest hamlets to the biggest towns, data about ethnicity, religion, number of houses, presence of churches, chapels, windmills, and so on – they are all there. All post offices mentioned by Klein are also listed, and I have taken the relevant data from there, summarizing it in this article. (This was a very time-consuming job, but I have plenty of time, being happily retired!)
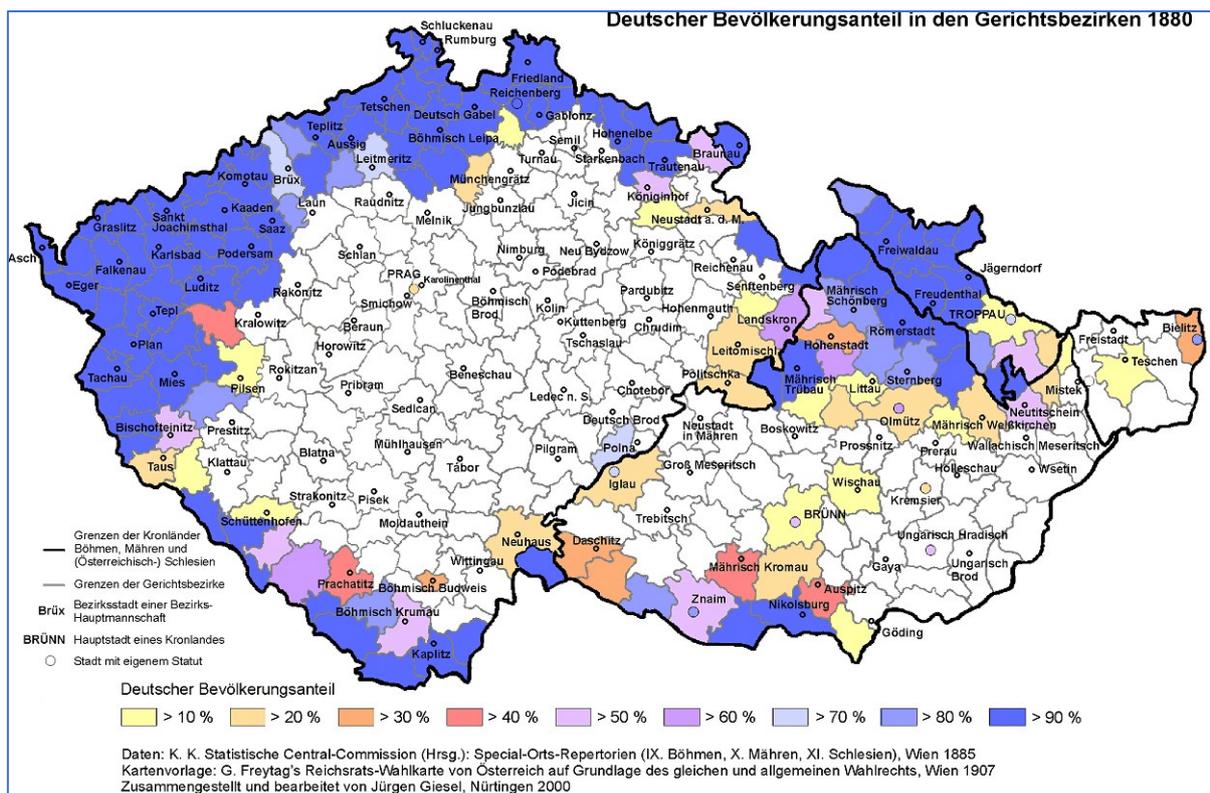
Fig. 4: Percentages of German-speaking people in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.

Table 1: sizes of language minorities in each district			
Percentage minority	*Districts of Bohemia*	*Districts of Moravia*	*Districts of Silesia*
0–1%	1,063 (78%)	397 (66%)	91 (58%)
2–9%	228 (17%)	153 (25%)	38 (24%)
10–19%	36 (3%)	26 (4%)	12 (8%)
20–29%	18 (1%)	12 (2%)	6 (4%)
30–39%	11 (1%)	7 (1%)	6 (4%)
40–49%	9 (1%)	9 (1%)	5 (3%)
Total	1,365	604	158

In Table 1, and in the rest of the text, all places are treated equally: a hamlet with one post office and a town like Prague with twenty-one post offices are both counted as one place. The data in Table 1 confirms the extreme language segregation, especially in Bohemia. We can see that in 1,063 out of 1,365 places with a post office (78%), more than 99% of the population belonged to the same ethnic group: Germans in the border areas and Czechs in the central parts.

Even in the few mixed districts the segregation between the various hamlets or villages was very strong. Take the district of Leitmeritz, for example, in the transition zone between the German and Czech-speaking areas. In that district, there were 35,503 Germans and 8,852 Czechs, meaning 20% were Czech. The district consists of 114 hamlets and villages and 2 cities, Leitmeritz and Theresienstadt. It turns out that 93 out of the 114 hamlets and villages were more than 99% German-speaking, 11 were more than 99% Czech speaking, and only 10 of these hamlets were mixed in the sense that the minority counted for more than 1%. Only the two cities were really mixed (90% and 57% German, respectively) but it might very well be that at a neighbourhood or street level this segregation was still present. In other words, there was clearly profound ethnic segregation at the smallest level of society. This was a recipe for serious problems, because everywhere German was the official language.

Later in history (and beyond the focus of this article) these problems became profound indeed: between 1938 and 1948 the German-speaking region around the borders of the Czechoslovak Republic was both the immediate cause of the outbreak of World War II and the target for the ethnic cleansing that followed. I want to stay clear from politics in this article but, for the sake of simplification, the *Sudetengebiete* regions marked in yellow, salmon, pink and purple in Fig. 5 correspond very closely to the German-speaking parts shown in Fig. 4. I will refer to this whole area as the Sudetenland, even though this term is mostly used just for the northern part (marked in yellow on the map).

Fig. 5: Political division of Bohemia and Moravia in 1940, showing the Sudetengebiete.

The types of postal cancellations in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia according to Müller

My interest in this subject was ignited by Müller's monograph [1], and his main conclusions can also be found in Klein [4], Part 1, page 34. Müller's work is incredibly rich in interesting detail, but below I have given just a brief summary. Much of this is regarded as historical fact (and is presented as such below), but I believe that certain assumptions are not based in fact, and have highlighted this accordingly.

As mentioned above, before 1871 German was the only language used on postal cancellations. For German-speaking places this was, of course, not a problem but for the Czech-speaking places, the Czech name had to be Germanized (except for the relatively few examples which had a specific German name, such as Terezín/Theresienstadt). That was done by transcribing, and the Czech letters which are not present in the German alphabet had to be replaced by equivalent-sounding German letters, as in: Telč/Teltsch; Benešov/Beneschau; Dačice/Datschitz; and Němčice/Niemtschitz. Very often the resulting name was neither German nor Czech: Chotovin (German Chotowin, Czech Chotoviny); Hořic (German Hořitz, Czech Hořice); Dymokury (German Dimokur, Czech Dimokury). Note that in the 'German' names Czech letter types were also used! Müller says that for important places, where the Czech name was completely different from the German name, bilingual cancellations had to be introduced in 1871 and newly opened post offices with a bilingual name had to acquire bilingual cancellers. [I will argue in the next section that this statement does not reflect the postal facts.] The same rule applied to existing post offices, which had to replace their old canceller. Müller goes on to say that for this purpose officially-made *Einkreisstempel* or single-circle cancellers were delivered and the rule was: the German name had to be at the top, and the Czech name at the bottom (as seen in Figs. 6 and 7).

| *Fig. 6: Adler Kosteletz/Kostelec nad Orlicí, 21-6-1880.* | *Fig. 7: Mährisch Ostrau Stadt/Moravská Ostrava Město 7-10-1878* |
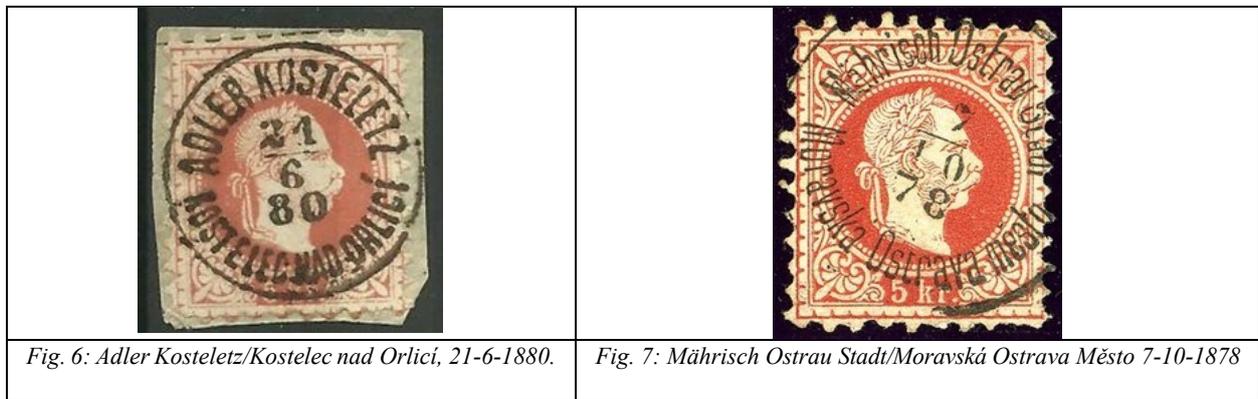
Bilingual cancellers were already used in four cities before 1867 [1, 5] but they were designed by the local postmaster. An example is shown in Fig. 8 for Böhm(isch) Brod/Český Brod. The cancellation does not include the year, as was usual before 1867. This specific postage stamp is cancelled somewhere between 1864 and 1867, the cancellation itself being used until about 1885 (as can be seen from the data in Klein [4]). Sometimes the names were put sequentially, separated by a hyphen, but in that case too the German name had to come first, see Fig. 9.

| *Fig. 8: Postmaster bilingual cancellation of Böhmisch Brod/ Český Brod.* | *Fig. 9: Göding/ Hodonin, 13-3-1881.* |

In a few cases the postmaster designed his own cancellers, sometimes following the rule that the German name should be on top, but often not as in Figs. 10 and 11, where the Czech name is on top (Mnichovo Hradiště/Münchengrätz and Beroun/Beraun). It wasn't just the local postmasters who (deliberately or otherwise) made irregular cancellers: centrally issued cancellers sometimes had the Czech name on top, as in Fig. 12 (Ždírec/Zdiretz) and the left-hand picture in Fig. 25 (Sušice/Schüttenhofen) (see later). Fig. 12 is an example of a rather poor cancellation but I have deliberately shown it here because you can also reach sound conclusions from incomplete cancellations.

From left: *Fig. 10: Mnichovo Hradiště/Münchengrätz; Fig. 11: Beroun/Beraun; Fig. 12: Ždírec/Zdiretz, 11-2-1881*

The higher officials were not very happy with this mess and ruled that locally issued postmaster cancellers were not allowed anymore, while bilingual cancellers could only be acquired after approval by the ministry. At this point it is worth remembering that in Cisleithenia all nationalities (except for the Ukrainians in Galicia and Bukovina, see Fig. 1) already had bilingual cancellations of the same type as those shown in Figs. 7 and 8.

The rules were different for the various provinces as seen below. (All these provinces followed the top/bottom rules, unlike the three provinces of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.)

Table 2: Order of languages on top/bottom cancellers in other provinces of Cisleithenia		
Location and population mixture	*Order of names on cancellers*	*Number of places*
Germans and Slovenians in current Slovenia	German/Slovenian	190
Italians and Slovenians in current Slovenia	Italian/Slovenian	24
Italians and Croats in current Croatia (Istria)	Italian/Croatian	21
Italians and Croats in current Croatia (Dalmatia)	Croatian/Italian	103
Germans and Poles in Galicia	German/Polish	6

At the beginning of the 1890s a new type of top/bottom canceller was introduced for the whole of Cisleithenia, and also for the monolingual provinces: a *Zweikreisstempel* or double-circle cancellation as in Fig. 13. The Czechs were not satisfied with this new version of the old insult: why should the German name be on top and not the Czech? That was the reason for the introduction of a completely new position for the names in the double-circle canceller in about 1895, just for Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, where no language would be privileged: a left/right instead of a top/bottom canceller. Müller states that the place name on the left-hand side had to appear in the language of the majority – see Figs. 14 and 15, which show cancellations for Winterberg*Vimberk*, (90% German) and Kolinec*Kolinetz*, (100% Czech). [I have serious doubts about this statement. as will be discussed in Section 5.]

Fig. 13: Klobouk in Böhmen/ Klobuky v Čechách, 22-8-1893	*Fig. 14: Winterberg*Vimberk*, 14-8-1903*	*Fig. 15: Kolinec*Kolinetz*, 5-5-1909*

The authorities thought that equality of language rights was achieved but they did not realize that it was still up to the postmaster to decide which name appeared on the left- hand side: he only had to turn the date in the inner circle by 180 degrees if he wanted to reverse the left/right position! Müller claims to have seen examples of this action and suggests that the postmasters are making a deliberate political statement. According to Müller, such abuse was impossible to prevent [I disagree] and the problem disappeared only with the introduction of the *Ringsteg* canceller around 1904 in the whole of Cisleithenia, which made it impossible to cheat since the inner circle with the date could no longer be turned against the outer circle because then the serial number or letter at the bottom would appear upside-down at the top (see Figs. 16 and 17). According to Müller, this move finally achieved equality of language rights. I can imagine that this thrilling story will lead you to investigate your own postage-stamp collection in search of interesting examples of cancellations which fit (or don't fit) with Müller's hypotheses, and that is exactly what I did – what I found is described in the next sections.

Fig. 16: Ringsteg *Budweis/Budějovice (German/Czech), 2-7-1915*		*Fig. 17:* Ringsteg *Nížkov/ Nischkau (Czech/German), 7-7-1908*

Analysis of the data in Klein's Handbook

Using a combination of all the cancellations given by Klein [4] for the Austro-Hungarian provinces which currently form Czechia, and the demographic data from the *Gemeindelexikon* of 1900 [3], I investigated Müller's monograph [1]. First of all I will analyze the cancellations in their historical sequence in the period between 1867 and 1900 (where Klein's Handbook ends and the population census was held). The developments of the postal cancellations

in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia will be discussed after each type of cancellation. The bilingual left/right cancellations are not mentioned in Table 2 for reasons which will be given in section 6 (in part 2 of this article).

Table 3: Type of cancellation	Bohemia – 1,365 places with post offices	Moravia – 604 places with post offices	Silesia1 – 58 places with post offices
Only Monolingual cancellations	575	148	108
German majority	523	123	91
Czech majority	52	25	6
Polish majority	0	0	11
Bilingual top/bottom German/Czech, Polish	731	418	44
German majority	67	48	3
Czech majority	664	370	21
Polish majority	0	0	20
Bilingual top/bottom Czech/German	63 inc. 32 PM*	4 inc. 3 PM*	0
German majority	0	0	0
Czech majority	63	4	0
Polish majority	0	0	0

PM = *Postmaster Canceller*

To explain how the table should be read, take Bohemia as an example. In Bohemia, 1,365 places had active post offices in the year 1900. The white horizontal rows represent the nine types of cancellations that existed, five of which were used in Bohemia – the Polish variants did not exist there. Of these 1,365 offices, 575 only used monolingual cancellations during their activity between 1867 and 1900. In 523 places a German majority was present, in 52 a Czech majority. This does not necessarily mean that the place names on the cancellations were German or Czech, respectively. We will see that in two places with a Czech majority the place name was German although a Czech name existed.

For the 731 bilingual top/bottom cancellers with the German name on top, which were introduced after 1871, the table data say that in 67 places a German majority existed, in 664 places a Czech majority and so on. We should also note that a post office could have various types of cancellations during the period between 1867 and 1900, except the ones in the first rows that only used a monolingual type. Before proceeding with the analysis of Klein's data I want to make clear which points I will highlight because this is where I disagree with some of Müller's statements [1].

- Müller states that a place needed to be 'important', with clearly different names in German and Czech, for it to use a bilingual canceller. I want to show that using a bilingual canceller was actually an option for all places, with no conditions applied.

- Müller states that in the top/bottom bilingual cancellation the German name should be on top, which is often not the case and which he attributes (at least partly) to a nationalistic motivation on the part of the postmaster. I want to show that a simpler explanation is possible.

- Müller states that in the left/right cancellers the name of the place in the majority language had to appear on the left-hand side. I want to show that this is not the case.

The monolingual cancellations

Fig. 18 shows the oldest, yearless type of monolingual cancellation; Fig. 19 is an example of a single-circle dated type; Fig. 20 is a *Fingerhut* (thimble) cancellation (see also Fig. 26); and Fig. 21 shows an example of the *Schraffen* (hatched) cancellation.


Fig. 18; Fig. 19; Fig. 20; Fig. 21

As already said, 575 out of 1,365 places in Bohemia were found with only monolingual cancellations, of which 523 had a German and 52 a Czech majority. Of the 523 German-speaking places, 522 are found in Sudetenland. The only place situated in the central part of Bohemia is Schlappenz near Deutschbrod (in the pale blue coloured area in Fig. 4) at the border between Bohemia and Moravia, which can be considered to be a German-language island in a Czech region.

Of the fifty-two Czech-speaking places, fifty are situated in Central Bohemia. Two places are found in Sudetenland, namely Maltheuern in the district of Leitmeritz (3,093 inhabitants, 64% Czech) and Ploschkowitz in the district of Brüx (457 inhabitants, 61% Czech). These are two out of only twenty Bohemian places (with a post office) which had such a mixed population (see Table 1). Both districts are shown in pale blue in Fig. 4, in the north-west corner of Sudetenland, meaning that these are mixed-language districts. German names appear on the cancellations instead of the Czech names given by the *Gemeindelexikon* (Maltheyr and Ploškovice, respectively).

In Moravia, out of 148 places with a monolingual cancellation, twenty-five places with a Czech majority are located in the Czech-speaking central part of Moravia. The other 123 places with a German majority are in Sudetenland except for Ober-Gerspitz (1,303 inhabitants, 90% German) which is located in the German- language island around Brünn (see Fig. 4).

In Silesia the situation is more complicated because it is a trilingual province (German, Czech and Polish) as can be seen from Fig. 24. The red-encircled areas represent the two parts of Austrian Silesia; in the most easterly part, Polish is the dominant language. Table 1 for Silesia should be read from the viewpoint of the majority, the other two languages together being the minority. For instance, a place like Oderberg (Bohumín in Czech, Bogumin in Polish) has 1,888 inhabitants with 55% German, 6% Czech and 39% Polish-speaking people and is, therefore, to be found in the category 40-49 % minority in Table 1. The eastern part of the town of Teschen is not currently situated in Czechia but (since the end of World War I) in Poland.
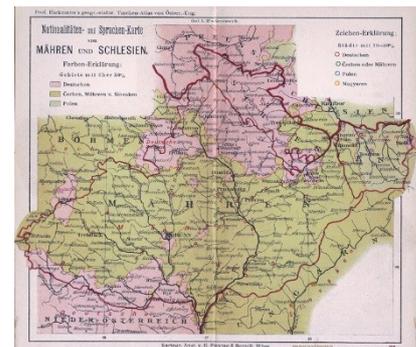
An intriguing question for these places with monolingual cancellations is, why didn't they introduce bilingual cancellations after 1871? This will be discussed in section 5.2.

The bilingual top/bottom cancellations

According to Müller [1], in April 1871 the decision was made that top/bottom bilingual cancellers had to be prepared for the more important places, where the Czech or Polish name is completely different from the German name. I believe that this statement is incorrect on both counts, certainly after November 1871. Perhaps Müller knows this because he goes on to say that in November 1871 newly opened post offices in bilingual places were ordered to use this bilingual canceller; in all places the German name had to come first, be it on top or as the first name in a sequence (see Figs. 7 to 9). He does not repeat the requirement that this rule is limited to important places with clearly different names in both languages.

There is a special group of twenty-nine places that use top/bottom cancellations but from Klein's work, you cannot tell whether it is German/Czech or Czech/German! The names only differ by a hacek or acute accent as with ň or í (see Fig. 23 with a German/Czech cancellation – you have to look carefully to see the difference between i and í!), and these differences are omitted in Klein's book. (This is a regrettable shortcoming in this otherwise excellent work.) Luckily, in the *Monografie* [6] these names are written with the correct letters and it turns out that all twenty-nine places are Czech-speaking.

A first glance at Table 3 quickly shows that Czech-speaking places introduced far more bilingual cancellations than the German-speaking places. However, this data is difficult to analyse because it covers the whole time-span from 1867 until 1900. During that time many post offices were opened, others closed, long after the time when the question arose about which offices would introduce bilingual cancellations.

Müller states that most of the confusion was settled around 1884. For that reason, I have made a comparison that is much more consistent by splitting up the data into two periods, before and

Fig. 23: Krčin/Krčín, 31-1-1899.

after 1884. I looked up how many post offices existed before 1867 and checked whether they introduced a bilingual cancellation in the period 1867–1884 or between 1884 and 1900. That can be done because the period 1867–1884 happens to be the validity period for the postage stamp

issue with the emperor's head of the type shown in Figs. 18 and 20, and Klein's data gives all cancellations on this issue separately. The results can be found in Table 4.

Table 4: Number of post offices which existed before 1867 and introduced a bilingual cancellation							
in Bohemia: 451				in Moravia: 188			
German majority 189 (42%)		Czech majority 262 (58%)		German majority 64 (34%)		Czech majority 124 (66%)	
Introduction of bilingual cancellation:		Introduction of bilingual cancellation:		Introduction of bilingual cancellation:		Introduction of bilingual cancellation:	
1867–1884 16 (9%)	1884–1900 12 (6%)	1867–1884 147 (56%)	1884–1900 99 (38%)	1867–1884 15 (23%)	1884–1890 8 (12%)	1867–1884 71 (57%)	1884–1890 48 (39%)
Total 28 (15%)		Total 246 (94%)		Total 23 (35%)		Total 119 (96%)	

Focusing first on the situation in Bohemia, we see that 451 post offices which existed already in 1867 introduced the bilingual cancellation. Of these, 189 are in German-speaking places; nearly all are situated in Sudetenland (the coloured border area in Fig. 4) and a few in German-language islands in Central Bohemia. The other 262 are in Czech-speaking places, nearly all situated in Central Bohemia. The table concludes with the number of post offices that have introduced bilingual cancellations during the periods 1867–1884 and 1884–1900. So, sixteen out of 189 places with a German majority (9%) introduced a bilingual cancellation before 1884; another twelve places (6%) did that between 1884 and 1900. Also, for the places with a Czech majority the data is clear: compared to the German-speaking places, far more Czech-speaking places introduced bilingual cancellations. That is logical, because it was the Czechs who asked for this bilingual cancellation in the first place.

We now look in more detail at the post offices in areas with a German majority that changed from monolingual to bilingual cancellations between 1867–1884 and 1884–1900; for Bohemia they are listed in Table 5a and for Moravia in Table 5b, together with a selection of the places which did not change their monolingual cancellation. The number of inhabitants and the percentage of Czech-speaking people are given, together with labels showing whether places are a District Capital or a Judicial Seat.

Table 5a: Places with German majority in Bohemia								
Introduced bilingual cancellations before 1884			Introduced bilingual cancellations after 1884			Did not introduce bilingual cancellations between 1867 and 1900		
Place name	*Population*	*Czech*	*Place name*	*Population*	*Czech*	*Place name*	*Population*	*Czech*
Bergreichenstein JS	2,200	6%	Böhm. Aicha JS	2,700	41%	**A selection from 161 offices**		
Bodenbach	10,800	8%	Dobrzan	5,200	42%			
Eger * DC	23,500	1%	Dux DC	12,000	25%			
Freiheit *	1,700	0	Kaplitz DC	2,400	9%	Bilin JS	8,000	6%
Horosedl	655	14%	Neubistritz JS	2,500	1%	Brüx DC	21,500	20%
Jechnitz * JS	1,342	1%	Oschitz	775	1%	Hohenelbe DC	4,800	10%
Komotau * DC	15,900	3%	Prachatitz DC	4,300	22%	Kosten	3,900	19%
Krumau DC	8,700	15%	Rokitnitz JS	1,100	10%	Lobositz JS	4,600	13%
Leitmeritz DC	13,000	15%	Stecken JS	1,300	11%	Nieder Georgenthal	3,900	23%
Liebenau	3,200	12%	Wegstädtl JS	1,700	10%			
Marschendorf * JS	1,265	1%	Winterberg JS	4,700	10%			
Reichenberg * DC	34,100	8%	Wscherau	1,200	5%			
Teplitz DC	20,500	7%				+ 25 DC's, all less than 3% Czech		
Theresienstadt	7,000	34%						
Trautenau DC	12,700	10%						
Ullitz	680	16%						

Key:

* These places withdrew their bilingual canceller and reintroduced a monolingual canceller.

DC – District Capital (92 Districts in Bohemia of which 37 have a German majority and 34 in Moravia of which 13 have a German majority).

JS – Judicial Seat of the District (126 in Bohemia of which 54 have a German majority and 43 in Moravia of which 13 have a German majority).

Table 5b: Places with German majority in Moravia								
Introduced bilingual cancellations before 1884			Introduced bilingual cancellations after 1884			Did not introduce bilingual cancellations between 1867–1900		
Place name	*Population*	*Czech*	*Place name*	*Population*	*Czech*	*Place name*	*Population*	*Czech*
Auspitz DC	3,600	10%	Böhm. Rudoletz	519	8%	**A selection from 40 Offices**		
Brünn DC	94,500	36%	Brüsau	1,700	8%	Bodenstadt	1,500	5%
Frattinng	528	1%	Göding DC	10,200	44%	Frain JS	1,100	5%
Grussbach	2,400	8%	Hosterlitz	1,300	2%	Frainersdorf	641	11%
Hohenstadt DC	3000	26%	Mähr. Aussee	1,800	8%	Mähr. Schönberg DC	11,600	3%
Iglau DC	24,400	18%	Nieder Eisenberg	416	21%	Mähr. Trübau DC	7,700	3%
Kromau DC	2,200	40%	Pohrlitz	2,900	21%	Nikolsburg DC	6,000	2%
Mähr. Neustadt JS	5,100	2%	Schildberg JS	1,900	7%	Piesling	799	18%
Misslitz	2,000	26%				Römerstadt DC	4,800	0%
Müglitz JS	4,200	4%				Schattau	2,500	7%
Neutitschein DC	12,000	9%				Stannern	1,400	9%
Olmütz DC	21,700	33%				Sternberg DC	15,200	1%
Privoz	10,900	39%						
Wolframitz	539	6%						
Znaim DC	16,200	12%						

I have used this data as a criterion to recognize a place as being important, because Müller stated that only important places with clearly different names in German and Czech should introduce bilingual cancellations. We see that up to 1884 indeed ten important places switched to bilingual, whereas another nine places did the same after 1884, thirteen years or more after the possibility was offered. That means that twenty-five District Capitals and forty-three Judicial Seats, some of which were actually populated with a considerable Czech minority and sound Czech names (like Brüx/Most, and Hohenelbe/Vrchlabi) never introduced a bilingual canceller. This is in sharp contrast to the situation in the Czech speaking areas in Central Bohemia. The numbers are too large to list them in a table but we can give the most important global results. As can be seen in Table 3, 147 places became bilingual before 1884. Among these, forty out of the fifty-five Czech District Capitals and forty-five out of the seventy-two Czech Judicial Seats became bilingual, most of the rest following in the period 1884–1900. Only three District Capitals – Chotěboř, Kladno and Polička – never used a bilingual canceller for the good reason that they did not have an official German name according to the *Gemeindelexikon*. As for the Judicial Seats, five never used a bilingual cancellation: Jaroměř and Sobotka did not have a German alternative, whereas in Humpolec and Kouřim probably no one asked to add the German names Humpoletz or Kaurim to the cancellation. The Czechs in these four places were completely comfortable with their monolingual cancellations! The case of the fifth place, Liban (1,966 inhabitants, of which 1,964 were Czech), is different. There the German name is on the canceller and not the Czech name (Libáň) and it lasted until it became bilingual with the introduction of the *Ringsteg* canceller.

All this leads us to a logical explanation as to which places introduced bilingual cancellations. The German-speaking places had no reason to add a Czech name on their cancellers, only giving in where the Czech minority insisted on their rights. The other places left everything unchanged. This is underlined by the fact that some places soon regretted their change: they withdrew their bilingual and reintroduced their monolingual canceller. They are marked in Table 5a with an asterisk. Müller was also surprised that 'nearly purely German cities like Eger (Cheb in Czech) and Reichenberg (Liberec in Czech) got bilingual cancellers' (it seems that Müller was not aware that

Reichenberg had an 8% Czech minority). Note in Table 5b that in Moravia there were no places that regretted their choice. On the other hand, the Czech-speaking places – big or small, with clearly different names or not, 100% Czech or less – took the opportunity to add their Czech name to the canceller. The officials obviously agreed with this because these were official cancellers. This shows that the introduction of bilingual cancellers in Bohemia was more like an option rather than a rule, as Müller believed. Now we have to verify this conclusion by looking at how Moravia handled the issue of bilingual cancellers.

It is clear from Tables 5a and 5b that the data is comparable to Bohemia, which means that the same conclusions we drew above hold. We will only give a little extra data on top of that mentioned in Table 5b. From the twenty-one District Capitals in the Czech-speaking areas sixteen went over to bilingual cancellers before 1884 and four between 1884 and 1900. One District Capital, Mistek, did not get a bilingual canceller because there was no German name for this place. Of the thirty Judicial Seats eighteen became bilingual before 1884 and the other twelve between 1884 and 1900. In Silesia the issue of bilingual cancellers is more complicated because it is a trilingual province. On the other hand, it is simpler because in all cases the German name came on top. It is interesting to see that both Czech and Polish are treated as absolutely equal minorities, so depending on whether the Czech or the Polish population is larger, a German/Czech or a German/Polish cancellation is used.

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The 2023 Fest report

by Gräfin Hestia Schwarzkümmel

The Fest was once more held in the Bull Hotel, Peterborough, but began on the afternoon of Saturday 16 September instead of the traditional Friday teatime. This seemed to suit the participants; the reduction in numbers attending was mostly caused by those who would normally have come being on holiday instead!

An auction of 131 lots sold 78 of them, mostly to benefit deceased members heirs and to make shelf-space for future auctions. Dinner followed; just before our arrival the hotel had relinquished the lease of the adjacent conference building where our meeting was booked - but provided fluid compensation - and the replacement room was well lit and much easier to bring the auction lots and the frames from the car park. Some you win.

On the Sunday we enjoyed a round of displays; coffee; round 2; lunch break; round 3; round 3½; coffee; and a Bourse where many unwanted items were got rid of - sometimes for money. Dinner followed.

On Monday we had the final round of displays; then coffee while the President's Invitation Display was placed on the 20 frames. That having been introduced and viewed, a Review of future Fest possibilities closed the proceedings, and everything was back in the cars it came in by 1pm. Those journeying homewards up the A1 were accompanied by a small monsoon!

President's invitation display

This was given by Roger Morrell, who showed us 20 frames and gave each of us a 1-page handout. This reports his display much better than I can, so I've reproduced it here!

Austrian PS Fest, 2023 - President's Invitation Display — Some Notes

The somewhat enigmatic title **"BITS OF PAPER"** was offered as a stop-gap until I decided exactly what this display was going to cover, which involved spreading everything out on the kids' former playroom floor and piecing something together, including a deal of writing up. The title is still correct, but could have the subtitle **"...used in the sending of money"**

It starts with the improved definition of the rules governing the transport of cash (copper, silver, gold, banknotes and other promissory notes) and other valuables laid down by Empress Maria Theresia in 1774. That Act formally introduced the requirements for use of the *Fahrpost* only, and for the issuing of receipts (handing-in and return types) for all sendings, with the display containing a number of early examples. It moves on to further rules as to exactly how the 'cash' should be wrapped or encased for sending, and for banknotes exactly how the wax seals should be placed on the wrapping. Eventually, heavy duty 'money envelopes' were introduced to make it easier to have a tough wrapping. These rules continued until well after WWI.

Problems with theft/misappropriation of such mail, coupled with the huge financial liability of the post-office to recompense senders via the receipt system, led to the experimental introduction of money orders in 1850, but the process appears to have been severely limited to interbank or large business transfers. However, in 1867, shortly before the State Compromise which led to the separation of Austrian and Hungarian postal operations, a service to transmit a rather limited maximum sum (10*Fl)* was opened to the public using the *Postanweisung*. This proved very popular, and the limit was quickly raised, and the number of post offices able to deal with money orders was increased. Telegraphic money orders were introduced shortly afterwards for urgent transmissions, with quite a complicated set of checks and balances. Money order forms began to be incorporated into other services, including paying tax, paying customs duty, paying newspaper subscriptions, and paying for C.O.D. parcels (the *Nachnahmepostanweisung)*. Examples of money orders from both Austria and Hungary up to and a little after WWI were shown, together with money order receipts, to illustrate the parallels between the two administrations which had to be kept in step and operate between the two administrations. And finally, there was the service for money collection using the *Postauftragsanweisung* system. The display includes not only the postal stationery but also the stationery used by the post.

With the breakup of the Empire in 1918, this system of money transfer that had worked quite well was adopted by the new Czechoslovak administration, and undoubtedly also by the new postal authorities of other new lands, even to the extent of continuing the same layout of the printed documentation.

There is no way this display could be complete, and I've had to draw the line somewhere, but I hope it gives a snapshot of what happened. I hope you enjoy the show.

Roger Morrell

Display programme

The illustrations are photographs taken on my supposedly-smart phone. I tried but failed to put each next to the description, as my colleague Zöld Veltelini so cleverly does for New Issues. Instead, a red-on-yellow key is placed at the end of each paragraph, and the illustrations bear the same keys. *Ihre Hestia.*

ROUND 1

Geoff Richardson - *Bosnia & Herzegovina.* Forged prewar Bosnia & Herzegovina cancels and stamps were displayed in extensive detail. 1-GR1

Keith Brandon - *Prater Park.* The display showed many good-quality postcards of the Prater and the activities therein. Previously a royal hunting park, on 7 April 1766 Emperor Joseph II declared the Prater to be free for public enjoyment, and allowed the establishment of coffee-houses and cafés. The 1873 Vienna World's Fair was held in the Prater, centred on the Rotunde which was built for the occasion, and was the fair's largest building. A temporary attraction called "Venice in Vienna" was established in 1895 by Gabor Steiner; later an "English Garden" appeared. 1-KB1

Alan Berrisford - *Austrian Postal-Conductor Markings.* Starting in 1850, large TPOs were numbered from 1 to 199; on 1st Feb 1898 TPO-II were introduced on lesser routes and numbered 200-up. There was also a Postconductor (guard, really) service; later many were 'promoted' to TPO-II. Latterly, sealed uncrewed wagons were used to transport mail bags. 1-AB1

ROUND 2

Rex Dixon - *Anschluss.* Rex started by reminding us that Anschluss, the union of Austria with Germany, was declared as Hitler's intention at the beginning of his Meine Kampf, published in 1925. Rex illustrated the familiar story of German indecision and the transition of the postal system; and the less familiar fact that special arrangements were made for ex-pat Germans to vote.

The illustration is of an unusual document: the official Schilling-to-Mark exchange rate. It had been decided that the rate would be 2 Schilling = 1 Reichsmark, and this was announced on 15 March 1938. However Hitler agreed with Seyss-Inquart to make it more favourable to the Austrians, and on 17 March changed it to 1½ Schilling = 1 Reichsmark "because he could" - much to the annoyance of Hermann Göring and Hjalmar Schacht. 2-RD1

Joyce Boyer - *Semmeringbahn.* This railway carried mail, having an on-board TPO. It passes Küb, where in1998 a small posse of APS members descended and bought all the philatelic material we could find! Joyce showed us several printed panoramas, from quite small up to banqueting-table size. 2-JB1

Nick Coverdale - *Post WW2 Austrian postal history.* Nick showed us the French zone censorship system, reserving the British, American, and Russian for later meetings. He followed the Richard Krüger numbering system. 2-NC1

ROUND 3

Keith Brandon - *Austrian Postage Dues to 1918- inland.* The display followed the arrangement of Bernadini & Pfalz, the go-to book on this topic. 3-KB1

Andy Taylor - *Other uses of Postage Dues to 1918.* This was a complementary display, of the many obscure ways the Post Office used dues when requesting payment for something. Rückscheine (proof-of-receipt of a document, usually legal), ersatz parcel cards (when a parcel arrives before its card), the Society for the teaching of lace-making to the indigent daughters of gentlefolk - for all these cases they wrote, you paid. 3-AT1

Clive Murray - *Postage Dues miscellany.* Clive displayed postage dues from the Levant, and from Bosnia & Herzegovina. 3-CM1

Joyce Boyer - *Innsbruck 1918-21.* We saw the Deutschösterreich overprints, two rate changes, and many similar events. 3-JB1

Andy Taylor - *Christkindl.* Andy produced a miscellany of covers, cards, etc relevant to both Christkindl and Music, the latter being mostly the cancels. 3-AT2

Andy Taylor - *Gmunden.* In memory of David Bravery, Andy showed the means-of-transport in Gmunden that he and David had a shared interest in: the tramway from the upper-level railway station to the lakeside, and the paddle-steamer Gisela - which has on board Austria's only steam-powered floating TPO! 3-AT3

ROUND 3½ (We had time in hand!)

Nick Coverdale produced covers from the architect and builder J. Dvořák to and from his many clients, and some maps illustrating the areas Dvořák had covered. 3½-NC1

Alan Berrisford displayed a miscellany of Galician covers up to 1918, including the railway station cachet from Podwołoczyska which was the farthest East station in Imperial Austria. 3½-AB1

Joyce Boyer showed airmails from 1938; later ones went by train as the Germans had occupied all the airfields. 3½-JB1

Geoff Richardson shared his 1918 exhibition postcards. 3½-GR1

ROUND 4

Clive Murray - *First Balkan Wars (printed in Vienna).* The siege of Scutari / Shkodër, took place from 28 October 1912 to 23 April 1913 when the army of the Kingdom of Montenegro defeated the forces of the Ottoman Empire and invaded Shkodër. After three months of strife and skulduggery, the war ended with nobody gaining anything. 4-CM1

Geoff Richardson - *Allied Occupation.* After a frame of Schussnig labels, Geoff showed the plate faults and shade variations on the overprinted Hitler head stamps. 4-GR1

Paul Taylor (*in absentia*) - Miniature sheets and other WIPA1933 items. 4-PT1
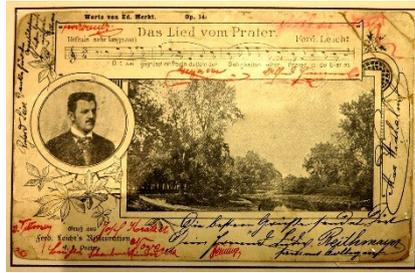
Alan Berrisford - *Galician TPOs from W to Z.* 4-AB1

From the Treasurer's mail…
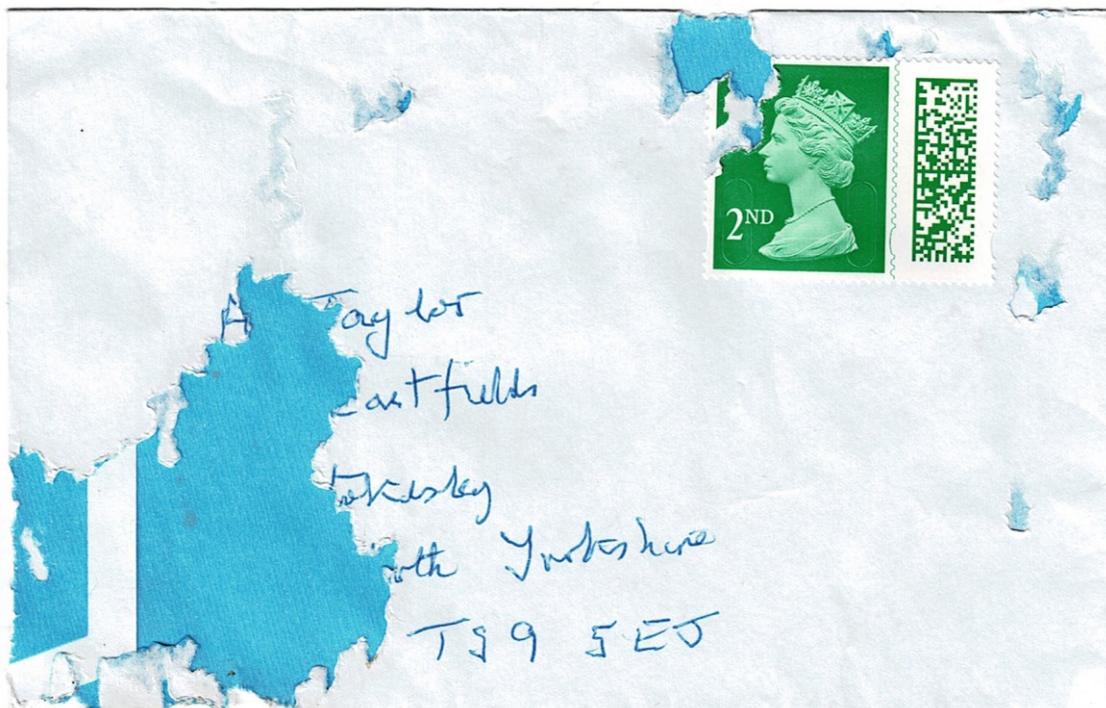
I think it's snail-mail! Luckily the cheque was undamaged ☺ and the Post Office enclosed the envelope in a plastic bag laden with printed apologies.

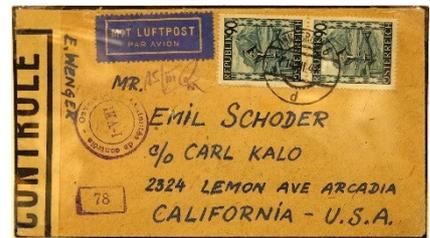Bosnia – Herzegovina

AUSGABE 1918 Karl Fonds Michel 144 - 146
Issued 1918 Karl Funds Michel 144 - 146

CF   Chemische Falschungen (Chemical forgery)
F67 – 1922 CF Chemisch verfarbt - Wien
F67 – 1922 CF Colour Chemically altered - Wien

10h Emperor Charles

15h Empress Zita

40h Empress Charles

1-GR1

1-KB1

1-AB1

Umrechnung von Schilling auf Reichsmark.

3 Schilling = 2 Reichsmark.

2-RD1

2-JB1

2-NC1

3-KB1

3-AT1

3-CM1

3-JB1

By Lokalbahn from Salzburg to Oberndorf in 1993

1992: Joseph Mohr's 200th birthday   1993: Stille Nacht's 175th anniversary

3-AT2
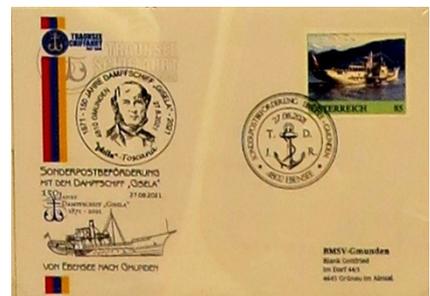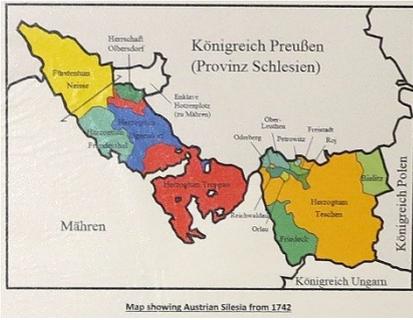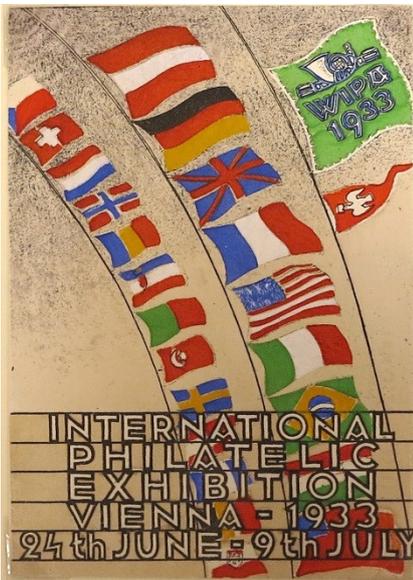

3-AT3

3½-NC1

3½-AB1

3½-JB1

3½-GR1

4-CM1

4-GR1

4-PT1

4-AB1

◄ Homeward bound!