

THE
NEWSPAPER
POSTAGE
STAMPS
OF
AUSTRIA
1851-1922



Written by Andy Taylor FRPSL in the 2020s.

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Setting the scene	1
1.2	Definitions	1
1.3	Arrangements for conveying a newspaper to its readers	2
1.4	The system	3
1.5	The Reichsgesetzbuch	4
1.6	Key dates for each issue	5
2	“One of each” in outline	6
2.1	The 1851 Issue	6
2.2	The 1858 issue	7
2.3	The 1861 issue	7
2.4	The 1863 issue	7
2.5	The 1867 issue	7
2.6	The 1880 issue	8
2.7	The 1899 issue	8
2.8	The 1908 issue	8
2.9	The 1916 issue	8
2.10	The 1918 “Deutschösterreich” overprints	8
2.11	The 1920 “Renner” issue	8
2.12	The 1922 “Dachauer” issue	9
2.13	The Bogen	9
3	The 1851 Issue	10
3.1	Mercuries - history	10
3.2	Mercuries - production	11
3.3	Reprints	11
3.4	The differences between the 3 types of the 1851 issue	12
3.4.1	TYPE I	12
3.4.2	TYPE II	13
3.4.3	TYPE III	13
3.5	The Mercuries in use	14
3.5.1	The Blue Mercury	14
3.5.2	The Yellow Mercury	20
3.5.3	The Rose Mercury	20
3.5.4	The Red Mercury	21
4	The 1858 issue	23
5	The 1861 issue	28
6	The 1863 issue	30
7	The 1867 issue	32
7.1	Overview	32
7.2	Stamp design & issues	33
7.3	Hungary	35
7.4	Manufacture of the printing plates	35
7.4.1	Making the dies	35
7.4.2	Sheets as distributed	37
7.4.3	Paper	38
7.4.4	Gum	38
7.5	Types and subtypes of the 1867 stamp	38
7.5.1	Type I’s distinguishing features	38
7.5.2	Type II’s distinguishing features	39
7.5.3	Type III’s distinguishing features	40
7.5.4	Klauninger’s Subtype III d	41
7.5.5	Mixed clichés	41
7.6	Coarse vs Fine Print	41
7.7	Examples	43
7.8	Printing errors	46
7.9	Marginal copies and marginal rules	46

7.10	Colours - mauveine.....	49
7.11	Cancellations.....	50
7.12	Perforations.....	51
7.13	The Klauninger Fault Grid.....	52
7.14	Pseudo-mixed franking.....	52
7.15	Literature for the 1867 issue.....	53
7.15.1	The old.....	53
7.15.2	The new.....	53
7.15.3	Consult also:.....	53
8	The 1880 issue.....	54
8.1	The stamp.....	54
8.2	The Zeitungverschleißer system.....	54
8.3	Examples.....	54
9	The 1899 issue.....	56
9.1.1	Official “address label sheets”.....	56
9.1.2	Zeitungverschleißer.....	57
9.1.3	Newspaper stamps used as postage stamps.....	58
10	The 1908 issue.....	61
10.1	Jugendstil design.....	61
10.2	Zeitungverschleißer.....	61
10.3	Newspaper stamps used as postage stamps.....	62
10.4	The 1908 issue in use.....	62
11	The 1916 ‘Jugendstil’ issue.....	66
11.1	The stamps.....	66
11.2	Non-newspaper items.....	66
11.3	Examples.....	67
11.4	Privately-printed Addressbogen labels.....	69
12	As the war ended.....	70
12.1	Stamp issues, 1916 to 1922.....	70
12.2	Timeline.....	70
12.3	Kaiser Karl I: 21 November 1916 – 11 November 1918.....	71
12.4	The Meran Emergency Post, 1918.....	71
13	Proclamation of Deutsch-Österreich: 30 October 1918.....	72
13.1	Postal effects.....	72
13.2	The First Inflation Rates Period.....	72
13.3	1918 Deutschösterreich overprints.....	73
14	Proclamation of Republik Österreich: 21 October 1919.....	75
14.1	The Newspaper Post Ordinance of 8 May 1920.....	75
14.1.1	How it worked.....	75
14.1.2	What does the 1920 Ordinance prescribe?.....	76
14.1.3	Worked examples (mine not theirs).....	77
14.1.4	Obsoleting.....	78
14.2	Second inflation rates period begins: 1 July 1920 [6/10/15 h].....	78
14.2.1	Preparing for inflation period 3.....	78
14.3	Third inflation rates period begins: 1 April 1921 [9/15/30 h].....	78
14.3.1	Preparing for inflation period 4.....	78
14.4	Fourth inflation rates period begins: 1 October 1921 [18/30/60 h].....	79
14.4.1	Preparing for inflation period 5.....	79
14.5	Fifth inflation rates period begins: 1 January 1922 [45/75/150 h].....	79
14.6	Newspaper stamps now invalid; all payments in cash: 1 March 1922.....	79
15	The post-WWI stamp issues.....	81
16	The 1920 “Renner” issue.....	82
16.1	Issuing the Renner issue.....	83
16.2	Second inflation rates period begins: 1 July 1920 [6/10/15 h].....	85
16.3	Third inflation rates period begins: 1 April 1921 [9/15/30 h].....	87
16.3.1	Preparing for inflation period 3.....	87
16.3.2	Examples.....	87

16.4	Fourth inflation rates period begins: 1 October 1921 [18/30/60 h]	88
16.4.1	Preparing for inflation period 4	88
16.4.2	Examples	88
17	The “Dachauer” issue of 1921-22	89
17.1.1	Preparing for inflation period 5	89
17.1.2	Examples	89
17.2	Fifth inflation rates period begins: 1 January 1922 [45/75/150 h].....	90
18	Newspaper stamps invalid from 1 March 1922; all payments in cash.	91
19	References and Laws	92
19.1	Main-text references	92
19.2	Others	95
19.3	Categories of Laws in the online RGB = nomenclature of the state.....	96
20	Further reading.....	97
21	Appendixes	98

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Many of the Laws, Regulations, Decrees, Instructions etc are listed in chapter 19. References to these are shown in square brackets eg [Ref 123] in the main text. Many (but not all) are available in ALEX, <https://alex.onb.ac.at/> A few of the referenced documents are not only difficult to access but also extremely long; they can be read by members of the Austrian Philatelic Society in the “online Library” of its web site.

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

Part 1: the background

Part 2: an overview

Part 3: The issues in considerable detail

The Austrian Newspaper Post and Newspaper Postage Stamps

Part 1: the background

1 Introduction

1.1 Setting the scene

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 special-rate postage stamps for officially-registered newspapers, magazines, etc. were announced on 12 September 1850 [Ref 111]. Introduced on 1 January 1851, they were finally replaced by cash payment on 1 March 1922 [Ref 199]. An estimated ten thousand million 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: Croatians, Czech, Germans, Hungarians, Italians, Polish, Romanians., Serbs, 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); and in Hungary 19.1 million had 791 publications in 10 languages, including some 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.

1.2 Definitions

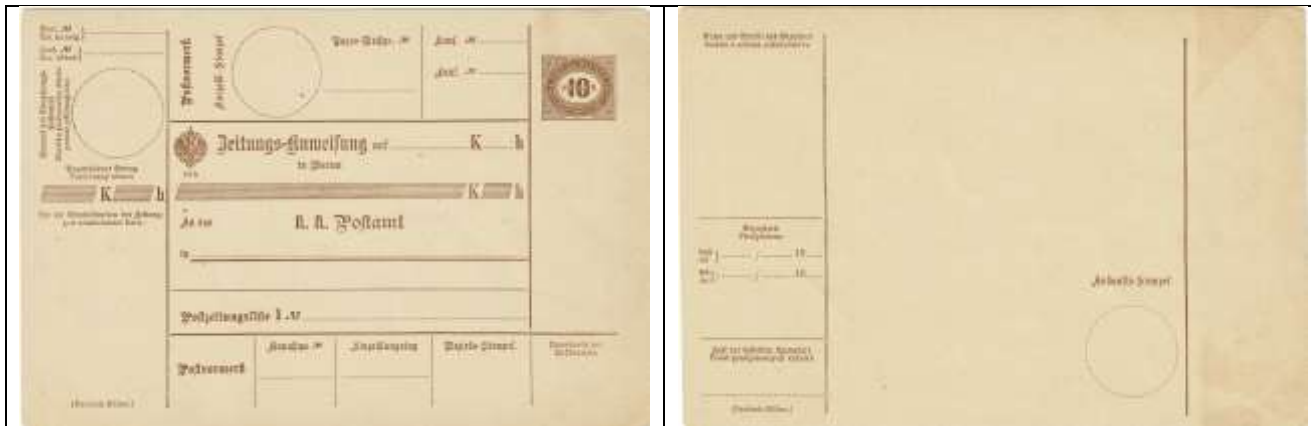


A newspaper 'within the meaning of the Act' is a document, nearly always printed (although a few are cyclostyled handwriting) containing current affairs, news, politics, finance, business, literature, essays and adverts. Latterly they contained pictures. Many but not all were subject to a tax at various periods.

The illustration shows the front of the first-ever issue of what became the Wiener Zeitung - the Wienerisches Diarium of 8 August 1703.

References like "1906 RGB256" mean Law 256 of the year 1906 as promulgated in the Reichsgesetzblatt. This is available on line at <http://alex.onb.ac.at/> 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 1st May on the creation of the 'Bundesstaat'.

Similarly PVOB = Postverordnungsblatt; these are regulations, instructions and personalia issued by the Ministry responsible for the Posts. To consult them you must go to the Vienna Technical Museum's Library, although a few are now on line at <https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex-day?apm=0&aid=ptv> At times the Post and the Telegraph services were merged; the documents then become PTVOB = Post- u. Telegraphenverordnungsblatt.



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; only for cash; and only at the post office where they posted their newspapers [Ref 111]. 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 addressed but unwrapped, 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, but the cancellation of the newspaper stamps on the newspapers was done after the wrapper was opened at the delivery post office.

The first issue, the 1851 ‘blue Mercury’, was sold to publishers at 1 Gulden “Conventions-money” (“CM”) per sheet of 100. [2025-equivalent of 1 fl is 22.78 Eu] 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. [2025-equivalent of 1 fl in 1868 is 17.52 Eu. See <https://finanzbildung.oenb.at/docroot/waehrungsrechner/#/>]

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. 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.

1.4 The system

The system was designed for inland subscribers requiring postal delivery of a registered newspaper for a quarter, half, or full calendar year. The subscriber chose his paper from the approved list (regularly updated), and paid in advance; the Post Office had a special form (shown on next page) for placing such an order and recording the payment for it.

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 local delivery fee (per copy) to the subscriber’s postmaster. [Ref 118]. Later, this fee was fixed at ½ k.

A green ½ kr stamp was introduced in 1880 so that subscribers could add home delivery to their subscription and be able to prove that they were entitled to delivery (from a state-owned office) free from local fees.

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 to registered publishers. They existed at more than thirty post offices including about ten in Lombardy-Venetia. From 1900, publishers could commission private wrappers for one or more copies, imprinted with the same design as the loose stamps but often in different colours.

The Newspaper Sections had their own cancellers, used on documents and forms as well as on newspaper stamps. Those found on postage stamps probably originate from newspapers and magazines sent as printed matter to foreign countries, which required franking with normal postage stamps. In addition, the postmarks of newspaper sections were used regularly for cancelling the newspaper 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.

Another advantage of stamps without value indication appeared later: when the newspaper postage rates change, new stamps are not needed: the old stamps are simply sold at the new postage rate. Since the newspaper publishers obtained the stamps only at their designated post office, rate changes were simple; and devious exploitations of the kreuzer-Lira currency difference were not possible.

The 1853 Foreign Newspapers list [Ref 131] is in an appendix; here's the beginning, showing the column headings. Another has the first pages of the Inland and Foreign parts of the 1906 list, which was produced as three thick hardback books.

Erste Abtheilung. Zeitungen aus den Vereins-Staaten.
a. In deutscher Sprache.

Benennung der Zeitung.	Ort, wo sie erscheint.	Wie oft in der Woche.	Hält ganze oder halbe Bogen im Durchschnitt jährlich.	Abonnements-Verbindlichkeit.	Jährlicher Pränumerations-Preis.		Davon in			
					fl.	kr.	Silber.		Banknoten.	
							fl.	kr.	fl.	kr.
<i>Aachner Zeitung</i>	Aachen	6		1/4	10	48	9	18	1	30
<i>Abendblatt, Würzburger</i>	Würzburg	6		1/2	5	16	3	46	1	30

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. The different systems used in Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina will not be discussed here; I have little knowledge and less background in these areas, and their archives are inaccessible to and unreadable by me. Postal matters and everything else were governed by Laws; I'll call them all 'laws' although they vary in status from full-scale decisions of The Emperor, through Verordnungen of whichever Ministry had responsibility for postal matters, to civil service memoranda explaining how to give effect to the regulations.

1.5 The Reichsgesetzbuch

The bulk of the available information is contained in the Reichsgesetzbuch (RGB), the collected Laws of Austria. The Austrian National Library makes this available on line, free, at <https://alex.onb.ac.at/> These include surprisingly detailed philatelic information such as descriptions and issue dates. Normally the complete text of postal decrees in the RGB is repeated verbatim in the other vital source, the Postverordnungsblatt (PVOB), the bulletins issued to the Post's employees and sold to the public. Until recently, the only publicly available copies of PVOBs were the printed annual collections held by the Vienna Technical Museum Library; some have now appeared 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 normally in **Fraktur**. The Austria Netto Catalogue, and the handbooks written by Müller, Klein, Kainbacher, and Ferchenbauer are also invaluable.

To consult them you must go to the Vienna Technical Museum Library (book a time; use the on-line catalogues to find what you want and reserve it on line; take your passport). At times the Post and the Telegraph services were merged; the documents becoming PTVOB = Post- u. Telegraphenverordnungsblatt.

In 1882, Postverordnungsblatt 26 was issued on 30 March, stating that the instructions for the Newspaper Duty were appended; and that all previous instructions were invalidated. There are 67 pages of instructions, forms, etc! None of the Vienna collections of Postverordnungsblatt have this appended; but Innsbruck does. [Ref 148] See appendix 5.

Conveniently for this book, the newspaper post service was defined in sections 5 & 6 of “1906 RGB251” [Ref 165: this shorthand means “Law 251 of the year 1906 as promulgated in the Reichsgesetzblatt”]. The Austrian database (and its contents lists) contains images of pages, not text, so is not searchable (although a few sections have now been digitised). After 1918 it became the SGB, the Staatsgesetzblatt; and during 1922 the Bundesgesetzblatt. Each year is numbered from 1, except 1934 where Dolfuss restarted from 001 on 1 May on the creation of the ‘Bundesstaat’.

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 similar issued as part of the subscription package, and subscription-renewal forms, 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 (“Beilage”) at a special highly reduced rate of 1/3 heller for one copy weighing up to 10 grams, 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 (not the individual!) amount being rounded up. [‘Normal’ printed matter was 3 h for 50 grams.]

**Separate Newspaper postage stamps
were abolished from 1 March 1922**

1.6 Key dates for each issue

<i>Issue name</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>ANK</i>	<i>Valid till</i>	<i>Ferch 2008</i>	<i>Introduced in:</i>
1851	1.1.1851	6-9	31.5.1864	I-453	1850 PVOB Nr53
1858	1.11.1858	16-17	31.5.1864	I-567	1858 RGB184
1861	21.12.1860	23	31.5.1864	I-615	1860 RGB275
1863	1.6.1863	29	31.8.1869	I-647	1863 RGB044
1867	1.6.1867	42	30.9.1900	II-83	1867 RGB079
1880	1.12.1880	43	31.12.1899	II-107	1880 PVOB Nr 64
1899	20.12.1899	97-100; 101-4	31.12.1916	II-211	1899 RGB232
1908	During 1908	157-160	31.12.1916	II-259	1907 RGB275
1916	Oct 1916	212-215	31.10.1920	II-311	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 Mar 1922: “All payment to be in cash”				---	1922 RGB091

Part 2: an overview

2 “One of each” in outline



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

2.1 The 1851 Issue

Mercury head in square, facing left, without denomination; imperforated. 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**.

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. Instead they used multiple frankings of the smaller values, to the delight of modern collectors.

To replace the yellow stamp, a red stamp for 10 copies was issued in mid-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, he quickly tore it open, to get at the newspapers, and the packaging along with the stamps was discarded. 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 1 December 1863.

2.2 The 1858 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 the Postal Decree of 16 March 1859: from August 1859 the newspaper stamps were printed in lilac ((the ink was unstable, and 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.



2.3 The 1861 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 until 1 January 1868 when it was lowered to 1 Gulden.

2.4 The 1863 issue



The issue of 1861 did not last long. As the German-Austrian Postal Union 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 same eagle in an octagonal frame with a larger inscription.

2.5 The 1867 issue



Following the Compromise with Hungary, new postage stamps had to be rapidly issued without inscription; and the newspaper stamps, 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).

2.6 The 1880 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. In a regulation of 1 January 1851 [Ref. 118], the fee was fixed at ½ kr. The green 1880 ½ kr stamp was introduced so that subscribers had the option of paying for home delivery when placing their subscription.

2.7 The 1899 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 Jan 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. As in 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.

2.8 The 1908 issue



The 1908 stamp issue, commemorating the 60th 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 have the Mercury head, no inscription, large value numerals, no perforations. There were 2 h blue, 6 h orange, 10 h red and 20 h brown.

2.9 The 1916 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. Private printings

occur: in them, the 2 h stamp is red instead of brown.

2.10 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 Jan 1900 remained unchanged up to 30 June 1920. Inflation hit the newspaper post just as for everything else; however, the changes in postage rates made to cope with it were at different dates from the changes in the ‘ordinary’ post. From December 1918 the newspaper stamps were issued imprinted “Deutschösterreich” (German Austria). The newspaper stamps without imprint remained valid until 31 October 1920. In the other successor states of the monarchy the Austrian stamps were furnished with imprints and used until replacements could be produced.

2.11 The 1920 “Renner” issue



When the postage rates increased on 15 Jan 1920, newspaper stamps in new values were required and a new design was chosen. The “Renner-issue” (named after the designer J F Renner, not the politician Karl) showed Mercury full-face surmounted with “Deutschösterreich”. As inflation bit, 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. From 1 March 1922, all newspaper stamps were invalidated and all postage was paid in cash.

2.12 The 1922 “Dachauer” 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. There were fewer private perforations than previously. 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.

2.13 The Bogen

You may come across references to a Bogen; more usually in the context of newspaper tax. Basically, the word means ‘sheet’ but in this context it’s the standard size of paper on which newspapers were printed in the mid 1800s. The size was set by the available paper - or rather the available methods since newspapers predate paper-making machinery and at first all paper was hand-made. The “newspaper Bogen” was 474mm high by 369mm wide; correctly printed on both sides and folded it became 4 double-sided sheets.



Part 3: The issues in detail

3 The 1851 Issue

This issue was valid from 1 January 1851 to 31 May 1864.



Mercury head in square, facing left, without denomination; imperforate

Colour	Value	Purpose	Issued	Valid till	Fate
Blue	0.6 kr C.M.	single copy	1 January 1851	31 May 1864	1
Yellow	6 kr C.M.	bundle of 10 copies to same address	1 January 1851	21 March 1856	2
Rose	30 kr C.M.	bundle of 50 copies to same address	1 January 1851	9 October 1852	2
Red	6 kr C.M.	bundle of 10 copies to same address	21 March 1856	31 December 1858	3

- 1) Redenominated in 1858; used until none were left.
- 2) The rose newspaper stamp was withdrawn at the end of 1852 by a Postal Decree dated 9 October. [Ref 128, 133] The available stocks were all recalled and sold to Viennese publishers 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 Viennese publishers. Like the rose, most of the known yellow stamps originate from this time.
- 3) Withdrawn and incinerated.

3.1 Mercuries - history

The immediate requirement was for a single-newspaper stamp. This, 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, it was decided to meet the anticipated demand for separate stamps for 10 newspapers in a common wrapper (or ‘bundle’) and for packets (or parcels) of fifty newspapers [Ref 112]. 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 (actually, in the colour that in 2026 is called ‘rose’ - in 1851 it was called ‘red’). Since the stamps had no value indication, they could be used also in Lombardy and Venice where 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 in centesimi-Lira currency was not needed. Blue, yellow, and rose were issued on 1 January 1851 and the red on 21 March 1856. Valid until 31 May 1864 (the red until 31 Dec 1858).

Problems soon arose. It was difficult to see the yellow stamps on the newspapers, especially in offices using oil 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; they used multiple frankings of the smaller values, to the delight of modern collectors.

To replace the yellow stamp, a red stamp (in 1856, 'hochrot') for 10 copies was issued in mid-1856: the legendary "red Mercury" [Ref 133]. It was only valid for two years, and was invalidated from 31 December 1858 [Ref 141]; it was not reused as a stamp for single newspapers. The remainders were incinerated.

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 1 December 1863 [Ref 145].

3.2 Mercuries - production

The design for the Mercury stamps was by the engraver Josef Axmann. He used the head of the god Mercury, the inscription giving the purpose: "K. K. ZEITUNGS POST STÄMPEL". The wooden die that Axmann had produced was the original of the Mercury stamp, although it was heavily re-engraved. A recess matrix was prepared from this by the galvanic process, from which in turn the necessary printing clichés were produced, first by the stereotype, later by the electrotype, method. The printing plates consisted of 400 clichés divided into four blocks of a hundred and arranged in 10 horizontal and 10 vertical rows per block. The spaces between the stamps are narrow (horizontally 0.75 to 1mm, vertically 3.5mm; later horizontally 1.25 mm and vertically 3mm). The horizontal spacing between the blocks of a hundred was 5.5mm.

The production took place in typography. These printing sheets were divided horizontally in the State Printing Works into sheets of 2x100 and delivered thus to the Postal Administration. At first the printing was good; however, it soon lost its sharpness. The discounted rate required one special stamp per newspaper, taken from the sheet of 100 sold (for the blue) at 1 Gulden; they were not sold separately. Since the Gulden was divided into 60 kreuzer, the new newspaper stamp had the nominal value of 0.6 kreuzer.

The blue Mercury had an edition of about 136 million, of which only a small fraction remains. The stamps, which were mostly pasted on the newspaper wrappers, were usually thrown away. Stamps pasted directly on the newspapers had a better chance of survival. Again, maybe only a part of the issue was used up.

The blue Mercury was used directly on the newspaper or an address label. It was revalued at the 1858 currency change, and remained valid until 1 December 1863. Large quantities of fakes and forgeries exist of all Mercuries, some of deceptively excellent quality and others immediately obvious. There are also the 53,500 Official Reprints, and numerous facsimiles notionally sold as album spacefillers.

In the sheets of the 1851 issue, the horizontal space between the stamps was substantially smaller ($\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm) than the vertical space (3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm). Therefore, most are found closely cut on the left and right, whereas on top and on bottom, wide margins are usually present. Sheet and corner margin pieces are seldom found, because the edges of the sheets were cut off before they were sold; but a margin greater than 4mm is from an edge.

Mixed-subtype pairs are known only of the blue Mercury and are extremely rare. Horizontal gutter pairs (4 mm gutters for type I and 5.5 to 6 mm for types II and III) are extremely rare, especially cancelled. Vertical gutter pairs are unknown; it is believed that the 4-pane printing sheets were always cut horizontally before sale, and nearly always vertically too. Plate faults eg major (2 mm spots of white or colour) and minor (0.2 mm spots) exist but are rare. Papers come thick, thin & ribbed. The blue Mercury is known used as a normal postage stamp, presumably a straightforward impersonation of the 15 kr blue definitive. Coloured cancels exist, and are expensive. Stamps used in Lombardy or Venetia attract a premium. There are also many Friedl and other forgeries, some excellent and some execrable.

3.3 Reprints

Official limited-edition Reprints were repeatedly manufactured by the Austrian State Printing Works, often using clichés of types which do not occur in the original printings. There were in total 53,500 reprinted stamps of each colour of the Mercuries; they were reprinted in sets, so the same number of blues yellows roses and reds were sold. See the separate detailed appendix on reprints.

Preliminary remarks: the most important knowledge about reprints is that they exist! Any unused newspaper stamps later than the Mercuries that you are offered for sale are very likely to be reprints. Unused Mercuries are more likely to be fakes than reprints. All these exist with fake cancellations.

3.4 The differences between the 3 types of the 1851 issue

In 1853, as a result of a new production process, a so-called working die was cast from the original die and the design re-engraved to enhance the stamp's appearance, particularly in the lettering. According to Müller, who is followed by Ferchenbauer, 3 main types, each with subtypes, can be identified. The Austrian Netto (ANK), SG, and the Michel catalogues, however, identify only two main types. A comparison of the mutually inconsistent nomenclature of the various catalogues follows. The formal differentiation depends on the presence or absence of serifs on the G and S of **ZEITUNGS**, the shape of the A in **STÄMPEL**, and the font used. In reality, varied amounts of damage are found on all the lettering, and “in-between types” are common!

Müller type	Müller subtypes	Ferchenbauer subtypes	ANK, SG & Michel types
I	Ia	Ia	I
	Ib	Ib	
II	IIa	IIb	
	IIb		
	IIc	IIc	
III	IIIa	IIIa	
	IIIb	IIIb	II

3.4.1 TYPE I

The white letters on the coloured background are weak; they appear sanserif. The Z in ZEITUNGS is thin, the S and G have ‘flyaway ends’, and the right part of the top of the T is nearly always damaged. The top left corner rosette is undamaged and regular. The two dots forming the umlaut above the A of STÄMPEL are widely spaced and directly over its apex.

TYPE Ia: the crossbar of the Ä in **STÄMPEL** is present.



Double-ring cancel
ZEITUNGS-EXPED.
WIEN 20/7



PAVIA
30 AGO



Part of the large
LODI newspaper
cancel; badly
scuffed print

TYPE Ib: the crossbar of the Ä is missing, and there is almost always a coloured spot under the chin and another on the bridge of the nose.



Well-inked



Dry print



Ribbed



All letters in STÄMPEL are damaged; the A has no umlaut!

The right-hand stamp is cancelled with a two-circle PO(stamts)-ZEITUNGS-EXP. LEMBERG 17/3.

3.4.2 TYPE II

This type originated in 1853, when the letter Ä in STÄMPEL was re-engraved with thicker strokes and with the umlaut-dots close together and centred to the left of the apex of the 'A'. The other letters are as in type I except that the 'S' and 'G' are without serifs and the Z in ZEITUNGS is thicker. The top left corner rosette is regular.

TYPE IIa was formerly defined as a type II with the right dot of the umlaut larger than the left dot, but this differentiation proved unhelpful and has been discontinued by Prof Ferchenbauer.

TYPE IIb: This has the characteristics of type II, umlaut-dot-size being irrelevant. It is relatively rare, as the re-engraved clichés soon began to show signs of further damage.

TYPE IIc: Missing crossbar in 'A'. There are colour spots on the bridge of the nose and under the chin.



TYPE IIb



TYPE IIc

3.4.3 TYPE III

Since the re-engraving did not result in any noticeable improvement, at the end of 1854 the entire lettering was removed and freshly engraved. The word ZEITUNGS now has obviously-serifed letters.

TYPE IIIa: The top left corner rosette is normal and ZEITUNGS shows no defects: the 'U' is unbroken and there are no coloured dots in 'G'.



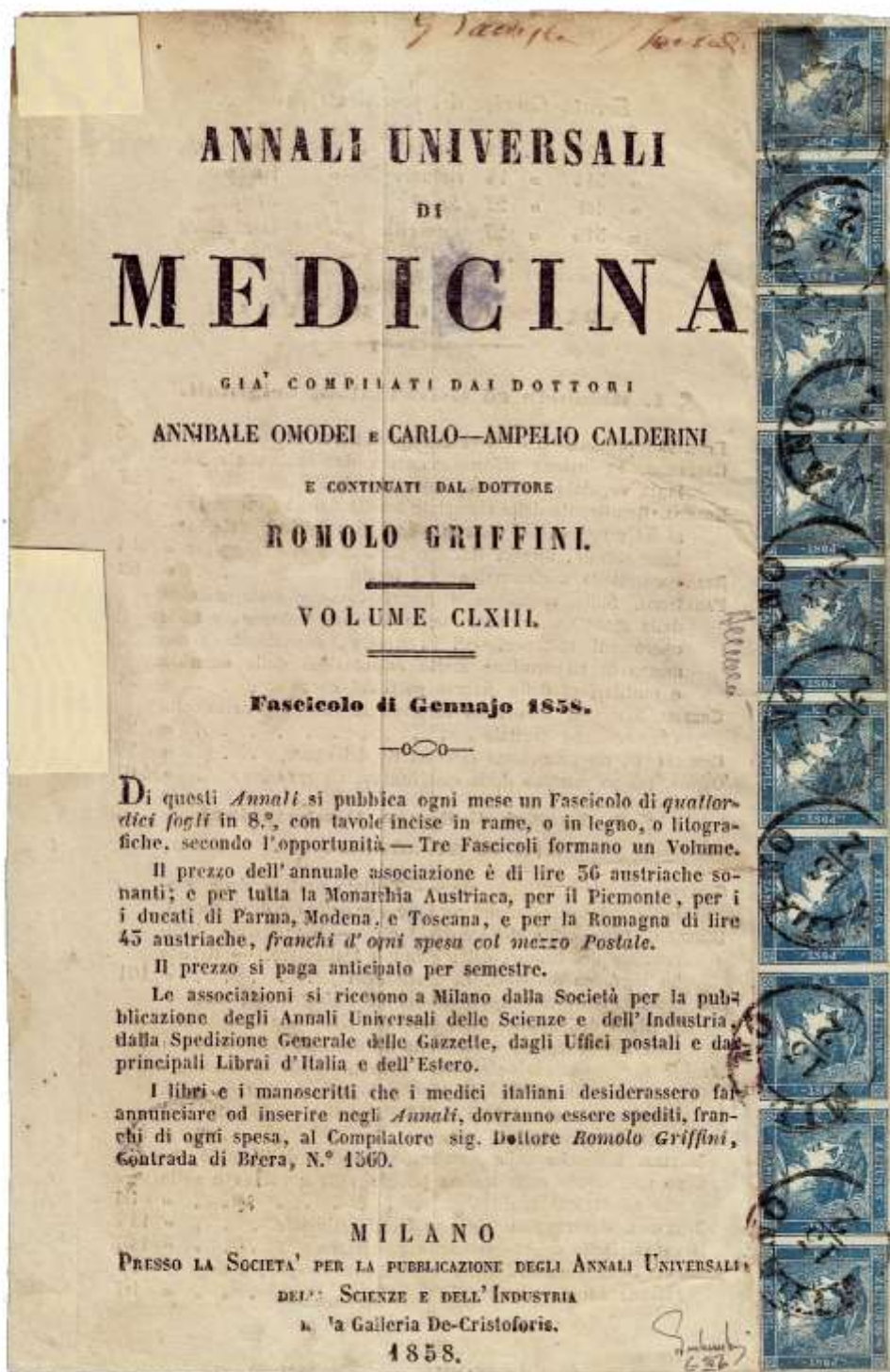
The left-hand stamp was cancelled in Bergamo on 20/6. The right-hand stamp has on the left a part of the next stamp; the typical type III horizontal spacing of 1.25mm is visible.

TYPE IIIb: The top left corner rosette is damaged. In ZEITUNGS the 'U' is damaged and there are two coloured dots in the 'G'.



3.5 The Mercuries in use

3.5.1 The Blue Mercury



Blue Mercury type IIIb, horizontal strip of 10 tied to front cover of *Annali Universali di Medicina*, volume 163, the *Fasciolo* (issue) for January 1858. Published in Milan; cancelled MILANO 13/2 (7 impressions). Used to send a bundle of 10 copies. Rare: only one other is recorded.



Newspaper "IL MESSAGGERE TIROLESE DI ROVERETO" dated 11 October 1851, published in Rovereto and posted to Trient/Trento. Cancelled on arrival, date 12 October. **Type Ia** newspaper postage stamp, on ribbed paper.

Köbl. k. k. Bezirksamt St. Gilgen.
(N. S. Btg. Amtsbl.)

VII. Jahrgang.

Freitag den 2. März 1855.

Inserate werden hero für 1mal pr. Seite mit 2 für 3mal 4 fr. 800. Re- tion: Marktplat Nr. 2. Stosf. — Grapobit Oberer liche (Einol nab ber) Buchbinderer, 90 schlah Nr. 582, 1. 2. Odabrücke hab frankfil punden, offene Welt zume sub perisfrei, keine Biliter des Ab blatts 2 fr., bei 300 blatts 1 fr. 800.

Neue

Salzburger Zeitung.

Abendblatt.

Nr. 50.

Die Neue Salzburger Zeitung erscheint täglich pochenal: das Abendblatt um 6 Uhr Abends, das Morgenblatt um 9 Uhr früh. — Prämumeration für Mon- gen. und Abendblatt für Soaburg halbjährig 4 fl. — vierteljährig 2 fl. — monatlich 40 kr. 800. — Mit täglicher Postsendung halbjährig 5 fl. 36 kr. — vierteljährig 2 fl. 50 kr. — monatlich 1 fl. 200. — Wähni.

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

Die „Östb. 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 kr.) in 400,000 Aktien à 200 fl. Diese 200 Mill. Franken verteilen sich auf Sina, Wenstein und Gakel 45, auf Goult und Goult-Dypenheim 18, auf Andree und Galliera je 20, auf Emil und Josef Percire je 8, auf den Credit mobilier 44, auf Pescatore 6, auf Baron Stilliere, Gebr. Mollet, Graf Worny, des Arzts Ruffard je 5, auf Ad. d'Eichthal, Uribarren, P. Biesla, Graf Salvador je 3 Mill. Der erste Verwaltungsrath hat das Recht, zur Vollendung der Arbeiten an- tungen 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 be- stimmt. — Eben so publicirt die „Östb. Post“ die aus 21 Artikeln bestehende Eisenbahn-Konfessionsurkunde und ver- spricht jene über die Berg- und Hüttenwerke morgen nachzu-

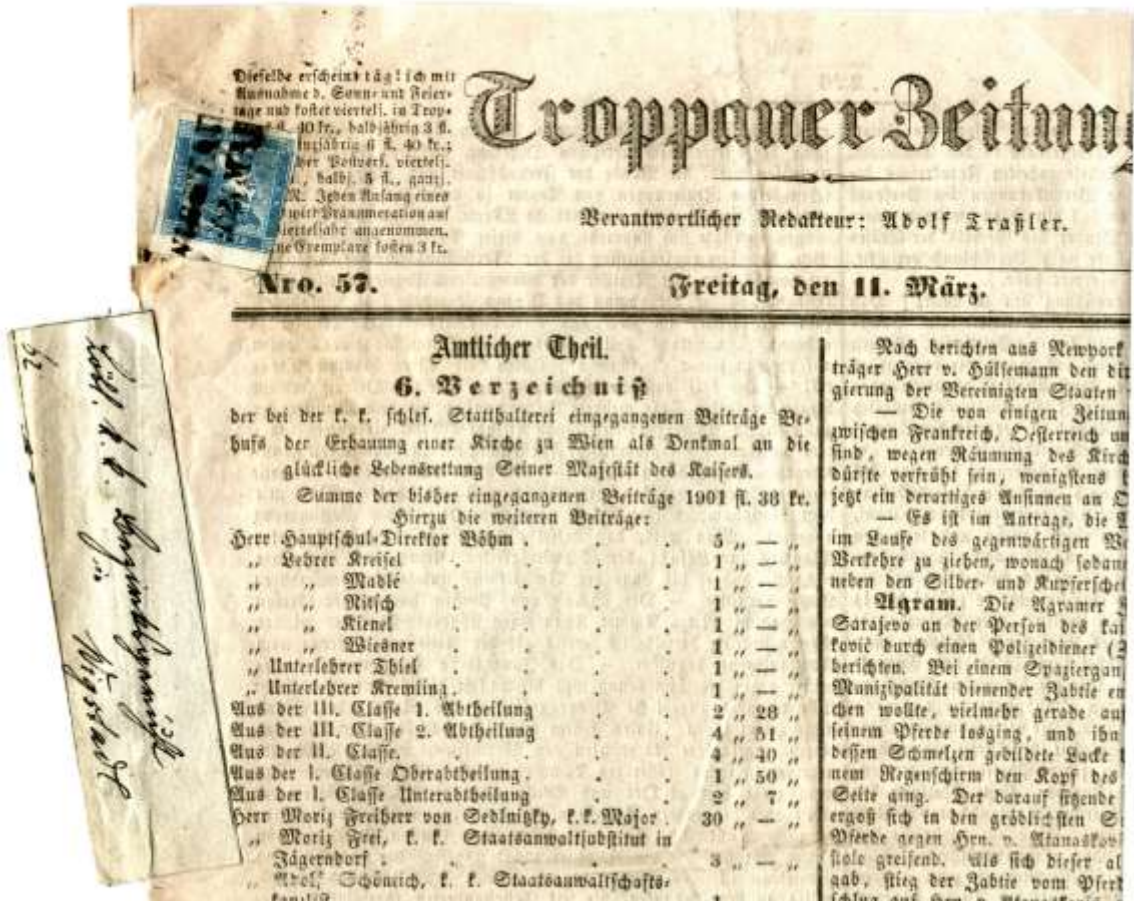
unprünglichen Konfessionszeit (1948) bezahlt. Alle Urkunden dieser Konfession unterliegen nur einem strengen Stempel von 1 fl. Als Entgelt für die Konfession zahlen die Konfessionäre dem Staat 65,450,000 fl. RM. in Gold oder Silber, und zwar durch 36 St. keine Zinsen tragende stempelfreie Schuld- versicherungen, 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 Schuldver- schreibungen müssen auf Verlangen des Staats zu 4 pCt. eskomptirt werden. (Schluß folgt.)

Die neuesten Nachrichten vom Kriegsschauplatz.

Aus Warsa, 17. Febr., wird berichtet: Von den polnischen Feldherren wird der Plan, noch einige 3 — 4 Wochen in der Defensiv, d. h. im Kampfe mit dem Winterwetter und mit den Russen, auszuhalten, streng befolgt. Bis zum 20.—30. März wird — dessen kann man gewiß sein — eine ganz reorganisirte Armee von 150,000 Mann am lausischen Boden stehen, und erst dann wird die Offensive gegen Geba- stopol und gegen die Feldarmee des Fürsten Menzloff ergrif- fen werden.

Die Russen haben die Gelegenheit, einen Hauptschlag gegen die vor 3—4 Wochen geschwächten Allirten zu führen,

“SALZBURGER ZEITUNG ABENDBLATT” for 2 March 1855. Pair of type Ib stamps (so 2 papers) to the council office at St Gilgen, where it was cancelled with the straight-line ST.GILGEN/2 MAR 1855, a pre-stamp canceller first used in 1841.



”Troppauer Zeitung” of Friday 11 March 1853, posted to Löbl(iches) k.k. Bezirksgericht (the local court) in Wigstadl (subscriber nr 62) & cancelled there on arrival. Franked with 1851 Ferchenbauer type Ib. The leading article is a list of subscriptions for the building of the Votivkirche in Vienna, erected to commemorate Kaiser Franz Josef’s escape on 1 Feb 1853 from an attempted assassination.



The Vienna Morgen-Post for 30 December 1855, posted to Zwettl; type IIb stamp



The Gazzetta Ufficiale di Milano, an unwieldy broadsheet. Sent to Como (in Lombardy, which was Austrian in 1853) and cancelled on arrival. Newspaper dated 23 November 1853; franked blue mercury **type IIc**; address label removed; cancelled single-circle 'COMO' dated 24/11.



One-and-two-bits of blue mercury, **type IIIa**, cancelled at Jägerndorf. As is not unusual, the strip of stamps has been applied upside down!



The 'Wiener Geschäftsbereich' for Friday 18 June 1858: a cyclostyled digest of business news, commodity reports, currency exchange rates, Stock Exchange closing prices etc. sent daily to subscribers. Newspaper postage stamp, applied to the address label. The style of the pencilled markings is that of a 1920s dealer; the signature is not that of any expertiser known today. The stamp is type **IIIa** but beginning the transition to **IIIb**; in ZEITUNGS the U is undamaged but there is one dot in the G; the top left corner rosette is normal.



Late usage: newspaper “СРБСКИ ДНЕВНИК”, the “Serbian Daily” for 8 January 1859, printed in Serbian at Novi Sad. Franked with 1851 stamp, which after the currency change on 1 Nov 1858 was revalued and remained valid till 31 May 1864. Posted to Temesvar and cancelled there. Pseudo-mixed franking: taxed 1 kr as shown by signet nr 126 applied in the tax office in Szegedin. Type **IIIb** stamp, with traces of an address label underneath.

3.5.2 The Yellow Mercury

1850 PVOB078 172 Dec 9 introduced yellow and 'red' Mercuries, explaining that *die gelben den Werth von zehn blauen, und die rothen den Werth von fünfzig blauen Zeitungsmarken vorstellen*. That is, **yellows are worth 10 blues, roses 50**.

The Yellow Mercury was issued on 1 January 1851 [Ref 112] for use on the wrappers of bundles of 10 papers to a single addressee; its franking value was 6 kr (10 papers @ 0.6 kr each). All known printings of the yellow are blurred, carelessly done, and frequently overinked. The stamps were sold in full sheets of 100 costing 10 Gulden, paid in advance in cash. As with the rose mercury, the high cost made this very unpopular and few were sold.

The Yellow Mercury was withdrawn on 21 March 1856 [Ref 133], because it was discovered that blue mercuries were being chemically altered into yellow ones. The residue was physically recalled by the Newspaper Branch of the Vienna Head Post Office, redenominated as 0.6 kr and allocated to Vienna publishers for using-up. This process took from 18 April to 23 June. According to Müller (Ref. 8), “all the several hundred known used copies are from this using-up period”. A recent study (“*Die Entdeckung einer neuen Briefmarke*”, Vindobona Nachricht, issue 2/2018) estimates 490-550 used copies now exist of which only 9 are “6 kr usage”.



Yellow Mercury **type Ib** used during the using-up period on complete address label affixed to the Morgen-Post published in Vienna on Wednesday 14 May 1856. Sent to Zwettl; cancelled on arrival with a black straight-line Zwettl / 15. MAI. The separate illustration of the stamp is in false-colour; in reality it blends into the paper and is almost invisible - especially in an office illuminated by oil lamps!

3.5.3 The Rose Mercury

The Rose Mercury was also issued on 1 January 1851 for bundles of 50 newspapers to a single address; its franking value was 30 kr (50 papers @ 0.6 kr each). All Rose Mercuries are **type Ib**; the 53,500 official reprints are type II.



Rose Mercury used in the using-up period on complete address label of “Il Corriere Italiano”, published in Vienna on 23 November 1852 and sent to Udine in Venetia where the stamp was cancelled on 25 November. Type Ib.

These stamps were sold in complete sheets of 100 costing 50 Gulden, paid in advance in cash. This was very unpopular because of the cost - 50 Gulden in 1851 had the same purchasing power as 1014 Euro in 2026 ^{1}. Only the largest newspapers had sufficient bulk shipments to justify buying these denominations, especially of the rose 30 kr of which 240,000 stamps were printed but only very small quantities were sold. Instead, the newspaper publishing houses used multiple frankings of the blue 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 [Ref 128]. The available stocks were all sold to a Viennese publisher at the price of a blue stamp for use on a single newspaper. The collector might wish to know whether a rose Mercury had been used as a 30 kr stamp for a packet-of-50 or as a 0.6 kr single copy, which could be recognised by the cancel date being before or after the end of 1852. Very few copies of the rose Mercury are preserved, and dates before October 1852 are not known.

According to Müller, all the known used copies are from this using-up period. It's interesting to note that what we call the rose mercury was in 1851 called **rot** (red); what today is called the red mercury was in 1856 called **hochrot** (intense red, or scarlet). The colour hasn't changed but the Austrian language has!

I've been saying "rose". What I mean is the colour that male Central Europeans with perfect colour vision would in the 2020s 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 decrees for the 1856 replacement for the yellow call it 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!

3.5.4 The Red Mercury

To replace the yellow stamp, a red stamp for 10 copies was issued on 21 March 1856: the legendary "red Mercury" (also described as 'zinnoberrot', 'cinnabar', 'carmine', 'scarlet', and 'bright red'). 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, he quickly tore it open, to get at the newspapers, and the packaging along with the stamps was discarded. There was only one print run of 300 sheets of four times 100 stamps: 120,000 in total all from type IIIb clichés. Maybe only a part of the edition was used;



only about two dozen red Mercuries have survived. Certainly, less than thirty correctly-used red Mercuries have survived - Müller in 1951 knew of less than 10. A newly-discovered one will be either a reprint (there were 53,500, all type II) or a forgery: both abound. The illustration here is a "certified forgery"; I think it is a genuine 1884 reprint pasted on a genuine piece of an 1849 newspaper (purporting to be used as the wrapper for the bundle) and given a forged cancellation.



On the left however is a certified-genuine unused Red Mercury. Müller estimated that about 30-40 unused single copies were known; they are not 'springers' but have escaped from official files; about half of them (including this specimen) have no gum.

¹ <https://finanzbildung.oenb.at/docroot/waehrungsrechner/#/>

The Austrian Newspaper Post

The Red Mercury 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. It was not revalued and reused as happened for the rose and the yellow, but incinerated [Ref 141].

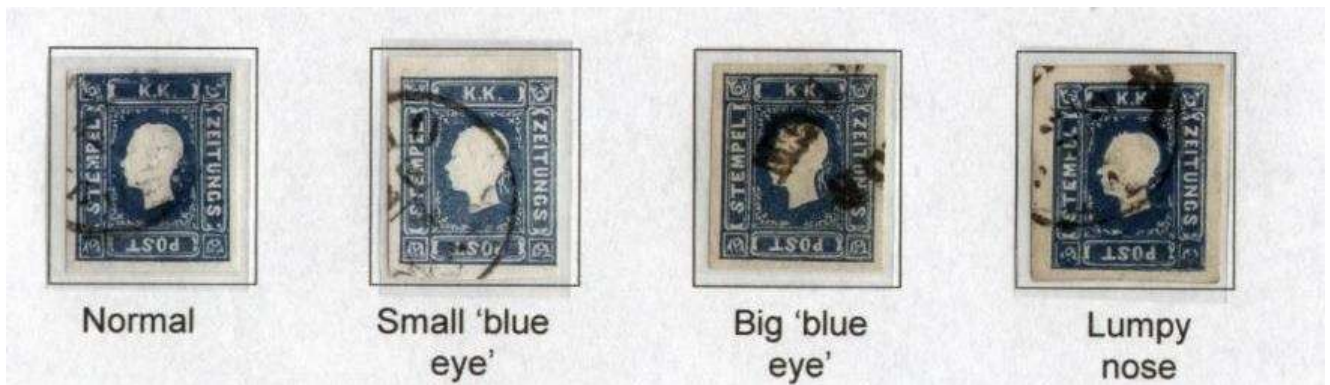
The fate of the other Mercuries varied. The blue 1851 newspaper stamps were used until exhausted along with the newly issued newspaper stamps of 1858 at the new rate of 1.05 kr Austrian currency. They must have been sold out (at different dates in different offices) before the newspaper stamps of 1858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

4 The 1858 issue

The change from “Conventions-money” to decimal “Austrian currency” in 1858 required the issue of new stamps. [Ref 141] The long-intended change of the newspaper 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. The newspaper stamp again 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.



Franz Joseph head facing left; imperf. Valid 1 November 1858 to 31 May 1864. In 1858 Austria changed from Conventions-money (C.M.) to the decimal Austrian currency (ö.W.) [Ref 141]. A new newspaper stamp was issued on 1 November 1858, imperf, in type I (ie indistinct neck bow), without value designation. The inscription had the K.K. placed at the top; on the left was written STEMPEL instead of STÄMPEL. The blue stamps were prone to printing errors; and were valid until 31 May 1864. The undenominated 1851 blue stamp remained valid until used up. As before, the newspaper stamps were sold only to the newspaper publishing houses and only in whole sheets. 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. See [Ref 141].



Verordnung 1858.

751

Verordnungsblatt

für die

Verwaltungsbranche des österreichischen Handelsministeriums.

Nr. 57.

Verlegt in Handelsministerium.

Samstag den 14. October.

Inhalt: K. K. Ministerial-Befehl zur Einführung der Kaiserl. und Kronenpostämter-Verordnungen in den einzelnen Kronländern für das Verwaltungsjahr 1858. — Verordnungen: Einführung neuer Brief- und Zeitungs-Marken.

Postwesen.

Einführung neuer Brief- und Zeitungs-Marken.

Jahrl. 2904-H. M.

In Uebereinstimmung mit den, in der neuen österreichischen Währung festgesetzten Taxen für Briefe und Kreuzbandsendungen sind neue Briefmarken im Werthe von 2, 3, 5, 10 und 15 Kreuzern (solli) angefertigt worden.

Die neuen Briefmarken tragen das Brustbild Seiner Majestät des Kaisers, und sind mit ausgeprägten Rändern versehen; sie werden in Blättern zu 60 Stücken abgegeben.

usw usf...

Zum Gebrauche für die inländischen Zeitungs-Redactionen sind neue Zeitungsmarken, gleichfalls mit dem Brustbilde Seiner Majestät geziert, in blauer Farbe angefertigt worden; dieselben werden in halben Bogen zu 200 Stücken abgegeben; jeder halbe Bogen enthält zwei Blätter, jedes Blatt 100 Marken im Werthe von 1 fl. 5 Kreuzern.

Die hithertigen blauen Zeitungsmarken sind bis zu ihrem gänzlichen Verbrauchte fortan gleich den neuen Zeitungsmarken zu verwenden; dagegen werden die tothen Zeitungsmarken ganz aus dem Verkehr gezogen.

1858 PVOB057 October 14:
Introduction of new post and
Newspaper stamps showing the
Kaiser's head The new
Newspaper stamp would be blue ...
the existing blue ones could be used
up, but the red one was invalidated.

The fourth printing plate, assembled in 1860, was put together from printing dies of the third plate and altered counter dies. The embossed part of the nose was lengthened and made more pointed to correspond with Type D of the definitives. The colour of the Type D/II stamps printed from the fourth plate is likewise originally dark lilac, and later developed variations.

There are many reprints, often in types which do not occur in the originals. Marginal pieces, paper varieties etc exist. Plate errors also occur, predominately due to damage to individual printing or counter dies. The “Bulldog head” is a common plate error for many counter dies.



Polish newspaper “CZAS” published at Kraków on 24 March 1861. Sent to Jan Starowiejski Esq. at Podgórze. Franked with 1858 type II grey-lilac newspaper stamp with oval cancel “K.K. ZEITUNGS-EXPEDITION KRAKAU”. The inset is the tax signet from the top right corner of the broadsheet.



“Ben Chananja”, a weekly newspaper about Jewish theology published by the Chief Rabbi of Szegedin on 16 August 1861. Grey-lilac 1859 newspaper postage stamp cancelled by ‘starburst’ of Vienna dated 20 August. Taxed 1 kr, shown by signet nr 126 at the bottom; applied in the tax office in Szegedin before printing.



Wrapper for two copies of newspaper “Hospodárské Noviny” sent to Josef Daneš at Chlumci nad Cidlinou aka Chlumetz an der Zidlina. The title page of one copy is still in the wrapper, which has a Chlumetz arrival cancel on the back. Franked with a rare full-margined vertical pair of deep blue 1858-issue stamps with an oval cancel PRAG O.P.A. ZTGS. EXP. 24/1, 2.U. Note 3.5mm vertical separation between the stamps.



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 MAL. The town of Kalwarya was founded in 1617 as Zebrzydów; in 1640 expanded and named Nowy Zebrzydów; in 1772 annexed by Austria during the First Partition of Poland and renamed Kalwarya; and in 1890 renamed Kalwarya Zebrzydowska. After WWI it returned to Poland (and according to Wikipedia it has retained the 1890 name).



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; its Post Office opened in 1864. Mail in 1860 would either have been carried by a messenger, or collected by someone from the Schloss - it's addressed to the Zimmermeister, the chief carpenter. The 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 newspaper was edited and printed in Bruneck, South Tirol; 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.

5 The 1861 issue

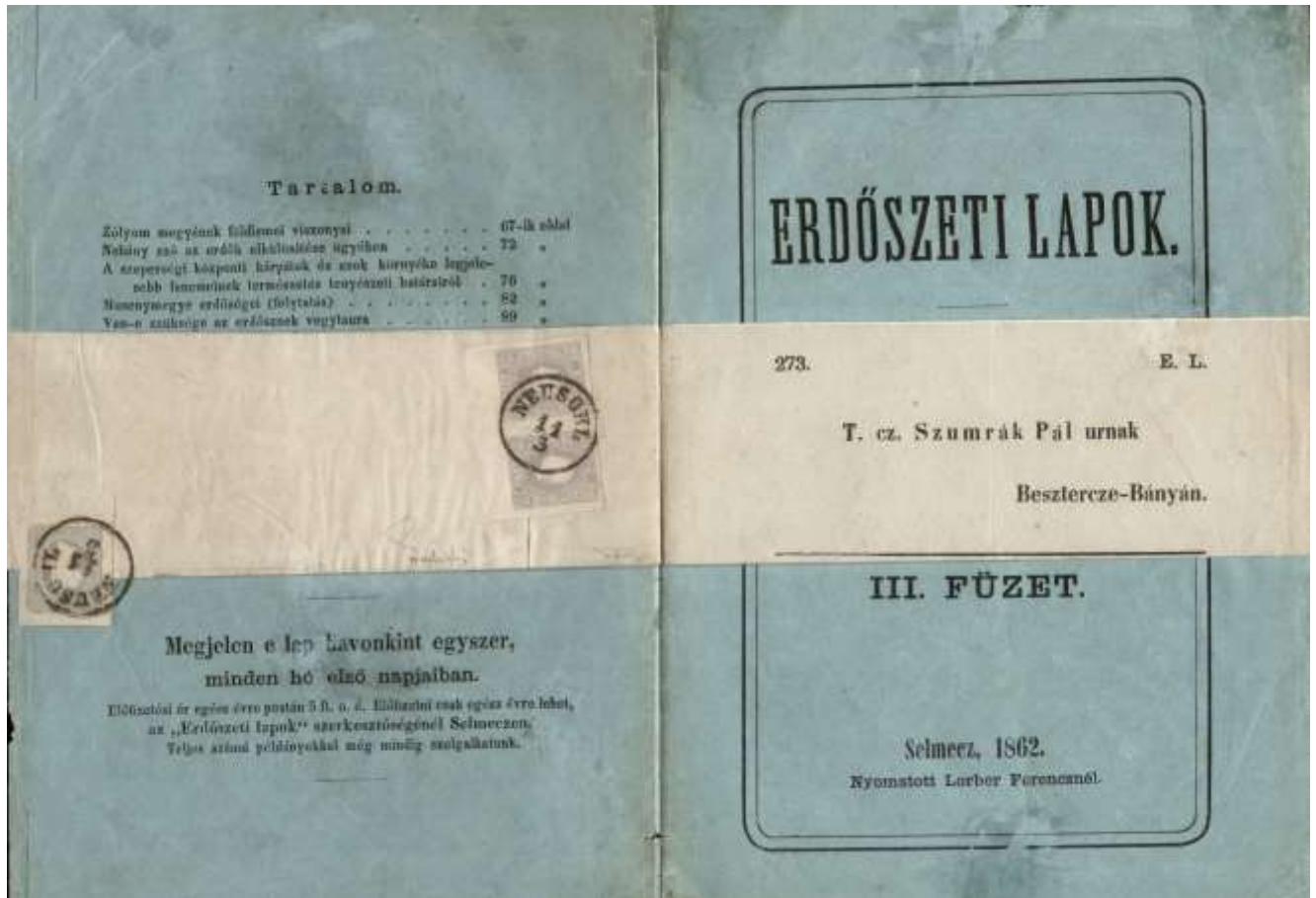
Franz Joseph head, facing right, in ornate frame. Valid from 21 December 1860 to 31 May 1864. This is sometimes referred to as the 1860 issue! [Ref 144] In 1861, postal stationery envelopes were issued with a value impression for the first time, and their design was also used for the postage stamps. It showed in pale embossing the head of the emperor Franz Joseph, facing right. The newspaper stamp corresponds to the style of this stamp issue. It shows the same emperor head, but the frame was designed specifically for the newspaper stamps. In the left-hand edge inscription, the old form STÄMPEL appears again. The printing plates were again assembled from four units each of 100 clichés, spaced 4.5mm vertically and 3.75mm horizontally; the gutter was 22.25 mm. Two types of sheet marginal pieces were used, one consisting of a broad bar and one assembled from a strong outside piece adjoining 4 or 6 thinner pieces. The colour remained the same lilac as previously; it is just as photosensitive, so numerous shades are found. The price of 1 Gulden 5 kreuzer (105 kreuzer) for the sheet of 100 remained constant. The previous issue's stamps could be used up, and mixed franking was allowed.



The “Wanderer” for Monday 22 April 1861, printed in Vienna then sent to Lemberg (as specified on the bottom left of the address label). On the Thursday, the violet 1861-issue newspaper postage stamp was cancelled **POSTAMTS ZEITUNGS-EXP 25 4 LEMBERG** (the newspaper-handling section of Lemberg Post Office).

It was posted onwards via Thuste (*office opened 1817; today called Towste*) to His Serene Highness, The Prince Calixt Poniński at his castle at Czerwonogrod (*office only opened in 1911; castle ransacked and partly demolished by Soviets in 1918*).

The signet in the right margin indicates that the 1 kr newspaper tax had been paid.



An extremely rare 1858/59 pair plus an 1861 mixed franking used on the original wrapper of presumably three copies of The Forestry Newspaper. Published at Selmecz in 1862; sent to Besztercze-Bányä (Bistricza); and cancelled at Neusohl. [Illustrated in Ferchenbauer 2008 vol I p.619.]

No signet - perhaps it contained no news.

6 The 1863 issue



The issue of 1861 did not last long! The 1863 issue was issued as the 1861 ran out, and was valid till 31 August 1869 in Austria proper [Ref 145]; in Venetia till 19 August 1866, in Hungary till 15 June 1867, and in Croatia-Slavonia till 31 March 1868. The German-Austrian Postal Union of 1 July 1850 “in order to promote unity” required the use of uniform colours for the most important stamps. Instead of swapping the colours of the existing 10 kr and 15 kr postage stamps, with the obvious chance of malfeasance, 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 same eagle in an octagonal frame with larger inscription [Ref 145]. The word STÄMPEL in the text is written as “Æ” - the last time this occurs on newspaper stamps. For the first time newspaper stamps were printed on special paper with the watermark ZEITUNGS-MARKEN. One cliché was inverted for a while in the printing plate, producing Kehrdrucke (tete-beche) pairs: desirable and expensive. The inter-stamp spacing was 4.25mm horizontally and the gutters 24mm.

The sale price to the publishing houses was lowered to 1 Gulden from 1 Jan 1868. This affected however only the disposal of the remainders, for by then the 1867 issue was in use. Large stocks of remainders have come into collector's hands. Large blocks & pieces with marginal bars (4 types) are known. Red cancels exist at huge prices. There are the usual reprints.



Address label with 1863 stamp, sent in 1867 to Herr Glass in Friedek, Silesia.

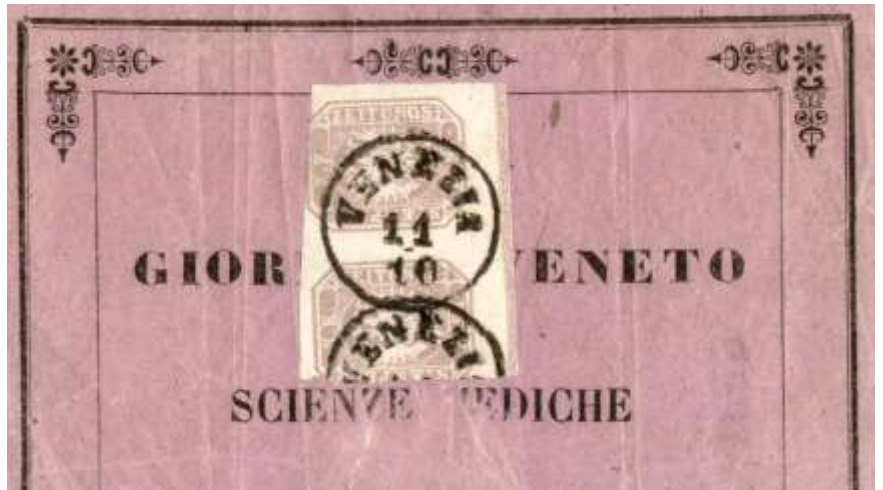


“Troppauer Zeitung” published Sat 7 May 1864; sent to the local council in Schwarzwasser (where it should have been cancelled).



Strip-of-three attached to remnants of packet wrap and address label. VENEZIA cancel.

Bottom marginal piece (applied sideways) showing margin bar. VENEZIA cancel.



Piece of newspaper wrapper sent to and cancelled at San Pietro Incariano in Venetia.

7 The 1867 issue

7.1 Overview



Mercury facing left, lilac. Valid 1 June 1867 to 30 September 1900 in Austria, to 31 July 1871 in Hungary. [Ref 146]

On the pre-Ausgleich stamps of 1863 the value was in German, namely “kreuzer”, while the Hungarian designation is “Krajczár”. Further, the design of the 1863 newspaper stamps was the Austrian Double-Eagle, unacceptable for use by the independent Hungarian Postal Administration since Hungary had its own coat of arms; and the long inscription was also in German. A change was therefore required in the design of the stamp, so that they were suitable for use in both Austria and Hungary.

This produced some difficulties, particularly as the manufacture of the stamps was extremely urgent: the negotiations were only begun in April 1867 while the Hungarian Ministry of Trade were to take over the Hungarian postal system on 1 May 1867. The only design requirement was that they were suitable for use in both Postal Administrations: so they picked the Mercury Head already used for the first newspaper stamp issue. The new design has the Mercury Head facing left, housed in a coloured field overlaid with two white circular lines, all placed within a rectangular frame of “Greek Key” ornaments. The stamps have neither inscription nor value indication.

The 1867 Newspaper Postage Stamp appeared simultaneously with the definitive issue on 1 June. It displays neither inscription nor value and was thus acceptable also in Hungary. It was sold in complete imperforated sheets of 100 to registered newspaper publishers to pay the special reduced rate; the cost per sheet of 100 was 1 Gulden 5 kreuzer. On 1 Jan 1868 the sale price was lowered to 1 Gulden per sheet (1fl in 1868 = 17Eu52 today), the single stamp now cost exactly 1 kreuzer; the residual stock of the 1863 issue were also sold off at this price.

The 1867 stamp was first issued in Hungary on 1 June 1867 (according to the ordinance of 25 May 1867 [Ref 146]), in the areas coming under the administration of the Hungarian department of Commerce, elsewhere once the 1863 issue had been used up. It was demonetised in Hungary on 31 July 1871. Hungarian cancels after this date (eg 1875, as illustrated) would have been applied by the delivery office. In 1890 [Ref 217 - RGB133] new postage stamps were issued; the RGB explicitly states that existing newspaper stamps remained valid. The 1867 stamp was withdrawn on 30 September 1900. The remnants (all type III) were sold at the Vienna philatelic counter until 1919.



In this issue, private perforations appear in large numbers for the first time, and are common after 1886. 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, designed to have the height of the newspaper stamps. The sheets of newspaper stamps were cut into vertical 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, the publishers sometimes perforated it vertically (rarely horizontally too).

This stamp had a life of more than thirty years, and **over 2 thousand million were printed**. In this time there were some changes! The paper was changed repeatedly, the letters in the watermark “ZEITUNGS-MARKEN” were replaced. Through different improvements in the printing process, different types emerged; as with the letter-post stamps “coarse” and “fine” printings exist, their differences being clearest in the appearance of the head.

This stamp is notorious for colour variations – Ferchenbauer lists 14, the latest ANK catalogue 33. Why? The ink is water-soluble and light-sensitive; so soaking-off is fraught, as is exhibiting. See ‘Colours - Mauveine’ below.

7.2 Stamp design & issues

The stamps of this issue may be classified into Types: stamps of Type I were issued in 1867; Type II in 1873; Type If in April 1876; & Type III in late 1876. They are also divisible into coarse and fine printing. There were three kinds of paper, and two different watermarks. All these are discussed below - see 'Types and Subtypes'.



The original design of the stamp originates from an unknown graphic artist at the State Printing Works in Vienna. From the graphic, the Waldheim Drawing (or Xylographic) Institute in Vienna produced a master die carved from wood, with which the first trial prints were made as singles in black. These trial prints deviate from the final design, because the design was repeatedly re-engraved and the die so obtained used as the master die. There exist further trial single prints in black of the printing dies of the subtypes Ib and Ic as well as in violet of those of subtype Ic.

From this wooden die 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 clichés prepared from the latter [Ref 146]. The printing plate was assembled from 400 clichés in a 2x2 grouping of four times one hundred pieces (see mock-up pictured below). With the type I, the space between the stamps is 3.0-3.75mm horizontally and 2.75-3.25mm vertically. With the later printing plates this spacing was 3.0 to 3.25 mm both horizontally and vertically.

Also known are sheet-essays in subtype Ib in the original violet colour on white paper, and machine proofs and other printers waste, some in black, some violet, on white or coloured paper in subtypes Ib, Ic, Ie, & IIa. In general, trial prints of the 1867 newspaper stamp are rare. The one illustrated here is on off-white paper; the "fluff" around the head is present on the original.

The stamps were manufactured by typography. The first trial prints were presented by the State Printing Works in May 1867 and quickly approved; the stamps were printed with great urgency so that they could appear on 1 June 1867. The first issue on 1 June was valid in the Hungarian Postal Area until 31 July 1871 when they issued a Hungarian stamp - that implies that in Hungary only types Ia, Ib & Ic were issued.

The stamps were sent from the Central Postal Administration in Vienna to the Postdirektionen, for issue only to those Post Offices with registered newspaper publishers in their district. The stamps were sold (for cash!) only to these publishers, to pay for postage at their reduced rate – which they could only do at their "home office".

The system was set up for postal subscriptions. Until 1860, the address label and stamp were stuck directly on the newspaper; this was then banned although examples are recorded in the literature from as late as 1870, and the example below is a Serbian-language newspaper "Srpski List" dated 10(22) October 1881: that is 10 October in the Julian calendar and 22 October in the Gregorian. The newspaper is huge: 385mm wide by 540mm high! And the splodge in the top right corner is the tax signet.



If only one copy of a newspaper was being sent to a subscriber, it was to be posted in a “Band” (Kreuzband or Schleife), with the address and a Newspaper Stamp on it.



This example was posted in 1893 to Böhm. Kamnitz.



And this from Vienna to Hall in Tirol; arrival cancel 26.11.1882

If several copies went to the same office for delivering to different final addresses, the publisher was to put the stamped Bands in an outer packet addressed to the delivery office. (Hence the system that in general the stamps were cancelled at the place of delivery.) If however several copies went to the same final address, they went in a packet with the newspaper stamps on the outside.

Mostly one finds single frankings; nevertheless medium and large connected units (used on parcels of newspapers) have survived. Multiples of types I and II (pairs, threes, fours and larger) are far rarer than for type III. The only gutter pairs known are horizontal in type III. Only a few unused copies are known of the earliest stamps, ie type I in coarse print. Mixed frankings with the 1863 issue, or with the 1871 Hungarian issue, were permissible at certain dates but are not found.



Mixed frankings with the ½ kr green home-delivery newspaper stamp of 1880 are common: that was the intended usage. Mixed frankings with the 1899 newspaper stamp in heller they are rare but known. Mixed Types are rare; mixed colours less so. Usage as normal postage stamps, or as newspaper tax stamps, was nearly always invalid, but nevertheless is found. (The “catalogue concession” didn’t begin until 1900)

The precise number issued is unknown. According to Müller, one can estimate from the remainders of the year 1873 a total issue close to 2,070,000,000 pieces for the entire monarchy up to 1900. Remainders were available (at 2 heller each) up to the closing of the Collectors Counter in 1919 and were sheets in type III of the last printings, on the thinner, smooth paper. Unused pieces of types I and II as well as the type III on thicker, rough paper are rare; in blocks even rarer. Similarly, one can estimate a sale of 1,150,000 pieces in Hungary.

7.3 Hungary

Until 1867, Hungary, like the other Crown Lands of Austria, was ruled from Vienna; the official language was German, and there was no essential difference between the position of the Austrian and the Hungarian areas. Through the “Ausgleich” (‘compromise’ or ‘settlement’) of the year 1867, Hungary became an independent state, part of the “Austrian-Hungarian monarchy”, with Hungarian as the official language. Only in certain areas (eg concerning the ruling dynasty, foreign policy, or the Army) did the two parts remain united. In 1868 a second Ausgleich joined Croatia-Slavonia to Hungary.

The postal system in Hungary became independent, run by the newly created Hungarian Ministry of Trade. It took over the postal system in Hungary, Transylvania, the Temeser Banat and the Wojwodschaft of Serbia on 1 May 1867; followed by Croatia-Slavonia on 1 April 1868 and the Military Frontier on 1 May 1871. It is often written that “the Hungarian postal system had to be organised completely from scratch”. This is a rather biased view!

The actual position was that the management and supplies methodology had to be developed from scratch, but the postal structure of boots on the ground and post offices did not. That was already there, and they just continued doing their thing. Yes, Hungarian slowly became the official language, but since most of the postmasters were Austrian, it took a while for them to be replaced by Hungarians. They weren't actually kicked out, but had to learn Hungarian to hold onto their jobs. The postal instructions were issued in bilingual form for a few years after 1867: see the year 1867 at https://download.postamuzeum.hu/Postamuzeum_PostaEsTavirdaRendeletek

Of course, life was a lot less complicated in those days, so it probably only needed a couple of dozen managers within the new Ministry to make instant decisions, to review how the system was working, to ask for designs for new uniforms, to organise the printing of forms (it wasn't as though Hungary was that backward!). The postal stores were there already, they just had to be supplied with stuff more locally. The postal procedures were already in place. It was only really the fine printing and perforating of stamps they couldn't do themselves. Much of this must have been pre-planned by politics-watchers in Vienna.

In 1867, Hungary had no facilities to print postage stamps, so it was arranged to produce a common issue (postage stamps and newspaper stamps) for both postal administrations. The State Printing Works in Vienna delivered Hungary's requirements to the Hungarian Ministry of Trade, and charged only the printing costs, not the face value. Neither state was disadvantaged by mis-franking, since the currencies and thus the sale price of the stamps as well as the sales regulations in both countries were identical.

Gary Ryan, delving into archives, proved that the Hungarians intended the 1867 issue to be different from the Austrians, but the Austrians decided they liked it and decided to use it also. Since there was no alternative at that date to printing it in Vienna, there wasn't a lot that the Hungarians could do about that. They decided to change from the 1867 issue in 1871 as a second attempt to differentiate themselves from the Austrians, because by then there was a new Hungarian state printing works and they could do their own stamp printing. In fact the Hungarians demonetised the 1863 Austrian stamps only two weeks after the 1867 issue was available (on 1 June 1867). Mixed frankings from that fortnight are extremely sought after.

7.4 Manufacture of the printing plates

7.4.1 Making the dies

The process used for the manufacture of the printing plates was more troublesome than was really necessary. Instead of using the wooden die as the master, they used it as a matrix, and cast a new working die. This new die was now re-engraved, particularly the head, which had not been successful in the wooden die - unfortunately, in some parts with such lack of success that the re-engraved version was less like the design than the original! This re-engraved die served then as the master die and was used for the manufacture of the printing clichés by the ordinary galvanoplastic processes. If this master die became unusable through any circumstances, they went back to the wooden die and repeated the entire process. This was because of the long period of issue (it was in use for 33 years), so that as well as the wooden die there were three master dies made from it; consequently, one can distinguish three types of this issue. Stamps of type I were issued on 1 June 1867; of type II in mid-1873; and of type III at end 1876. Type I were also issued in fine printing for a brief period around April 1876; perhaps the type II clichés had been condemned (or had rusted) and the type III master was being made.

The stamps in the 10x10 used sheet shown below were cancelled WIEN 1/1 POSTZEITUNGSAMT 1 12.4.96 4-5V, ie in the early morning. This was one of the central newspaper-handling offices in Vienna, and was located at Dominikanerbastei 11-13, the back entrance to the Head Post Office at Postgasse in central Vienna (according to *Lehmanns Allgemeiner Wohnungs anzeiger nebst Handels- und Gewerbe- Adreßbuch, 1894*)



7.4.2 Sheets as distributed

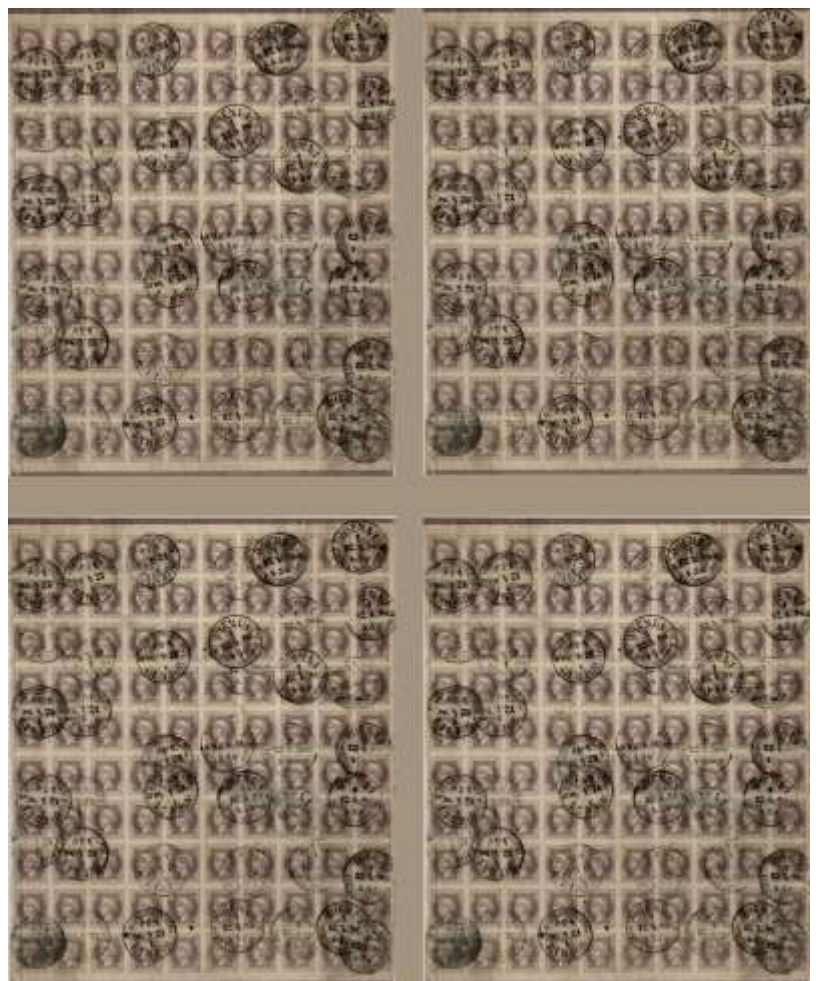
The printing plates for this issue contained 400 clichés, in four blocks of 100 pieces. Above and below each block of 100 were marginal bars or rules, which had different forms (see ‘marginal copies and marginal rules’ below) In all types, inaccurate insertion of the clichés produces oblique or out-of-line images. The vertical separation between the individual quarter-sheets is not ascertainable, since initially sheets were issued with 200 pieces (two horizontally-adjacent blocks of 100); and later, under the ordinance of 22 December 1883, in quarter printing sheets of 100. It may well be true that the top and bottom pairs of plates were tête-bêche, but as no printing sheets of 400 for this stamp have survived we cannot be sure. One suggestion is that only half the printing sheet was printed; it was then reversed and reinserted for the second half to be printed, hence the panes were tête-bêche. More work, but only needs 200 clichés. Müller said that for some editions they were printed tete-beche. The “120/150 book” referred to below has illustrations of four-quarter printed sheets, interestingly all for centes denominations of the 1850 definitives - but showing that 2x2 printing was possible in 1850. There’s no obvious advantage in tete-beche printing; and no surviving evidence either way.

Discounting tete-beche printing, these stamps were printed in assemblies of 100 clichés. Four such assemblies were arranged 2x2 in the forme. Often, the top or bottom rules were marked to denote which quarter-forme they were to occupy. However, no instruction has been found stating how the quarters were numbered - ie, if for example the top left was to be number 1, was the one below it 2, 3, or 4? The possibilities in this case are:

1 2	1 2	1 3	1 3	1 4	1 4
3 4	4 3	2 4	4 2	2 3	3 2

The stamps came from the press as sheets with four 10x10 blocks separated by large horizontal and vertical gutters around 25mm in width. Examples of quarter and half printed sheets are shown in the book “120 Jahre Österreichischer Philatelisten Club Vindobona / 150 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke” published in 2000; see in particular page 41.

The illustration on the right is a mock-up of the full sheet as printed, created by scanning the quarter-sheet shown above and photoshopping it. The outer sheet margins were often removed. Nearly always, this sheet was cut into quarters before despatch to the Postzeugverwaltung, from which the Post Offices ordered it. Occasionally the printed sheet was only cut in horizontal halves. The stamps were sold to newspaper publishers in these 10x10 blocks.



7.4.3 Paper

These stamps were printed on machine-made paper. Until about 1880 this was supplied by Papierfabrik Schlögmühl, and after that by Neusiedler Papierfabrik. The original paper was soft, rough and about 0.09-0.11mm thick; and sheet-watermarked as described below. In 1868 the finish changed from rough to smooth, reverting back in 1869. In 1870 the thickness was increased, but in 1877-78 they reduced it again, introducing a thinner, smoother and rather brittle paper which is only found in Type III stamps. The change of supplier in 1880 from Schlögmühl to Neusiedler was followed in 1881 by a smoother finish.

In 1884 the watermark was changed, as described below, and during the interval a printing of Type III was issued on a thicker (0.08-0.10mm) yellowish paper which seems to have been unwatermarked.

A rare paper variety is laid (gestreiftartige) paper, which has a ribbing visible on the surface, usually in a vertical direction. The inter-rib spacing is somewhat less than 1mm; approx. 22 ribs in 20mm. More frequently occurring varieties are rippled (geriffelte) and “meshy” (maschige) paper.

The paper of this issue had the sheet-watermark horizontally in the middle over two sheets of 100 pieces:

ZEITUNGS - MARKEN

The letters were 23-24 mm high in double-lined Roman characters similar to these; the E, N, M, A, R, & K had internal lines. The total length of the watermark was approx. 445mm. Since the word was present five times on the watermarking roller of the papermaking machine, one can find minor, unimportant differences between the individual letters. In 1884 a change in the watermark occurred: the size and width of the letters remained very similar, but their form changed, the internal lines being removed. The total length of the new watermark was approximately 440mm.

ZEITUNGS - MARKEN

7.4.4 Gum

The gum for the stamps was initially more or less yellowish, being of animal origin as for the preceding issues; later, especially with the stamps on thin paper, it was almost pale. With this thin paper the gum often made it more or less saturated and glassy, so that the stamp design comes through on the reverse. Glue was applied mechanically after printing. The gum was white in colour, but if it was applied thickly it looked yellowish and became brittle. Glycerine was occasionally added to the gum, which made it less brittle, but then the paper became yellowish and brittle! From the early 1890s onwards, gum arabic was used instead of glue.

7.5 Types and subtypes of the 1867 stamp

I'll follow Ferchenbauer 2008. There were three master dies during the 33 years of validity. Stamps of type I were issued from 1 June 1867; of type II from mid-1873; and of type III from end 1876. Type I were also issued in fine printing for a brief period around April 1876 (perhaps the type II clichés had been condemned and the type III master was being made?). Types I and II come in both coarse and fine printing; type III only in fine. All types have subtypes. Plates of mixed subtypes are known, though not of mixed main types.

7.5.1 Type I's distinguishing features



Some clues for type sorting: (a) If posted from Hungary, must be type I and before 1 July 1871; (b) Check the cancel date (as the stamp was usually cancelled on arrival, a Hungarian date with the year first is possible on an Austrian newspaper). If it's before mid-1873 it must be type I; if before end 1876 it cannot be type III; (c) If the top border is broken it must be type III; (d) If the print is coarse, it cannot be type III or IIIa; (e) If the print is fine, it's most unlikely to be type I.

❖ The two triangles above the outer white circle touch each other (sometimes only just).

- ❖ The front helmet border above the forehead is composed of 3 lines, of which the middle one is dotted.
- ❖ The shading of the helmet above the forehead consists in parts of points.
- ❖ The head stands out only weakly.
- ❖ The hair is indistinct.
- ❖ The ear is drawn correctly.
- ❖ The eye looks forwards.
- ❖ The shading of the forehead and the hair flow together
- ❖ At the right wing on the helmet, the first pair of the six little lines have flowed together to two blotches.
- ❖ The rosettes in the corners are uneven.
- ❖ Coarse print: At the throat, head and helmet no particular delimitation between the rear part and the background. The design dissolves gradually into the background.
- ❖ Fine print: The rear part of helmet, head and throat is delimited by the background. The clear throat border arises because the shading does not reach the right border, creating a white border line. The rear throat border (on the right) appears very curved.

The subtypes are distinguished by the presence or absence of dots, meander ends etc; and by printing type and shades. Types Ia - Ie are in coarse print, If in fine.

- Type Ia: break on the right of the bottom meander; break in the frame line at bottom left; right meander extended at top and the bend before it is sloping. Known from 1 June 1867 to end 1867.
- Type Ib: coloured dots between meander-frame and inner design at top right; the bottom end of the right meander is extended; right meander extended at top and the bend before it is sloping. Known from 23 April 1868 to 1872
- Type Ic: small dot at bottom left corner; broader interval between centre and frames; right meander extended at top and the bend before it is flat. Known from 30 March 1870 to 1872
- Type Id: right meander top does not extend above the bend before it; that bend has flat top; left edge of the throat shadow is bordered with a slanting line of points. Known from 11 February 1872 to mid 1873
- Type Ie: break in the second-left bend of the lower meander; right meander extended at top and the bend before it is flat. Known from 3 July 1872 to 1874.
- Type If: exists only in fine print; break on right end of bottom meander; right meander extended at top and the bend before it is flat. Known from April 1876 to 1878.

7.5.2 Type II's distinguishing features



- ❖ The two triangles above the outer white circle touch each other (sometimes only just).
- ❖ The front helmet border above the forehead is composed of 3 lines, of which the middle one is dotted.
- ❖ The shading of the helmet above the forehead consists in parts of points.
- ❖ The head stands out clearly.
- ❖ The hair is drawn clearly.
- ❖ The ear is composed of two handle-shaped lines, of which the outer is somewhat thicker.
- ❖ The eye looks upwards.
- ❖ The forehead shading is separate clearly from the hairline by a white line.
- ❖ At the right wing on the helmet the six little lines are clearly individually recognisable.
- ❖ The rosettes in the corners are uneven.

- ❖ The right wing is delimited with a clear white border line.
- ❖ The outer shading lines of the chin are parallel to the chin's border.
- ❖ The rear part of helmet, head and throat is delimited by the background.
- ❖ Coarse print: The shading on the cheek is composed of larger, coarser points. The throat is not so sharply delimited as with the fine print.
- ❖ Fine print: The shading on the cheek is composed of smaller, finer points. The throat is delimited sharply by the background.

Type IIa comes in coarse & fine. Subtype IIb comes in fine print only, and is the same as II apart from having a break in the bottom right frame. Subtype IIa-coarse: mid 1873 to mid 1874; subtype IIa-fine: mid 1874 to the beginning of 1876; subtype IIb: mid 1874 to the beginning of 1876.

7.5.3 Type III's distinguishing features



Type III only exists in fine print! From 1876. Note that Ferchenbauer-2008 is different from previous editions and from many other catalogues and articles, especially older ones.

Ing. Klauninger (who introduced the Fault Grid) had a more detailed classification than in previous Ferchenbauers. I've shown it, and have chosen to

retain his type IIIId rather than Ferchenbauer's notation for the same stamp of "Type III Plate Fault 17".

Ferchenbauer 2008	Klauninger
III	IIIa
IIIa	IIIb
IIIz	IIIc
III-PF17	IIIId

- ❖ There is a gap of 0.5 mm to 2.5 mm between the two triangles above the outer white circle, so that it connects with the white horizontal line.
- ❖ The front helmet border above the forehead is composed of only 2 lines; neither is dotted.
- ❖ The shading of the helmet above the forehead consists entirely of strokes.
- ❖ The forehead shading is separated from the hairline with a line of colour.
- ❖ On the right wing, the six little lines are clear & individually recognisable.
- ❖ The ear is drawn properly.
- ❖ The eye looks forward, and has a small horizontal line in the middle.
- ❖ The rosettes in the corners are finely and exactly drawn.
- ❖ The rear part of helmet, head and throat is delimited clearly against the background.
- ❖ The side meander end lines are shortened above and below.
- ❖ Lower meander bowed

Subtype IIIb has all the type III features as listed above, except that **there is no gap between the two triangles above the outer white circle**. The type exists only on thin, rather transparent paper. Puschmann illustrates a gradation of "triangle gap" from "fully open" to "closed".

Subtype IIIz has all the type III features as listed above, except that the lower meander is straight

7.5.4 Klauninger's Subtype III d



All type III features as listed above, except that there are 2 points in the top right rosette. Ferchenbauer calls it Plate Fault 17. It is not uncommon in fixed-positions of multiples of Type III clichés - see examples below.

7.5.5 Mixed clichés

Mixed clichés occur within a Type (eg a pair with Ia and Ib, or IIa and IIb) but mixtures of Types (eg Ia with IIa) while possible are not known.

7.6 Coarse vs Fine Print



So great are the differences between the coarse (on the left) and fine printing (on the right) in the stamps of this issue that it is widely assumed these must come from different plates or master dies. Not so: the coarse and fine printings differ because of differences in the setup of the typography printing process. (In German these are called “grober Bart” and “feiner Bart” after the appearance of the Imperial Beard on the definitive issue.)



The stamps were printed from 'plates' comprising 4 sets of 100 individual clichés held within a frame. The plate was placed face-up on the bed of the press; above it were two rollers, a smaller one for the ink and a larger one for the paper. As the plate was traversed forwards and backwards, both rollers rotated. The plate was inked by the smaller roller, the skill of the printer ensuring that neither too much nor too little ink was applied. Meanwhile the paper was gripped to the larger roller, which as it rotated pressed the paper on to the just-inked plate, causing the image to be printed. This roller was steel, covered by a “make-ready” to allow the raised parts of the plate to press into the paper without creating indentations in the roller. The coarse prints were made by printing on a soft base: the printing machine's counter-roller had been covered with felt.

The result was that when printing, the higher parts of the cliché were pressed heavily into the paper, and all the lines of the design thickened, some even flowing together. With this setup, the felt covering of the cylinder became harder and harder, particularly where it sat in contact with ink when the machine was idle, or a machine cycle occurred with no sheet of paper being fed. In this way very inadequately printed pieces arose, in which sometimes whole parts of the design were missing or filled with colour. Frequently, the centre is finely striped instead of full-colour, the structure of the felt underlay showing through the image. It has been suggested that, as was done for the postage stamps, the printers may have glued pieces of paper to the counter-roller to compensate for worn clichés, and circles of felt aligned with the intended position of the head in the stamp design, to emphasise it as a way of imitating embossed printing. Both could fall off, with obvious possibilities for imperfect printings.



These double-images are caused by the felt underlay moving

The paper has also contributed much to the characteristic appearance of the coarse prints. The paper initially used was rough and soft, which strengthened the coarse appearance of the prints. Apart from these main differences, the printing of this issue is quite defective, particularly with type I, but also with type II. Especially striking is a characteristic printing error from type I stamps in 1872, at which Mercury's helmet extends backwards in a bowl shape. The more or less ruled or striped centre is found particularly in type II, as is an apparent double print caused by inaccurate preparation.



Helmet elongated; even more elongated; and truncated

The coarse print was superseded in approximately mid-1874 by the fine print. With this, the counter-roller had been covered with paper, and on this harder base the lines could not print thickened, so that fine prints emerged. Consequently, type I during its first period of issue (which extended to mid-1873) and the first printings in type II occur only in coarse print, while later printings in type II as well as all printings of type III are in fine print. Type I was reused for a temporary issue in 1876 during the manufacture of a new plate, which fills the gap between types II and III. "Retired" clichés were normally kept in storage (where they rusted!); at this time material was expensive while skilled labour was relatively cheap.

In summary: coarse print is found only in types I & II; fine print in types I, II & III.

The difference between coarse and fine print in these newspaper stamps is much more marked than in the ordinary stamps produced at the same time. Their design was not engraved deeply, so that often the recesses of the cliché filled with colour and during printing on a yielding base transferred their colour to the paper, producing the smeared prints of type I and the first printings of type II. When the harder base was introduced, the print became finer, but also the deeper recesses of the cliché no longer printed, so that the appearance of the stamps became entirely different. If one puts side by side stamps of the same types in coarse and fine print, it scarcely seems possible that they come from the same plate. For this reason a fourth type is recorded in many catalogues, which appears between types II and III. However what actually happened at this time, between types II and III, resulted in a new issue of type I, subtype f (in the second half of 1876). Since these new issues in fine print look completely different to the stamps of type I coarse print which appeared before type II, it can easily be seen how it could be taken as a separate type.

Transparent prints are only found on the thinner, smooth paper of the later printings of type III. Apparent double prints, which are rare, occur through a double strike of the printing plate on the paper (mostly in type III), inexact preparation (types I and II) or loose clichés. Break-through or transparent prints are not found with stamps in coarse print on thicker, rough paper. Offprints (more commonly machine offprints, rarely sheet offprints) occur in all three types, for type III however mainly on the thicker, rough paper. Type I is also known in an extremely rare variety with tête-bêche sheet offprint.

Other oddities include the rarely-occurring "Balken" ("beams"), horizontally and/or vertically, which look similar to those found on the 1850 postage stamps, but with a thickness of approx. 1.5mm. They occur between two stamp images, and in types I and II also between stamps and marginal rules (Randleisten). They are produced by the paper grippers on the watermarking or printing machines. Arrowed on the example.

Coloured dots at the vertical sheet margin with a distance to the stamp of 5-10mm are called pin-points (Nadelpunkte) and occur through the inking of needles which were placed, mostly two on each page, at the outer edge of the printing plate to facilitate the exact alignment of the sheets.



Paper faults occur with all types, though most frequently with the thicker issues of type III. During the printing the paper is pushed together, and the print goes over the fold; when the stamp is gummed the fold reopens.

7.7 Examples



Above: top left corner of sheet



Above: bottom right corner of sheet.
Note franco cancellation.



Right:
top right
corner
of sheet.



Left: bottom
left corner
of sheet.



Right: the full-
width rule and
the wide left
margin
suggest that it
is the bottom
left corner of a
sheet.



Piece of parcel wrapper containing 52 copies of a newspaper, posted at the main Vienna Newspaper Post Office on 17 July 1894 and sent to the Wiener Zeitungs-Bureau at I. Wollzeile 6, which is near to St Stephens in the inner city of Vienna. (And about 5 minutes walk from the Post Office!)

Cancelled **WIEN 1/1 POST-ZEITUNGSAMT 1 17.7.94 6-7V** (V = Vormittags so this is 6-7 am). The number of copies is shown by the blue '52'. It is franked with 52 adhesives: two 10x2 blocks, two strips of 4, and two pairs. All are Type III.

The stamps at (as-mounted) column 1 row 9 and column 2 row 4 of both 2x10 blocks are Type IIID, which has an extra dot in the top right cross, suggesting that it occurs at constant plate positions

Wrapper made from old newspaper, franked with 37 Type III adhesives: 3 strips of 10, 1 strip of 7 stamps. Cancelled Wien 27.7.1894. Column 1 row 4 is a Type III D.





7.8 Printing errors






These exist in many varieties, because of the diverse subtypes, different printing processes, and the large numbers issued. The best known of these are:



1. Coloured dots anywhere on the stamp, caused by dirt on the paper; these are not the same as the bad-printing dots in types Ia to Ie.
2. Worn clichés: a large variety of interrupted or displaced frame edges, notches, and broken lines can be found in all three types.
3. Missed printing, line-thickening & blotches of colour caused by paper faults such as wood inclusions.
4. Missed printing caused by dirt on the paper such as lumps, threads etc.
5. Errors in the coarse printing because of defective preparation: these often produce apparent changes to parts of Mercury, eg beard, neck hair, throat, nose, helmet, wings and mouth.
6. Edge effects on pieces from the outer marginal rows & columns. The colour roller met the clichés located here first, and the outer edge of the image was thickened and smeared with surplus ink. This is found above, below, on the left and on the right as well as in all types.
7. Hollow-prints, also called dry-prints, were produced when insufficient ink was applied.

7.9 Marginal copies and marginal rules

The provision of marginal rules above and below the printing plate helped to protect the plate against damage during printing. They were somewhat shorter than the full width of the 10 or 20 clichés, and occur in different manifestations. Nine types are listed here; other sources list 8, 10 or 12! All can be found both above and below the stamps. The left and right edge of the printing plate had no marginal rules. Left- and right-margin copies have a border of at least 4 to 6 mm; copies with 8, 10 and more mm occur but are far rarer. Marginal copies are relatively more frequent with the last printings of type III than other types. These are illustrated as below the bottom stamp of a sheet, but all also occur above the top one. 'Type A' etc is the rule type, followed by the stamp types it occurs in. All spacings in millimetres. I, II, III are the stamp types; c & f = coarse & fine. The drawings are NOT to scale; nor is the stamp of the type the rule is found with!

	<p>Type 'A' - in all</p> <p>Single thick bar. Stamp-to-bar: Ic 2.00-4.50; If 6.50; II 3.00-9.00; III 4.25-6.25 Thickness: Ic, If, II 3.00; III 3.00-4.50</p>
	<p>Type 'B' - in Ic</p> <p>Single thick & thin bars. Subtype B1 (on the left) has the thin bar nearer the stamp; B2 the thicker. Stamp-to-first-bar: 2.00-4.50 Inter-bar spacing: 0.75-1.00 Thickness of bars: 0.40 and 4.00</p>

	<p>Type 'C' - in II</p> <p>4 thin bars, 1 thick bar Stamp-to-first-bar: 2.00-4.50 Total thickness of the 4 thin bars: 1.50 Thin-bars to thick-bar spacing: 0.50 Thick bar: 1.50-2.00</p>
	<p>Type 'D' - in Ic</p> <p>3 thin bars, 2 thick bars Stamp-to-first-bar: 2.00-4.50 Total thickness of the 3 thin bars: 1.50 Thin-bars to thick-bars spacing: 0.25 Nearer thick bar: 0.25; Spacing between thick bars: 0.75 Farther thicker bar: 1.80</p>
	<p>Type 'E' - in Ic</p> <p>4 lines of various and usually different thicknesses Stamp-to-first-bar: 2.00-4.50 Total thickness of the thin bars: around 4</p>
	<p>Type 'F' - in II</p> <p>Thin bar between 2 lines Stamp-to-first-line: 3.00-9.00 Thickness of thin lines: 0.25 Thickness of bar: 0.50 Overall width of bars & lines: 2.50</p>
	<p>Type 'G' - in II</p> <p>Two lines between two thin bars Stamp-to-first-bar: 3.50 Thickness of the thin bars: 0.60</p>

	<p>Type 'H' - in II & first issue of III</p>
	<p>Nine thin lines (sometimes only 8 visible) Stamp-to-first-line: II 3.00-9.00; III 4.50-6.25 Overall width of lines: 3.50</p>
	<p>Type 'I' - in II</p>
	<p>Two thin bars Stamp-to-first-bar: 3.00-9.00 Thickness of the thin bars: 0.90 Spacing between bars: about 1.25</p>

The last issue of the newspaper stamps had plate numbers: white strokes scratched in the (type A) rules, so that it could be easily ascertained which quarter of the printing sheet a single counter sheet originated from. These plate numbers were printed as 1, 2, 3 or 4 white strokes and were scratched mostly on the bottom left or right. Pieces with these plate numbers occur only with type III on thin, smooth paper and are not frequent.



7.10 Colours - mauveine

This stamp is notorious for colour variations – Ferchenbauer lists 14, the latest ANK catalogue 33. Why so? The ink is water-soluble and light-sensitive; so soaking-off is fraught, as is exhibiting.

Warning to collectors who exhibit! The dye can fade noticeably during even one day of exposure, and dramatically so after a week at a brightly-lit exhibition. UV-absorbing protectors should be considered.

The 1867 newspaper stamp is doubtless the Austrian stamp which displays the most and the most striking colour variations. [Incidentally, **none** of them are the Blaßviolett (pale violet) specified in the decree for this issue!] Apart from the fact that the ink used for the first printings had a greater or lesser tinge of mauve, during the numerous printings of the 33 years of issue of this stamp considerable colour differences came into being. The mauve changes easily under the influence of light, and forms all possible shadings, from brownish-lilac through grey-lilac and grey to pale-grey. Stamps with their original colour are extremely rare, but are sometimes found stuck on folded newspapers and so protected; or an offprint may have the original colour on the underside. The colour itself may have altered before or during printing, or may have partly dissolved during the gumming process.

Since there is an immense number of intermediate stages between all colours, an arrangement of all occurring shades is impossible, or at least impracticable. Through the studies of several philatelists (Dörfler, Koller, Weilguni, Psota, Rend) one can list the individual main colours in their chronological order. The most exact listing of the light-induced shadings and discolouration of the violet, which agrees also with today's colour tables, originates from Ignaz Dörfler in the year 1919. Klauninger (in “Die Briefmarke”, Feb-April 1988) states “*In various manuals and catalogues one sees listed shades of reddish-violet, lilac, violet-brown, pink etc. Either these listings are wrong, or the shades have been produced by additional chemical treatment - lilac did not exist as a pure colour at the time these stamps were manufactured, although amongst the many shadings lilac is found as a mixed colour, eg in lilac-brown, black-lilac, etc. Furthermore, washing the stamps repeatedly in water produces over 30 subspecies!*”

However, the late H G White, a professional colour chemist and APS member, observed that many of these writings confuse “colour as a perception” with “colour as the materials required to produce the perception”. He reminded us that “in 1856, William Henry Perkin discovered mauve”, and the chemical he discovered was especially suitable for dyeing silk. [*Perkin was actually trying to make quinine for treating malaria, by using potassium bichromate to oxidise impure aniline containing ortho- and para-toluidine*] The primary colourant, Perkin concluded, is “**Mauveine**”, a chemical soup derived from coal tar with varying amounts of four related 5-ring aromatic compounds. Research in 2008 found another eight (see <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-07239-z>) It seems likely that light can change one compound into another. Google “Mauveine dye structure” for far more detail!

Another source of variation is that the paper contains variable amounts of iron and copper; and was dampened before printing with water, unlikely to have been pure. The Mauveine could react with this!

Only the principal colours can be listed here. Puschmann gives a list of the first known usage of many colours. The (*bracketed colours*) are produced by exposure to light.

Type I coarse: brown-lilac, grey, dark-grey, lilac-brown, reddish-violet, (*blue, light-blue*), grey-violet, violet.

Type I fine: grey-lilac, light-grey, light-grey-violet.

Type II coarse: violet, black-violet, grey-violet, violet-blue, slate-blue, violet-grey, purple-violet.

Type II fine: violet, dark-brown-violet, black-violet, (*slate-blue*), grey-violet, violet-grey, grey, grey-lilac

Type III fine: grey-violet, violet-grey, brown-violet, wine-red, reddish-violet, violet, reddish-lilac.

These stamps are so photosensitive that Puschmann goes so far as to recommend not examining them under strong light, nor sending them to exhibitions. If you do decide to exhibit, mount them under protective film and ensure the frames are covered up outside opening hours. Artificial light is as damaging as sunlight.



7.11 Cancellations

The cancellation of the newspaper stamps for this issue, like all the preceding, was as a rule a matter for the delivery office - so does not indicate the place of sale. In Hungary the newspaper stamps of this issue were sold alongside the simultaneous stamp issue of the independent Hungarian postal administration. They were therefore the first newspaper stamps of the independent Hungarian post. They were only valid there to 30 June 1871; on 1 May 1871 Hungary issued its own newspaper stamps. Mixed frankings between 1867 and Hungarian newspaper stamps are not known. In Hungary only stamps of type I in coarse print were placed on sale; however stamps of the other types cancelled in Hungary are known, since newspaper stamps sold in Austria were valid on Austrian newspapers sent to Hungary and were cancelled on arrival. The same momentous changes occurred to the types, designs and colours of the cancellations on newspaper stamps as on postage stamps - see Müller, Klein etc.



Unusual cancellations, such as this type U.Brod from Ungar. Brod / Uhersky Brod in Moravia, occur because the Newspaper Duty was frequently separate from other activities in the receiving Post Office, so used its own cancellers. The U.Brod is an extremely corroded Postmaster Cancel, not intended for use on mail.

A single uncanceled stamp may be a “springer”: that is, a stamp which has fallen off its newspaper in transit and thus escaped the canceller at the destination office. These are usually partially gummed, and their value is seriously diminished if this is disturbed.

Examples of typical cancellations.



Weyer
(Ober-Öst)



Hohenmauth
(Bohemia)



Weitz
(Steirmark)



Bruck im Pinzgau
(Salzburg)



Feldkirch (Kärnten)



Korčula (Dalmatia)



Ragusa (=Dubrovnik:
Dalmatia)



Görz
(Küstenland)

7.12 Perforations

Newspaper stamps issued by the Austrian postal administration were intended for use by publishers of newspapers and therefore were always distributed imperforate. This was done for a simple reason. The larger publishers, particularly those of daily newspapers, used address labels which were laid out in a column. A vertical strip of stamps was pasted on the sheet which was then cut horizontally into individual pieces, each becoming a franked address label. These were slightly taller than the stamp and separated the stamps between the design if they had been properly pasted on. Often they weren't, and as a result many “cut into the design” stamps occur. Perforated stamps actually would have been bothersome. This consideration by the postal administration for the larger users of course inconvenienced the smaller ones who pasted stamps individually.



Band sent to & cancelled at Hallein. Type IIID stamp. Top & bottom perf 11

It is rather surprising that no-one thought of privately perforating these stamps until 1867. The use of such aids to facilitate the separation of stamps was never prohibited, but it was never expressly permitted either. Privately separated stamps began to appear in 1888 and therefore are found only on Type III on thin, smooth paper. These privately perforated or pierced stamps show a great variety, though all of them are line perms. Expertly perforated or rouletted stamps are found, as well as crude methods like sewing machine perforations. These perforations were applied either all around the stamp, or on two sides only. The large publishers perforated the stamp sheets vertically; then it was easy to tear them into strips, paste these on the label sheets, and then cut the whole thing as described above.



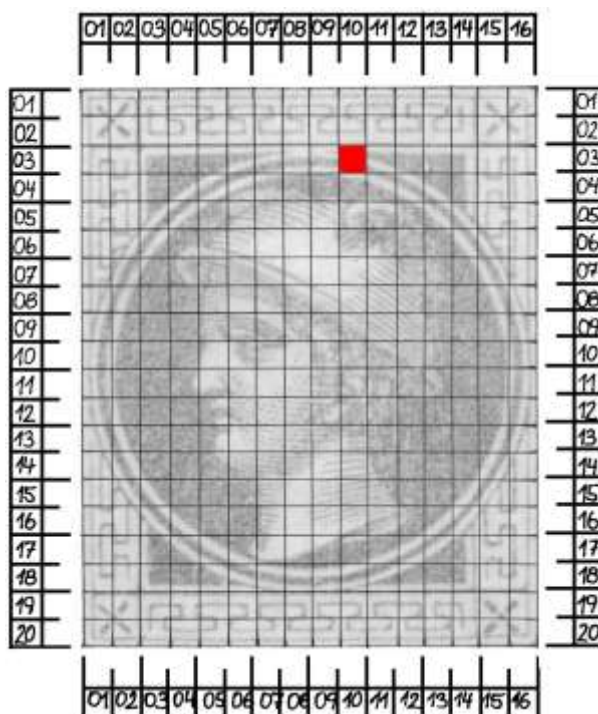
7.13 The Klauninger Fault Grid

A “fault grid” was introduced by Klauninger to indicate the position of faults; it is 20 vertically by 16 horizontally, so that for example “03/10” means the 3rd row and 10th column, both counted from the top left corner.

(NB! This is quite different to the UK Ordnance Survey system, known to generations as “into the house and up the stairs” - take care!).

See ‘Austria’ 148 for an expansion, and a long list of subtypes and plate faults.

See also “Printing errors” above for a top-level list.



7.14 Pseudo-mixed franking

So-called “pseudo-mixed franking” results from a newspaper tax adhesive or signet appearing alongside a letter- or newspaper postage stamp. Newspaper “СЛОВО” (“Word”) printed in Russian on 29 January 1881 (10 Feb in the Western calendar) in Lemberg. 1867 type III newspaper postage stamp cancelled 11/2/81 on arrival at Przemyśl. Posted to subscriber 330, Mr Feodor Lukashevsky, Przemyśl; the address label is handwritten in Ukrainian script. Newspaper taxed 1 kr, applied before addressing; shown by signet nr 30, a non-standard type used in Lemberg.



7.15 Literature for the 1867 issue

7.15.1 The old

The 1867 issue has generated a surprising amount of specialised literature, most of it (and its authors) forgotten and in any case superseded by Müller's monograph. They are recorded here out of archival interest!

- ❖ As early as 1892, the Belgian philatelist and catalogue editor J.B. Moens correctly catalogued the three types of the 1867 newspaper stamp.
- ❖ In 1898, M.P. Castle gave a lecture to the Royal Philatelic Society in London on this newspaper stamp, which was published in the *London Philatelist* #73 of January 1898, pp 15-18. He swapped Type I and Type II.
- ❖ In 1902 and 1908, Hans Kropf published the two editions of his standard work "The Postage Stamps of the Austrian Empire". In it, he uncritically adopted Castle's incorrect editing.
- ❖ In 1914, the Viennese philatelist A. Frank corrected the order of the types in the *German Stamp Journal* and introduced a fourth type. He referred to the fine print of the first type as Type III and the editions after 1876 as Type IV.
- ❖ Ignaz Dörfler also adopted this classification of types in his 1919 publication "Prodromus ¹ of a Monograph of the Austrian Newspaper Stamp 1867", which in addition to its cheerful text includes a precise description of the four types.
- ❖ In 1927, the work "The Postage Stamps of Austria" by Ing. Edwin Müller was published. In the chapter on the newspaper stamp issue of 1867, the author returns to the three main types of J.B. Moens and distinguishes between coarse and fine printing.

7.15.2 The new

From 1936 to 1938, Müller published a monograph entitled "*The Newspaper Stamps of the 1867 Issue of Austria and Hungary*" in 16 instalments in the Viennese specialist magazine "Die Postmarke". The findings made there are still the basis for every work on this stamp today. Following from this, in the special catalogue "Austria 1850-1918", 5th edition by Dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer, the 1867 newspaper stamp was described and treated in detail. This now forms the conventional basis for any special collection.

7.15.3 Consult also:

- *Österreich 1850-1918*, 6th edition by Dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer, Vienna 2008 vol II pp 83-112
- *Österreich-Ungarn / 125 Jahre Ausgabe 1867* by Puschmann König & Schindler, Vienna 1992 pp 117-132
- *The 1867 Newspaper Postage Stamp: the Violet Mercury*, Austria 148 (Winter 2004), by A Taylor, Stokesley 2004 pp 5-47.

The various 1880-1890s editions of "The Postal Service in Austria" by Johann Bartl provide a densely-written handbook of the bureaucratic procedures that had to be meticulously followed. Copies appear spasmodically on the internet, and in the APS website's Online Library.

¹ "A preliminary publication intended as the basis for a later, more comprehensive work."

8 The 1880 issue



Mercury facing left, green. Valid from 1 December 1880 to 31 December 1899. 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, in advance and in cash. In a regulation of 24 November 1850 [Ref 118], the delivery fee had been fixed at ½ kr per copy. The issue and use of the green ½ kr newspaper delivery stamp (Zeitungszustellmarke) were announced on 14 October 1880, and published on 22 October as Postverordnungsblatt 64 [Ref 147]. The ½ kr stamp gave subscribers the option, when placing their subscription, of also paying for delivery of newspapers weighing not over 250 grams. If this address was in the delivery district of the office where the publishers posted the paper, only the ½ kr had to be paid.

8.1 The stamp

The light green 1880 newspaper stamps had the same design as the 1867 lilac newspaper stamps, except that in place of the lower meander is the value “½ kr”. The technical details of this stamp are the same as for its lilac sister. The stamps were made from an 1867 Type III die as master; all are type IIIb apart from a very rare Type IIIa variety. They were printed on the same paper as the 1867, so are found with the two types of watermark.

Ferchenbauer identifies and illustrates 5 shades (matt-blue-green; gold-green; olive-green; emerald-green; and grey-green) but the dyes are photo-sensitive and water-soluble, so reality is even more complex! There are different papers too - but no coarse vs fine printing. Private perforations, which increasingly appeared from 1888, are also found on this stamp. Since the green stamp was only sold to the large publishing houses, the diversity of the perforations is not so great. Private rouletting is also found.

From 1 December 1880, the delivery stamp was required to be affixed to inland newspapers delivered from a state-owned (ärarische**) Post Office. If it were absent, the newspaper was still to be delivered, but its address label forwarded to the Postdirektion. However, this delivery stamp was not valid for delivery from a privately-owned (nichtärarische**) Post Office, the fee having to be paid in cash as was done previously. If present, it was to be ignored. See Section 20 of the 1882 Newspaper Service consolidation, Postverordnungsblatt 26 of 30 March 1882 [Ref 148], which clarified that the pay-in-cash system could also be used at ärarische Post Offices.

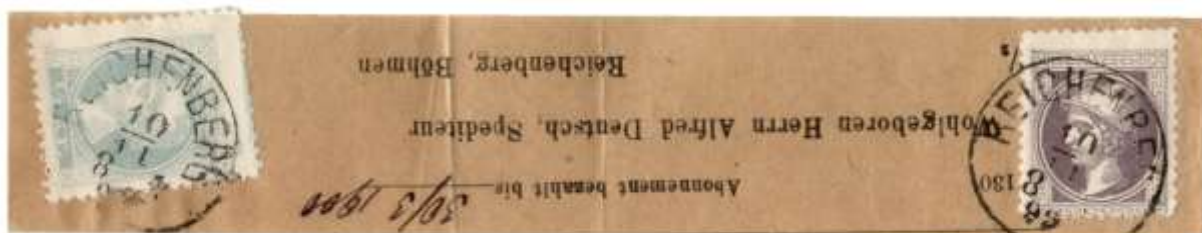
** **Ärarisch Post Offices** were owned by the state and run by salaried state employees. **Nichtärarische Post Offices** were owned by a private person (often hereditary) who employed the staff, paid for many of the requisites (eg the registration labels and the cancellers), but kept the profits.

8.2 The Zeitungverschleißer system

The 1890 Postordnung [Ref 151] introduced the “Railway Station Letter” and added almost as an afterthought that an analogous system could be applied to newspapers. A newsagent - eg a Tabak kiosk, often run by a retired soldier - could sign up as a **Zeitungverschleißer**. He could then collect his bundle of newspapers-for-resale directly from the station; the postage stamps were either cancelled by a TPO or by some official at the station. Such bundles were required to have the label either completely or partly red. The regulations for the “Newspaper Verschleißer” system were developed over the decades as postal subscribing to newspapers, and the Austrian railway network, both expanded. Details and examples are in an Appendix.

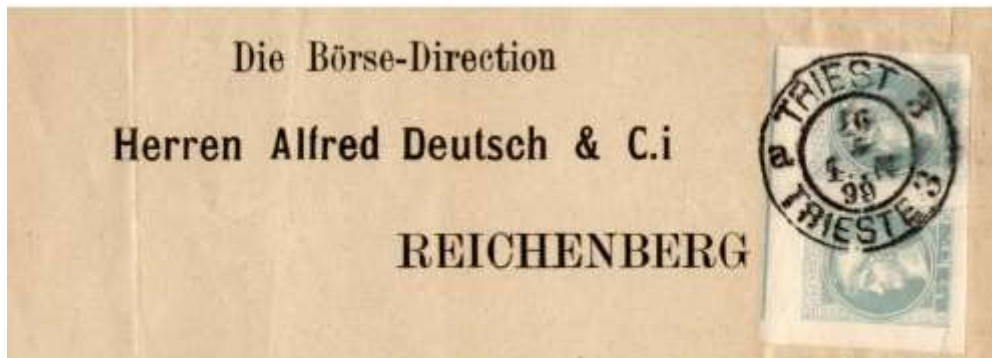
8.3 Examples

1 kr postage plus extra ½ kr local delivery, both cancelled on arrival at Reichenberg on 10 November 1899. Both adhesives privately perforated 11½.





1 kr postage plus extra ½ kr local delivery from somewhere to Baden. Stamps valid till 30 Sept 1900. Office name on cancel is "Baden 1" so it's after 17.2.1896. Klein 192n, gEje. Stohl A0160k, used 1900-1904. But year definitely ends in a 5. Suspect it's 1896 but they haven't changed the year slug.



From about 1890, pairs of the ½ kr could be used to pay the 1 kr postage. A pair of ½ kr used on 16 May 1899 for postage from Trieste to Reichenberg; note sheet top border bar (on the left: stamps were applied sideways!)



The 1 kr and ½ kr combination: Innsbruck to Feldkirch (arrival cancel on back of wrapper)

9 The 1899 issue

Mercury looking left with value figure in all 4 corners. Valid from 20 December 1899 to 31 December 1916. [Refs 152, 154, 155, 163].

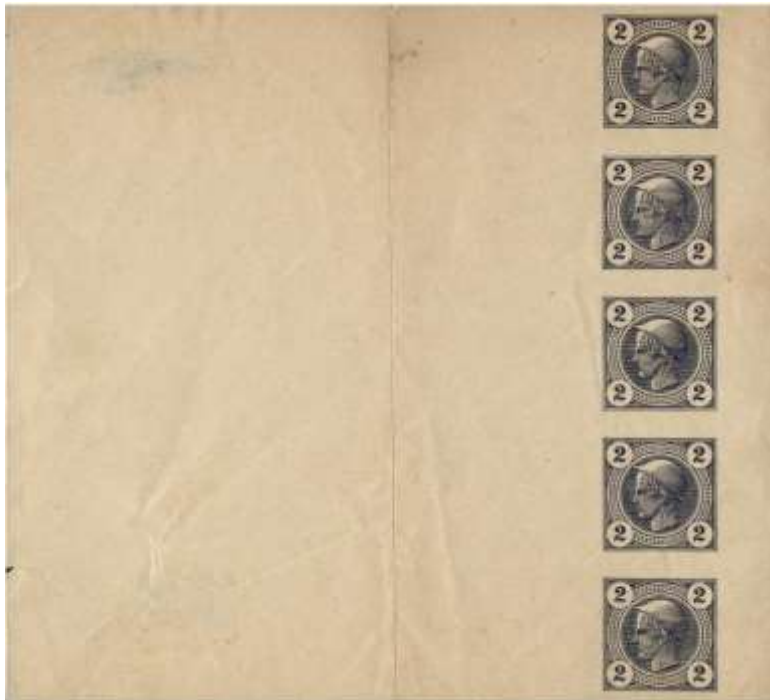


Austria moved to Gold Standard currency in the 1890s, and the new currency of “1 Krone of 100 heller” was introduced to the Postal Service on 1 January 1900. The new rate of 2 heller was more-or-less equal to the previous 1 kr. New newspaper stamps were issued on 20 December 1899. They had a new design, with the familiar Mercury head, somewhat modernized, set in a square frame. As in 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 value was shown in large circles in all four corners; there was no inscription. The old tradition of the blue stamp for a single newspaper had thus been revived. The stamps were valid until 31 December 1916. 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 light green.

The paper was not the ZEITUNGS-MARKEN watermarked stamp paper, but the hard fibre paper used for the new postage stamps. In 1901, the paper was given slanting varnish stripes to protect against reuse, and the newspaper stamps were also printed on this paper, although this was not really necessary. When the varnish bars were discontinued in 1905, the newspaper stamps reverted to ordinary paper. The newspaper publishing houses often perforated the stamps.

The blue stamp was used unusually frequently; more than a thousand million were printed. The other stamps were used comparatively very little, and the higher values are very rare on whole pieces, since they were pasted on the packaging which was discarded. This issue is also found on postal stationery, especially on wrappers printed to private order (from 1905) for which the colour was changed, the 2 h value becoming light green (usually washed-out) instead of blue, with higher imprint values in a variety of different colours. (See appendix on address labels, both official and private.)

9.1.1 Official “address label sheets”



Adresszettelbogen with imprinted newspaper postage stamps were issued under the provisions of 1904 Postverordnungsblatt 25 printed on 15 March [Ref 162]. These are 450mm wide by 300mm high sheets with two columns of 15 imprints of the 2 h stamp in the same blue colour as the adhesives (not green, since these were an official issue not a private printing). The idea was to sell them to publishers, who would then use one of several possible printing processes to add the addresses of their subscribers. The sheets would be cut into strips, each with one address and one stamp imprint, which would be glued on to the wrapper of the newspaper. The experiment was repeated with the 1908 issue, but it must have been unpopular as it wasn't done again. See appendix.

The catalogues [eg Ferchenbauer2008 part III page 85] all say that these sheets came in two colours, buff and green; adding that the buff was for normal use while the green was reserved for those newspapers that produced morning and evening issues on the same day. It is unclear what advantage this brought, as there was no difference in postage rates at this time. Also, the actual used slips do not always agree with the rule.

9.1.2 Zeitungverschleißer

The system introduced in 1890 continued. See the Zeitungverschleißer appendix.

A Zeitungverschleißer was a registered newspaper retailer, and could arrange to bypass the Post Office delivery delay. Their package would have a red address label, and be addressed to them at the nearest railway station, from which they would collect it once the stamps had been cancelled



Wrapper with thirty-two 2H newspaper stamps containing 32 newspapers for delivery to the paper-shop at Stanisławów railway station. Cancelled on 20 June 1902 on the Lemberg-Czernowitz Nr 381 Travelling Post Office. The top left stamp is either creased, or has been assembled from parts of two previously-cancelled stamps!

9.1.3 Newspaper stamps used as postage stamps

From 1900, a reduced-rate scheme operated whereby printed price lists, catalogues, subscription notices etc., provided they appeared at least four times a year, could be franked with newspaper stamps and sent at the reduced newspaper rate. The lowest printed matter rate from 1900-1916 was 3 h, while the newspaper rate was 2 h, so the publishers saved 1 h per item. The scheme was ended at the general rates rise of October 1, 1916. (See Müller's "Die Postmarken von Österreich", p.327; and Ferchenbauer 2008 vol II p.216)



Here, the “Merkury” company of Lemberg is sending its catalogue of imported foreign delicacies to a local customer. Page 16 of this list shows their range of “Ciasta Angielsie”, which are biscuits made by Huntley and Palmers of Reading!

Bartle’s Handbook for 1900 says: The provisions applicable to the dispatch of domestic newspapers and magazines within the Austro-Hungarian Empire can also be applied analogously to printed price lists, catalogues and the like which are issued by commercial enterprises (booksellers, industrialists, merchants, manufacturers, tradespeople, etc.) in the interest of their business and entire business groups and are sent free of charge, for the most part without customer pre-order, provided that these printed matter (a) are published at regular intervals and are sent to the post office for delivery, and (b) have the character of a periodical (appropriate designation, indication of publication dates, etc.).



Above: envelope with single adhesive (no bars); cancelled at Neustadt on 23 Jan 1908 to Wolfersdorf (arrival cancel on back). Below: long envelope sending complimentary copies of “Der Metallarbeiter” to Herr Wobornik, who ran a small engineering company supplying the Imperial Court in Vienna. Cancelled in Vienna on 21 Dec 1901. Franking of 6 h+2 h (neither barred) means it contained 4 copies. The 2 h is an unusually dark blue, and the large right-hand margin shows that it comes from the sheet’s right-hand side.



Heavy and typically non-rectangular envelope, handed in at Post Office Vienna 117 and addressed to the Post & Telegraph office at Smichow station, Bohemia.



Newspaper wrapper with 1899 imprinted stamp cancelled 2/1 WIEN 64 *4a*

10 The 1908 issue

10.1 Jugendstil design

In 1908, RGB032 announced the issue of a new design of newspaper post stamps, again with face values of 2 h, 6 h, 10 h and 20 h. They were to be made available as the previous issue ran out. In addition, the 2 h could be imprinted on privately-supplied wrappers, envelopes and address labels, in green instead of the dark blue of the adhesive. Müller notes that during its validity 2 thousand million of the 2 h stamp were printed, issued and almost completely used up! The other three were less popular; about 20 million of each being used. [Ref 167]



Mercury looking right: mid-1908 to 31 December 1916. The 1908 stamp issue, produced to commemorate the 60th 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 have the Mercury head gazing intently into the future, no inscription, and large value-numerals. Private printings occur; the 2 h stamp being printed in green instead of brown.

The newspaper stamps show on one hand the formal language of Moser in the “Jugendstil” and on the other hand the traditional features of the newspaper stamps: Mercury head, no inscription, large value numerals, no perforation. There were 2 h blue, 6 h orange, 10 h red and 20 h brown intended for packets of 1, 3, 5 & 10 newspapers. Again, the blue stamp was intended for a single newspaper.

Initially the newspaper stamps were printed on the same gleaming chalk paper as the stamps. Later a very thin, hard, translucent paper was used, and finally an ordinary, dull paper. From this issue there is a whole series of varieties, like double-sided prints, offset prints, tete-beche and so on: however they may all be printer's waste.

With this issue the newspaper stamp designs were also used as value impressions for private printings [Ref 163]. As before, the colour was changed: 2 h green instead of blue, 6 h brownish lilac instead of orange. There are also **private wrappers** with several identical or different impressions. “Newspaper Address Labels” with blue 2 h imprints in sheets of 30 are covered in a separate appendix.



10.2 Zeitungverschleißer

Newspaper wrappers on partly or completely red paper are packages for Zeitungverschleißer (“Newspaper resellers”), and are covered in an appendix. This parcel front was used to send three copies of “Die Zeit” (published in Vienna) to Herr Bettenhausen (a Zeitungverschleißer) at Kufstein Station.



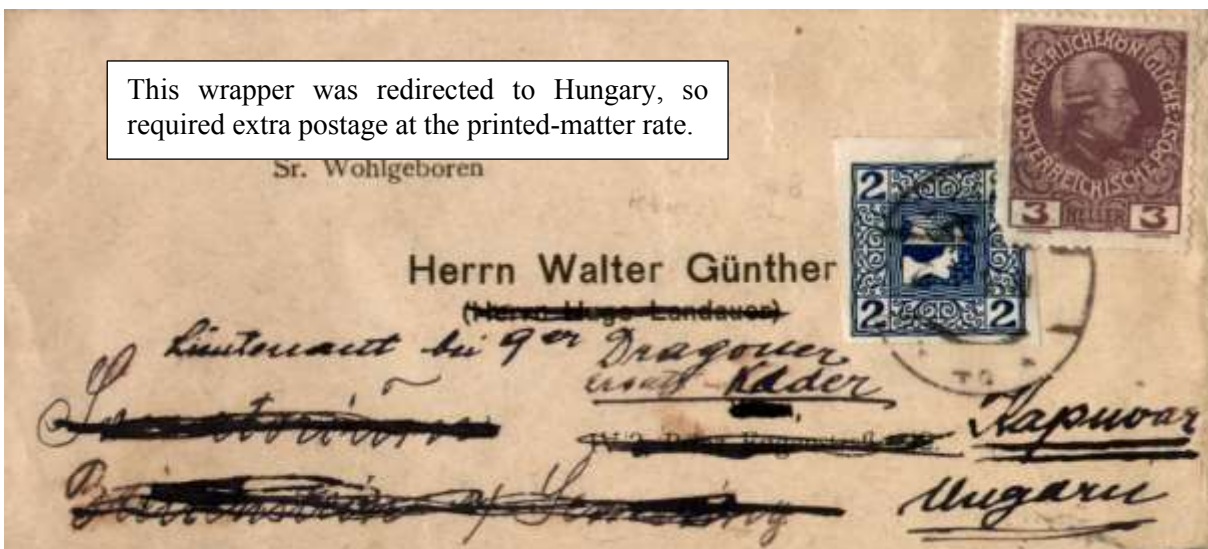
10.3 Newspaper stamps used as postage stamps

The 1900 reduced-rate scheme for catalogues, subscription reminders etc remained in use until the general rates rise of 1 October 1916. It operated with both adhesives and imprints.



10.4 The 1908 issue in use

This wrapper was redirected to Hungary, so required extra postage at the printed-matter rate.





5x6 block with remnants of brown paper on back: apparently genuinely used, so was for parcel of 300 newspapers.



A package of 7 newspapers (so franked 14) sent to Alfred Deutsch & Co at Reichenberg in Bohemia.



Front of parcel of ten newspapers sent to Herr Hainisch at Stockerau and cancelled there on 23 September 1916. Strip-of-2 and strip-of-3 above strip-of-5, all privately (and badly) perforated. The printing on the last line is "Letzte Post:" which means "Deliver to the nearest office, namely:".



The National News from Rovnym near Horni Studenec, a rural retreat to the south east of Prague. Original wrapper with 1908 adhesive. Paper is in 4 uncut folded sheets, each having 4 newspaper-pages on each side; straightforward to print double-sided on A3 if you create the pages in the correct order and facing the right way (see 'Bogen' above)!

11 The 1916 'Jugendstil' issue

11.1 The stamps



The postage stamp issue of 1 October 1916 was produced to cater for a rates rise introduced mainly to raise funds for the war. At the same time, although the newspaper rates were unchanged the opportunity was taken to introduce a 'modern' Jugendstil design using a new drawing by Dr Rudolf Junk. The newspaper stamps are all in uniform design featuring a long inscription "KAISERLICH KÖNIGLICHE ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST" (Imperial Royal Austrian Post) around the Mercury head. The rates remained the same, but five values were issued. The stamps remained valid till 31 October 1920.

The authority for issue [Ref 169] is 1916 RGB 319 "VERORDNUNG DES HANDELSMINISTERS VOM 22 SEPTEMBER 1916 BETREFFEND DIE AUSGABE NEUER POSTWERTZEICHEN"; it also includes stamps for letters etc. The newspaper stamps had face values of 2 Heller brown, 4 h green, 6 h blue, 10 h orange, and 30 h maroon. The 2 h and 6 h were also available as imprints, coloured cinnamon-red and violet instead of brown and blue. The 2 h and 6 h were also available as imprints, coloured cinnamon-red and violet instead of brown and blue. The previous issues were valid until 31 December 1916; they could be exchanged for new ones until 28 Feb 1917. The Law is coy about the actual date of availability of the newspaper stamps, but it was probably "as the previous issue ran out"; they were issued from a central depot in Vienna to local depots from which individual Post Offices requisitioned them.

The new stamps were issued in the usual 100-stamp imperf sheets; gutter pairs are known from uncut printing sheets. Cliché-protecting edge bars produce pieces with marginal bars. The 2 h and 10 h have a wide range of colour tones. Paper faults are known, some being genuinely used. Numerous private perforations are found. The perforations are 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.

11.2 Non-newspaper items

Müller's "Die Postmarken von Oesterreich", page 327, notes that from 1 January 1900, price lists, catalogues, etc. as long as they were issued at least 4 times a year, could be sent with the reduced newspaper tariff and used newspaper stamps. This ended on 1 October 1916, after which only 'proper' newspapers and journals could be sent using the reduced newspaper rates, and the other stuff had to be sent using the printed matter rates. Only in the transition period until 31 October, notes Müller, was the use of the old newspaper rates for these other items "tolerated".

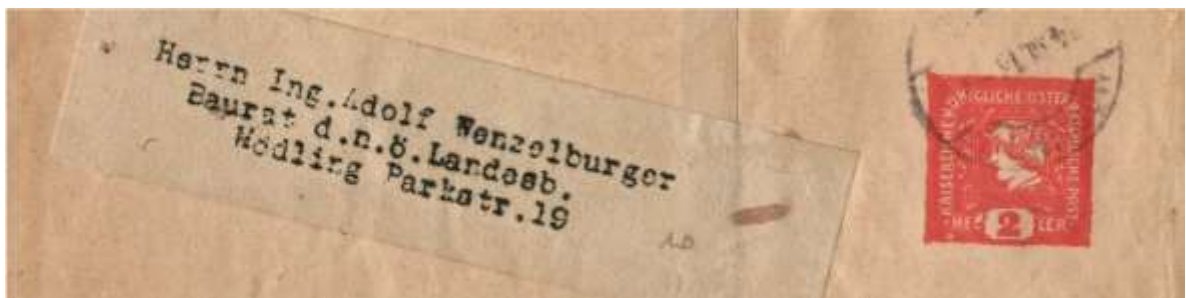


From 1 September 1918, the 2 h newspaper stamp is found used to uprate the 8 h postcard for the new 10 h rate. Rarely, this issue is found used to uprate letters. It was invalidated on 31 October 1920.

11.3 Examples



Part of a very large wrapper from Strefleurs Militärblatt in Vienna to Herr Hašek, Feldjägerbaon 6 at Kolosvar in Hungary (and onwards to FPA297). Franked with 2 h imprint and a 6 h and 2 h adhesive. Despatch cancel unclear, but arrival noted by him in pencil as 19 October 1917.



Typical wrapper with private imprint and address label.



Two strips-of-5 h & single 10 h: 110 h = postage on 55 newspapers. Perfin 'J.' (issued to a Vienna firm)



Copy of “Die Postmarke”, the predecessor to “Die Briefmarke”, edited by Edwin Müller and published by the O.T.V. which is the Offizieres Tauch Verein (Army Officers’ stamp exchange club). It was sent to K Friedl at Wollzeile 8 in central Vienna. The wrapper is an unused sheet from a railway timetable! The stamp, unusually, has a pen cancel.

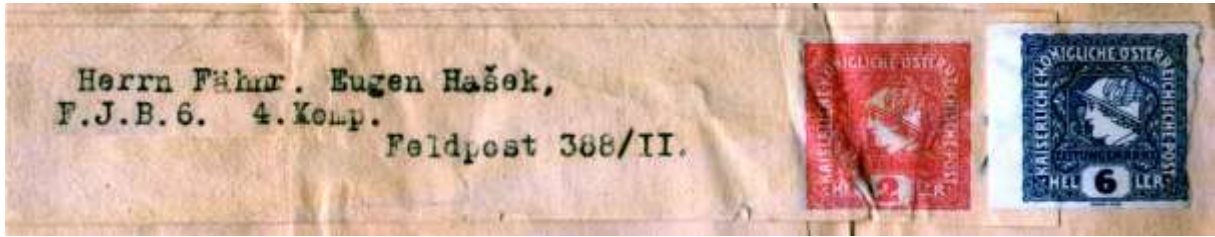


Strip-of-5 h and single 3 h and pair of 10 h = 200 h = postage on parcel of 100 newspapers

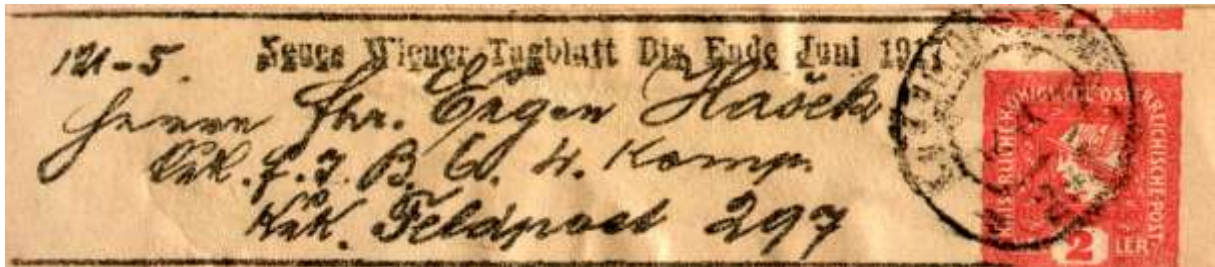


Two wrappers from Vienna to a reseller at Mattsee: 4+10=14h for seven papers on 11 July 1918 and 10+6=16 for eight newspapers on 22 August 1918.

11.4 Privately-printed Addressbogen labels



The address label from a large wrapper sent to Herr Fähnrich Eugen Hašek, 4th Komp, Feldjägerbaon 6 at FPA 388/II. In 1917-18, this FPA operated in the 2nd Army area in the south-east of Austria-Hungary. Franked with 2 h '1916' red imprint on a label from a privately-printed Addressbogen sheet. These sheets had the same format as the officially-printed sheets, with 2 columns of 15 imprinted stamps, except that the imprint was in a different colour. An added 6 h adhesive brings the franking up to 8 h which means this wrapper contained 4 newspapers.



The address label from a wrapper containing the Neues Wiener Tagblatt sent to the same subscriber at Fieldpost 247. Franked with 2 h '1916' red imprint on a label from a privately-printed Addressbogen sheet. Once addressed they were cut up into labels which were stuck on to the wrappers. The expiry date is added to the Neues Wiener Tagblatt to inform the recipient when his subscription ran out.



To Feldpost 259 which was attached to a headquarters unit near Wladimir-Wolynski, then in Poland, now Volodymyr in Ukraine; and cancelled there. The recipient is a junior commissioned officer in a tunnel-digging unit in a reserve formation, so is probably on his way to the front lines. The odds are heavily against his surviving long.

12 As the war ended...

12.1 Stamp issues, 1916 to 1922



Jugendstil
1916

Overprinted
1918

Renner
1920

Dachauer
1922

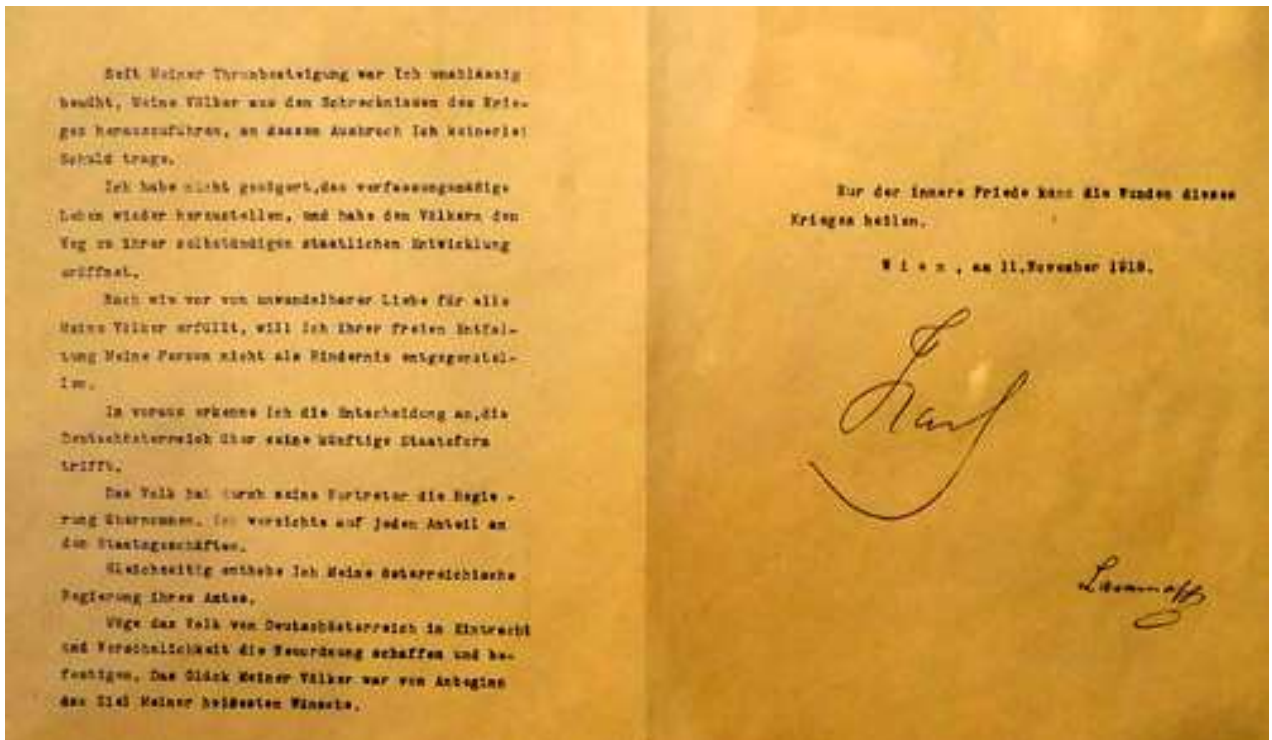
12.2 Timeline

When?	What?
1 October 1916	New stamp issue - Dr Rudolf Junk's Jugendstil design. The newspaper rates were unchanged.
21 November 1916	Kaiser Franz Joseph died; succeeded by his great-nephew Kaiser Karl
30 October 1918	The German-speaking part of the former Empire was proclaimed by the new National Assembly as the independent republic of Deutsch-Österreich (the Allies ignored this).
11 November 1918	Karl "renounced participation in the affairs of government" (but did NOT abdicate)
12 November 1918	Newspaper post inflation period 1 (as philatelically defined) begins
12 November 1918	WWI ended and the Republic of Deutsch-Österreich was proclaimed
2 December 1918	Postal decree 1918 PTVOB067 Nr 67 [Ref 171] announced that all existing stamps would be issued with the diagonal imprint "Deutschösterreich".
10 September 1919	Treaty of St Germain signed
21 October 1919	Proclamation of Republik Österreich
31 December 1919	Postal decree 1920 PVOB001 nr 2 [Ref 215] includes the issue of the "Renner" newspaper stamps
15 January 1920	Renner issue first used
8 May 1920	The Newspaper Post Ordinance 1920 SGB204 [Ref 183] introduced fundamental changes; effective from 1 July.
1 July 1920	Newspaper post inflation period 2 begins
1 April 1921	Newspaper post inflation period 3 begins
1 October 1921	Newspaper post inflation period 4 begins
22 December 1921	Postal decree 1921 PVOB064 Nr 193 introduced the 1922 "Dachauer" series.
1 January 1922	Newspaper post inflation period 5 begins
1 February 1922	Dachauer issue became valid
16 February 1922	Law 1922 BGB091 [Ref 199] announced that from 1 March, rates were unchanged but adhesive stamps were to be withdrawn with no using-up period.
1 March 1922	Newspaper stamps now invalid; all payments in cash.

12.3 Kaiser Karl I: 21 November 1916 – 11 November 1918

On 21 November 1916, when Kaiser Franz Joseph died and was succeeded by his great-nephew Kaiser Karl, little had changed as regards newspaper post since 1851. True, the country was fighting a war, and would soon lose it and most of its territory as the Empire disintegrated. Austria lost much of its raw materials and heavy industry in Bohemia, its food from Hungary (which was itself in turmoil), its access to the Mediterranean, the southern part of Tirol, and for a while its attraction for tourism. To this was added a disproportionately large capital city, the deadly flu epidemic of 1918-19, high unemployment, rampant inflation, a hopeless political split between the conservative countryside and the socialists in Vienna and the industrial centres, black markets, and marauding armed ex-soldiers who started forming paramilitary organisations on the political left and right.

On 11 November 1918 Karl “withdrew” - he did not formally abdicate. In his formal promulgation (shown below), he stated that he “*renounced participation in the affairs of government*”.



Nevertheless, the Post carried on. In contrast to the events at the end of the Second World War, the end of the 1914-18 war and the dissolution of the Empire brought no great interruptions in the postal system. The organisation remained intact, the instructions remained unchanged initially, and the available stamps went on sale again and were cancelled just as before.

12.4 The Meran Emergency Post, 1918



As the Austrian Empire disintegrated at the end of WWI, the Italians occupied the Süd-Tirol town of Meran/Merano in November 1918. The Chamber of Commerce in Meran set up a temporary local post in Vinschgau, the main valley running westwards from Meran. Normally-franked mail arriving in Meran received an additional stamp to cover the cost of the local delivery. Correctly-used specimens are rare.

This example is the black-on-red 2 h local newspaper postage stamp, issued on 25 November 1918 and replaced by a different design on 30 November - so in use for only 5 days. The 2 h 1916-issue Austrian newspaper stamp covered the carriage to Meran. The newspaper is addressed to Naturns, about 15 km west of Meran; both stamps are cancelled with a straight-line NATURNS cancel on arrival, following normal Austrian practice.

13 Proclamation of Deutsch-Österreich: 30 October 1918.

After the end of WWI, today's Austria emerged as a battered residue convinced that its only hope of survival was by union with Germany. From 21 October to 11 November 1918, there were two governments in Austria! On 30 October 1918 the new National Assembly proclaimed by Law 1918 SGB001 "The Republican State of Deutsch-Österreich" (literally German-Austria). It claimed as its territories not just today's Austria but also all German-speaking areas of the former Empire - notably the Sudetenland. Its fundamental purpose was to seek union with Germany. However, France was vehemently opposed, and Germany felt that Deutsch-Österreich wanted all the benefits of a union but none of the disadvantages. Austria's claims fell on deaf ears.

13.1 Postal effects

This is a good place to point out that inflation hit the newspaper post just as for everything else. However, the changes made to cope with it were at different dates from the 'ordinary post' changes, and often were notified in different decrees. Karasek, Kroiss and others refer to Inflation Period 1 etc BUT these are quite different from the letter mail inflation periods and there are only 5 of them.

1st: 12 November 1918 to 30 June 1920	2/2/2h	<i>The meaning of "6/10/15 h" and similar expressions is that the rate for a light-weight posted-flat monthly newspaper is 6 h; for heavier papers 10 h per 50 grams if posted flat and 15 h per 50 grams if rolled.</i>
2nd: 1 July 1920 to 31 March 1921	6/10/15h	
3rd: 1 April 1921 to 30 September 1921	9/15/30h	
4th: 1 October 1921 to 31 December 1921	18/30/60h	
5th: 1 January 1922 to 28 February 1922	45/75/150h	

On 12 November 1918 WWI formally ended and the Republic of Deutsch-Österreich was proclaimed; the weight-independent newspaper rate of 2 h introduced on 1 January 1900 remained unchanged up to 30 June 1920. Inflation hit the newspaper post just as for everything else; however, the changes in postage rates made to cope with it were at different dates from the changes in the 'ordinary' post.

From December 1918, the five 1916 newspaper stamps were issued with a diagonal overprint "Deutschösterreich" ("German-Austria") [Ref 171] to publicise the Austrian desire to unite with Germany despite the vehement objections of France and the discouragement of Germany. They were valid till 31 October 1920.

The newspaper stamps without imprint remained valid until 31 October 1920. In the other successor states of the monarchy the Austrian stamps were furnished with imprints and used until replacements could be produced. From 1 March 1922, newspaper postage stamps were withdrawn, and publishers had to pay in cash when posting.

From 1 July 1920 a fundamental change was introduced by SGB 204, the 12 May 1920 Zeitungspostordnung [Ref 183]. 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. The effect of this change was that from 1 July 1920, the only newspapers whose post was paid by adhesives are those issued LESS OFTEN than 2 or more issues on 1 or more days per week. The rates are: 6 h up to 25 grams; over 25 grams 10 h per 50 grams or part thereof; 50% extra if sent in a roll. Franking problem for up-to-25-gram rolls - no 9 h stamp!

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 October 1921 to 18 h, 30 h, 60 h; and on 1 January 1922 to 45 h, 75 h, 150 h. From 1 March 1922, all newspaper stamps were invalidated and all postage was paid in cash.

13.2 The First Inflation Rates Period

For newspaper postage, this is defined as beginning on 12 November 1918; the rates were still 2 h etc as in 1906. On 29 January 1919, Law 1919 SGB057 was passed (doubtless for some political reason), merging Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones into one Generaldirektion from 1 February 1919 [Ref 216].

13.3 1918 Deutschösterreich overprints

In 1918, PTVOB067 Nr 67 of 2 December [Ref 171] announced that “until new stamps are issued” the existing ones, including the 1916 newspaper stamps, would be issued with the imprint “Deutschösterreich”. The original unoverprinted stamps already distributed would be used up. The overprinted stamps were valid from 1 January 1919 to 31 October 1920



Mint block, showing plate rule central indentation and two dots to indicate plate 2

	<h2>Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt Nr. 67.</h2>	
	<p>Nr. 67. Ausstattung der Postwertzeichen.</p>	
	<p>Bis zur Ausgabe neuer Postwertzeichen werden die gegenwärtig geltenden Brief-, Fil., Zeitungs- und Portomarken, Postkarten und Kartenbriefe mit dem Aufdruck „Deutschösterreich“ versehen.</p>	
	<p>Die bereits im Verkehr stehenden Postwertzeichen ohne Aufdruck werden aufgebraucht.</p>	
	<p>Wien, den 2. Dezember 1918.</p>	

Trials were done to compare a horizontal and a diagonal overprint. The horizontal although easier to print was much less visible, so the diagonal was chosen. On the right is a trial print of the horizontal, and it's evident how difficult it is to see, and how much smaller the rejected design is (19mm long compared with 25mm).



Piece of unused invoice, used to wrap an insurance newspaper sent to Vienna.



Newspaper wrapper, sent to Vienna, with a rare 30 h + 6 h franking. The only rate matching the franking of 36 heller is 18 newspapers in late 1919.

14 Proclamation of Republik Österreich: 21 October 1919

The Deutsch-Österreich impasse lasted for just under one year, until the Allied Powers acting under the Treaty of St Germain prohibited any form of union between Germany and Austria. The Treaty was concluded in English French and Russian only; however, there's a parallel-text French and German version in the Gesetzblatt: 1920 SGB303 pp 995 to 1245

On 21 October 1919, the Austrian National Assembly reluctantly accepted that under the Treaty of Saint Germain any efforts to unite with Germany were banned; and its claim to the German-speaking fringes of Czechoslovakia (the so-called Sudetenland) was rejected. A new law was enacted, 1919 SGB484, setting aside the previous declaration and adopting the name "Republik Österreich" for the country. The law begins rather grumpily "*Deutschösterreich as constrained by the Treaty of St Germain is a democratic republic called Republik Österreich*" and continues with various consequential changes. The creation of a Generaldirektion was one of the first things to be reversed; 1919 SGB496 of 21 October revoked SGB057 and created from 1 January 1920 two separate 'sections', one for Posts and another for Telegraphs, Telephones and Rohrpost. It was explicitly prescribed that the Posts section shall be led by one knowledgeable in postal matters, and the Telegraphs etc section by a technical expert! The name of Deutsch-Österreich remained in use on Austrian stamps until 1922.

Perhaps the new Postal Directorate took some time to settle in, as a series of laws were introduced and then superseded - once, before they had become effective. The Newspaper Post Ordinance of 8 May 1920 will be discussed first, and then the details and examples of the stamp issues introduced to make it possible.

Or, merge them???

14.1 The Newspaper Post Ordinance of 8 May 1920

14.1.1 How it worked

Law 1920 PVOB001 nr 2 dated 31 December 1919 [Ref 215] includes the beginning of the issue of the Renner newspaper stamps, values 2 h, 4 h, 8 h, 12 h, 20 h, & 60 h. They probably became available on 15 January 1920. Imprints were permitted with face values 2 h, 4 h and 8 h in the same colours as the corresponding adhesives.

Law 1920 SGB130 dated 22 March 1920 [Ref 182] (and repeated verbatim in 1920 PVOB 15 of 31 March 1920) announced changes to the 1906 Postordnung RGB251 [Ref 165] effective from 1 July. Henceforth, complex weight-related formula for postage cost of 'daily' papers would apply, with a minimum cost per copy of 6 h. 'Monthly' papers were to pay 10 h/50gram, 6 h for 25gram, 150% if rolled [a 20-gram roll would present a problem as 9 h franking was still not possible!]. Dailies would pay the postage costs in cash; monthlies would be franked with adhesives.

However, before this 22 March law could come into effect it was superseded by the new **Newspaper Post Ordinance of 8 May 1920**, RGB 204 [Ref 183] which came into effect on 1st July 1920. The title of this is Vollzugsanweisungen des Staatsamtes für Verkehrswesen vom 8. Mai 1920 womit eine Zeitungspostordnung erlassen wird; it is 16 pages long and printed in Frakturschrift. I have tried to give a simplified version below, although it may not look simple! As usual, the law was repeated in 1920 PVOB023 nr 16 [Ref 183]. This bears the even longer title Gesetz und Vollzugsanweisungen des Staatsamtes für Verkehrswesen vom 8. Mai 1920 womit eine Zeitungspostordnung erlassen wird. It also includes "**Ausführungsbestimmungen**"; these are explanations, cross-references and so on, placed in long footnotes, which expand the document into 68 pages!

Valiant attempts were made to keep this PVOB and its Ausführungsbestimmungen up to date – it was the primary "how to do it" manual. Regular amendment instructions were issued; most included several deletions of paragraphs and renumbering of subsequent ones. They also featured "Deckblatt", which are new or amended sections to be cut out and physically stuck into the copy of the book held by each Post Office. These procedures mean that all subsequent amendments are to the changed text, ie **changes are cumulative**, and missing one leads to anything from mild confusion to serious error. The same system was applied to the letter post regulations.

[Amendments 1-19 are in 1920 PVOB027 Nr 77 of 30 May 1920; 20-21 in 1920 PVOB030 Nr 88 of 19 June 1920; 22-27 in 1920 PVOB031 Nr 91 of 22 June 1920; 28-60 in 1921 PVOB017 Nr 53 of 18 Mar 1921; 61-68 in 1921 PVOB047 Nr 142 of 21 Sep 1921; 69-90 in 1921 PVOB065 Nr 201 of 24 December 1921; and 91-103 in PVOB009 Verf36 of 18 Feb 1922]

Article IV of the law says that it replaced all previous laws etc that dealt with newspaper post, which it does not list. So we can discard the old law (1906 RGB251 of 23 December) and its amendments, and wipe the slate clean, which is much easier to understand than having to take account of previous documents that you haven't found. "It's the unknown unknowns that cause the greatest trouble."

14.1.2 What does the 1920 Ordinance prescribe?

Summary: For registered publishers only, the rates for newspapers and magazines depended on how often they were printed (daily, weekly etc) and on the total weight (including all supplements) for the year. The "basis weight rate" was 2 kronen per kilogram per year, which was increased to 3 kr on 1 April 1921, 6 kr on 1 October 1921, and 14 kr on 1 January 1922. There were also minimum rates per copy: printing on tissue paper would have been fruitless! Dailies paid their postage monthly in cash. Monthlies were to be franked at 10 h/50gram, + 50% if rolled, 6 h for 35 gram (rolling an up-to-35-gram item was forbidden).

In anticipation, values of 5 h 6 h & 10 h were issued in June 1920 (PVOB 030 Nr 87). On 1 March 1921, further values of 9, 15, 30 and 45 heller were issued (PVOB 017 Nr 52); and on 1 October 1921 yet more values of 18, 72, 90 heller and 1.2, 2.4 and 3 Kronen (PVOB 047 Nr 144). There was never a time when all 19 values were simultaneously available at the post office counters, since the low values were withdrawn or exhausted

Sections 5 & 6 of the Zeitungspostordnung lists in great detail what does and does not qualify as a newspaper: for example (yes:) samples and specimens illustrating technical articles as long as they're not too thick; price-lists delivery-possibilities and subscription-forms; adverts; (no:) handwritten supplements; prospectuses; almanacs; items published less than once a quarter; anything over 500 grams weight. [See also sections 22-23 below]

Section 10 defines a 'daily' paper as one published at least once each day, or failing that at least once a week, or if irregularly published then with a yearly total averaging at least once a week. Section 17 defines a 'monthly' as a paper published less than once a week. [One can predict bureaucratic boundary disputes!]

Section 11 gives the typically-complex method of charging for the postage of 'daily' papers.

- For daily newspapers published not more than once a day: assemble one copy of each issue for the period 1st October to the following 30th September; weigh it in kilograms; calculate a fee as 2 Kronen per kg; divide by 52 to get a weekly fee; divide that by the number of days in each week when the paper is issued; if result less than 6 then call it 6; this is the rate per copy in Heller. Payment is in cash, against a monthly invoice, so it doesn't matter if there is no adhesive corresponding to the rate.
- For daily newspapers which on one or more days per week publish more than one issue (eg a morning & an evening issue) and post them all at the same time: work out the rate-per-copy as above, including every issue.
- For daily newspapers which on one or more days per week publish more than one issue (eg a morning & an evening issue) and post them at different times: work out the rate-per-copy as above, including every issue. Each sending pays the rate-per-copy and in addition a supplementary fee of 1/20th of the weekly fee.
- All these weighty sums are to be done to the milliHeller, and the results submitted by 10 November each year for the following year.

Section 14: the Post Office keeps records of what's posted and calculates the postage costs for each month, invoicing the publisher by 10th of the following month; he must pay by the 20th in cash. If your designated office is Wien 1 you can opt to pay by Postsparkasse transfer. If you don't pay, your newspapers will be barred from the newspaper service.

If you don't publish often enough your paper is transferred to the monthly system. Since this means your payment for postage changes from monthly-in-arrears to adhesives bought for cash in advance, it would cause a severe cash flow crisis to the publisher.

Sections 18 to 20 deal with the postage rates for monthly papers. Each copy with its supplements, permitted inclusions etc is to be weighed. The rate is then 10 heller per 50 grams; if rolled up it costs 50% more; if not over 35 grams it costs 6 h and must not be rolled. If several copies are posted in the same wrapper, the cost for each is calculated and the total cost levied.

The postage on monthlies is to be paid with newspaper stamps, which are not valid for anything else. The franking must be correct [presumably overpaying was tolerated!]; un- or partly-franked items noticed at the handing-in office would be rejected. The placing of the adhesives was prescribed in detail: on the wrapper, on the envelope, on or next the address label; and they must all be visible. If in a bundle or to a local address, they were to be cancelled at the office of posting; otherwise at the delivery office; if the delivering person noticed uncanceled stamps he was to cancel them by crossing out or some similar method.

Sections 22 & 23 deal with Beilage; I thank Henry Pollak for patiently trying to reduce my misunderstandings thereof. There are two different kinds of Beilagen (ie supplements or inserts): those added by the newspaper publisher, and those which another person or corporation are paying to have distributed with the newspaper.

Section 22(1) says that printed matter which in form, paper, printing and other characteristics doesn't look like components of the newspaper itself may be included for mailing with the newspaper. In particular, those additions which the publisher of the newspaper includes on regularly recurring occasions (be they art prints, books, transport schedules, calendars, or other such printed matter) may be sent as a special category called Beilage.

Section 22(2) says: (a) The enclosures may not contain any handwriting;

(b) They must be of such a nature as to cause no alteration in the usual way in which the newspaper is wrapped;

(c)(1) An insert which originates from other persons or businesses who are paying the publisher to include it with the newspaper is permitted; such a Beilage may not weigh more than 30 grams;

(c)(2) In all other cases, the total weight of the particular issue of the newspaper including the inserts may not exceed 500 grams;

(d) An other newspaper can be treated as a regular periodic Beilage to the main newspaper but only if this fact is announced in the original newspaper (it doesn't matter if it is connected to the main newspaper or not).

Section 23(1) says that those Beilagen which come from the newspaper publisher himself AND are included with the entire edition of the newspaper (as opposed to the copies destined for only a part of its readership) are included with the weighing and postage-computations of the newspaper.

Section 23(2)(a) states that all other supplements are paid for in a different way, as follows: weigh one copy of each Beilage to the nearest gram; compute the total weight of all these Beilagen; pay 2 Kronen for each kilogram.

Section 23(2)(b) requires the publisher to notify in writing the weight of one of each such Beilage and the total weight of all of them to his post office. The post office tests the weight, and does sample inspections of the count.

Section 23(2)(c) lays down that when the publisher delivers an edition which contains the Beilagen to the post office, he has to pay the Beilagen fee in cash. If the total sum is not divisible by 10, it gets rounded up. The publisher gets a receipt.

Section 37 describes the Railway Station Newspaper (introduced in the 1890 Postordnung). A publisher could arrange that a parcel of newspapers was collected from the station by the addressee instead of delivered by the postman; this would make the paper available for sale sooner. They were to be bundled separately, with a red wrapper.

We will see later that a cycle was established: a law raised the rates and maybe altered the calculation basis; adhesives of suitable face values were printed and issued, the rate change took effect; meanwhile inflation accelerated and yet another rates rise and accompanying stamps was needed. Eventually, in March 1922, the authorities gave up this particular struggle.



14.1.3 Worked examples (mine not theirs)

Illustration I: I publish 500 copies of a monthly journal "Austrian Philately"; a copy weighs 120 grams; each quarter it routinely includes a separate Auction List weighing 50 grams. It's posted flat, so the rate is 10 Heller per 50 grams or part. The normal copy falls in the third weight band (101-150g) so costs 30 h. With the auction list it falls in the fourth band so costs 40 h. As this is a monthly paper, I apply adhesives to each copy's wrapper. The total cost per month is $500 \times 30 \text{ h} = 15 \text{ Kr}$ without the list, $500 \times 40 \text{ h} = 20 \text{ Kr}$ with.

Illustration II: The Miss Plaste Trust want me to include their 30-gram holiday brochure with the next issue. This is a Beilage, so I tell the post office to expect 500 30-gram brochures. This will cost $500 \times 30\text{-gram} = 15\text{Kg}$ at 2 Kronen per Kg = 30 Kronen, which I have to hand over in cash when I post the journal-with-inclusion.

Illustration III: I decide to save money by not sending auction lists to the 10 members with red hair. That means that the list no longer qualifies for inclusion with the newspaper for postage calculations, as not all subscribers are to receive it; instead it's a Beilage. So, all the copies of the journal cost 30 h as calculated in Illustration I; copies accompanied by the list also pay the Beilage charges. These are: 490 auction lists of 50 grams = 24.5Kg at 2 Kr per Kg = 49 Kr. Hence, it costs me an extra 44 Kr to not send copies to the red-haired members!

14.1.4 Obsoleting

As often happens, reality was even more complex than the above descriptions, because of a practice I have named "obsoleting". When a particular value of a stamp issue is officially "obsoleted", this means that no more are to be printed, but any residue in the hands of publishers (the only authorised users) can either be used for postage, or exchanged (for a fee) at their designated Post Office for current values. Items can be found 'overfranked', eg a 20 h stamp to pay an 18 h rate; since the publisher had already bought and paid for the stamp, the cheapest thing to do with it would be to use it.

14.2 Second inflation rates period begins: 1 July 1920 [6/10/15 h]

[The meaning of "6/10/15 h" and similar expressions is that the rate for a light-weight posted-flat monthly newspaper is 6 h; for heavier papers 10 h per 50 grams if posted flat and 15 h per 50 grams if rolled.]

14.2.1 Preparing for inflation period 3

1920 PVOB037 Nr 104 issued on 19th July withdrew some D-Ö-overprints from 31 October 1920. It is unclear from the wording if the newspaper ones were included, although it is likely that they were as no other instruction has been located.

1921 BGB060 dated 17 January 1921 [Ref 184] and repeated as 1921 PVOB003 Nr 3 on 20 January 21 [Ref 189]. Rates up as from 1 April 1921. Dailies "basis weight rate" 3 Kr/kg, 9 h min per copy; monthlies to be franked at 15 h per 50gram, doubled if rolled, 9 h for 35gram. Rolled 35g not mentioned so previous ban would stay.

1921 PVOB017 Nr 52 of 17 March 1921 [Ref 190] announced the issue of new values of 9 h, 15 h, 30 h, 45 h; the 6 h was obsoleted; the 5 h, 10 h, 20 h, and 60 h remain current. Also, only monthlies are to be franked; dailies are to be paid in cash. Imprints are available of the 9 h, 15 h, 30 h, 45 h and 60 h values, in the same colours as the corresponding adhesives.

14.3 Third inflation rates period begins: 1 April 1921 [9/15/30 h]

14.3.1 Preparing for inflation period 4

1921 BGB360 of 12 July [Ref 185], repeated in 1921 PVOB037 Nr 23 of the same date, raised the rates from 1 October 1921. Dailies "basis weight rate" 6 Kr/kg, 18 h min per copy; monthlies to be franked at 30 h/50gram, doubled if rolled, the reduced rate for 35gram items was 18 h.

1921 PVOB047 Nr 144 of 26 September 1921 [Ref 193] notes the issue of more new values, of 18 h, 72 h, 90 h, 120 h, 240 h, and 300 h; the 5 h, 9 h, 10 h, 15 h, 20 and 45 h were obsoleted; 30 h and 60 h remained current

14.4 Fourth inflation rates period begins: 1 October 1921 [18/30/60 h]

14.4.1 Preparing for inflation period 5

1921 BGB620 of 11 November [Ref 187] repeated in 1921 PVOB056 Nr 28 of the same date raised the rates from 1 January 1922. Dailies “basis weight rate” 15 Kr/kg, min 45 h per copy; monthlies to be franked at 75 h per 50gram, doubled if rolled, the reduced rate for 35-gram items was 45 h.

1921 BGB704 of 16 December [Ref 188] repeated in 1921 PVOB061 Nr 31 of 16 November 1921 contains lengthy Madrid-UPU inspired amendments for the Newspaper Postal Ordinance; most concern the arrangements for posting abroad.

1921 PVOB064 Nr 196 of 20 December 1921 [Ref 197] is the then-current list of about 150 newspapers that qualify as “daily”.

14.5 Fifth inflation rates period begins: 1 January 1922 [45/75/150 h]

Law 1922 BGB091 of 16 February [Ref 199] as reprinted in 1922 PVOB009 Nr 5 of 21 February [Refs 208-212] (see next page) announced that from 1 March, rates were to remain 45 h/75 h/150 h but the newspaper post adhesive stamps were to be withdrawn with no using-up period. **ALL PAYMENTS WERE TO BE MADE IN CASH FROM 1 MARCH.** This would have benefited the Post Office, which didn’t have to produce a rapidly changing series of denominations as the ravages of inflation took hold; and also the publishers, who didn’t have to buy the stamps a few days previously, paying in cash, nor have to employ people to stick them on.

Explanatory memos include (a) 1922 PVOB009 Verf. 34 of 18 February 1922 [Ref 210] *Monthlies now to be paid in cash* (b) 1922 PVOB009 Verf. 35 of the same date [Ref 211] *Procedure for handling leftover adhesives* (publishers could exchange unused ones for letter-post stamps until end March). Imprinted wrappers “could be used up until further notice”; some sources state that they retained validity till the end of June, or of September. Maybe they simply faded away, as the stocks were used up and not reprinted. No specimens are known to me from any date after February.

14.6 Newspaper stamps now invalid; all payments in cash: 1 March 1922

The Dachauer issue is the last newspaper postage issue of Austria. I have no examples of newspaper wrappers posted on or after 1 March 1922 without adhesive stamps – perhaps philatelists deemed them not worth keeping.

1922 BGB200 of 10 April [Ref 200] again raised the rates; daily & monthly were stated separately but are the same, and are based on weight: 30 kr/yearly-kg. Minimum now 90 h/copy; rolls still double rate and banned under 30gram. Beilage 30 Kr/kg

On 5 July 1922, BGB406 [Ref 201] was issued promulgating a new Postordnung (effective 15 July) and repealing the old one (22 September 1916) and its amendments (which are listed: a useful source of the laws quoted above!). There is no mention of newspapers.

1922 BGB431 of 8 July [Ref 202] contains changes to the 1920 Newspaper Postal Ordinance effective 1 August; no explicit mention of rates

1922 BGB572 of 2 August [Ref 203] gives new rates for Wertbrief, Postanweisungen, etc. Inland newspaper rates doubled.

1922 BGB707 of 24 September [Ref 205] promulgates the **new Newspaper Postal Ordinance** effective 1 October, and repeals various listed preceding laws and amendments (strictly speaking, any others are thus still valid). The rates were: daily 60 Kr/kg, per-copy 180 h minimum; monthly the same; rolls over 30gram double rate.

This ends this survey of the post-WWI Laws, Decrees, Regulations, Instructions *et hoc genus omne*. We’ll now look at the actual stamps!

Postverordnungsblatt Nr. 9 ⁷¹

Herausgegeben von der Postektion des Bundesministeriums für Verkehrswesen. Wien, den 21. Februar 1922.

Inhalt: Gesetze und Verordnungen: 5. Verordnung des Bundesministeriums für Verkehrswesen vom 16. Februar 1922, betreffend die Abänderung der Zeitungspostordnung. — **Verfügungen:** 34. Barfreimachung der Monatschriften. — 35. Auflassung der Zeitungsmarken. — 36. Berichtigung der Zeitungspostordnung (Nr. 91 bis 103). — 37. Ausweis über die Monatschriften. — 38. Widerruf von Zeitungsbestellungen. — 39. Auflassung von Druckorten für den Zeitungsdienst. — 40. Gewichtsgrenze für portofreie Korrespondenzen. — 41. Bankkommission, Portofreiheit. — 42. Wertgrenze bei telegraphischen Meldungen der Postämter über Verluste von Postsendungen und Ladungsgegenständen. — 43. Erhöhung des Verschleißpreises der Zollinhaltsklärungen für statistische Zwecke.

Nachrichten.

Nr. 35. Auflassung der Zeitungsmarken.

Mit Rücksicht auf die Einführung der Barfreimachung für die Monatschriften wird auf Grund des § 15, Z. 1 P.O. nachstehendes verfügt:

1. Die Zeitungsmarken werden mit 1. März 1922 aufgelassen.
2. Vom 1. März 1922 angefangen verlieren die Zeitungsmarken aller derzeit noch im Verkehr stehenden Ausgaben (einschließlich der Ausgabe 1922) in sämtlichen Wertstufen ihre Gültigkeit für Freimachungszwecke.
3. Vom gleichen Zeitpunkte an wird der unmittelbare Ausdruck von Zeitungsmarken auf Umschlägen, Streifbändern und Adresszetteln bei der Staatsdruckerei eingestellt.
4. Die Postämter haben die Ende Februar 1922 unverkauft verbliebenen Zeitungsmarken aller Ausgaben und Wertstufen sofort mittels Abfuhr- und Gegencheines an ihr Postzeugamt (Wertzeichenlager der Postzeugverwaltung) abzuführen, die Postzeugämter haben die abgeführten Marken unter Anschluß ihrer eigenen Restbestände bis 15. März 1922 an das Wertzeichenlager der Postzeugverwaltung einzusenden.
5. Die in den Händen der bezugsberechtigten Herausgeber befindlichen unverwendeten fehlerfreien Zeitungsmarken können bis Ende März 1922 entweder kostenlos gegen Briefmarken im gleichen Gesamtwertbetrage umgetauscht oder zum Nennwerte zurückgekauft werden. Es macht hierbei keinen Unterschied, ob die Marken in Blättern oder einzelnen Stücken, unaufgeklebt oder auf Schleifen usw. aufgeklebt, zum Umtausch oder Rückkauf eingeliefert werden. Der Umtausch oder Rückkauf ist im Fassungs-buche zu vermerken. Im übrigen gilt § 19 der Postordnung.
6. Die Postämter haben die durch Umtausch oder Rückkauf zurückerhaltenen Zeitungsmarken bis 10. April 1922 mittels Abfuhr- und Gegencheines an ihr Postzeugamt (Wertzeichenlager der Postzeugverwaltung) abzuführen und den Geldwert der abgeführten Zeitungsmarken in der Monatsrechnung zur Post 20 „Geldwert der abgeführten Postwertzeichen“ in Ausgabe zu verrechnen. Die Postzeugämter haben diese umgetauschten oder rückgekauften Zeitungsmarken bis Ende April an das Wertzeichenlager der P.Z.V. abzuführen.
7. Die in den Händen der Herausgeber befindlichen Umschläge, Streifbänder und Adresszettel mit unmittelbarem Zeitungsmarkenausdruck können bis auf weiteres noch verwendet werden.

(18. Februar 1922.)

15 The post-WWI stamp issues.

The 1916 stamps remained valid until the 1920 rates change.



Wrapper for seven copies of a newspaper sent from Vienna to Bohemia; cancelled in Vienna on 16 January 1919. The stamps were valid until 31 October 1920.



Wrapper, with a just-legible cancel of 16 July 1919. The 16 h franking is for 8 newspapers irrespective of weight; mixed-denomination frankings are less common.



Another similar, with a rare 30 h+6 h franking. The only rate matching that is 18 newspapers in late 1919.

16 The 1920 “Renner” issue



When the postage rates increased on 15 January 1920, newspaper stamps were required and a new design was chosen even though the rates remained the same. This gave the opportunity to get away from the newspaper stamps of the monarchy, and to adjust the newspaper stamps to the style of the other stamps. The “Renner issue” was named after the designer J F Renner, not the politician Karl. It showed Mercury full-face surmounted with “Deutschösterreich”. As inflation bit, 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 [Ref 190]. Valid from 1920/21 till 28 February 1922.

The printing was on ordinary, white paper. The 15 h, 18 h, 20 h, 30 h, 60 h, 90 h & 3 Kr values were also printed on a thick, grey paper. Edge bars occur. Evidently due to the complicated drawing, there is for this issue an immense number of plate errors. Many perforation errors exist, including pairs with imperf middle, double perforations etc. Private perforations were not so diverse as formerly. Various values of this issue were used also for private impressions, which were specifically announced in the Postal Ordinances; the colours of the imprints were the same as for the stamps. Some stamps show marginal “needle marks” (small coloured dots) used for sheet registration when printing.



16.1 Issuing the Renner issue

A given value was only released from the warehouse to the post offices when the previous version (mainly the D-Ö overprinted 1919) had run out or been invalidated and when there was a need for them. Kroiss (see refs at end) tabulates the earliest known usage dates of each value, and for example the 2 h, notionally issued in mid-January 1920, isn't found before March since the 2 h from 1919 was available. The 5 h however was issued in June 1920 and recorded in use from July; no combination of the 1919 values 2, 4, 6 and 10 makes 15 h, the rate for a rolled newspaper from 1 July.

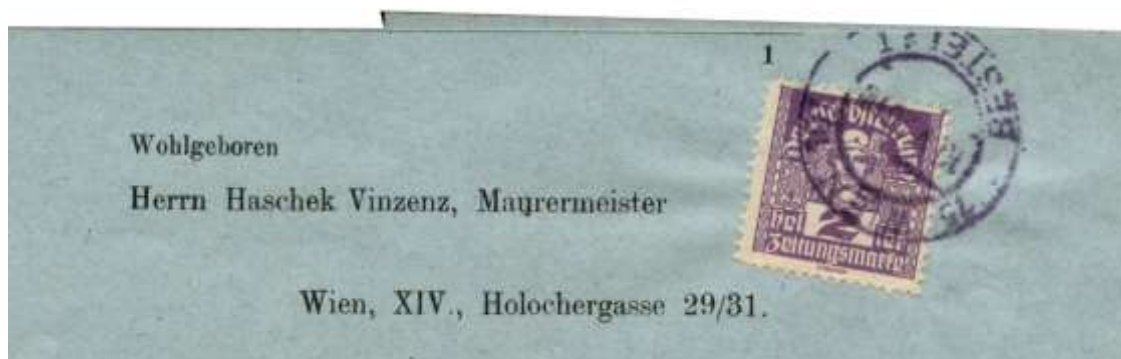
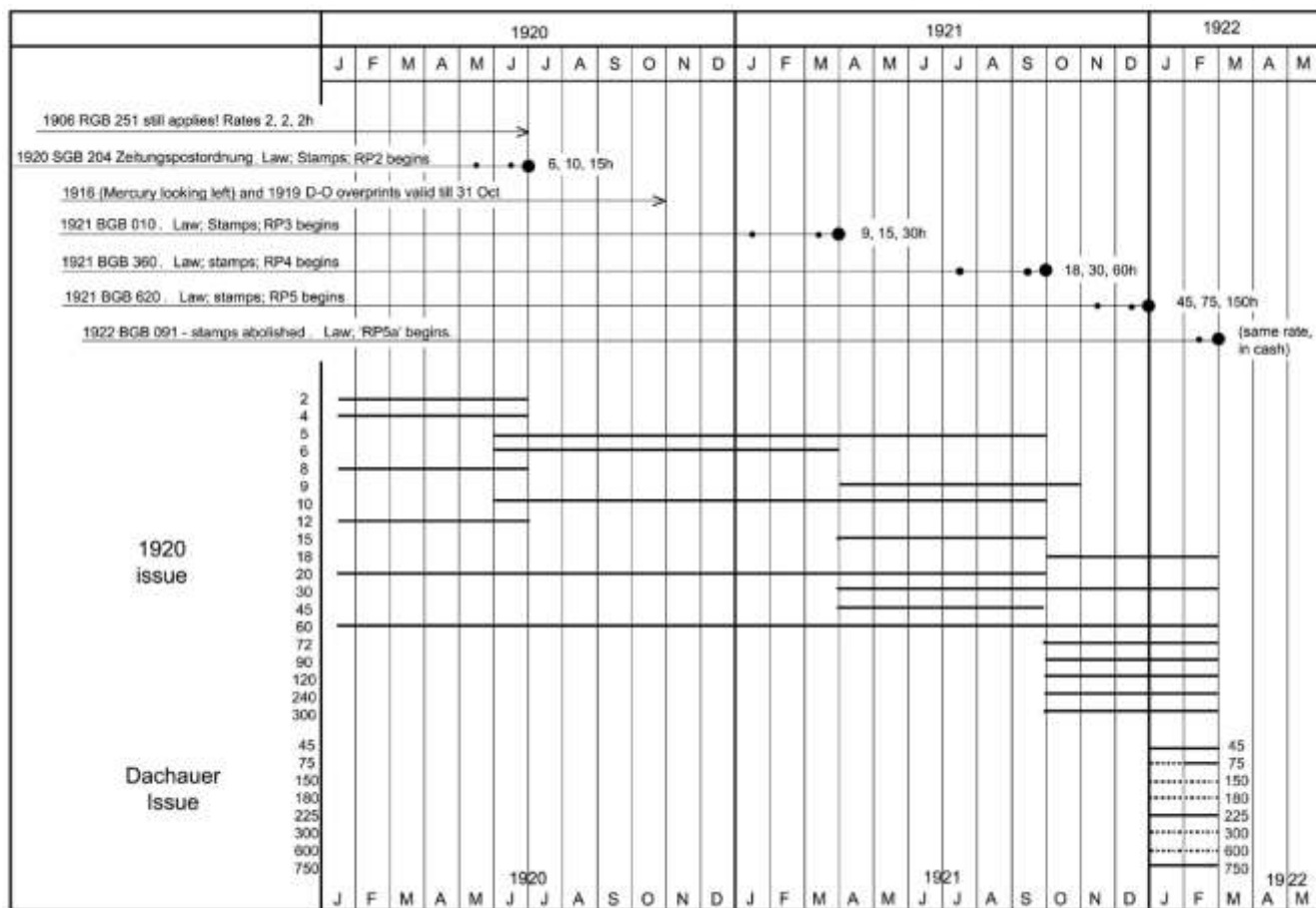
This may be clearer in a table of the entire 1920 issue (below). In the table's second column, the first date is that of issue, from the PVOBs. The second date (after the //) is from Kroiss and is the date of first recorded usage. There was never a time when all 19 values of the Renner issue were simultaneously available at the post office counters, since the low values were withdrawn or exhausted.

<i>The "Renner issue" of 1920-21</i>		
Face	Issued [source] // first found used	Ended [source]
2	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 3.1920	Obsoleted 1 July 1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87]
4	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 3.1920	Obsoleted 1 July 1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87]
5	1.7.1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87] // 7.1920	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
6	1.7.1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87] // 7.1920	Obsoleted 1 Apr 1921 [1921 PVOB017 Nr 52]
8	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 3.1920	Obsoleted 1 July 1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87]
9	1.4.1921 [1921 PVOB017 Nr 52] // early April 1921	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
10	1.7.1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87] // 7.1920	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
12	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 4.1920	Obsoleted 1 July 1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87]
15	1.4.1921 [1921 PVOB017 Nr 52] // 4.1921	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
18	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // end 10.1921	
20	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 4.1920	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
30	1.4.1921 [1921 PVOB017 Nr 52] // 4.1921	
45	1.4.1921 [1921 PVOB017 Nr 52] // 4.1921	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
60	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 4.1920	
72	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // 19.10.1921	
90	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // 10.1921	
120	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // 10.1921	
240	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // 19.10.1921	
300	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // 19.0.1921	

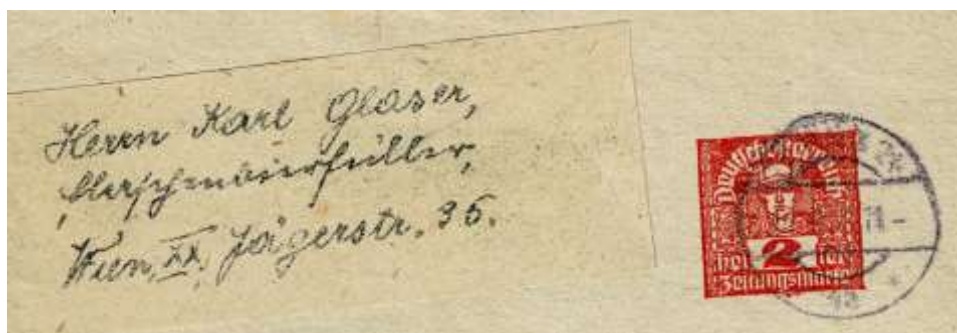
The values not officially obsoleted seem never to have been formally withdrawn, but to have become useless when franking-by-adhesives was abolished on 1 March 1922. For a limited period, they could be exchanged for letter-post stamps.

The Austrian Newspaper Post

This chart tries to show at the top the dates when each newspaper inflation period began, and the dates for the passing of the corresponding law and the introduction of the requisite new stamps. Underneath are the dates of issue and withdrawal for each value of the 1920 and 1922 series.



WIEN BESTELLT cancel, 10-5-1920. Period I. Rate still 2 h



Band with 2 h imprint; date unreadable but must be before 1 July 1902.

16.2 Second inflation rates period begins: 1 July 1920 [6/10/15 h]



Cancel unreadable. The newspaper reused as the wrapper was published on 10 March 1921. Most likely explanation is two standard flat newspapers at 10 h each; note the two vertical lines at the bottom – a feature also seen on several other wrappers from this source.



◀ **Mixed franking** of 1919 and 1920 issues. Cancel date 3 July 1920. Rate correct for one lightweight flat newspaper in period 2.

The reuse of an old newspaper for the wrapper is common; it can provide a useful clue if the cancel is unclear, as it won't have been reused before the date of issue. Occasionally the date is not present but the paper can be placed in a narrow date window by the news it contains.

Cancel date 7 July 1920. Again, a lightweight flat newspaper



Cancel date 11 October 1920. Franked 18 h, but the pencilled /// may mean "3 copies at 6 h each" which is the only rate that makes sense. The wrapper is a reused German-Czech maternity ward report!

Cancel unreadable. Most likely explanation is two standard flat newspapers at 10 h each in inflation period 2



16.3 Third inflation rates period begins: 1 April 1921 [9/15/30 h]

16.3.1 Preparing for inflation period 3

1920 PVOB037 Nr 104 issued on 19th July withdrew some D-Ö-overprints from 31 October 1920. It is unclear from the wording if the newspaper ones were included, although it is likely that they were as no other instruction has been located.

1921 BGB060 dated 17 January 1921 and repeated as 1921 PVOB003 Nr 3 on 20 January 1921. Rates up as from 1 April 1921. Dailies “basis weight rate” 3 Kr/Kg, 9 h min per copy; monthlies to be franked at 15 h per 50gram, doubled if rolled, 9 h for 35gram. Rolled 35g not mentioned so previous ban would stay

1921 PVOB017 Nr 52 of 17 March 1921 announced the issue of new values of 9 h, 15 h, 30 h, 45 h; the 6 h was obsoleted; the 5 h, 10 h, 20 h, & 60 h remain current. Also, only monthlies are to be franked; dailies are to be paid in cash. Imprints are available of the 9 h, 15 h, 30 h, 45 h & 60 h values, in the same colours as the corresponding adhesives.

16.3.2 Examples



◀ Cancel 21 June 1921. Franking 15 h. Period 3, standard 50-gram flat. [There is no period when one copy needed 7½ h franking, so this is not a 2-copy posting despite the pencil 11.] The ‘223’, occurring also on a period-2 piece, must be his subscription number.

Cancel must be after 10 March 1921, the date of the wrapping newspaper. The 10 h stamp was obsoleted on 1 Oct 1921. Franked 30 h. Most likely usage is 2x15 h for two standard flats posted in period 3.





Cancel date
9 September 1921
Period 3.
Medium-size
wrapper. Franked
45 h. Must be three
standard flats at
15 h each

16.4 Fourth inflation rates period begins: 1 October 1921 [18/30/60 h]

16.4.1 Preparing for inflation period 4

1921 BGB360 of 12 July repeated in 1921 PVOB037 Nr 23 of the same date raised the rates from 1 Oct 1921. Dailies “basis weight rate” 6K/Kg, 18 h min per copy; monthlies to be franked at 30 h/50gram, doubled if rolled, the reduced rate for 35gram items was 18 h.

1921 PVOB047 Nr 144 of 26 September 1921 notes the issue of more new values, of 18 h, 72 h, 90 h, 120 h, 240 h, & 300 h; the 5 h, 9 h, 10 h, 15 h, 20 h & 45 h were obsoleted; 30 h & 60 h remained current

16.4.2 Examples



Cancel date October 1921 Franked 18 h. Period 4, single light-weight flat item. Original wrapper, not a reused newspaper!



Newspaper wrapper made from a strip of an old newspaper; cancel dated 15-or-25 November 1921; franked with a 20 heller stamp. This is in the middle of Period 4, but there was no 20 h rate at that date. Also, the adhesive had been withdrawn on 1 October 1921 although it could be used up. What might be happening? Possibilities include (a) franking error un-noticed by Post Office (b) date error on canceller, November 1920 being a valid usage (c) something else.

The old newspaper is a mixture of adverts and news; on the inside can be read: “Ob exkaiser Karl - der unterdessen in Odenburg eine neue ungarische Regierung ernannt hat...” and a big-print headline “Angeblicher Vormarsch gegen Budapest. / Die Massnahmen der oesterr. Regierung. / Eine Kundgebung des Wiener Burgermeisters.”

If all else fails RTFM ... here the book “The Last Habsburg” by Brook-Shepherd. “Odenburg” (= Sopron) is the key. The article has to be about (ex)Kaiser Karl’s second attempt to regain Hungary. That was in late October 1921; he arrived in Odenburg on the 20th and in Budapest on 23rd. So this scrap of newspaper must be from the 20-somethingth of October 1921 - and hence a cancel of Nov 1921 is eminently believable while 1920 is impossible.

And the excess franking? Henry Pollak pointed out that the simplest explanation is that the 20 h stamp although obsoleted is being used to pay the rate-since-1st-October of 18 h - what can you get in 1921 for 2 heller?

17 The “Dachauer” issue of 1921-22

17.1.1 Preparing for inflation period 5

1921 BGB620 of 11 Nov repeated in 1921 PVOB056 Nr 28 of the same date raised the rates from 1 Jan 1922. Dailies “basis weight rate” 15K/Kg, min 45 h per copy; monthlies to be franked at 75 h/50gram, doubled if rolled, the reduced rate for 35gram items was 45 h.

1921 BGB704 of 16 Dec repeated in 1921 PVOB061 Nr 31 of 16 November 1921 contains lengthy Madrid-UPU inspired amendments for the Newspaper Postal Ordinance; most concern the arrangements for posting abroad.

1921 PVOB064 Nr 196 of 20 December 1921 is the then-current list of about 150 newspapers that qualify as “daily”.

17.1.2 Examples



The treaty of St Germain forbade the use of “Deutschösterreich”, and all stamp issues had to be changed [Ref 196]. Professor Dachauer produced a unified design for everything, including the newspaper stamps. Postal decree 1921 PVOB064 Nr 193 of 22 December 1921 [Ref 196] announced and described the “Dachauer” series ie the 1922 issue; they were valid from 1922 to 28.2.1922. The 1920 newspaper stamps remained valid until sold out, so there are no exact First Days for the 1922 issue - and several values were never actually put into service. For the newspaper stamps, the values of the adhesives were 45 h, 75 h, 150 h, 180 h, 225 h, 300 h, 600 h & 750 h They were “to be issued from the warehouse when old issues run out; all current values remaining valid.” Imprints of 45 h & 75 h were available, in grey & red, the same colours as the adhesives. There were fewer private perforations than previously. This issue is the last newspaper postage issue of Austria: quite suddenly, postal decree 1922 PVOB009 Nr 5 of 18 February 1922 [Ref 208, 211] withdrew newspaper stamps. This followed a Law, 1922 BGB091 [Ref 199], which stated that from 1 March 1922 all payments for postage were to be made in cash - rendering the adhesive stamps redundant!

Since the Dachauer issue was distributed for use only after the previous issue had run out, it had an extremely short life. It is thus unremarkable that used pieces are expensive: especially the imprinted items and the high values. Kroiss (his p232) notes that by 1922, only monthlies were supposed to be franked with newspaper stamps; that the coming end of all usage of newspaper stamps had already been intimated; and that many values of the previous series, including all the high values, continued to be valid. Based on his study of what is and is not actually found, he suspects that only four Dachauer denominations ever reached the post offices for sale to and use by the newspaper publishers: the 45 h, 225 h, and 750 h on 30 December 1921 and the 75 h in February 1922. The others were never placed on sale, and hence cancelled 150 h, 180 h, 300 h & 600 h specimens were done by favour.

The “Dachauer” issue of 1921-22		
Face	Issued [source]	Ended [source]
45 h	Jan 1922 “as needed” [1921 PVOB064 Nr 193] // 30.12.1921	} } } } } } } } } }
75 h	Jan 1922 “as needed” [1921 PVOB064 Nr 193] // Feb 1922	
150 h	Jan 1922 “as needed” [1921 PVOB064 Nr 193] // Never	
180 h	Jan 1922 “as needed” [1921 PVOB064 Nr 193] // Never	
225 h	Jan 1922 “as needed” [1921 PVOB064 Nr 193] // 30.12.1921	
300 h	Jan 1922 “as needed” [1921 PVOB064 Nr 193] // Never	
600 h	Jan 1922 “as needed” [1921 PVOB064 Nr 193] // Never	
750 h	Jan 1922 “as needed” [1921 PVOB064 Nr 193] // 30.12.1921	



17.2 Fifth inflation rates period begins: 1 January 1922 [45/75/150 h]



45 h marginal copy with private perf of 10.5 on one side.

1922 BGB091 of 16 February(repeated in 1922 PVOB009 Nr 5 of the same date) announced that from 1 March, rates were to remain 45 h/75 h/150 h but adhesive stamps were to be withdrawn with no using-up period. **ALL PAYMENTS WERE IN CASH from 1 Mar.** This would have benefited the Post Office, which didn’t have to produce a rapidly changing series of denominations as the ravages of inflation took hold; and also the publishers, who didn’t have to buy the stamps a few days previously or employ people to stick them on.

Explanatory memos include (a) 1922 PVOB009 Verf. 34 of 18 February 1922 ‘Monthlies now to be paid in cash’ (b) 1922 PVOB009 Verf. 35 of the same date ‘Procedure for handling leftover adhesives’ (publishers could exchange unused ones for letter-post stamps until end March).

The fate of imprinted wrappers is unclear. Some sources state that they became invalid on 1 March; others that they retained validity till the end of June, or maybe September. Perhaps they simply faded away, as the stocks were used up and not reprinted. No specimens are known to me from any date after February.

Uncancelled, but clearly one of ► the ongoing Die Postmarke mailings to Hašek.

Probable arrival date written in pencil at top: 13/2/1922.

Franking of 150 h correct for two standard flats in period 5.



◀ Cancel 2 March 1922. The same date pencilled at the top, as for many of the items addressed to Hašek. Could this be a “last day of newspaper postage stamps” item? The franking of 45 h (= single lightweight flat) could have been valid when the item was posted!

18 Newspaper stamps invalid from 1 March 1922; all payments in cash.

The Dachauer issue is the last newspaper postage issue of Austria. I have no examples of newspapers provably posted from 1 March 1922 without adhesive stamps – perhaps philatelists deemed them not worth keeping.

1922 BGB200 of 10 April again raised the rates; daily & monthly stated separately but are the same and based on weight: 30 Kr/yearly-Kg. Minimum 90 h/copy; rolls double rate and banned under 30 gram. Beilage 30 Kr/kg

On 5 July 1922, BGB406 was issued promulgating a new Postordnung (effective 15 July) and repealing the old one (22 Sep 1916) & its amendments (which are listed: a useful source of the laws quoted above!). There is no mention of newspapers.

1922 BGB431 of 8 July: changes to the 1920 Newspaper Postal Ordinance from 1 August; rates not mentioned.

1922 BGB572 of 2 August: new rates for Wertbrief, Postanweisung, etc Some (all?) newspaper rates doubled.

1922 BGB707 of 24 September promulgates the **new Newspaper Postal Ordinance** effective 1 Oct, and repeals various listed preceding laws and amendments (strictly speaking, any others are thus still valid). The rates were: daily 60 Kr/kg, per-copy 180 h minimum; monthly the same; rolls over 30 gram accepted at double rate.

19 References and Laws

Those referred-to in the main text are shown there as [Ref xxx]. The second table is other laws not referred to but possibly useful. Any official publication is here referred to as a “Law”, irrespective of it being a formal expression of the Imperial Will, or the departmental instruction on how give effect to this Will, or a “how to do it” handbook for the lower-level staff (eg post office counter clerks) etc. ‘Ref’ is the reference number used in the text of this book; ‘Year’ is the year of promulgation (which can be later than the taking-effect date); “Code” is a letter-number string where ‘RGB’ = Reichsgesetzblatt, ‘SGB’ is Staatgesetzblatt, ‘PVOB’ is Postverordnungsblatt, ‘PTVOB’ is Post- und Telegraphverordnungsblatt from when they were combined. RGB Lom is the separate list of RGBs issued for Lombardy; RGB Ven is ditto for Venetia. ‘x’ is a document (eg newspaper price lists) not considered a ‘Law’. A Verf or Vf is a Verfügung, an appendix to a Law.

The bulk of the available information is contained in the Reichsgesetzbuch, the collected Laws of Austria. The Austrian National Library makes these available on line, free, at <https://alex.onb.ac.at/> These 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. Until recently, the only publicly available copies were the printed annual collections held by the Vienna Technical Museum Library; some have now appeared 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 printed in Fraktur; and the on-line copies are scans not text so cannot be word-searched.

19.1 Main-text references

Ref	Year	Code	What?
101	1838	RGB 143	Briefpostordnung
102	1838	RGB 302	Newspapers section
103	1838	RGB 302	(Briefpostordnung) section 82 says “ <i>The customer can for pre-ordered periodicals either collect them from the Post Office himself or have them delivered for the locally-set fee</i> ”.
104	1840	RGB	Jan 27: Par’l G-Cz revenue including newspapers
105	1842	RGB 039	Brief- Fahr- Postordnung. “ <i>The rates for carrying newspapers in the Post will be made known in a special instruction.</i> ”
106	1845	x	newspaper subscription availability pricelist
107	1848	RGB 080	costs of posting newspapers
108	1849	RGB 104	newspapers-postage reductions for crossbanded or enschleiffed (wrapped) newspapers
109	1849	RGB 128	postage rates from 14 Feb 1849
110			(not used)
111	1850	PVOB 26 53	September 12: Introduction of newspaper post stamps
112	1850	PVOB 78 nr 172	Gelb and Roth mercuries introduced
113	1850	PVOB June 15	costing of incoming non-Postal Union newspapers
114	1850	PVOB 003 Mar 9	Subscribing for newspapers from Germany, with list
116	1850	PVOB 027 Sep 20	handling of newspaper subs especially foreign
117	1850	PVOB 070 152	Control and accounting system for newspaper stamps (with forms)
118	1850	PVOB 074 161	Nov 24: delivery fee arrangements for newspapers
119	1850	PVOB 076 166	details re newspapers handling by postpersons
120	1850	PVOB 077 168	Handling of newspapers subs for 1851
121	1850	PVOB 078 172	Dec 9: introduction of yellow and rose (then called ‘red’) newspapers stamps, and subscriptions
122	1850	PVOB 084	Dec 19: clarification re 1-paper-1-stamp
123	1850	RGB 149	intro of adhesives, postal rates
124	1850	RGB 345	tax rates including newspapers (with commentary)
125	1851	PVOB 010	handling of Zeitungs-Abendblätter
126	1851	PVOB 085	Handelsministerium-Verordnungsblatt Nr 85 p100 Zahl 3675-C. A Beiblatt which has been subscribed for independently of the Hauptblatt is to be treated postally as a separate newspaper, requiring its own wrapper and nppr post stamp

The Austrian Newspaper Post

Ref	Year	Code	What?
127	1851	PVOB 126	(PEuT-? Handelsministerium-) Verordnungsblatt Nr 10 (19?) p85 Zahl 1157-P. If an Abendblatt is posted with and in the same wrapper as the same or the next day's Morgenblatt, only one nppr post stamp is needed
128	1852	PVOB 79	Rose mercury withdrawn; issued 9 October published 16 th
129	1852	RGB Lom 427	Control stamp on foreign newspapers
130	1853	x	Austrian post handbook ,compiled by M J Heinzl of Olmütz. See also the Bartl Zeitungsdienst series. Available on the APS web site's Online Library.
131	1853	x	foreign newspaper subscription availability pricelist
132	1853	RGB Ven 165	Kreuzbandsendung discount (= Lom 167)
133	1856	PVOB 20	yellow out, hochroth in (today we call it Red)
134	1857	PVOB 1214	Issue of inland newspapers price list for 1858
135	1857	RGB 243	control of dutiable posted inland newspapers
136	1858	HminVOB 061	issue of sales price list for newspapers wef 1 Nov
137	1858	PVOB	May 20: issue of 3 rd newspapers tariff supplement for 1858
138	1858	PVOB	May 24: changes in arrangements for paying for foreign newspapers
139	1858	PVOB	Oct 10: newspapers subs in the new currency
140			(not used)
141	1858	RGB 184	14 October: Letter- and newspaper-post rates and stamps in Ö.W. See also 1858 PVOB 057 Oct 14
142	1859	HminVOB 044	foreign newspapers to be paid for in "ringing money"
143	1859	PVOB	Mar 16: colour change 3 kr post, newspapers stamps
144	1860	RGB 275	new stationery, letter-stamps, newspaper-stamps
145	1863	RGB 044	new stationery, letter-stamps, newspaper-stamps
146	1867	RGB 079	new stamps including newspapers etc
147	1880	PVOB 064	introduction of ½ kr (green) newspaper delivery stamp
148	1882	PVOB 26	March 30: with Beilage (76pp!) for Zeitungsdienst. Consolidates and repeats "everything that went before" . Available on the APS web site's Online Library as 1882 PVOB026 The Newspaper Duty .
149	1884	PVOB 021	change in extra-issue newspapers post
150	1890	PVOB 097	Monthlies with no ½ k delivery stamp
151	1890	PVOB 112	Bahnhofbrief , including Verschleißerzeitungs. November 24 "Introduction of Bahnhofbriefe in inland Austrian postal traffic". Red borders required! At the end of the first part, para 6 says that newspapers can be sent under the same procedures. Part 2 is instructions for post offices. See text in "Verschleißer" appendix.
152	1899	PVOB 132	issue of 6 h, 10 h, 20 h Newspaper Post stamps
154	1899	RGB 231	Postordnung with newspapers. Kronen-heller prices. Section 10 is Bahnhofbriefe, the charge for which becomes 10 kr per month or part thereof. Repeated as 1899 PVOB 120.
155	1899	RGB 232	issue of kronen stamps including newspapers
156	1900	PVOB 086	newspapers to, from Germany
157	1901	PVOB 113	newspapers to, from Germany
158	1901	PVOB 120	Newspaper Duty changes
159	1903	PVOB 035	Detailed regulations for imprints, eg paper-colour
160	1904	PVOB 102	Nov 10: inland newspapers by post
161	1904	PVOB 107	foreign newspapers by post
162	1904	PVOB 025	newspaper-post-zettel introduced. 8 th March
163	1905	RGB 055	Newspapers post 2 h imprint to be green
164	1905	RGB 068	newspapers post supplements rate changes
165	1906	RGB 251	new inland Posttaxordnung (ie rates) including newspapers
166	1908	PVOB Nr 27	Feb 25: newspaper Addresszettel with the new stamp design
167	1908	RGB 032	(also as 1908 PVOB 32 of 15 February) new adhesives for newspapers
168	1910	PVOB 097	accounting for Beilagegebühr.pdf
169	1916	RGB 317	The all-change Postordnung 1916 RGB Nr 317 (24 Sept; pp 877-958) which states that it replaces all previous instructions (so does not bother to list them). Section 102 is about Bahnhofbriefe ; it mentions a 1cm+ red border. See partial transcription & translation in the Verschleißer Appendix.

The Austrian Newspaper Post

Ref	Year	Code	What?
170	1916	RGB 319	new stamp designs including newspapers
171	1918	PVOB 067	issue of D-Ö overprints including newspapers
172	1918	RGB 001	limitation on newspapers caused by paper shortage
173	1920	PVOB 023	new Zeitungspostordnung plus the Vollzug. See text in "Verschleißer" appendix. 8
174	1920	PVOB 027	first amendments 1-19 to Zeitungspostordnung 1920 PVOB023 Nr 13
175	1920	PVOB 027 Nrs 78-80	newspapers sundries
176	1920	PVOB 030 nr 87	new stamps for newspapers
177	1920	PVOB 030 Nr 88	amendments 20-21 to Zeitungspostordnung 1920 PVOB 023 Nr 13
178	1920	PVOB 031 Nr 91	amendments 22-27 to Zeitungspostordnung 1920 PVOB 023 Nr 13
179	1920	PVOB 118	deposits for foreign newspapers
180	-	-	(not used)
181	1920	PVOB 027 Nr 77	contains amendments and additions to the footnotes of PVOBlatt 23. PVOBlatt 27 Nr 78 contains amendments and additions to the supplementary notes.
182	1920	SGB 130	P'ord changes mostly to the 1906 Postordnung - not introduced since SGB 204 superseded it.
183	1920	SGB 204	The 12 May 1920 Zeitungspostordnung. This is the earliest Zeitungspostordnung found; none of the earlier references in ALEX's search-all-RGBs have 'zeitungs' in their title; but not all Empire-era RGBs have a "proper title". Replaces 'all' previous decrees, which it does not list. Effective 1 July. Rates become 6/10/15 h. See sections 36-38; and transcription & translation in the "Verschleißer" Appendix
		PVOB 023	15 May: The new Zeitungspostordnung (SGB 204) is repeated, along with 68 pages of details. Section 36 on page 152 is all about Verschleißer-zeitungen. (5)b near the top of page 153 says their labels must be red and (5)c prescribes what must be on them. This is followed by half a page on Eisenbahnerzeitungen and 3 lines on Bahnhofzeitungen. See transcription & translation in the "Verschleißer" Appendix 8
184	1921	BGB 060	Major Zeitungspostordnung changes; various rates increased. Sting in the tail: if the Post Office tell you they have undercharged, you must pay the difference.
185	1921	BGB 360	12 July Changes to postage rates.
186	1921	BGB 488	extension to Burgenland of Austrian post, newspapers regs
187	1921	BGB 620	11 November Changes to postage rates.
188	1921	BGB704	16 December Changes following Madrid UPU - treatment of newspapers and especially supplements to and from abroad; raised charges for redirection.
189	1921	PVOB 003 Nr 3 Vf 14	new inland letter rates, Zeitungspostordnung changes (repeat of Ref 184)
190	1921	PVOB 017 Nr 52	issue of 9 h, 15 h etc values stamps for newspapers
191	1921	PVOB 017 Nr 53	amendments 28-60 for Zeitungspostordnung SGB 204
192	1921	PVOB 047 Nr 142	amendments 61-68 for Zeitungspostordnung SGB 204
193	1921	PVOB 047 Nr 144	issue of 18 h, 72 h etc values of stamps for newspapers
194	1921	PVOB 047	POs in Austria and Germany handling foreign papers
195	1921	PVOB 061 Nr 31	changes to Post, Newspapers Ordnungs after Madrid UPU
196	1921	PVOB 064 Nr 193	issue of Dachauer series
197	1921	PVOB 065 Nr 196	official list of newspapers, 1921 edition
198	1921	PVOB 065 Nr 201	amendments 69-90 of Zeitungspostordnung
199	1922	BGB 091 -16 Feb.	Zeitungspostordnung changes: less service, more charges, and pay in cash.
200	1922	BGB 200 10 April.	Even more imaginative rates rises eg folded postcards to be treated as letters.
201	1922	BGB 406	The 5 July 1922 Postordnung. Promulgates the new Postordnung (effective 15 July) and repeals the old (22 Sep 1916) and its amendments (which are listed). Section 102 is about Bahnhofbriefe and their red border; the only semi-major change is that the charge for a "Verschleissung permit" is altered from "10 K" to a "Bahnhofbrief-vermittlungsgeld" - so can be altered by an administrative rule change instead of an Act of Parliament.

The Austrian Newspaper Post

Ref	Year	Code	What?
202	1922	BGB 431	Zeitungspostordnung changes. Special Regulations will be issued for the situation when Verschleißer newspapers are entrusted to the conductor of a train which is not carrying 'post'. (This will be postal employees, to whom it was permitted to entrust mail.) 1922 PVOB036 108 column 2 repeats this. Changes to 1920 ZPOrd; no explicit rates
203	1922	BGB 572	VdBfV vom 2 August 1922, betreffend die Neufestsetzung von Postgebühren und die Abänderung sonstiger Bestimmungen der Postordnung. Changes to postage rates. Wertbriefe, Postanweisungen, newspapers
204	1922	BGB 657	6 September Change to postage rates.
205	1922	BGB 707	New Zeitungspostordnung , issued 24 Sept and effective 1 Oct. Verschleißerzeitungen etc are in Sections 36-38; the text looks the same as previous incarnations all of which are listed and repealed. There is one extra paragraph (new 8, repeating the "entrusting to the conductor" problemette included in BGB 431 but not the answer) and - oh, the daring! - one paragraph has been simplified. Daily 60 K/kg, copy 180 h min; monthly same; rolls over 30gram OK & double rate
206	1922	BGB 752	VdBfV vom 18 Oktober 1922, betreffend die Änderung der Postgebühren der Zeitungspostordnung. Postordnung changes - certain forwarding charges trebled
207	1922	x	Newspaper Postage Stamps were withdrawn on 1 March.
208	1922	PVOB 009 Nr 5	Zeitungspostordnung changes - stamps withdrawn
209	1922	PVOB 009 Vf 37-39	sundry Zeitungspostordnung changes
210	1922	PVOB 009 Verf Nr 34	monthlies now paid in cash
211	1922	PVOB 009 Verf Nr 35	the end of stamps for newspapers
212	1922	PVOB 009 Verf Nr 36	amendments 91-103 for newspapers
213	1922	PVOB 036 Nr 108	changes to newspapers
214	1922	PVOB 051 220	is the usual equivalent of BGB 707, Ref 205
215	1920	PVOB 001	More stamps in pre- and Parlament series. Includes intro of 1920 nppr stamps, values 2, 4, 8, 12, 20, 60 h
216	1919	SGB 057	Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones merged into a Generaldirektion from February 1
217	1890	RGB 133	Verordnung des Handelsministeriums vom 27 Juni 1890 betreffend die Ausgabe neuer Portwertzeichen. New postage adhesives; explicitly states that existing nppr post & tax adhesives remain valid

19.2 Others

Year	Code	What?
1851	RGB 042	foreign mail rates
1852	RGB 287	(Ven) German-Austrian postal treaty
1923	BGB 410	Verordnung der Bundesministeriums für Handel und Verkehr [VdBmVH&V] vom 23 Juli 1923, betreffend die Neufestsetzung von Postgebühren und die Abänderung sonstiger Bestimmungen der Postordnung. Extensive rate rises. Nppr Rates now 500 K/Kg, min 15 K/copy, for daily; ditto monthly; rolls double rate
1923	BGB 581	VdBmVH&V vom 21 November 1923, betreffend die Neufestsetzung von Postgebühren und die Abänderung sonstiger Bestimmungen der Postordnung. Extensive rate rises. 750 K/Kg, 18.75 K/copy min. Beilage-costs up too; 30gram boundary now 25gram
1924	BGB 407	VdBmVH&V vom 14 November 1924, betreffend die Neufestsetzung von Postgebühren und die Abänderung sonstiger Bestimmung der Postordnung. extensive rate changes; npprs 1000 K/Kg, 25 K min
1925	BGB 266	VdBmVH&V vom 3 August 1925, betreffend die Neusetzung von Postgebühren und die Abänderung sonstiger Bestimmung der Postordnung und der Zeitungspostordnung . clause-renumbering; writing on printed matter; etc. Npprs 16 groschen per kg, 0.4 gro min
1925	BGB 419	VdBmVH&V vom 3 Dezember 1925, betreffend die Abänderung einiger Bestimmungen der Postordnung und der Zeitungspostordnung . Many changes to parcel card regs; etc etc. Changes to regs on Schleife esp. red ones
1925	BGB 442	VdBmVH&V vom 19 Dezember 1925, betreffend die Neufestsetzung von Postgebühren. Changes to Printed Matter & Newspaper rates & weights. 24gro/Kg, 0.6gro min, Beilage in proportion

Year	Code	What?
1926	BGB 326	VdBMvH&V vom 17 November 1926, betreffend die Neufestsetzung einer Postgebühr. Follow-up to 442 of 1925. Min now 0.9gro; weight step at 25grams now 37.5grams
1926	BGB 329	VdBMvH&V vom 17 November 1926, womit eine neue Postordnung erlassen wird. Promulgates the new Postordnung (effective 1 Dec) and repeals the old (1922) & its amendments (which are listed). No effect on nprs.
1950	BGB 044	44.Verordnung: Erlassung einer neuen Zeitungspostordnung. The only explicit mention of "zeit" in the Bundesgesetzblatt index for 1945 – 2003
1980	P2	2. Verordnung des Bundesministers für Verkehr vom 22. Dezember 1980, mit der die Postordnung geändert wird. Small changes to npr handling
1983	BGB 597	Bundesgesetz vom 29. November 1983, mit dem das Postgesetz geändert wird
1983	P23	23. Verordnung des Bundesministers für Verkehr vom 21. Dezember 1983, mit der die Postordnung geändert wird. Small changes to npr handling

19.3 Categories of Laws in the online RGB = nomenclature of the state

Description	From	To
Allgemeines Reichs-Gesetz- und Regierungsblatt für das Kaiserthum Österreich	02.12.1848	31.12.1852
Reichs-Gesetz-Blatt für das Kaiserthum Österreich	04.01.1853	28.12.1869
Reichsgesetzblatt für die im Reichsrath vertretenen Königreiche und Länder	01.01.1870	12.11.1918
Staatsgesetzblatt für den Staat Deutschösterreich	15.11.1918	23.10.1919
Staatsgesetzblatt für die Republik Österreich	23.10.1919	09.11.1920
Bundesgesetzblatt für die Republik Österreich	10.11.1920	30.04.1934
Bundesgesetzblatt für den Bundesstaat Österreich	01.05.1934	13.03.1938
Gesetzblatt für das Land Österreich	15.03.1938	31.03.1940

20 Further reading

- Müller's *Handbook of cancellations*: the introduction passim.
- “Austria” 66/20, 67/15, 68/41, 70/8 & 72/20, which are translations from the 1970 *Wiener Briefmarken Spiegel* articles, themselves translating “*A Magyar Belyegekek Monografiája*” from Hungarian into German. [See 71/10 and 72/9 for a comment on a misprint in the W.B.S.] These articles cover details of papers and watermarks; the definitions of the subtypes may not be those used here.
- Klein: “*The regular postmarks...*” Vol 1: introduction; Vol 2: section 14.
- “*Die Zeitungsmarken 1867: Violetter Merkur*” by Ing. Johann Klauninger in “*Die Briefmarke*”, Feb-April 1988.
- “*Österreich 1850-1918*” by Prof Dr U. Ferchenbauer. 2008 edition vols I & II <https://www.ank.at/kategorie-1/unterkategorie-1/dr-ferchenbauer-kataloge/>
- “*Österreich-Ungarn: 125 Jahre Ausgabe 1867*” by Puschmann, König, Schindler. Vindobona, Vienna, 1992. Chapter 10.
- “*Die Postwertzeichen der Oesterr.-ungar. Monarchie*” by Kropf. Prag 1902, pp 92-93.
- “*Koloman Moser, Kunst auf Briefmarken*”, Ferrytells Verlags- u BeratungsgmbH 2012 p.45, the 1908 issue.
- “*Belege der Österreichischen Inflationszeit 1918-1925*” by Peter Kroiss. Biedermannsdorf 2008, pp 220-250.
- “*Austrian Newspaper Post from the accession of Charles I*” in “Austria” issue 178 pp 13-29.
- “*The 1851 Newspaper Stamps of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia*” by Edwin Müller in “The Collectors Club Philatelist” Vol. XXX, No. 1, Jan 1951, reprinted in “Austria” issue 174 pp 29-46.
- “*Die Postmarken von Österreich*” by Edwin Müller. Vienna 1927.
- “*The 1867 Newspaper Postage Stamp*” in “Austria”, issue 148 pp 5-49.
- *Die Briefmarke* 4/1997 pp 33-40.
- Wurth's *Postal History* vol XIV (1991) especially pp 64-97 <https://www.ank.at/jahrbuch-14.html>
- Rieger: 2nd issue of Klein Vol 1 (with Klein's original introduction translated into German!).
- “*Inflation in Österreich 1918-1925*” by H Karasek, 1990.
- “*Belege der Österreichischen Inflationszeit 1918-1925*” by Dipl.Ing Peter Kroiss, 2008.
- “*Österreich Netto Spezialkatalog*”; always use the latest issue! <https://www.ank.at/ank-briefmarken-oesterr-spezial-2020-2021.html>
- “*Österreich 1850-1918 Handbuch und Spezialkatalog*” vols I & II, by Prof Dr U Ferchenbauer, 2008.
- “*Der Zeitungsversand während der Inflationszeit*” by DiplIng Dr J Gatterer, in “110 Jahre Öst Phil Club Vindobona Wien”, 1990.
- “*Reichs-, Staats- & Bundesgesetzblatt*” on-line at <https://alex.onb.ac.at/>
- Postverordnungsblatt. Most years are available by appointment and prior reservation at the Vienna Technical Museum Library https://www.technischesmuseum.at/museum/archive_and_library Check their web site; check opening times of the library; book a slot; reserve what you want (don't be overambitious); and take your passport. A small but increasing number of years are now available on line.

21 Appendixes

1	The 1853 foreign newspapers list
2	The 1906 foreign newspapers book
3	The Official Reprints
4	Address labels, official and private
5	Ref 148 - 1882 PVOB 26 - consolidation of the Newspaper Duty. ?cross-ref to Lib2?
6	Forgeries
7	Vocabulary
8	Verschleißers (Newspaper retailers)
9	Spare

If the following are needed at all, add these at end of list and of book

The Streifband

The Zeitungs-Anweisung form --- see section 1.4

These are now part of the main book

Reading and references.

Appendix 10?

Background articles that wouldn't go in a 100+ page published book