

AUSTRIA 231 – Summer 2025 – Contents:

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Edited by Hiroyuki Yamagata

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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> was formerly, and will soon be, 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

Note the changes!

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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. Notify the Membership Secretary and pay the subscription as below.

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

NEW ISSUES: 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.

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 ian@ianbergelassociates.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**”.

Notices

Austrian Philatelic Society

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held online at 14:00 U.K. time on Wednesday
8 October 2025

1. Opening by the President
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 8 October 2024
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. President's report
6. Secretary and Membership Secretary's report
7. Treasurer's report and statement of accounts for 2024-25
8. Auctioneer's report
9. Packet Secretary's report and financial statement
10. Editor's report
11. Webmaster's report
12. Publicity Secretary's report
13. Reports from Northern and London Groups
14. Resolutions
15. Election of officers
16. Appointment of Examiner
17. Matters raised by the Committee
18. Any other business

N G M Coverdale, Hon. Secretary

Nominations for the following Committee roles are invited (election of Officers at the AGM) – President, Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Auctioneer, Editor, Packet Secretary, Publicity Officer, Webmaster. Nominations with a proposer and seconder must be in writing (email is adequate), together with the written consent of the nominee, and be with the Secretary by the end of Wednesday 3 September 2025.

Resolutions for presentation to the AGM which, if passed, would make substantive changes to the APS may also be submitted in writing to the Secretary with a proposer and seconder by the above date. No such resolutions shall be tabled at the AGM itself.

APS Treasurer

Please note that Ian Bergel (address on inside back cover) has now taken over as Primary User of the society's bank account. The process removes user access from Andy Taylor, so please do not send Andy your cheques!

EUROPHILEX REPORT

By Zöld Veltelini



Lasciate ogni speranza, voi ch'entrate

The National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham is huge - Hall 9, where EurophilEx2025 was held, could easily accommodate a gold-plated Boeing 747-8 with the tail fin removed. The banner in the above picture is real, not a photoshopped addition, and is about 50 feet (15.2m) long. It took some 15 minutes to walk to its entrance from Birmingham International Railway Station, the most convenient point of access unless you were staying in an on-site hotel. There were almost 2000 16-sheet frames, and about 70 dealers albeit very few from Continental Europe. A licenced café was welcome, and there was also a tables-and-chairs area in the hall. The “meeting rooms” had walls but no roofs, so speakers had to raise their voices.

Society Day - Thursday 8 May



The APS had arranged (and paid) for a table, and brought a placard, membership forms, and a pile of journals. This was staffed by Andy Taylor, ably assisted by Andreas Daumenschmertz, Jablečný Koláč, Albrecht Mangai, Prof. Colin O'Scopy, Mauritius Adalbert Rillen, Ikke I Rute, Gräfin Hestia Schwarzkümmel, Jatkuu Seuraavalla Sivulla, Zöld Veltelini, and the Presidential Messenger Igor.



Six membership forms were handed out; one was completed and returned later along with the subscription.

The Empire Striking Back - Friday 9 May

The APS had booked a meeting-room (and paid for the room hire) for the afternoon of Friday 9 May. This was intended for collectors of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its successor states. 15 members of various societies (Austrian, Hungarian, Czech, Polish) from both sides of the Atlantic were welcomed.

There were five 4x4 frames available. Andy Taylor produced display-quality reproductions of a selection of the Bravery Scurrilous Postcard collection - they feature Kaiser Franz Joseph. Roger Morrell showed Money Letters; Nick Coverdale the Austrian Consular Post Office in Belgrade 1841-1869 and the Serbian/Austro-Hungarian Postal Convention 1969-1880; and Alan Berrisford brought cancellations from Bukowina and Galicia.

During the meeting, Mrs Yvonne Wheatley announced that the Association of British Philatelic Societies (of which the Austrian Philatelic Society is a member) had given one of the 2025 Awards of Merit to Andy Taylor, and she presented him with the framed Certificate.



A glimpse of the meeting



As you can clearly see...

Viewing time

Louder, tenors!

Competition Results

Only four APS members had entered the competitive classes; but the results were well above average ☺

| Number | Name | Exhibit | Result |
|---------|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| A1-1871 | Mr Bill Hedley | Merchants of Venice: Communication in the Golden Age of La Serenissima | (Court of Honour) |
| 2B-0226 | Mr Andy Taylor | The newspaper postage stamps of Austria | 93: Gold, felicitations for research |
| 2B-0321 | Mrs Yvonne Wheatley | Czechoslovakia: The Printing Experiments of 1920 to 1923 | 93: Gold |
| 3A-0758 | Prof Peter Chadwick | Early postal routes and post offices in Scotland | 96: Large Gold, Grand Prix National |
| 3B-0944 | Lubomir Spacek | St Petersburg and Moscow Imperial City Post | 86: Large Vermeil |
| 5-1351 | Mr Andy Taylor | The Austrian Newspaper Tax | 93: Gold |

Congratulations also to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, whose journal Czechout gained 82 points = Vermeil and their website 86 points = Large Vermeil.



Gallery (in exhibition frame layout)



Meanwhile in another part of the forest...

The Austrian national exhibition “Övebria” was held in Hohenems in Vorarlberg, and saw the formal presentation of two commemoratives, the new definitive series “trees and shrubs”, and a couple of Cryptostamps. It was also the 150th anniversary of the Vorarlberg Fire Brigade, with a display of old fire engines, one being used for a special “carried by fire engine” mailing. Representatives from Liechtenstein and Germany had stands.

There were over 40 exhibits, including two by APS members. Dorothea Haslauer received a Gold plus a special prize for “*Vom Biedermeier bis zum Jugendstil*”; and Hans Moser a Large Vermeil for his book “*Nord- und Osttiroler Stempel der Posteinrichtungen L bis Z ab 1850 bis ca. 2023*”. Congratulations to both!

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

4/2025: VÖPh's personalised stamps; Övebria 2025; Hohenems; Marke+Münze 2025; the Frankenburger Würfenspiel; new issues; stamp products; 175 years of Austrian Stamps (i); society news etc (everybody now has their block-of-three!); forthcoming exhibitions; etc etc

5/2025: VÖPh's personalised stamps; Marke+Münze 2025; 80 years since the end of WWII; 250 years since the American War of Independence; new issues including the new "trees and shrubs" definitive series; 175 years of Austrian Stamps (ii); society news etc; forthcoming exhibitions; etc etc

6/2025: Once upon a time there was the Schilling; death centenary of Ludwig Lohner, builder of cars and aeroplanes; Robert Stolz the Composer (i); centenaries of various cars etc; 250 years since Austria bought Bukowina; 175 years of Austrian Stamps (iii); extended society news etc; forthcoming exhibitions; etc etc

♪ Stamps of Hungary

Nr 241 June 2025: 150 Years of the 'Envelope' design stamps; The story of the 'Lucky Number' stamps – Part 3: Suchtár and the Lucky Symbols; Early use of the 1874 postal stationery card; What's on your card? Etc etc

♪ Germania

May 2025 (61.2): Postal history - Bedarf or Portogerecht; 20th anniversary of the flower series; regulations for POW mail in WWII; changes to German Exchange Control Offices, 1918-1922; etc etc.

♪ Czechout

Mar 2025 (43/1): Found for a Pound; The 'Liberation' of Rossbach, September 1938; Another Look at the Agriculture and Science 500 and 600 Haler; President Masaryk overprints - 1918; etc

♪ ArGe Feldpost Ö-H

Rundbrief 154 2025/1: News from & for members; the world's oldest censor stamp; Feldpostcard from Anatolia; Army HQ in Przemysl in 1914; kuk Kriegsmarine forgeries; kuk Kriegsgefangenenstationen (POW processing) [45 sides!]; the Padua-Wien-Prag "airline", early 1910s; kuk Such-Flotilla (submarine hunters?); etc.

BOOKSHOP KEEPER WANTED!

The new APS web site will soon have a "Bookshop". While at present "our shop has only got one book", members are writing others - so we need a storage and distribution mechanism. Orders would arrive by email; the shopkeeper's role is to pack and post from their UK location to anywhere in the world; and to handle the invoices (but not the money). The workload is small; the storage requirement up to a dozen foot-cube boxes in a domestic environment (not a garage or shed).

Volunteer sought! Please contact the President.

Book Review

“Western Ukraine 1918 – 1919: A Specialized Philatelic Catalog” by Dr Inger Kuzych

Book review by Blair Peters, Winnipeg

The years 1918-1919 were turbulent violent times in eastern Europe. Lines drawn on a map in Paris meant little to new nations struggling for their first breaths as they left the dying Austro-Hungarian Empire. With extensive research and thoughtful execution Dr. Kuzych brilliantly presents the struggles of the Western Ukraine alongside its philately in this exceptional catalogue. This, is a philatelic and historic jewel.

Dr. Kuzych's own description of his catalogue both in the winter 2024 issue of “Austria” and on the back cover of the catalogue is concise and accurate. I endeavor not to repeat, but rather focus on features useful to an existing collector such as myself seeking deeper information in this area of study, sadly underrepresented in English language philatelic literature.

As soon as you open the catalogue you are captured by the philatelic beauty of “The Blue Marvel”, the rarest item in Western Ukraine philately. The accompanying description of this amazing cover entices you to engage further. A well laid out Table of Contents utilizes light blue highlighting used throughout the catalogue. I found this feature very helpful as it allows distinct focus on the listings in the tables. The Introduction follows with the details on naming and numbering used in the catalogue. If you are not one to read introductions you will not be lost in this catalogue. The complete work is very well laid out with subtle select descriptive repetition of essential details throughout to keep you on track. The Cartographic Setting of the Western Ukraine is next and is extremely thoughtfully done. The maps actually have the key locations referred to in the catalogue (unlike in many historical writings). The accompanying map descriptions give one a good appreciation of the geopolitical fluidity of the Western Ukraine in 1918-1919. They are well selected, well labelled and meaningful to the philately in the catalogue.

Part I, the Catalogue of Western Ukrainian Postage Stamps, starts with the issues of the Austrian stamps used and overprinted by the Western Ukraine. This is very helpful for establishing a philatelic baseline in ones' study. The written descriptions, detail of tabulation and large illustrations are a delight and their high standard is maintained throughout the catalogue. Continuing with the Western Ukrainian stamp issues there are general issue descriptions and a “Historical Background” provided. Each issue is tabulated (Western Ukraine=Kuzych and Netto numbering) with quantities produced, varieties, values and followed by “Production Notes”. The “Production Notes” are well organized and allow for a clear understanding of the preparation, distribution, modification of the issues and causes for the varieties (although including a plate layout diagram in the Appendix with the numbered positions of the varieties of the plate errors referred to would be helpful). Covers for the respective issues are also tabulated and relevant, unique examples illustrated. A subtle repetition of essential details again allows uninterrupted flow in the use of this catalogue and minimizes flipping back pages to refresh ones' memory.

Part II describing Postal Stationary of the period virtually includes any stationary item that could be sent by the mail and any stationary item with a stamp or postal marking on it. The descriptions are clear, detailed and the illustrations are unsurpassed.

Part III contains the Appendices. With Appendix A one finds this a catalogue considerate enough to include cross references to the numbering systems of other catalogues. It is detailed and easy to follow. Each stamp issue is given a clear description reiterating essential details mentioned in Part I. Appendix B presents the Western Ukrainian Mail Markings. The cancellations and markings are translated from Cyrillic to Latin scripts in the tables and linked to their geographic location, easily identified in the maps contained in the Cartographic Setting. Included are not just postal markings, but any marking that would have been found on a cover even though not considered to be part of postal history. The illustrations of the markings are the real thing, in their real colours, on their real pieces. Appendix C lays out the postal rates in an uncluttered easily referenced form. The References are also included in Part III. Through them one comprehends the mystery of how such detailed information in the catalogue was procured in this historical period of such confusion and uncertainty in the Western Ukraine. They are well formatted and considerately, the language of publication if not in English, is specified.

This volume I would highly recommend also to anyone totally new to this area of study. Although comprehensive and detailed for the most demanding study, it is so well laid out and illustrated that it is not intimidating, but inviting. A wise philatelist once commented “Buy the book, then the stamp”. This is the book to buy. For an indispensable study resource, for collecting, or for just a reference to have in your bookshelf on Western Ukrainian 1918-1919 philately, this catalogue sets an eminent standard.

Postal aspects of the “Ostmark”, especially Jungholz and the “Kleine Walsertal”

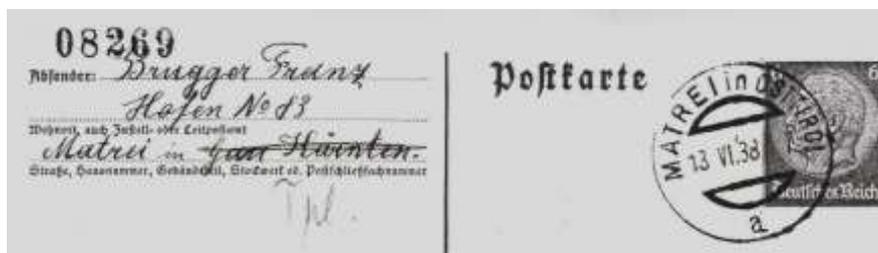
Dr. Hans Moser, Bärenweg 14, A-6410 Telfs

hans.moser@uibk.ac.at

General

The time of the Ostmark not only brought radical political, economic, cultural and personal changes for the inhabitants of former Austria, but also changes were introduced in the postal sector and the postal service, which continued until the end of the Second World War. As early as 1938, newly manufactured day stamps were adapted in their appearance to the ring-bridge stamps of the German Reich, but existing OT stamps from the time of the First Republic and even some from the time of the monarchy were also reworked, sometimes several times. The changes were rather minor and consisted of asterisks being removed or a Roman numeral marking the month being replaced by an Arabic numeral. National Socialist policy was also evident in changes to the administration. Administrative districts were converted to rural districts (Kreis) by decree, and the **Ostmark laws** of April 14, 1939 created Reichsgaue. The name “**Österreich**” was deliberately **eliminated from common usage**; the official term was “Alpengau” or “Donaugau”. “**Oberdonau**” and “**Niederdonau**” replaced “Oberösterreich” and “Niederösterreich”. The new names can be found not only in addresses, but also on post office stamps [e.g. Aigen (Oberdonau); Altenburg (Kr Horn, Niederdonau)]. In daily stamps, the changes in place names to “Oberdonau” were already completed in 1939, in “Niederdonau” it took until 1941 [e.g.: Wildendürnbach].

Gradually, the term “**Osttirol**” also became politically undesirable: “Osttirol” not only reminded the Tirolean population of the separation from “Nordtirol” that took place against their will on October 15, 1938 and lasted until October 19, 1947, but also of the generally misunderstood attitude of National Socialism towards “Südtirol”. By incorporating “Osttirol” into the **Gau of Carinthia as “Lienz District”** and transferring the administrative authority from Innsbruck to Klagenfurt, there was officially no longer any “Osttirol”.



Detail of a postcard, with sender address “Gau Kärnten”, against which the recipient protested and corrected the “Gau Kärnten” with “Trl” = Tirol (below) in pencil.

In postal terms, these measures can be seen in changes to post office names. “Matrei in Osttirol” (#1) became “Matrei (Grossvenediger)” (#2), “Lienz” became “Lienz (Drau)”. Some post offices were converted into post offices I and given new, partly three-line stamps, such as “Ausservillgraten / über / Sillian” (#4).

The type designation of the stamps indicated in all illustrations comes from Stohl.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| #1 Ø 26.5  | #2 Ø 28  | #3 Ø 28  | #4 Ø 28  |
| segment stamp 8j0 1927-1939 | ring bridge stamp 7Ab1 1945-1947 | segment stamp 8p0 1946-1966 | ring bridge stamp 7Q1 1943-1948 |

Post office designation of Matrei in East Tirol between 1922 and 1966 (#1 to #3). “Großvenediger” is a well-known mountain. Next to it: “über” stamp of a post office I of the German Reichspost (#4).

Nikolsdorf was converted from a post office to Poststelle I in 1939/40; the name was changed to “Nikolsdorf (Osttirol)” in 1943, about which we can only speculate at present. From around mid-1944, the area code (GLZ = Gebeitsleitzahl) was introduced for letter mail and also integrated into some OT stamps. The GLZ for Vienna, Lower Danube and Styria (with the parts of Burgenland included therein) was 12a, for the rest of the “Ostmark” 12b. After the war, it was removed from the stamps in a few post offices within days, in others only after years.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| #5 Ø 27.5  | #6 Ø 28  | #7 Ø 28  | #8 Ø 28  |
| Bridge stamp 6c90 asterisk removed, month Roman; 1939 | German ring bridge stamp 7A1; month Arabic; 1941-1942 | German ring bridge stamp 7A1 1943-1944; 1952-1957 | German ring bridge stamp 7Ab1 1945-1947 |

The (not shown) bridge stamp with Uz * a * (Stohl 6c20) was produced on January 22nd, 1914 by the Schatz company (Vienna) with small 6-rayed stars and is documented up to August 8th, 1938. The stars were removed at an unknown point in time, which can be proven with the stamp shown (#5). In 1941, the **German Reichspost** commissioned a stamp with Uz b with the designation “Nikolsdorf” (#6), from 1943 onwards the designation of the new stamp with Uz “a” is “Nikolsdorf (Osttirol)” (#7). In this (#8) the GLZ (12 b) was added in 1944/45 and documented up to 1947. When this stamp was used from 1952 onwards, (12b) was removed again without leaving a residue, so that the appearance does not differ from 1943 (#7).

The **Territorial Amendment Act** of October 1, 1938 also formed the legal basis for the creation of **Greater Vienna (Groß-Wien)** and for the **judicial district of Bad Aussee** (Styrian Salzkammergut) to be transferred from Styria and the municipality of **Behamberg** from Lower Austria to “**Oberdonau**”. This law also regulated the dissolution of **Burgenland**: “Niederdonau” administered the north and Styria the south of the former Burgenland [details in Bruckner].

With the **Ostmark Law** (14.4.39), seven Reichsgaue were created; one of the Reichsgaue was **Tirol**. It was not until the end of 1939, after tough negotiations, that the Gau designation “**Tirol-Vorarlberg**” was introduced. While the additional designation “**Vorarlberg**” was still common on OT stamps in 1939, it was eliminated around 1943 and replaced by geographical names. The old Austrian post office name “Lustenau” was changed to “Lustenau (Vorarlberg)” around 1940, and to “Lustenau (Rheintal)” around 1943. Both designations appear as 12b stamps. One reason for the renaming of the post office “Höchst, Vorarlberg” to “Rheinau-Höchst” on March 1, 1939 could have been of national propaganda origin, in reference to the “Rhine”, whose name was intended to evoke patriotic feelings. The name “**Rheinau**” was also used to precede the offices “Fussach” and “Gaissau”.

Perhaps the anti-clerical attitude of National Socialism was the reason why the Salzburg towns of “Maria Pfarr (1941), Pfarrwerfen (1939/40) and St. Johann im Pongau (1939) were renamed “Marienpichl, Dorfwerfen and Markt Pongau”, and the Carinthian community of “St. Paul im Lavanttal (1941)” was renamed “Spanheim”. Interestingly, the Styrian communities of “Judenburg” and Judendorf-Straßengel” kept their place names even during the Nazi era.

Another feature of the postal system during the Nazi era was that other types of stamps were used extensively for political advertising. **Advertising stamps** were used by Nazi organizations to recruit members, for party slogans, propaganda and for educational measures such as “Mothers, keep the matches; waste material is raw material / collect waste paper; Christmas = and / New Year's mail / *early* / deliver!”



Examples of advertising stamps from Innsbruck 2 with slogans and propaganda inserts

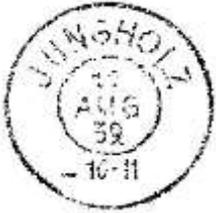
Special stamps were also used specifically at events such as party conferences, sporting events, exhibitions, etc. to attract people and inspire them with Nazi ideology.

Jungholz

Kleines Walsertal [Vorarlberg] and the community of **Jungholz** [Tirol], which are economically closely linked to Bavaria, were incorporated into the Gau Schwaben with the Reichspostdirektion Augsburg by means of the Territorial Amendment Act of October 1, 1938 with effect from October 15, 1938 and later belonged to postal code area 13b. The post office “Jungholz”, which became Poststelle I on October 26, 1938, was given the name “Jungholz (Schwab)”, but the stamp designation in the German ring bridge stamp remained “Jungholz”. Towards the end of December 1943, “Jungholz (Schwab)” was introduced.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>#9 Ø 28</p>  | <p>#10 Ø 28</p>  | <p>#11 Ø 28</p>  |
| <p>bridge stamp 6c20 with asterisk 1927-1938</p> | <p>Bridge stamp 6c90 asterisk removed evidence is missing</p> | <p>“German ring bridge stamp” 7B1</p> |

The bridge stamp (#9) of the Austrian Post, produced on January 13, 1927 by the Schatz company (Vienna), is documented up to June 27, 1938. Due to a lack of evidence, it is currently unclear whether the Uz “a” stamp with the stars removed (#10) exists. On December 2, 1938, the Braungardt company (Munich) produced the ring bridge stamp, also with Uz “a” (#11), and the official seal with the imperial eagle (#12) at about the same time. Nothing is known about the use or application of the stamps produced by Braungardt on August 12, 1939 (#13) and December 12, 1943 (#14).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>#12 Ø 35</p>  | <p>#13 Ø 27</p>  | <p>#14 Ø 27</p>  |
| <p>official seal from December 1938</p> | <p>Bavarian stamp Use is currently unknown</p> | <p>Bavarian stamp Use is currently unknown</p> |

Note: According to the 1944 local directory of the German Reichspost, there is a second Jungholz in Upper Alsace. The lettering of the ring bridge stamp is set closer together and an ideally extended upper bar line cuts the letters J and Z of Jungholz in the middle.

Kleines Walsertal

Due to political decisions, post offices in the Kleinwalsertal valley show interesting examples of postmark changes. On November 30, 1938, the asterisks were removed from the Austrian Post's OT postmarks, and then the designation "Vorarlberg" was eliminated. On December 2, 1938, the Braungardt company delivered the postmarks ordered by the German Reichspost with the new post office designation "... (Kleinwalsertal)". It is unclear why the "Bavarian stamps" were purchased on August 12, 1939.

Austrian postmark changes below were found in a protocol (from Augsburg? / Oberstdorf?). The stamps of the German Reichspost were made by Braungardt.

Hirschegg

The post office (Kühnel), which had existed since about 1899, was replaced on July 8, 1929 by the post office HIRSCHEGG, VORARLBERG and renamed HIRSCHEGG, KLEINWALSERTAL towards the end of 1938.

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| #15 Ø 26 | #16 Ø 26 | #17 Ø 26 |
| | | |
| Segment stamp 8a0 last day 1929-1938 | Segment stamp 8aj0 note comma | Segment stamp 8aj0 without comma |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| #18 Ø 28 | #19 Ø 28 | #20 Ø 27 | #21 Ø 28 |
| | | | |
| ring bridge stamp 7A1 1938-1950 | ring bridge stamp 7A1 1938-1950 | Bavarian stamp HIRSCHBERG Use is currently unknown | 13b Oberstdorf H Postal payment transactions |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| #22 Ø 35 | #23 Ø 36 |
| | |
| official seal from March 1940 | advertising stamps 1939-1950 |

Mittelberg

renamed MITTELBERG in VORARLBERG on January 25, 1904 and then MITTELBERG (KLEINWALSERTAL) towards the end of 1938.

| | |
|---|--|
| #24 Ø 29.5 | #25 Ø 29.5 |
|  |  |
| Austrian ring bridge stamp 7n1 1904-1938 | Austrian ring bridge stamp 7nj1 without "in Vorarlberg" |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| #26 Ø 28 | #27 Ø 28 | #28 Ø 27 | #29 Ø 28 |
|  |  |  |  |
| German ring bridge stamp 7A1 1938-1950 | German ring bridge stamp 7A1 1938-1950 | Bavarian stamp Use is currently unknown | 13b Oberstdorf M Postal payment transactions |

| | |
|---|--|
| #30 Ø 35 | #31 Ø 36 |
|  |  |
| official seal from March 1940 | advertising stamps 1939-1950 |

The stamps of the German Reichspost were produced by the Braungardt company in Munich.

Riezlern

The RIEZLERN post office, built on July 29, 1886, was renamed RIEZLERN (KLEINWALSERTAL) towards the end of 1938.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| #32 Ø 27.5  | #33 Ø 27  | #34 Ø 27  |
| Bridge stamp (6190) with star remains | Bridge stamp 6b90 asterisk removed | Bridge stamp 6190 asterisk removed |

*(6190): the stars were supposed to be completely removed, but this has only been done in part.
Stohl has no special code for "star remains" on the bridge stamps.*

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| #35 Ø 28  | #36 Ø 28  | #37 Ø 27  | #38 Ø 28  |
| German ring bridge stamp 7A1 1938-1950 | German ring bridge stamp 7A1 1938-1950 | German ring bridge stamp 7A1 1943-1950 | Bavarian stamp Use is currently unknown |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| #39 Ø 35  | #40 Ø 36  | #41 Ø 36  |
| official seal from March 1940 | advertising stamps 1938 was unknown | advertising stamps 1939-1950 |

All stamps of the German Reichspost from Jungholz and the Kleinen Walsertal were produced by the Braungardt company in Munich.

Registration slip, district stamp

13b registration slips are known from Hirscheegg, Mittelberg and Riezlern. For more details, see literature: Andrae.

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| | | |
| Type XI until 07.48 | Type XI until 06.48 | Type XXII until 03.49 |

Mittelberg is also said to have produced the Rekozettel type XVIII.

Specialists may be interested to know that with the change of the Reich Postal Directorate (RPD), the number of the district stamp used in payment transactions also changed. For the Kleine Walsertal and Jungholz, this is 42 instead of 54 to 59 in the entire postal code area 12 (“Ostmark”). The RPD Innsbruck (with Tirol, Vorarlberg and Salzburg) was assigned the district number 55, and the RPD Klagenfurt (with East Tirol) 56.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| a 42 (Hirscheegg) Oberstdorf | a 42 (Mittelberg) Oberstdorf | a 42 (Riezlern) Oberstdorf | c 42 Wertach |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|

The places in Kleinwalsertal and Jungholz that were assigned to the RPD Augsburg were given the district stamp number 42. Jungholz, which became Post Office I on October 26, 1938, was placed under the Wertach branch post office, although it is not clear whether the above stamp [Wertach] was used at that time in Jungholz or in neighboring Wertach.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a 55 fladtau (Salzburg) | b 55 Schwaz (Tirol) | a 55 fiard (Vorarlberg) | a 56 (K a l s) Lienz |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|

All former federal states (Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg) united in the Reichspostdirektion Innsbruck received the district stamp number 55. East Tirol, now belonging to the RPD Klagenfurt, received the district stamp number 56. If additional counters in larger post offices were responsible for money transactions, they were prefixed with the letters “b” or “c” instead of “a”.

Formerly incorporated areas of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia

While the Territorial Amendment Act and the Ostmark Act regulated administrative territorial allocations in the former “Austria”, diplomatic skill and territorial gains in the war led to several “Alpine and Danube Reichsgaue” being territorially expanded and administered under civil law. The areas ultimately incorporated in the north and south of the “Ostmark” corresponded roughly to those regions that were declared to be part of the German-speaking territory of the former monarchy in the 3rd session of the **Provisional National Assembly held on November 12, 1918**. The German Reich leadership viewed the incorporation of these areas as a correction of the borders imposed by the Peace Dictate of **St. Germain**.

In the **Munich Agreement** (29-30 September 1938), the world powers agreed, mediated by Mussolini, to cede the closed German settlement area of the Czechoslovakia (“**Sudetenland**”) to the German Reich, which was implemented on 1 October 1938. In this agreement, areas of southern Bohemia were united with Oberdonau, and areas of southern Moravia with Niederdonau. On 10 October 1938, the **International Commission in Berlin** decided that Slovakia had to cede the “German” communities of Engerau (with peripheral areas) and Theben, which were administratively assigned to “Niederdonau”.

After the breakup of Yugoslavia, the areas of Lower Styria (Untersteiermark) and Carinthia (such as Upper Carniola (Oberkrain) and Lower Carinthia (Unterkrännten) that had been lost after World War I were united with the Reichsgaue of Styria and Carinthia on April 14, 1941. All of these areas are now in Slovenia.

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*) Moser Hans, Huter Roman, Ploner Karl (2017): Tiroler Werbe- Wellen- und Strichstempel, Band 1 von „Zur Postgeschichte der ehemaligen Postdirektion Innsbruck“ Eigenverlag

*) Moser Hans, Huter Roman, Stohl Hans (2019). Das Postleitgebiet 12 „Ostmark“ und eingegliederte Gebiete, Band 2 von „Zur Postgeschichte der ehemaligen Postdirektion Innsbruck“ Eigenverlag

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Stohl Hans, Hagn Hellmut (1997-2004): Postalische Abstempelungen im derzeitigen österreichischen Staatsgebiet von 1900 bis heute. 5 Bände. Verlag Pollischansky, A 1142 Wien, Dreyhausenstr. 16.

*) *Table of contents and ordering options see the homepage of ArGe Austria*
<https://arge-oesterreich.com/literatur/>

2025 NEW ISSUES (iii)

By Zöld Veltelini

The information given here is face value; 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; the pictures are scans of the Veltelini Collection since the OPost web site pictures won't download. As an experiment, some stamps have been scanned against a pale blue background, so that the perforations (and the edges) can be seen.



2025 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Johann Strauss Jr, and extensive philatelic (and other) commemorations are planned. This is the sheet-of-three produced by the Favoriten club in Vienna.

LAG 350 D3 Motorcycle. 3Eu50; 9 April 2025; David Gruber; Enschedé; Offset; 150,000 in sheets of 50.



The most successful motorcycle model of Liesinger Motorenfabrik AG was the LAG 350 D3 from 1927. The Liesinger Motorenfabrik emerged from the Georg Roth group of companies founded in 1866, one of the largest munitions manufacturers in the monarchy. After the First World War, auxiliary engines for bicycles and motorcycles were manufactured at the Vienna Liesing production facility under the names Roth and Geroth, respectively. In 1921, Liesinger Motorenfabrik AG was founded, and from 1924 onwards, the motorcycles bore the LAG name. Despite the motorcycles' well-known high manufacturing quality, production was discontinued in 1929. The LAG 350 D3, introduced in 1927, was also called the "Mountain Type" (Gebirgstype) due to its mountain capability. The model featured a LAG-designed, 350 cc, 10 hp, two-stroke, nose-piston engine with a modern saddle tank. The voluminous cast aluminium cooling fins on the exhaust manifold were striking.

Rudi Molacek - Midmorning, 2022. 2x1Eu55; 9 April 2025; Regina Simon; Enschedé; Offset; 260,000 in blocks of 2

The motif from the series "Contemporary Art" comes from the painter and photographer Rudi Molacek, who is known for his versatile art. Rudi Molacek was born in 1948 in Kindberg, Styria. He studied economics and worked as a model in the 1970s, but eventually moved behind the camera himself and successfully photographed campaigns for major brands. From 1986 to 1991, he taught photography at the University of Applied Arts.



80 years of the Austrian Trade Union Confederation. 3Eu10; 23 April 2025; Melanie Mussegg; bpost Stamps Printing; Offset; 190,000 in sheets of 50

80 years ago, the Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB) was founded as a non-partisan umbrella organization of trade unions. Around 1870, people in this country began to unite in trade union movements to fight against the catastrophic working and housing conditions and for their rights in the areas of employment and social affairs. After initial successes, the independent trade unions were banned in 1934; numerous committed individuals were



arrested, and many more were murdered. In April 1945, a plenary meeting of the SPÖ, ÖVP, and KPÖ trade unions led to the founding of the non-partisan Austrian Trade Union Federation. The first major successes were the Works Council Act, the Collective Bargaining Act, and the General Social Security Act. Today, the ÖGB is organized into seven unions and has more than 1.2 million members. Among other things, 450 collective agreements are negotiated annually.

Congratulations and Mourning series. Both: 1Eu; 26 April 2025; Daniel Zineldin; bpost Stamps Printing; Offset; Congratulations: 400,000 in sheets of 50; Mourning: 450,000 in sheets of 50. An interesting sales prediction...



OPost writes: *The new motifs of the congratulations and mourning stamps appear in a subtle blue shade. Flowers are a fitting motif for congratulations on a variety of occasions. This congratulations stamp depicts three flowers with lush, large blossoms in a vase. Two arms embrace the striped vase as if in an embrace, with the person's head completely hidden by the bulbous vessel. The word "Congratulations" and a blue frame with floral elements in the corners complete the design, which radiates joy. The blue of the memorial stamp is reminiscent of the colour of the deep water beneath the surface, which, like life itself, can sometimes be stormy and*



challenging. A small sailboat, symbolizing life, sails onto the setting sun like this; the turbulence it caused can be seen on the water. Even a person leaves traces when their life ends: those left behind will remember them, even if they are no longer with them.

New definitive series - 1 May 2025. See later!

Europa 2025 - the Hallstatt burial ground. 1Eu20; 1 May 2025; Marion Füllerer; Enschedé; offset; 200,000.

This year's theme of the EUROPA stamp, issued since 1956, is "National Archaeological Discoveries". The Austrian motif depicts the Hallstatt burial ground. The early Iron Age is known as the Hallstatt Period after the significant archaeological discoveries made there. Master miner Johann Georg Ramsauer recognized the significance of the site as a burial ground; from 1846 to 1863, he excavated 980 graves and meticulously documented his finds. The Natural History Museum Vienna has been involved in the research since 1877 and has conducted modern investigations since 1933. The graves date from approximately 800 to 350 BC; a total of around 5,000 people are thought to have been buried there. Grave goods such as jewelry, weapons, and ceramic vessels presumably filled with food and drink were also found. The stamp features a plan of the burial ground from Ramsauer's time, as well as a bronze ladle with animal figures.

Tag der Briefmarke 2025. 4Eu50 + 2Eu25; 1 May 2025; Anita Kern; Enschedé; offset; 165,000 in minisheets of 6 (thus costing 40Eu50!)

In recent years, the special stamps for Stamp Day have been dedicated to the Austrian Post's electromobility. This year's issue concludes this topic by moving to the present. Austrian Post recently reached 5,000 electric vehicles with a new Mercedes-Benz eSprinter. Around half of the delivery fleet is now electric, and the goal is to achieve nationwide CO2-free last-mile delivery by 2030. Complementing the electric vehicle, a definitive stamp from 2012 from the "Art Houses" series is also shown. It depicts the Hittisau Women's Museum in Vorarlberg, the only women's museum in Austria. The striking building was constructed in 2000 by the architectural firm Cukrowicz Nachbaur Architekten. The museum's mission is to document women's cultural work and their engagement with history from a female perspective.



Rathaus Hohenems, in the series Austrian Modern Architecture. 1Eu; 1 May 2025; Karin Klier; Enschedé; offset; 280,000



The new town hall is the namesake of the RathausQuartier project at the northern entrance to the historic town centre of Hohenems. The Vorarlberg-based firm of BERKTOLD WEBER Architekten emerged as the winner of an EU-wide competition with its design. With its inviting, outward-facing ground floor, the town hall provides a transition to the city garden and marks the beginning of a meeting zone that also encompasses the street space. The energy-efficient six-story building was constructed using ecological timber hybrid construction with recyclable building materials and energy-saving heating and cooling systems. Natural airflow ensures good ventilation and night-time cooling. In addition to the town hall with its large clock on its facade, the town hall quarter will include residential buildings, commercial premises, an underground parking garage, and a park. The listed Villa Iwan and Franziska Rosenthal will be renovated and converted into the "Vorarlberg Literature House."

100 years of the Landerhauptstadt Eisenstadt. 1Eu90; 2 May 2025; Marion Füllerer; bpost Stamps Printing; offset; 140,000

100 years ago, Eisenstadt became the capital of Burgenland and thus also the smallest state capital in Austria. Burgenland only became a federal province of Austria in 1921. Originally, Ödenburg (Sopron) was designated as the state capital, but after a referendum that city remained under Hungarian control. From 1921 to 1925, the municipality of Bad Sauerbrunn served as the provisional seat of the state administration, but by resolution of April 30, 1925, Eisenstadt was finally designated as the seat of the state government. However, Eisenstadt was not officially enshrined as the state capital in the state constitution until 1981. The city is best known for the historic Esterházy Palace and the Bergkirche, also known as the Haydn Church - Joseph Haydn spent a large part of his life as Kapellmeister of the Esterházy family in Eisenstadt. The stamp motif shows Eisenstadt's historic town hall, dating from the 17th century.



Blobe Ziege, in the Rare Useful Animals series. 1Eu; 4 May 2025; Kirsten Lubach; ; Enschedé; offset; 400,000 in flocks of 10.



The agile Blobe goat is a mountain goat breed native to the border area between North and South Tirol. It owes its name to the blue-gray base colour of its coat - blobe is the Tirolean word for blue. The animals are medium-sized and stocky; their medium-length coat with a dense undercoat provides good protection against the extreme weather conditions in the high mountains, where these robust and resilient animals spend the summer on alpine pastures. Their hard hooves ensure surefootedness on steep, rocky terrain, and their high-set udder reduces the risk of injury in the alpine landscape. The Blobe goat is a multi-purpose breed for milk and meat. The population of this ancient Tirolean goat breed is critically endangered. In 2007, a group of breeders, together with the Tirolean Goat Breeders' Association and ARCHE Austria, launched a conservation breeding program, which is continued by the "Blobe Goats Austria" association and many other breeders.

4th centenary of the Frankenburger Dice Game. 1Eu55; 15 May 2025; David Gruber; Cartor Security Printers; 250,000

In 1625, the blood court on the Haushamerfeld took place in Frankenburg am Hausruck, which later went down in history as the Frankenburg dice game. When a Catholic priest was to be installed in the predominantly Protestant community of Frankenburg, an armed uprising broke out. The Bavarian governor promised clemency if the population gave up their resistance, but he instead had the leaders gamble for their lives: the victors were pardoned, the losers hanged. In the ensuing Upper Austrian Peasants' War of 1625/26, the rebels were ultimately defeated. Since 1925, the Frankenburg Dice Game has been re-enacted by amateur actors as an elaborate historical play based on a play by Karl Itzinger, adapted by Franz and Michael Neudorfer. Every two years, around 1,000 participants bring the story to life on an open-air stage at the site of the former events.





Pope Francis (2013–2025). 1Eu55; 23 May 2025; Kirsten Lubach; bpost Stamps Printing; offset; 180,000.

“A shepherd of the people” - Pope Francis died on 21st April of the Holy Year 2025 at the age of 88. His twelve years in office as the head of the Catholic Church were characterised by his commitment to social justice.

Summer. 2Eu45; 23 May 2025; Theresa Radlingmaier; Enschedé; offset; 150,000 blocks of 10. [*Stamp is very pale yellow on white, so has been colour-enhanced to make a printable image. ZV.*]

The ten supplementary stamps in this block are dedicated to the warmest season of the year. After the four seasons and winter, the upcoming summer is now the theme of the supplementary stamp block. Illustrations of blooming roses, sunflowers, and other flowers in cheerful yellow-orange represent this season. The sunflower, in particular, is a symbol of summer: its large yellow blossoms, which can be seen in gardens and fields all summer long, are reminiscent of the sun, and yellow is also the colour of light, signalling warmth and joy. The block's ten supplementary stamps, with six different low denominations, can be used to supplement stamps whose face values no longer correspond to the current tariff. They can also be combined to create a customized franking, conjuring up a summer mood on every postcard and letter.



175th anniversary of Austrian Stamps. 4Eu65; 23 May 2025; Anita Kern; Enschedé; offset; 120,000 blocks of four.



Four stamps from different decades illustrate the different designs of postage stamps over time. The anniversary stamp block offers a journey through 175 years of Austrian stamp history, beginning with the first Austrian stamps, the coat of arms issue of June 1, 1850. The second stamp is from the "Nibelungen Saga" series. The designer was the renowned stamp artist Wilhelm Dachauer, who was awarded the Thompson Medal for the world's most beautiful stamp in 1926 for this motif. Dachauer also created the 1949 stamp. It depicts the first issue commemorating Stamp Day, to which a stamp with a surcharge to promote philately has been dedicated every year since then. The final motif is the first issue in the "Modern Art in Austria" series from 1975.

Friedensreich Hundertwasser painted the spiral tree specifically for the stamp. A stamp edition featuring treasures from the postal archives is also dedicated to the "175 Years of Stamps" anniversary.

The definitive issue of 1 May 2025.

"Trees and Shrubs" Series

Austrian Post's new definitive stamp series is dedicated to nature: native trees and shrubs are presented in colourful illustrations. Trees and shrubs make an enormous contribution to climate protection. Among other things, they produce oxygen, absorb harmful greenhouse gases, provide shade, and provide cooling. Forests are habitats for countless plants and animals and an important recreational area for people.

By Zöld Veltelini, who thanks Mrs J Boyer for the English names of the trees and shrubs.

| German name - Latin name - English name. - Description (ex Die Briefmarke) | The stamp |
|---|---|
| <p>Gemeiner Wacholder - <i>Juniperus communis</i> - Common Juniper Gin is made from juniper berries, and they are also used as a spice. Issued as RM50</p> |  |
| <p>Feldahorn - <i>Acer campestre</i> - Hedge Maple. The field maple is undemanding and widespread in Austria. Issued as RM50</p> |  |
| <p>Sommerlinde - <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> - Broad or large-leaved Lime. Lime blossoms are used for tea, and the wood is good for carving. Issued as RM100 and RM2000</p> |  |
| <p>Gewöhnliche Berberitze - <i>Berberis vulgaris</i> - Common Berberis or Barbery In autumn, the barberry has bright red leaves and fruits. Issued as BMS4</p> |  |
| <p>Kornelkirsche - <i>Cornus mas</i> - Dogwood or Cornelian Cherry The fruits, also called dirndls, are used for juices and schnapps. Issued as BMS25</p> |  |
| <p>Waldkiefer - <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> - Scots Pine It is also called the red pine; the wood is used in construction and for furniture. Issued as BMS4</p> |  |
| <p>Gemeine Fichte - <i>Picea abies</i> - Norway or Common Spruce The spruce is the most common tree species in Austria; its wood has many uses. Issued as BMS50</p> |  |

| German name - Latin name - English name. - Description (ex Die Briefmarke) | The stamp |
|---|---|
| <p>Schlehdorn - <i>Prunus spinosa</i> - Sloe or Blackthorn. Its lush blossoms are sought after by bees and other insects in spring. The fruit of the sloe is added to gin to make sloe gin. Issued as BMS4</p> |  |
| <p>Hängebirke - <i>Betula pendula</i> - Silver Birch. It is easily recognizable by its white bark and drooping branches. Issued as BMS50</p> |  |
| <p>Schwarzer Holunder - <i>Sambucus nigra</i> - Common Elder. The flowers and fruits of the elderberry are used in cooking and as a medicinal plant. Issued as BMS4</p> |  |
| <p>Gewöhnlicher Spindelstrauch - <i>Euonymus europaeus</i> - Spindle tree. The Spindle tree owes its name to the shape of its colourful fruits. Issued as BMS4</p> |  |
| <p>Schwarzerle - <i>Ainus glutinosa</i> - Common or Black Alder It grows primarily in floodplain forests and tolerates moisture very well. Issued as BMS25</p> |  |
| <p>Purpurweide - <i>Salix purpurea</i> - Purple Willow or Purple Osier. It owes its name to its red branches and initially purple catkins. Issued as BMS4</p> |  |

These stamps are issued as multiples, unhelpfully for philatelists. Codes used above: RMxx = roll of xx; BMS xx = card of xx. Take care when ordering - the Sommerlinde also comes as a roll of 2000. The RMxx are self-adhesive stamps and can be ordered from the Philatelic bureau as a strip of 5.

The white-background images are from Die Briefmarke; the coloured ones from scans of actual stamps.

THE FIRST POSTAGE STAMP ISSUE OF THE AUSTRIAN EMPIRE

by Blair Peters **

INTRODUCTION

The first postage stamp issue of the Austrian Empire was one of the most significant outcomes of desperately needed postal reforms. Official postal systems developed throughout Europe by the 1830s were inefficient, inconsistent, expensive and underutilized leading to unofficial deliveries and letter smuggling. By 1840, reforms culminating with the release of the adhesive postage stamp in the United Kingdom were transformative to the mail delivery system. Initially rejected by the Austrian Imperial Royal Finance Ministry in 1835, the success of the British uniform penny postage adhesive stamps was eventually a stimulus to a series of Regulations in 1842 decreeing the transition to a single uniform postal rate in Austria. So as not to "...remain behind the civilized nations of Europe any longer...the undeniable simplification of handling entailed by the use of the postage stamp..." (Facsimile, 2008) was recognized by the Austrian Trade Minister, Karl Ludwig Freiherr von Bruck in the Imperial Decree of September 14, 1849, signed by Emperor Franz Joseph on September 25, 1849. On June 1, 1850 the Austrian Empire issued its first postage stamps.



This article recounts the varied chapters constituting the absorbing story of the first postage stamp issue of the Austrian Empire. This story is organized under the following headings:

- 1 - The Austrian Empire of 1850 - Historical Background to the First Issue
- 2 - The Austrian Post to 1850
- 3 - Postal Reform
- 4 - Design and Engraving of the First Issue
- 5 - Printing
- 6 - Gumming
- 7 - The First Issue; Use and Rates
- 8 - Stamp Types
- 9 - Plates and Plate Errors
- 10 - Colour Varieties
- 11 - Printing Varieties
- 12 - Experiments
- 13 - Reprints of the First Issue
- 14 - Conclusion
- 15 - References

** Editor's Note: Blair Peters is a real human being, and was prompted to write this article by the imperfections of the article "The First Austrian Postage Stamps: A Glimpse into Imperial Austria's Postal History" on pages 4-5 of Austria 229.

That Glimpse was produced (alarming quickly) by Chat-GPT in response to the instruction "write a 2-page article on the first Austrian Postage Stamps".

Ikke I. Rute, the alleged author, is actually the Danish for "Not in Service" and appears as the destination of buses in Copenhagen returning to their garage.

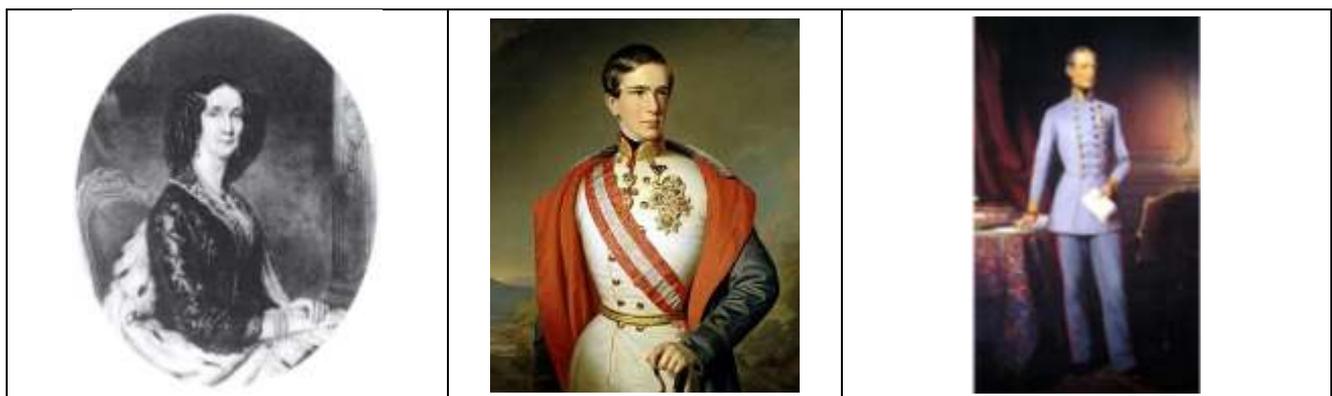
THE AUSTRIAN EMPIRE OF 1850: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO THE FIRST ISSUE

Prior to 1848 the Austrian Empire experienced an “apolitical peace” (Kann, 1977) in which no parties or pressure groups substantially influenced the course of government. Francis I (The Good) on his deathbed in 1835 instructed his son and heir Ferdinand I (The Benign) “... to rule and not to alter...” (Beller, 2018) (*adjacent: Francis on the 12h and Ferdinand on the 20h, both from the 1908 Jubilee set*). A becalmed absolutism carried the day as the ruling dynasty maintained the status quo. However, Ferdinand I’s questionable competence to rule raised concerns. As a result, before he died his father Francis I appointed a regency or State Conference to handle the Empire’s affairs. Prince Metternich (Chancellor), Count Kolowrat (Minister of State), and Archdukes Franz Karl, Louis and Ludwig held the power to govern.



In 1848 Europe came to a boil when revolutions were triggered by the February revolution in Paris. Reasons were complex and multileveled involving struggles for constitutional, social, and nationalistic reforms. But there was no true centre, no continuity or unity of action and the revolutions were often at cross purposes. Nevertheless, in Vienna by September 1848 a “responsible ministry” (Beller, 2018) of bureaucrats who represented the monarchy, sanctioned the creation of a parliament. They promised a constitution and emancipation of the peasantry, relaxed censorship, and sanctioned reforms in Hungary. But in October 1848 further revolutionary activity threatened Hungary and Vienna. The Imperial Court and ministers fled for their safety from Vienna to Olmutz in the Moravian crownland. The army recaptured Vienna from the revolutionaries in November and with Russian help the Hungarians were suppressed. Ferdinand I was incapable of the firm rulership needed in hard

times (Rady, 2020) and a more vigorous image of the dynasty was needed for its survival. This was the conviction of the army and its generals, the government and its neoconservatives and the royal family led by Archduchess Sophie, the wife of Ferdinand’s brother, the weak and irresolute Archduke Franz Karl. Archduchess Sophie, fearing revolution would end in blood as it had in 1793 France, took command to fill the dynastic power vacuum. She, the generals, and the neoconservatives induced Ferdinand I to abdicate and convinced Ferdinand’s brother Archduke Franz Karl to renounce his claim to the throne in favour of their 18-year old son Franz Joseph, on December 2, 1848.



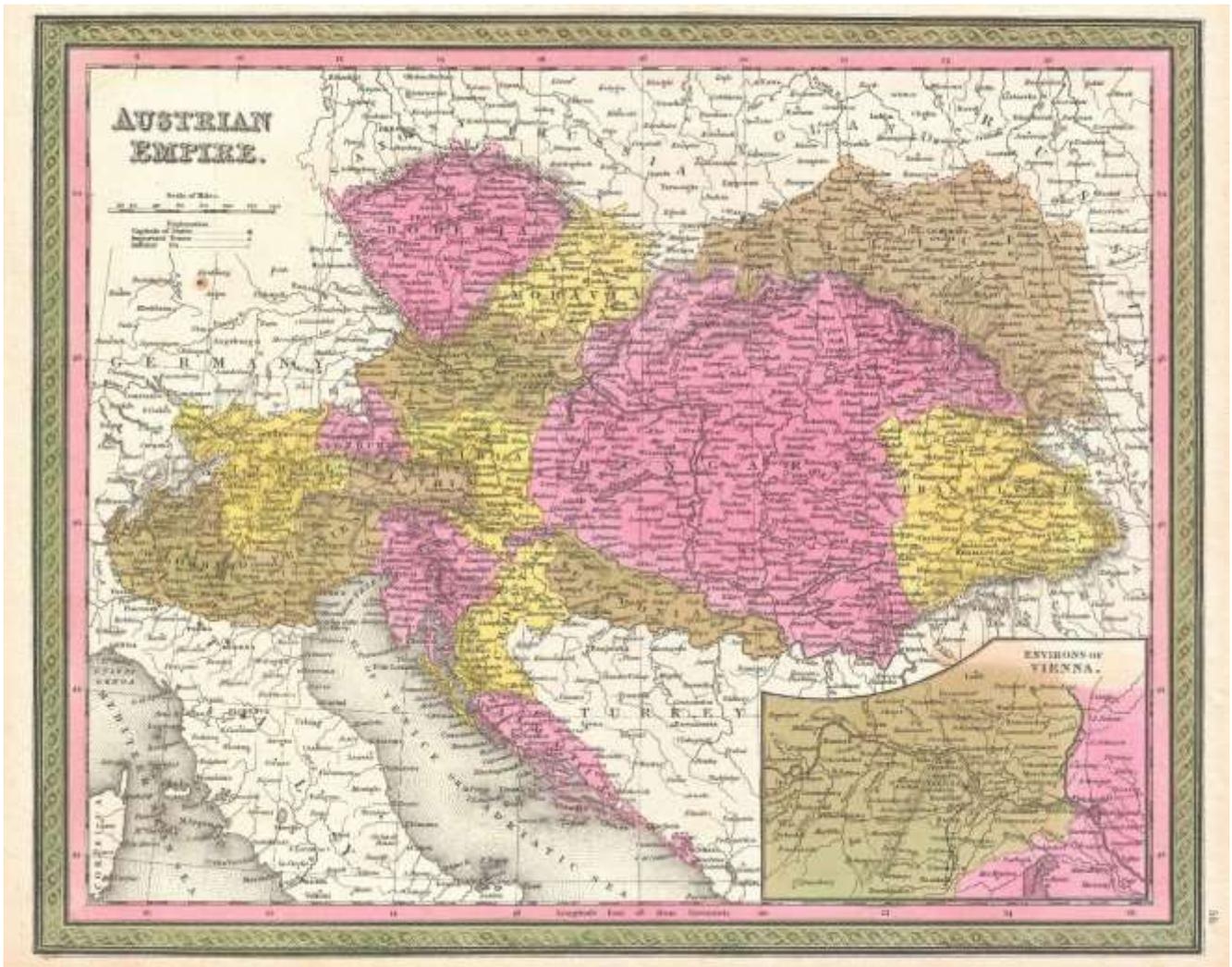
Archduchess Sophie

Franz Joseph

Prince Felix von Schwarzenberg

Franz Joseph was raised in the tradition of Habsburg absolutism to despise anything constitutional. With power restored by the brute force of the dedicated military and under the mentorship of the conservative Prince Felix von Schwarzenberg, Minister President and Foreign Minister from 21 Nov 1848 to 5 April 1852, Franz Joseph dissolved the Parliament. He invalidated the promised constitution and scaled back reform in Hungary but did uphold previously agreed upon peasant emancipation. Legislation by decree was in force, and the “Counterrevolution” took hold. Franz Joseph was sincere, dedicated and conscious of duties, but unimaginative and lacking ideas of his own. His talents and achievements were never more than mediocre (Kann, 1977).

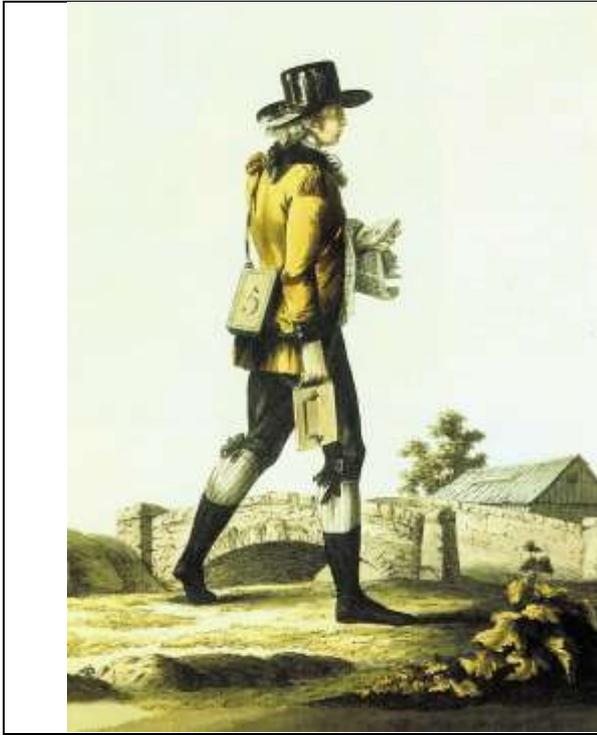
In 1850, Franz Joseph’s empire comprised 24 provinces (crownlands) and districts and over 11 ethnic groups and harbored a population of 39 million. The Austrian Empire was still the leading member of the German Confederation established in 1815 after the Napoleonic Wars, replacing the Holy Roman Empire dissolved in 1806. But this role was ominously being challenged by Prussia. So began the imposition of modernity through the absolute power of the state, called the Neoabsolutism Period (1849-1860) of the Austrian Empire, into which the first Austrian postage stamp of 1850 was born.



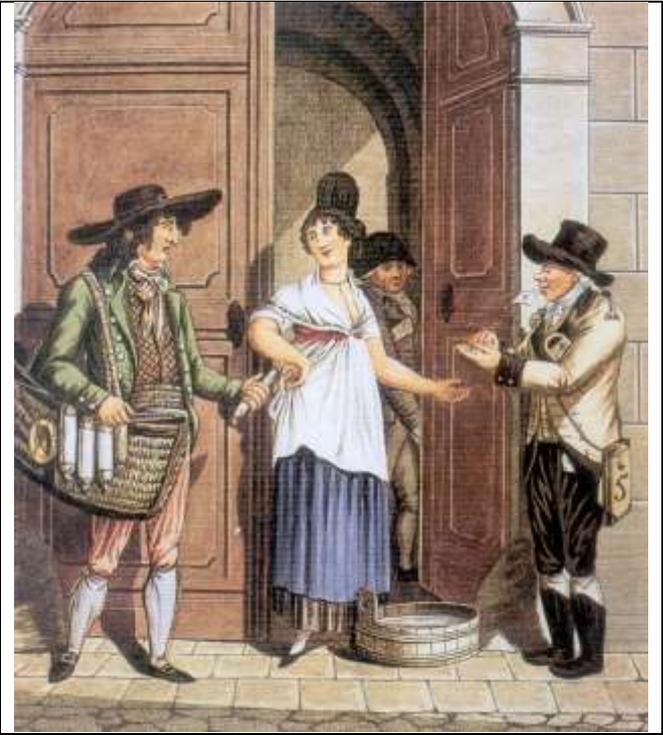
THE AUSTRIAN POST TO 1850

Central Administration

From 1722, the Austrian Postal Service was a government institution with revenues going into the government treasury. The General Postmaster at this time was the Austrian nobleman Count Parr whose family had held court postal privileges prior to 1722. A Postal Commission was established to supervise both the General Postal Administration for letter mail service and Mail Coach Administration for parcel post and money letters. Postal reforms in 1830 consolidated the Postal and Mail Coach Administrations in the newly created General Postal Administration. Following the postal reform of February 1849, the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Public Buildings was given charge of the entire postal service through its subdivision, the General Administration of Communications.



A romantic impression of the Clapper Postman on a suburban round



The reality of the inner-city Clapper Postman (and a salami-seller!)

Postal Rates

Prior to 1850 domestic postal rates varied as a result of different formulas combining weight and distance, the distance often being estimated. Initially regulations stipulated that letter fees were paid equally by the sender and addressee; this practice was known as the “Half-Paid” letter system. From 1817 to 1850 letters could be sent “Fully-Paid”, “Partly-Paid”, or “Unpaid” but etiquette of the time considered it impolite to have the sender pay the postage (as it would indicate that the sender believed the recipient was too poor to afford it!) and almost all private letters were sent “Unpaid”.

Postmarks

Postmark use started in 1751 but use was sporadic. In fact, when the system of postal rates based only on weight was introduced on January 1, 1789, many postmasters felt the marking of the place was irrelevant and postmarks were unofficially dropped. Enforcement fell to the wayside with the ravages of the Napoleonic wars. Then in 1817 a general order decreed the use of postmarks to all existing post offices. There were a few exceptions where manuscript cancellations could still be used for post offices with insignificant letter traffic. Combined town and date postmarks were introduced in 1838. They were given to new post offices and existing post offices when they needed replacement of old postmarks. Meanwhile the existing post offices adjusted their postmarks by adding a new line with the date or by using a separate date stamp. Smaller post offices often added the date in manuscript. However, despite these efforts, the orders regarding postmarks were often disregarded.

POSTAL REFORM

The postal service as it existed globally in the first half of the 19th century had a ponderous, inconsistent, haphazard and complex method of collecting and delivering letters and of assessing and collecting the due amounts of postage. Dispatch of letters and parcels was largely reserved for the wealthy due to high delivery costs and the literacy necessary to understand the system. Inconsistent estimations of delivery distances (some using ‘as the crow flies’, others ‘as the horse runs’) fueled the assessment dilemma and letter-smuggling was common. Additionally, the railway and steamship were replacing the horse drawn mail coach making postage fee collection by the letter carrier more difficult. Further postal reform was overdue.

Global Reform

Ideas for reform of the post and its fee system were presented simultaneously by postal stakeholders in England, Scotland and the Austrian Empire. As far back as December 1835 Laurenz Koschier, an assistant state accountant with the Imperial Royal Postal Service in the Austrian crownland of Slovenia, submitted various reform proposals to the Imperial Royal Finance Minister regarding the letter postage system. He proposed simplifying and standardizing the postal rates and the franking of letters with “artificially applied letter tax stamps” (Facsimile, 2008). Although his ideas were rejected by the ministry in Vienna, he persisted, publishing his reform ideas in 1839 in the “Augsburger Allegmeine Zeitung” and continued to submit reform proposals to the ministry. His irritated superiors gave Koschier a disciplinary transfer to a remote fringe town in the empire (Agram) for his efforts.



The British General Post Office on the other hand embraced similar reform ideas in the mid 1830s proposed by James Chalmers, a bookseller and publisher from Dundee in Scotland and by Rowland Hill, a teacher, inventor and social reformer from Worcestershire in England. These reform proposals led to the issue of the first adhesive postage stamp by the United Kingdom on May 1, 1840 (the Penny Black). Increase in correspondence far balanced out the perceived financial limitations of penny postage. Other countries followed: Brazil and the Swiss Cantons of Zurich and Geneva (1843), USA (1845), Bermuda and Bavaria (1848), Belgium and France (1849) all saw the benefit of a standardized prepaid system afforded by a simple postage stamp. Had Vienna heeded Laurenz Koschier’s reform recommendations, the Austrian Empire could conceivably have secured the global first stamp issue honours.

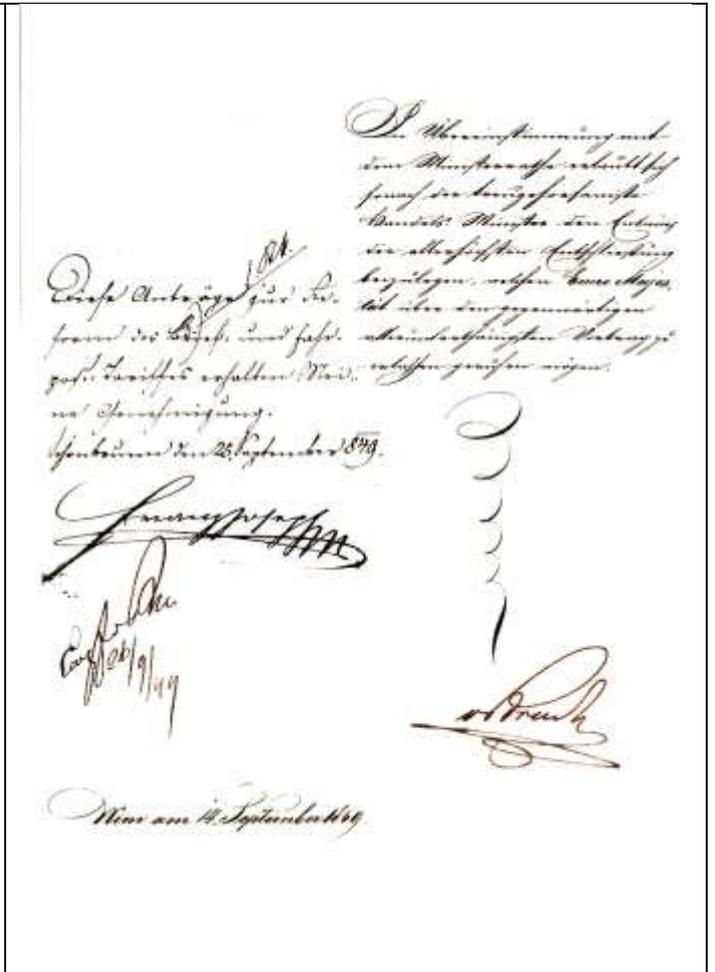
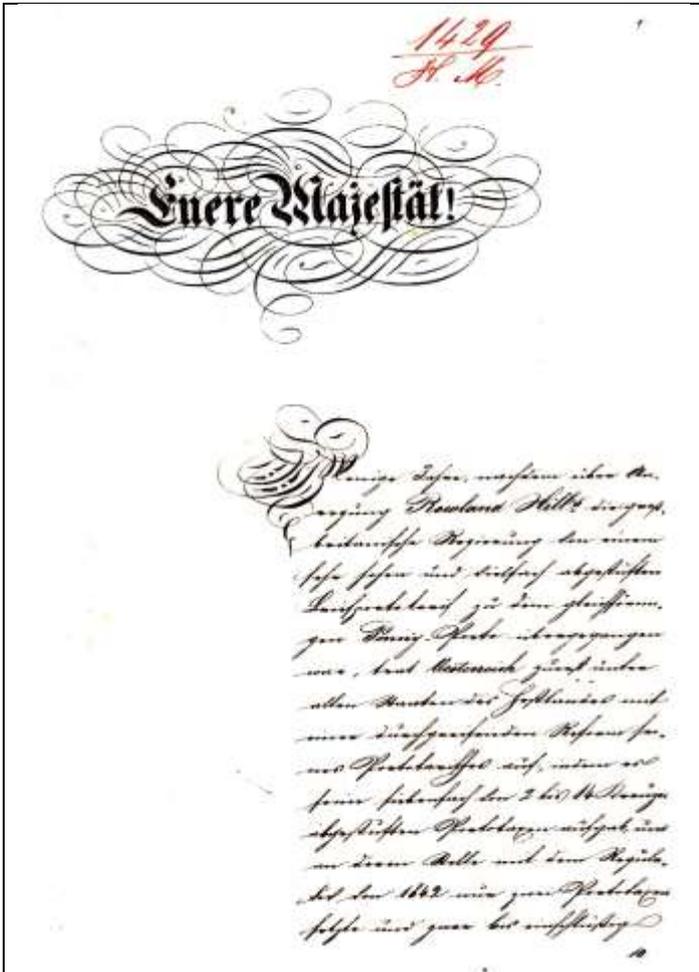
Austrian Reform

In a Regulation of 1842 Austria reformed the postage tariff, abandoned the existing seven-tiered postage rate system and set up two postage rates as a transition to a single uniform postage rate. There were further modifications in 1843, 1848 and 1849 when distances and respective rates were adjusted.

In October 1848 after the revolution in Vienna was put down, Karl Ludwig Freiherr von Bruck (pictured) took over as the Minister of Trade, Commerce and Public Buildings. In February 1849 the Ministry’s portfolio was expanded to include postal and telegraph services under its third Directorate, Communications. Franz Maximillian Freiherr von Lowenthal was the section councillor for this Directorate and was active in the affairs of the postal service.



During 1848 to 1849 an official of the Lower Austrian Postal Administration, Postal Commissioner Dr. Johann Herz was sent to Great Britain, Belgium, France and Bavaria to study the postal services there, especially regarding the use of stamps. He submitted a positive report in July of 1849 which also advised against the use of special cancellers and advocated the use of regular town and date postmarks as cancellers. On September 14, 1849, von Bruck, the “...most loyal and obedient trade minister...” (Facsimile, 2008) proposed to Emperor Franz Joseph that the franking of letters by means of merchantable and affixed stamps be introduced to Austria in a decree. On September 25, 1849 the Emperor signed his approval to the decree. On June 1, 1850 the first Austrian postage stamp issue was released and use was immediately made obligatory for all domestic mail without a transition period. The pre-stamp period of Austrian philately ended the day before the introduction of the postage stamp.



YOUR MAJESTY!

*Tw*as but a few years after the government of Great Britain, upon the proposal of Rowland Hill, had enacted the transition from a very high and multi-tiered letter postage tariff to the uniform penny postage, when Austria, as the first of all nations on the continental mainland, stepped forth with a radical reform of her postage tariff, in that she abandoned her seven-tiered postage taxes of 2 to 14 kreuzers and instead, with the Regulation of 1842, set but two postage taxes, namely 6 kreuzers for up to and including 10 miles and 12 kreuzers for over 12 miles.

Hereupon, in agreement with the council of ministers, the most loyal and obedient trade minister permits himself to submit the draft for supreme resolution, should Your Majesty deign to enact it on the basis of this most humble submission.

v. Bruck m. p.
Vienna, September 14, 1849

These motions for reform of the letter and driving post tariff receive My approval.

[Signature]
Franz Joseph m/p
Schönbrunn, September 25, 1849

On September 14, 1849, von Bruck, the "...most loyal and obedient trade minister..." humbly submitted a Proposal to the Emperor Franz Joseph that the franking of letters by means of merchantable and fixed stamps be introduced to Austria.

On September 25, 1849 the Emperor signed his approval to the decree.

Above is the first page of the formal proposal to His Majesty, and at top right is the last page with the Emperor's signature. Below each is a translation into English.

1429
H. M.

Most humble submission from the most loyal and obedient trade ministers, Ritter v. Bruck

in which the motions for approval of the letter and driving post are most humbly presented.

Zl. 1316
H. M.

DESIGN AND ENGRAVING OF THE FIRST ISSUE

The first issue was designed by Johann Herz (1810 - 1875), an administrative lawyer and politician by profession. Herz was Postal Commissioner at the Imperial Postal Authority from 1847 to 1856. In 1851 he authored the work titled "The Postal Reform in the German-Austrian Postal Union". His design for the first issue was composed of the coat of arms shield of Austria, the letters "KKPOST-" and "STEMPEL" on either side of a crown above the arms shield, floral ornaments on each side of the arms shield and a value cartouche (wood die at left).



The Habsburg Austrian coat of arms has an intriguing origin. Roman emperors had always chosen the eagle as an emblem of their power. The Holy Roman Empire, seeing itself as the successor to the Imperium of old, placed a black eagle on a gold shield as symbolic of their king and empire. Oddly enough, the

black eagle is a large forest eagle found in south east Asia in tropical and subtropical habitats and nowhere near Europe. Rudolf of Habsburg, elected King of the Holy Roman Empire in 1273, used the black eagle on his arms shield. In the late middle ages, a double headed eagle

was incorporated into the Holy Roman Empire arms to symbolize the Holy Roman Emperor as King, voted by the prince electors of the German principalities of the empire, and Emperor, blessed and crowned by the Pope (*adjacent: Imperial Arms, Lichtenstein, 1979*).



A Habsburg prince held the title of Holy Roman Emperor from 1273 to 1308 and from 1437 until 1806. In 1804 Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of the French. Francis II of Habsburg acting as Holy Roman Emperor at once promoted Austria to the status of Empire then appointed himself as Francis I, Emperor of Austria, foreseeing that in 1805 under the

Peace of Pressburg he would be forced to renounce the title of Holy Roman Emperor and dissolve that Empire.

The Habsburgs adopted the double headed eagle with an inescutcheon showing the coat of arms of their lands, and retained the arms after 1806, adding the Order of the Golden Fleece (Europe's most illustrious chivalric order) around the inescutcheon. The crown above the arms shield is the Imperial crown of Austria originally made for Rudolf II of Habsburg, Holy Roman Emperor from 1576 to 1612. The lettering on the left side of the crown is "KKPOST-" and on the right, "STEMPEL" which is a welcome abbreviation of "Kaiserlich Königliches Handelsministerium Post Stempel" ("Imperial and Royal Ministry of Commerce Postage Stamp"). KK (Kaiserlich Königlich) often referred to the monarchical title of Franz Joseph as Emperor (Imperial) over the Austrian Crownlands and King (Royal) of Hungary. He actually held many titles (Emperor of Austria, King of Jerusalem, Apostolic King of Hungary, King of Bohemia, Galicia, Lodomeria, Lombardy, Venetia, Illyria and Croatia, Archduke of Austria and Grand

Duke, Duke, Margraf, Prince or Count of thirty other places), so under the circumstances KK is an appreciated abbreviation.



Below the arms shield is the value cartouche. The value was in "KREUZER" (Kr) and for the crownlands of Lombardy-Venetia, "CENTES" (C). The currency of the Austrian Empire was the "Conventions-Munze", a paper currency of 60 Kreuzers to 1 Gulden. As Lombardy-Venetia already had its own currency based on silver (100 Centesimi to 1 Italian Lira), this was the value placed on their issues. The relation between the two currencies was fixed at 1 Gulden equivalent to 3 Lira. The Austrian paper currency resulted in the Austrian Kreuzer stamp costing 15% less than the corresponding Lombardy-Venetia Centes stamp. As a result, the Centes issue could be used throughout the empire but the Kreuzer issue could not be used in the Lombardy-Venetia crownlands (officially after May 7, 1851).

Hermann Tautenhayn (1810-1885) engraved the first die from which all the values were printed. Tautenhayn was a Viennese "Graveur und Stempelschneider" (engraver and punch cutter). His son Josef went on to become a famous Austrian sculptor and medallist and was appointed the Imperial Engraver of coins and medals in 1872.

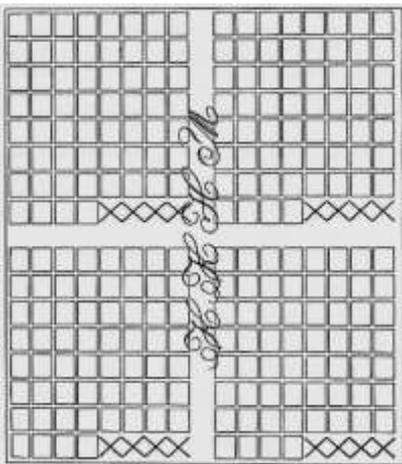


PRINTING

Printing of the first issue was undertaken at the State Printing Works, Vienna. Known in 1850 as the “K.K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei” (Imperial and Royal Court and State Printing House) the State Printing works was founded in 1804 by Emperor Francis I and in 1836 installed its first two printing machines and steam engines to drive them.



The first issue was typographed, with stamps printed in sheets of 256 impressions separated into four panes of 64 impressions. Each pane had 60 stamps and four blank positions with St. Andrews crossed printed on them (St. Andreas Kreuz). These four positions are at the bottom right hand corner of each pane. This allowed for a pane of stamps to cost a multiple of Gulden with 60 Kreuzer = 1 Gulden. In early plate printings the stamps were 2.5mm apart horizontally while in later plate printings the stamps were 3.4mm apart giving a larger border around the design. Soft Letter Press Printing was utilized whereby a felt cover was put over the counterplate causing a heavier print of the design and a stronger impression in the paper. This was in common use until 1874.



The issue was printed on Handmade Paper from 1850 to 1854. It had a script watermark in the vertical gutter between the panes of stamps with “**KKHM**” representing Kaiserlich-Konigliches Handels-Ministerium. As the script watermark occurred on only 16 of the 240 stamps per sheet it is quite rare.

The handmade paper had an average thickness of 0.09mm. However, the issue was also printed on thinner and thicker paper. Thinner paper at 0.06mm to 0.07mm is known as pelure paper. Thicker paper at 0.12mm to 0.14mm is referred to as thin card(board). Different varieties of handmade paper are found with this issue and are sometimes but not always differentiated visibly by holding the paper obliquely against a light.

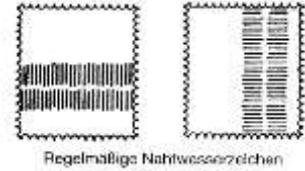
Examples of varieties include:

- Handmade Pseudo-ribbed Paper - broad ribs in one direction
- Handmade Paper with Mesh - paper is textured as a fine mesh
- Handmade Laid Paper - used in small quantities in 1852 to replace missing sheets of regular watermarked paper. It shows vertical watermark lines (15 per 2cm) and solitary horizontal watermark lines (25mm apart). Few copies are known.

- Handmade paper with ribbing - 30 vertical ribs per 2cm. This was applied after printing as a trial measure to make removal of cancellations difficult.

In 1854 the issue was printed on machine made paper and was unwatermarked. An exception was the 5 CENTES Lombardy-Venetia issue which was never printed on machine made paper. This paper is visibly smoother than handmade paper. It had thicknesses ranging from thin (0.08mm) to thick (0.12 to 0.15mm). Different varieties of machine-made paper are found with this issue. Examples of varieties include:

- ❖ Stitch Watermark - caused by the wire stitches by which the felt bands in the paper machines were joined showing two rows of short parallel lined close together (pictured).
- ❖ Pseudo-laid - an accidental variety which simulates laid paper
- ❖ With Mesh - texture of the paper shows regularly distributed fine white dots
- ❖ With Fine Ribbing - fine ribs close together resulting from the smoothing process of the paper



The approximate printing numbers of the first issue are tabulated below.

| Description | Color | # printed | # used | # remainder |
|--|--------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1850 - 1854. Hand made paper. | | | | |
| 1 Kreuzer | yellow | 7.4 million | 7.4 million | 0 |
| 2 Kreuzer | black | 6.6 million | 6.6 million | 0 |
| 3 Kreuzer | red | 64.0 million | 64.0 million | 0 |
| 6 Kreuzer | brown | 46.6 million | 46.6 million | 0 |
| 9 Kreuzer | blue | 53.3 million | 53.3 million | 0 |
| Total: | | 177.9 million | 177.9 million | 0 |
| 1854 - 1858. Machine made paper. | | | | |
| 1 Kreuzer | yellow | 14.6 million | 11.8 million | 2.8 million |
| 2 Kreuzer | black | 12.1 million | 9.8 million | 2.3 million |
| 3 Kreuzer | red | 109.3 million | 88.5 million | 20.8 million |
| 6 Kreuzer | brown | 71.9 million | 58.9 million | 13.0 million |
| 9 Kreuzer | blue | 84.5 million | 69.4 million | 15.1 million |
| Total: | | 292.4 million | 238.4 million | 54.0 million |
| 1850 - 1858. Totals for all issues. | | | | |
| 1 Kreuzer | yellow | 22 million | 19.2 million | 2.8 million |
| 2 Kreuzer | black | 18.7 million | 16.4 million | 2.3 million |
| 3 Kreuzer | red | 173.3 million | 152.5 million | 20.8 million |
| 6 Kreuzer | brown | 118.5 million | 105.5 million | 13 million |
| 9 Kreuzer | blue | 137.8 million | 122.7 million | 15.1 million |
| Total: | | 470.3 million | 416.3 million | 54 million |

GUMMING

The stamps were gummed by hand with a brush or roller, a process used until 1880. A common gum at the time used on early stamps was made from a mixture of potato starch, wheat starch and acacia gum, derived from the acacia plant ("gum Arabic").

THE FIRST ISSUE: USE AND RATES

Although the first issue was introduced on June 1, 1850 it was sold by the post offices one week earlier. The earliest known date of premature use is May 29, 1850. The first issue consisted of two sets of five imperforate definitives: a Centes set for Lombardy-Venetia and a Kreuzer set for the rest of the Austrian Empire.



The issue was withdrawn on October 31, 1858 but was valid to December 31, 1858 when it was demonetized due to revaluation of the Kreuzer (100 Kreuzer = 1 Gulden). This necessitated the release of a new stamp issue.

Domestic Mail Service and Rates

By regulation of the Postal Administration the domestic mail services were to be prepaid by postage stamps. The following services applied:

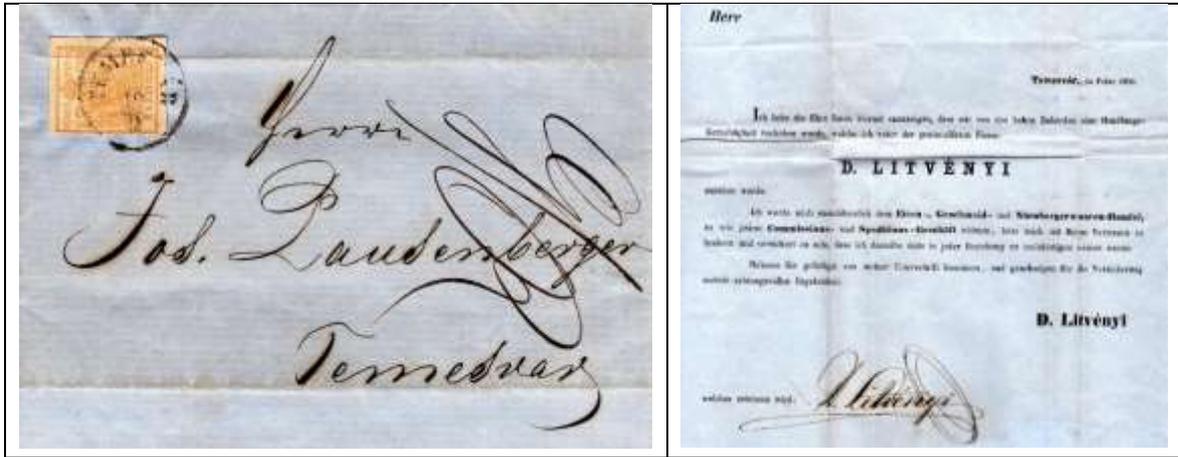
- Printed matter (circular)
- Letters
- Samples (usually an envelope provided as a sample for reference or display)
- Return Receipts
- Tracers (an inquiry to trace missing mail matter)
- Registered Letters

The following postal service fees were collected in cash:

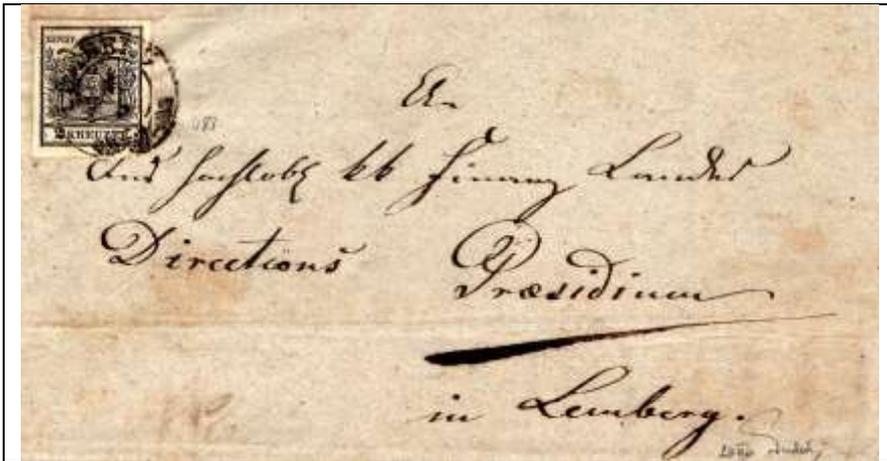
- Money letters and parcels
- Delivery fees, Special Delivery fees
- Postage Due

By regulation the stamps were to be placed in the top centre of the address side of the mail. More frequently, they are found placed in one of the top corners or bottom corners. Rates were determined by weight and distance. Weight was measured per Vienna loth (1 loth = 17.5 grams). Distance was measured by the Austrian Postal Mile (10 Meilen = 47 English miles).





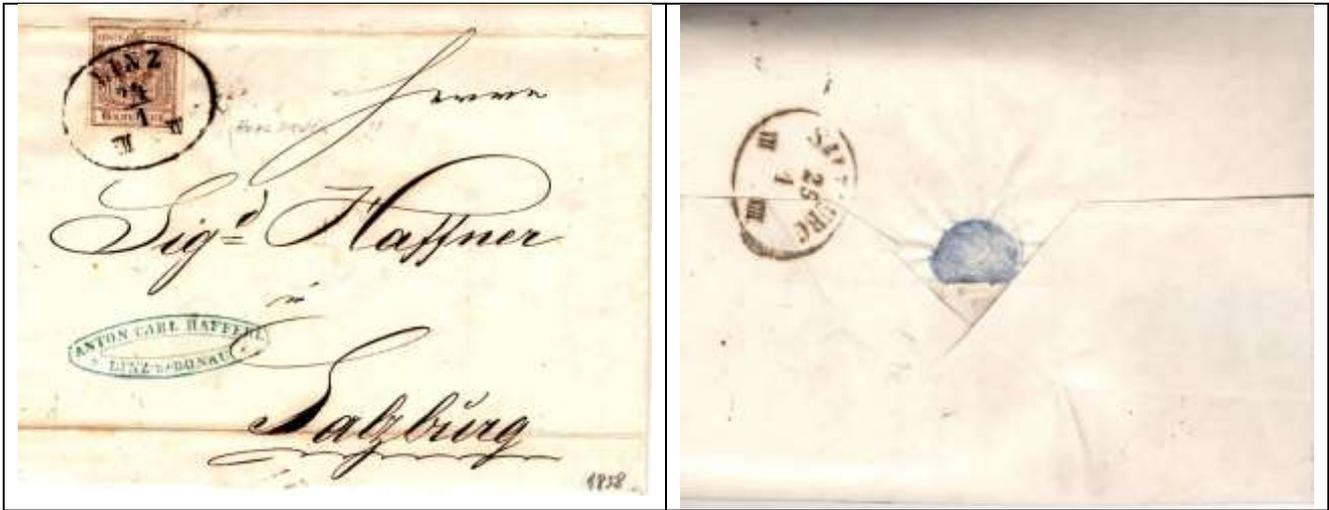
Printed Matter/Circular. Any distance: Austria 1kr per loth, Lombardy-Venetia 5C



Letters: Local within city district. Per loth (up to 16 loth) Austria 2kr Lombardy-Venetia 10C.



Letters up to 10 Meilen: per loth Austria 3kr Lombardy-Venetia 15C
Letter cancelled in Venezia addressed to Padova, with backstamp indicating delivery in Padova



Letters 10 to 20 Meilen: per loth Austria 6kr Lombardy-Venetia 30C.
Letter postmarked in Linz addressed to Salzburg, with delivery backstamp.



Letters over 20 Meilen: per loth Austria 9kr Lombardy-Venetia 45C
Letter postmarked in Nadworna addressed via Lemberg to Mahr-Trubau, with delivery backstamp.

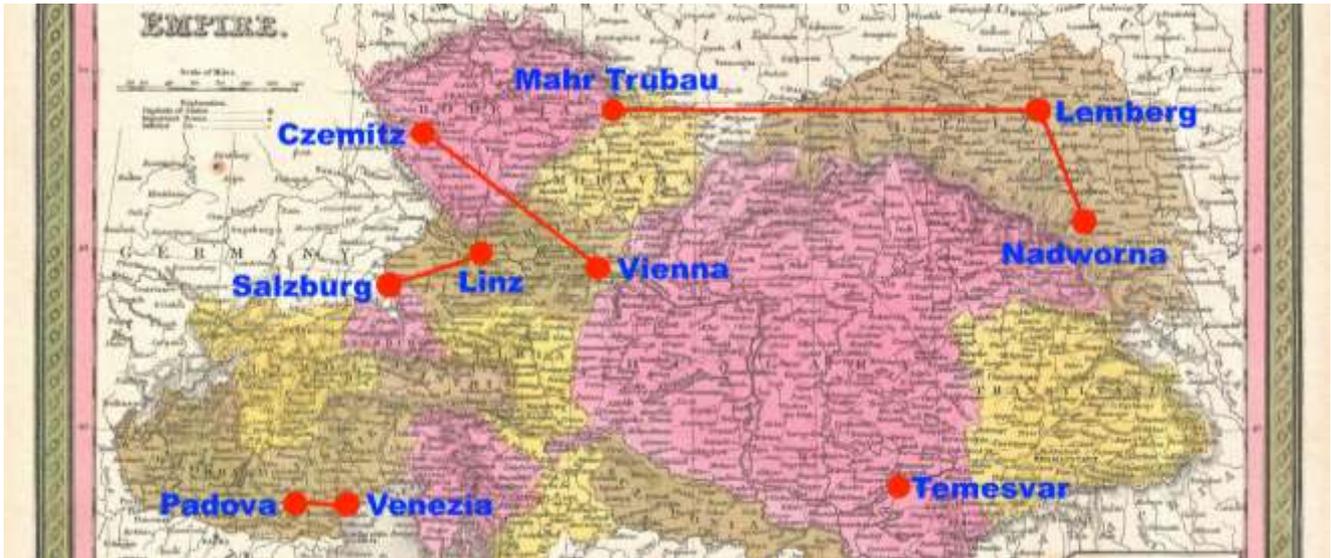


Registered Letters: City district Austria 3kr Lombardy-Venetia 15C; Outside city Austria 6kr Lombardy-Venetia 30C. Stamps for this fee were to be placed on the reverse side of the registered letter.

Letter postmarked and registered in Vienna for delivery to Czemitz in the Klattau district of Bohemia. (We think: a better interpretation will be welcomed!)

Registration fee stamp of 6kr on the back.

This map indicates the origin and destination of the above examples of mail.



Samples: Distance same as letters but per 2 loth

Return Receipts: June 1 to July 1, 1850 - same as letter of 1 loth weight; after July 1, 1850 simplified to 6kr or 30C per loth regardless of distance. Stamps covering this fee were often used to attach the receipt to the letter to which it belonged (so half on the letter, half on the receipt).

Tracers: Same as for a letter of 1 loth weight

Demographic Breakdown of Usage

By 1853, the use of the first issue of stamps had a regional prevalence. In Austria and its crownlands, with the exception of Lombardy-Venetia and Hungary, 53.3% of the empire's population lived and they used 65% of the stamps. In Lombardy Venetia 17.5% of the empire's population lived and used 17.5% of the stamps. In Hungary 29% of the empire's population lived and they used only 17.5% of the stamps. Stamp usage in Hungary was lower due to a more polarized social structure than that found elsewhere in the empire. A small oppressive aristocracy ruled over a cowed peasantry. Low literacy was rampant so few knew how to use stamps let alone pay the reasonable rates.

Cancellation of the First Issue

Austria was the first country to not use special cancellers; instead, from the beginning Austria used the town and date postmark as cancellers. Reflected in the Postal Decree of March 26, 1850 "...the post offices are to use their regular postmarks to apply their name to the mail which is handed to them by the public..." (Mueller 1961). As a result, postmarks from the pre-stamp period were used to mark the place of origin, date of mailing and cancel the stamp. They were also used as arrival markings on the back of mail. Designs were diverse (dated straight line, double circle oval and rectangular frames). Single circles were introduced a few months before postage stamps came into use starting with larger post offices and letter collecting agencies. Generally, all post offices that opened after June 1, 1850 received single circle postmarks (town name, day and month) as did existing post offices requiring replacements due to loss and wear.

Foreign Postal Service and Rates

By 1850 a postal union structure was coming into place to simplify the exchange of mail between participants and provide a uniform postal rate. Foreign regulations similar to those regulations for domestic mail already existed for services to countries of the German Austrian Postal Union and after 1852 to countries of the Austrian Italian Postal Union. Prussia and the Austrian Empire agreed to such a union on April 6, 1850 to be put into effect July 1850 by which time Bavaria, Saxony and the two Mecklenbergs had joined. The remaining German states joined by 1852. This gave impetus to the standardization of postal rates to foreign countries.

Rates were based on weight and distance. The weight unit was the (Zoll)Pfund, equal to 500g, which was divided into 30 Zoll-Loth each loth being 16.67g (these are the units of the Zollverein or German Custom Union). The distance was measured in German-Austrian geographic miles (as the crow flies) of 4.7 English miles each.

Up to 10 German-Austrian Geographic miles: 3kr per loth; for 10 to 20 miles 6Kr; over 20 miles 9Kr.

Registered, Express Delivery, Insured letters, Money Transfers and Money Collection rates were soon adopted in subsequent reforms.

Payment with stamps was at first not permitted to other countries outside the postal unions. It was gradually introduced first only for the fees to the Austrian border and only later to some final destination. Though stamp use on foreign mail was not obligatory before 1869, it was required for the registration fee on all foreign letters (and was placed on the reverse side of the letter).

STAMP TYPES

Different type characteristics occurred when the dies were modified between printings and at the time of making new plates. The resulting types and subtypes can be extensive with one authority (Sismondo, 2021) citing 41 classifications of types of the first issue. Following are the basic types I, II and III presented in most catalogues. For the further breakdown types designated by lower case letters (a, b, c, d, e) placed after these roman numeral types the reader is referred to specialized catalogues of Austria. Type II only occurs with the 9 Kreuzer, 15 and 45 Centes stamps. The types are identified primarily by differences in the coat of arms shield and in the value cartouche. The shield difference combined with the differences in the individual value cartouche yields the type as tabulated below.

Coat of Arms Shield:

‘A’ Characteristics



- Distinct space between dots and top frame line
- Two dots below the right leg of the eagle are connected
- Bottom frame line is solid

Occurs with all Type I and Type II.

‘B’ Characteristics



- No space between dots and top frame line, background lighter
- Dots below right leg of eagle are not connected
- Bottom frame is double lined

Occurs with all Type III

TYPES - Shield and Cartouche for the Type of Each Value

1 Kreuzer



Type I - Shield A
Value Cartouche - the “1” touches top frame line



Type III - Shield B
Value Cartouche - flat top of “1” clear of top frame; open line of cartouche below period after Kreuzer





Note: As observing the detail on the yellow/orange stamps can be challenging, philatelist Tony Clayton suggests scanning and changing the hue to make it easier to differentiate the types.

Left: false colour image of a 1 Kreuzer yellow, Type III, machine-made paper showing the numeral clear of the frame

2 Kreuzer



Type I - Shield A - Value Cartouche - the "2" touches top frame line



Type III - Shield B - Value Cartouche - "2" clear of top frame



3 Kreuzer



Type I - Shield A Value Cartouche - the "3" touches top frame line



Type III Shield B - Value Cartouche - "3" clear of top frame



6 Kreuzer



Type I - Shield A Value Cartouche - the "6" touches top frame line; stem and ball of "6" touch



Type III - Shield B Value Cartouche - "6" clear of top frame line; stem and ball of "6" detached



9 Kreuzer



Type I - Shield A

Value Cartouche - top of "9" on a level with the word "KREUZER"; "9" close to the "K" position, varies in position



Note: The Type I was printed from the clichés of the 6Kr, the "6" being replaced by the "9" and spaced differently - hence the variation in position.



Type II - Shield A

Value Cartouche - bottom of "9" in line with the bottom of "KREUZER"; top of "9" nearly touches the top frame line.



Note: The Type II was printed from a new die.



Type III - Shield B

Value Cartouche - bottom of "9" in line with the bottom of "KREUZER"; top of "9" touches the top frame line.

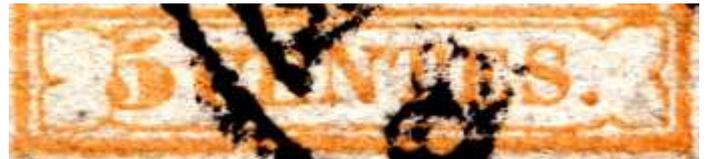


5 Centes



Type I only - Shield A

(Cartouche's colour rebalanced for visibility)



10 Centes



Type I - Shield A

Value Cartouche - "0" normal or broken; second "E" bottom base is broken.



Type III - Shield B

Value Cartouche - "0" defective; second "E" bottom base not broken



15 Centes



Type I - Shield A

Value Cartouche - "15" is well centred with the "5" close to the "C".



Type II - Shield A

Value Cartouche - "5" raised, touches top frame line and more space between "5" and "C"



Type III - Shield B

Value Cartouche - "5" raised, touches top of frame line



30 Centes



Type I - Shield A

Value Cartouche - oval foot to the "3"



Type III - Shield B

Value Cartouche - round foot to the "3"



45 Centes



Type I - Shield A

Value Cartouche - "45" in different positions depending on the cliché, but usually the "5" and "C" are close together and the "45" lower than the "CENTES"



Type II - Shield A

Value Cartouche - "45" in uniform position; "5" and "C" wider apart



Type III - Shield B

Value Cartouche - "45" in uniform position; "5" and "C" wider apart



PLATES AND PLATE ERRORS

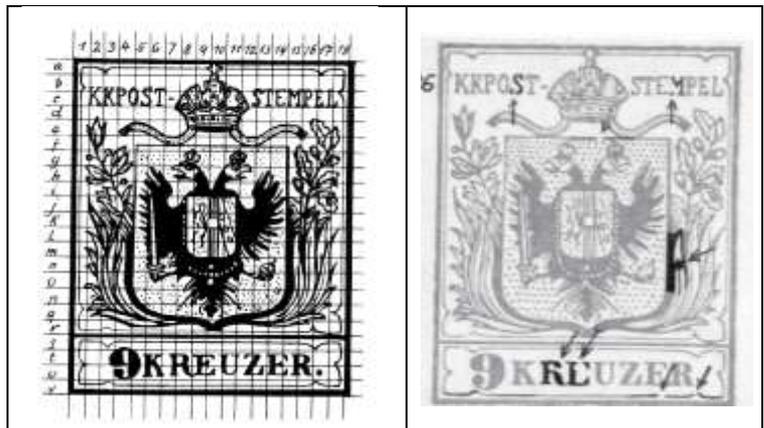
Several plate types exist for the first issue and can be broken down and studied in detail in relation to the Types above using compilations such as that by Huber. The table of contents of this volume gives an idea of the plates involved.



INHALTSVERZEICHNIS

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| Hauptwertreihe Type I (Folnet, Feindruck) | 4 |
| Namens, Spätdrucke, Umsätze Mitte, Feindruck | 5 |
| Hauptwertreihe Type II | 6 |
| Hauptwertreihe Type III | 7 |
| Steindrucke, charakteristische Ausgaben | 8 |
| Steintypen, Elektrotypen | 9 |
| 1 Kreuzer | Platte 1, 2 10 |
| | Platte 3 bis 8 11 |
| 2 Kreuzer | Platte 1, 2 12 |
| | Platte 3 bis 8 13 |
| 3 Kreuzer | Platte 1 14 |
| | Platte 2 15 |
| | Platte 3 bis A 16 |
| | Platte B', B'' 17 |
| | Gravirtypen 0-0 bis 9-2 A |
| | Gravirtypen 1-0 bis 1-2 B |
| | Gravirtypen 2-0 bis 2-2 C |
| | Platte C bis D 18 |
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| | Platte 4 bis Platte B 20 |
| 5 Kreuzer | Platte 1, 2 21 |
| | Abstände 0,3 bis 0,8 mm D |
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| | Platte 4 bis 6 22 |
| | Platte 7, 8, A 23 |
| | Platte A bis (Erläuterungen) 24 |
| | Platte B, C Type IIIa, IIIb 25 |
| | Platte D, Type IIIc, IIIe 26 |
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| 5 Centesimi | Platte 1 28 |
| 10 Centesimi | Platte 1, A, B 29 |
| 15 Centesimi | Platte 1 bis 2 31 |
| | Platte 3 bis 5 32 |
| | Platte 6 bis 8 33 |
| 30 Centesimi | Platte 1 bis 3/IIIa, b 34 |
| | Platte A bis B 35 |
| 45 Centesimi | Platte 1, 2 36 |
| | Platte 3 bis 8 37 |

Plate errors are another area of detailed study for the first issue. As an example, for the 9 Kreuzer Type I, Karl Frey grid-mapped the stamp and published a work illustrating 336 plate errors



COLOUR VARIETIES

Although the initial colour assignment of the issue was basic (yellow, black, red, brown, blue), many varieties occurred over the eight-year production. Often subtle, varieties also differed depending on whether printed on handmade or machine paper, the issue type and of course printer discretion in the mixing of the ink batch. Common shades are listed below with select examples identified using the Stanley Gibbons Stamp Colour Key. Note: the colours are not shown next to the types found in them.

1 Kreuzer

HP Type I yellow, orange yellow, brownish orange;
Type III yellow, orange, cadmium yellow.

MP Type I ochre, yellow, golden yellow, lemon yellow;
Type III yellow, cadmium yellow, lemon.



Lemon

Ochre

Orange-yellow

5 Centes HP Type I ochre yellow, orange, brown orange

2 Kreuzer

HP Type I black, grey black, silver grey; Type III black, grey black

MP Type III black, intense black, grey black



Grey-black

10 Centes

HP black, grey black, intense black, silver grey

MP black, grey black

3 Kreuzer

HP Type I red, carmine, rose, vermillion; Type III red, carmine, rose,
vermillion

MP Type I carmine; Type III red, carmine, rose



red

vermillion

15 Centes

HP reds (various), carmine, vermillion

MP reds (various), carmine, vermillion

6 Kreuzer

HP Type I brown, chocolate brown, rust brown; Type III brown, deep
brown, reddish brown

MP Type III rose brown to chocolate brown.



brown

reddish brown

30 Centes

HP brown, dark violet brown

MP brown, yellowish brown, grey brown

9 Kreuzer

HP Type I blue, pale blue, bright blue, steel blue

Type II greyish blue, dark blue

Type III blue, blackish blue

MP Type III pale blue to deep dark blue



blue

steel blue

pale blue

45 Centes HP pale blue, blue, dark blue, slate blue

PRINTING VARIETIES**Printed on both sides**

In January 1851 several thousand sheets were printed of 1 Kreuzer and 5 Centes stamps of the yellow-ochre impression that were too light to be legible. In order not to waste the watermarked paper, the sheets were turned over and the reverse side used to print stronger impressions of their stamps. The sheets were intentionally placed so the new impression on the reverse were not coincident with those on the front, to discourage fraudulent use of the now back of the stamp. Not all sheets were placed in the printing press in the same direction so some images (as shown here) are inverted in relation to the other side



Printing on both sides also occurred on 3 Kreuzer and 9 Kreuzer issues.

**Special Make-Ready of Centre Arms**

A make-ready, also known as decoupage, denotes the cut out or build up “overlay” utilized by the printer on parts of a printed sheet. This diminishes or increases the pressure of certain parts of the plate during printing and yield a lighter or deeper impression. The special make-ready of centre arms was a special kind of positive make-ready, making the centre of the arms design darker and more prominent but the frame weaker. This occurred on all values.

EXPERIMENTS

Proofs - Inscribed “KK POST-STÄMPEL”. Done in 1849, these proofs exist in various colours. They are in the 6 Kreuzer and 1 Gulden values. They are inscribed “...STÄMPEL” instead of “...STEMPEL” in the legend at the top of the stamp. There were rose, blue and black colour varieties.



Proofs - Trial Perforations. Harrow Perforations were done on the 1 Kreuzer and 3 Kreuzer.

Experimental Issues with Perforations. In 1852 to 1854 separation experiments were made using Line/Rouletted perforations (14). These stamps were issued and used at Homona and Tokay in the Hungarian crownland. The 3, 6 and 9 Kreuzer denominations are commonest.



The 12 Kreuzer Blue. This issue was on handmade paper and approximately one million were printed before the issue date. However, when the postal rates were changed prior to the postal decree of March 26, 1850 they were of no use and the whole printing was destroyed and replaced by the 9 Kreuzer blue. A few examples cancelled “Franco” or with a pen stroke survive. A corresponding 60 Centes was also printed but never issued.



REPRINTS OF THE FIRST ISSUE

Reprints by the Austrian Postal Authorities of the 1850 issue were a timely response to the demand for specimens by collectors and foreign postal administrations and included electrotyped clichés of Type III and its subtypes of the first issue. One master from each value was selected and cleaned by a galvanoplastic process to prepare them for the reprint settings. As retouches were made on some matrices, reprint designs differ from the originals in some cases. With few exceptions, reprints were Type III. Even the 5 Centes, though originally all Type I, was reprinted from Type III clichés, indicating type III printing was considered for the original stamp.

Reprints could not be used for postage (nevertheless, some were thus used by devious philatelists!) but could be postmarked at the philatelic window at the time of purchase. The following list indicates the dates of the reprints of the first issue:

- 1866 - The first reprints were ordered in 1866 by the Ministry of Commerce. Printing was done by the State Bureau of Printing, Vienna. Printing was fine and clear. The paper was thick, pure white and without watermark. Five hundred of each stamp were printed and those not needed to meet the demand from foreign postal administrations were delivered to the “Wertezeichen-Haupt-Depot” of the “Post-Oekonomie-Verwaltung” (Vienna) and distributed from there to be sold to the public.
- 1870 - Die proofs
- 1870 - Reprinted again in 1870 were 5000 of each stamp. These had characteristic uneven shades with irregular, ill-defined and unclear printing. There was a sheet watermark “BRIEF-MARKEN” on the thick white paper.
- 1884 - Plate proofs
- 1884 - The 1884 reprints were clear and clean with dull colours on thin yellow toned paper. 2,500 of each stamp were printed. These had a wider “BRIEF-MARKEN” watermark.
- 1887 - Reprints made in 1887 were only of the 1 Kreuzer orange and yellow and 5 Centes orange and yellow in quantities of 10,000 each. Printing was clear and clean but with duller colours on a yellowish white paper and a “BRIEFMARKEN” watermark.
- 1894 - Reprints made in 1894 were of the 2 Kreuzer and 10 Centes in quantities of 10,000 each on thin yellowish or greyish white paper with dull colours. The watermark “ZEITUNGS-MARKEN” was used.

FELLNER REPRINTS

Between 1884 and 1887 reprints were also done to the private order of Ernst Fellner, a Viennese collector. Called the “Fellner Reprints” the printing was good, the colours dull, and the paper was thin white without watermark. The 1 Kreuzer and 5 Centes were reprinted. The 1 Kreuzer was also done with printing on both sides.

CONCLUSION

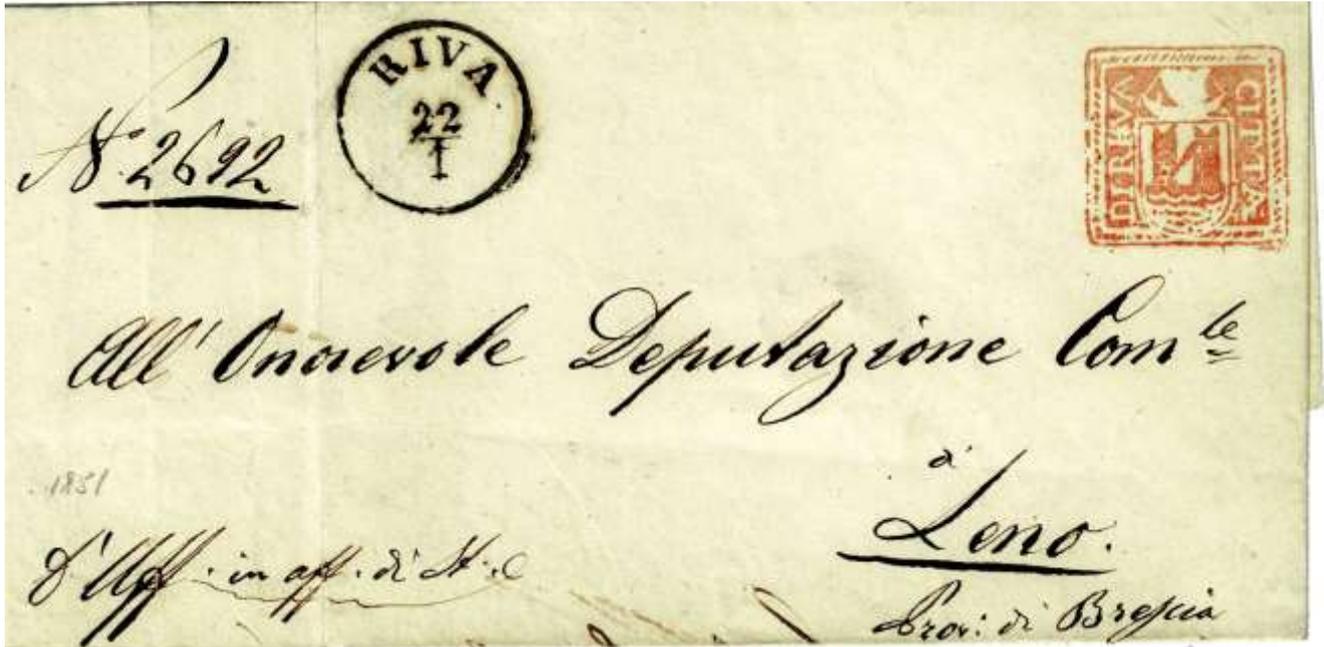
Though the first issue of the Austrian Empire consisted of only ten stamps, it is one of considerable creative and technical finesse, particularly in light of the political environment surrounding its release. Its potential for philatelic study is exponential. Types, colours, plates and plate errors, paper characteristics, experiments and applied postmarks all open doors to fascinating exploration. A true philatelic “Classic”, the issue was conceived, designed and produced in its country of origin with hand engraved dies and plates. Bred by the immediate success of the postage stamp in other countries, postal reforms in the Austria of the 1840s, though slow to manifest, have left us an invaluable philatelic inheritance. In unifying the historical, artistic and technical fragments connected with the first issue I have endeavoured in this article to provide a holistic appreciation of why the first issue is so significant and extraordinary.

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WHAT ARE THESE?

A friend asked me, where were these cancellers used, and what are the curious square markings?



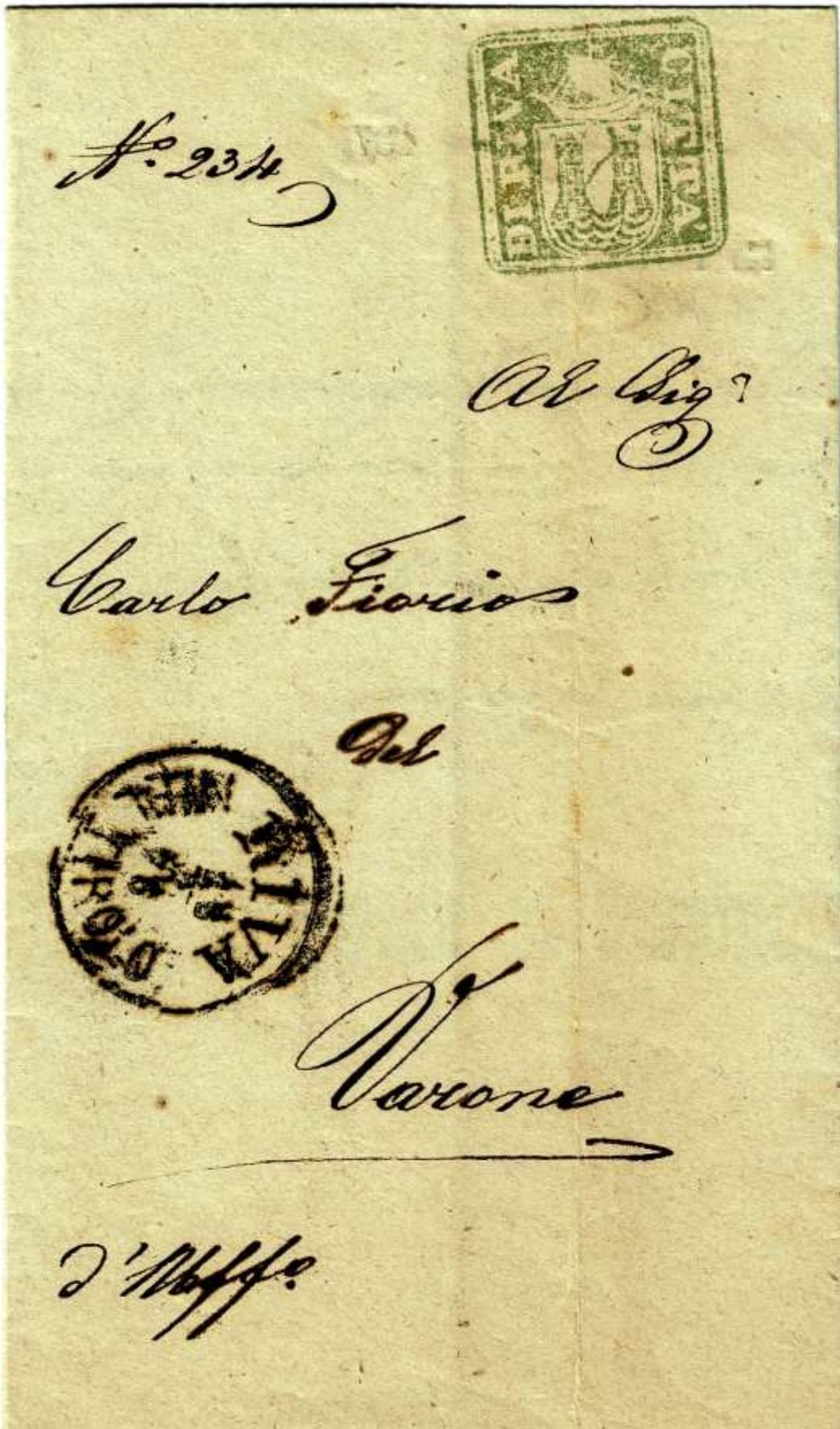
The dates of the items are 1852 & 1876

The cancellers are Mueller 2371b & 2371c.

Both items are Official Mail, so there is no Austrian franking.

The 'handstamps' look like those proposed for a Vienna City Post, so I'd guess they are a Posta della Riva or similar (?)

Does anyone have a more authoritative idea?



Auction 157 results

| LOT | Sold |
|------|------|
| 1220 | 6 |
| 1223 | 10 |
| 1224 | 11 |
| 1225 | 6 |
| 1229 | 8 |
| 1233 | 8 |
| 1238 | 4 |
| 1240 | 5 |
| 1250 | 4 |
| 1252 | 18 |
| 1253 | 6 |
| 1257 | 5 |
| 1259 | 7 |
| 1261 | 11 |
| 1262 | 8 |
| 1263 | 8 |
| 1265 | 6 |
| 1266 | 5 |
| 1267 | 15 |
| 1268 | 5 |
| 1269 | 9 |
| 1270 | 5 |
| 1271 | 5 |
| 1272 | 15 |
| 1273 | 4 |
| 1274 | 4 |
| 1275 | 4 |
| 1276 | 5 |
| 1277 | 9 |
| 1278 | 32 |
| 1279 | 26 |
| 1280 | 55 |
| 1281 | 12 |
| 1287 | 8 |
| 1288 | 4 |
| 1289 | 4 |
| 1290 | 4 |
| 1292 | 3 |
| 1295 | 4 |
| 1302 | 13 |
| 1303 | 6 |
| 1304 | 8 |
| 1305 | 10 |

| | |
|------|----|
| 1306 | 4 |
| 1308 | 4 |
| 1309 | 32 |
| 1310 | 12 |
| 1313 | 9 |
| 1314 | 6 |
| 1315 | 7 |
| 1319 | 3 |
| 1321 | 4 |
| 1322 | 3 |
| 1323 | 3 |
| 1324 | 5 |
| 1326 | 3 |
| 1328 | 3 |
| 1329 | 14 |
| 1330 | 5 |
| 1332 | 3 |
| 1333 | 5 |
| 1335 | 4 |
| 1340 | 3 |
| 1342 | 4 |
| 1344 | 7 |
| 1348 | 4 |
| 1349 | 30 |
| 1350 | 10 |
| 1351 | 7 |
| 1352 | 7 |
| 1353 | 5 |
| 1354 | 7 |
| 1357 | 10 |
| 1359 | 8 |
| 1360 | 8 |
| 1361 | 3 |
| 1364 | 8 |
| 1367 | 7 |
| 1368 | 20 |
| 1373 | 50 |
| 1374 | 50 |
| 1375 | 85 |
| 1384 | 10 |
| 1387 | 15 |
| 1389 | 30 |
| 1392 | 24 |
| 1407 | 5 |

| | |
|-------|----|
| 1410 | 6 |
| 1412 | 5 |
| 1417 | 8 |
| 1418 | 4 |
| 1419 | 4 |
| 1420 | 22 |
| 1421 | 10 |
| 1422 | 13 |
| 1423 | 5 |
| 1424 | 11 |
| 1430A | 7 |
| 1431 | 12 |
| 1432 | 13 |
| 1433 | 6 |
| 1436 | 10 |
| 1437 | 10 |
| 1438 | 8 |
| 1439 | 8 |
| 1441 | 8 |
| 1442 | 8 |
| 1443 | 5 |
| 1444 | 6 |
| 1445 | 10 |
| 1447 | 6 |
| 1448 | 6 |
| 1450 | 5 |
| 1456 | 24 |
| 1464 | 5 |
| 1468 | 36 |
| 1471 | 10 |
| 1472 | 5 |
| 1473 | 22 |
| 1474 | 12 |
| 1475 | 18 |
| 1477 | 5 |
| 1478 | 4 |
| 1479 | 20 |
| 1480 | 5 |
| 1481 | 4 |
| 1484 | 8 |
| 1487 | 11 |
| 1490 | 5 |
| 1496 | 5 |
| 1507 | 8 |

| | |
|-------|-----|
| 1509 | 15 |
| 1516 | 10 |
| 1519 | 10 |
| 1520 | 12 |
| 1523 | 8 |
| 1524 | 10 |
| 1525 | 12 |
| 1526 | 8 |
| 1528 | 18 |
| 1529 | 7 |
| 1530 | 32 |
| 1532 | 6 |
| 1536 | 15 |
| 1537 | 3 |
| 1543 | 15 |
| 1557 | 4 |
| 1601 | 4 |
| 1619 | 4 |
| 1635 | 260 |
| 1636 | 32 |
| 1637 | 15 |
| 1638 | 75 |
| 1638A | 110 |
| 1639 | 70 |
| 1640 | 85 |
| 1641 | 32 |
| 1647 | 10 |
| 1653 | 15 |
| 1654 | 55 |
| 1655 | 18 |
| | |
| 822 | 12 |
| 841 | 10 |
| 843 | 60 |
| 850 | 10 |
| 853 | 6 |
| 854 | 14 |
| 860 | 3 |
| 867 | 3 |
| 871 | 5 |
| 874 | 4 |
| 889 | 10 |
| 893 | 18 |
| 922 | 4 |
| 926 | 4 |

| | |
|------|-----|
| 933 | 3 |
| 964 | 5 |
| 965 | 5 |
| 970 | 18 |
| 973 | 30 |
| 986 | 14 |
| 1003 | 3 |
| 1005 | 6 |
| 1011 | 17 |
| 1018 | 14 |
| 1026 | 3 |
| 1028 | 5 |
| 1047 | 3 |
| 1048 | 7 |
| 1049 | 5 |
| 1054 | 3 |
| 1058 | 4 |
| 1061 | 3 |
| 1128 | 9 |
| 1129 | 13 |
| 1133 | 6 |
| 1148 | 175 |
| 1151 | 5 |

Auction 158 results

| Lot | Sold |
|------|------|
| 1700 | 75 |
| 1701 | 4 |
| 1702 | 75 |
| 1703 | 4 |
| 1704 | 55 |
| 1705 | 36 |
| 1706 | 10 |
| 1707 | 38 |
| 1708 | 38 |
| 1709 | 60 |
| 1710 | 18 |
| 1711 | 17 |
| 1712 | 8 |
| 1713 | 3 |
| 1718 | 5 |
| 1725 | 7 |
| 1726 | 4 |
| 1731 | 5 |
| 1733 | 7 |
| 1734 | 4 |
| 1735 | 5 |
| 1741 | 150 |
| 1742 | 8 |
| 1743 | 28 |
| 1744 | 60 |
| 1747 | 250 |
| 1749 | 5 |
| 1751 | 44 |
| 1754 | 80 |
| 1755 | 46 |
| 1756 | 55 |
| 1758 | 8 |
| 1759 | 6 |
| 1760 | 5 |
| 1763 | 10 |
| 1765 | 15 |
| 1769 | 12 |
| 1770 | 10 |
| 1772 | 20 |
| 1776 | 3 |
| 1778 | 3 |
| 1780 | 5 |
| 1794 | 7 |
| 1795 | 15 |
| 1796 | 8 |
| 1797 | 6 |
| 1802 | 5 |

| | |
|------|----|
| 1804 | 4 |
| 1807 | 12 |
| 1812 | 8 |
| 1813 | 5 |
| 1814 | 6 |
| 1815 | 6 |
| 1821 | 4 |
| 1823 | 12 |
| 1824 | 10 |
| 1832 | 6 |
| 1834 | 5 |
| 1835 | 10 |
| 1845 | 8 |
| 1858 | 5 |
| 1860 | 20 |
| 1861 | 9 |
| 1862 | 14 |
| 1863 | 9 |
| 1864 | 4 |
| 1865 | 4 |
| 1866 | 6 |
| 1880 | 5 |
| 1881 | 15 |
| 1884 | 15 |
| 1885 | 12 |
| 1886 | 10 |
| 1887 | 20 |
| 1889 | 8 |
| 1890 | 75 |
| 1891 | 8 |
| 1892 | 8 |
| 1893 | 28 |
| 1894 | 28 |
| 1895 | 80 |
| 1896 | 18 |
| 1897 | 30 |
| 1898 | 8 |
| 1899 | 14 |
| 1900 | 13 |
| 1901 | 24 |
| 1902 | 9 |
| 1909 | 75 |
| 1911 | 18 |
| 1915 | 10 |
| 1916 | 4 |
| 1917 | 9 |
| 1918 | 9 |
| 1919 | 5 |

| | |
|------|----|
| 1920 | 6 |
| 1923 | 8 |
| 1924 | 5 |
| 1925 | 8 |
| 1926 | 18 |
| 1936 | 28 |
| 1937 | 60 |
| 1938 | 10 |
| 1941 | 10 |
| 1942 | 22 |
| 1945 | 22 |
| 1946 | 11 |
| 1948 | 20 |
| 1949 | 8 |
| 1950 | 10 |
| 1951 | 10 |
| 1952 | 10 |
| 1953 | 10 |
| 1954 | 22 |
| 1955 | 26 |
| 1956 | 10 |
| 1958 | 10 |
| 1959 | 10 |
| 1962 | 12 |
| 1963 | 10 |
| 1968 | 40 |
| 1969 | 60 |
| 1972 | 8 |
| 1973 | 6 |
| 1975 | 8 |
| 1980 | 6 |
| 1981 | 9 |
| 1982 | 6 |
| 1986 | 10 |
| 1987 | 10 |
| 1992 | 10 |
| 1994 | 3 |
| 1995 | 15 |
| 1998 | 15 |
| 2001 | 15 |
| 2008 | 10 |
| 2011 | 8 |
| 2012 | 4 |
| 2015 | 3 |
| 2022 | 3 |
| 2025 | 4 |
| 2026 | 6 |
| 2027 | 12 |

| | |
|-------|-----|
| 2043 | 7 |
| 2044 | 7 |
| 2046 | 3 |
| 2047 | 3 |
| 2048 | 3 |
| 2049 | 3 |
| 2050 | 3 |
| 2059 | 12 |
| 2071 | 3 |
| 2072 | 3 |
| 2073 | 3 |
| 2074 | 3 |
| 2081 | 15 |
| 2083 | 4 |
| 2085 | 5 |
| 2086 | 3 |
| 2104 | 6 |
| 2110 | 3 |
| 2117 | 10 |
| 2123 | 5 |
| 2134 | 10 |
| 2139 | 7 |
| 2140 | 9 |
| 2141 | 8 |
| 2142 | 4 |
| 2145 | 5 |
| 2146 | 8 |
| 2147 | 7 |
| 2148 | 9 |
| 2149 | 7 |
| 2150 | 9 |
| 2151 | 9 |
| 2152 | 7 |
| 2153 | 9 |
| 2154 | 7 |
| 2155 | 80 |
| 2156 | 40 |
| 2158 | 36 |
| 2161 | 24 |
| 2162 | 110 |
| 2163 | 80 |
| 2165 | 20 |
| 2166 | 11 |
| | |
| 1220A | 13 |
| 1226 | 6 |
| 1232 | 3 |
| 1247 | 3 |

| | |
|------|----|
| 1256 | 4 |
| 1264 | 6 |
| 1337 | 3 |
| 1345 | 3 |
| 1363 | 8 |
| 1369 | 12 |
| 1371 | 18 |
| 1372 | 7 |
| 1377 | 28 |
| 1378 | 28 |
| 1379 | 3 |
| 1380 | 6 |
| 1381 | 6 |
| 1382 | 9 |
| 1383 | 9 |
| 1385 | 3 |
| 1386 | 12 |
| 1434 | 3 |
| 1435 | 6 |
| 1451 | 4 |
| 1452 | 3 |
| 1458 | 6 |
| 1461 | 6 |
| 1462 | 5 |
| 1463 | 12 |
| 1466 | 3 |
| 1467 | 6 |
| 1469 | 4 |
| 1518 | 5 |
| 1521 | 8 |
| 1533 | 12 |
| 1538 | 10 |
| 1542 | 3 |
| 1551 | 16 |
| 1600 | 4 |
| 1629 | 3 |
| 1630 | 7 |
| 1631 | 7 |
| 1632 | 7 |
| 1633 | 7 |
| 1634 | 7 |
| 1652 | 38 |
| 1656 | 13 |
| 1657 | 13 |
| 1658 | 60 |
| 1661 | 3 |