

A selection of the items discussed in this issue

AUSTRIA 228 – Autumn 2024 – Contents:

Page	Contents
1	Officer's observations
1	The APS bookshop
2	Notes from other journals
3	Europhilex at Birmingham, May 2025
4	2024 new issues
7	Joint Society Meeting, Leeds, 10 August 2024
8	WIPA 1933
14	Vienna's 'Liberation From The Turks Celebration' of 1933
19	APS-CPSGB weekend, York, July 2024
29	The Belvedere's First Philatelic Appearance
31	Realisations for Auction 156
32	The Post, Newspapers, and Black Marketing.
34	The Money Letter and The Curious Case of 'Laut Angabe'

Edited by Hiroyuki Yamagata

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

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

We offer various items to buy. Order from the Editor and pay him, and he will arrange for whoever holds the stock to send it to you.

The Society's web site on <http://www.austrianphilately.com> is regularly updated and enhanced. A major update and modernisation is in hand.

Meanwhile, most of its contents - and the current Auction - are available at <http://www.kitzbuhel.co.uk/index.htm>

AUSTRIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY HONORARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Andy Taylor (Tel 01642 71 15 59)	president@austrianphilately.com
TREASURER	10 Eastfields, Stokesley, North Yorkshire, TS9 5EJ	treasurer@austrianphilately.com
EDITOR	Hiroyuki Yamagata 3-16-8 Ishigami, Apartment 203, Niiza City, Saitama Prefecture, 3520033, Japan	hiroyuki.yamagata.japan@gmail.com (editor@austrianphilately.com)
CHAIRMAN		
PUBLICITY OFFICER		
SECRETARY		Tel 01946 693707
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Nick Coverdale 38 Hillcrest Avenue, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 6ST	secretary@austrianphilately.com membership@austrianphilately.com
PACKET SECRETARY	Barry Clark. 65 Annandale Road, Kirk Ella, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU10 7UR	Tel 01482 653 789 clark65@clark65.karoo.co.uk
JOINT AUCTIONEERS	Keith Brandon. Cartoft Manor, Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire, YO62 6NU	Tel 01751 430248 duntrading@aol.com
	Ken Dyke 38 Bristol Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 4LP	somerset55@gmail.com

AIDE MEMOIRE

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

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

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

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

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

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

WAYS OF PAYING: If paying by cheque, please send sterling cheques payable to 'APS' and drawn on a UK bank.. You can pay by bank transfer: email the Treasurer for details. Finally, we have a Paypal account: use andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk as the account identifier. Please pay so that we receive the requested amount in pounds sterling, and state "who from and what for".

OFFICER'S OBSERVATIONS

The old traditions shall be continued! My first-ever King Charles III adhesive arrived with a blue-green magic marker cancellation - a modern take on the traditional biro scrawl, and applied to a stamp with a barcode intended to prevent reuse. I'm sure the Austrian Post Office would never perpetrate such lèse-majesté ☺



We regret to announce that member John Colton died at the end of May. John lived in Rotherham and was a fairly recent member, joining in 2019. He used to attend the joint APS/CPSGB meetings held in January in York.

At the moment of writing, the new APS web site is well under way, but not yet ready to release to the public. Note that there is still an auction on Austrianphilately-dot-com, but it's the one for Saturday 16 September 2023. The temporary site on kitzbuhel dot co dot uk is just-about-managing.

When the new web site is fully working, many of its features will be available only to APS members who will need a password. This will be emailed to every member whose addy we know, so it would do no harm to send an email to the membership secretary (secretary @ austrianphilately dot com) confirming your email address and granting us permission to use it.

Notice: Joint Societies Meeting, Saturday January 18th, 2025, at 13:30 upstairs at York Fair.

We say Auf Wiedersehn to Barry Horne, who has reluctantly decided not to renew his membership because of increasing medical difficulties. Based on his membership number, Barry would be our third longest-standing member at present (only Henry Pollak and Geoff Frost having a lower number). However, a lesson for all trawlers-in-documents: further research revealed Barry's application form and that his father was a member in 1971; Barry took over the membership and the number in 1973.

THE APS BOOKSTALL

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

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.

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

Quiz corner!

In this pre-1920 photograph that Otto T. sent me, what are these small children doing?



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

6/2024: Franz Kafka (1883-1924); 1100th birthday of Saint Wolfgang; F A Maulbertsch the fresco painter; towards the Paris Olympics; new issues; Crypto-stamps, the first 5 years; 150 years of the UPU; philately on the Internet (part iv); society news; list of exhibitions and shows at all levels; etc.

7-8/2024: Philatelic anniversaries at Gmunden and VÖPh-HQ; Paris Olympics (part ii); 150 years of the UPU (part ii); 7 new issues and many special products; Q3's Dispenser Marken motives; a bumper bundle of special post offices etc; society news including from BSV Favoriten; list of exhibitions and shows at all levels; etc.

Germania

Vol 60 nr 2 2024: Member support for events flagging; Hails and farewells; German machine meter marks, Part 6; Six stamp-issuing administrations in 1949; The Deutsches Krieger-Kurhaus (German war veterans' clinic) in Davos-Dorf, Switzerland; The Association for Germans Abroad 1908 to 1933; Supply of used Post Office postal stationery wrappers of Germany & post offices abroad; Special stamps to have a more limited distribution; overnight inland airmail flights to cease (*instead, road transport - wot no trains? Ed*); how to identify forgeries of current postage stamps; about the coupon on the left of a parcel card; review of new Soecknick book on the 1945 Vienna and Graz issues of Austria; new issues; etc.

Vol 60 nr 3 2024: Society news; German international return-to-sender labels part 3: After World War II; German machine meter marks, Part 7; *Why* do you collect? (rather than *what?*); reports from the regions; etc etc.

Vindobona Vereins-Nachrichten

2/2024: Henry O. Pollak, APS member 272 (the lowest still with us) and Honorary Life Member, has now been awarded Honorary Life Membership of Vindobona at a ceremony in Vienna on 6 June. As a renowned mathematician, Henry will relish that '272' can be expressed as the sum of four consecutive prime numbers: 61, 67, 71, and 73.

Reminder: many of their issues are available at <https://www.vindobona.club/vindobona-nachrichten-2/>

ArGe Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn Rundbrief

152 (2024/2): handbook for Military Courier service in 1917 (15pp); the Serbian-Montenegrin Offensive in East Bosnia in 1914 (12pp); St Barbara and the Artillery (6pp); cultural activities of POWs; and many other equally interesting articles.

Stamps of Hungary

Nr. 237 June 2024: Five-word greetings cards; Hungarian lottery advertising 1897-1950; The humble receipt, part 5 – the átadó-vevény; etc etc

Nr. 238 September 2024: Editor's corner, Membership news, Auction News; Mail coach or train? Three nineteenth century army letters; The humble receipt, part 6 – Telegrams; More on sending postcards as 'printed matter'; Q&A; etc etc

Czechout

Vol 42/2: June 2024: A Postcard written by Josef Rössler-Ořovský; Sokol; Corrections in the Hradčany 'abstract design'; Czechoslovak stamps at the Strumień post office; Karel Hujer: postcards from the realm of stars; After Validity Use of Hungarian Stamps and Postal Stationery in Czechoslovakia, 1919-1920; illustrated reports of meetings; etc etc.

Nachrichtenblatt BSV Favoriten

150 years since Bezirk X was created in 1873; the 'Yellow Label' priority sticker - interesting in theory, PITA in reality; when is a (Crypto)stamp not a Stamp?; senior members' divisible-by-5 birthdays; Numismatics; all about tracking tracing and labelling; Special Post Office on 27 September; etc.

EuroPhilEx.Birmingham.2025

Britain's next major international stamp exhibition

Wednesday 7 – Sunday 11 May 2025

Hall 9, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham B40

1NT

10am-6pm Wednesday to Saturday and 10am-4pm Sunday

2,000 frames of exhibits and over 50 dealers

FREE SOUVENIR SHEETS FOR ALL

Restaurant and bar. Plenty of seating in the exhibition hall. Court of Honour including the famous 1856 British Guiana 1 cent magenta, courtesy of Stanley Gibbons Society meetings every day. Meeting rooms available from £100. Society Showcase Day Thurs 8 May Philatelic Congress of GB on Saturday 10 May. Cavendish Philatelic Auction on Sunday 11 May

EVERYONE WELCOME

£10 admission on first day,

FREE ADMISSION all other days

More information and discount hotel deal on EuroPhilEx website

www.europhillex2025.co.uk Tel: 01279 870488

The Empire Strikes Back

The Europhillex International Exhibition is to be held in Birmingham from 7 to 11 May 2025. We 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; so is entry to the Exhibition on all days except the first.

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.

2024 NEW ISSUES

By Zöld Veltelini

The information given here is face value ('c' is Euro-cents); issue date (dd.mm.yyyy); designer; engraver if any; printing method; printer; quantity printed; 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.

EUROPA 2024 - Grüner See. 1Eu20; 4.5.2024; Marion Füllerer; offset; Enschedé; 200,000. "Underwater fauna and flora" is this year's theme of the EUROPA stamps, which have been issued by European postal companies since 1956 as a unifying symbol of integration and cooperation within Europe. The Green Lake in the Styrian municipality of Tragöb - Sankt Katharein impresses with its emerald green colour. The photo was taken by Heinz Toperczer, diver and underwater photographer, who became famous for his photo of a diver in the mouth of a whale. The Green Lake is a karst lake and is a protected area. When the snow melts, it fills with ice-cold, clear water and reaches a depth of up to eleven meters in early summer, depending on the amount of precipitation in winter. Meadows, benches, hiking trails and footbridges disappear into the lake, but can still be seen under the water surface. Over the course of the year, the water level drops again, and by winter the lake can even dry up completely.



150 Jahre Wiener Trabrenn-Verein. 3Eu50; 4.5.2024; David Gruber; offset; bpost Stamps Printing; 320,000. The traditional Viennese trotting club has been organizing trotting races and horse breeding exhibitions for 150 years. The club was founded in 1874, shortly after the international horse exhibition in the Prater as part of the Vienna World Exhibition of 1873. The first president of the trotting club was Count Kálmán Hunyady, and a memorial race is held every year in his honour. The trotting races initially took place on the main avenue in the Prater, and it was not until 1878 that the Krieau trotting track with sand surface and a length of 1,000 meters was built next to the rotunda on the former World Exhibition site in the Prater. The striking judge's tower dates from 1919 and, like the grandstands, the administration block, and the stables, is a listed building. The trotting club is the largest organizer of horse racing in Austria; around 200 races are held on more than twenty race days a year.



Pinzgauer Local railway in the Railways series. 1Eu50; 9.5.2024; Peter Sinaweil; Combination printing; Enschedé; 230,000. The Pinzgauer Lokalbahn, also known as the Krimml Railway, was built in 760mm "Bosnian" gauge and opened in 1898. It connects Zell am See with Krimml over a 53-kilometer-long route. It is operated by Salzburg Linien Verkehrsbetriebe GmbH. Due to severe flood damage to the railway line running along the Salzach Valley, a rail replacement service with buses has been running on part of the route since 2021. From 2025, after extensive renovation work, the entire route is to be accessible by rail again. Historic passenger cars and locomotives are also in use on the railway line, such as the steam locomotives Mh.3 (Ds 3) from 1906 and JZ 73-019 (Ds 9) from 1913; and as shown on the stamp nostalgic diesel locomotives of the 2095 series from 1958 and 1961. Sights in the area include the Hohe Tauern National Park and the Krimml Waterfalls. (Well worth a visit, but wear stout footwear.)



100 years of Avis BGV-I. 3Eu; 17.5.2024; Anita Kern; offset; bpost Stamps Printing; 230,000 blocks of 1. In 1924, Avis Flugzeug- und Autowerke GmbH in Brunn am Gebirge began operations as the first aircraft factory in the Republic of Austria. In the same year, Avis produced the first large aircraft made in Austria, the BGV-I (A-11), in addition to training and sports aircraft such as the BS-I (A-10) and a cabin aircraft BV-I (A-12). The BGV-I biplane was the first three-engine aircraft in the German-speaking world and is still the most popular aircraft today: the only one of its kind built in Austria. It had a wingspan of 20 meters and offered space for up to 10 passengers. A fuselage engine with 230 hp from the company and two 100 hp

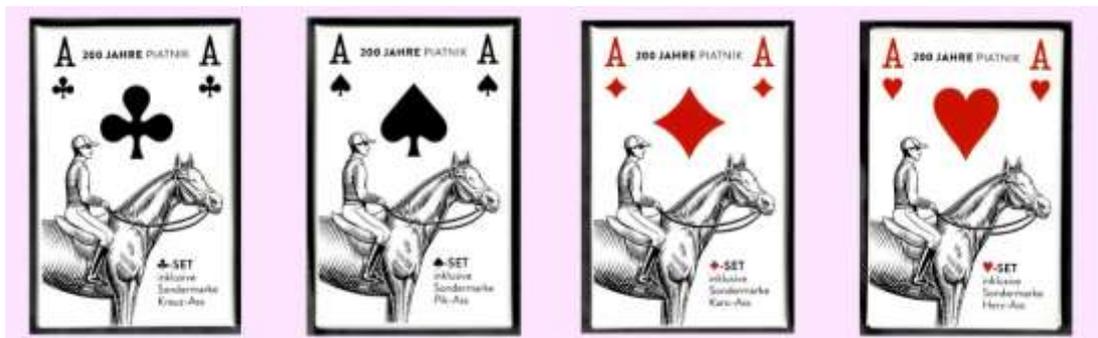


Mercedes engines on the wings ensured flight safety and a top speed of over 170km/h. However, the BGV-I was never used as a scheduled aircraft. Avis planned to set up international airlines from its main airport in Vienna-Aspern, but had to withdraw from aviation in 1928.

200 years of Piatnik. 4Eu50; 23.5.2024; Marion Füllerer; offset; Variuscard; 110,000 (DieBriefmarke) or 70,000 (OPost) in blocks of 1. In 1843, Ferdinand Piatnik took over a Viennese map painting business that was founded in 1824. The company is still known today as the “Wiener Spielkartenfabrik Ferd. Piatnik & Söhne” and was run by the Piatnik family. After WWII, they began to produce board games and puzzles in addition to playing cards. Piatnik is now the largest games publisher in Austria; their unmistakable company logo shows a jockey on a horse. The stamp blocks in the format and design of playing cards are a particularly innovative edition to mark the Piatnik company's 200th anniversary. There are four different stamps; each is the Ace in the four suits of hearts, diamonds, spades and clubs. The actual stamp has a face value of 4Eu50 and can be removed from the playing card for postage. With their classic Piatnik design, the stamp blocks not only look like playing cards, they can also be used as such, because each block is part of a set with the four other playing cards of the same colour, i.e. king, queen, jack and 10. In these a removable vignette is integrated into the additional playing cards, which is designed like the special postage stamp but is not valid for postage. The sets in all four colours create a complete deck of twenty playing cards for Schnapsen (Snap). The backs of the cards are covered in Post Office Posthorns! Here are the five club cards:



Each special stamp block is only available in a set with the other playing cards of the same colour. Subscribers received all four special stamps, i.e. Ace of Hearts, Ace of Diamonds, Ace of Spades and Ace of Clubs - and an unexpected “promotional pack”, in my case the aceless Hearts set.



The four outers of the packs of cards.



The promotional pack (there’s no Ace!) and its yellow cover.

See also <https://www.habsburger.net/en/chapter/playing-cards-habsburgs>

1100th birthday of Saint Wolfgang, in the series “Sacred Art in Austria”. 1Eu20; 14.06.2024; Kirsten Lubach; Enschedé; offset printing; 200,000. Saint Wolfgang is particularly revered in the Salzkammergut. The pilgrimage church of St. Wolfgang was already a place of pilgrimage in the 13th century. Wolfgang of Regensburg was born around 924 in southwestern Germany. He became a teacher, Benedictine monk, priest and finally Bishop of Regensburg. Around 976 he spent some time as a hermit on the Falkenstein (right) above St. Gilgen on Lake Wolfgang. Legend has it that he hurled an axe into the valley from there and built a church where it landed. The pilgrimage church of St. Wolfgang now stands on this spot and is the end point of the pilgrimage route from Regensburg to St. Wolfgang. Saint Wolfgang is depicted with a bishop's



staff and church, and often with an axe. The stamp shows a Gothic statue of the saint from the baroque Schwanthal altar in the church of St. Wolfgang.

Mangaliza pork, in the series Rare livestock breeds. 95c; 21.06.2024; Kirsten Lubach; Enschedé; offset; 370,000. One of the oldest autochthonous pig breeds in Europe is the Mangaliza (or Mangalitsa) pig. The Mangaliza pigs' dense, curly hair is striking. The breed is robust and ideal for extensive outdoor farming all year round. The medium-sized animals graze in oak forests, swampy areas and wasteland and are also used for biological forest soil remediation. From the 1950s onwards, breeds with leaner meat replaced the Mangaliza pigs. Today, the Mangaliza is looked after as a highly endangered livestock breed by ARCHE Austria and bred in a conservation breeding program. Mangaliza pigs come in three colours: blond, red, and swallow-bellied, while the piglets are striped. The high-quality, tender and rather dark Mangaliza meat is mainly used to make sausages, bacon and lard products. The colour is an elusive light-flesh and doesn't scan and reproduce well.



Traditions, in the Beautiful Austria series. 6Eu65; 21.06.2024; Roland Vorlauffer; Enschedé; Offset; 120,000



stamps in blocks of 4. Four motifs of typical Austrian culture and local customs adorn this stamp block from the series “Beautiful Austria”. These include the annual Narcissus Festival in Ausseerland, the largest flower festival in Austria, with its elaborately formed figures made from star daffodils. ‘Sturm’ is a traditional local autumn drink: red



Grinzing, 1998 - were you there?

or white grape must that has only just begun to ferment. [Tourists beware: it's much stronger than you think!] The third stamp shows a cup of coffee and a cake with whipped cream, as they are typically served in a coffee house, while the fourth shows a button accordion, which is a characteristic instrument in Alpine folk music and also in Viennese Schrammel music. These stamps on the theme of traditions were previously issued as dispenser stamps, and have retained that format.

950 years of Admont Abbey. 1Eu90; 27.06.2024; Kirsten Lubach; bpost Stamps Printing; offset; 150,000.



Admont Abbey is the oldest existing monastery in Styria - it was consecrated on September 29, 1074. In the 17th century, the abbey high school was founded and the monastery complex was redesigned in the Baroque style. In 1776, the magnificent abbey library with the world's largest monastic library was completed. It houses around 200,000 valuable works, including around 1,400 manuscripts and 1,000 early prints. The abbey church, built in neo-Gothic style in 1865 after a monastery fire, is dedicated to Saint Blaise. The Benedictine monks of Admont Abbey, which is located at the entrance to the Gesäuse National Park, look after 26

affiliated parishes and are active in pastoral care or as teachers at the abbey high school. The monastery also houses the Art and Natural History Museum, the Gothic Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

JOINT CENTRAL EUROPEAN SOCIETIES MEETING, LEEDS, 10 AUGUST 2024

Reported by Roger Morrell

Once again members of the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Yugoslav and the former Polish Societies met at the Brown Cow in Whitkirk, Leeds for a day's show and tell on things central European, organised by Yvonne and Richard Wheatley. Once again there was an eclectic mix of material in a total of 22 short displays by 11 of the participants over seven rounds, four before a buffet lunch and three afterwards, closing with tea and cake. As always, a wide range of subjects were presented, as follows:

Cliff Jermyn-Francis	Polish army in France, 1939.
Nick Coverdale	Parcel cards of NDH Croatia – working out the rates.
Roger Morrell	Telegram sending receipts from Austria and Hungary.
Yvonne Wheatley	Czechoslovak printed matter and newspaper stamps, including provisional labels during early stamp shortages.
Joyce Boyer	Kinderballoon mail of Austria.
Roger Morrell	Sending cash through the Austro-Hungarian post, trying to interpret Empress Maria Theresia's rule of 1776.
Martin Brumby	Austrian bills-of-exchange with examples of design and tax rates from 1818 onwards, each with Austrian revenue stamps or imprints.
Alan Berrisford	Czechoslovak TPOs from the 1920s and 1930s.
Richard Jagielski	Stamp issues of twenty years of independent Poland, 1919-1939, including his great grandfather's <i>Krzyż Walecznych</i> (Cross of Valour) for his role in the Polish-Soviet war of 1918-1920.
Reg Hounsell	Czech and Slovak POW mail from camps in Russia.
Andy Taylor	Curiosities of the Austrian post – playing card stamps and other recent money-raising ploys
Nick Coverdale	Definitive stamp issues of unified Yugoslavia from 1921 to 1939.
Keith Brandon	Pre-stamp postmarks of Prague – a wide variety of styles from their introduction in the 1780s to the start of postage stamp use.
Richard Jagielski	Polish regional issues 1918-1920 with German and Austrian overprinted stamps.
Andy Taylor	Austrian mixed frankings due to currency changes – mixed stamp issues on covers up to odd sticky labels for the current era.
Alan Berrisford	Austrian Court Delivery Stamps used on courier delivered court documents in Galicia and Bukovina provinces to speed delivery of court summons <i>etc.</i>
Joyce Boyer	The 1976 Innsbruck Winter Olympics – covers and cards from the development of the facilities as a short-notice replacement for Denver's backing out.
Roger Morrell	Revolutionary overprints of Czechslovakia 1918 following declaration of independence.
Marrtin Brumby	Hungarian bills-of-exchange with examples of design and tax rates from 1818 onwards, with Hungarian revenues.
Reg Hounsell	Slovak military mail 1934-45, including its involvement with the German army in Carpatho-ukraine.
Andy Taylor	David Bravery's Empire break-up display with cards and maps.
Alan Berrisford	The 1923 Copernicus issue of Poland with variations in sheet printing size and perforation type.

In all it was a philatelic mind-broadening experience, as usual, and long may this series continue. Many thanks to Yvonne and Richard for organising the meeting which all went very smoothly. Looking forward to next year!

WIPA 1933



This article shows some of the imprinted postcards produced for the WIPA exhibition held in Vienna in 1933. They come from the large collection of **Josef Schmidt** in Vienna, and we are grateful to him for letting us use them.

We also thank **Steve Schweighofer** for sending us 233 pages describing his WIPA collection. I have used Steve's words (with his permission) to explain the illustrations.

Postcards were produced using the same designs as the transportation labels but with the added inscriptions for the different events and dates during the show. The inscriptions were in French except for the events which had to do with German-speaking groups (postman on horseback, Zeppelin and rocket) and the WIPA name and dates in all three languages (horse-drawn mail coach). The transportation designs were printed only in dark green. The cards were sold by the committee without stamp imprints at 50 Groschen for a set of ten.

The postcards could be imprinted with eight different stamps of two different series, applied on the following days: *Landscape* regular issue stamps 24 June & 2 July, 50 Groschen blue 25 June & 3 July, 24 Groschen violet 27

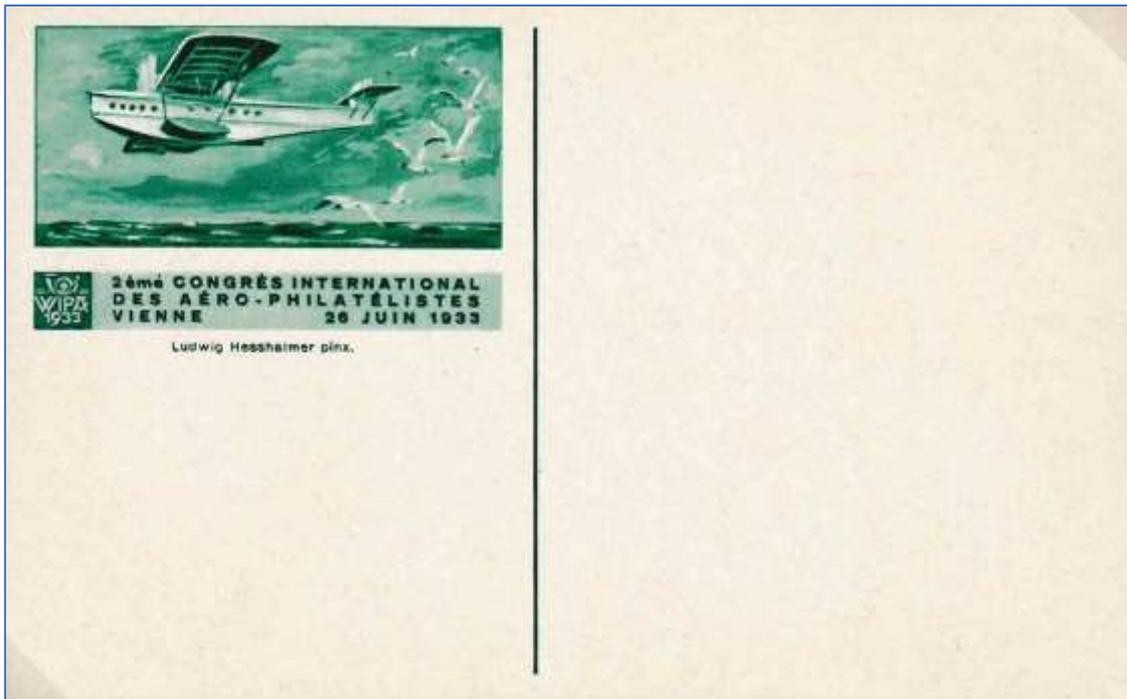
June & 5 July, 30 Groschen carmine 29 June & 7 July, 12 Groschen bluish green. *Pilot's Head* airmail stamps 26 June & 4 July, 15 Groschen lilac 28 June & 6 July, 10 Groschen orange 30 June & 8 July, 50 Groschen grey 1 July & 9 July, 30 Groschen olive. This chart perhaps shows the dates better:

Date	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Landscape	50g	24g		30g		12g			50g	24g		30g		12g		
Pilot			15g		10g		50g	30g			15g		10g		50g	30g

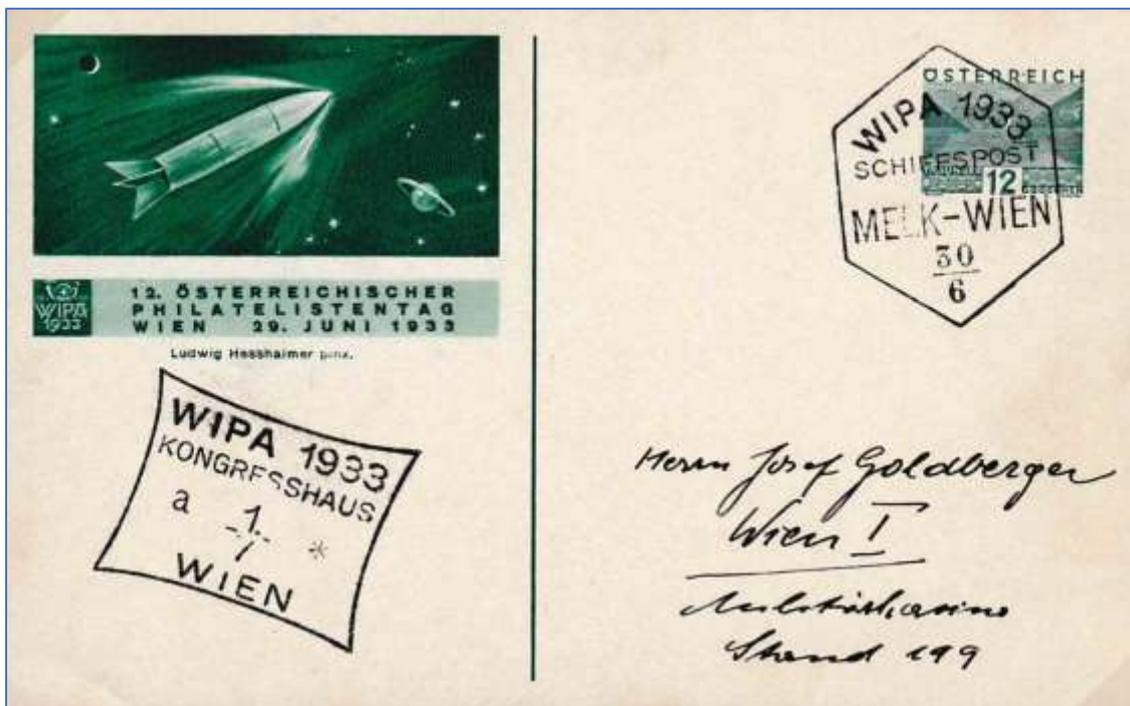
These have been found in virtually all possible combinations of up to normally three imprints. The placement of the imprinted stamp varies but is usually as follows: a single is in the upper right; a pair is either vertically or horizontally situated; and three imprints are arranged in an inverted-“L” formation. All were printed at the exhibition in full view of the visitors. The total possible imprints and combinations is 584 for each of the ten designs. The numbers of each item were not recorded, but the total number of impressions was 32,142, an average of just over 5.5 for each possible combination.



(Top half of) blank card as sold. German caption.



Blank card as sold; French caption



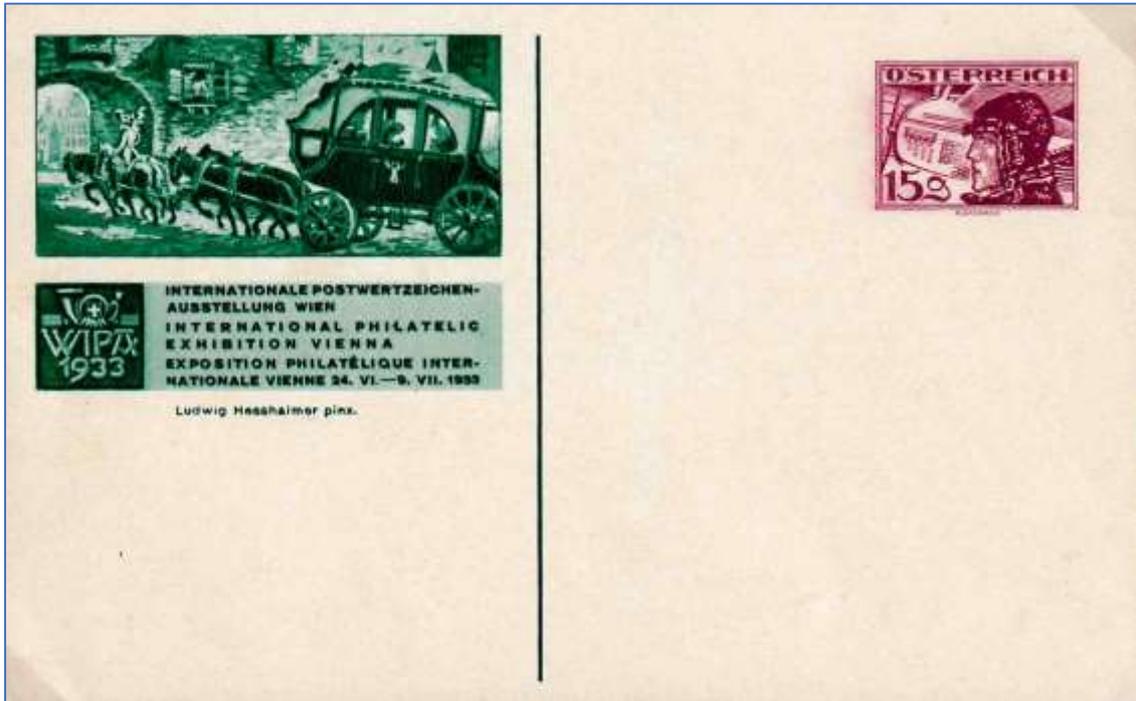
Exhibition cachet for Kongresshaus and ship-mail cancel, probably for mail taken to Melk by train and returned by Danube steamer.



Franked with 12g imprint (the inland postcard rate) and 15g Nibelung (the +5 is a charity surcharge); also a Hesshaimer label. Special cancels from Secession and Kongresshaus. Never posted.



24g violet imprint done on 27/6; card posted 3/7 with added 12g making total 36g. Inland card rate = 12, inland express surcharge = 30g, total 42g - so it's 6g underfranked. Could it be printed matter? PM rate was 5gro for 50 gram, says Michel, so it would need 5 + 30 = 35 and carries 36. However, a certain amount of latitude was applied to items franked and posted at the exhibition ☺



3-language caption. The coach looks too tall for the archway!



Airmail to France. Surface post for card = 30. Kohl lists flights from Vienna to Basle at a surcharge of 20gro. So it needs 50gro; and has 5+15+40+5=65. Illustration is an open charabanc descending from the Großglockner into Heiligenblut ... even in July it can snow up there and close the road!



Interesting example of a less-usual set of imprints!



Presumably sent to Graz. Inland card rate = 12g plus air surcharge of 10g = 22g.
 Franked 2+10+10=22.



Address erased, but readable as Pilsen, as on bottom left cancel. Surface card = 30g plus air surcharge of 20g = 50g. Franked 25+10+10=45g. Stamps cancelled 6 July 1933 but flight cancels are the following day. Arrival cancel PRAHA LETIŠTĚ ?? (ie Prague Airport) at 11am.



Surface rate 30g plus air surcharge of 30g = 60g; franked 10+50=60g

VIENNA'S 'LIBERATION FROM THE TURKS CELEBRATION' OF 1933

by Ingrid Kuzych

After spending countless hours researching and composing the lengthy two-part article on “The 1683 Second Siege of Vienna” that appeared in *Austria* last year, I acquired Lot 680 of the recent APS Auction 155 with mixed feelings: happy to find and obtain more Siege-related material, yet perturbed that there *was* still more Siege-related material that I had not known about. I had tried to make last year’s submission as comprehensive as possible. I should have known, rarely is any philatelic report or exhibit truly “complete.”

The focus of this short submission, then, is to describe some Austrian commemorative cancellations and postcards marking the 250th Anniversary (semiquincentennial) of the “Liberation from the Turks Celebration” in 1933.

Last year’s *Austria* article provided details on the 1933 six-stamp Siege of Vienna Issue released on 6 September of that year in conjunction with the 9th Pan-German Catholic Congress (7-12 September 1933). A special cancellation issued in combination with the event – “ALLGEMEINER DEUTSCHER KATHOLIKENTAG IN WIEN” (Pan-German Catholic Day in Vienna); *Scholz Catalog* No. 86 – was used over the six days of the Congress, i.e., 7-12 September. The special cancel was especially widely utilized on the 12th of September, the exact 250th Relief of Vienna Anniversary date (Figure 1).

This much was reported on in last year’s “Second Siege of Vienna” article. However, I must now inform on two more special Siege-related cancellations: one in use for two days, the other just for one day.

As part of the Austrian 250th Anniversary of the Relief of Vienna commemoration, a two-day special post office was set up on the Kahlenberg – the tall hill outside of Vienna and the site of the 1683 Relief battle – on Monday and Tuesday the 11th and 12th of September 1933 for a King Sobieski Celebration and Fair. [Polish King Jan III Sobieski was the leader of the allied Christian coalition that defeated the Turks at the Battle of Vienna (sometimes also referred to as the Battle at the Kahlenberg; consult Reference No. 1 for more details).] Of course, a special cancel was created for the event: “TÜRKENBEFREIUNGSFEIER 1683 - 1933, WIEN” (Liberation From the Turks Celebration 1683 -1933); *Scholz* No. 87 – with only the date indications adjusted (Figure 2).

The *Scholz Catalog* presents a spectacular registered airmail cover, mailed from Vienna to Rome and back, displaying the special cancel (12 September) and the entire Relief of Vienna stamp set (Figure 3). The cover was dispatched abroad the day after the fair (13.IX.33 FLUGPOST cancel) and has several Italian arrival cancels on the reverse as well as a Vienna return arrival cancel of 24.IX.33. The 220 groschen franking on the cover exactly paid the 40 groschen discounted foreign letter fee + the 70 groschen foreign registered letter fee + 80 groschen foreign expedited (express) fee + 30 groschen Italian letter flight surcharge.

A variety of special postcards were prepared for the two-day fest at the Kahlenberg. Additionally, many special red commemorative markings (some in Polish) were also provided by the temporary post office. Figure 4, adapted from the *Scholz Catalog*, shows some of these red cancels on the back of a postcard.

Figures 5 to 7 present three postcards available at the Kahlenberg Fair. Figure 5, entitled “To the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Relief of Vienna From the Turkish Siege 1683 – 1933”, shows two scenes from the historic event: a fanciful painting of the battle by Jan Wyk (1640-1702) on the right, and on the left a detail from a painting showing Sobieski sending a message of victory to the pope. The postcard in Figure 6 displays a larger version of the Jan Wyk painting.

Figure 7 is a full-color postcard prepared by a religious organization. Its reverse inscription reads: Für Reichsbund, Kirchenbau, und Jugendseelsorge (For the Reichsbund, church building, and youth ministry). The paragraph on the obverse of the card translates as follows: “It has been 250 years since the Turkish storm broke at the walls of Vienna in an inspiring collaboration between the Church and the Christian peoples – and the Austrian state and its culture were saved. It is more than reasonable, at a time when a new storm threatens from the East, to remember this event and the forces that created it.”

On Sunday 17 September 1933, a Liberation From the Turks fete was held in the Viennese suburb of Schwechat. The temporary post office at this site flaunted a distinctive two-part cancellation of an octagonal “1683-1933 TÜRKEN-BEFREIUNGSFEIER SCHWECHAT” (1683-1933 Liberation From the Turks Celebration Schwechat) label and a bridged circular date stamp; *Scholz* No. 88 (Figure 8). Schwechat was the site of a meeting

on 15 September 1683 (three days after the historic liberation battle) between two of Europe's preeminent rulers of the time: Polish King Jan III Sobieski and Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I, whose capital city had been saved.

Figure 9 shows another outstanding registered airmail cover from the *Scholz Catalog* – this time with three Schwechat 'Liberation' cancels – flown from Vienna to Zurich on the day after the Schwechat event (18 September 1933). The mailing is slightly overfranked with 154 groschen worth of stamps to pay the 50 groschen foreign letter rate + the 70 groschen foreign registration fee + the 30 groschen air surcharge to Switzerland.

References

1. Kuzych, Ingert. "The Second Siege of Vienna in 1683: Postal History and Philately." *Austria* No. 224 (Autumn 2023): 18-37 and No. 225 (Winter 2023): 5-26.
2. Scholz, Hans-Dieter. *Bebildeter Katalog der Gelegenheits- und Sonderpostämter in Österreich ab 1864 bis 1944*. Vienna: Buchdruckerei Ernst Becvar, 2012.
3. Wurth, Rudiger. *Sonderpostämter in Österreich*. Vienna: Margarethe Thurner Verlag, 1979.

Picture Gallery



Figure 1. A 12 September 1933 registered letter sent from Vienna to Long Island City in the U.S. state of New York displays all six stamps of the Austrian Relief of Vienna set and the "Pan-German Catholic Day in Vienna" cancellation.



Figure 2. The two “Liberation From the Turks Celebration” cancellations used at the Kahlenberg Fair differ simply in their dates.



Figure 3. This outstanding letter bearing Relief of Vienna stamps and the special “Liberation From the Turks” cancellation made an aerial Vienna-Rome-Vienna round trip over a 12-day period.

Figure 4. The reverse of a postcard showing three special red commemorative cancels – one of which highlights a cinderella stamp of King Jan III Sobieski.





Figures 5 to 7 present three postcards available at the Kahlenberg Fair. Figure 5, entitled “To the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Relief of Vienna From the Turkish Siege 1683 – 1933”, shows two scenes from the historic event: a fanciful painting of the battle by Jan Wyk (1640-1702) on the right, and on the left a detail from a painting showing Sobieski sending a message of victory to the pope.

The postcard in Figure 6 displays a larger version of the Jan Wyk painting.



Figure 7 is a full-colour postcard prepared by a religious organization. Its reverse inscription reads: Für Reichsbund, Kirchenbau, und Jugendseelsorge (For the Reichsbund, church building, and youth ministry).





Figure 8. The two-part special Schwechat cancellation was in use for only a single day.



Figure 9. The special post-Schwechat celebration airmail cover Vienna-to-Zurich displays multiple clear cancellations.

SOCIETY RESIDENTIAL IN YORK ¹

In a joint venture with the Austrian Philatelic Society, a total of 22 members gathered at the Pavilion Hotel in York from 19 to 21 July 2024 for a residential weekend that coincided with the York Stamp and Coin Fair. Set in attractive grounds, the hotel was originally a 17th century farmhouse, becoming an elegant Georgian home in 1785, and ultimately the property of the York businessman noted, amongst other things, for bringing the Beatles to the city. During the weekend a wealth of philatelic interest was brought to the venue in an action-packed schedule.



Mark Everiss opens proceedings on Friday evening.

Arriving hot-foot from the stamp fair on the Friday afternoon, members and guests enjoyed dinner together in the evening in a private dining room, followed by a special guest speaker – **Mark Everiss**. His presentation on *The Czech Army in Siberia and the Russian Army* was supported by a fabulous collection of material on the so-called Czech Legions. Explaining the background to the subject, however, Mark was adamant that they should really be called the Czech Army – it was the French who had coined the ‘Legion’ label, concerned that ‘Army’ couldn’t be used for a fighting force that didn’t have a nation state to belong to. On size alone (some 45,000 soldiers) they qualified to be called an army.

The isolated nature of their situation, once the Russians had withdrawn from the fighting in 1917, was underlined by the Chelybinsk incident, when two trains, carrying the Czech army and some Austro-Hungarian troops respectively, halted next to one another and the occupants came to blows. Trotsky decreed that the Czech army should be disarmed – but these were hardened troops and instead set off to Vladivostok in a train carrying howitzers, anti-aircraft guns, and even a barrage balloon!

On arrival in Vladivostok, they set up their headquarters in the consulate and, when fighting broke out with the Russians, formed a protectorate. Still there in 1918, they set up a postal service – the ‘stamps’ were really labels to advertise their presence there. The first set of stamps were full of errors and were destroyed before being issued – subsequently, a competition for designs was held – these were produced in strips of five, in different colours (red, blue, green, brown and purple). Initially, they were printed in Irkutsk, and later in Prague. The second issue featured the Lion of Bohemia, and can be found in two types.

In addition to samples of each of the strips of stamps for the first issue, and both kinds and all values of the second, one fascinating exhibit in the collection was a stamp with a ‘fairy kiss’ on the back – a complete reverse impression, caused by a sheet being pulled up towards the following sheet before it had time to dry. There were also examples of patriotic postcards used to advertise the presence of the troops in Russia, together with sample field post cancels.

Finally, Mark had a confession to make – no sooner had he written his response to a query about the USAT *President Grant* for the March edition of *Czechout*, in which he had concluded that this was, indeed, the 35th and final transport bringing the Czech troops back from Vladivostok, than he had come across a commemorative handstamp for the US *Heffron* as the 36th troop ship. If this proved to have been paid for from the central fund of \$12 millions lent by the US to the newly created Czechoslovakia, then that conclusion would need to be amended.



The intriguing ‘fairy kiss’.

¹ This report was prepared by Tony Holdsworth for the CPSGB’s journal *Czechout*. The APS editor is immensely grateful to him for permission to reproduce it.

Saturday morning's schedule began with short presentations by members to introduce literature that they had found useful in their researches. **Roger Morrell** began with *The Story of the Austrian Post up to 1850* by Keith Brandon, Roger Morrell and Andy Taylor (Austrian Philatelic Society). This had begun as a lockdown project in 2022, to mark the 300th anniversary of the nationalization of the Austrian Post. It was harder than expected, largely because the original document setting the arrangements out in 1722 was too fragile to be opened. Eventually, a copy was tracked down in a German library. Then there was the 18th century legal language and the Gothic script to decipher. The book tracks the story of how all of this happened and makes for interesting reading.

Mark Wilson passed around copies of *The Hradčany* by František Kubát, a translation from Monografie Volume 1 (CPSGB Print on Demand), and *Falcon in Flight Newspaper Stamps: A Catalogue of Plate Identifiers* prepared by Vladimír Malovík and Michal Hauzr. Both titles had been translated into English by Mark, and he went on to explain how it all began. Initially, he'd bought a Czech dictionary and grammar and translated the text word by word. Then Google Translate came along, though you need to take account of its lack of philatelic vocabulary – perforations in Czech translates as 'spankings'! Mark prefers the DeepL translation program. Again, you need to be careful – negatives are sometimes ignored, for example, and Czech words often have a multiplicity of meanings, not necessarily related. Whole phrases can be left out, too – in this case it's best to translate line by line rather than in long passages. Overall, however, translation has become a lot easier.

Tony Holdsworth presented two books on Saints Cyril and Methodius – *Cyril and Methodius of Thessalonica – the Acculturation of the Slavs*, by Anthony-Emil N. Tachiaos (ISBN 0-88141-198-1, Published by St Vladimir's Seminary Press, Crestwood, New York 2001) and *1150 vyročie prichodu s. Cyrila a Metoda na velku moravu – Cyrilo-Methodske motivy na postovych znamkach* (various authors, ISBN 987-80-971379-8-4, published by Slovenska posta). He explained that these had been starting points for the article that appears on page 11 of this edition of *Czechout*.

Tony also showed members photocopies of *Autopošty, CSR – protektoratu Č.M. – Slovenska, V letech 1937–1944* by Jiří Horák. This had been sent to him by the Postal Museum in Prague after a visit last year. He is trying slowly (and painfully!) to translate it, but the most useful thing about it so far is the list of dates and places where the Autopošta cancel was applied. An electronic copy can be sent to members if they would find it useful.

Garth Taylor presented three books he had found very helpful with his researches. *A History of the World's Airlines* by R E G Davies (Oxford University Press, 1964) – this is currently available on Amazon at £160. It had helped Garth with routes and rates for the third Czechoslovak airmail issue. *Deutsche Lufthansa South Atlantic Airmail Service 1934–1939* by J. W. Grave and J. Duggan (ISBN 09951411454, Zeppelin Study Group 2000, currently unavailable on Amazon) and *Commercial Zeppelin Flights to South America* by J. Duggan and J. Grave (published in USA 1995, and currently available on Amazon at £100 – Garth's copy was bought from Vera Trinder).

Yvonne Wheatley, by way of a change, had two novels to share. The first was *Munich* by Robert Harris (Arrow Books. Part of Penguin Random House UK, 2017 available from Amazon Paperback £7.75, and on Kindle at £4.99). The novel is set over four days in the context of the Munich Agreement in September 1938. It follows Hugh Legat, a private secretary to Neville Chamberlain, and Paul Hartmann, a German junior diplomat and member of an anti-Hitler group, friends from their student days at Oxford University, to Munich and takes the reader behind the scenes as to what may have happened there.

The second was *HHhH* by Laurent Binet (published by Harvill Secker, 2013, available from Amazon – hardback £24.99, paperback £9.19, and Kindle £3.99). Labelled a novel, it is also a work of non-fiction in that it tells of actual historical events leading up to the Munich Agreement, Operation Anthropoid and the Lidice massacre. It is thoroughly researched in detail, and quotes from reports and other factual documents. Where the author has had to imagine what happened, he puts the text in italics.

Finally, **Roger Morrell** also introduced *Catastrophe: Europe goes to War 1914* by Max Hastings (2014, available from Amazon in hardback at £23.98, paperback at £10.99, and Kindle at £5.99). In 1914 Europe plunged into the Great War – the author seeks to explain both how the conflict came about and what befell millions of men and women during the years and months of strife.



Members listen intently as Mark Wilson guides them through the wealth of resources on the Society website.

After a short refreshment break, **Mark Wilson** walked us through the Society website, pointing out the many revisions and improvements, and showing the rich content available to all with an interest in Czechoslovak philately. He also went through the features of a website that is linked to the CPSGB site – his personal catalogue of all Czechoslovak and Czech stamps. This fantastic resource is explained in detail in his article on page 16 of this edition of *Czechout*.

To add further context, **Andy Taylor** outlined the efforts currently being made to amend and update the website of the Austrian Philatelic Society. This will include a complete back-catalogue of the society's journal, *Austria*, which will be searchable. The site map showed that there would be public areas and members' areas – and some discussion followed on the principle of full openness adopted by CPSGB. The consensus amongst members appeared to be that this was very much the preferred approach.



Bill Dawson's 'missing head' variety – as his write-up points out 'by chance a coloured splotch obliterated the figure's head.'

The next section of the day was devoted to a tribute to the late **Bill Dawson**. As **Yvonne Wheatley** explained, 'every time we have a weekend together, we remember Bill'. His widow had wanted the Society to benefit from his collections – and Yvonne had bought his pages on the Allegories, particularly because of one item in that collection, the 'missing head' variety! Yvonne displayed Bill's original pages, with his particular style of write-up, and with some fascinating material. Along with the missing head, there was a cover noted for a stamp it *didn't* have = a postage due stamp that was removed after a collector had pointed out the mistake to the post office.

Tony Bosworth presented some of Bill's pages on festivals from 1984 to 1991, plus instances where postage dues had been used for ordinary postage. Tony paid tribute to Bill – a lovely man, straight as a die, who never looked down on you whatever your level of experience.

For Tony, it was the *people* who drew him into philately and kept him there, and Bill Dawson epitomized that. **Garth Taylor** had copied Bill's annotations for his blocks of the second airmail issue. This amounted to 'fly-speck philately', which Garth doesn't usually go in for – but the way Bill had written the pages up meant that all the detailed information needed to be kept.

Lindy Bosworth pointed out that Bill's principal interests were TPOs and the Sudetenland, but he had time for everyone, including those with limited knowledge of philately. For the long-standing members present, this was an opportunity to remember a sorely missed member of the Society. Yvonne pointed out that 2% of the proceeds of selling Bill's material went to CPSGB, and this paid for the Bill Dawson Memorial Prize for the best article in *Czechout* over the preceding two years.

In the afternoon there was an opportunity for members to share short presentations on a wide variety of topics. **Garth Taylor** started proceedings with the second airmail issue. Material included first day covers and examples of the different airmail labels used for different routes – mostly in Europe, but also further afield. Routes and rates were specified, though sometimes covers had been overfranked as people wanted to use the complete set of three stamps. One of the items was a postcard that had travelled part of the way by pneumatic post, and another could not really be called a flight cover – it was marked *Insuffisamment affranchie – expédiée par voie ordinaire*.



Some of Lindy's unadopted stamp designs, by Rijaček.

Lindy Bosworth then presented a collection of unadopted stamp designs produced to mark the first anniversary of the republic. These covered a variety of approaches: typography and recess printing, different papers, two different printers, different formats, and some that were even gummed. Designs from the printer A. Haas were unattributed, presumably simply the work of different employees. Those of Kupka were put forward with a range of modifications for different occasions. A design by J. Benda was produced to commemorate the Battle of Zborov in WWI. Some particularly attractive designs were produced by Rijaček, featuring St Wenceslas, in a variety of versions for different occasions. He also submitted designs featuring a range of historic Czechoslovak personalities – none of them was adopted.

The complexity of Czechoslovakia's border issues in 1938 was illustrated by **Rex Dixon's** presentation on the Hungarian takeover of southern Slovakia in the autumn of that year. Talks had taken place between the two countries resulting in the transfer of two towns to Hungary, but Hitler and Mussolini imposed a solution to the conflict. A variety of souvenir material was produced to mark the occasion, with covers marked 'Returned!' in Hungarian. Stamps were eventually issued by Hungary to celebrate the change, but considerable disruption occurred, with many Hungarian speakers finding themselves on the wrong side of the new border.

Returning to a favourite topic, **Tony Holdsworth** presented some material on the Autopošta service, launched on 16 October 1937 at the 27th Prague Motor Show. Material included a FDC and a maximum card for the commemorative issue of 2017 showing the original Škoda bus used as a travelling post office, plus a variety of examples of the distinctive orange Autopošta cancel. Tony also presented some material on the German 'Victory!' campaign in Bohemia & Moravia in 1941. This included examples of the laurel wreath type, the machine cancel, and the rubber slogan handstamp.

Promotional material for Praga 1978 was the subject of **Lindy Bosworth's** second presentation. This was of particular interest to her because this was the first of the Prague international stamp exhibitions she attended – since then she has been back every 10 years for each subsequent event. An official map showed the location of the various halls – including the Riding Hall where stamps were displayed next to the original artworks that had inspired them. There was a multiplicity of publicity labels – including a cover bearing one that had been addressed to Bill Dawson. New Year cards were produced for publicity purposes, together with machine cancels for each of the regional capitals, Prague, Brno and Bratislava.

Ron Gillard then told the story of 'Good King Wenceslas' through stamps. This was the Duke of Bohemia (he wasn't elevated to kingship until after his death), whose grandparents had been converted to Christianity by Cyril and Methodius. Ron confessed that of all the Wenceslas-related stamps, his favourite is one showing the great door knocker from St Vitus Cathedral that the dying Wenceslas is said to have clung to as he was assassinated by his younger brother. Curiously, Ron pointed out that though Wenceslas was a good man, he was a poor leader – and his younger brother was the reverse!

Yvonne Gren had provided a presentation on 'a trip around Prague', which members were invited to study.

Finally, **Lindy Bosworth** put on her third display of material this time looking at two- and three-colour cancels. Two-coloured cancels were enjoyed throughout the 1920s, and involved a special canceller that could be pressed down twice to print each of the two colours. Different coloured inks were even used for roller cancels, and different towns adopted the two-colour cancels. This was further developed into three-colour cancels, but the post office did not approve, as it was considered too time consuming for staff. One enterprising postmaster in Pardubice, however, asked if he could use them as a money-making scheme – he did, and a variety of different examples were on display. A few of the two-colour cancels survived the German invasion, but they died out by the end of the war.

Afternoon tea was followed by a presentation by **Nick Coverdale** on the flights of the zeppelin LZ130 over the Sudetenland in 1938. This was an exercise in propaganda – 663 kg of leaflets were dropped over Liberec (or Reichenberg as it was known to the Germans), including extracts from Hitler's speeches. Nick's display included a range of different material that had been flown by Z130 – in the summer of 1939 it appeared at air shows and was finally dismantled in 1940.

Yvonne Wheatley then presented two frames of the Agriculture and Science series, with a focus on blocks, varieties and uses on cover.

The afternoon's presentations concluded with **Roger Morrell's** presentation of the 1919 overprints. A *totally* 'philatelic' enterprise, admittedly – the stamps were sold off to collectors at one-and-a-half times face value, and the practice continued up to 1929, even though they were not valid for postage by then. Monograph 3 is the bible for these stamps, but it doesn't tell you what a forgery looks like – you just have to check if your stamp matches *all* the criteria or not. Interestingly, there is a flaw between the 1 and the 9 of 1919 that means the stamp is a forgery if it's missing! These stamps are becoming quite expensive now. Roger does have one example that's commercially used on a postal stationery card.



A cover flown over the Sudetenland on a propaganda flight aboard LZ130 on 2 December 1938.

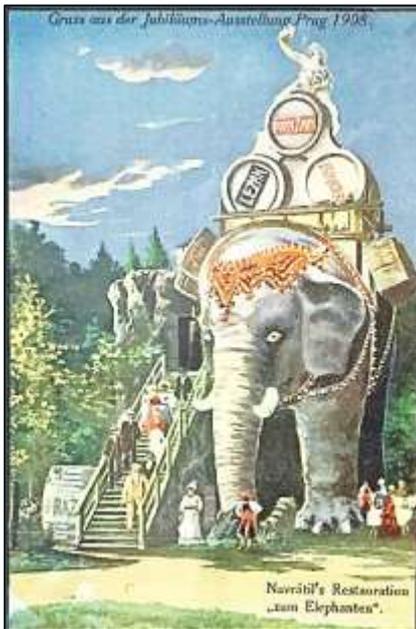
The evening entertainment was provided by **Richard Wheatley** – a fascinating presentation on the subject of *Spitfire*. This followed the development of the plane, from its Schneider Trophy winning incarnation as the Supermarine (it was the winning aircraft in 1927, 1929 and 1931, reaching a top speed of 340 mph) to its huge contribution to Britain's war effort – minus its floats and rechristened the Spitfire – from 1936 onwards. The talk was accompanied by a wide range of artefacts – posters, a First Day Cover signed by Douglas Bader, and even a German postcard showing a Messerschmidt shooting down one of a group of three Spitfires. Richard also recounted his own memories from the war, including an occasion when he had contributed a drawing to his mother's Airgraph, sent to his father while serving in North Africa.



Richard Wheatley with one of his 'toys', to show the many ways in

On Sunday morning, both societies met together to enjoy a series of presentations of interest to them all. **Keith Brandon** kicked things off with what he described as more of an 'illustrated tutorial' than a display. This was all about decoding pre-stamp covers. The interest, he believed, lay in delving down into the wealth of detail that can be derived from a cover, rather than simply writing up the bare facts. With covers from the Austrian Empire before its break-up, of course, most of them will be in German, and many will involve the old German 'fraktur' script. Key details relating to date, origin, and destination can be gleaned from the address and related inscriptions.

With dates, he warned us about the numbering system for abbreviating months – the ninth month, for example, was November, as July and August were late additions to the Julian calendar when it was converted to the Gregorian version we use today. Finally, the *type* of mail can be a help – ecclesiastical correspondence is usually in Latin, and military mail often used similar terms to words we use today.



A postcard from the 1908 exhibition.

The next presentation was another by **Lindy Bosworth**, this time on postcards of exhibitions in the Czech lands in the lead up to the creation of Czechoslovakia. Starting with material from the 1891 Jubilee Exhibition to celebrate commerce in the Czech lands and to promote the Czech language, a wide range of events was covered – from pharmaceuticals, engineering, and art to a beautiful set of cards and labels issued for a Slavonic bee-keeping exhibition. There was also a wide-ranging display on the 1908 Jubilee Exhibition in Prague to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Franz Joseph's accession. One of the postcards advertised a restaurant shaped like an elephant – diners ate in its stomach!

Roger Morrell then presented material from the late **David Bravery's** treasure trove. David was an inveterate collector of Austria (and much else), and when he died his widow decided to ask the APS and the HPSGB to sell it "so as to maximise the enjoyment of David's material amongst like-minded collectors". Material on display related to the break-up of the Empire, and included a mechanical postcard of Hungary – as you rotated a wheel at the left, you could watch elements float away!



Garth Taylor presented material on the postal history of Brno from 1656 to 1918. This included what was probably the very first handstamp, from 1784–1787. There were examples of the first prepaid handstamps, then some stamps on covers with thimble cancellations. One interesting item included a misspelled cancel, bearing the word 'statd' instead of 'stadt'.

A highly detailed account of the history of the Austrian Postal Authorities' Impressions Book from **Martin Brumby** came next – this followed the mysterious case of the official records, which started in 1882, going missing in large sections from the early 1930s to the 1990s. The records could originally be used to prevent postmasters tampering with their cancellers, by removing German names or turning the date slugs upside down, for example – a breach of the regulations for which they could be fined the substantial sum of 5 gulden. The missing sections were stolen, presumably by unscrupulous 'historians' – but copies of some have recently been discovered in a technical museum.

Keith Brandon presented a selection of Czech rarities of the pre-stamp era – this included a postmark from Eger/Cheb dated 4 November 1756, which he believes to be the earliest surviving example.

The final presentation, inevitably, was by the ever-resourceful **Lindy Bosworth**. This was all about Karlovy Vary/Karlsbad (or Karlsbad in its original spelling) = starting with the first handstamp of 1789. A selection of cancels followed, together with postal stationery and postcards used for commercial advertising purposes – these included horse riding, glass manufacture, Becharovka (which is made in Karlovy Vary) and, of course, the Spa.

Our busy weekend away together concluded with a brief retrospective – an overwhelming majority deemed it a success and delegates were unanimous in their thanks for the organizers, particularly Yvonne Wheatley who had worked so hard to set it up in conjunction with the Austrian society.

Meanwhile in another part of the forest... on the Saturday the APS held a separate session from the CPSGB's displays reported above.

- In Austria's WWI navy, Marines were soldiers who defended ships etc while Sailors sailed them. Marines were based at Marine Stations on land; these have nothing to do with railways (if they were, they'd be Seebahnhof!)
- Unanswered questions: when UPU permitted postcards with pictures, there was for a period a limit on the number of words on the picture side, which may or may not have included "conventional words of greeting". What was that limit and period? Was the limit then increased or removed?
- The APS Bourse was a waste of time and transporting-efforts; none of the big albums etc sold.
- Generally, both societies were equally bad-to-atrocious at timekeeping!
- The APS showed one powerpoint presentation. The only comment made was that the presenter/operator should not have sat in front of the screen blocking the audience's view; the content wasn't remarked upon. If we do any again, the projector should be further back so that the image fills the screen.

Round 1: Andy Taylor showed (and tried to explain) Money transfer forms; Alan Berrisford superlative-quality Galicia; Joyce Boyer Pre-1900 Innsbruck; and Rex Dixon Austria in art

Round 2: Clive Murray - Postage dues of the Austrian Monarchy; Keith Brandon - Trieste disinfected mail; Rex Dixon - Postal rates after the Anschluss in 1938; Martin Brumby - Stempelprotokollen 1882-1894; and Alan Berrisford - more superlatives!

Round 3: Andy Taylor gave a Powerpoint presentation on Newspaper Tax and showed some of David Bravery's Political postcards

Round 4: Roger Morrell - Naval bases on the Adriatic; Andy Taylor - Mixed frankings; Alan Berrisford - Galicia; Nick Coverdale - Civilian censorship post-WW2 and also Austrian Consular PO in Belgrade

Round 5: Clive Murray - Postage dues of the First Republic; Joyce Boyer - WIPA 1965; Keith Brandon - Fiume postal history; Connecting Fiume to the railway; and the Ungaro-Croat shipping line



Picture gallery



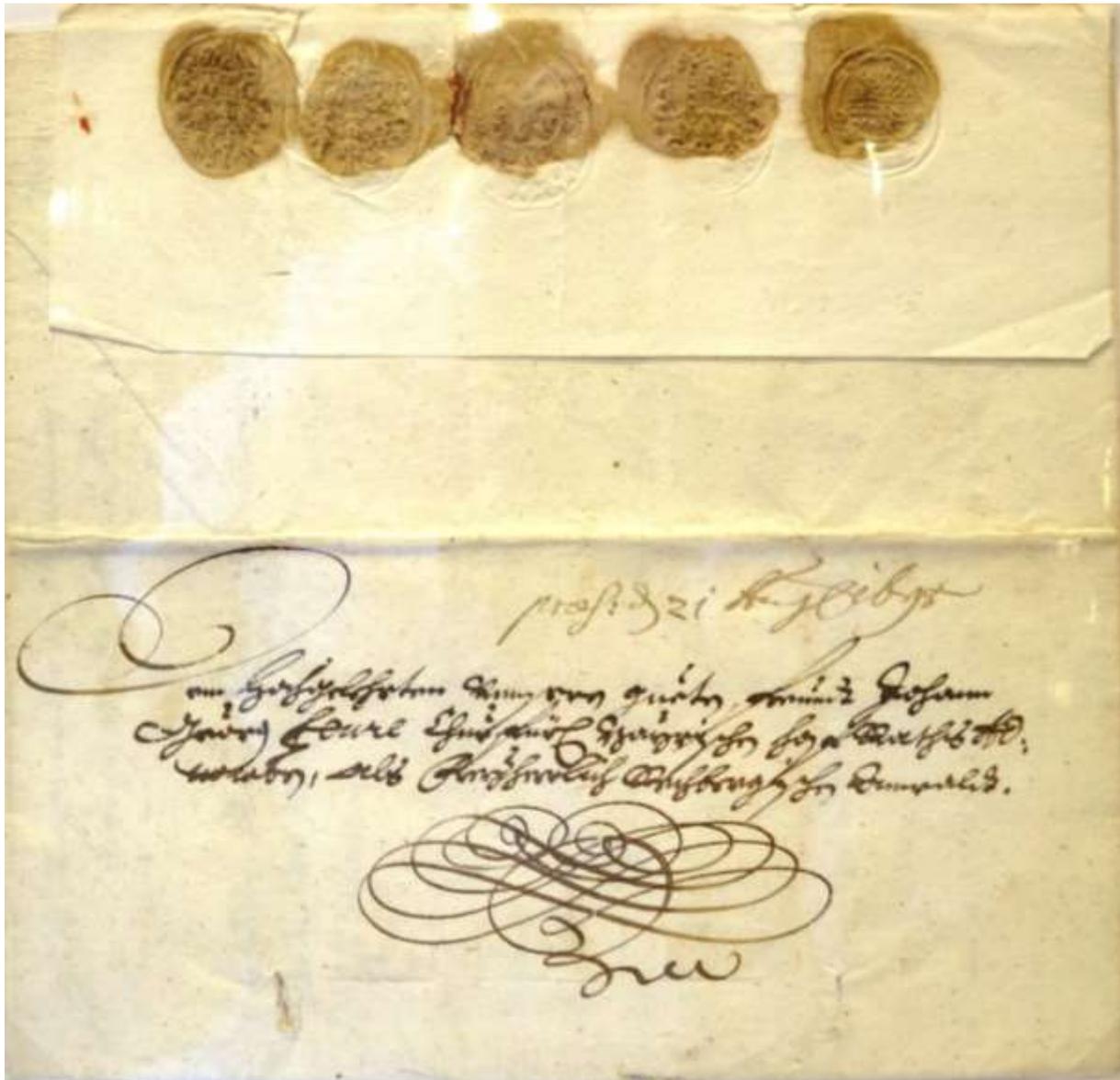
Faint blue cancel from ZABLOTOC (near Lemberg)



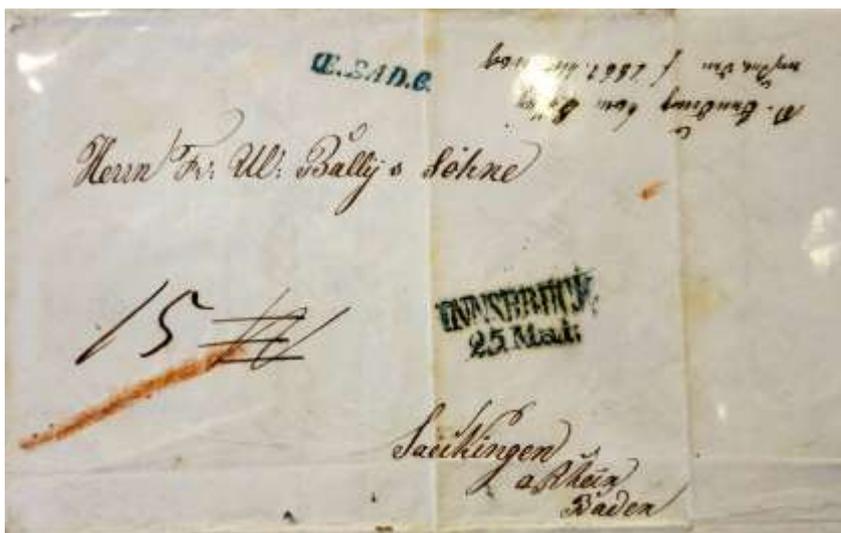
Receipt for a registered letter handed in at IASINICA (with the unusual first letter I instead of J)



“INSBRUCK” cancel on a letter to Rattenberg



Letter from Innsbruck dated 16 August 1695, sent via Seefeld and Scharnitz to Munich.
The seals indicated that postage was free.



Innsbruck through the
Arlberg and Bregenz
to Sackingen.

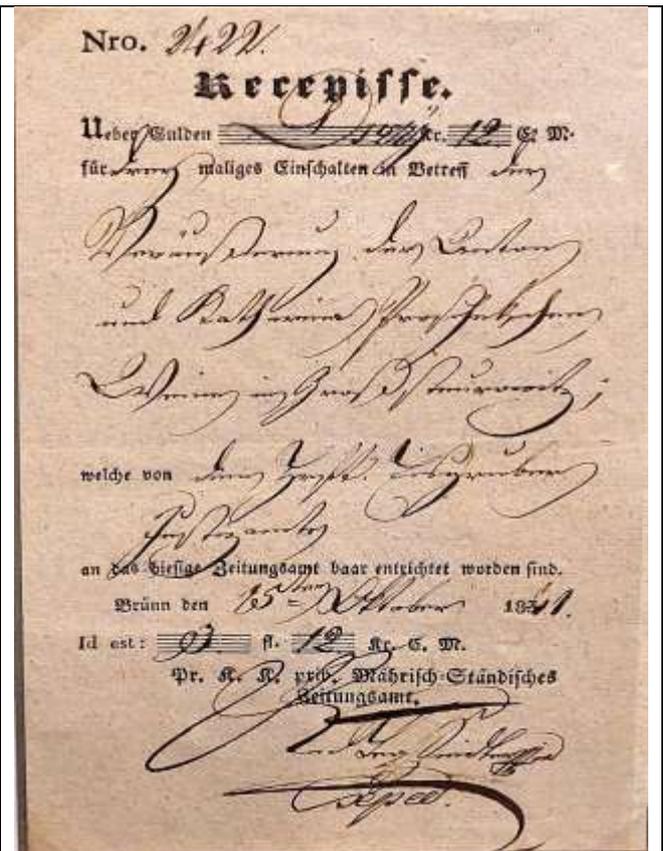
Postage due 12kr,
converted to 15rh.



Exhibitions: 1898 in Vienna and 1908 in Prague



Above; a privately-carried letter from Brünn on 28 August 1656.



Right: an 1841 receipt for the payment at a Post Office for placing an advertisement in a newspaper.

THE BELVEDERE'S FIRST PHILATELIC APPEARANCE

Nicholas Rogers

Andy Taylor's article on the Belvedere (*Austria*, 226 (Spring 2024)) was full of philatelic and artistic delights but was missing what is the first and arguably the finest philatelic appearance of the Belvedere, on the highest value of the 1923 charity series, devoted to provincial capitals. The 1000 Kronen value shows a view of Vienna, looking from the upper end of the Belvedere gardens towards the Lower Belvedere. In the foreground is a sphinx on the terrace of the Upper Belvedere, one of several to be found in the grounds, which were laid out by the French garden designer Dominique Girard (d.1738). The sphinx is of the classical type, female in form, and would have reminded its viewers of the deadly riddler of the Oedipus legend. The designer, Dr. Rudolf Junk, who was responsible for numerous Austrian stamps between 1916 and 1934, was also a distinguished landscape artist, working in a style reminiscent of Klimt's landscape work. Examples of his work are to be found in the Österreichische Galerie of the Belvedere. His rich, almost pointillist technique is faithfully rendered by the exquisite engraving of Ferdinand Schirnböck.



Rudolf Junk, Sommer, 1907, Österreichische Galerie, Belvedere, Vienna (Wikimedia Creative Commons)

The stamp issue was announced and described in 1923's Postverordnungsblatt nr 22 section 81 whose paragraph II-2 gave the arrangements for handling oversubscriptions for the "Japanese paper" sets; ANK states that only 250 of these sets were produced. You'd have to be "in the loop" to get any: section 81 was issued on 25 April but the PVOB was only published on 8 May, after the closing date for applications!

In accordance with the announcement, the office will only issue complete sets of 18,000K or 250,000K (on Japanese paper) on the basis of orders submitted in writing between April 23 and May 3, 1923. If the available stock is oversubscribed, the orderers will only be allocated reduced quantities of stamps according to a specific key. The allocation of the charity postage stamps printed on Japanese paper (preferential prints) will be determined by drawing lots in the presence of a public notary; each party selected by lot will receive one set (folder).

1923 PVOB 22 81 is here: <https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex-day?aid=ptv&datum=19230508&seite=1&zoom=33>

2. Die Geschäftsstelle gibt im Sinne der Kundmachung nur vollständige Sätze zu 18.000 K oder 250.000 K (auf Japanpapier) auf Grund der während der Zeit vom 23. April bis 3. Mai 1923 schriftlich eingereichten Bestellungen ab. Bei Überzeichnung des verfügbaren Vorrates erhalten die Besteller nur nach einem bestimmten Schlüssel gekürzte Markenmengen zugeteilt. Die Zuteilung der auf Japanpapier gedruckten Wohltätigkeitspostmarken (Vorzugsdrucke) wird durch Auslosung im Beisein eines öffentlichen Notars bestimmt; auf jede durch das Los bestimmte Partei entfällt ein Satz (Mappe).

Die Geschäftsstelle gibt in Sinne der Kundmachung nur vollständige Sätze zu 18000K oder 250000K (auf Japanpapier) aus Grund der während der Zeit vom 23 April bis 3 Mai 1923 schriftlich eingereichten Bestellung ab. Bei überzeichnung des verfügbaren Vorrates erhalten die Besteller nur nach einem bestimmten Schlüssel gekürzte Markenmengen zugeteilt. Die Zuteilung der auf Japanpapier gedruckten Wohltätigkeitspostmarken (Vorzugsdrucke) wird durch Auslosung im Beisein eines öffentlichen Notars bestimmt; auf jede durch das Los bestimmte Partei entfällt ein Satz (Mappe).

In it, 81-II-2 says: In accordance with the announcement, the office will only issue complete sets of 18,000K or 250,000K (on Japanese paper) on the basis of orders submitted in writing between April 23 and May 3, 1923. If the available stock is oversubscribed, the orderers will only be allocated reduced quantities of stamps according to a specific key. The allocation of the charity postage stamps printed on Japanese paper (preferential prints) will be determined by drawing lots in the presence of a public notary; each party selected by lot will receive one set (folder).



The Belvedere's Sphinxes



Andy Taylor adds: I've been there several times, and tried to count them; I can't find a map. There's about 20, and they all have different expressions! The one on the left has a youthful look, while the Sphinx on the stamp (right) looks disapproving. A small group doesn't help much, although the visible face is different again.

However, as Sphinxes they all have the famous Inscrutable Smile ☺

Auction 156 - Realisations

LOT	Hammer
800	8
801	12
802	6
803	9
804	8
805	4
806	5
808	5
809	8
810	4
811	30
813	6
814	15
815	11
816	7
817	6
818	8
819	6
820	10
821	20
824	20
825	15
826	20
827	10
828	20
831	20
834	6
835	3
836	4
838	10
839	10
847	15
848	20
849	20
851	25
852	20
855	7
857	3
859	3
861	10
862	5
864	6
865	5
866	8
870	5
872	7

LOT	Hammer
876	3
877	8
880	5
881	7
884	12
885	6
887	30
891	20
897	5
898	30
900	5
905	8
906	25
908	4
909	10
910	4
911	5
912	8
916	5
917	6
924	3
925	5
929	6
930	10
931	30
932	6
934	20
935	5
936	10
937	35
938	8
939	45
940	25
941	40
946	5
947	6
949	7
952	40
954	15
955	20
956	15
957	30
958	20
961	20
962	8
966	8

LOT	Hammer
967	10
968	25
969	10
971	20
976	25
977	480
979	20
980	10
981	5
982	20
983	20
984	15
985	3
987	5
988	8
989	8
990	15
993	12
995	20
1002	11
1004	25
1014	45
1015	20
1022	12
1027	55
1040	5
1042	5
1043	12
1055	5
1057	20
1119	6
1120	15
1123	6
1125	180
1126	90
1127	90
1134	50
1135	5
1137	6
1146	40
1149	50
1154	25
1157	5
1158	15
1159	15
1160	75

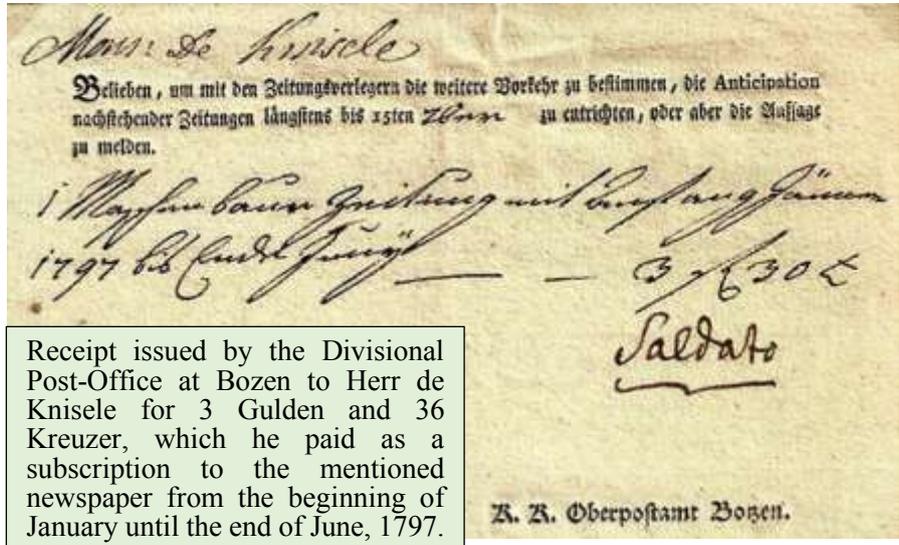
LOT	Hammer
506	30
506	30
507	25
515	5
525	3
529	9
530	10
608	3
618	20
620	15
625	6
626	15
627	3
628	6
630	6
671	5
676	20

THE POST, NEWSPAPERS, AND BLACK MARKETING.

Written by Hubert Jungwirth; published in Die Briefmarke, 2/2010; translated by Jean Toghill

After the first newspapers appeared around 1600, postmasters gradually acquired a profitable task, namely not only that of arranging for their conveyance but also for their sale. Who else was better fitted to provide this service, if not post employees?

On the whole, the system worked as follows. The postmaster offered subscriptions to newspapers to the few customers who were able to read and who could afford it. At that time, such orders were called “Praenumerations” or “Antizipations”, i.e. whoever placed such an order had to pay in advance the charge for the subscription period. The payment was made up of the price the postmaster had to pay to the publisher, the postal charges (which he had to hand over to the postal service), and his own commission.



Receipt issued by the Divisional Post-Office at Bozen to Herr de Knisele for 3 Gulden and 36 Kreuzer, which he paid as a subscription to the mentioned newspaper from the beginning of January until the end of June, 1797.

As early as 1667, posting-station officials and post messengers were warned against allowing people other than the subscribers to read the newspapers

With effect from 1st July, 1789, most newspapers required an official stamp, which meant that the purchaser had to pay tax to the treasury in addition to the price of the subscription. Moreover, the number of embargoes on the import of foreign newspapers as well as the bans on the distribution of some inland publications increased.

In order to make a change from the dry report on the early days of the press to the lively everyday life of the period, let us take recourse to one of those episodes in the Tirolean postal history that Oberpostrat Dr. Josef Windhager [a senior post official] dug out of the records and bequeathed to us in the “Schlernschriften” [an index of works referring to the history of Tirol and South Tirol].

At the time of Maria Theresia, the “Wiener Zeitung” was the most widely circulated newspaper. It appeared twice a week, consisted of between eight and twelve sides, was 15x12cm in size and cost seven Kreuzer. It reached East Tirol with the post-chaise letter post service from Klagenfurt and was, therefore, popularly called the “Wiener Postzeitung”. In those days, it was still forwarded in a sealed envelope.

One of the few subscribers to this newspaper in Pustertal was the pharmacist, Nikolaus von Rauchenfels from Innichen. One fine day in 1757, to his annoyance, he observed that acquaintances of his from Lienz, who certainly had no subscription to a newspaper, vaunted news which could only have come from the number which he himself had not yet received. Immediately, the distrustful pharmacist suspected the postmaster at Lienz of reading his newspaper unallowed and then showing off with his knowledge of the contents. Von Rauchenfels determined to get to the bottom of the matter.

He set off for Oberdrauburg to lie in wait for his newspaper. Here he arranged for Postmaster Pichler to put an inconspicuous mark on the envelope when it reached Oberdrauburg and to then put it back into circulation with the rest of the mail. At the same time, he was able to confirm that at Lienz neither the postmaster, who liked to amaze his fellow-citizens with the latest news, nor any other person subscribed to the “Wiener Zeitung”. After the mail had been dispatched from Oberdrauburg, von Rauchenberg hurried to the post-office at Sillian, where he (*normally*) collected his newspaper.

When the mail reached Sillian, the postmaster gave the pharmacist his newspaper straight away. It was in an unmarked envelope. However, this contained not the most recent issue of the “Wiener Zeitung” but the last but

one. For the pharmacist this was the proof that Postmaster Faber at Lienz had committed a punishable offence and he decided to look into the matter more closely.

He sent off a special courier with a letter for Postmaster Hilber, in which he reproached him for failing to deliver his precious newspaper — a punishable offence. He also demanded full reimbursement of 18 Gulden and 22 Kreuzer, the cost of his detective work. These expenses were listed as follows:

Board and food on the journey: on 3rd November at Au, including horse and servant 33kr; at Leisach 36kr; for a capon 24kr; overnight stay at Oberdrauburg 1fl56kr; on 4th November at Lienz 1fl30kr; provisions overnight at Mittewald 1fl37kr; on 5th November at Sillian 20kr; charge for horse and coach 2fl; fee for special postal service 56kr; other postal charges 1fl; loss of earnings for 2½ days 7fl50kr

Postmaster Hilber denied the accusations vehemently. As other attempts by von Rauchenberg to reach an amicable settlement also failed, he turned to the General Post Office at Innsbruck and increased his claim for expenses by 4 Gulden, the fee for sharing his newspaper for half a year. As a result, Graf Taxis ordered his postmaster to come to an agreement with the pharmacist. Hilber, in order to avoid losing his job, could not do other than fulfil the pharmacist's wishes and pay him the 22 Gulden as required.

When newspapers first came into being there were also handwritten ones, especially in the towns. Some of them were anonymous and blasphemous, so-called “Schmähzettel”. Again, others contained only news and were presented and sold as extra editions for a few Kreuzer. It requires no stretch of the imagination to conclude that some post-office employees, finding themselves so close to the source of news, were also tempted to join the newspaper game.

From 1672, handwritten newspapers were banned but they continued to be available in Vienna until 1848. This appears to be such a handwritten “special” edition of which just a few copies were made. It was written during

the Coalition Wars [which lasted from 1792 to 1815, between France and an alliance of European powers]. One can see clearly with what delay the “latest” news arrived, how rare and how treasured it must have been and how important the role of the postal service was for its circulation.

den 12. 9. 1799.

Mit gestriger Post aus Italien kam
die wichtige Nachricht, daß das große
in Italien befindliche russische Heer
Suworow an der Spitze des russen Heeres
in Schwyz einmarschirt und mit dem
Lajpaltz bei der Expedition das
Centrum der russen armeeformirte
Lajpaltz Heerführer auf die Gubener
von dem russen Heerführer zu
Ist mit dem Lajpaltz offiziell bekannt
gemacht, daß General Laudon mit
seiner Brigade und Obrist Strauch
avant garde dieses Heeres marschirt
von der Bellinzona nach dem
die russen haben in diesen Tagen
die Linguarone und die Pradoban
die Bachetta

Translation of the newspaper:

12. 9. 1799

With yesterday's mail from Italy, we received important news. The entire corps of Russians that is in Italy with [Field Marshal] Suworow at its head, is marching into Switzerland and, with the troops already there, is forming the core of the united armies.

This news was also given officially to the Governor by the Imperial Envoy at Chur, with the apposition that General Laudon with his brigade, and Colonel Strauch, form the avant-garde of this corps and have already advanced via Bellinzona.

THE MONEY LETTER AND THE CURIOUS CASE OF 'LAUT ANGABE'

Roger Morrell

Introduction

Sending money in the Austro-Hungarian Empire was different from simply stuffing a banknote into an envelope and putting it in the letter collection box. Firstly, since the days of Empress Maria Theresia, anything of monetary value had to be sent by a more secure route using the *Fahrpost*, rather than the *Briefpost*. Secondly, in order to protect the *Fahrpost* against false claims of loss, or even claiming the package contained less than the actual amount in order to reduce the postage charged, the manner of packing the money was carefully controlled. Maria Theresia issued a decree dated 19 March 1776 concerning this and creating a set of rules ([ref 1](#), pp.33-37). A 'Circular' issued by the *k.k. Postwagensexpedition und Kontrollierung* on 10 March 1802 ([ref 1](#), pp. 40-43), referring back to one of 14 January 1799, emphasised the rules for wrapping and sealing the money or other valuable sending. The wrapping and the contents had to be taken to the post office open for the postal clerk to count the contents and ensure that what the sender had claimed was inside and had written in detail on the outer covering was in fact correct (see Figure 1). The sending was then weighed and wax sealed under the sight of the postal official in a specific way using insignia of both the customer and the post office. A receipt was required to be issued declaring the weight, contents and value of the sending. These rules were confirmed by a subsequent *Hofkammer* decree concerning the *Fahrpost* of 1838 ([ref 2](#)).

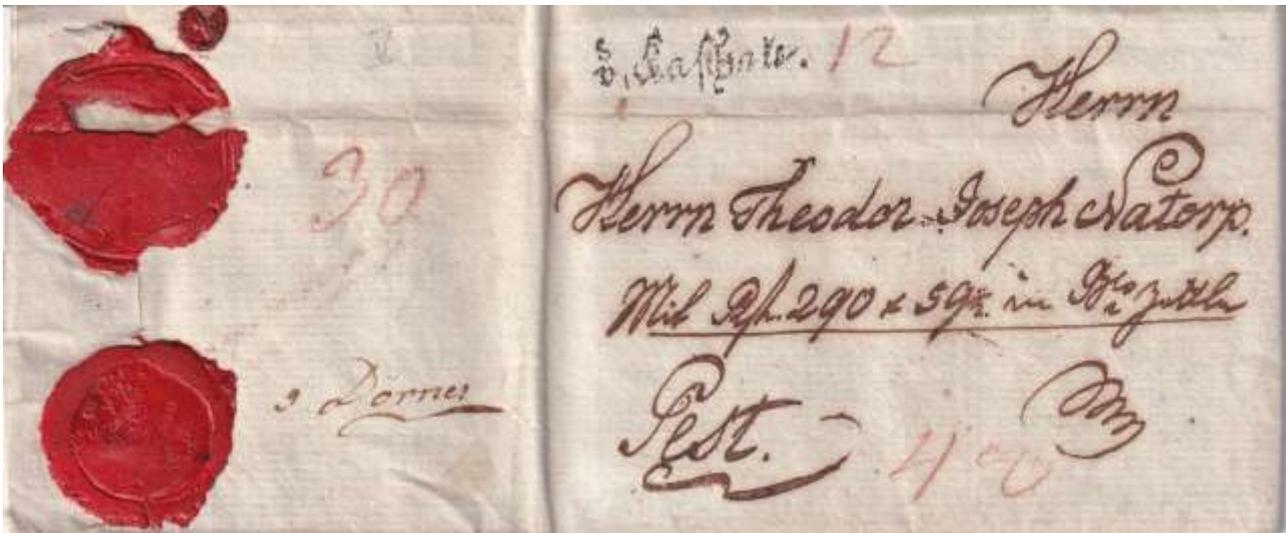


Figure 1: A *Fahrpost* money letter containing 290.59 Fl sent from Caschau to Pest on 12 November 1785, with an early use of the first Caschau postmark. There are two internal wax seals (not shown) and two on the final fold shown at the left. The lower one is the post office control seal; the partially moulded name '....CHAU' can just be made out under a glass.

Tightening up the procedure

A *Handelsministerium* decree dated 27 July 1850 ([ref. 3](#)), distributed verbatim in the equivalent *Post und Telegraphen-Verordnungs Blatt (PuTVB)*, concerned both the introduction of postal money orders as well as the acceptance of sendings containing money or other valuables. In it, some modifications of the 1838 *Fahrpost* decree ([ref. 2](#)) were made. Parts of the text are translated in Table 1.

In para. 5 the 1850 decree allowed for pre-sealed sendings to be taken to the post office for countersealing by the post office, and the issuance of a receipt on the basis of '*Nach Angabe*' *i.e.* the postal official could accept the spoken and/or written word of the sender concerning the precise contents to be 'as declared', but crucially 'not inspected'. This is in addition to the existing 'open' sending method required previously. Note: use of the term '*Nach Angabe*' in 1850 was not new. It had already appeared in association with, but not in, an 1818 decree increasing the charges for the *Fahrpost* ([ref. 4](#)), specifically for the sending of silver coins in 'rolls, chests or small barrels' where the contents were weighed, but not counted ([ref 1](#), p.64).

Table 1: Translation of selected paragraphs of the 1850 decree

<p>5. <i>Mit dieser Einrichtung wird gleichzeitig in Abänderung der §§10, 11, 12, 28, 29, 41b der Fahrpostordnung vom 6 Juli 1838 gestattet, Geldsendungen jeder Gattung in Briefen und Paketen verschlossen zur Post zu bringen.</i></p> <p><i>Die so überbrachten Sendungen müssen:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>nach Vorschrift wohl verwahrt, und</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Papiergeldsendungen in Briefen und kleinen Paketen innerhalb sowohl als äusserlich mindestens mit zwei Siegeln verschlossen sein; Kreuzcouverte müssen aber vier Siegel enthalten, jedoch die zusammenlaufenden Spitzen für das postämtliche Siegel freilassen;</i></p> <p>(c) <i>Die Geldspecificationen und das Summiren der specificirten Beträge auf der Adresse muss noch ferner den bisherigen Bestimmungen gemäss stattfinden.</i></p>	<p>5. This facility also allows, as amendments to §§10, 11, 12, 28, 29, 41b of the <i>Fahrpost</i> postal regulations of July 6, 1838, money transfers of all kinds to be brought to the post office in <u>sealed</u> letters and packages.</p> <p>The items sent in this way must:</p> <p>(a) Be well prepared in accordance with the regulations, and</p> <p>(b) Paper money transfers in letters and small packages must be sealed with at least two seals both inside and outside; envelopes with flaps must contain four seals, but leave the converging points of the flaps free for the post office seal;</p> <p>(c) The money specifications and the summing up of the specified amounts on the address side must continue to take place in accordance with the previous regulations.</p>
<p>6. <i>Der Aufgeber einer verschlossenen Geldsendung erhält ein Aufgabsrecepisse mit dem Beisatze zur Geldsumme 'nach Angabe'; den gleichen Beisatz erhält die Adresse.</i></p>	<p>6. The person sending a sealed money shipment will receive a mailing receipt with the addition "as specified" to the amount of money; the same addition will be applied to the address.</p>
<p>7. <i>Die Postanstalt haftet bezüglich solcher Sendungen nur für die richtige Übergabe im unbeschädigten äusseren Zustande, mit unverletzten Siegeln und mit vollem Gewichte, ohne Einstehung für die richtigkeit des angegebenen Inhaltes. Werden bei der Zustellung die Siegel oder die äussere Verwahrung verletzt befunden, so kann der Empfänger beim Abgabspostamte die Nachwägung der der Sendung, sowie die Eröffnung und die Überzahlung des Inhaltes begehren.</i></p> <p><i>Zeigt sich ein Abgang, so tritt von Seite der k.k. österreichischen Postanstalt die Verpflichtung zur Erfassleistung des abgängigen Betrages in dem Falle ein, als der Abgang sich im Bereiche derselben ergeben hat.</i></p> <p><i>Die unbeanständete Übernahme von Seite des Empfängers enthebt die Postanstalt jeder Erfasspflicht.</i></p> <p><i>Für der ganzen Sendung wird der Erfass nach den allgemeinen Bestimmungen mit dem vollen angegebenen Werthbetrage geleistet.</i></p>	<p>7. The post office is liable only for the correct delivery of such shipments in an undamaged external condition, with intact seals and with full weight, without guaranteeing the accuracy of the stated contents. If the seals or external packaging are found to be broken during delivery, the recipient can request at the post office of delivery that the shipment be re-weighed and that the contents be opened and accounted for.</p> <p>If a loss is found, the Imperial and Royal Austrian Postal Service is obliged to refund the missing amount if the loss occurred within its area of control.</p> <p>Acceptance without objection by the recipient relieves the postal service of any obligation to retain a record.</p> <p>For the entire shipment, the shipment will be recorded according to the general provisions with the full stated value.</p>

In terms of what we would expect to see on covers, entires or envelopes there is essentially no change from the 1799 layout of seals. All items would have a post office control seal, but only those with the 'Nach Angabe' marking would have been accepted in the pre-sealed condition. The need to apply this marking was reiterated in 1851 (*Verordnungsblatt für der Verwaltungszweige des österreichische Handelsministerium* no. 3, dated 7 January 1851), and later again the same year.

The examples shown in Figures 2 and 3 do not have a year date (few covers do, unless manuscript year-dated by the recipient on receipt or on a letter inside) but have clearly been stamped 'Nach Angabe', and in one case (Figure 2) the post-office seal on the back has been placed on top of the three earlier seals made by the sender. Note also that the wax used by the post office is in this instance a different colour to that used by the sender.



Figure 2: Folded Fahrpost cover containing one banknote of value 100 Fl sealed in three places by the sender, and oversealed by the Gratz post office seal and sent to Linz. Marked 'NACH ANGABE' on the front. Undated.

The 1906 Post Office Price List offers Siegellack Type I for letters at 2fl20 a kilo, and Type II for Beutel at only 1fl24 a kilo.





Figure 3: Undated wrapper for sending 16 fl 80 kr from Neutra (Nitra, now Nitra, Slovakia) to Vienna, sealed with two customer seals and an oval 'Fahrpostamt Neutra' post office seal. Stamped 'Nach Angabe' at the upper left on the address side.

At about the same time, new designs of *Fahrpost* receipt were issued: *Drucksorte Nr. 420* (plus other bilingual versions) and *Nr. 421* (plus other bilingual versions). These two designs have different initial wording (examples are respectively shown in Figures 4 and 5). The wordings in German are:

Fahrpost 420: *Ueber 1 ..(type).. worin sich angeblich befinden ..(contents).. im Werthe ..(value).. fl ..(value).. kr, gewogen ... (number).. Pf. ..(number).. Loth, welche Sendung zur Beförderung unter der Adresse ..(address)...am heutige Tage hierorts richtig aufgegeben worden ist.*

Fahrpost 421: *Ueber einen Brief mit ..(contents).. welcher zur Beförderung unter der Adresse: ..(address)...am heutige Tage hierorts richtig aufgegeben worden ist.*

On Type 420 receipts the word 'angeblich' appears, which all the dictionaries I have looked at say means 'allegedly'. This presumably correlates with 'Nach Angabe' ('as declared') according to the 1850 decree.

On Type 421 receipts this expression is missing, but the last line is still effectively a declaration by the postal official that on this day he found the contents to be correct, in other words he inspected it.

These differences provide hard evidence that the two acceptance methods were running in parallel. In both cases, the postal official is signing to confirm that he has correctly processed the sending.



Figure 4: A Geld-Aufgabsrecepisse type 420, preprinted date '185_', for a sealed letter containing 450Fl in banknotes sent from Tyrnau (Nagyszombat, now Trnava in Slovakia) to Prince Josef zu Windischgrätz in Nimburg (Bohemia) on 17 July 1851. Carriage charge 50kr. Town handstamp used (Czirók no. 205 ([ref. 5](#))).



Figure 5: A Geld-Aufgabsrecepisse type 421, preprinted date '185_', for an un-sealed letter containing 131Fl in banknotes sent from Kutttenberg to Prag on 2 August 1856. Carriage charge 16kr.



Figure 6: A type 421 receipt used for sending 30(?) kreuzer from Letenye in Hungary to Egerszeg on 21 November 1856. Curiously stamped 'ANGEBLICH', possibly because the more appropriate type 420 receipt was not available. The lack of postal charges suggest it was for an official sending.

In the Handelsministerium decree of 2 April 1870 (*Reichsgesetzblatt* nr. 58, [ref. 6](#)), the rules for sending valuables through the Fahrpost were changed again from 1 May 1870. Translations of the first two paragraphs follow:

<p>1. Die Aufnahme offener Privatgeldsendungen, wird in der Art beschränkt, dass künftig nur Papiergeld und Banknoten in Beträgen von mehr als 100Fl. und bis zum Gewichte von 15 Loth dann offen angenommen werden, wenn der Aufgeber nebst dem gewöhnlichen Gewichtsporto im anderthalbfachen Betrage bei der Aufgabe entrichtet, also die Sendung frankirt.</p> <p>Den betreffenden Sendungen darf jedoch weder Bargeld, mit Ausnahme von Ausgleichbeträgen unter 1 Fl beiliegen, noch dürfen Werthpapiere die nicht als Geld circulieren, beige-schlossen werden.</p> <p>Bei der Verrechnung des anderthalbfachen Wertporto sind die Kreuzerbruchtheile als ganze Kreuzer anzunehmen.</p>	<p>1. The acceptance of open private money shipments will be restricted in such a way that in future only paper money and banknotes in amounts of more than 100Fl will be accepted, and up to the weight of 15 Loth, can be accepted open if the person who sends the item pays one and a half times the value-related amount in addition to the usual weight postage when posting, <i>i.e.</i> franks the shipment.</p> <p>However, the shipments in question may not be accompanied by coins, with the exception of amounts of less than 1Fl, nor may securities that do not circulate as money be enclosed.</p> <p>When charging one and a half times the value postage, the kreuzer fractions must be accepted as whole kreuzers.</p>
<p>2. Alle anderen Privatesendungen, dergleichen die Sendungen der öffentlichen Behörden und Aemter ohne Ausnahme müssen vollkommen verschlossen, und mit der erforderlichen Anzahl von Abdrücken eines und desselben Siegels versehen, zur Aufgabe gebracht werden, und wird denselben das Amts oder Controlsiegel Seitens des aufnehmenden Postamtes nicht mehr begedrückt.</p> <p>Doch sind sie wie bisher auf der Adresse und im Aufgabsrecepisse mit der Bezeichnung: 'Angeblich' zu versehen.</p>	<p>2. All other private shipments, as well as shipments from public authorities and offices without exception, must be delivered completely sealed and provided with the required number of impressions of one and the same seal, and <u>will no longer have the official or control seal of the receiving post office impressed on them.</u></p> <p>However, as before, they must be marked 'Allegedly' on the address and on the receipt.</p>

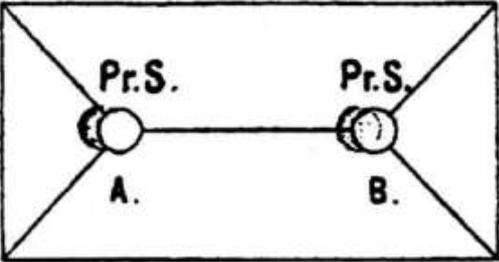
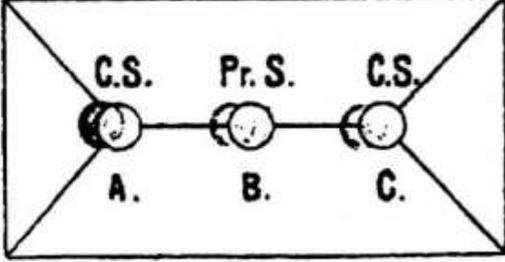
This decree makes no mention of the previous use of the 'Nach Angabe' marking but implies that marking with 'Angeblich' was the norm, so confirming the assumption made earlier that the two expressions are equivalent. Clearly, by 1870 an increasing use of the postal services greatly increased the time cost of placing control seals

on money letters, and this was becoming a burden for the Post Office. Coupled with the increasing reliability and security of the postal service (much mail was now going by rail rather than by coach), it must have been decided to effectively ‘wave-through’ pre-sealed letters without inspection. However, if the customer wanted the security of having the contents checked, the post office would now charge extra for the service, but only for private customers, and only for contents of more than 100*Fl* in banknotes, later increased to 150*Fl*. This probably also explains why contemporary type 421 receipts for open letters seem to be less common than type 420 receipts for pre-sealed ones.

The 1870 decree has an annex which underlines the packaging requirements from 1799 concerning the positions of the seals on various types of wrapping for both pre-sealed and open sendings. Diagrams are given for various types of wrapping. For example, ordinary envelopes with a flap required five seals applied by the sender while those sent open required four sender seals on the sides of the flaps and one post office seal at the tip of the overlying flap.

As announced in *Post-Verordnungsblatt Nr. 24* of 31 March 1874 (ref. 7), from 1 April 1874 both Austria and Hungary introduced heavy-duty envelopes at a price of 1kr each specifically for sending banknotes and coins. This document changed the letter sealing requirements, reducing the number of seals, but continued the ability to submit open letters for checking the contents, as indicated by the following paragraphs. There is no mention of any requirement to continue marking the pre-sealed mail with ‘*Angeblich*’. A translation of the relevant paragraphs is given in Table 2:

Table 2: Translation of paragraphs of the 1874 decree concerning sealing of official money envelopes

<p>2. Die in postamtlicher Geldbriefs-Couvert verwahrten und (nach Angabe) verschlossen zur Aufgabe gebrachten Geldbriefe sind an den beiden Stellen, wo die Couvertflügel zusammenlaufen, mit zwei gleichem Siegel zu verschliessen. (Muster 2)</p>	<p>2. Money letters using post-official money letter envelopes and submitted sealed (according to information given) must be sealed with two identical seals at the two points where the envelope flaps meet. (Pattern 2)</p>
<p>3. Bei offen aufgegebenen Privatsendungen bis zum Gewichte von 15 loth und in Werte mehr als 100<i>Fl</i> is an beiden Ecken der Couvertflügel das postamtliche Controlsiegel und zwischen denselben das Privatsiegel anzubringen. (Muster 3)</p>	<p>3. For unsealed mailed private shipments weighing up to 15 loth and with values exceeding 100<i>Fl</i>, the post office control seal must be affixed to both corners of the envelope flaps and the private seal placed between them. (Pattern 3)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Muster 2.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">A. B. Siegel des Versenders.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Muster 3.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">A. C. Postamtliches-Controlsiegel. B. Siegel des Versenders.</p>

Now curiously, apart from ‘correcting’ for the inappropriate use of a type 421 receipt for a sealed letter (Figure 6), I’ve not come across any Austrian item correctly stamped with ‘*Angeblich*’, although there is one such item shown in Czirik’s publication (ref. 1, Vol. 2, p.10).

The equivalent meaning of ‘allegedly’ in Hungarian is ‘*Állítólag*’ (confirmed by the bilingual text of the Hungarian *PTRT* 1870, no. 7., pp.44-45), and an example is shown in Figure 7 apparently correctly applied to an envelope with five sender’s seals and no post office control seal. This term also appears in the wording of Hungarian language receipts.



Figure 7: Money letter from Dombóvár to Hógyész containing 65Fl in banknotes, marked 'BÉRMET.' (paid in cash) and 'ALLITÓLAG'. Five sender seals on the back and no post office control seal.

A search in the Austrian archives for the 1870 equivalent decree for the different Lands reveals the equivalent official expressions to the German 'Angeblich' in the other official languages of the Empire, noted here for interest:

Bohemian:	'dle udáni'
Italian:	'giusta dichiarazione'
Polish:	'podług podania'
Ruthenian:	'рекомо'
Croatian:	'po izjavi'
Slovenian:	'po povedi'
Romanian:	'presupus'

It would be interesting to see examples of these cachets used on money letters. The only such cachet I have found during trawling on the website Delcampe was on a letter from Macarsca to Spalato (now Split) in Dalmatia, but it used the expression 'VALORE DICHIARATO' ('value declared'), not the *giusta dichiarazione* listed above.

So what about 'Laut Angabe'?

Much more commonly found stamped on Austrian mail is the expression '*Laut Angabe*'. This expression does not appear to be authorised by any of the decrees, ordinances or postal notices that I and others have so far found. It is not mentioned in Czirok's book ([ref. 1](#)). According to Google Translate, this means 'according to information', while '*Nach Angabe*' translates as 'as specified'. The problem with these short expressions is that we do not know whether the 'information' or the 'specification' equates to post office acceptance of a verbal or written statement by the sender as to what is in a sealed envelope, or whether the sending that is presented 'open' has been found on inspection to contain the contents exactly as written on the envelope. A number of sources claim that '*Laut Angabe*' is used in the same way as '*Nach Angabe*' and '*Angeblich*'. But why in the bureaucratic instruction-based Empire would postmasters use a handstamp that is worded differently to those that have been definitively required by postal ordinances? Did '*Laut Angabe*' have a different purpose? Let's look at the evidence shown in Figures 8 to 14.



Figure 8: An 1860s money letter from Fiume to Vienna containing 95Fl45 with a 'LAUT ANGABE' handstamp on the front, and with two customer seals on the back with the 'Fiume Postamt' control seal between them. (Courtesy Keith Brandon).



Figure 9: Envelope containing three 10Fl banknotes sent from Felegyháza (now Kiskunfelegyháza in Hungary) to Pest. The enclosed letter is dated 30 January 1854 and was written from the nearby town of (Kiskun)halas. It has four black customer seals and a 'K.K. Postamt Felegyháza' seal in the centre as per regulations. The address side is marked 'FRANCO', but there is no inspection cachet.



Figure 10: An undated money envelope from Téth (Hungary) to Eggenburg (NÖ) containing 74Fl showing a 'LAUT ANGABE' handstamp on the front. It has five sender seals on the back, and no post office control seal. The Téth postmark is said to have been in use between 1856-1886 according to Gudlin.



Figure 11: Undated money envelope from Vienna to Szala-Egerszeg enclosing five 2Fl banknotes, subsequently used as evidence in a court case in Szala Egerszeg. It has a 'LAUT ANGABE' marking on the front, four sender seals and a 'K.K. Hauptpostwagens Expedition in Wien' control seal on the back. The wax flow at the upper right suggests the post office seal was placed after the customer seals. The 6kr fiscal is the evidence fee.



Figure 12: Undated money cover sent from Niemes (now Minoň in Czechia) to Vienna containing forty 100 Fl banknotes and handstamped 'L. ANGABE'. On the back are six sender seals and the 'Kais. Kön. Postamt Niemes' control seal. The overlap indicates that the post office seal was applied after the customer seals using a different coloured wax.



Figure 13: Official money cover from Festung Ofen (Buda, Hungary) to Brüx (Bohemia) containing 6Fl in banknotes. Stamped 'LAUT ANGABE' and sealed on the back with two customer seals and an oval 'K.K. Postwagens Expedition Ofen' control seal in the centre. According to Gudlin (ref. 8), the 'Festung Ofen' datestamp was in use from 1850-1855.



Figure 14: An officially issued money envelope used on 29 March 1881 from Ungarisch Ostra to Kostritz in Germany to send 45Fl in banknotes. Two customer seals on the reverse, no post office control seal. Stamped 'LAUT ANGABE' on the front.

These examples provide unclear messages concerning the function of ‘*Laut Angabe*’, primarily because in many cases we do not know the year date of use. What we can deduce is that it was definitely in use from 1850 to perhaps the 1880s. No examples prior to 1850 have yet been seen. Figure 10 shows an example of it being used on an item which has five customer seals and no post office control seal, which implies it is a pre-sealed envelope posted after the 1870 change of regulation. Figure 14 shows fairly late use in 1881 with sender-only seals. In all the other examples, a post office seal has been applied, which was the norm for both unsealed and pre-sealed mail from 1850 to 1870. Where seals abut or overlap, the post office seal appears to have been applied after the customer seals. Often the post office seal is in a different coloured wax to the customer seals which probably implies that the item was pre-sealed elsewhere. In contrast, Figure 9 shows an example which would appear to be pre-sealed with four black seals before presentation at the post office and the application of a red control seal, but has no cachet indicating this. Can this be explained by the customer taking his letter in an ‘open’ state to the post office along with his own stick of wax (and candle?) for sealing after inspection? We shall never know!

What we have recently established is that the instruction for using a cachet or handwritten remark on sealed money letters and receipts ([ref.9](#)) was rescinded in 1885 (Figure 15). In this case ‘*Laut Angabe*’ is specifically mentioned, but ‘*Nach Angabe*’ is not. This means that ‘*Laut Angabe*’ was by then accepted by the post office to be in common use and, specifically, that it was considered to be equivalent to the other expressions.

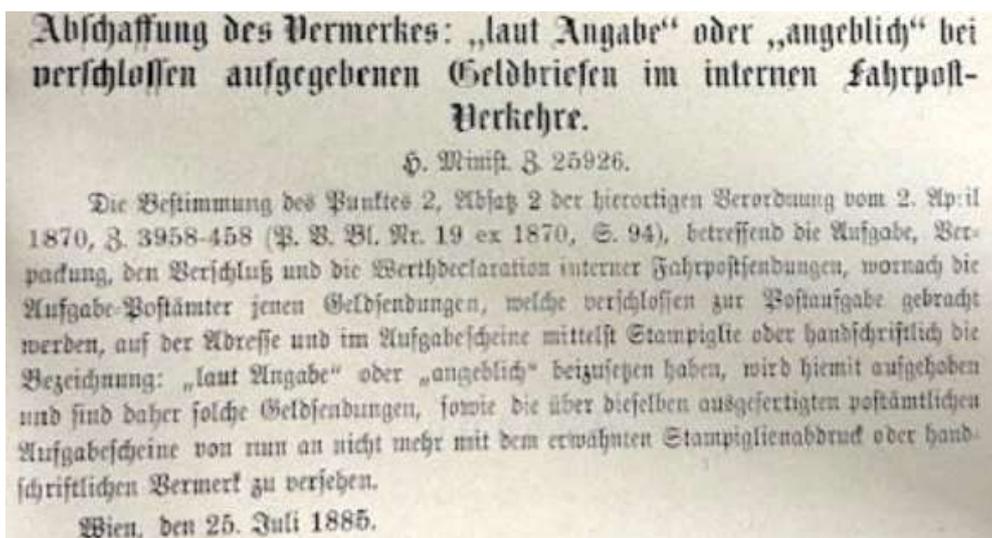


Figure 15: Extract from the *Post und Telegraphs Verordnungsblatt* no. 57, 29 July 1885 rescinding the requirement for using a cachet on sealed money letters.

Conclusions

I hope that this article has helped to explain the complicated and changing process of sending cash through the post in 19th century Austria-Hungary, and why examples of such mail appear as they do. However, unfortunately it leaves open the question as to why the cachet ‘*Laut Angabe*’ appears frequently on such mail from 1850 onwards when the regulations say that ‘*Nach Angabe*’ or ‘*Angeblich*’ (or ‘*Állítólag*’ in Hungarian and other equivalent expressions for different languages) should have been used, the latter being the expression that was also used on printed receipts of type 420. The general use of this cachet by post offices in numerous places both in Austria and in Hungary implies ‘*Laut Angabe*’ was permitted, even recommended, as an alternative to ‘*Nach Angabe*’ or ‘*Angeblich*’, but the source of this permission has not been found. Somewhere there must be some post office circular or other document from 1850 or 1851 that permits its use. Can any reader throw any further light on this?

Acknowledgements

This investigation followed from a discussion at the Peterborough Fest in 2023, and encouragement by Keith Brandon to look further into the ‘*Laut Angabe*’ matter. I thank Keith for reviewing an early draft of this article. I also thank our Editor, Eva Sinnmayer, and Hans Moser for further probing into parts of the Austrian archives not (yet?) accessible on-line. Thanks are due also to Martin Brumby for assistance in sorting out the equivalent Hungarian formal post office decrees.

References

(Note: Links to the on-line Austrian archives are given where possible, but not all documents are currently accessible in that way. Hungarian items are currently available via costly subscription-only access.)

1. Czirók, D., *A kocsiposta története és viteldíjrendszerei magyarországon 1750 és 1850 között* (The history and fare systems of coach mail in Hungary), 1995, self-published. See also Volume 2, 1850-1888, 1996.
2. 1838 *Politische Gesetz Sammlung* RGB106 (= RGB204 and 280)) pp. 333-362.
<https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex?aid=pgs&datum=1838&page=393&size=45>
3. 1850 *Handelsministerium dekret* RGB 315, 27 July 1850.
<https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex?aid=rgb&datum=1850&page=1435&size=45>
The equivalent announcement for Hungary (in German) can be found at:
<https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex?aid=lun&datum=1850&page=382&size=45>
4. 1818 *Politische Gesetze Sammlung* RGB 69, 11 July 1818.
<https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex?aid=pgs&datum=1818&page=229&size=45>
5. Czirók, D., *Katalog der Formularstempel und den in Ungarn verwendeten Postformularen und deren Bewertung im Zeitraum 1830-1900* (Catalogue of the formular handstamps and the postal formulars used in Hungary in the time period 1830-1900, and their valuation), MAFFIT, Budapest, 2017.
6. 1870 *Reichsgesetzblatt nr. 58*, 2 April 1870.
<https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex?aid=rgb&datum=1870&page=142&size=45>
7. *Postverordnungsblatt* no. 24, 31 March 1874, taken from Hochleutner, F., Pollak, H.O., *Die amtlichen Geldbriefumschläge der Österreichischen Post*, 1993, self-published, pp.2-3. For the equivalent Hungarian announcement see *Postai Rendeletek Tára*, 1874, p.33.
8. Gudin, T., *Classic postmarks of Hungary*, self-published, Braunschweig, Germany, 2004.
9. *Postverordnungsblatt* no. 59, 29 July 1885 (p.387)
<https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex-day?aid=ptv&datum=18850729&zoom=33>



The Editor apologises for the amount of white space in this article - the size and shape of the illustrations presented considerable layout problems; and technical difficulties were also a problem.

