

# NEWSPAPERS AND THE AUSTRIAN POST 1789-1922

This brochure was written to accompany a display given to The Royal Philatelic Society London by Andy Taylor FRPSL on 26 March 2026.  
A frame-by-frame contents guide is on the back cover.

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# NEWSPAPERS AND THE AUSTRIAN POST, 1789-1922

*Hic liber de ephemeride est omnis divisa in partes tres (Caesar, J)*

*Part 1: the newspaper tax, 1789 - 1899*

*Part 2: the newspaper post, 1851-1922*

*Part 3: Further Reading*

## Impressum

**CREATED & PUBLISHED BY ANDY TAYLOR FRPSL FOR THE AUSTRIAN PHILATELIC  
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# THE AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPER TAX 1789 - 1899



# THE AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPER TAX

## Introduction

The complex 110-year history (1789-1899) of taxes on newspapers in Austria is closely tied to the political events of the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in both Austria and the rest of Europe. The display covers the entire period when Austria taxed newspapers.

## Overview of significant events

| Date         | Event   |
|--------------|---|
| 29.11.1780   | Maria Theresia died; her son Josef II became Kaiser.  |
| 1.7.1789     | Newspaper Tax introduced: ½ kr CM (Conventions-Münze) on all newspapers; 1 kr CM on pamphlets. Payment shown by arms-in-circle signet with no statement of value. |
| 20.2.1790    | Josef II died; succeeded by his younger brother Leopold II.   |
| Apr/May 1790 | ½ kr CM signet given ZS. At Prague Central Stamping Office, 1 kr CM signet given BS to distinguish it. Elsewhere the old arms-in-circle were retained.            |
| 1.3.1792     | Leopold II died; succeeded by his son Franz II.   |
| 1792         | Following more and more exemptions, (eg scientific journals on 12 July 1789) newspaper tax was largely abolished.   |
| 1.1.1803     | Tax reintroduced. ½ kr / 1 kr for inland papers under/from 1 sheet; doubled for foreign. Different signet design each year (till 1850).                           |
| 11.8.1804    | Franz assumed the title "Franz I, Emperor of Austria".  |
| 1809         | Napoleon captured Vienna and introduced his own oval signet and so his own tax.   |
| 15.3.1811    | Tax raised to 1 kr / 2 kr for inland papers under/from 1 sheet; 2 kr / 3 kr for foreign.  |
| 2.3.1835     | Franz I died; succeeded by his son Ferdinand I.   |
| 1 4 1841     | The 3 kr rate of tax was withdrawn; all foreign papers paid 2 kr.   |

| Date               | Event   |
|--------------------|---|
| 2.12.1848          | Revolutions! Ferdinand abdicated; his nephew became Kaiser Franz Joseph I.  |
| 1848-1850          | Tax partly suspended on domestic papers.  |
| 1.1.1850           | Tax on subscription orders from German States now included in the (unchanged) delivery price (hence de facto abolished). Control Stamp for those papers.  |
| 1.11.1850          | Tax abolished for inland papers, 2 kr for (non-PU (Postal Union)) foreign papers. New signet.   |
| 1.3.1853           | 2 kr green adhesive introduced; valid till 31.10.1858.  |
| 1.11.1854          | Signet usage ceased; adhesive documentary revenue stamps issued; fiscal paper-stamping offices closed.  |
| 1.1.1858           | Inland papers taxed again at 1 kr. New type of 1 kr signet introduced (small circle; no words, value or currency; die number at foot).  |
| 1.11.1858          | Currency changed from CM to öW (österreichischer Währung). Inland (and PU) newspaper rate rounded up 14% to 2 kr öW, non-PU foreign 4kr öW. 4kr brown adhesive issued. The signet for inland papers continued in use with a value of 2 kr öW. |
| 1.1.1859           | Tax halved to 1, 2 kr öW. Same signet used for 1 kr rate; 4 kr adhesives used as if 2 kr. New adhesives issued: 1 kr (made from the 4 kr clichés) and 2 kr. Later, fresh [Type II] clichés were made for the 1 kr.                            |
| 1867               | Ausgleich: Austria was split into Austria and Hungary with the same ruler, Kaiser / King Franz Joseph I.  |
| 1873               | Official reprints of the 1853, 1858 adhesives. Only 1000 sets sold to the public.   |
| 6.1877             | 1 kr, 2 kr Adhesives redesigned.  |
| 1885               | New design of signets: double circle, now with legend but still no face value or currency (the value was 1 kr.)   |
| 13.5.1887          | 2 kr signet introduced at Lemberg (similar design to the 1 kr signet but with a "2" in the middle).   |
| 1890               | Changed adhesives issued: 1, 2, and a 25kr carmine. The 2 kr signet now used in Vienna.   |
| 1898               | Czech signet version (1 kr).  |
| <b>1.1.1900</b>    | <b>Newspaper tax abolished.</b>   |
| Until October 1900 | Newspaper tax adhesives used up as postage dues on parcel cards, Post-Begleitadresse etc because of the shortage of small denomination stamps.  |

## The lead-up to the introduction of the tax

When Empress Maria Theresia died on 29 November 1780, her son Josef hastened to introduce all manner of reforms. He decided to finance them by imposing a tax on all newspapers and pamphlets, whether published in Austria or imported from abroad; the official justification was “to raise funds for education”.

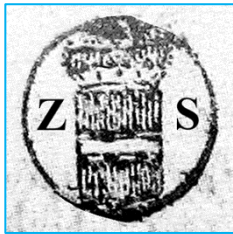
On 6 May 1789 Emperor Josef II issued an Imperial Decree stating that newspapers and news-sheets whether published in Austria or imported from abroad would from 1 July 1789 be liable to a tax of  $\frac{1}{2}$  kreuzer CM (= Conventions Münze) per Bogen (= newsprint sheet); for “booklets” the tax was 1 kr CM. The payment was to be indicated by “*the same Signet for all with the Austrian Arms but no indication of value or currency*”. Payment of the tax was until 1853 shown by an impressed marking which will be referred to here as a “**signet**” (not as a “signette”, “stamp”, “seal”, or “signature”). The verb “to signet” will be used.

On 11 May a more detailed law prescribed what was taxable (eg all newspapers and pamphlets, whether published in Austria or imported from Hungary or abroad) and what was not (eg bound books); the interaction with the Censors; the responsibilities of various people; and the considerable penalties (eg fines of 30 times the mistake) for non-compliance. Austrian publishers had to take each and every copy of their printed newspapers and brochures to the finance office for signetting.

### The tax began on 1 July 1789.

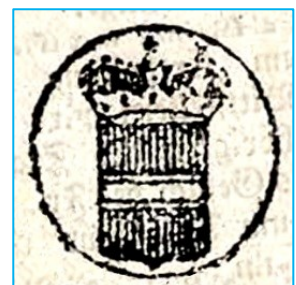
The literature contains two different interpretations of how the tax was shown (there is no dispute about the tax rates themselves, namely  $\frac{1}{2}$  kr and 1 kr). The “wisdom of the 1900s” is that payment of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  kr for

newspapers was shown by a signet stamped on the paper, which had a crowned shield flanked by Z S, all in a 15mm diameter circle. Payment of the 1 kr on pamphlets, brochures, song books etc was shown by a similar stamped signet, having the crowned shield in a circle but no flanking letters. The earliest statement of this seems to be by Frankl, carefully repeated by Tkalcsics and Tettinek, who do not mention signets with B S. This interpretation does agree with the more-readily-available newspapers, but unfortunately clashes with the Imperial Decree and with the physical examples now viewable in ANNO; which is “Austrian Newspapers on Line”, a wonderful treasure trove of copies held by the Austrian National Library. See <https://anno.onb.ac.at/>



Detailed research by Ladislav Hanus in 1935 showed that until April-May 1790, every item had a stamped signet with a crowned shield in a 15mm diameter circle and no flanking letters, whatever its tax rate; and that from that date until the tax was withdrawn in 1791 the blank signet was replaced with a 15mm Z-S signet for the ½ kr rate.

Experimentally, a new brochure signet for the rarely-required 1 kr rate was trialled at the Prague Central Stamp Office. It was 20mm diameter with the letters B S flanking the arms. Only two copies are known of this brochure signet in use; both items are in Prague museums. Ferchenbauer (2008 vol II pp559-560) shows one, on a song-book, and confirms that only two specimens of this signet are known. The research on this was published in *Novinový Kolek V Českých Zemích 1789-1853* by Jiří Kořínek, Prague 2006; he explored three extensive archives in Czechia and discovered that the conventional wisdom didn't correspond with the actual material nor with the Imperial Decrees. Lubomír Špacek is thanked for translating the vital parts into





English. However, perhaps due to the political events before during and after WWII, this research was overlooked then forgotten until Kořínek and Mintert's researches in the early 2000s. ANNO for 1789 and 1790 has only one paper with signets, the Wiener Kirchenzeitung.

Accusations of a "tax on knowledge" and "interference with Press freedom" led to more and more exemptions; eg on 12 July 1789 scientific journals were exempted, on 28 February 1790 folk-songs, and in September 1791 original newspapers. By 1792, the tax was effectively abolished; according to Frankl it remained in force only for newly printed foreign newspapers.

Josef II died on 20 February 1790 and was followed by his younger brother Leopold II. Censorship of news was reintroduced on 11 September 1790 and any article in or from a foreign journal "deemed to spread dangerous new ideas" was suppressed by banning its possession and by forbidding it to use the postal service.

Leopold II died on 1 March 1792 and was succeeded by his son Franz II, who in 1804 in anticipation of the abolition of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806 and acting as Holy Roman Emperor promoted Austria to an Empire then appointed himself as Kaiser Franz I of Austria (the Viennese promptly nicknamed him Der Doppelkaiser!)

Franz II/I, having embroiled himself in more wars and needing to finance them, reintroduced the newspaper tax on 1 January 1803 at the rate of ½ kr for all inland newspapers smaller than one sheet and 1 kr for larger inland papers; the numerous foreign papers paid double these rates.

## 1803: the Tax returns



A starting date of 1 March 1803 is given by Frankl and attributed to Hofkammerdekret 2290/2859 of 15 October 1802. This statement has been dutifully copied in later articles, but the Austrian State Archive in Vienna has no trace of this document! Reichsgesetzblatt 1802 RGB 577 is the Stämpelpatent of 5<sup>th</sup> October 1802 in which §§67-75 deal with newspapers; the date of introduction is clearly stated as 1 January 1803. Conclusive refutation of the 1 March 1803 date is Kořínek's illustration Př. 15 which shows a foreign newspaper dated 20 January 1803 and taxed in Prague at 2 kr, shown by two 1-kr signets.

The tax signet design was changed every year. The 'code letters' for the signetting offices are listed below. Not all possibilities exist; eg the Spa towns didn't have 1 kr signets, only the 2 kr & 3 kr for foreign papers.



|   |   |             |                     |       |                     |
|---|---|-------------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|
| B | Brünn                                       | K           | Krakau from 1847    | T     | Triest              |
| E | Eger  | LA, La, Lai | Laibach             | Tö    | Töplitz/<br>Teplitz |
| G | Graz  | L, Le       | Lemberg             | TR    | Troppau?            |
| I | Innsbruck                                   | M           | Marienbad from 1835 | W, Wi | Wien                |
| K | Klagenfurt till 1813;<br>Karlsbad from 1830 | P           | Prague              | Z     | Zara                |

Several collections exist of superbly-printed impressions of the year-dated newspaper signets, on stiff high-quality paper. These were most probably specimen copies sent to tax or post offices appended to some instruction for using the signet system. Two are shown here to illustrate the make-up of the signet.

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <p>ZEITUNG = the purpose<br/> Z = Zara tax office<br/> 3 K = the rate<br/> 1837 = the year</p>     |
|  | <p>Le = Lemberg tax office<br/> 1849 = the year<br/> ZEITUNG = the purpose<br/> 2 K = the rate</p> |

As is implied by §69 of the Stämpelpatent, the new tax was not applied everywhere. Frankl notes Hofdekret 1808/270 (supposedly dated 13 January but not known to the Staatsarchiv) extending it to papers arriving from Hungary, Trieste, Tirol and Vorarlberg. (Meanwhile, Napoleon introduced a variety of new rates and signets to the areas he controlled.) Copies of newspapers are known on which a tax of 3 kr has been paid by a 1 kr and a 2 kr signet, and a tax of 2 kr paid with two 1 kr signets. For some reason, between about 1812 and 1826 “Zeitung” was in script; before and after these dates it was in block capitals. As before, payment of the tax was shown by a black signet, now with a different frame design each year. These had the word ZEITUNG; the value (eg 1 K); the year (until 1824 shown as eg 808 with a line above for 1808); and a code letter (eg W for Wien) for the location of the Stamp Office (an office of the Finance Ministry) where the signet was applied. Instead of ½ K the years 1803 to 1805 and 1807 can have 2 D; the D stands for Denarius which was equal to Pfennig; 4 Pfennige are 1 Kreuzer so 2 D = ½ kr.

## 1809: Enter Napoleon

Napoleon's army entered Vienna on 13 May 1809, remaining until 14 October. One minor effect of this can be seen on the masthead of the Wiener Zeitung for that year, which had the Austrian Eagle and Austrian octagonal tax signet until 6 May. When Napoleon appeared, the Austrian Government officials hid everything concerned with signetting, such as pre-stamped paper for documents as well as the signets (hand- and machine-stamps) for documents, calendars, newspapers etc. The reason was to prevent Napoleon getting the tax revenues. Napoleon simply introduced his own signet, in an oval form; it took a while until this new so-called Napoleon-Signet was available. In the Wiener Zeitung of 20 May the eagle had gone although the Austrian signet remained; from 24 May until 30 August there was neither eagle nor signet. The oval  $\frac{1}{2}$  kr French signet appeared on 2 September, remaining until 18 October. From 25 October, the Austrian Eagle appeared and disappeared seemingly at random, and the tax signet is sometimes  $\frac{1}{2}$  in an oval, sometimes 1 in an oval, and sometimes 1 in an octagon!

When Illyria returned to Austrian control, the 1802 Stempelpatent was reapplied from 1 October 1814. In those areas where silver currency was used, the signets were struck in red to differentiate them, and were in use until 1 January 1818. Shown below is the very rare Illyrie signet, and some rare red signets from Laibach and Triest.



## Overview of newspaper taxes, 1840 - 1860

| From:  | Inland              | Postal Union  | Other foreign   |
|--|---------------------|---|---|
| to 31 March 1841   | 1 kr or 2 kr signet | --  | 2 kr or 3 kr signet   |
| 1 April 1841   | 1 kr signet         | --  | 2 kr signet   |
| <i>1848-50: upheavals and confusion. Requirement-to-tax sometimes ignored.</i> |                     |   |   |
| 1 January 1850   | Notionally 1 kr     | PS (see note 1) from German States: no tax; Control Stamp           | Notionally 2 kr   |
| 1 November 1850  | Free                | PS: tax hidden; Control Stamp. Others: 2 kr signet                  | 2 kr signet (new design)  |
| 6 December 1852  |                     | PS: tax hidden; post office cancel. Others: 2 kr signet             |   |
| 1 March 1853 (note 2)  |                     |   | 2 kr signet if forwarded; otherwise 2 kr adhesive.                  |
| 1 November 1854 (note 3)   |                     | 2 kr adhesive   |   |
| 1 January 1858   | 1 kr signet         | PS: tax hidden; post office cancel. Others: 2 kr adhesive           | PS: tax of 2 kr included; post office cancel. Others: 2 kr adhesive |
| <i>Currency change from CM to öW</i>   |                     |   |   |
| 1 November 1858  | 2 kr signet         | PS: tax of 2 kr included; post office cancel. Others: 4 kr adhesive | PS: tax of 4 kr included; post office cancel. Others: 4 kr adhesive |

| From:          | Inland                  | Postal Union  | Other foreign   |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1 January 1859 | 1 kr signet or adhesive | PS: tax of 1 kr included; post office cancel. Others: 1 kr adhesive or signet | PS: tax of 2 kr included; post office cancel. Others: 2 kr adhesive (or 4 kr used up as 2 kr) |

#### Notes:

- 1) PS = Postal Subscription: ordered at a Post Office, to which it came and from which the subscriber normally collected it.
- 2) Introduction of adhesive tax stamp, 1 March 1853.
- 3) Closure of revenue stamping-offices, 1 November 1854.

### 1840: new signet design

The design of the signets was altered in 1840. Until 23 March the 1 kr & 2 kr were identical apart from the value and the 3 kr was quite different; from 24 March all three were changed to be similar in concept but different in detail. This was related to the introduction by Kaiser Ferdinand I of a new Tax Law dated 27 January which is 86 foolscap sides long! It states that its provisions come into effect on 1 November 1840, but it does not appear to mention the taxation of newspapers.

### 1848: Revolutions

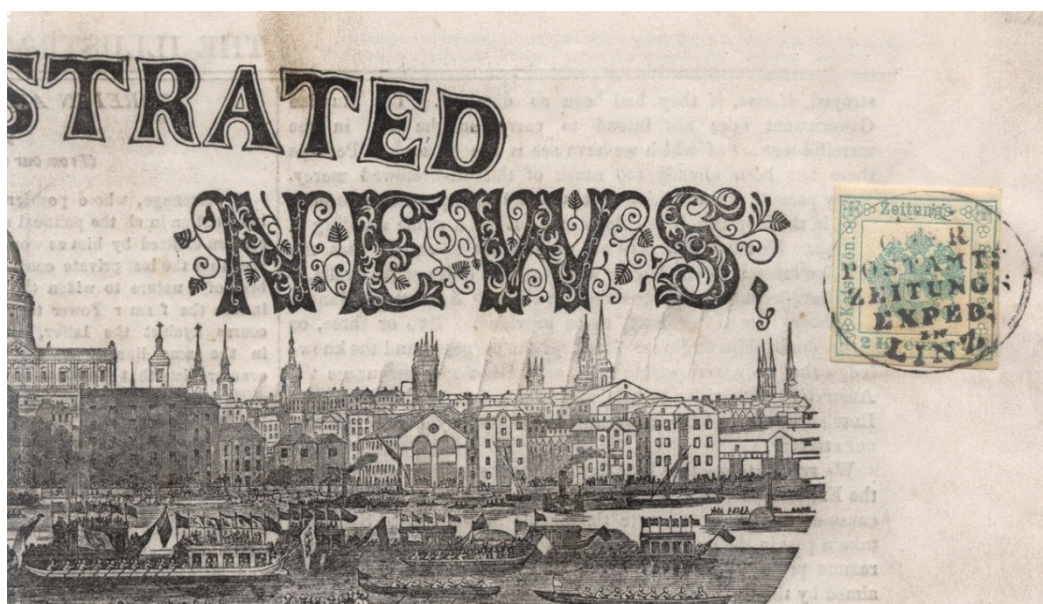
The revolutionary events of 1848-1850 led to a temporary suspension of the tax on inland newspapers.

## 1850: Postal Unions

The German-Austrian Postal Union came into effect on 1 July 1850; newspapers could now be ordered tax-free from signatory countries by advance subscription at a Post Office. For an additional payment of ½ kr per copy per day, payable monthly in advance, the subscribed-for paper was delivered to the subscriber's home address. From 1 November 1850 a tax of 2 kr was applied to privately-imported newspapers with a political content, shown by a new design of signet.

## 1853: The first Newspaper Tax adhesive stamp

The first Newspaper Tax adhesive stamp (the 2 kr green) was introduced on 1 March 1853 as a way of paying the tax on foreign newspapers that had not been ordered by Postal Union subscription; these typically arrived in a Kreuzband or wrapper or were brought in by travellers. See Koczyński p42; the introduction of the adhesive was surreptitiously done through a low-profile Erlass of 27 Jan, and a lengthy instruction from the Ministry of Trade, 1853 PVOB February 21 Z.562P.



1853 issue, type Ia, on the Illustrated London News of 3 June 1854. Cancelled at the newspaper section of the Linz Post Office.

The stamp's design is square, with the Austro-Hungarian double-headed eagle in the middle, and in the outer double frame Kais. Kön. Zeitungs-Stämpel, while the bottom line contains the value indication, and the corners have small ornaments. The colour was a green made by mixing the yellow and blue inks that were already in use for the definitive stamps. It exists only in Type I: between the beak and the crown ribbon of the left-hand eagle there is a small coloured spot. There are two subtypes: (a) Type Ia in which the Z in Zeitungs- is drawn correctly, ie with a small vertical line at the top; the letter ö in Kön has no protrusion; the cross of the imperial orb is more or less connected to the right eagle wing. (b) Type Ib in which the Z in Zeitungs- is deformed, i.e. the small line at the end of the top cross-bar is thickened and slanting, and on the frame line above the Z there is a small coloured dot; there is a small coloured dot on the right side of the ö in Kön; the cross of the imperial orb is free-standing.

The Post Offices had to attach the adhesives to incoming non-Postal-Union papers. The detailed instructions are contained in the Verordnungsblatt für die Verwaltungszweige des österreichischen Handelsministeriums, volume I page 103-5 nr 21, dated Sunday 27 February 1853. The use of the 2 kr signets ceased on 1 November 1854, when adhesive documentary revenue stamps were issued for the first time, and the fiscal paper-stamping offices closed.

## 1857: Currency Treaties

A Currency Treaty between many European countries was signed in Vienna on 24 January 1857 and ratified by Austria on 30 April 1857. Under this, Austria-Hungary was to change and decimalise its currency from Conventionsmünze ("CM": 1 Gulden divided into 60 kreuzer) to

österreichische Währung (“öW”: 1 Gulden divided into 100 Neukreuzer).  
The formal change was on 1 November 1858.

## 1858: The Inland & Postal Union newspaper tax returned on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1857, Imperial Ordinance 1857 RGB 207 was issued, changing the provisions of 1850 RGB 345 with effect from 1 January 1858. §§ 1-3 reintroduced a tax on the caution-depositing inland newspapers if they appeared “*daily or at least once each week*” and contained qualifying material (eg political news). It was charged on the main page of each copy at the rate of 1 kr. If on any day no main part was issued but a supplement was, that was taxed instead! The tax had to be paid with a signet before the item was printed; the printer had to bring the blank paper to the Office for the signet to be stamped on each sheet, and the newspaper had to be printed such that “the signet appears on the first of the pages which are liable to tax”.

This requirement for pre-printing the signets by taking the newsprint to the tax office remained true in theory much longer than in practice. Even before the introduction of roll-fed presses, the logistics of transporting sheets of paper become increasingly nightmarish as the print runs rose: all the references agree that sooner or later the system had to and did change. For example, Müller’s *Die Postmarken von Österreich* of 1927 (as translated by J Giblin) says on page 349, “*At first the application of the signet took place on the inland newspaper by printing on the still unprinted paper, later partly on the already prepared newspaper by machines provided with a numerical valuer*” (this must be a signet-imprinter coupled to a mechanical counter) “*finally with the newspapers produced on the rotary presses by printing the signet at the same time as printing the newspaper.*” Tkalcsics in *Die Briefmarke* 1/1992 says on

p41, when discussing 1858: *For newspapers with larger editions the stamper and a counter were mounted on the printing press.*

Sections 4 & 5 of 1857 RGB 207 stated that foreign newspapers falling under § 22 of 1850 RGB 345 were to be taxed as if they were inland papers, ie those subscribed-for from member countries of the Austria-German postal treaty; Kropf states that a Verordnung of 8 December 1857 added the Italian states. The tax was levied as part of the subscription for the newspaper at a post office. When calculating the amount to be forwarded by the post office to the publisher, the amount of the tax on the newspaper was to be deducted from the subscription price when you paid that and instead sent to the Taxman. When the copies had arrived and were distributed, they received a postal cancellation only, NOT a signet. This is different from the procedure for privately-ordered newspapers; these would normally be posted in a wrapper or cross-band and were taxed at 2 kr by the application and cancellation of a 2 kr Newspaper Tax Stamp.

## 1858: New design of signet in black and red

On 14 November 1857 the Finance Ministry produced an Erlass (1857 RGB 221) explaining in considerable detail how the Imperial Will (as set forth in 1857 RGB 207) was to be carried out. From 1 January 1858, an inland newspaper was to receive one BLACK signet on the first



*Oesterreichisches Journal, Abendausgabe, 23 June 1871, with red signet as prescribed.*

page of the main part; the supplements (including those issued on days when no main sheet appeared) were to have RED signets.

The signet shows a double eagle in a 19½ mm single circle, with no date or indication of the amount of the tax. Hence, from 1 January 1858 it had the value of 1 Kreuzer Conventions Münze (C.M); after the monetary reform it had the value of 2 Neu-Kreuzer from 1 November 1858 to 31 December 1858 (2 months); and after the tax reduction on 1 January 1859, it had the value of 1 Neu-Kreuzer. Stamped newspapers from the first year 1858 - especially from the last two months - are relatively rare. Although another new design of signet was introduced in 1885, the 1858 signet was not fully withdrawn and can be found still in use after 1890.

Each signet has an individual number. During the very first years they were used as handstamps; later the signet was fastened to a stamping machine. The benefit of using a stamping machine was that the machine had an automatic counter, so that the stamped papers could easily be accounted for. This was obviously not possible when a handstamp was used, which allowed fraud.

## 1859: Blue signets?

Most sources state that a new practice was introduced on the same date [ie 1 January 1858]: a black signet was to be applied to regular



*Illustrovany Kurýr* for 18 April 1894: blue signet - most unusually, on a morning edition

newspaper editions, a **red** one to evening editions and a **blue** one to extra editions. However, in practice this was rarely done; most signets are black. Blue signets are especially rare. The Finance Ministry Erlass (1857 RGB 221) does not even mention blue, far less make provision for it. But blue signets do occur...

Mintert has discovered the answer: a Finance Ministry Erlass was issued on 8 July 1859 which amended the 1857 Erlass. This states that *Special editions of a daily newspaper, which are not issued with the Hauptblatt itself, enjoy the tax exemption, as it is applied to other Nebenblätter. The same must be furnished with a blue Signet usw usf.*

## 1859: The 1 kr adhesive

Because of the urgency, the clichés of the 4 kr were reused for the production of the blue 1 kreuzer value. The horizontal bar of the figure 4 was removed by hand from each cliché, transforming it into a 1. Each of the 400



clichés shows slight differences in the up-strokes of the 1; the illustration shows an adhesive and a digital enlargement of its numeral 1. This provisional is called Type I in the literature.

This provisional issue was quite soon replaced by a 1 kreuzer stamp made from a new matrix which differs from the old one mainly by the complete detachment of the ribbon from the beak of the left-hand eagle. It is called Type II in the literature. As the new newspaper tax stamps could not be delivered to all offices of the K.K. monarchy in time, the officials used document or advertisement tax stamps instead. A

brown 2 kreuzer adhesive was also produced, and issued from 1 January 1859 for the taxation of foreign newspapers.

## 1885: the last signet design

The last signet design was issued in 1885 (1885 RGB 161); it showed a double eagle in a double circle, with no inscription value or date. According to the RGB, the inner circle is 15 mm and the outer 21 mm; however all other sources give the outer diameter as 21½ mm. The outer circle is itself double, with a thick and thin line. The signet number is at the bottom; the value is 1 kr. A smaller version of this signet with 19 mm outer diameter was intended for use on the Fremdenblatt in Vienna; but examples are unknown except for a small newspaper cutting and one copy in the Münzkabinet.



## 1887: a 2 kr signet

In 1887, RGB 061 dated 13 May promulgated a Verordnung of the Finance Ministry that announced the introduction of a modified double-circle signet worth 2 kr specifically for use in Lemberg on those foreign papers taxable at 2 kr per copy. The details of the design were meticulously specified: 21½ mm outer diameter double circle, having the outer line thick and the inner fine; 15 mm fine inner single circle; eagle in fine lines without shading having an Arabic 2 in its central shield; number at the foot between two arabesques; inscription in Roman capitals.



## 1890: a new adhesive tax stamp design introduced

On 25 May 1890, Finance Ministry Verordnung 1890 RGB 092 announced the introduction of a new 25 kr and of a changed design of the 1 kr & 2 kr adhesives. All were described in wordy detail. The 25 kr was to be 28 x 22 mm, and perforated (line 12½ & 13 are known); the colour was variously described as red and carmine. The 1 kr brown and 2 kr green were



25 x 22 mm, with the value printed in “Mediäval-Antiqua” font! The watermark of the 1 kr and 2 kr was ZEITUNGS-MARKEN whereas the paper of the 25 kr was different and its watermark is STEMPEL-MARKEN, the same as the documentary tax adhesives. The main purpose of this 25 kr stamp was to pay the duty (once signetted) on a half-year’s bound volume of a weekly paper. Examples are known but are extremely rare!

## 1890: the 2 kr signet in Vienna

The final paragraph of Verordnung 1890 RGB 092 extended the use of the 2 kr signet to the Central Stamping Office in Vienna from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Dies 4, 7 & 11 are known to have been used in Vienna; dies 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, & 13 are also found used, almost certainly also in Vienna as there is no record of their approval for use elsewhere.

## 1898: the Czech language signet



A Czech language version of the 1 kr double-circle signet was introduced in late May 1898 for use on newspapers printed in the Bohemian language (see 1898 RGB 095). It has C. K. NOVIN KOLEK instead of K.K. ZEITUNGS-STEMPEL; the outer circle can be heavy or light. This signet was issued to the tax offices in Prag, Budweis, Brünn, Olmütz, Mahr. Ostrau, Kremsier and Holleschau.

This Czech signet is somewhat uncommon, because as laid down in 1899 RGB 261 of 27 December 1899,

**The newspaper tax was abolished from 1 Jan 1900.**



**THE  
NEWSPAPER  
POSTAGE  
STAMPS  
OF  
AUSTRIA  
1851-1922**



# The Newspaper Postage Stamps of Austria, 1851-1922

## Overview



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

## Introduction

The Austro-Hungarian Empire was the first country in the world to use special adhesive stamps for the inland postage of newspapers. Regulations permitting registered publishers to buy discounted postage stamps for officially-registered newspapers were announced on 12 September 1850. Effective from 1 January 1851, they were finally replaced by cash payment on 1 March 1922. An estimated ten thousand million ( $10^{10}$ ) newspaper stamps were printed in that period.

In the period up to 1918, the Austro-Hungarian Empire included nearly all of Central Europe. Eleven major ethno-language groups were scattered across the empire: Croatian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Serb, Slovak, Slovene, and Ukrainian. In 1850, the Empire's population of over 36 million could read 229 officially-registered regularly-printed newspapers including 102 "political" in 11 different languages, of which Vienna had 19 political and 22 others. By 1892, in Austria 23.7 million people enjoyed 1,952 publications in 20 languages (the majority in German); in Hungary 19.1 million had 791 publications in 10 languages, including one in Latin! The ordering and inland distribution system for approved newspapers (and the suppression of other newspapers) played a vital role in the Emperor's plans for increasing his subject's feelings of being part of one unified Empire, although this was not always successful.

An attempt has been made to unravel the details of the many changes to the rates and the regulations. For assistance with the latter I give grateful thanks to Fr. Mag. Sinnmayer of the Austrian Post Office, and to the staff of the Technical Museum Library; and to whoever it is that subsidises the "Austrian laws on line" web site. The different systems used in Hungary and Bosnia-Herzgowina will not be discussed; I have little knowledge and less background in these areas, and their archives are inaccessible to and unreadable by me.

## Postage rates

The newspaper tariff paid for carriage to the delivery post office, from which the subscriber would collect it. Delivery to a home address could be arranged privately on advance payment of a ½ kr fee (per copy) to the postmaster.

Austria moved to Gold Standard currency in the 1890s, and the new currency of “1 Krone of 100 heller” was introduced to the Postal Service on 1 January 1900. The new rate of 2 heller was more-or-less equal to the previous 1 kreuzer. New newspaper stamps were issued on 20 December 1899. Post-war inflation hit the newspaper post just as for everything else. However, the changes made to cope with it were at different dates from the changes in the ‘ordinary post’. From 1 March 1922, newspaper postage stamps were withdrawn, and publishers had to pay in cash when posting.

## What is a newspaper?



A newspaper is a document, nearly always printed (although a few are cyclostyled handwriting) containing current affairs, news, politics, finance, business, literature, essays and adverts. Latterly they contained pictures. Those containing “news” were subject to a tax.

The postal reforms of 1849/50 required prepayment of postage: this was laid down for newspapers in a Postal Decree of 12 September 1850. The Austrian newspaper stamps provided a way for publishers (but not the general public) to pay a discounted postage rate for newspapers, magazines, etc, which had been officially registered with the postal authorities. The special rate was 60% of the full rate, and without weight limits; it included all the supplements and evening issues so beloved by Austrian newspapers. The newspaper and any supplements had to be contained in a paper band called the Schleife or Kreuzband with the recipient's address and a newspaper stamp. All other mailings of newspapers had to carry normal postage stamps, and pay the full printed matter rate.

The postal authorities supplied the reduced rate newspaper stamps only to designated post offices, where newspaper publishers could obtain them; but only in whole sheets of 100, and only for cash, and only at the post office where they posted their newspapers. Furthermore, the newspapers had to be posted with all the newspapers addressed to a specific delivery post office in one bundle, with a paper wrapper bearing the name of the sending post office as well as the number of newspapers enclosed. Single newspapers could be handed in unbundled, and had their newspaper stamp cancelled with the postmark of the originating post office. The wrapper of packaged newspapers received a cancellation next to the name of the sending post office; the cancellation of the newspaper stamps on the newspapers was done after the wrapper was opened at the delivery post office.

The system was designed for subscribers requiring postal delivery of a registered newspaper for a quarter, half, or full calendar year. The subscriber selected their paper from the approved list, and paid in

advance. The newspaper tariff paid for carriage to the delivery post office, from which the subscriber would collect it. Delivery to a home address could be arranged privately on payment of a ½ kr fee (per copy) to the subscriber's postmaster. A ½ kr stamp was introduced in 1880 so that subscribers could add home delivery to their subscription. Separate newspaper sections were attached to the post offices in the large towns, to facilitate the handling of newspapers and magazines, to accept subscriptions for such publications, and to sell the discounted stamps. They existed at more than thirty post offices including about ten in Lombardy-Venetia. Since most of these stamps were cancelled on arrival, not at the place of posting, considerable number of postmarks were used for that purpose which were not used to cancel postage stamps.

Another advantage of stamps without value indication is that when the newspaper postage rates changed, new stamps were not needed: the old stamps were simply sold at the new postage rate. Since the newspaper publishers had to obtain the stamps only at their designated post office, devious exploitations of the currency difference between Austria and Lombardy-Venetia were not possible.

The newspaper sections had their own cancellers, used on documents and forms as well as on newspaper stamps. Those found on Austrian letter-postage stamps probably originate from newspapers and magazines sent to foreign countries, which required franking with normal postage stamps. In addition, the postmarks of newspaper sections were used regularly for cancelling the foreign postage stamps on incoming newspapers and magazines. Other cancellers were used too: old pre-stamp handstamps, office town-name cancellers intended for forms, 'PAID' markers and Postal Directorate cancels! All this explains

why the rarity of specific postmarks on newspaper stamps has no relationship to their rarity on postage stamps.

## The system

Postal matters and everything else were governed by Laws; I call them all 'laws' although they vary in status from full-scale decisions of The Emperor Himself, through Verordnungs of whichever Ministry had responsibility for postal matters, to civil service memoranda explaining how to give effect to the regulations.

Conveniently for this research, the newspaper postal service was redefined from scratch in sections 5 and 6 of "1906 RGB 251" which means Law 251 of the year 1906 as promulgated in the **Reichsgesetzblatt**, the collected Laws of Austria. The Austrian database (and its contents lists) contains images of pages, not text, so is not searchable. After 1918 it became the SGB, Staatsgesetzblatt. Each year is numbered from 1, except 1934 where Dolfuss restarted from 1 on 1<sup>st</sup> May on the creation of the 'Bundesstaat'.

The Austrian National Library makes the Reichsgesetzbuch available on line, free, at <https://alex.onb.ac.at/> This include surprisingly detailed philatelic information such as descriptions and issue dates. The other vital source is the **Postverordnungsblatt**, the bulletins issued to the Post's employees and sold to the public. Normally the complete text of postal decrees in the RGB is repeated verbatim in a Postverordnungsblatt. Until recently, the only publicly available copies were the printed annual collections held by the Vienna Technical Museum Library. Some are now available on line at <https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex-day?apm=0&aid=ptv> Both

these resources are in the German language and usually in **Frakturschrift**; and the on-line copies are scans not text so cannot be word-searched. The handbooks written by Müller, Klein, Kainbacher, Ferchenbauer, and the Austria Netto Catalogue, are also invaluable.

The details of the 1906 postal rates are typically complex:

- Is the item a registered newspaper ordered from an accredited publisher by an inland subscriber? If not, it is treated as whatever class of post it qualifies for (typically Printed Matter) and charged accordingly.
- Is the newspaper published more than once per week (subsequently clarified to include “more than 52 times per year”)? If so, the rate is 2 heller per copy irrespective of its weight.
- If not, is the newspaper published once or less per week but at least twice per month AND does each copy weigh not more than 250 grams? If so, the rate is 2 heller per copy.
- For newspapers that do not fall into any of the above weight and frequency categories, the rate is 2 heller per 100 grams or part thereof.
- Subscribed-for evening issues and supplements, and also calendars, brochures, price-lists, and such issued as part of the subscription package, and subscription-renewal forms, all travel post-free provided that they are enclosed in the same wrapper as the newspaper and do not make it too large for letter mail.
- Items forming part of the subscription package, which for whatever reason didn't qualify for free-with-the-paper postage, and which weighed no more than 30 grams, were handled as printed matter at a special highly reduced rate of  $\frac{1}{3}$  heller for one copy weighing up to 10

grams,  $\frac{2}{3}$  heller for 10+ to 20 grams, and 1 heller for 20+ to 30 grams. The postage was paid in cash, fractions of hellers in the total amount being rounded up. [‘Normal’ printed matter was 3 h for 50 grams.]

## The newspaper stamp issues

| <i>Issue</i>                        | <i>Issue date</i> | <i>ANK</i> | <i>Valid till</i> | <i>Introduced in:</i> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1851                                | 1.1.1851          | 6-9        | 31.5.1864         | 1850 PVOB Nr53        |
| 1858                                | 1.11.1858         | 16-17      | 31.5.1864         | 1858 RGB184           |
| 1861                                | 21.12.1860        | 23         | 31.5.1864         | 1860 RGB275           |
| 1863                                | 1.6.1863          | 29         | 31.8.1869         | 1863 RGB044           |
| 1867                                | 1.6.1867          | 42         | 30.9.1900         | 1867 RGB079           |
| 1880                                | 1.12.1880         | 43         | 31.12.1899        | 1880 PVOB Nr 64       |
| 1899                                | 20.12.1899        | 97-104     | 31.12.1916        | 1899 RGB232           |
| 1908                                | During 1908       | 157-160    | 31.12.1916        | 1907 RGB275           |
| 1916                                | Oct 1916          | 212-215    | 31.10.1920        | 1916 RGB319           |
| 1919                                | Jan 1919          | 247-251    | 31.10.1920        | 1918 PTVOB067 Nr 67   |
| 1920                                | 1920-21           | 293-311    | 28.2.1922         | 1919 PVOB001 Nr2      |
| 1922                                | 1922              | 409-416    | 28.2.1922         | 1921 PVOB064 Nr 193   |
| 1 March 1922 “All payments in cash” |                   |            |                   | 1922 RGB091           |

## The 1851 newspaper stamp issue



Mercury head in a square, facing left, without denomination; imperforate. The first issue, the 1851 ‘blue Mercury’, was sold to publishers at 1 Gulden “Conventions-money” (“CM”) per sheet of 100. The Gulden was divided into 60 kreuzer, so each stamp had the nominal value of 0.6 kreuzer. In 1858, Austria changed from Conventions-money to “Austrian currency” (“ö.W.”), which required the issue of new stamps.

The price per sheet in the new currency was 1 Gulden 5 kreuzer ö.W. Since 1 Gulden ö.W. now contained 100 (new) kreuzer, a single stamp's value was 1.05 kreuzer. On 1 Jan 1868 the price-per-sheet was reduced to 1 Gulden, so a single stamp's value was 1 kreuzer.

Shortly before the issue of these stamps, it was decided to provide separate stamps for 10 newspapers in a common wrapper (or 'band' or 'bundle') and for packets of fifty newspapers. This posed few problems: since the newspaper stamps had no value indication, all that was required was a print run in the new colour. The postage for ten newspapers was 6 Kreuzer, for which yellow stamps were printed; for fifty the postage was 30 Kreuzer and the stamp was in rose. Since the stamps had no value indication, they could be used also in the provinces of Lombardy and Venetia (see frames 50-51). They were valid as in Austria for one, ten or fifty newspapers and were sold at the corresponding exchange rate in Italian currency; so a parallel issue with Centesimi-Lira currency was not needed. Blue, yellow, & rose were issued on 1 January 1851 and were valid until 31 May 1864.

Problems soon arose. It was difficult to see the yellow stamps on the newspapers, especially under the light of paraffin lamps. The blue stamps could be (and were!) chemically treated so that they turned yellow. And the rose stamp was very little used: there were few packets with 50 copies, and the cost of 50 Gulden in cash in advance for a whole sheet of the rose stamp was very high for a newspaper publishing house. [Today's purchasing power of 50 fl ö.W in 1851 is 1014 Euro!] Instead they used multiple frankings of the smaller values, to the delight of modern collectors.

The rose newspaper stamp was withdrawn at the end of 1852 by a Postal Decree dated 9 October. The available stocks were all sold to a Viennese

publisher at the price of a blue stamp for use on a single newspaper. The yellow stamp was withdrawn in April 1856, and again all the available stocks were sold to a Viennese publisher. Like the rose, most of the known yellow stamps originate from this time.



To replace the yellow stamp, a red stamp for 10 copies was issued on 21 March 1856: the legendary “red Mercury”. It was only valid for two years. The particular rarity of the red Mercury comes from several elements. It was pasted on the wrapping of newspaper packets, so when a newsagent or stall-holder got the newspaper packet, they quickly tore it open, to get at the newspapers, and the packaging along with the stamps was discarded. The edition was not very high either: there was only one print run of 300 sheets ie four times 100 stamps: 120,000 in total. Maybe only a part of the edition was used; certainly only about two dozen genuinely-used red Mercuries have survived. Almost certainly, a newly-discovered one will be either a reprint (there were 53,500!), a forgery, or an escapee from some official file. The red newspaper stamp was invalidated from 31 December 1858, and not reused as a stamp for single newspapers. The remainders were probably incinerated with the remainders of the stamp issue of 1850.

The blue 1851 newspaper stamps were used until exhausted along with the newly issued newspaper stamps of 1858 at the new rate of 1.05 kr Austrian currency. They must have been sold out (at different dates in different offices) before the newspaper stamps of 1858 were used, since mixed frankings are not known. The blue, yellow and rose newspaper stamps of 1851 were formally invalidated from 31 May 1864.

I've been saying "rose". What I mean is the colour that normal male Europeans with perfect colour vision (like me) would today call "rose".

But do you remember your Shakespeare? Romeo and Juliet, ACT II: *“What's in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet.”* What's Juliet got to do with stamps? The decrees state that the Mercuries introduced in 1851 are called Blau, Gelbe & Rote which we translate as Blue, Yellow, and Red, while the 1856 replacement for the yellow is called Hochrote, which translates as Vermilion or Scarlet or Red. The colour hasn't changed - but the Austrian language has. The colour called red in 1850 is called rose in 2025!

## The 1858 newspaper stamp issue




The change from “Conventions-money” to “Austrian currency” in 1858 required the issue of new postage stamps; a new newspaper stamp was also issued. The long-intended change of the stamp design was accomplished also, the simple coat of arms being replaced by the embossed head of Franz Joseph facing left, closely resembling the 3 kr value. The left side inscription was written “STEMPEL” instead of STÄMPEL. Again the newspaper stamp displayed no value designation, and was imperf. The only stamp issued was for individual newspapers, and it kept the familiar colour blue; so it could also be used in Lombardy-Venetia. As before, the newspaper stamps were sold only to the newspaper publishing houses and only in whole sheets.

The blue colour of the newspaper stamp was taken over from the preceding issue. However, as the stamps had a similar design to normal postage stamps, it could easily be accidentally or deliberately confused with the 15 kr blue postage stamp. So the colour of the newspaper


stamps was changed by a Postal Decree of 16 March 1859: from August 1859 the newspaper stamps were printed in lilac (fortuitously photosensitive) and issued after the blue ones ran out. The change was simultaneous with the colour change of the 3 kr stamp from black to green.



## The 1861 newspaper stamp issue

This is sometimes referred to as the 1860 issue! The newspaper stamp  shows the head of the emperor Franz Joseph, in a frame designed specifically for the newspaper stamps. In the left-hand edge inscription, the old form “STÄMPEL” appears again. The colour remained the same photosensitive lilac as previously. The sale price of 1 Gulden 5 kreuzer for the sheet of 100 remained constant.

## The 1863 newspaper stamp issue

 The issue of 1861 did not last long. As the German-Austrian Postal Union of 1850 required uniform colours for the most important stamps, the colours of the existing 10 kr and 15 kr postage stamps would have had to be changed. Instead, a new series was issued, with the “coat of arms eagle” instead of the sovereign’s head. The newspaper stamps changed to the new design, with the coat of arms eagle in an octagonal frame with a larger inscription.

## The 1867 newspaper stamp issue



Following the Compromise with Hungary, new postage stamps had to be rapidly issued without inscription; and the newspaper stamp, which had even more wording, had to be changed also. The 1867 newspaper stamp began with a wooden die. From this a first matrix plate was prepared, and from this the working die, exactly the same as the wooden, by casting with letterpress metal. Since the lines in the design had not reproduced correctly, the working die was re-engraved; the second matrix plate was taken from this and the printing dies prepared from the latter.

In this issue, private perforations appear in large numbers for the first time. The newspaper publishing houses had the names of the subscribers printed on address labels in sheet form. These strips with the printed address of the subscriber were very narrow, having the height of the newspaper stamps. The sheets of newspaper stamps were cut into strips, and one strip pasted on an address label sheet; when it was cut up each address label then had a stamp. To be able to tear the strips of the newspaper stamps more easily from the full sheet, it was perforated vertically (sometimes also horizontally).

## The 1880 newspaper stamp issue



The newspaper tariff of 1 Kreuzer paid for carriage to the delivery post office, from which the subscriber would collect it. Delivery to an address within the delivery area of that office could be arranged privately on payment of a fee to the postmaster. Possibly in a regulation of 1 January 1851, the fee was fixed at  $\frac{1}{2}$  kr. The green 1880  $\frac{1}{2}$  kr stamp was introduced so that

subscribers had the option of paying for home delivery when placing their subscription. They were only valid, however, if your local Post Office was state-run.

## The 1899 newspaper stamp issue



Austria moved to Gold Standard currency in the 1890s, and the new currency of “1 Krone of 100 heller” was introduced to the Postal Service on 1 January 1900. The new rate of 2 heller was more-or-less equal to the previous 1 kr. New newspaper stamps were issued on 20 December 1899. They had a new design, with the familiar mercury head, somewhat modernized, in a square frame. Similarly to 1851, there were 2 h blue, 6 h orange, 10 h brown and 20 h rose stamps for one, three, five or ten newspapers. The same design is found on postal stationery, especially on wrappers printed to private order for which the colour was changed, the blue 2 h value becoming a very light green.

## The 1908 newspaper stamp issue



The 1908 stamp issue, commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of emperor Franz Joseph, was the first issue which was consciously conceived as a work of art. It was in the Jugendstil style (Austrian Art Nouveau), by the renowned artist Professor Koloman Moser. The newspaper stamps had the Mercury head, no inscription, large value numerals, no perforations. There were 2 h blue, 6 h orange, 10 h red & 20 h brown.

## The 1916 newspaper stamp issue



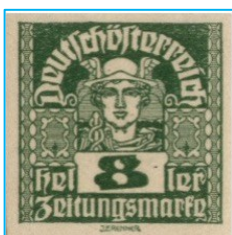
The newspaper stamp issue of 1916 was produced mainly to raise funds for the war. It used a new drawing by Dr Rudolf Junk, which features a long inscription “KAISERLICH KÖNIGLICHE ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST” (Imperial Royal Austrian Post) around the Mercury head. Numerous private perforations exist; sometimes very sloppy, and double perforating frequently occurs. Stamps perforated on all four sides but also cut on two sides arise when a strip of privately-perforated stamps is stuck on an address label sheet which is then cut up. The colours changed yet again; there were 2 h brown, 4 h green, 6 h blue, 10 h orange and 30 h brown. Private printings occur: the 2 h stamp is red instead of brown.

## The 1918 “Deutschösterreich” overprints



On 12 November 1918 the war ended and the Republic of Deutsch-Österreich was proclaimed; the weight-independent newspaper rate of 2 h introduced on 1 January 1900 remained unchanged till 30 June 1920.

## The 1920 “Renner” newspaper stamp issue



When the postage rates increased on 15 Jan 1920, newspaper stamps in new values and a new design were required. The “Renner-issue” (named after the designer J F Renner, not the politician Karl) showed Mercury full-face surmounted with “Deutschösterreich”. As inflation increased, new values were issued up to 3 Kr,

and the series finally included 19 values. They were never all simultaneously available, since the low values were withdrawn or exhausted.

From 1 July 1920 a fundamental change was introduced. Newspapers that issued **2 or more issues on 1 or more days per week** had to pay in cash an amount calculated on the total annual weight. Only less-frequent publications continued to use adhesive newspaper stamps. The rates for these were 6 h up to 25 grams; over 25 grams 10 h per 50 grams or part thereof; 50% extra if sent as a roll. Inexorably, the rates rose (and rolls were charged twice as much as flats): on 1 April 1921 to 9 h, 15 h, 30 h; on 1 Oct 1921 to 18 h, 30 h, 60 h; and on 1 Jan 1922 to 45 h, 75 h, 150 h.

## The 1922 “Dachauer” newspaper stamp issue



The treaty of St Germain forbade the use of “Deutschösterreich”, and all stamp issues had to be changed. Professor Dachauer produced a unified design for everything, including the newspaper stamps. The current newspaper stamps remained valid until sold out, so there are no exact First Days. This issue is the last newspaper postage issue of Austria. Quite suddenly, the postal ordinance of 18 February 1922 withdrew newspaper stamps from 1 March 1922, and all postage was paid in cash.

## Some examples



Shown above is the Pusterthaler Bothe of 18 May 1860, sent to Schwertberg / Post Mauthausen. **The postage** is paid with a lilac-coloured 1858 adhesive applied to the address label. The newspaper was edited and printed in Bruneck, South Tirol. It was sent to the Post Office at Mauthausen, Upper Austria and the adhesive cancelled there. Schwertberg is about 10km north of Mauthausen, and its Post Office didn't open until 1864. Mail in 1860 would either have been carried by a messenger, or collected by someone from the Schloss - the paper is addressed to the Zimmermeister, the chief carpenter. The postage stamp has parts of the double-ring cancel of Mauthausen.

**The newspaper tax** is paid with a blue 1858 1 kr tax stamp, cancelled by an Austrian Fiscal Office cancel which is underneath the printing of the newspaper's masthead. The tax stamp is required to be applied before the paper is distributed by the printer. This is called a "pseudo-mixed franking" because it has two different adhesives for two different purposes.

Die **Neue Salzburger Zeitung** erscheint täglich zweimal: das Abendblatt um 6 Uhr Abends, das Morgenblatt um 9 Uhr früh. — Pränumeration für Morgen- und Abendblatt für Salzburg halbjährig 4 fl. — vierteljährig 2 fl. — monatlich 40 kr. K.M. — Mit täglicher Postzufendung halbjährig 5 fl. 36 kr. — vierteljährig 2 fl. 50 kr. — monatlich 1 fl. Konv. Münz.

# Neue Salzburger Zeitung.

Abendblatt.

Inserate werden bereit für 1mal pr. Zeile mit 2 für 3mal 4 kr. K.M. Me- tion: Nachtrag Nr. 2. Stad. — Credit Oberer (Sabl und fer) Buchdruckerei, Sa- balplatz Nr. 532, 1. E- Gelbbriefe sind frankir- zuzubenden, offene Stel- tionen sind portofrei. Jeline Blätter des Ab- blatts 2 kr., des Mor- blatts 1 kr. K.M.



Köbl. k. k. Regimentsamt St. Gilgen  
(M. G. Stg. Simtschl.)

## Die Statuten der k. k. priv. österr. Staatseisenbahn-Gesellschaft.

Die „Ostb. Post“ bringt den Wortlaut der Statuten der k. k. priv. österr. Staatseisenbahn-Gesellschaft. Die Statuten enthalten 53 Paragraphen. Die Gesellschaft muß sich bis 1. April d. J. konstituieren. Ihr Fond besteht aus 80 Mill. fl. (oder 200 Millionen Franken à 24 fr.) in 400,000 Aktien à 200 fl. Diese 200 Mill. Francs vertheilen sich auf Sina, Arnstein und Eskeles 45, auf Fould und Fould-Dyppenheim 18, auf Andree und Galliera je 20, auf Emil und Isak Pereire je 8, auf den Credit mobilier 44, auf Pescatore 6, auf Baron Seilliere, Gebr. Mollet, Graf Morny, des Arts Ruffard je 5, auf Ad. d'Eschthal, Urbarren, S. Biesla, Cas. Salvador je 3 Mill. Der erste Verwaltungsrath hat das Recht, zur Vollendung der Arbeiten 20. Anlehen bis zum Gesamtbetrage von höchstens 100 Mill. Franken aufzunehmen; der spätere Verwaltungsrath muß jede Aufnahme von Anlehen der General-Versammlung vorlegen. Die Tilgung der Aktien geschieht binnen 90 Jahren, vom 1. Jänner 1858 an gerechnet, die zu tilgenden Aktien werden jährlich durch eine in Wien vorzunehmende Verlosung bestimmt. — Eben so publicirt die „Ostb. Post“ die aus 21 Artikeln bestehende Eisenbahn-Konzessionsurkunde und verpricht jene über die Berg- und Hüttenwerke morgen nachzutragen. Nach Art. 8. der Eisenbahn-Konzessionsurkunde darf

ursprünglichen Konzessionszeit (1848) bezahlt. Alle Urkunden dieser Konzession unterliegen nur einem fixen Stempel von 1 fl. Als Entgelt für die Konzession zahlen die Konzessionäre dem Staat 65,450,000 fl. K.M. in Gold oder Silber, und zwar durch 36 St. keine Zinsen tragende stempelfreie Schuldverschreibungen, deren erste am 1. März 1855, dann den ersten jeden folgenden Monats eine, somit die letzte am 1. Febr. 1858 zahlbar ist. 35 Stück lauten auf je 1,809,500 fl., die letzte auf 2,117,500 fl. Die ersten 13 dieser Schuldverschreibungen müssen auf Verlangen des Staats zu 4 pCt. eskomptirt werden. (Schluß folgt.)

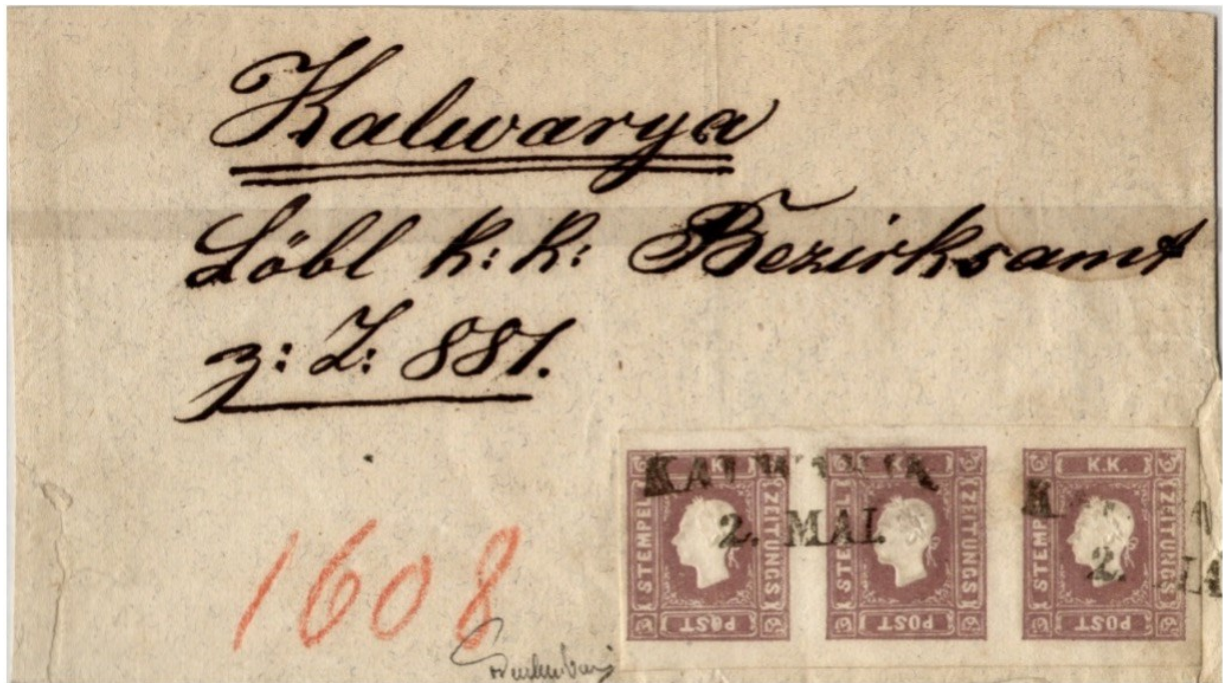
## Die neuesten Nachrichten vom Kriegsschauplatz.

Aus Varna, 17. Febr., wird berichtet: Von den pontischen Feldherren wird der Plan, noch einige 3—4 Wochen in der Defensive, d. h. im Kampfe mit dem Winterwetter und mit den Russen, auszuharren, streng befolgt. Bis zum 20.—30. März wird — dessen kann man gewiß sein — eine ganz reorganisirte Armee von 150,000 Mann am taurischen Boden stehen, und erst dann wird die Offensive gegen Sebastopol und gegen die Feldarmee des Fürsten Menzikoff ergriffen werden.

Die Russen haben die Gelegenheit, einen Hauptschlag gegen die vor 3—4 Wochen geschwächten Allirten zu führen, verläumt. Ihre Hoffnung, der Winter werde als der beste rus-

Here are two copies of the evening edition of the Salzburg Newspaper for Friday 2 March 1855, posted to the town council office at St Gilgen and cancelled there on arrival.





A newspaper wrapper sent to the Bezirksamt (local district office) in Kalwarya (in Galicia). The wrapper is franked with a strip of three dark lilac Type II 1859-issue stamps, cancelled with a straight-line KALWARIA / 2 MAI. The town of Kalwarya was founded in 1617 as Zebrzydów; in 1640 it was expanded and named Nowy Zebrzydów; in 1772 it was annexed by Austria during the First Partition of Poland and renamed Kalwarya; and in 1890 it was renamed Kalwarya Zebrzydowska. After WWI it returned to Poland (and according to Wikipedia it has retained the 1890 name).



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Note: *“Austria”* is the APS quarterly journal. Copies are deposited with the British Library; the reference is ISSN 0307-4331.

The author will be happy to answer queries! [andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk](mailto:andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk)

## Further reading: in German

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Kropf, H. (1902): "Die Postwertzeichen der Oesterr.-ungar. Monarchie", Prague, pp 92-93. \*\*

Postverordnungsblatt: most years are available by prior reservation at the Vienna Technical Museum Library. Some years are available here to read and download (accessed 2 Jan 2026):

<https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex-day?apm=0&aid=ptv>

Puschmann et al. (1992): "Österreich-Ungarn: 125 Jahre Ausgabe 1867", Chapter 10. Vindobona, Vienna.

\*\* Often available in on-line auctions.

# Thanks

Many people have assisted by providing answers to my questions, including Alan Becker, Alan Berrisford HLM, Joyce Boyer HLM, Helene Bravery, Hans van Dooremalen FRPSL, Dorli & Hannes Haslauer, Bill Hedley FRPSL, Hubert Jungwirth, Inger Kuzych, Hans Moser, Eva Sinnmayer HLM, Otto Teufel, Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL, Richard Zimmerl †, and many other members and friends of the Austrian Philatelic Society.

Special thanks to Martin Brumby HLM, Carsten Mintert, and Roger Morrell for going the extra Meile with technical and editorial assistance; and to the Oksanen-Taylor Partnership for advice on layout and lay-reader-intelligibility.

## Abbreviations

“**1066 RGB 123**” is shorthand for “Law number 123 as printed in the Reichgesetzbuch for the year 1066”.

**Bogen**- the standard size of a newspaper printing sheet. Kořínek states that “*one sheet of paper is 252 square Vienna Zoll, 18 high by 14 wide*”. A Bogen, in this context at least, is then 474 by 369 mm. This is consistent with physical newspapers of that period, and was probably a constraint of the hand-made-paper-making process.

**CM** is Conventionsmünze and **öW** is Österreichische Währung, the pre- and post-1857 decimalisation of the Austrian currency.

**Erlass** and **Verordnung** are two types of government proclamation.

**PU** is the German-Austrian Postal Union which came into effect on 1 July 1850.

**Signet** - see page 4.

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