



A selection of the items discussed in this issue

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**Edited by Andy Taylor**

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## OFFICER'S OBSERVATIONS

Congratulations to Keith Brandon, recently promoted to Fellowship of the Society of Postal Historians.

Congratulations also to members and friends who entered for Efiro at Bucharest. Details and results:

- ❖ 96: Large Gold. Carsten Mintert: The Austrian newspaper tax 1789-1899
- ❖ 94: Gold. Carsten Mintert: Tarot, Piquet and Trappola – the parlour games of the 18th and 19th century and their taxation in Austria.
- ❖ 92 Gold & Special Prize. Michael Fukarek: Postal stationery for pneumatic express delivery in Austria
- ❖ 91 Gold. Dan-Simion Grecu: The years 1919 - 1921: Greater Romania, an ideal came true. [book]
- ❖ 91 Gold. Dan-Simion Grecu: Repression and Population Movements in Romania, 1921 - 1964 vols 1 & 2 [book]
- ❖ 90 Gold. Chris King: Anglo - Danish Mail 1800 - 1875
- ❖ 88 Large Vermeil. Andy Taylor: The Austrian Newspaper Tax (this time, two grades below Carsten!)
- ❖ 85 Large Vermeil. Walter Hamilton: The variety of postmarks of the first Austrian issue 1850

The Palmares booklet is available on-line, but as unsearchable pictures not text; so apologies to those that I missed!

There's still time - just - to book your place at the Joint Fest in the York Pavilion Hotel, from Friday 19 to Sunday 21 July. Contact Yvonne Wheatley [whyareuu@outlook.com](mailto:whyareuu@outlook.com) or Andy Taylor [andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk](mailto:andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk) Rooms may be possible but that's not guaranteed; but day visitors are welcomed!

- A colleague wider-awake than I points out that Fig 3 on page 13 of Austria 226 is a Correspondenz-Karte as is clearly printed on it, not an envelope as the text above it says.



# THE STAMPED ENVELOPES OF 1890 & 1896

by Frank Van Geirt [frank.van.geirt@telenet.be]

In the 1890s the Austrian Post issued stamped envelopes with the “Franz Joseph to the left” indicium of 1890. The envelopes were issued in different formats, with or without embossed stamps and with the bottom flap under or above the side flaps, resulting in 6 different envelopes.

The “flap variations” are mentioned in different catalogues and the catalogues I have access to Michel, Ferchenbauer & Schneiderbauer, and all mention 2 different years of issue:

- MI U64a: 1890 - bottom flap below the side flaps
- MI U66: 1896 - bottom flap above the side flaps

However, I believe the second year is not correct. I focus here on the small envelope (132 x 108 mm) with embossed stamp as I have the most examples of these in my collection.

Type	# in collection	Oldest	Youngest
MI U64a	6	18 January 1891	23 August 1893
MI U66	3	16 August 1893	2 November 1895

So all my 9 examples are even used before 1896. I have not yet specifically sought for more recent usages of this envelope. And even based on these few examples, I would suggest that the switch between the 2 types is somewhere around August 1893.

I wanted to extend this research with similar items for sale on Delcampe or Ebay, but the problem is that often a scan of the back is not clear or not available. So I want to address myself to fellow collectors who are interested in checking their collection for these envelopes. Do you have earlier / later dates? If someone has more information (references) about the exact issue dates, please feel free to share.



Figure 1: My oldest use of the U66 (flap above).  
Marienbad 16 August 1893.

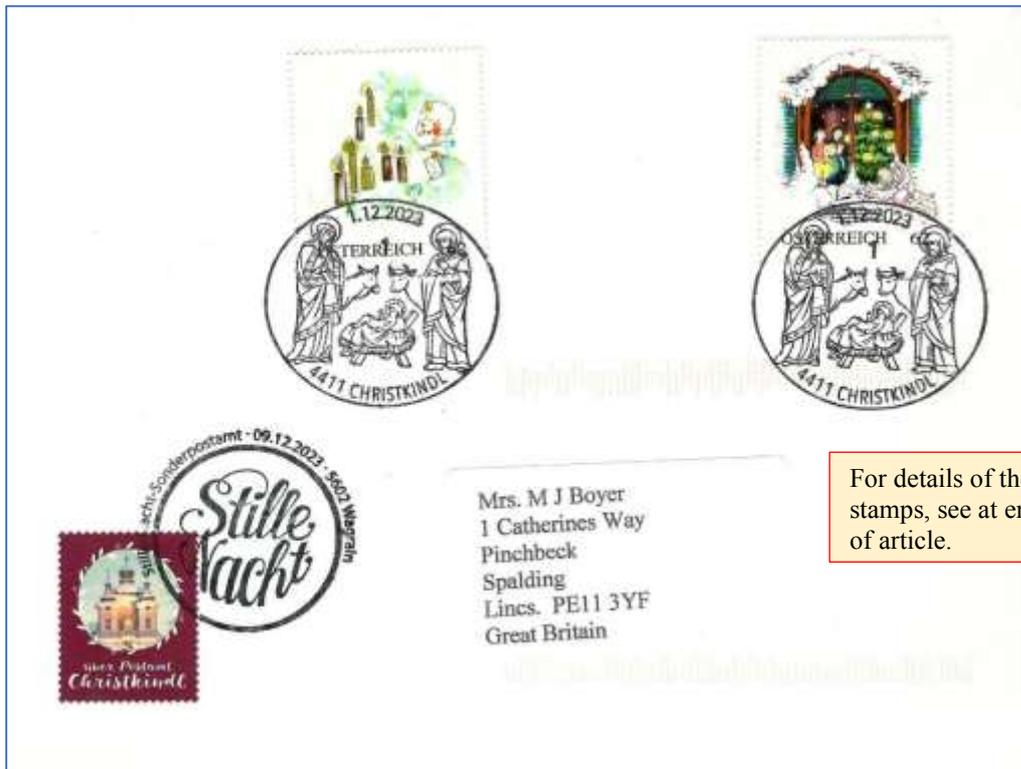


Figure 2: the cancel on the back.

# CHRISTKINDL 2023

By Joyce Boyer

When visiting Vienna in December 2023 I made a special trip to the post office at Rochusplatz where there is a philatelic centre, in order to send the letters and cards I had prepared to send via Christkindl, Oberndorf bei Salzburg and generally. After returning home I received the three letters addressed to me none of which were cancelled as I would have expected.



I had visited the post office in Vienna on 11<sup>th</sup> December so imagine my surprise when I saw that the ‘über Christkindl’ label was cancelled ‘Wagrain 09-12-2023’. I could only assume that the person applying the cancellation had picked up one of the several stamps on his counter. Even more surprising was the Christkindl cancellation dated 1-12-2023 – the first day cancellation at Christkindl for two new stamps and the opening day of the post office. The stamps on my letter were not a new issue but taken from an old sheet of ‘personal stamps.’ Could my letter have gone anywhere near Christkindl or was the letter cancelled in Vienna?

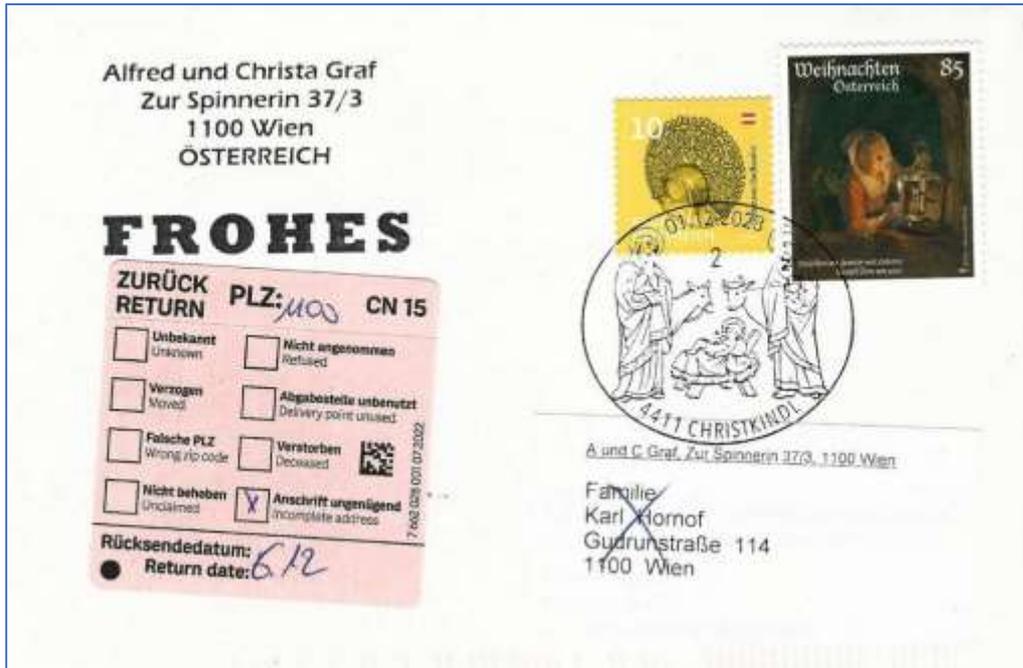
My request for a Christkindl ‘Three Kings’ cancellation dated 31st December was done but again the ‘über Christkindl’ label had been cancelled ‘Wagrain 09-12-2023’. My letter requesting the Oberndorf bei Salzburg cancellation [for my Silent Night collection] was apparently cancelled there but on 8th December the first day of use of that cancellation.

In January I was in contact with Alfred Graf of the Favoriten Club in Vienna. I sent him a scan of my Christkindl cover and asked if any member had a correct cover that they would sell me.

His reply was to say that my cover was OK because the Austrian Post gives to philatelists the favour of using a ‘Sonderstempel’ or special post mark for two weeks after the event - for example a first day cover, or in the case of the Sonderpostamt [seasonal post office] as at Christkindl the first day of use.

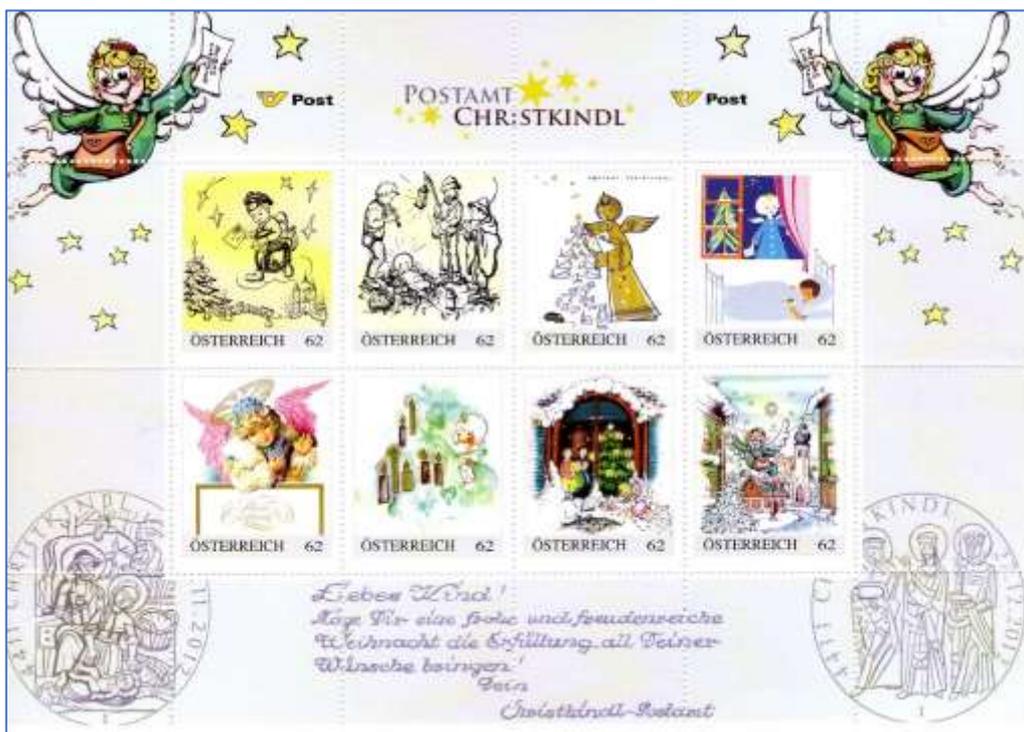
With regard to the cancellation on the ‘über Christkindl’ label, this is a ‘Sonder-OT-Stempel’ the special cancellation of a seasonal post office where OT means ‘Ort und Tag’ [place and day]. This has a difference in the date – here 09-12-2023.

Alfred kindly sent me a cover that had been returned to him undelivered that has the ‘Sonder-OT-Stempel’ cancellation used at Christkindl. The letter, with others, had been taken to Christkindl the week after the special post office opened and shows that the 01-12-2023 was being used there – note no ‘über Christkindl’ label as it was posted at the special post office.



I have checked my 2022 Christkindl cover and although postmarked earlier than I sent it the cancellation on the stamp is 07-12-2022 whilst that on the ‘über Christkindl’ label is 7-12-2022. As these are the same date I did not question them.

The stamps I have used on the first cover are two 62 cent stamps from a sheetlet of 8 ‘Personal stamps’ obtained from the Christkindl post office in 2012. The designs are based on ‘Kinderbriefe’ [letters for children] from earlier years. As ‘Personal stamps’ the sheetlet is not listed in Netto, but is of course included in the Christkindl handbook.



## BILL HEDLEY

The ABPS has awarded the Congress Medal 2024 to Bill Hedley, FRPSL.

Bill Hedley has made and continues to make contributions to organised philately at all levels. He was elected President of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations in 2019 having previously served as a UK delegate and in 2023 he was re-elected for a second term of office.

Having recognised a gap in the international philatelic calendar he served as Chairman of the Organising Committee of EuroPhilex 2015. Under his chairmanship the show set out to differ from previous international exhibitions by attracting many more overseas dealers and securing special items such as the printing plate for the Mauritius 1847 Post Office issue and the printing machine used by Jean de Sperati for printing his forgeries, loaned from the Museum of the Royal Philatelic Society London. In addition, for the first time, he introduced the organisation of a very successful Philatelic Rarities Auction.



Bill is a qualified Postal History Judge both at national and international level and has acted as a UK Commissioner with responsibilities for ensuring the safe delivery and return of exhibitors' material sent to overseas exhibitions.

He has served on the Executive Committee of ABPS and as a director of that company. He held the position of Chairman of the Exhibitions and International Committee together with directorships of ABPS Exhibitions Ltd and Stamp World Exhibitions.

Of considerable benefit was his successful negotiation of an ongoing three-year arrangement with the National Imports Reliefs Unit of HM Revenue and Customs to obtain Duty Relief exempting from taxation the import and export of philatelic exhibits.

As a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, he had responsibilities for many years as Curator of the Museum and Archives and subsequently he was appointed Honorary Secretary serving on both Council and the Management Committee.

Bill holds the office of Honorary Treasurer of the Cinderella Stamp Club. He was auctioneer of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain for many years and is a Past President of that Society. He is also an active member of the Austrian Philatelic Society, the Revenue Society and the Society of Postal Historians.

He is a Past President of the Kent Federation. As a Past President of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society his guidance is always available to the current committee.

Bill Hedley was nominated by the Society for Postal Historians and the Royal Philatelic Society London and is a worthy recipient of the Congress Medal for 2024.

*Yvonne Wheatley, FRPSL*

Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

# WHERE WAS WIEN 1/1 POSTZEITUNGSAMT 1 ?

A.T. who gratefully thanks E.S.

Assiduous collectors of newspaper post material (there's at least 4 in the APS!) will often find singles or indeed huge multiples of the special postage stamps cancelled WIEN 1/1 POSTZEITUNGSAMT 1. Where was it?

*Lehmanns Allgemeiner Wohnungsanzeiger nebst Handels-und Gewerbe-Adreßbuch, 1894* tells us that the "Postzeitungsamt I and II" were at Postgasse 10 / Dominikanerbastei 11-13. That is, where the old "Generaldirektion" was until 2011.



This street-layout shows the position of the Postzeitungsamt building, numbered '2' and coloured in ochre.

'1' is the Laurenz building, formerly the public Post Office with the parcels office underneath. Most of it is now not postal, but there is still an accessible office where you can hand in priority mail.

'3' is the old Postsparkasse. Built from 1904 to 1906 according to plans by Otto Wagner, the building was opened on December 17, 1906. It is constructed in reinforced non-aerated concrete; the facade is covered with square marble panels and aluminium features. In 2019 the bank moved to its new headquarters at Vienna Central Station. The building, sold in 2013, was adapted to house many academic institutions.

'4' is the Stadtpark, home of many statues (and ducks).



Left: a 100 (10x10) stamp counter sheet, the largest format sold.

Right: 3 strips of 10 and 1 of 7 stamps

Both are cancelled  
WIEN 1/1  
POSTZEITUNGSAMT 1



# ANTON HOFER OF THE KRIMML WATERFALL HOTEL.

By Andrew Brookes

This article is based on a collection of *feldpostkarten* sent to the owner of the Krimml Waterfall hotel during the period of the Great War 1914-1918. Anton Hofer must have corresponded with his own sons, relatives and friends from the village who were fighting on the Eastern and South-Western Fronts during the conflict. Anton owned the hotel for some years before 1914 and was still the proprietor for a few years after the war ended. (fig1)

The village of Krimml today has a population of below a thousand, probably a few hundred more than in 1914. (Officially: 815 on January 1, 2023). However, the effect of tourism and the attraction of its waterfall, one of the highest in Europe, was known before 1914 when the narrow-gauge *Pinzgaubahn* opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1898. This allowed guests to travel to the waterfall from Zell am See. In recent times the waterfall has been protected from hydro-electric schemes and in 1980 it became part of the High Tauern National Park.

The first cards to be described are from one of his sons, John Ernst Hofer.

*K.u.k. Feldpostamt 612* Dated 29.10.15. Censor cachet; *Zensuriert*. Cachet; Not completely clear but with the help of another card in the collection it is for the *Freiwilligen Schutzen Salzburgs*, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. This was one of the volunteer rifle groups that received military training and were equipped and reformed between July and August 1915. When Italy declared war on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1915 Carinthia was only defended by a small military force and with the majority of the army fighting in Serbia and the Eastern Front, the volunteer rifle groups were needed. The postmark indicated 183 Brigade in Kotschach and F.P.612 was in the group of H.P.610 (Head Post Office in Villach). The message on the card translates as follows;

*Dear Parents,*

*I am healthy, I hope the same of you. Just now we are sitting together in our hut and thinking of our beautiful homeland. Dear father, I think most of the others will come back, some of them perhaps not. Best greetings and thanks, John Ernest. Looking forward to a happy reunion.*

On the 11.11.15 his next card has *K.u.k. Feldpostamt 603* this is identified for 59 Mountain Brigade in Hermagor. (fig2). The censor cachet is for the Mountain Telegraph Company Number 119. In manuscript John Ernst gave his field post number as before i.e. F.P. 612. The last of the three cards to his father is dated 17.9.17 and the field post number is F.P.364 (fig3). On this card the cachet is quite clear but in manuscript he gave 'M.G. Komp. IV Zug' a machine gun company. He is still in Carinthia and part of Group Lesachtal.

Another son, Georg, sent a card to his father; *K.u.K. Etappenpostamt 141*. Dated 23/12/15. Cachet; *K.u.K. Epidemiespital*. (fig4) In manuscript Georg gave K.u.K. Mob. Epid. Spit. 4. A.E.K. Gruppe Ob. Erzg. Dr. Housa. Feldpost 56. Both EP.141 and FP.56 are noted for 4th Army Etappen (Base) Command. It is difficult to tell if Georg was a patient or a member of staff in this mobile epidemic hospital, but usually if soldiers were in hospital, they gave a barrack and bed number.

A different Georg Hofer (friend?) wrote 'Dear Hofer' from *K.u.K. Feldpostamt 403*. Dated 26.7.17. With the information on the partly concealed censor cachet and the information Georg gave in manuscript it is possible to deduce that he was in the 59<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 13<sup>th</sup> Company. This regiment was in the Edelweiss division, the new name for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. They were shortly to move from the Tirol to the Isonzo Front in September.

Peter Hofer, Anton's nephew, sent a card in 1915 and another in 1916. He died on the 25.5.16. and is the only name from this collection of cards to appear on the war memorial in Krimml Church. The memorial to those who died in WW1 and WW2 was designed by another Peter Hofer (relative?), a mountain guide from Krimml. There are seventeen names from the first conflict and forty from the second commemorated on the wall plaque.

Peter's first card to his uncle had a Hungarian type postmark *Tabori Postahivatal 14*. Dated 4/9/15. (fig5). This was for the 20<sup>th</sup> Honved Division. The straight-line censor cachet; *K.u.K. Sappeurbataillon Nr.14/ 6. Kompagnie*. The division fought in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of the Isonzo between 18.10.15 and 4.11.15.

*Dear Uncle,*

*I got your card, which gave me great pleasure. Work is now fairly hard, which cannot do any harm to us, the reason being ... (?). Greetings to you all from nephew Peter*

*Greetings to Toni in Linfl*

His other card has a circular censor cachet but with exactly the same details as before. However, this time the postmark is different; *K.u.K. Feldpostamt 32*. Dated 24.2.16. This was for the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division who were preparing for the 5<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo which took place between 11.3.16 and 16.3.16. After the battle the division moved and fought at Folgaria and Lavarone and this is when Peter was killed.

Another Peter Hofer sent two cards to 'My Dear Friend Hofer'. Both were postmarked *K.u.K. Feldpostamt 222*. Dated 4.11.15 and 16.12.15. Censor cachet; *K.k. Landeschützenregiment Nr. III/ 3 Feldbataillon* (on one of the cards it is a straight-line cachet and on the other it is circular). The field post office is identified for the 56<sup>th</sup> Mountain Brigade who were guarding the border in the Dolomites. On one of the cards Peter had drawn an Edelweiss. (fig6).

Four cards arrived from the fortress at Riva with field post numbers either 216 or 517 which have been identified with this town at the northern end of Lake Garda. Three were from Peter Steger and each of his cards had a different censor cachet:

*K.u.K. Kommando des Detachments 14/ Feldpost Nr.216*. 6.9.15.

*K.u.K. Besatzungskompagnie V*. 18.12.15. and *8/174 Landsturm Inf. Komp.*

The other card has the censor cachet; *K.und K. Festungartilleriebataillon Nr.I/ Reserve Kompagnie Nr.3*. 9. (fig7)

The remainder of the cards each tell their own story even though many of the messages are too difficult to read. Although only Peter Hofer, Anton's nephew, is mentioned on the war memorial, other soldiers whose names appeared on the memorial could have been related to the writers of some of the cards. Raimund Scharr who sent Anton two cards was in *K.u.K. Feldkanonen Regiment Nr.41* in the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division fighting in Galicia. He survived the war but Rupert Scharr who died in hospital in 1918 may have been related. Similarly, two cards sent by Leongart Bachmayer, a soldier in the Tirolean Field Cannon Battery Nr.4 who was with the Local Defence Force in the Tirol might have been related to Alexander Bachmayer who died in 1914 fighting in Galicia. It is also sad to note that many family names mentioned on the cards also occur on the memorial list for both wars.

Some of the censor cachets denote men in different military units for example; *K.u.K. Tragtierstaffe 1459* (Pack animal relay), *K.u.K. Hochgebirgskompagnie No.6*. (High Mountain Company) and *K.u.K. Kav.Tel.Halbesc der 9 K.T.D.* (Telegraph section of a cavalry half-squadron). Other cachets may reflect the fact that the Krimml men were used to being in the mountains so they tended to have been posted to Carinthia, Tirol and Trentino. (figs. 8, 9, 10)

Finally, to finish with a non-philatelic interest. A card was sent to Anton by Anstrsi Geisler. He might have been related to Simon Geisler who in 1914 modernised the Tauernhaus, a mountain guest house located in the Krimml Achenal on the mule track crossing the Alps between Krimml and Kasern in South Tirol; it dates from before 1389. After WWII, 8,000 Jews from Central Europe escaped from the Pinzgau to the South Tyrol and some stayed at the Tauernhaus. Liesl Geisler-Scharfetter many years later organised the Alpine Peace Crossing to celebrate this event.

References.

Heinz Nagel. Katalog der K.u.K. Feldpostämter und deren Einsatzgebiete mit Truppen und Kriegseignissen.

Octavian Tabacaru. K.u.K.Feldpost 1914-1918 Vols.4 & 5.

RgR Hans Riedal. Militar und Philatelie. Die Karnische Front 1915-1917. Translation by Christa Carne.

Wikipedia – Tauernhaus.

Online projekt gefallenendenkmal.

*Editor's note: most of the illustrations have had their brilliance and contrast adjusted to maximise readability.*

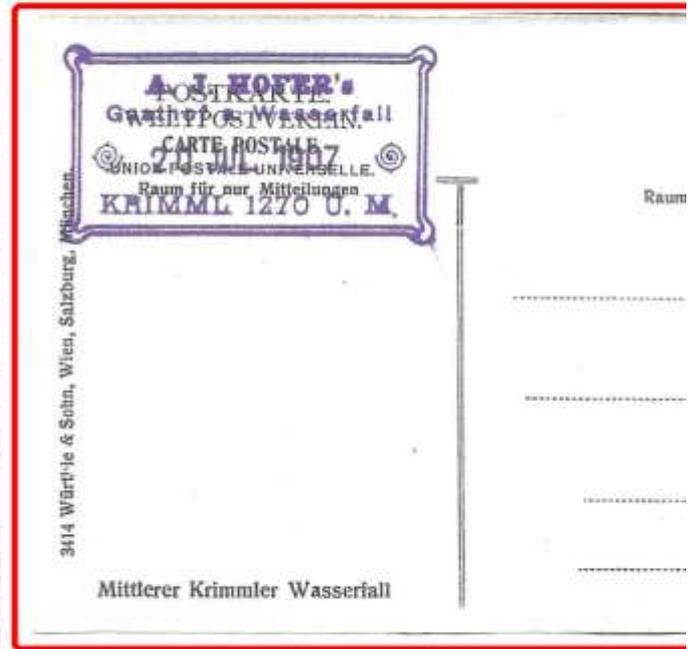
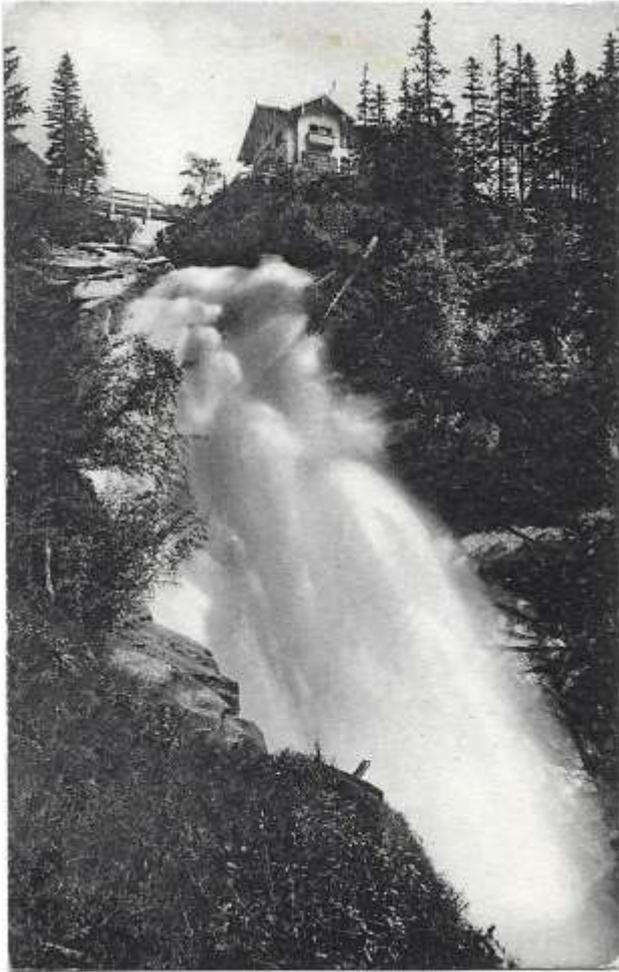


Fig. 1: Anton Hofer's Waterfall Hotel; on right his cachet.

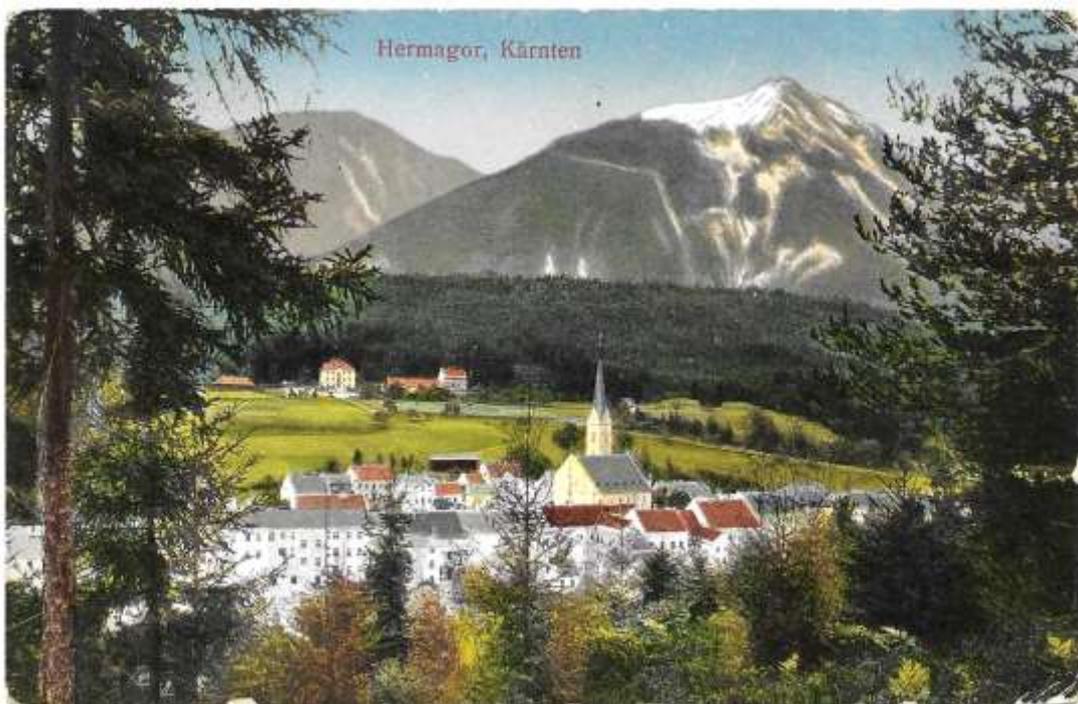


Fig 2: Hermagor postcard



Fig 3: John Ernst Hofer FP 364



Fig 4: Georg Hofer Epidemic Hospital



Fig 5: Peter Hofer-Nephew-Sapper Battalion



Fig 6: Peter Hofer-Friend-Mountain Brigade.

Below: the reverse side, with the sketch of an Edelweiss



Fig 7: Riva Fortress Artillery





Fig 8: . Three censor cachets

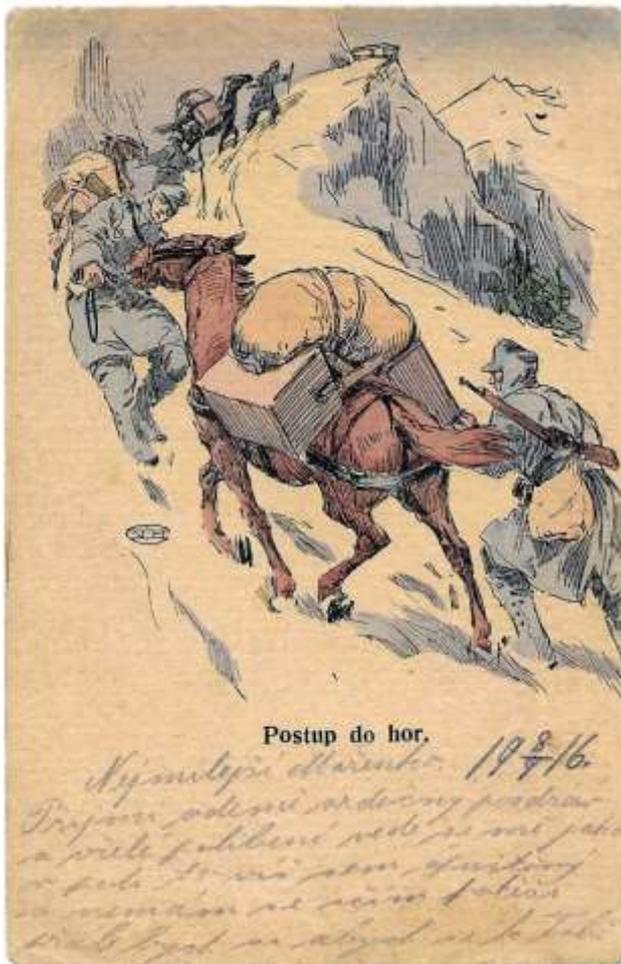


Fig 9: Pack Animal postcard- Title 'Progress up the mountain'

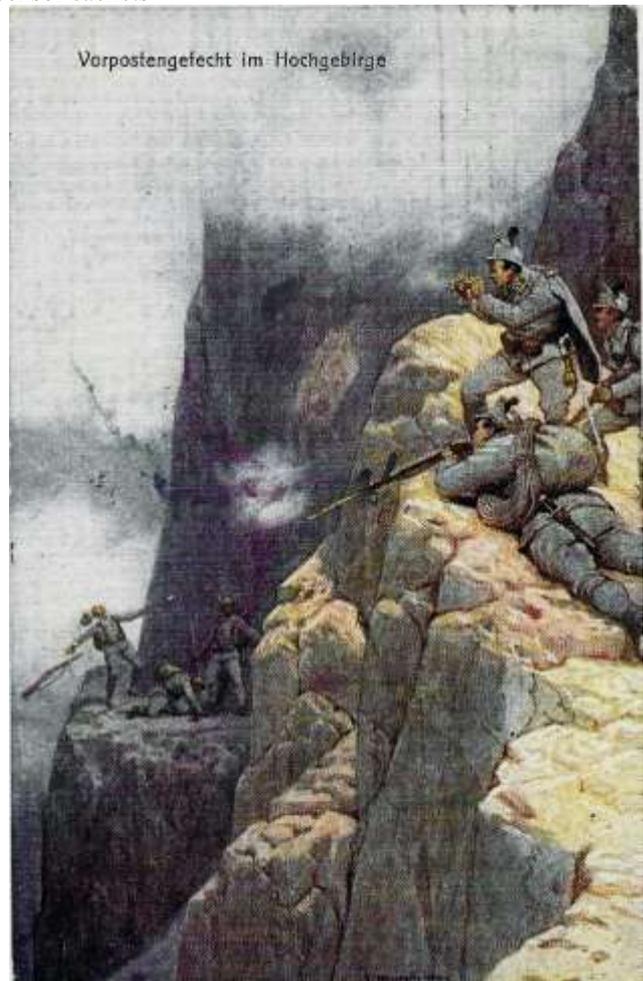
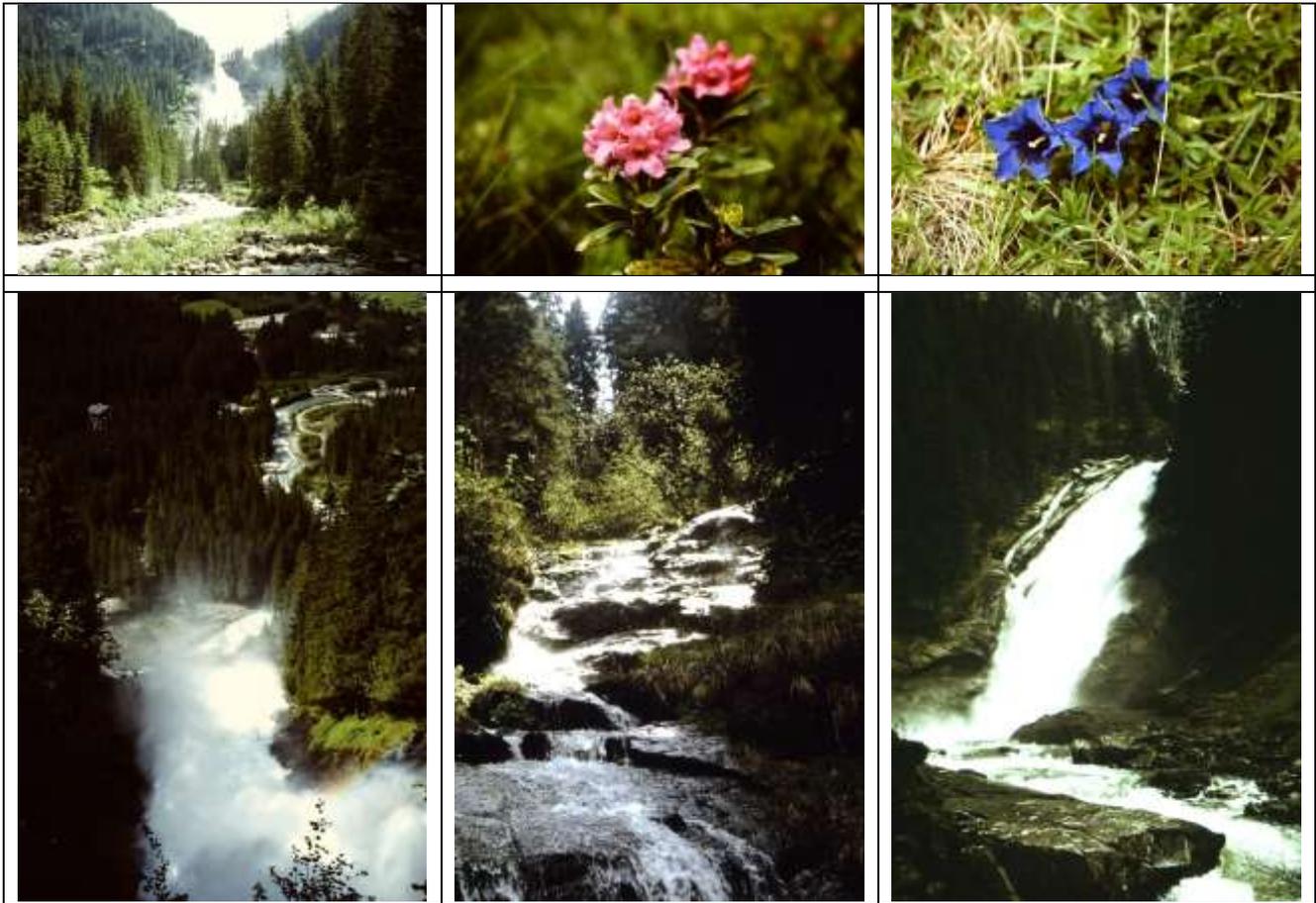


Fig 10: Title on postcard 'Outpost battle in the High mountains.'

## Krimml - a 1970s tourist's view



## 2024 NEW ISSUES by Zöld Veltelini

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 sequence is as published in Die Briefmarke.

**Beetle – *Carabus nodulosus***, the Schwarzer Grubenlaufkäfer. 1Eu20; 2.3.2024; Theresa Radlingmaier; Offset; Cartor Security Printing; 290,000 in horizontal minisheets of 10. The second denomination to be issued in the "Perikularium – endangered insects" series introduced last year shows the black hydrophilous ground beetle. The drawing is again by Alexandra Kontriner, who in 2018/19 created a series of works of art under the title "Perikularium" in cooperation with the natural science collections of the Tyrolean state museums. 29 motifs show insects that are considered extinct or critically endangered in Austria. *Carabus nodulosus* is highly endangered: the draining of swamps and wet forests to create agricultural land leads to a constant loss of its habitat, because it requires a special wet habitat with moors and spring swamps, swampy banks of forest streams and dead wood as a hiding place and for overwintering. The beetle is protected according to the EU flora-fauna-habitat guidelines, which provide for protected areas to secure its existence.



**Subscribers Bonus Issue for 2023.** 95c; 2.3.2024; Amaryllis; Brigitte Heiden; offset; Enschedé; 280,000. Several species from the Amaryllis family are referred to as amaryllis: on the one hand, the pink-flowering real amaryllis, also known as belladonna lily, which comes from South Africa, and on the other hand, plants from the genus Ritterstern (*Hippeastrum*), which is native to South America. Both species look very similar, and both contain the highly toxic alkaloid lycorine. Ritterstern hybrids are usually sold commercially as amaryllis. They are sold in late autumn as flower bulbs

with one or more small flower shoots and then bloom around Christmas time. With its numerous lush flowers in various shades of pink, white and red on a long stem, the amaryllis is not only a popular houseplant, but also a beautiful cut flower.

**Austro Tatra 57A**, in the “Cars” series. 3Eu; 2.3.2024; David Gruber; Offset; Enschedé; 210,000. A successful, Austrian-made car from the 1930s. After the First World War, the Nesselsdorfer Wagenbau-Fabriks-Gesellschaft in Moravia became Ringhoffer-Tatra AG, based in Prague. In Austria there was initially only one workshop; later automobiles were also assembled here. In 1936 Austro Tatra was founded as an independent company, with production taking place in Vienna-Simmering. In 1963 Austro Tatra became Ringhoffer GmbH, which finally closed in 1980. The legendary Austrian automobile designer Hans Ledwinka designed the Tatra 57 with an “iron front”, air-cooled four-cylinder engine and central tube frame at the beginning of the 1930s, followed from around 1935 by the 57A with a 1.15 litre displacement and around 20 hp. In Vienna it was known as the Austro Tatra 57A and was primarily produced as a convertible, sedan or small truck.



**Graumammer (Corn bunting)**. 95c; 2.3.2024; Lisa Filzi; Offset; bpost Stamps Printing; 340,000 in vertical flocks of 2x5. The corn bunting, Austria’s bird of the year for 2024, is the first design for a new series of stamps “Austrian birds”, in which Austrian Post, in cooperation with BirdLife Austria, will present endangered native bird species. The inconspicuous corn bunting, the largest native bunting, is in acute danger of extinction as its habitat is becoming increasingly restricted by intensive agricultural use. It requires open cultivated landscapes with fallow areas rich in flowers, small trees and individual bushes as hiding places, as well as individual taller trees as singing stations. In Austria there are only a few small breeding territories left, mainly in the east of the country, for example in Hansäg (Waasen) on the Burgenland border with Hungary. More uncultivated areas, field margins and ditch areas as well as additional and expanded nature reserves could prevent the extinction of the corn bunting and also help other native birds.



**Lamberg-Hut – Salzburg**. 1Eu90; 18.03.2024; Anita Kern; Offset; Enschedé. The latest in the “Traditional Costumes – Accessories and Ornaments” series of definitives. Also known as the privy councillor’s hat (Hofratshut), this hat with its typical cord trim is associated with the regional governor for Salzburg, Imperial Count von Lamberg.



“**Exiles 1, 2017**” in the series Contemporary Art in Austria. 1Eu990; 19/4/2014; Graphic design: Regina Simon; Enschede; offset; 160,000. “Exiles 1” is the first motif in a four-part series of works by Xenia Hausner, one of Austria's most important artists. Xenia Hausner comes from a Viennese artist family, studied stage design in Vienna and London, and designed numerous theater and opera productions. Since 1992 she has focused primarily on painting. Hausner's large-format works show artfully composed scenes in intense colors, which she photographs in the studio and then paints. Women are a central and complex theme in her work. “Exiles 1” refers to the images of fleeing people that have dominated all of Europe since 2015. It shows young people at the window of a train. However, their appearance does not correspond to the common ideas of refugees; we ourselves could also be these people. Whether it is a farewell or an arrival is not clear - Hausner's pictures are ambivalent.



**Jacob L. Moreno**. 1Eu50; April 19, 2024; Theresa Radlingmaier; boost Stamps Printing; Offset, 200,000. On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Jacob L. Moreno (1889-1974), the Austrian Post is honouring the Austrian-American doctor, psychiatrist and sociologist with a special postage stamp. Jacob Levy Moreno was born in Bucharest in 1889. He completed his medical studies in Vienna. In 1925 he emigrated to the USA, where from 1936 he ran a psychiatric sanatorium in New York State. He died in New York in 1974. Moreno was the founder of psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy. He developed psychodrama from impromptu theatre as an alternative to Freud's psychoanalysis. Through psychodramatic productions and constellations, new social roles and action strategies are to be actively worked out, which help in coping with everyday life. Sociometry is a method of empirical social research that records and analyses the relationships between members of a group in a sociomatrix. [*Me neither. Ed.*]



“**100 years of Mariendom Linz**” in the series Churches in Austria. 95c; April 27, 2024; Kirsten Lubach; Enschede; offset; 280,000. St. Mary's Cathedral is an architectural masterpiece and one of the most important neo-Gothic architectural monuments in Austria. The foundation stone was laid in 1862 by Bishop Franz Joseph Rudigier. The construction according to plans by the cathedral builder Vincenz Statz was financed solely by donations. After 62 years of construction, St. Mary's Cathedral, also known as the New Cathedral or the Cathedral of the Virgin Mary, was finally inaugurated on April 29, 1924. It is the largest church in Austria in terms of area, although Vienna's St. Stephen's Cathedral is around two meters higher. What is impressive, among other things, are the numerous colourful windows in the cathedral, which in addition to religious motifs show depictions of Linz's history and the cathedral's construction. In 2017, the chancel was redesigned and a raised altar island was built in front of the historic high altar from 1901. From the top stone balcony of the tower at a height of 112 meters you have a wonderful view of the city of Linz.



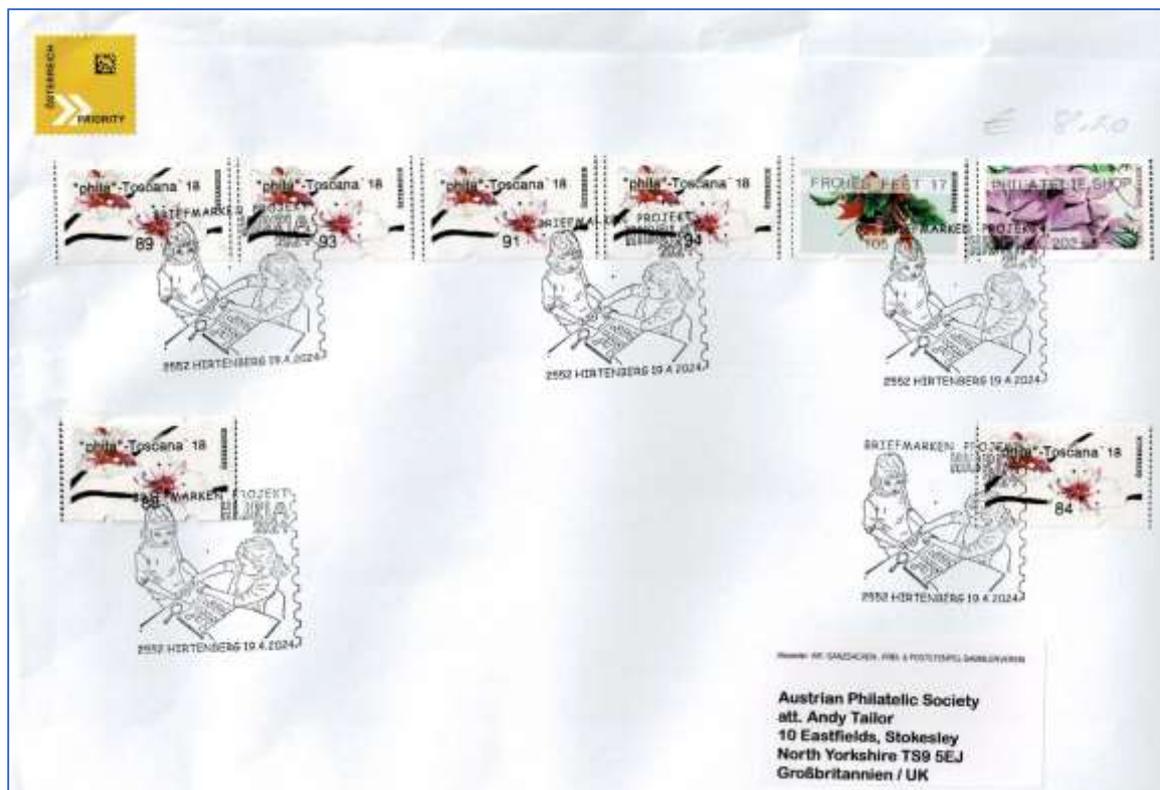
**PRIOrity posting using adhesive stamps.** Due to popular requests from their customers, from April 1, 2024 OPost now offers you a “goodwill solution” (Kulanzlösung) on how you can frank your mail with stamps and still send them as a fast PRIO shipment. It's this easy:

- ✓ Frank your mail with adhesive stamps at the corresponding PRIO rate.
- ✓ Bring the franked postal item to the counter of your post office or to a postal partner and inform the employee there that the postal item should be sent PRIO.
- ✓ At the counter, the employee will then stick the additional PRIO stamp next to the stamps on your mail item and forward it as a PRIO shipment. There will be no additional costs for you.



Important: the PRIO supplementary adhesives are not available for purchase. Postal items can only be sent when handed in at the PRIO counter, not when dropped into a letter box. With this solution, you can continue to add beautiful stamps to your mail in the future and send them as fast PRIO shipments within the country or abroad.

Important: the PRIO supplementary adhesives are not available for purchase. Postal items can only be sent when handed in at the PRIO counter, not when dropped into a letter box. With this solution, you can continue to add beautiful stamps to your mail in the future and send them as fast PRIO shipments within the country or abroad.”



Priority mail from the Wiener Ganzsachen-, Frei-, & Poststempel-Sammlervereine.

# DISTRICT STAMP III OF THE FORMER INNSBRUCK POST OFFICE: NEW FINDINGS

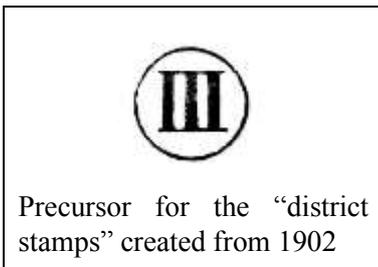
By Hans Moser; translation by Google and Andy Taylor

The topic of “district stamps of the Innsbruck postal directorate” has already been the subject of several articles; see literature. The reason for this is that there are no official lists that provide information about which numbers were assigned to the post offices. What makes matters worse is that around half of the approximately 520 district stamp numbers (**Bezirksstempelnummern = BSTNn**) no longer belonged to the Innsbruck post office after 1918 (South Tirol and Trentino) or 1922 (Liechtenstein). District stamps were only used in North & East Tirol and Vorarlberg from 1902 to 1938, and for a shorter time in the other parts of the country.

In the Innsbruck Directorate’s Circular Ordinance 1902/12 on pages 43-44, Decree 10.805 ex 02 was published:

*All offices have been issued with new postal order hand stamps. The kk offices are listed in PTVOBlatt Nr 24 of the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month, following the Trades Ministry decree nr 24 ref. Zl 7.514 of the 15<sup>th</sup>. It concerns the introduction of new postal order hand stamps, the distribution of which is arranged by the postal directorate’s central stores. Special attention is drawn to the old hand stamps III [a number in a circle] which are to be put out of use by the end of this month and irrevocably sent to the Central Store on April 1, 1902 with simultaneous reporting. Since the old postal order hand stamps must be delivered to the k.k. Postal Administration in Vienna by April 8, 1902 at the latest, the k.k. Offices are informed that late submission of the same to the central stores will result in a monetary penalty of 2Kr.*

*Finally, the kk offices are again reminded to always put a very clean and clear imprint of these hand stamps next to the place and date stamp, on the envelope containing the daily invoice for the daily postal money order account of the central accounts department. [Ibk. 3/24/02]*



In order to simplify the control of postal orders, numerical designations were introduced for the existing ten postal directorates (with the Roman numerals I to X). The stamp shown here is only known to me from the Meran post office and, if used properly, would probably be a rarity in other post offices as well.

A look at the following table of the secure assignment of BSTNs to post offices shows that the table can be divided into four sections. The first numbers 1 to 4 are reserved for the post offices in **Innsbruck**. The following numbers, from around 7 to at least 27, show the post offices of the **Innsbruck Postal Directorate** in alphabetical order. The third and largest section includes the numbers from around 30 to 430. It contains all **non-state-owned post offices** with their names as at around 1902 in alphabetical order. Post offices built later received **consecutive numbers until 1918** and were no longer listed alphabetically. From 1902 to 1918, another 90 post offices were built in the directorate area, bringing the number to 520 for all BSTNs by 1918. There is currently no information available about the allocation of BSTNs in the newly built post offices from 1918 to 1938, when their use was ended by newly designed district stamps of the German Reich.

## Secured assignment of BSTNs to post offices of the Innsbruck Post. Dir. (III) as at April 2024

E = opened; Rk = reconstructed, the 100 digit was missing; ‘~~Location~~’ scored out = not clearly clarified. **Name in green** = illustrated below. 93 post office numbers have been identified, 3 of which are questionable.

The compilation of the BSTNs in Stohl, based on Rainer, and that in Bock et al. (Page 733) is partially incorrect, so it has not been included here.

Nr	Post office or location
1	Innsbruck 1
2	Innsbruck 2
3	Innsbruck 3
4	Innsbruck 4
8	Bludenz
9	Bolzano 1
11	Bregenz
12	Brixen; Brixen 1
15	Feldkirch
16	Franzensfeste
17	Gries b. Bolzano
18	Hall i. Tirol
19	Kufstein 1
20	Landeck
21	Lienz
22	Merano
23	Mezzolombardo
26	Schwaz
27	Trient 1
33	Alberschwende
34	Algund
46	Balzers
47	Baselga di Pinè
51	Bichlbach
65	Brixlegg
73	Cavalese
74	Cavareno
79	Cogolo
90	Dro
93	Ehrwald
98	Erpfendorf
101	Fieberbrunn
108 Rk	? Franzenshohe ?
109	Frastanz
111 Rk	Forges
112	Fugen
113	Fulpmes
116 Rk	Gardolo
139	Hintertux
151	Inner-Braz (from 1912 Braz)
156	Jochberg
157	Jungholz
159	Kaltenbach im Zillertal
163	Kematen bei Innsbruck
165	Kirchberg
166	Kirchbichl
167	Kitzbühel
189	Lavis

Nr	Post office or location
191	Leifers
195	Lochau
198	Malè
201	Marling
203	Mayrhofen
214	? Moena / Molina di Fiemme
222	Nassereith
223	Naturns
228	Neumarkt
232	Niederdorf
234	Nikolsdorf
237	Obermieming
239	Obsteig
242	Olang
243	Paneveggio
244	Partschins
247	Pedrares
249 Rk	Pergine
265	Predazzo
275	Reutte
301	St. Ulrich i. Val Gardena
304	St. Vigil in Enneberg
309	Sarche
313	Schaan
332	Seefeld
347	Springen-Riefensberg
349	Stans
360	Sulzberg
361	Sulz-Röthis
364	Tarrenz
366	Telfs
369	Terlano
373	Thuringia
375	Tione
390	Unter-Atzwang
391	? Under Tilliach?
392	Vaduz
401	Villa Lagarina
409 Rk	Waidbruck
451	Brixen 2; E 1906
453	Pfaffenhofen, T. E 1907
459	Tisens E 1908
474	Vigo Lomaso E 1909
488	Saone E 1910
490	Lusern E 1910
499	Tscherms E 1911
511	Hötting E 1913

### State-owned post offices in Innsbruck: Innsbruck 1 to Innsbruck 4



Innsbruck **III/1** as a postage-free official item from a Kuk ... construction department / ... office Innsbruck, stamped with a fan stamp (St 1wa7, K15) with the text “INNSBRUCK 1 + ANWSGANNAHME I or II, with date 6.IV.17 (see also ref. Band 3A, page 173).

Innsbruck **III/2** (“Bahnhofspostamt” located at Bruneckerstrasse 1-3) shows the “Brücken” fan stamp here (would be Stohl 6b20, K15). This stamp is known from 1917.

Innsbruck **III/3** was opened on June 3, 1872 as INNSBRUCK MARIAHILF and converted into INNSBRUCK 3 on January 1, 1896.

Innsbruck **III/4** was built on April 1, 1902 as INNSBRUCK 4 at Claudiastrasse 12. The postal order postal stationery has an imprint of 24 groschen, corresponding to the minimum fee for transfers of up to 25 shillings.

Other **candidates** from Innsbruck with the following III/numbers are WILTEN 1 in Franz-Fischer-Str. 5 and WILTEN 2 at Gumpstrasse 26, which were converted into INNSBRUCK 5 and INNSBRUCK 6 on June 1, 1904. It is currently uncertain whether numbers **III/5** and **III/6** were reserved for them or if other numbers were assigned.

A post office built on June 19, 1911 at Stainerstraße 3 was given the name INNSBRUCK 7. The table suggests that this post office was assigned a BSTN around **III/500**.

The post office built on February 1, 1913 in Schulgasse **HÖTTING** was assigned **III/511**, but the BSTN of the **MÜHLAU post office built in 1872** is still unknown and could be a number between III/210 and III/220, see table. The Hötting and Mühlau post offices were renamed INNSBRUCK 8 and 9 respectively after they were incorporated into Innsbruck in 1939.

The number **III/8, which can currently be assigned with certainty**, belongs to the state-owned post office in **Bludenz**. For the currently missing numbers III/5 to III/7, Innsbruck 5 and 6 could be considered, while Ala and Arco are serious candidates. The open question can only be clarified through documentary evidence.

All other state-owned post offices of the Innsbruck Postal Directorate in 1902

Ala 2; Arco; **Bludenz**, **Bozen 1** , Bozen 2, **Bregenz**, **Brixen 1** ; Bruneck; Dornbirn; **Feldkirch**, **Franzensfeste**, **Gries b. Bolzano**; **Hall in Tirol**, **Kufstein 1**, **Landeck**, **Lienz**, **Meran**, **Mezzolombardo**, Riva, Rovereto, **Schwaz**, Toblach 2, **Trent 1**; Trent 2; Worgl 2

For the **post offices printed in bold**, the corresponding BSTNs could already be determined. The post offices not in bold would fill exactly the missing BSTNs with the exception of Toblach 2, whose BSTN is therefore uncertain.





Since **Toblach 2** would have to be listed alphabetically between **Schwaz** and **Trent** and was not taken into account, it can be assumed that this seasonal post office, which is only open in summer, was not taken into account in the “front” number allocation. The highest district number (BSTN) identified with certainty is currently that of **Trient 1** with **III/27**. Accordingly, including the post offices of **Trient 2** and **Wörgl 2**, the numbers of the state-owned post offices would end at **III/29** (for **Wörgl 2**).

**Non-state-owned post offices in the Innsbruck Directorate area in 1902**



[Differences in colour are largely the result of passage through various computer programs.]

The non-state-owned post offices with the letters A and B of the Innsbruck Directorate result in the following alphabetical order, to which are added the offices with **secured BSTN (bold)**.

Abfaltersbach, Achenkirch, Alberschwende **III/33**, Algund **III/34**, Alpbach, Altach (E 1904), Altprags, Andelsbuch, Antholz, Arzl, (not **Atzwang** because it is still classified with the older designation as “Unter Atzwang”), Au Bregenzerwald, Auer, Avio, Axams. Bach im Lechtal, Balzers **III/46**, Baselga di Pinè **III/47**, Baumkirchen, Berwang, Bezau, Bichlbach **III/51**, Bieberwier, Bienno, Birchabruck, Bizau, Blumau in Tirol, Borgo di Valsugana, Bozzana, Brand bei Bludenz (E 1904), Branzoll, Braz, Brenner, Bretonico, Brez, Brixlegg **III/65**.

If you start with Abfaltersbach as III/30 and take into account the (E) post offices in Vorarlberg that opened in 1904, then the already secured BSTN can be found in exactly the right position in the number series. The old names such as “Bieberwier” instead of “Biberwier” and “Unter Atzwang **III/390**” instead of “Atzwang” must be taken into account.

Several reviews have found that assuming an alphabetical order of post offices is very helpful in identifying the BSTN. Initially suspected assignments could subsequently be verified or at least limited by evidence, as was the case with III/214 Moena or Molina di Fiemme, both places near Cavalese (see the Tarn cancel). However, inconsistencies also occur as illustrated in the following example: Niederdorf ( **III/232** ), Niederdorf b Kufstein; Nikolsdorf ( **III/234** ), Obergurgl, Obermais, Obermieming ( **III/237** ); ~~Oberperfuss~~; Obertilliach, Obsteig ( **III/239** ), Oetz; Ötztal Bahnhof, ....., Valdaora ( **III/242** ). The Oberperfuss post office, which was built in 1903, does not seem to have been taken into account here; a place with the letter O seems to be missing between Obsteig and Olang.



The highest secured BSTN of the non-state-owned post offices known as early as 1902 is that of Waidbruck (**III/409**). Another 21 post offices up to Zirl were also in operation, which would give a BSTN of 430. There are no reliable numbers between 1903 and October 1906 (Brixen 2; **III/451**). The BSTN listed in the table come from receipts or from postal (PuTVBl) and philatelic (Hofer) literature.

**District stamp in use in Liechtenstein**

 <p>III/46 Balzers</p>	<p>missing; around III/225 Nedels</p>	 <p>III/313 Schaan</p>	 <p>III/392 Vaduz</p>
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A check of the non-state-owned post offices of the Innsbruck Directorate between Sarche and Seefeld listed alphabetically has shown that Schaan can only have BSTN **313**; **under no circumstances 318**.

	<p>This cash-on-delivery postal order with the BSTN <b>III/46</b> to Hall in Tirol, posted in <b>Balzers</b> on 27.V.18, has an attractive <b>mixed franking</b> between the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the Principality of Liechtenstein. Both stamps are in <b>Heller currency</b>.</p> <p>Until 1922, Liechtenstein was part of the administrative area of the Innsbruck Postal Directorate.</p> <p>[Image reduced in size]</p>
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**The use of district stamps on various postal orders**

There are a **variety of printing types** that were used for various types of money transfers. A selection is shown here. The images are reduced in size. The cancelled backs are particularly interesting for cancel collectors because they can show impressions that are relatively rare to find in large locations. With “ordinary” postal orders you will also find cancelled postage stamps and cancels from redirected orders. The use of **postage stamps** on receipts cannot always be explained and raises questions that are not addressed here.

**ATTENTION:** The **colours of the documents shown are sometimes significantly changed in whole or part** due to various recording techniques (photo, smartphone, scan) and computer processing.



Postal order from 1907, on the left with handwritten BSTN 228 from Neumarkt in Tirol to Maunitz (Innerkrain), on the right with a later receipt with III/228. Different coloured postal order forms due to distortion by mobile phone.



Postal order without value impression from III/19 Kufstein 1, dated 21.V.28, franked with a minimum fee of 15 g for the transfer of 8Sch80 g.



Express postal order with value impression from III/1 Innsbruck 1 dispatched to Schwaz on 30.V.36. Fees : Instruction: 60g, + express delivery 40g = 100g.



**Violet-ink postal money order (printed in 1932) with an imprint of 24g from Jochberg III/156 from 27.V.36, franked with 61g (instead of 60g) for a transfer of 140Sch.**

Back with **fee table** and two different OT stamps from **Innsbruck 1**, which were used to acknowledge the receipt and payment of the amount the following day.



**Green postal money order (printed in 1935) with an imprint of 24g from Thüringen III/373 from 20.V.36, franked with 60g for a transfer of 120Sch.**

Back with **fee table** and two dates of the OT stamp from **Ludesch**. Received on 20.V.36, paid out on 25.V.36. Apparently an **additional fee of 20g** was not collected (blue line).



**Money order** (without value impression, as is normal) from **Sulz-Röthis III/361** from 8.V.36, to Graz, franked with 69g for an amount of 6Sch81g.

Back without arrival stamp. The amount was paid out on 12.V.36. The charges for this and for another very similar document are contradictory.



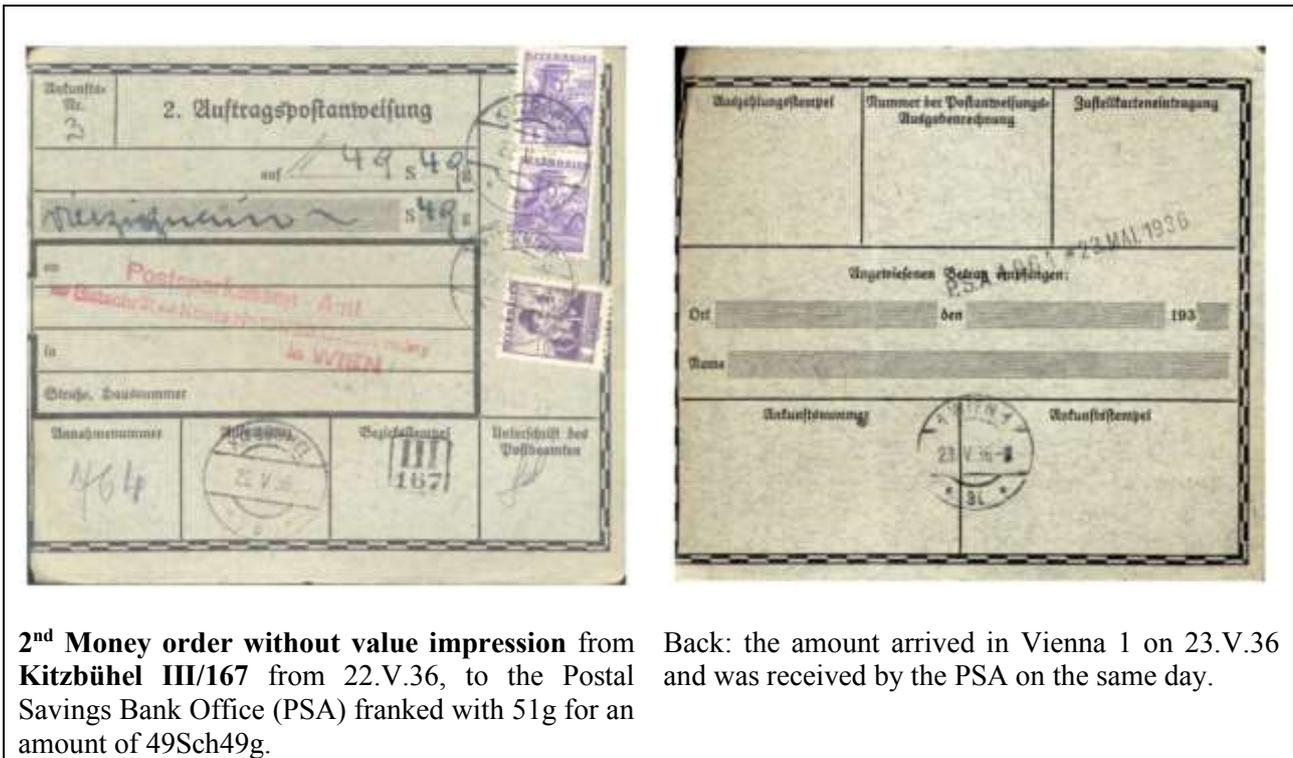
**Money order without value impression** from **Kirchbichl III/166** from 28.V.36, to Rottenmann, franked with 39g for an amount of 20Sch61g.

Back: The amount was received on 30.V.36 (counter letter "a") and was paid out on the same day ("b").

Compared to the "simple" postal order, the "money order" cost 15g more at each fee level. The fee increases with the amount transferred:

39g up to 25Sch	51g up to 50Sch	63g up to 100Sch	75g up to 200Sch
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The amounts mentioned could be verified several times.

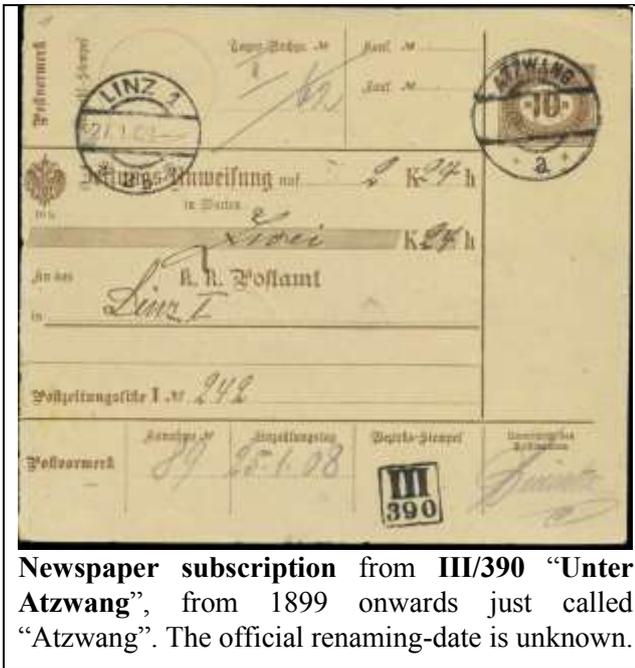


2<sup>nd</sup> Money order without value impression from Kitzbühel III/167 from 22.V.36, to the Postal Savings Bank Office (PSA) franked with 51g for an amount of 49Sch49g.

Back: the amount arrived in Vienna 1 on 23.V.36 and was received by the PSA on the same day.

Research into money orders is actively in progress, and an article is planned for later this year.

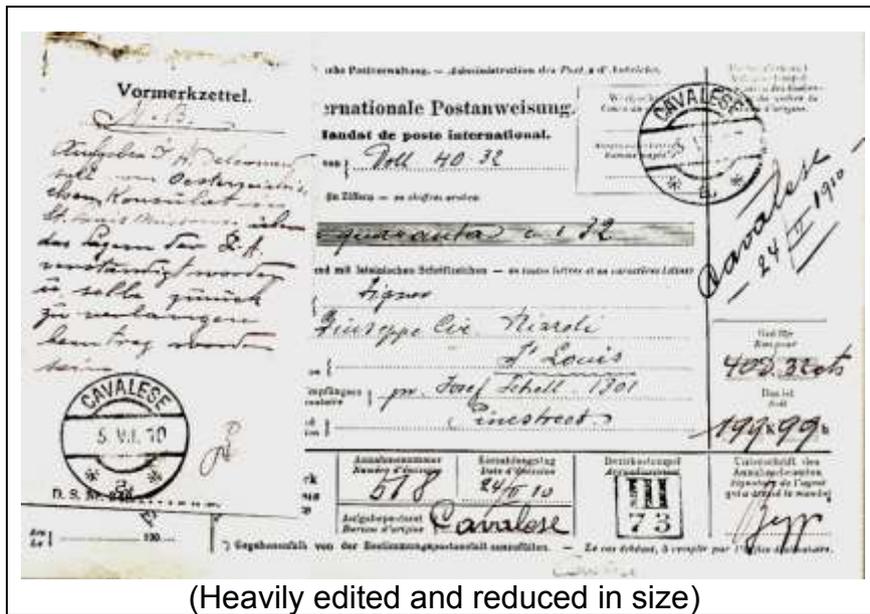
In 1904 PuTVBI 102, under the title “Ordering newspapers and magazines published domestically through the post office” [5+2 pages; Vienna October 17, 1904], a new postal service was announced. By means of a **Zeitungsanweisung** (see Schneiderbauer page 288) newspapers could be ordered at your Post Office from a prescribed list. 1904 PuTVOB 107 extended this to foreign newspapers.



Newspaper subscription from III/390 “Unter Atzwang”, from 1899 onwards just called “Atzwang”. The official renaming-date is unknown.



Cash on delivery postal order from III/101 Fieberbrunn from 22.12.1920 to Kitzbühel



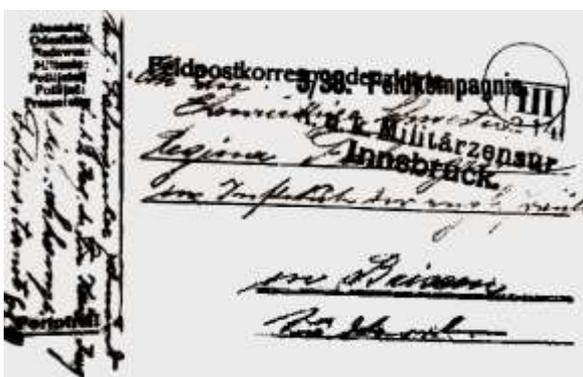
(Heavily edited and reduced in size)

**International postal order** issued on 24.II.10 in **Cavalese** with BSTN **III/73** and acceptance number 518 for the amount of 199K99h to St. Louis in the USA. The amount corresponds to \$40.32. According to the reservation note: “NB Publisher Dr. H. Delemann (?) is said to have been informed by the Austrian Consulate in St. Louis about the storage of the PA (postal money order) and to have requested that it be returned”. OT stamp Cavalese 5.VII.10. The postal order was returned after about 5 months.

**Unusual uses of district stamps in South Tirol / Trentino**

**A. Tarnstempel.** In the course of the war with Italy, district stamps were used as concealment stamps at civilian post offices from May 1915, especially in the front area.

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to clearly identify their numbers, especially if there are two neighbouring post offices in the unit's operational area with the same initial letter as number 214: This number can definitely be assigned to a location with the letter M, using the military designations and the date overleaf either **Moena** or the nearby **Molina di Fiemme**, both located in the Val di Fiemme near Cavalese. The assignment of the number 214 is currently still open, although it is already very limited.



*District stamp III / 214 on the field post card of the 3 / 98 field post company to Brixen. According to the sender, the soldier was stationed in the 1<sup>st</sup> reserve company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kaiserjäger Regiment. This unit came from Russia to the Isonzo Front in 1915. At the beginning of October 1915, it was moved to the Pustertal and fought on the Dolomite front. In February / March 1916, the regiment was relocated to the Folgaria area for the May offensive and fought on the plateau until the end of the war. Based on the date and military information, it is not possible to determine the exact location of Post Office 214. (Text: Saunders)*

A field post written on June 11, 1915 in **Pedrares Abtei** by a soldier of the Alpine Corps to his brother-in-law in Stua (Stuttgart). The district stamp **III/247** from Pedrares shows that German units supported the defensive battle at the beginning of the war with Italy. Unfortunately, this interesting document is very poorly preserved.



**B. Cancellation of “local postage provisionals”:** District stamps were applied to Italian stamps for surcharges at several post offices in South Tirol in the area around Meran in mid-1918 - early 1919. This letter from Meran was franked in mid-December 1918 with a 10h stamp from the Austrian monarchy. This shows the Italian imprint “**Regno di Italia / Trentino / Nov. 1918**”. The Italian long-distance letter postage was 20 centesimi, because heller & centesimi were equivalent at that time. The missing postage of 10h or C was doubled and shown with Italian postage stamps which were cancelled with the district stamp **III/244**; the OT stamp from **Partschins** was applied next to it. According to Austrian postal law, invalid stamps were not allowed to be cancelled with the OT stamp.



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I would like to thank Messrs Felderer, Najc, Roller, Saunders, Stuffer and Thaler for generously providing supporting documents.

I am requesting scans (jpg format, 300 dpi) of known / unknown district stamps III of the PD Innsbruck for further research. Please send them to [hans.moser@uibk.ac.at](mailto:hans.moser@uibk.ac.at)

\*\* As the books are in German, I have retained the titles in German also. Ed.

# THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN INVASION OF SERBIA IN 1914

By Andrew Brooks

On the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their funeral (fig1) in Vienna was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July; by the 23<sup>rd</sup> July Serbia received an ultimatum from Austro-Hungary the terms of which they found unacceptable; two days later they mobilised, anticipating the outbreak of war. This was followed by a flurry of mobilisations and declarations of war throughout Europe.



Fig 1,  
from  
the  
Internet

Both Germany and Austro-Hungary had tried to arrive at a co-ordinated plan in the event of war but nothing had been clearly defined and established when war broke out. A postcard (fig2) postmarked 'Munchen 30/7/14', only two days after Austro-Hungary had declared war on Serbia, does indicate that the two countries were going to fight side-by-side. Germany intended to defeat France (Schlieffen Plan) in six weeks and only leave a holding force in East Prussia against the expected Russian attack. They expected Austro-Hungary to attack Russia from Galicia and thus hold up the Russian 'steamroller' until Germany could switch its armies from the west and defeat the Russians and end the war before Christmas! (figs.3&4).

However, General Franz Conrad von Hotzendorf, Chief of Staff of the Austro-Hungarian Army (fig.5), had his own agenda. He had a hatred of the Serbs and was determined to defeat Serbia as well as attack Russia at the same time. He convinced himself he could defeat the Serbs easily and then move all his troops to Galicia. He therefore allocated A-Staffel to be ready to head directly for Galicia, B-Staffel (2<sup>nd</sup> Army + Independent VII Corps) to head for Serbia, but in the event of a European war they would also deploy against Russia. Minimalgruppe Balkan (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Armies)) would deal with Serbia on its own if necessary.

Almost immediately, Germany informed Conrad that Russia had mobilised far quicker than anyone expected and this forced Conrad to change his plans. A-Staffel was sent to Galicia and B-Staffel (already on its way to Serbia) was ordered to head for Galicia. It was thought it would be bad for morale if it was ordered to retrace its steps so it continued to Serbia and eventually towards Galicia (this added 1000 km to its journey).

The opening shots in the Serbian campaign, and indeed of the Great War of 1914-18, occurred when three Austro-Hungarian monitors shelled Belgrade from the River Danube. Little damage was done but it was claimed as a major event in Vienna (fig6). Meanwhile, Conrad had appointed Oskar Potiorek (fig6a) to command the Serbian campaign. Potiorek was the Governor of Bosnia and Herzegovina and was still annoyed that he had been passed over in 1906 to be the C-C of the Austro-Hungarian Army, in favour of Conrad. This 'armchair general' during the whole of the disastrous campaign against Serbia kept well away from the front line and only survived for so long by sending the emperor exaggerated reports about successes and excuses for the failures. Franz Josef liked

Potiorek because he did at least sent reports on a regular basis, unlike Conrad who ignored the emperor as much as possible.

The first invasion commenced on August 12<sup>th</sup> when Potiorek ordered the 5<sup>th</sup> Army across the lower River Drina and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army (commanded by Bohm-Ermolli) (fig7) to cross the river Sava and capture Sabac. The 6<sup>th</sup> Army, at this stage, was not in position to cross the upper Drina and only managed to prevent incursions by the Serbs and Montenegrins around Vizegrad. (figs 8&9) The two postcards show a tented camp troop on the border of Montenegro and the Drina army throwing back Serbian and Montenegrin forces from Bosnia. Conrad did not understand Potiorek's reasoning for the attacks across the Drina as pre-war manoeuvres had pointed out the difficulties of the terrain. The obvious attack was in the north across the river Danube.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Army crossed the Drina (fig10) but were unable to make progress everywhere, especially in their efforts to capture Mt. Cer (see MAP Mt.Tzer). Although the Serbian army lacked much in the way of arms, ammunition and even uniforms it mustered quickly and General Putnik (fig6a), who was in charge of the General Staff and War Ministry, was a very able military leader. Although a sick man he had formulated a plan to deal with any invasion and he was fortunate that many of his troops were battle-hardened from the recent Balkan Wars. Austro-Hungary was humiliated over the next few weeks and by August 24<sup>th</sup> Potiorek ordered a retreat back across the Drina (fig11). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Army which was now supposed to be on its way to Galicia were forced to leave IV Corps and the 29<sup>th</sup> Division behind as Potiorek had used his friendship with Franz Josef to overrule Conrad and place Potiorek in sole command of the forces fighting Serbia.

The second invasion was another disaster and was allowed because the Serbs had made a diversionary attack across the river Sava. Potiorek moved the Sixth Army further north next to the Fifth Army but this made it easier for the Serbs as the enemy was only attacking on one front. The invasion started on September 8<sup>th</sup> and was called off on October 4<sup>th</sup> by Potiorek who immediately demanded that he should be allowed to have another attempt!

As long as Serbia remained able to resist then Italy was likely to join the Allies and attack the Monarchy. Also, what side would Greece and Bulgaria choose? For this reason alone, a third attack was made, and by November 15<sup>th</sup> Valjevo in western Serbia was captured. Shortly after this Potiorek made a vital mistake when he diverted the 5<sup>th</sup> Army to take Belgrade to please Franz Josef on the sixty-sixth anniversary of his coronation (December 2<sup>nd</sup>). On the same day Putnik counter-attacked and by mid-December what was left of Potiorek's army was back across the Drina and Sava.

A few feldpostkarten from the campaign will now be described.

A Hungarian type feldpostkorrespondenzekarte (fig12) cancelled *Tabori Postahivatal 40* is for 5<sup>th</sup> Army Command in Serbia. The sender F. Pilous gave in manuscript Feldpost 33 and this was for the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The cachet reads *K.u.K. Infanterieregiment Potiorek No. 102* which was in the 9<sup>th</sup> ID. Also, in manuscript is M.G.A. 1/102 (machine gun detachment). They were engaged in the Battle of the Drina between 6/8 and 4/10 and later took part in the offensive at Valjevo between 24/10 and 15/11. This was a Czech regiment and supports the suggestion that Conrad preferred the Czechs fighting against the Serbs rather than against fellow Slavs in Galicia.

A card (fig13) with a Bosnian type cancellation *K.u.K. Feldpostamt 69* is dated 26/10/14 and is identified as the 12<sup>th</sup> Mountain Brigade in 5<sup>th</sup> Army. The cachet *K.u.K. b.h. Infanterieregiment Nr.2 IV Marschkompagnie* was a replacement regiment in the brigade. They were involved in the same actions as described in the previous card.

*K.u.K. Feldpostamt 309* (fig14) is dated 29/10/14 and was used by the 14<sup>th</sup> Mountain Brigade. The cachet *K.u.K. Infanterieregiment Nr. 98 /I Feldkompagnie* was part of the brigade at this time. They were operating on the border with Montenegro close to the naval base of Cattaro.

This Hungarian field postcard (fig15) has no postmark but is identified as *Tabori Posta 9* (9 is in manuscript). The sender gave his name and unit as 'Karl Pfeiffer, Res.Kan.Bat.38'. A circular cachet reads; *Kommando der Reservekanonen Batterie F.K./38*. It is dated on the reverse 6/11/14. This artillery unit was part of the 104 Landsturm Infantry Brigade and in September was fighting the Serbs on the river Sava. The brigade was in Combined Corps Krauss in 5<sup>th</sup> Army and part of the message on the reverse stated 'hoofed it through Serbia and cut off from feldpost for 27 days'. A month after this card was sent home Potiorek was urging General Krauss to rush his corps into action at Kolubara but they arrived disorganised and exhausted. When Potiorek ordered the retreat on December 5<sup>th</sup> it was too late to prevent heavy losses and one wonders at the fate of Karl Pfeiffer.

The final card (fig16) in this selection is another Hungarian type cancellation; *Hatap Posta 81* dated 22/12/14. The cachet is for the 5<sup>th</sup> Army Etappen High Command and presumably by this time they had retreated to safety across the Drina into Bosnia. The message on the reverse wished everybody a Happy Christmas and New Year. Potiorek would not have enjoyed the festivities as when he arrived in Vienna, Franz Josef refused to see him and he was forced into retirement.

#### References.

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Octavian Tabacaru. *K.u.k. Feldpost 1914-1918 Volumes 4&5*.

Geoffrey Wawro. *A Mad Catastrophe*.

Prit Buttar. *Collision of Empires*.

John Dixon-Nuttall. *The Austro-Hungarian Army 1914-18 For collectors of its postal items*. [Available on the APS web site]



Fig 2





Fig 3

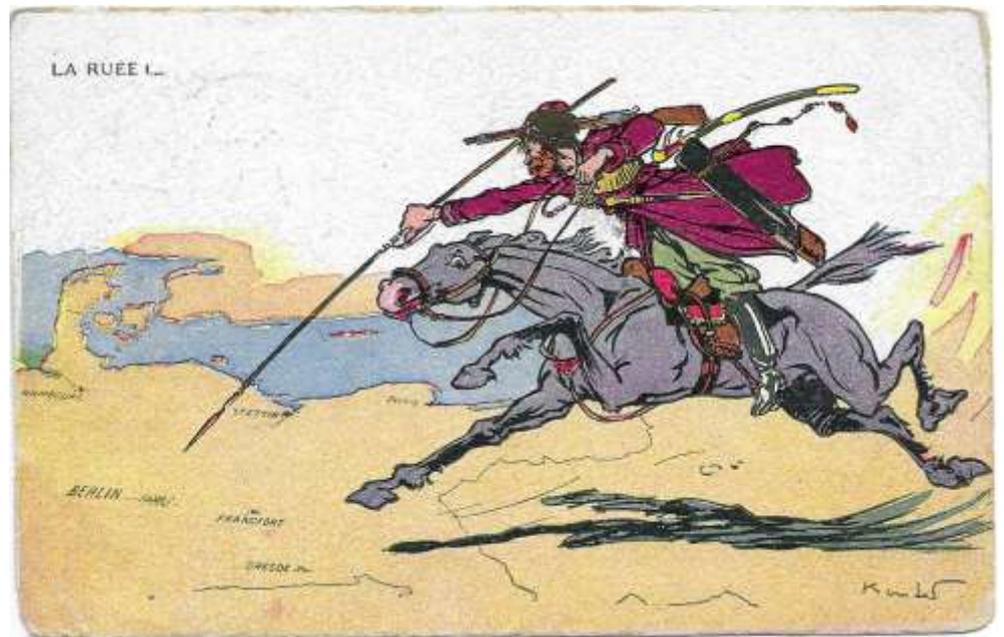


Fig 4



Fig 6



Fig 5



Fig 7

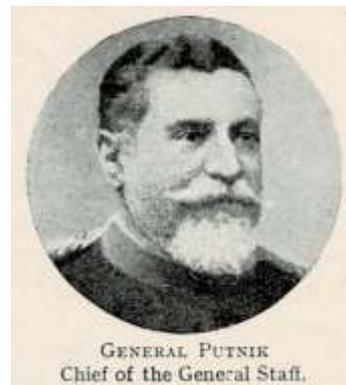


Fig 6 a

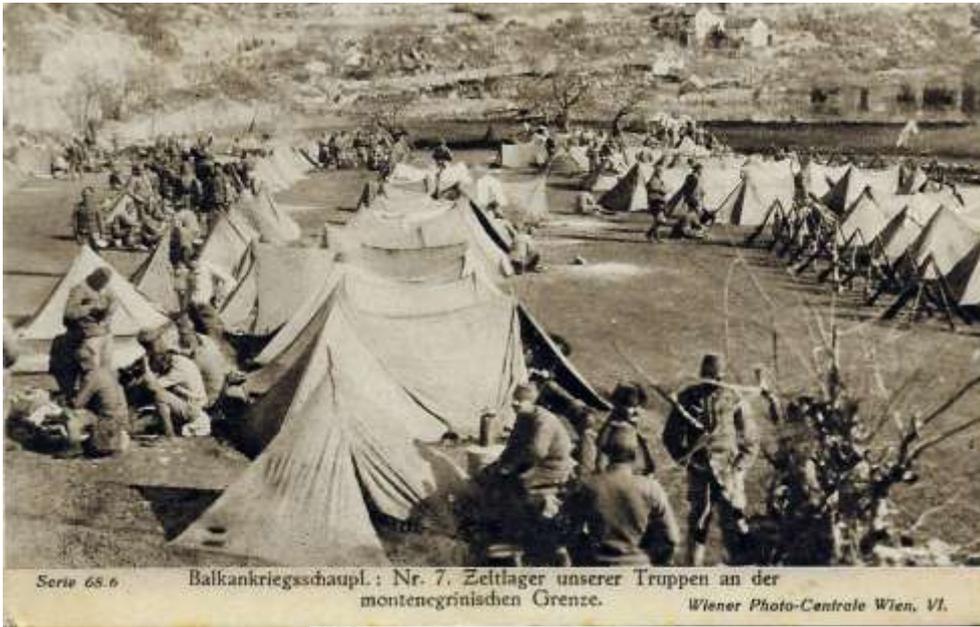


Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 10



Fig 11



Fig 12



Fig 13

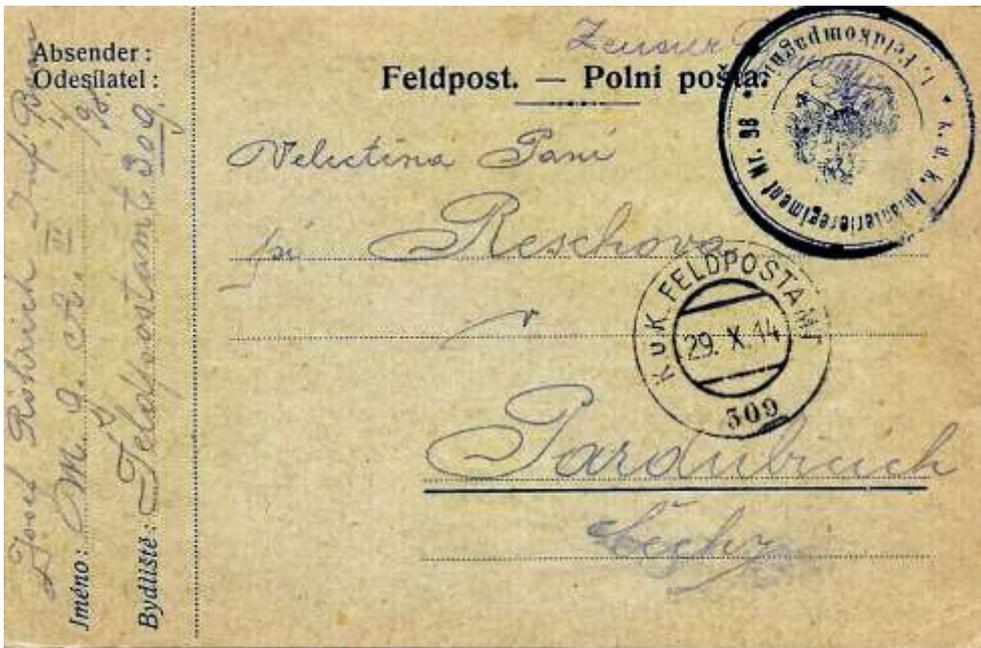


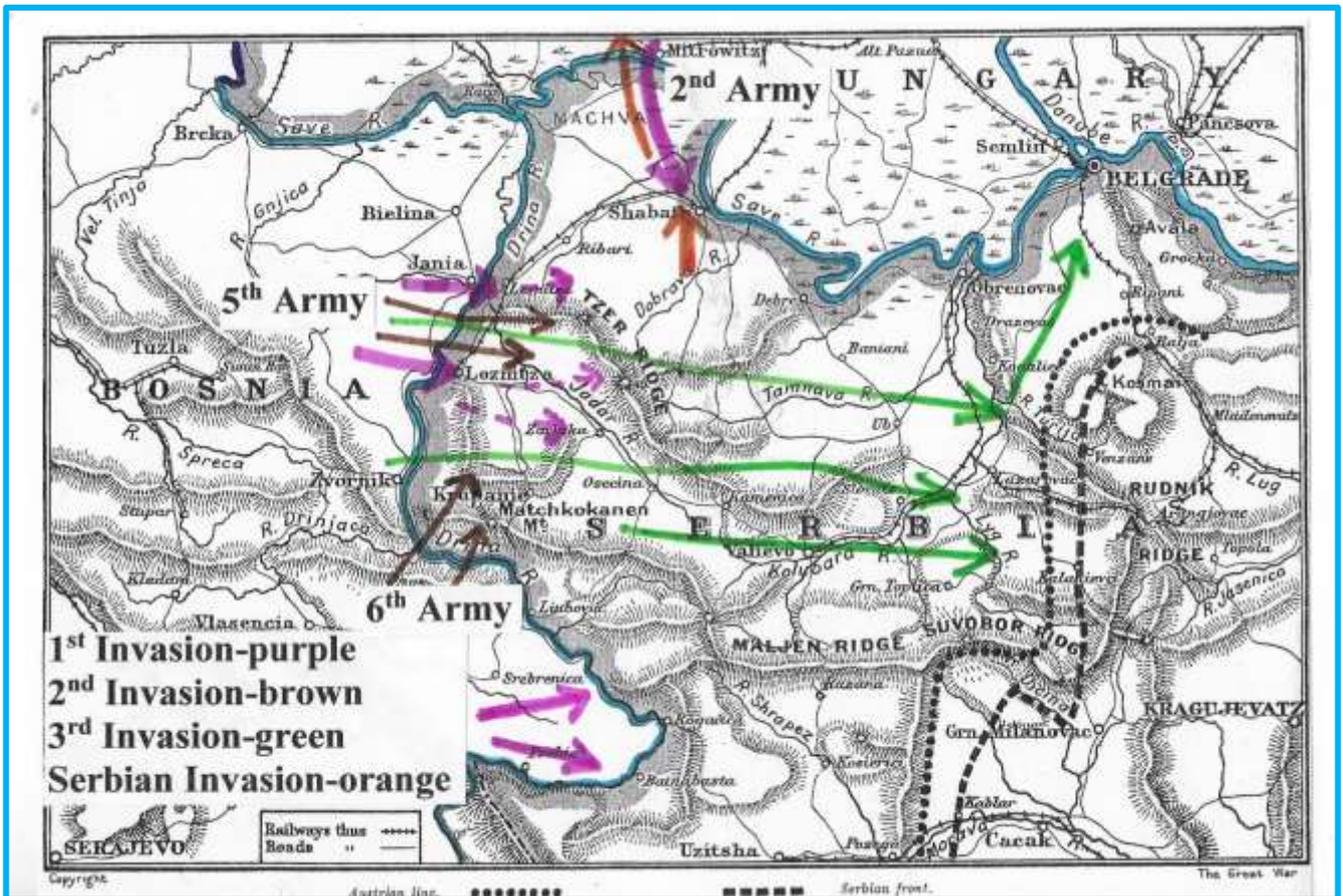
Fig 14



Fig 15



Fig 16



## The Empire Strikes Back

The Europhilex International Exhibition is to be held in Birmingham from 7 to 11 May 2025. I have reserved a 40-seat room for the afternoon of **Friday 9 May, 1pm to 5pm**. There will be a meet'n'greet session from 1pm, with displays being shown from 1:30pm onwards. Anybody and everybody is welcome!

The room will have two tables, electric power, and 4 double-sided 16-A4-sheet display frames. These are standard 4x4 International frames; a row will take two A3 sheets sideways so presumably takes three "square A4". The meeting is free; I do not know if the Exhibition will charge for admission.

The meeting is intended for collectors of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its successor states. Preference in the displaying-queue will be given to visitors from outside the UK. Displays of top-quality copies of your actual sheets will be equally welcome, and might avoid Irritating Difficulties with His Majesty King Charles III's Revenue and Customs. Book your slot with Andy Taylor.

# THE APS BOOKSHOP

To purchase any of these items, **contact the President**.

## CDs

- ❖ **When the new APS web site is ready (Autumn 2024?), these CDs will cease to be available. Instead, members will have access to the data on the web site.**
- ❖ *All CDs cost £10 or €15 including postage to anywhere in the world.*
- ❖ **“The History of Austrian Revenue Stamps”** by Dr Stephan Koczynski. Enhanced and published on CD in fully-text-searchable form. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-07-4.
- ❖ **1910 Post Office Index.** This is the “*Verzeichnis der Post- und Telegraphen-Ämter in Österreich, Ungarn und in Bosnien-Herzegowina sowie der österreichischen Postanstalten im Fürstentum Liechtenstein und in der Levante*”, published in Vienna in 1910. It lists all the Austrian post offices open anywhere at that date; with symbols indicating the facilities available at each. The CD contains deep-cleaned pictures of the original pages, not searchable text. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-08-1.
- ❖ **“Rohrpost” – the pneumatic post in Vienna.** Second completely revised edition, now in web-site format in full colour with numerous added appendices. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-10-4.

## Books

- ❖ **“The story of the Austrian Post up to 1850”.** 380pp. A4 hardback in full colour. Awarded a Gold medal at London2022. ISBN 978-0-900118-11-1. Price £39; member’s price £32. P&P £4 in UK, elsewhere at cost.

## Back numbers

- ❖ **Back numbers** of “Austria” are **£1** each to members (**£5** to non-members), subject to us having stock. Some may be facsimiles or second-hand originals. Be aware that they will not be reprinted when copies run out. Postage extra at cost. Bulk orders by negotiation.
- ❖ **Issues from 127 onwards** are available as PDF files, either on CD for £10 per CD including p&p, or by web transfer for £5 per transaction. “All of them” will fit on two CDs.
- ❖ Some back numbers of *Austria* are available to read on the APS website. They are selected from issues 127 onwards; we do not have electronic versions of previous issues. Go to the APS home page <http://www.austrianphilately.com/index.htm> and select [Index of the APS Journal “Austria”](#) in the left-hand box Comments on this feature would be welcomed by [webmaster@austrianphilately.com](mailto:webmaster@austrianphilately.com)

- ❖ **When the new APS web site is ready (Winter 2024?), members will have access to the contents of all back numbers on the web site.**

## Duties, taxes etc

- ❖ Note that some countries may in their infinite wisdom charge import duty on books and CDs. We have no control over this, and the purchaser must pay it before the item is delivered. Your Post Office may inform you of this - or may not ☹

## GHOSTS FROM THE PAST

By Andy Taylor

The tale I shall tell lies in the past practices of many collectors, and I'll recount it to you as a warning. Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin. On Halloween, 2011, while I was remounting some Newspaper Post items, a couple of ghosts emerged to disturb my work.



The first ghost was hiding behind a postal stationery card, posted on 13 Jan 1919. It's a Kaiser Karl 8h card, uprated with a 2h newspaper express adhesive, and sent



from Pöchlarn to Freilassing in Bavaria. The address and message are in heavy black ink. The item had been mounted with photo

corners on a Rapkin sheet, which is now buff-coloured. When I removed it, the ghost revealed itself! The acid present in the paper has attacked the back of the card, transferring some of the colour to the paper, and darkening the card – but leaving a shadow of the ink.



The second ghost is more elusive – it is quite difficult to take a photograph of transparent plastic! This card, with a sepia picture of children posed in the Lower Belvedere gardens in Vienna, was sent to Villach on 8 Nov 1919. It's franked with a 5h Deutschösterreich-overprint and a 5h newspaper express adhesive: the validity is questionable but the Post Office didn't object. The mounting sheet has not attacked the card, probably because the picture is glossy. However, the card was mounted in a PVC sleeve, and the plasticisers have attacked the stamps, transferring a ghostly outline to the PVC.



# NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS

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

## **Die Briefmarke**

**1-2/2024:** Vienna's Rotunde; the Bassoon; Hugo von Hofmannsthal 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary; Salzerbad (in Nieder Oest.); philately on the Internet; society news; new issues, special post offices usw usf.

**3/2024:** *carabus variolosus nodulosus* aka Schwarze Grubenlaufkäfer - an endangered species of beetle with an Central southeast European distribution; the Austro-Tatra 57A car; 7<sup>th</sup> century of Oberlaa; more about Cryptostamps; new series of Dispenser Stamps; philately on the Internet (ii); Saint George (see Austria 226 back cover!); society news (every one seems to have its own block-of-three); new issues, special post offices etc etc.

**4/2024:** 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Die Fledermaus; bats on stamps ☺; Oberlaa (ii); Postcards with unknown sender and/or addressee; the new PRIO label; Karl Kalab *the* letter-thief; modern ship mail; society news; new issues, special post offices usw usf.

**5/2024:** Mothers Day in Austria; background to this year's EUROPA-stamp; centenary of AVIS the aircraft builder; Postcards with unknown sender and/or addressee (ii); new stamps labels postcards coins and so forth; Karl Kalab (ii); philately on the Internet (iii); letters from readers; society news; list of exhibitions and shows at all levels.

## **Vindobona Vereins-Nachrichten**

**1/2024:** Society matters; Article translated from LondonPhilatelist Volume 132 May 2023 Number 1505 on the stamp-encrusted dress made by someone at the time of the coronation of King George VI in 1937; 1850 cancels part 4; Grossschenk; Begleitschein für Expressbriefe; Ganzsachen BosnienHerzegowina, Teil 1; Verrechnungsbögen und Zustellkarten.

## **ArGe Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn Rundbrief**

**151:** New home page at [www.arge-feldpost-oesterreich.at](http://www.arge-feldpost-oesterreich.at); meetings etc; Q & A; Gerrit Matthijssen's 'August 1914' taken over by Helmut Kobelbauer; the Marine court and prison in Pola; the volunteer troops on the Italian frontier in WWI (18pp); The Committee of Serbian Women (15pp); fieldpost in Greece; cultural activities of POWs; and many shorter but equally interesting articles.

## **Stamps of Hungary**

**Nr. 236 March 2024:** The Zagyvapálfalva Postmaster Provisionals: Recent discoveries and updates; The humble receipt, Part 4 – The new currency; Questions and Answers; etc etc.

**Nr 237 June 2024:** Five-word greetings cards; The story of the 'lucky number' hungarian lottery advertising 1897-1950; The humble receipt, part 5 The átadó-vevény. Etc etc

## **Czechout**

**Vol 42/1: March 2024:** The French and Italian Military Mission in Těšínsko; Unknown Postmark of Hungarian TPO 1939; The Muses of Max Švabinský: Part four – Zuzana and Bright Memories; The History of Czechoslovakia 1918–1992; etc etc

## **Wiener Ganzsachen- Frei & Poststempel-Sammlervereine in Zusammenarbeit mit der Tauschvereinigung für Postwertzeichen in Wien**

**Spring 2024:** Obmannly greetings; Feuerwerksanstalt (yes, that one) from 1936; metermarks at Anschluß-time.

## Auction 154 - realisations

LOT	HAMMER	LOT	HAMMER	LOT	HAMMER	LOT	HAMMER
No.	PRICE	No.	PRICE	No.	PRICE	No.	PRICE
104	10	179	20	260	10	346	3
106	30	180	60	261	8	347	8
107	30	183	20	262	8	349	5
108	30	184	5	264	20	351	9
109	15	185	10	265	3	352	3
110	25	187	3	268	20	353	3
112	5	188	25	270	3	354	6
113	20	189	3	271	10	356	3
115	400	196	4	273	2	359	5
120	12	197	50	274	3	361	11
128	12	198	15	275	5	363	5
131	5	200	4	276	7	364	3
132	3	201	9	277	9	369	8
134	12	202	6	278	6	373	3
136	6	204	4	279	5	378	8
137	15	206	12	282	20	379	6
138	15	207	3	284	10	380	3
139	50	208	8	285	8	384	4
140	4	209	4	287A	820	385	6
141	11	212	4	287B	110	387	4
142	4	213	6	288	15	390	3
143	15	214	8	289	10	391	8
144	4	215	5	291	40	392	5
145	3	217	7	292	4	393	4
148	6	218	4	293	10	394	4
150	20	219	4	294	8	403	3
152	3	220	3	295	11	413	10
154	3	221	8	298	8	415	13
155	5	222	9	301	8	423	12
156	7	224	5	302	10	424	5
157	5	226	11	303	8	433	30
159	40	228	3	307	20	448	3
160	45	229	5	309	12	463	20
161	20	231	5	310	9	465	20
162	40	232	15	313	12	467	25
164	45	235	4	314	10	468	60
165	5	238	3	315	10	469	9
166	40	239	6	316	10	470	5
167	20	243	9	317	4	474	160
168	20	244	8	326	5	475	75
169	90	245	7	327	5	484	140
170	40	246	8	328	5	485	35
172	20	248	5	329	20		
173	50	253	35	330	45		
174	40	254	45	332	7		
175	20	255	40	337	45		
176	30	256	5	339	5		
177	45	258	35	340	9		
178	60	259	9	342	9		

## Auction 155 - realisations

Lot	Hammer	Lot	Hammer	Lot	Hammer	Lot	Hammer
500	90	600	20	700	9	100	20
501	40	601	20	709	5	101	5
502	90	602	5	711	3	111	6
503	90	603	13	712	4	124	65
504	5	604	13	714	5	129	15
505	15	605	10	715	10	130	7
508	11	606	8	716	60	163	12
509	7	607	11	718	3	171	3
514	35	609	13	722	6	181	3
516	15	610	11	723	6	186	3
518	10	611	14	724	4	191	4
519	8	612	11	725	3	192	3
520	11	614	5	726	3	193	4
521	25	615	13	727	5	194	6
522	15	617	3	728	3	195	6
523	3	619	15	729	3	199	11
524	6	623	10	730	3	225	6
527	25	624	15	731	5	263	5
528	3	629	8	732	3	267	8
531	12	631	7	733	3	280	3
532	10	632	7	734	3	281	8
533	13	633	5	735	8	283	6
535	20	635	12	737	5	290	4
536	10	638	7	738	3	296	3
540	3	641	5	739	3	312	9
543	10	<b>659</b>	<b>2230</b>	741	3	323	4
546	30	663	13	742	3	331	3
551	6	664	50	744	20	355	3
552	3	665	4	745	25	362	3
553	10	666	25	752	15	365	3
554	10	667	20	758	11	377	3
563	5	668	3	759	6	383	3
564	5	670	4	760	6	389	4
565	7	678	5	761	14	397	13
577	12	679	5	762	10	399	3
584	10	680	40	763	14	404	5
585	20	689	3	767	15	414	3
586	60	691	3	768	15	416	4
587	8	694	10	769	9	418	8
588	20			771	5	425	6
589	5			773	11	428	5
590	13			774	12	429	5
591	11			775	40	434	3
592	13			777	3	435	3
593	5					438	3
594	3					453	9
597	20					458	12
598	11					459	6
599	11					464	11

~~~Lots not listed above were unsold~~~