

Newspapers and

the Austrian Post



Grüss Di! Welcome to my display of “Newspapers and the Austrian Post”!

There are two aspects - the collection of taxes, and the payment for postage. These were regulated by different Ministries, but the Postal Service did all the work for both. Tax was levied on newspapers from 1803 to 1899, and special postage arrangements existed from 1851 to 1922. The display shows details of everything; the sections are presented in starting-date order. The frame contents are outlined on the next sheet, and copies are available. There are also handouts.

Andy Taylor

FRPSL

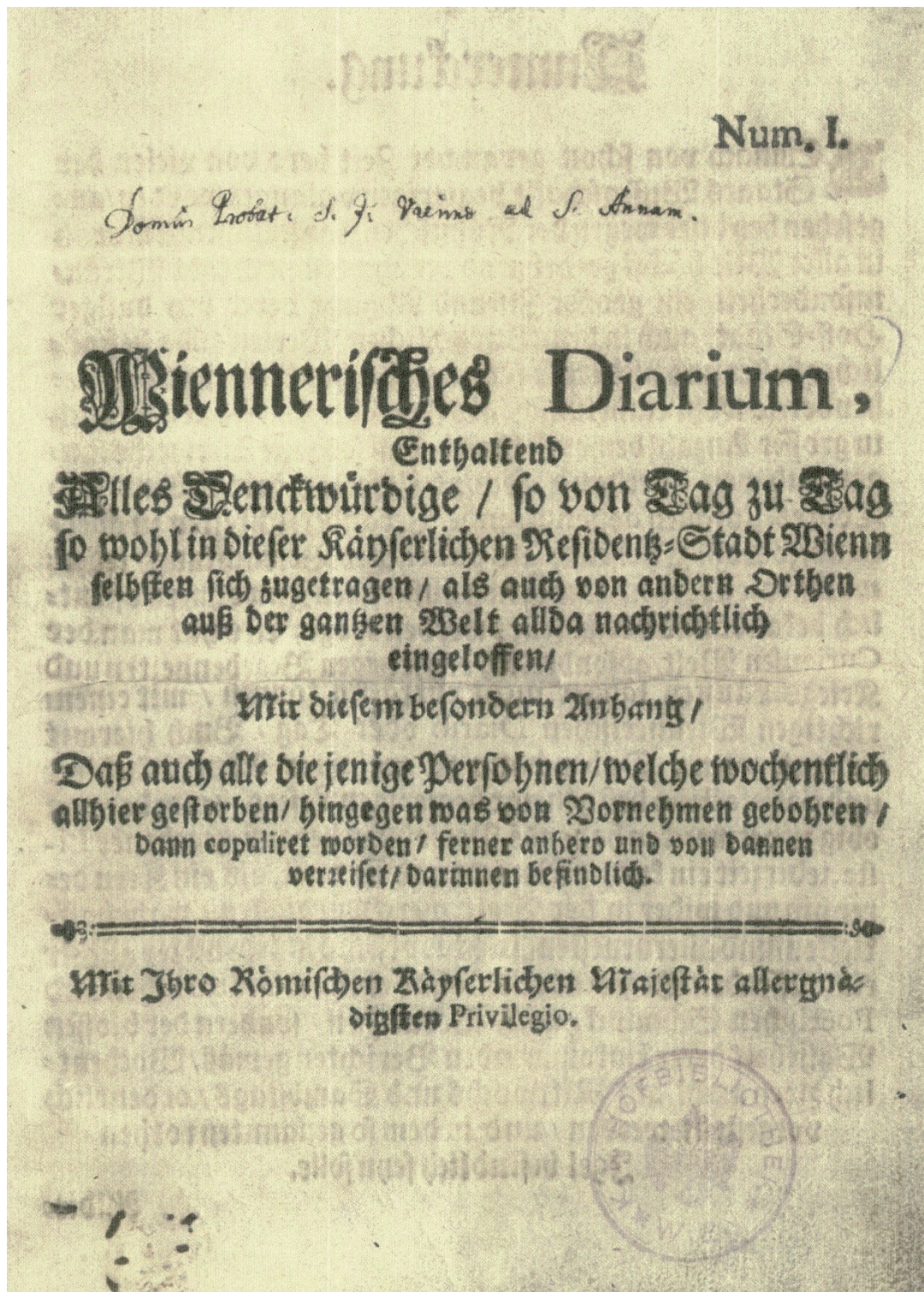
Frame-by-frame contents

54	53	52	51	50
About Andy			Lombardy and Venetia TAX 1535-1867	
	APS poster			
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1920, 1922 newspaper post		Postal Quirks		Tax quirks
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1916, 1919 newspaper post		1908 newspaper post		1900 new currency
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1890 newspaper tax adhesives 1885 2-ring signet			1899 newspaper postage stamps	
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1858 newspaper tax signets				1858/9 Ntax adhesives

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Extended timeline	G-A Postal Union nppr subscriptions; 1853 tax adhesive		1851 and 1858 newspaper postage stamps		
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1803 to 1850 newspaper tax signets on newspapers					
12	11	10	9	8	7
1803 to 1850 newspaper tax signets					The Bogen
1	2	3	4	5	6
Introduction to the display	1745-1802		Specimen signets, 1823-1850		

Newspapers as we know them today began as hand-written sheets, perhaps read aloud by the messenger to a gathering of those he'd been sent to. In Europe, moveable-type printing was invented around 1450, when German goldsmith Johannes Gutenberg (re)invented the metal movable-type printing press. [The Chinese had invented it around 1040 AD, using porcelain type.] The knowledge-of-possibility but not of the technology slowly spread west.

This is a copy of a copy of the first issue of what became the Wiener Zeitung; that newspaper survives today but only on-line.



To tax, or not to tax ...

that was the question...

The Austrians first introduced a Tax on Newspapers on 1 July 1789, carefully defining what it did and didn't apply to. There were immediate objections to the principle ("*a tax on Knowledge*") and to the practice ("*a hindrance to Trade*"), and it was eventually withdrawn in 1792. It was reintroduced on 1 January 1803; changed as the currency changed; suspended during the 1840s unrest; and remained until 1 January 1900.

The payment of the tax was shown by either an impressed marking (a "signet") in black red or blue; or by an adhesive stamp. For more details, see Carsten Mintert's Timeline above the "1803 to 1850 signets" frames. Below is a selection of tax adhesives and tax signets.



1890 ANK 7



1858 ANK 3



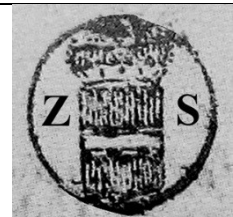
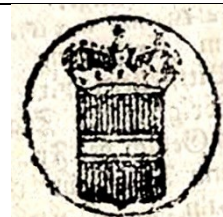
1858 ANK LV1



1858 ANK LV4



1890 ANK 9



Get your papers from the Post Office!

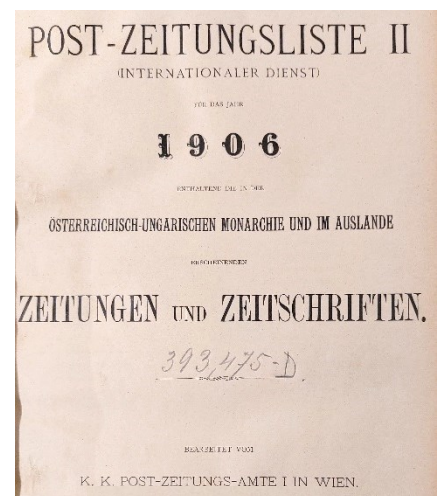
Inland newspapers could be ordered through the Post Office, by selecting from the approved list (frequently changing); completing a special form; paying the fee; and until 1880 negotiating an additional fee with your Postmaster for delivery-to-home. Or you could walk to your Post Office and collect it; since this was often also the local pub, walking there wasn't a total hardship.

The image shows two pages of a historical Austrian newspaper subscription form. The left page is titled 'Zeitung-Anweisung auf K. h.' and contains fields for 'Postamt', 'Anweisungsbetrag', 'An das', 'in', 'Postzeitungsliste I. M.', 'Annahme', 'Einschickungstag', 'Bezirks-Steuer', and 'Unterstützung des Postamts'. The right page is titled 'Name und Adresse des Bestellers' and contains fields for 'Bezugszeit', 'vom', 'bis', 'Anzahl der Exemplare', and 'Post der bestellten Exemplare'. A red circular stamp with the number '10' is visible on the left page.

Lists... Languages



- in a) deutscher Sprache . . .
 " b) arabischer Sprache . . .
 " c) armenischer Sprache . . .
 " d) bulgarischer Sprache . . .
 " e) böhmischer Sprache . . .
 " f) dänischer Sprache . . .
 " g) englischer Sprache . . .
 " h) finnischer Sprache . . .
 " i) französischer Sprache . . .
 " k) griechischer Sprache . . .
 " l) hebräischer Sprache . . .
 " m) holländischer Sprache . . .
 " n) italienischer Sprache . . .
 " o) kroatischer Sprache . . .



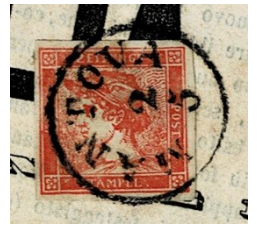
- gen in p) lateinischer Sprache . . .
 " q) norwegischer Sprache . . .
 " r) persischer Sprache . . .
 " s) polnischer Sprache . . .
 " t) portugiesischer Sprache . . .
 " u) romanischer Sprache . . .
 " v) rumänischer Sprache . . .
 " w) russischer Sprache . . .
 " x) ruthenischer Sprache . . .
 " y) schwedischer Sprache . . .
 " z) serbischer Sprache . . .
 " aa) slowakischer Sprache . . .
 " bb) slowenischer Sprache . . .
 " cc) spanischer Sprache . . .
 " dd) türkischer Sprache . . .
 " ee) ungarischer Sprache . . .
 " ff) vlämischer Sprache . . .
 " gg) wendischer Sprache . . .

Adhesive postage stamps for newspapers

Austria introduced adhesive postage stamps for letters on 1 June 1850. Special stamps for publishers to pay a reduced rate postage on inland newspapers ordered through the Post Office were introduced on 1 January 1851. This newspaper-postage-stamp system lasted until 1 March 1922.



The best-known of these stamps is the Red Mercury, for payment of the postage on a bundle of 10 newspapers. It was issued on 21 March 1856, and remained in use until 31 October 1858. Its sale stopped at the end of that day but copies in the hands of publishers could be used until 31 December 1858 when it was withdrawn and demonetized. They are rare; there are an estimated less than 10 left in the world genuinely used on a piece of wrapper. Rather more (50?) survive as mint specimens; many of these were probably "liberated" from official archives and never saw a Post Office. Almost certainly, a newly-discovered one will be either a reprint (there were 53,500!) or a forgery: both abound. The item on the right is a genuine reprint with a fake cancellation on an 1849 newspaper which plausibly could have been used to wrap a bundle-of-ten.



Above is a newspaper with both a blue tax stamp and a brown newspaper post stamp.

All the newspaper post stamp issues.



1851 issue
1.1.1851-31.5.1864



1858 issue
1.11.1858-31.5.1864



1861 issue
21.12.1860-31.5.1864



1863 issue
1.6.1863-31.8.1869



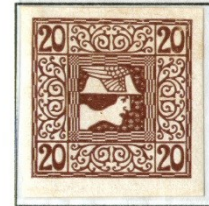
1867 issue
1.6.1867-30.9.1900



1880 issue
1.12.1880-31.12.1899



1899 issue
20.12.1899-31.12.1916



1908 issue
Mid 1908-31.12.1916



1916 issue
10.1916-31.10.1920



1919 issue
1.1919-31.10.1920

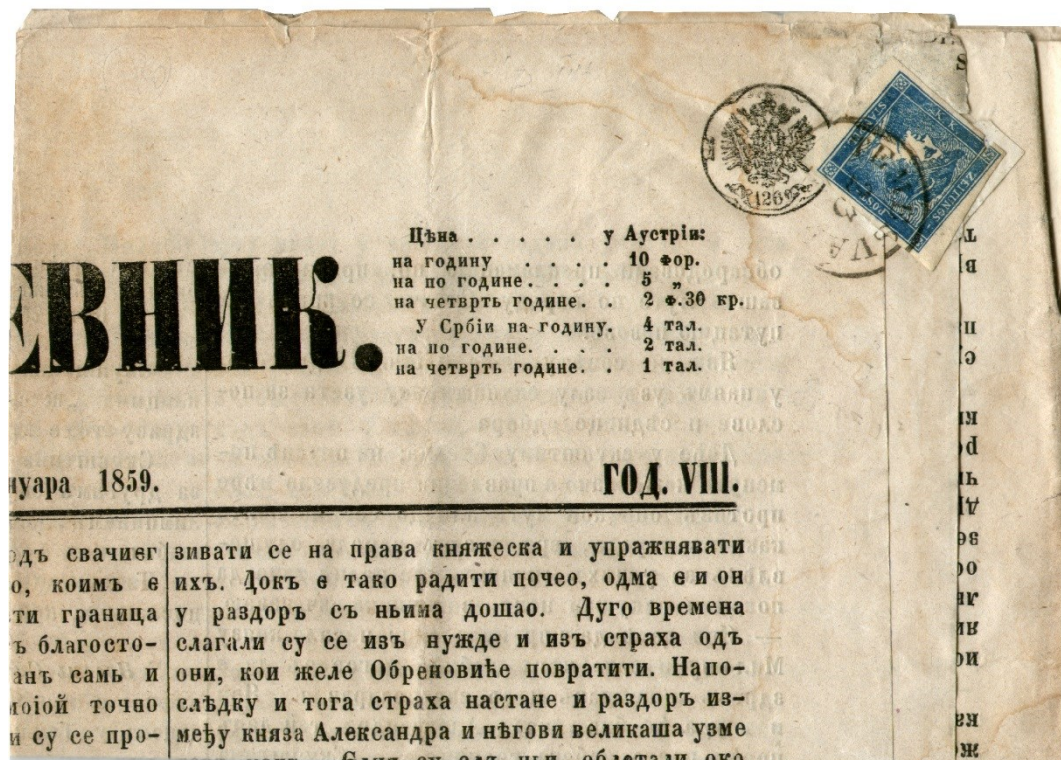


1920 issue
1920/1-28.2.1922



1922 issue
1922-28.2.1922

The brown stamp used above is the 1859 colour-change issue - the 1858 blue was too similar to the 15kr letter post stamp!



Above is a newspaper with both a tax signet and a blue newspaper post stamp.



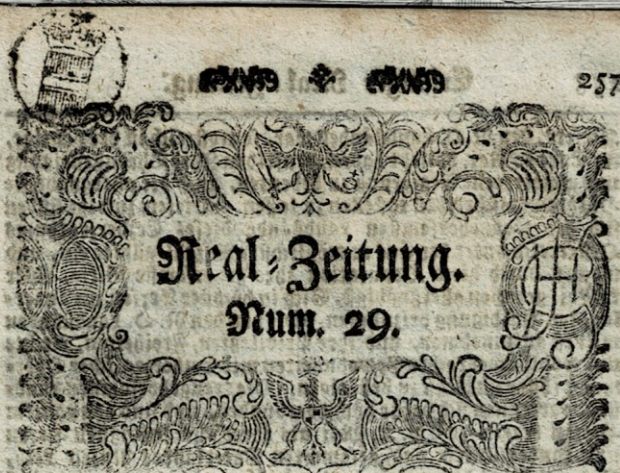
LA

SEMAINE DES ENFANTS

MAGASIN D'IMAGES ET DE LECTURES AMUSANTES ET INSTRUCTIVES.

PUBLICATION DE CH. LAHURE, IMPRIMEUR A PARIS.

On s'abonne à Paris : au Bureau du Journal, chez M. Ch. Lahure, éditeur, rue de Fleurus, 9; à la librairie de MM. L. Hachette et Cie, boulevard Saint-Germain, 77, et chez tous les Libraires de la France et de l'Étranger. — Les abonnements se prennent du 1^{er} de chaque mois. Pour Paris, six mois, 6 fr.; un an, 11 fr.; pour les départements, six mois, 8 fr.; un an, 15 fr. — Les manuscrits déposés ne sont pas rendus.



Mit allergnädigstem Kaiserl. Privilegio und
Hochfürstl. gnädigster Concession.

Erlangen, den 13. April 1790.

Oesterreich.

Von der Huldigung Oesterreichs unter der Ens haben
wir noch folgendes nachzuholen.

Von den Bürgern der Stadt Wien ist der Eid schon am 2ten
auf dem Rathhause abgenommen worden. Auf die Einladung
des Landmarchalls, Grafen von Pergen, fanden sich am 5ten die
Stände im Landhaus ein, und fanden die Grafen Franz de Paula
von Dietrichstein, und Joh. Ant. von Hardeck, in Begleitung
des Probstes von Klosterneuburg in die k. Schatzkammer, um
den Erzherrzogshut abzuholen. Bei dem Zuge von der Burg
nach St. Stephan am 6ten war der König nicht zu Pferd, son-
dern in einem mit 6 Pferden bespannten Trauervagen. Nach
der Zurückkunft in die Burg begab sich der Monarch in sein Ge-
mach, wohin auch die Kleindien gebracht wurden. Der von
den Ständen erwählte Ausschuss suchte um Audienz an, und wurde
dann in das Gemach gerufen, wo der König unter einem
Prachthimmel stand, und von dem ständischen Ältesten, Rudolph
Grafen von Traun, folgendermassen angedet wurde: Allers-



Various signets: above: 1867

Left: 1790, the last month of use
of this type

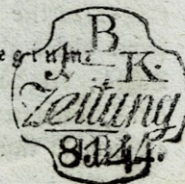
Below: 1814 from Brünn

Brünner Politische Zeitung.

Mit dem den Mährischen Herren Ständen verliehenen k. k. Privilegium

235.

Sonnabend, den 27. August.

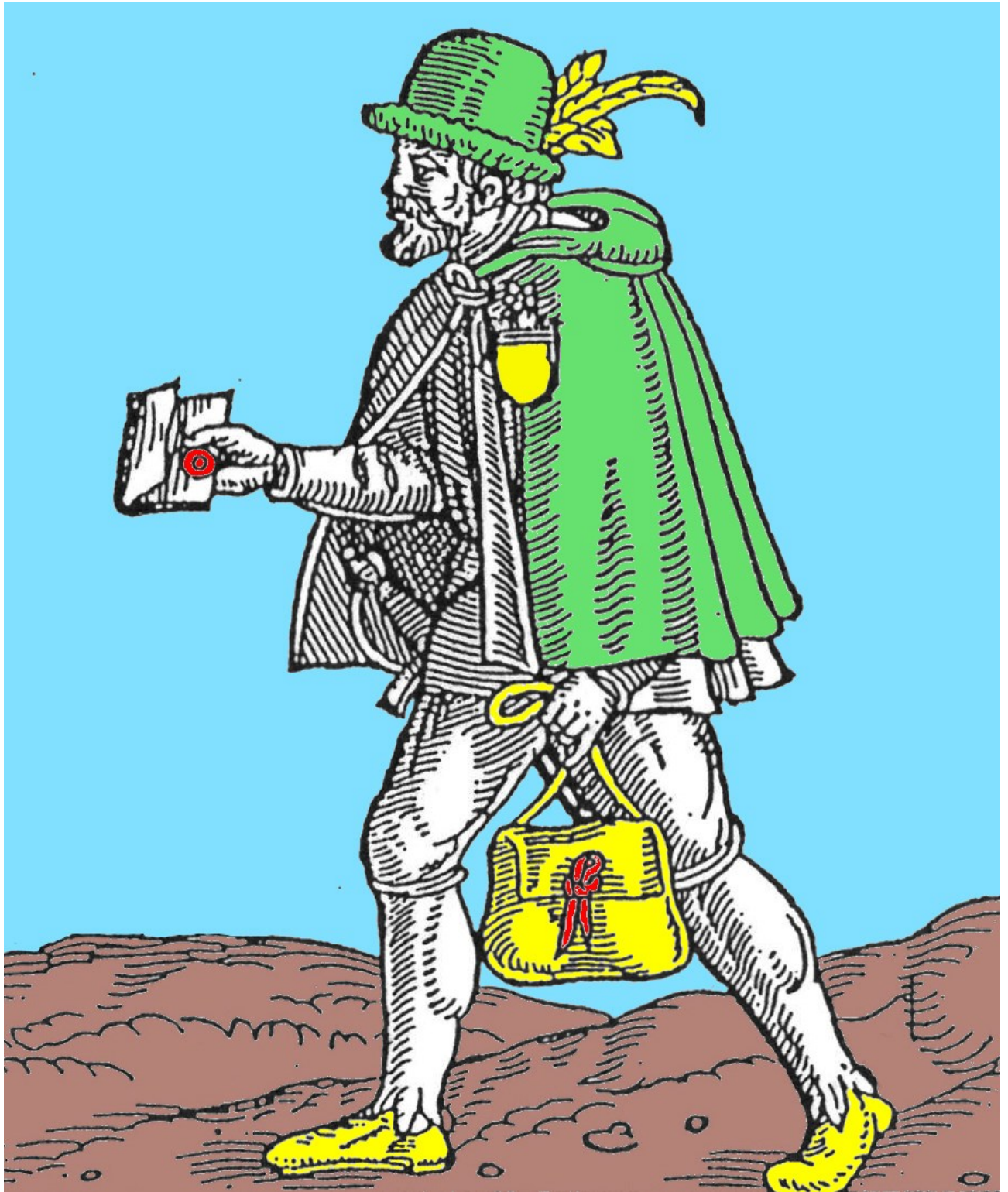


Wien, den 24. August.

Repräsentant, aus der vollen Batterie des Kastells,

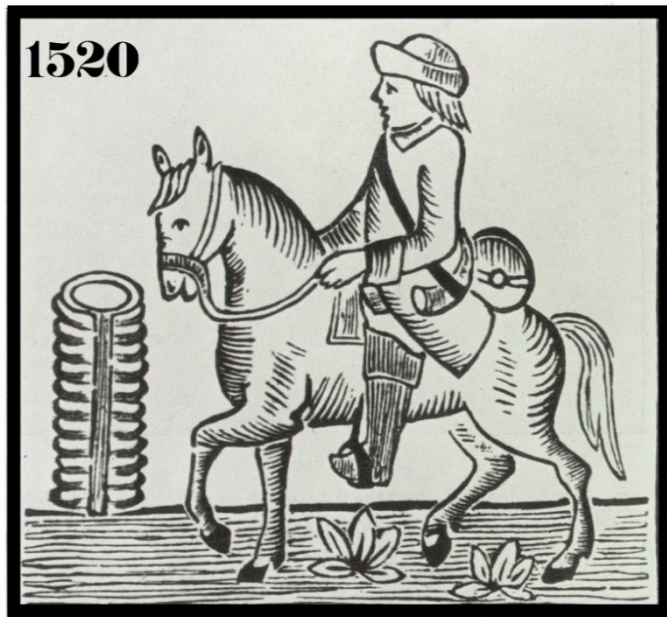
In the beginning

If you could read or write, you would be wealthy enough to employ your personal messenger, or you'd be a member of a Court, Guild, Monastery etc who did.



This is my servant Igor, who tirelessly tramps the medieval roads and trackways of Europe carrying my messages to my correspondents. On his days off, I use WhatsApp. His second function is to scour the rubbish heaps he passes, in case they contain examples of the Newspaper Postage services to add to my collection. He is handsomely rewarded for what he brings me.

Your personal messenger might well have been afforded a horse to speed his travel.



But not always...



The Emperor's messages, however, were carried by superior horsemen in a superior uniform and mounted on superior horses. A network of way-stations existed so that the messenger could change to a fresh horse. These were 15km apart in most parts of the Empire, but closer together in rough country - set at the distance a superior horse could reasonably be expected to gallop non-stop. Usually, the same messenger carried the message all the way.



Vienna-area Post-route map from 1783, showing the roads and way-stations

