

# The Newspaper Postage Stamps of Austria

## Introduction

The Austro-Hungarian Empire was the first country in the world to use special adhesive stamps for the inland postage of newspapers. Regulations permitting registered publishers to buy special-rate postage stamps for officially-registered newspapers, magazines, etc. were announced on 12 September 1850. Introduced on 1 January 1851, they were finally replaced by cash payment on 1 March 1922. 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); in Hungary 19.1 million had 791 publications in 10 languages, including one in Latin!

## The system

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

Single newspapers had their newspaper stamp cancelled with the postmark of the sending post office. Bundles to the same delivery post office had their wrapper cancelled by the sending post office; but the cancellation of the newspaper stamps on the newspapers themselves was done after the wrapper was opened at the delivery post office.

## The exhibit

There were 12 issues of newspaper postage stamps, which are shown in sequential date-of-issue order. The exhibit shows these stamps, including shade variations, cancellations, perforations, official and private imprints, and type differences; with examples of them in use. The first page for each issue explains why and when it was issued.

## The plan

- ❖ An overview and the 1851 issues are covered in Frame 1.
- ❖ The 1858, 1861 and 1863 issues occupy Frame 2.
- ❖ The long-lasting 1867 issue begins in Frame 3 and continues into Frame 4.
- ❖ The 1880 issue concludes Frame 4.
- ❖ The 1899 issue is shown in Frame 5.
- ❖ The 1908 issue is in frame 6
- ❖ The 1916 and the post-war 1919 issues are in frame 7.
- ❖ The 1920 and 1922 issues are dealt with in frame 8.

## Overview - The issues

- with their dates of issue and withdrawal, and their frame location.



1851 issue  
1.1.1851-31.5.1864  
Frame 1



1858 issue  
1.1.1858-31.5.1864  
Frame 2



1861 issue  
21.12.1860-31.5.1864  
Frame 2



1863 issue  
1.6.1863-31.8.1869  
Frame 2



1867 issue  
1.6.1867-30.9.1900  
Frames 3 & 4



1880 issue  
1.12.1880-31.12.1899  
Frame 4



1899 issue  
20.12.1899-31.12.1916  
Frame 5



1908 issue  
Mid 1908-31.12.1916  
Frame 6



1916 issue  
10.1916-31.10.1920  
Frame 7



1919 issue  
1.1919-31.10.1920  
Frame 7



1920 issue  
1920/1-28.2.1922  
Frame 8



1922 issue  
1922-28.2.1922  
Frame 8

## General References

- 1 "Die Zeitungsmarken 1867: Violetter Merkur" by Ing. Johann Klauninger in "Die Briefmarke", Feb-April 1988.
- 2 "Österreich 1850-1918" by Prof Dr U. Ferchenbauer. 2008 edition vols I & II.
- 3 "Österreich-Ungarn: 125 Jahre Ausgabe 1867" by Puschmann et al. Vindobona, Vienna, 1992. Chapter 10.
- 4 "Die Postwertzeichen der Oesterr.-ungar. Monarchie" by Kropf. Prag 1902, pp 92-93.
- 5 "Belege der Österreichischen Inflationszeit 1918-1925" by Peter Kroiss. Biedermannsdorf 2008, pp 220-250.
- 6 "A beginning and an end" in the APS Journal "Austria" issue 178 (2012) pp 13-29.
- 7 "The 1851 Newspaper Stamps of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia" by Edwin Müller in "The Collectors Club Philatelist" Vol. XXX, No. 1, Jan 1951, reprinted (with permission) in "Austria" issue 174 (2011) pp 29-46.
- 8 "Die Postmarken von Österreich" by Edwin Müller. Vienna 1927.
- 9 "The 1867 Newspaper Postage Stamp" in "Austria", issue 148 (2004) pp 5-49.
- 10 "Neue Zeitung, Österreichische Postgeschichte Band XIV", by Dr R Würth, Klingenberg 1991.

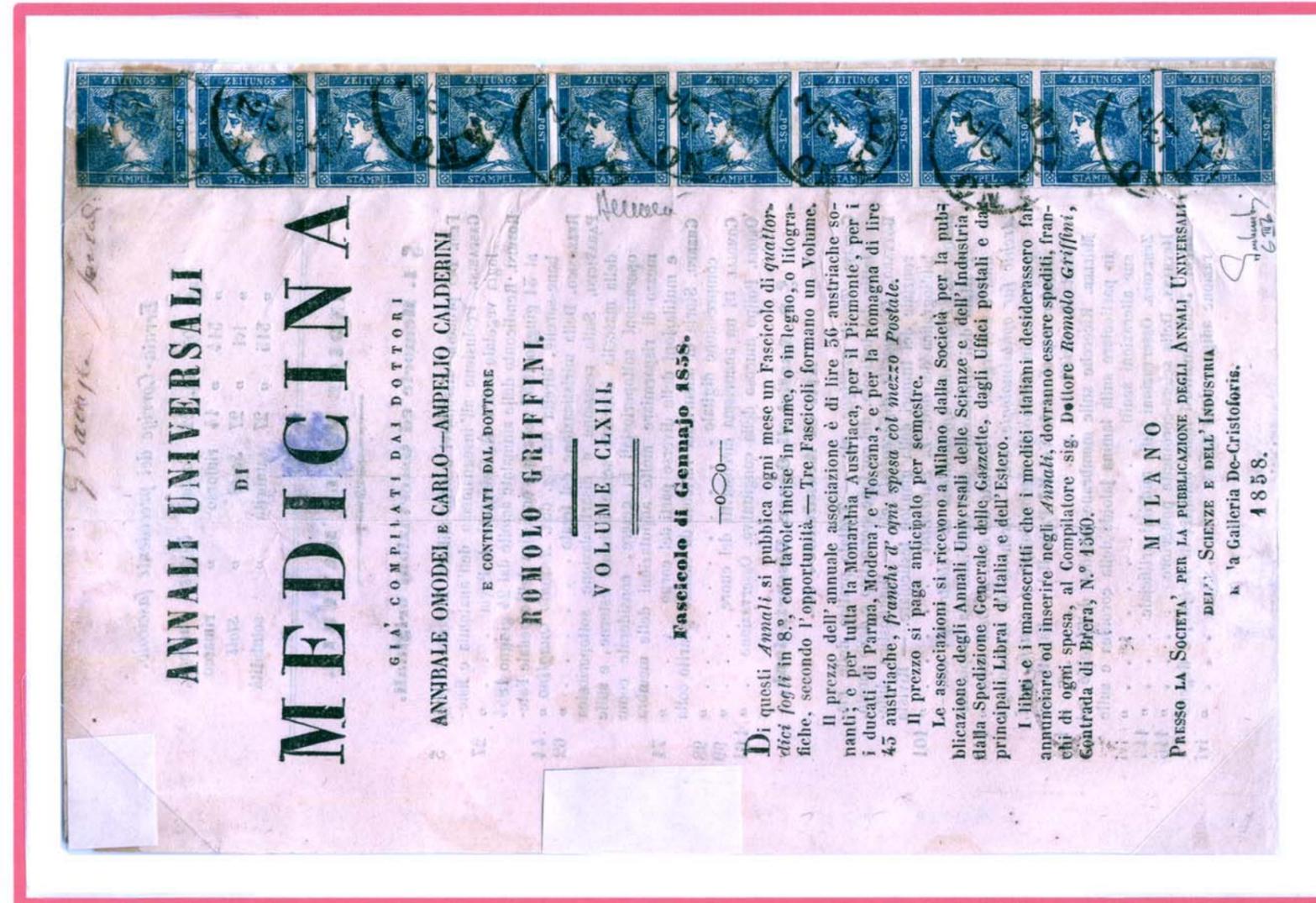
Note: Especially rare or unusual items have a red box.

## The 1851 Issue (valid from 1.1.1851 to 31.5.1864)



Mercury head in square, facing left, without denomination; imperforated. Blue (0.6kr C.M. for 1 newspaper), yellow (6kr C.M. for a wrapper of 10 copies to the same address), and rose (30kr C.M. for a wrapper of 50 copies) were issued on January 1 1851. Problems soon arose. It was difficult to see the yellow stamps on the newspaper bundles, especially under artificial light. The blue stamps could be (and were!) chemically treated so that they turned yellow. And the rose stamp was very little used, the newspaper publishers preferring multiple frankings of blue stamps. The rose newspaper stamp was withdrawn at the end of 1852 and the yellow stamp in April 1856. The leftovers were sold to Viennese publishers at the price of a blue stamp for use on a single newspaper; almost all of the known yellow and rose stamps originate from this time.

To replace the yellow stamp, a red stamp for a bundle of 10 copies was issued on March 21 1856: the legendary "red Mercury". The particular rarity of the red Mercury comes from several elements. It was pasted on the wrapping of newspaper packets, which were discarded with their stamps. The edition was not very high: there was only one print run of 300 sheets of four times 100 stamps: 120,000 in total. The red Mercury was invalidated from December 31 1858, and was not reused as a stamp for single newspapers. Certainly, less than thirty correctly-used red Mercuries have survived - Müller in 1951 (Ref.7) knew of less than 10.



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**: one other known.

©

# The 1851 Issue

## The Yellow Mercury

The Yellow Mercury was issued on 1 January 1851 for use on the wrappers of bundles of 10 papers to a single addressee; its franking value was 6Kr (10 papers @ 0.6kr 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 (in 1851 the currency was 60kr = 1 Gulden), which had to be paid in advance in cash. As with the rose mercury, the high cost made this very unpopular and not many were sold.

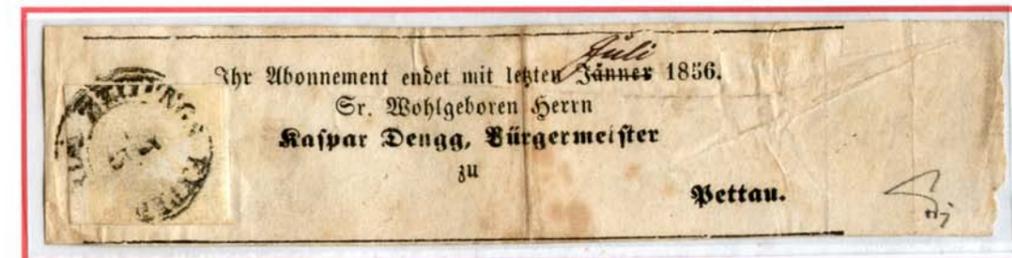
The Yellow Mercury was withdrawn on 21 March 1856, because it was discovered that blue mercuries were being chemically altered into yellow ones. The residue was physically recalled by the Newspaper Branch of the Vienna Head Post Office, redenominated as 0.6kr and allocated to Vienna publishers for using-up. 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 '6kr usage'.



Yellow Mercury type 1b used during the using-up period on complete address label affixed to the Morgen-Post Nr 313 published in Vienna on Wednesday 14 May 1856. Sent to Zwettl; cancelled on arrival with a black straight-line *Zwettl* / 15. MAR.



Left: False-colour scan of the yellow mercury on the above newspaper, making the details visible..



Yellow Mercury type 1b used as 0.6Kr in the using-up period on complete address label, sent from Vienna to the Bürgermeister of Pettau. Double circle cancellation 'ZEITUNGS-EXPED: WIEN 16/5'

# The 1851 Issue

## The Rose Mercury

The Rose Mercury was issued on 1 January 1851<sup>(1)</sup> for use on the wrappers of bundles of 50 newspapers to a single address; its franking value was 30kr (50 papers @ 0.6kr each). It was withdrawn on 9 October 1852.



Rose Mercury used during 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. It is Type Ib, as are all Rose Mercuries; the 53,500 official reprints<sup>(2)</sup> are Type II. Ferchenbauer has described this item as "... a great rarity ... this is only the second example of this stamp on accompanying complete newspaper of which I am aware".

These stamps were sold in complete sheets of 100 costing 50 Gulden (in 1851 the currency was 60 Kreuzer = 1 Gulden), paid in advance in cash. This was very unpopular because of the cost of buying the full sheets. Only the largest newspapers had sufficient bulk shipments to justify the purchase of these denominations, especially of the rose 30kr of which 240,000 stamps were printed but only very small quantities were sold. When the rose mercury was withdrawn on 9 October 1852<sup>(3)</sup>; the residue was redenominated as 0.6Kr and used up in the following months by Vienna publishers<sup>(4)</sup>.

According to Müller (Ref. 9), 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). The colour hasn't changed but the language has!

This highly enlarged copy of the stamp and its immediate surroundings (contrast-enhanced since the original is rather pale) shows the procedure for applying the postage label and stamp. The label is the blue-mottled paper on the right; the stamp has been separated from its sheet and glued to the label while that was still part of the printed sheet of labels. It was then separated by cutting; the top cut is exactly the same on the stamp and the label. The newspaper was then folded, the main fold being off-centre; and the label was glued to the newspaper to fix the upper and lower halves together thus avoiding the need for a wrapper. The top corner of the newspaper can be seen above the top left corner of the stamp.



(1) See Post, Railway & Telegraph Verordnungsblatt Nr 78 of 9 December 1850

(2) See Ministry of Trade Verordnungsblatt Nr 79 of 16 October 1852

(3) This newspaper was published by the firm of J P Sollinger (1795-1849), a prominent Vienna publisher. Tuchlauben 438 (the Konskriptionsnummer; it's now Nr. 13) was the location of his second printing works. By 1852, he had died and his widow Anna was running the company; in 1854 she sold it.

(4) Ref. Kohn, Bull. APSNY XIII Nr 1-2 (1961). Reprints of the Mercuries were done as sets, so there are the same number of blue, yellow, rose & red.

# The 1851 Issue - types and subtypes of the blue Mercury

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 31 May 1864. Large quantities of fakes and forgeries exist of all Mercuries, some of deceptively excellent quality and others immediately obvious. There are also Official Reprints, and numerous facsimiles notionally sold as album spacefillers. The various handbooks and catalogues use inconsistent definitions of the types; Ferchenbauer 2008 is followed here (he has three principal types and no subtype IIa). 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!

## Major characteristics of the three printing types.

### 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



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Cancelled in Lombardy:



◀ PAVIA 30 AGO

Part of the large (~40mm dia)  
LODI newspaper office  
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 and dated 17/3.

### 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 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.

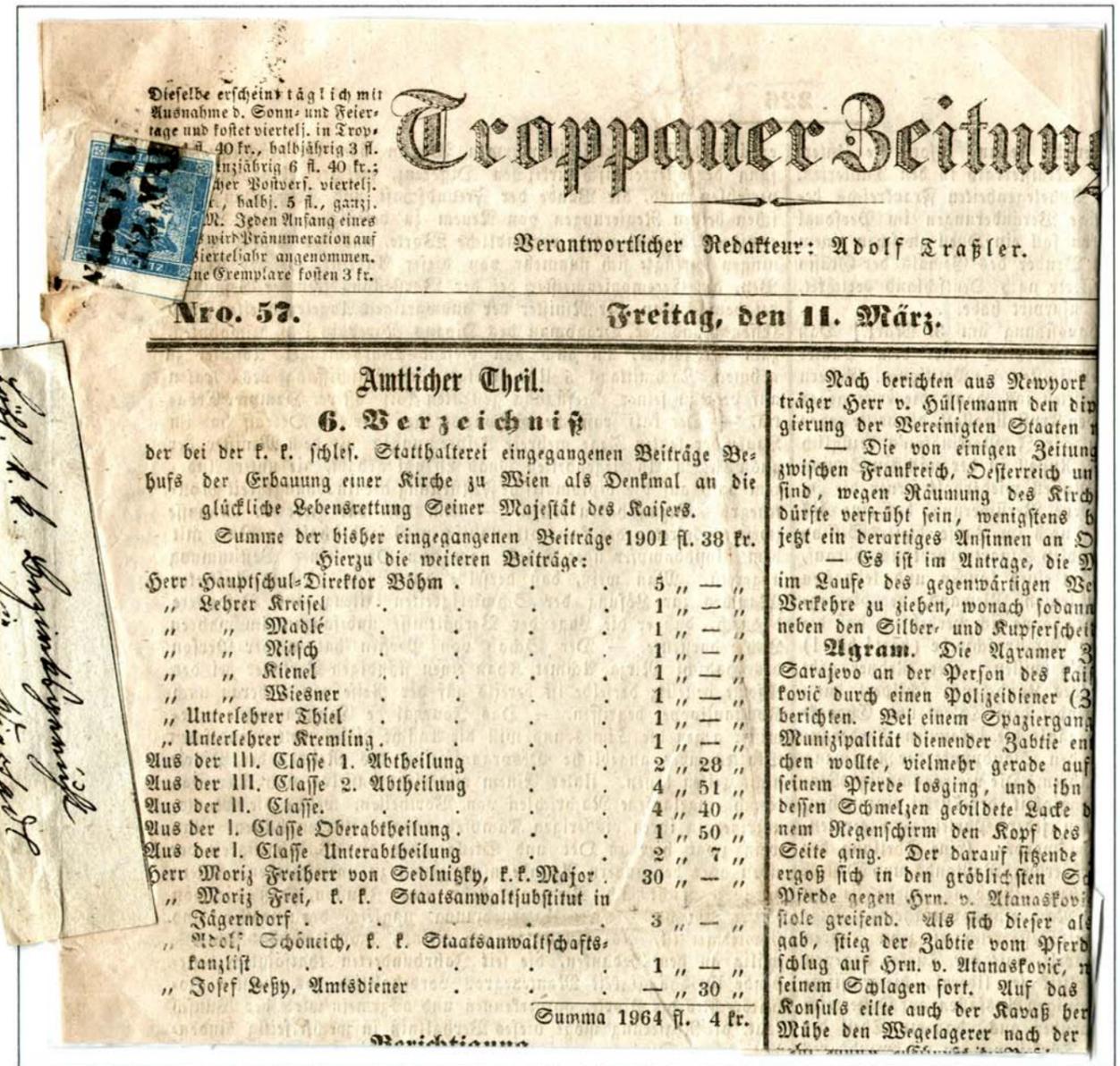
**TYPE IIIb:** The top left corner rosette is damaged. In **ZEITUNGS** the 'U' is damaged and in the 'G' are two coloured dots.



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



"Troppauer Zeitung" of Friday 11 March 1853, posted to Löbl(iches) k.k. Bezirksgericht (the local court) in Wigstahl (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 Joseph's escape on 1 Feb 1853 from an attempted assassination.

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# The 1851 Issue

## The Blue Mercury types Ib, IIb, IIc



Wrapper posted from Prague to Domoraditz; type Ib stamp cancelled in nearby Hohenmauth

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



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Uncommon strip of three blue mercuries type IIb with double-circle cancellations ZEITUNGS EXPED: WIEN 27/11 on residual piece of wrapper.



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

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### Late Usage

On the left is a typical example of a piece of a newspaper as posted. The label has the address of the recipient, Baron v. Longo of Klagenfurt. It has been applied to the top right corner of the front page, covering some of the subscription price list.

The cancel is illegible, but the prices are stated in Nkr (NeuKreuzer) ie after the November 1858 currency change. The un-denominated type IIc first-issue stamp had been revalidated; it remained in use till 1 May 1864.

# The 1851 Issue

## The Blue Mercury types IIIa, IIIb



The 'Wiener Geschäftsbericht' 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.

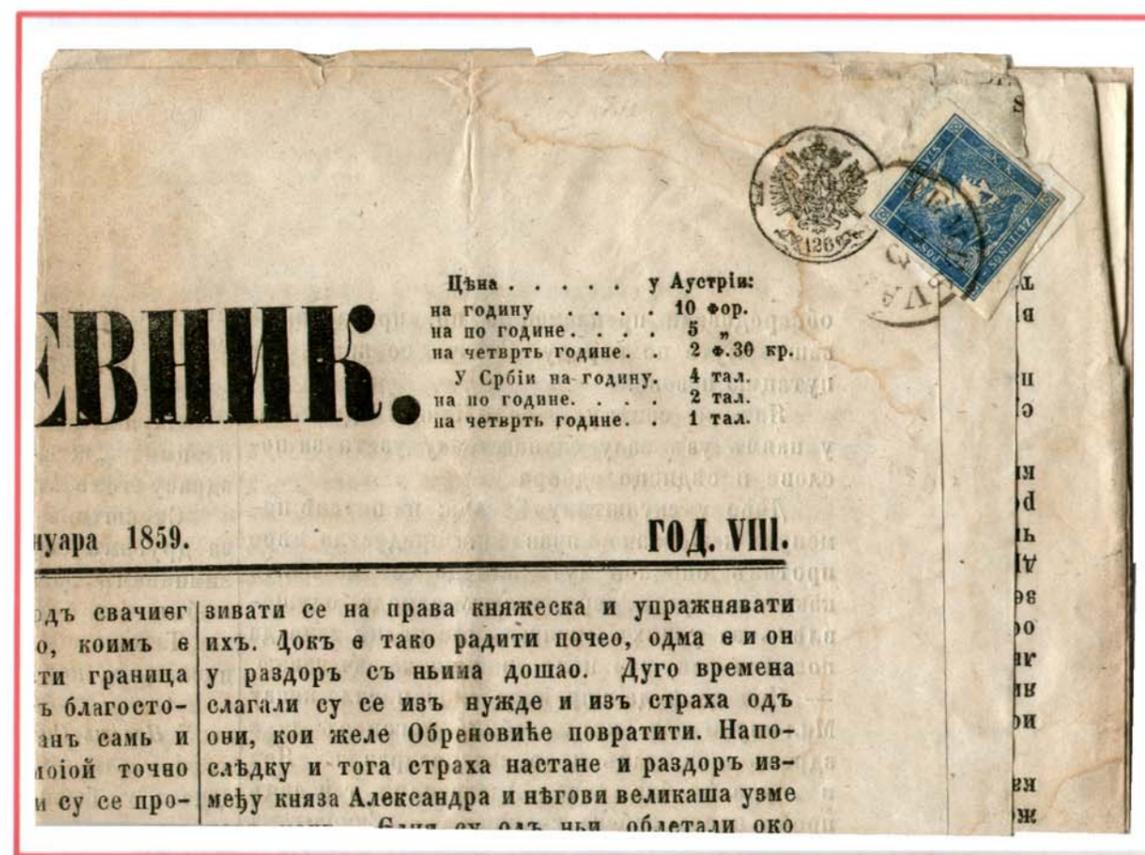


1851 type IIIa stamp (and parts of two more!), cancelled in Jägerndorf.



1851 type IIIb stamp sent to and cancelled at Trento.

## Late usage



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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 1kr as shown by signet nr 126 applied in the tax office in Szegedin.

Type IIIb stamp, with traces of an address label underneath it.

## The 1858 issue (valid from 1.11.1858 to 31.5.1864)



In 1858 Austria changed from Conventions-money (C.M.) to the decimal Austrian currency (ö.W.). A new newspaper stamp was issued on 1 November 1858, imperf, in type I (ie indistinct neck bow), without value designation. The only stamp issued was for individual newspapers, and it kept the familiar colour blue; so it could also be used in Lombardy-Venetia. 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. The new newspaper stamps had a similar design and colour to the 15kr blue normal postage stamp. This was often taken advantage of, with deceitful intent; so in August 1859 the colour was changed to a photosensitive lilac, which was issued after the blue ones ran out.

### The 1858 blue stamp



Normal



Small 'blue eye'



Big 'blue eye'



Lumpy nose

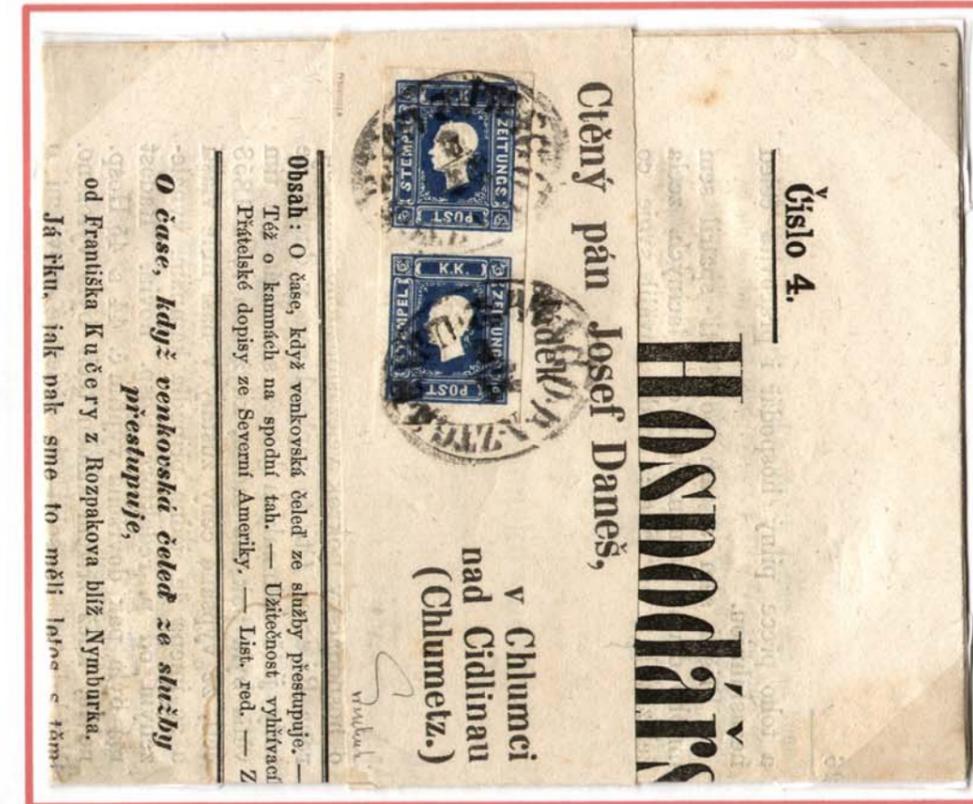


Address label for copy of Triester Zeitung, sent to Fiume and cancelled there on 24 December; dark blue 1858 stamp.



This is a Die Proof Reprint. These were made in 1907/8 from all available clichés and printed in black for Hans Kropf to use in his book "Die Postwertzeichen von Österreich-Ungarn"

### The 1858 blue stamp on newspaper



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 (scan on left). 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.



### Official Reprints

Like the letter-post stamps, newspaper postage stamps were reprinted many times, for presentation to the UPU or other postal administrations; for sale to collectors; to raise funds for Good Causes such as widows and orphans; or "to meet the philatelic demands of High Personages" - who usually resold them to dealers! Officially, the 1866 reprint was of 500 copies, very few being sold to the public; but between 500 and 1000 extra copies were surreptitiously produced, later appearing on the market via a High Personage.

Rare 1866 reprint of the 1858 stamp



1886 reprint of the 1858 stamp



# The 1858 issue

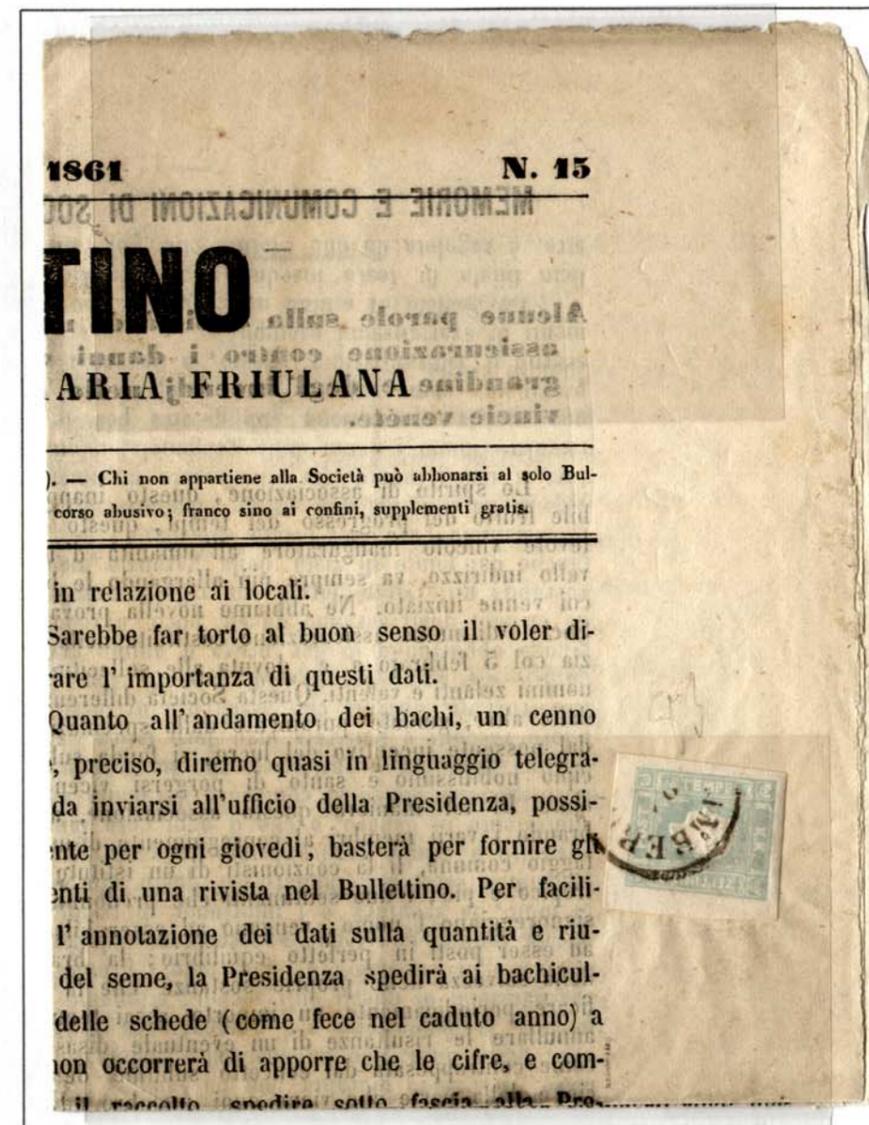
## 1859: colour change

The blue newspaper stamp could easily be confused with the blue 15Kr postage stamp – and deceitful persons often took advantage of this! So from August 1859 the newspaper stamps were printed in lilac in type II (distinct neck bow). This lilac colour is very photosensitive and also water-soluble, so that all possible lilac shades up to grey occur. The lilac stamps are found with a wide range of cancellations.

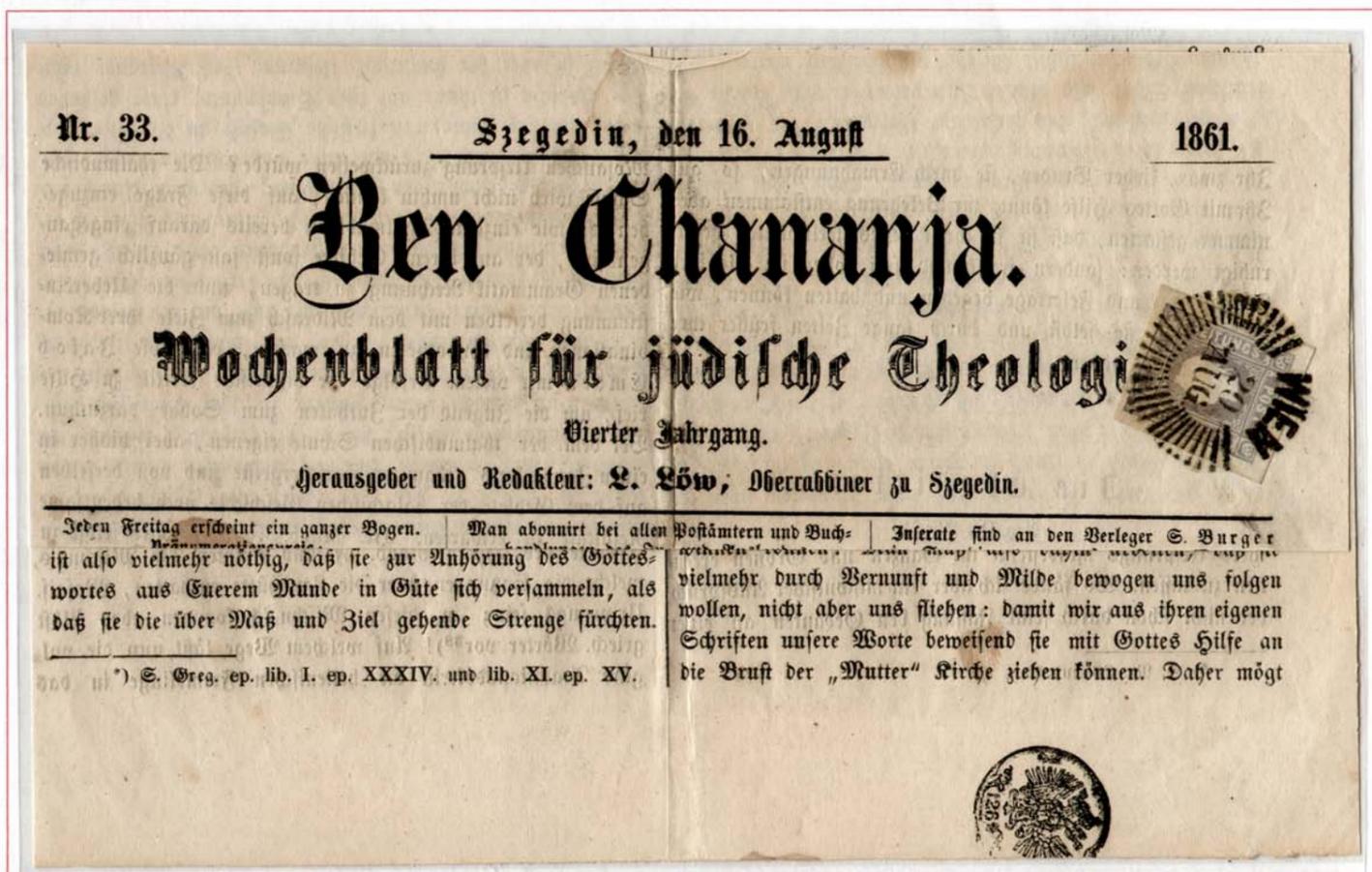


The pair on the left has a vertical inter-stamp spacing of 4mm, while the blue pair on the previous sheet has 3.5mm

## 1859 stamp on newspaper and label



"Buletino dell' associazione agraria friulana" published at Udine on 23 April 1861. Franked with 1858 lilac newspaper stamp cancelled on arrival at Spilimbergo (located northeast of Venice in the province of Pordenone). Item signed by Diena and Pfenninger.



Newspaper with tax signet and postal adhesive

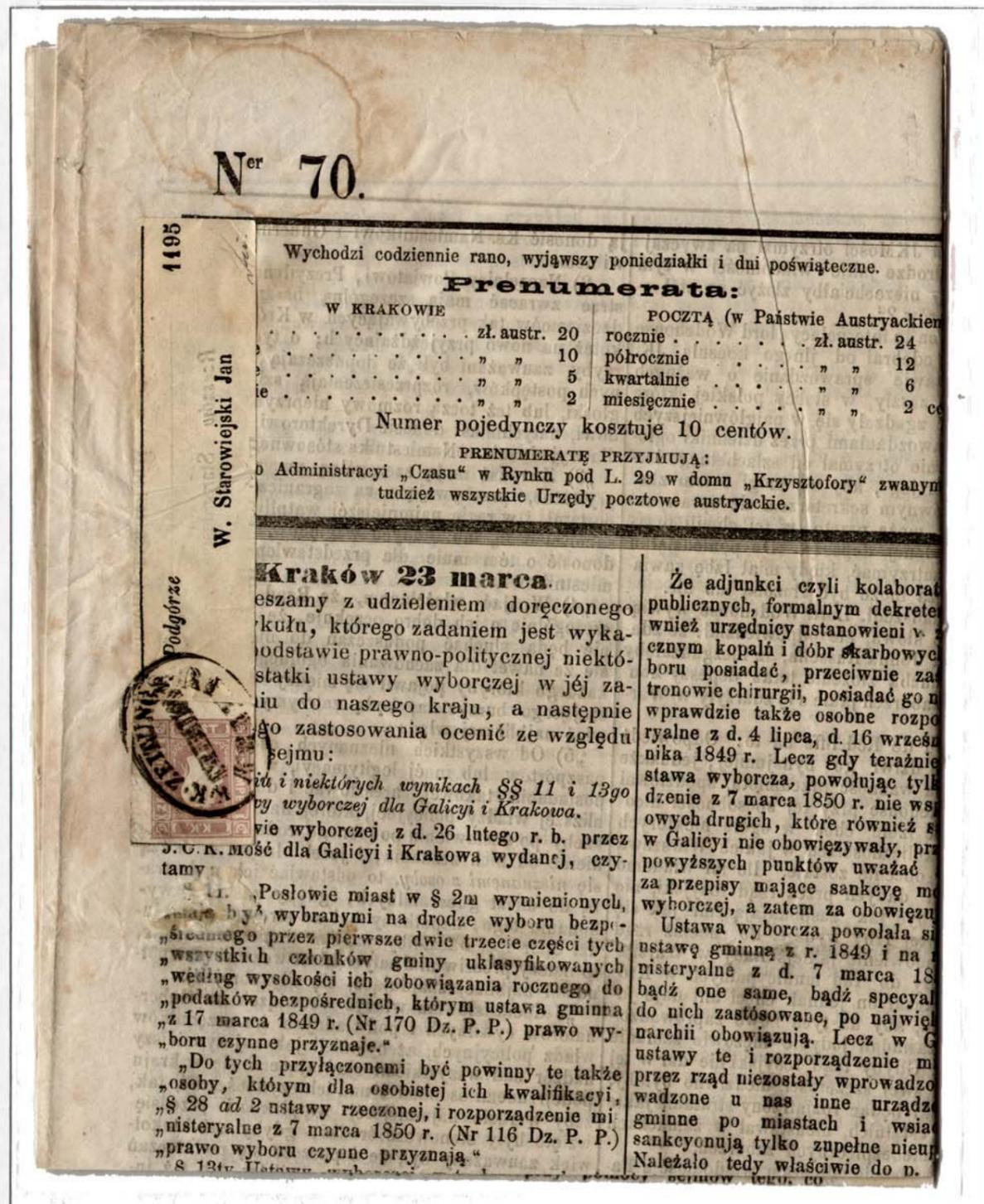
"Ben Chananja", a weekly newspaper about Jewish theology published by the Chief Rabbi of Szegedin on 16 August 1861. Grey-lilac 1859 newspaper postage stamp cancelled by 'starburst' of Vienna dated 20 August. Taxed 1 Kr, shown by signet nr 126 at the bottom; this was applied in the tax office in Szegedin before the paper was printed.



Address label cancelled by Vienna newspaper section (so this was the only copy to this destination) to Schlan via Slapanicích, both N.W. of Prague.

# The 1858 issue

## 1859 stamp on newspaper



Polish newspaper "CZAS" published at Kraków on 24 March 1861. Sent to W. Starowiejski Jan (ie Jan Starowiejski Esq., "W" being the abbreviation for *Wielmożny* = 'Honourable') at Podgórze. Franked with 1858 type II grey-lilac newspaper stamp with oval cancel "K.K. ZEITUNGS-EXPEDITION KRAKAU".

## Strip of three dark lilac Type II



Newspaper wrapper sent to the Bezirksamt (local district office) in Kalwarya (in Galicia). The wrapper is franked with a strip of three dark lilac Type II 1859-issue stamps, cancelled with a straight-line KALWARIA / 2 MAI

The town of Kalwarya was founded in 1617 as Zebrzydów; in 1640 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.

### Official Reprints

The 1859 newspaper postage stamps were also reprinted many times.



1870 reprint of the 1859 stamp



1886 reprint of the 1859 stamp

# The 1858 issue

## A rare pseudo-mixed franking

### The Postage.

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.

This item is illustrated and described in Ferchenbauer (2008) vol II p. 594. (Ref. 2)

## The Pusterthaler Bothe of 18 May 1860, sent to Schwertberg / Post Mauthausen



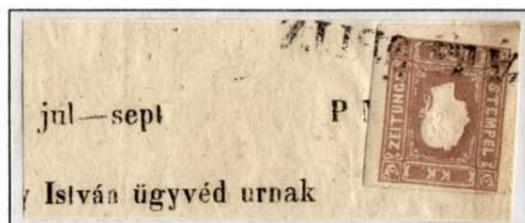
### The Tax.

The newspaper tax is paid with a blue 1858 1Kr tax stamp, cancelled by an Austrian Fiscal Office cancel which is underneath the printing of the newspaper's masthead.

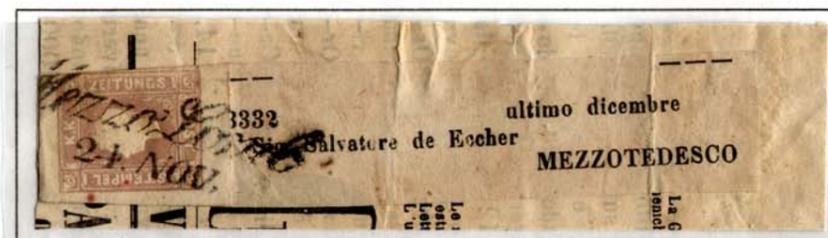
The newspaper was edited and printed in Bruneck, South Tirol; the tax stamp is required to be applied before the paper is distributed by the printer.

This is called a "pseudo-mixed franking" because it has two different adhesives for two different purposes.

## Address labels

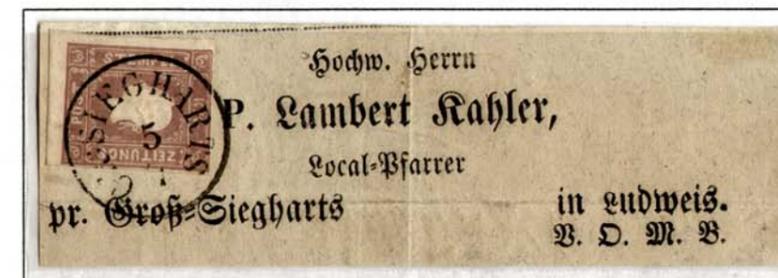


Portion of address label sending a newspaper to "[...] István ügyvéd urnak" which is Steven [surname ending in 'y'], a lawyer. Franked with 1858 lilac type II. Straight-line cancel in Bohemia, re-using a pre-stamp canceller.



Address label to Sig. Salvatore de Eccher at Mezzotedesco in Südtirol (today Mezzocorona in Trentino-Alto-Adige), about 15km north of the city of Trento. There was no post office there until 1887, so the mail went via Mezzolombardo where it received the normal "name in script, date in italic roman" cancel. The label is stuck on a piece of an Italian newspaper used (as is common) to make the wrapper for the new edition.

Mezzolombardo is "where the Lombards lived" (ie the Italians) on the west bank of the Torrente Noce (a tributary of the Adige); the German speakers were in Mezzotedesco on the east bank.



Address label to Father Lambert Kahler at Groß-Siegharts in Lower Austria; cancelled there on arrival.

# The 1861 issue (valid from 21.12.1860 to 31.5.1864)



In 1861, postal stationery envelopes were for the first time issued with a value impression, and their design was also used for the newspaper postage stamps. The ink was the same photosensitive lilac as previously; numerous shades are found and a selection is shown here. The stamps were valid until 31 May 1864. The newspaper stamp shows the head of Emperor Franz Joseph, in a frame designed specifically for the newspaper stamps. This is sometimes referred to as the 1860 issue!

## Selected shades and cancels



A 'Springer': fallen off in transit so not cancelled on arrival



Cancelled at Krakau station



Cancelled at Vienna Newspaper Section



ZARA (Dalmatia, so date in Italian)



Salzburg Newspaper Section



FELSO-BANYA



NAGY-DOROG

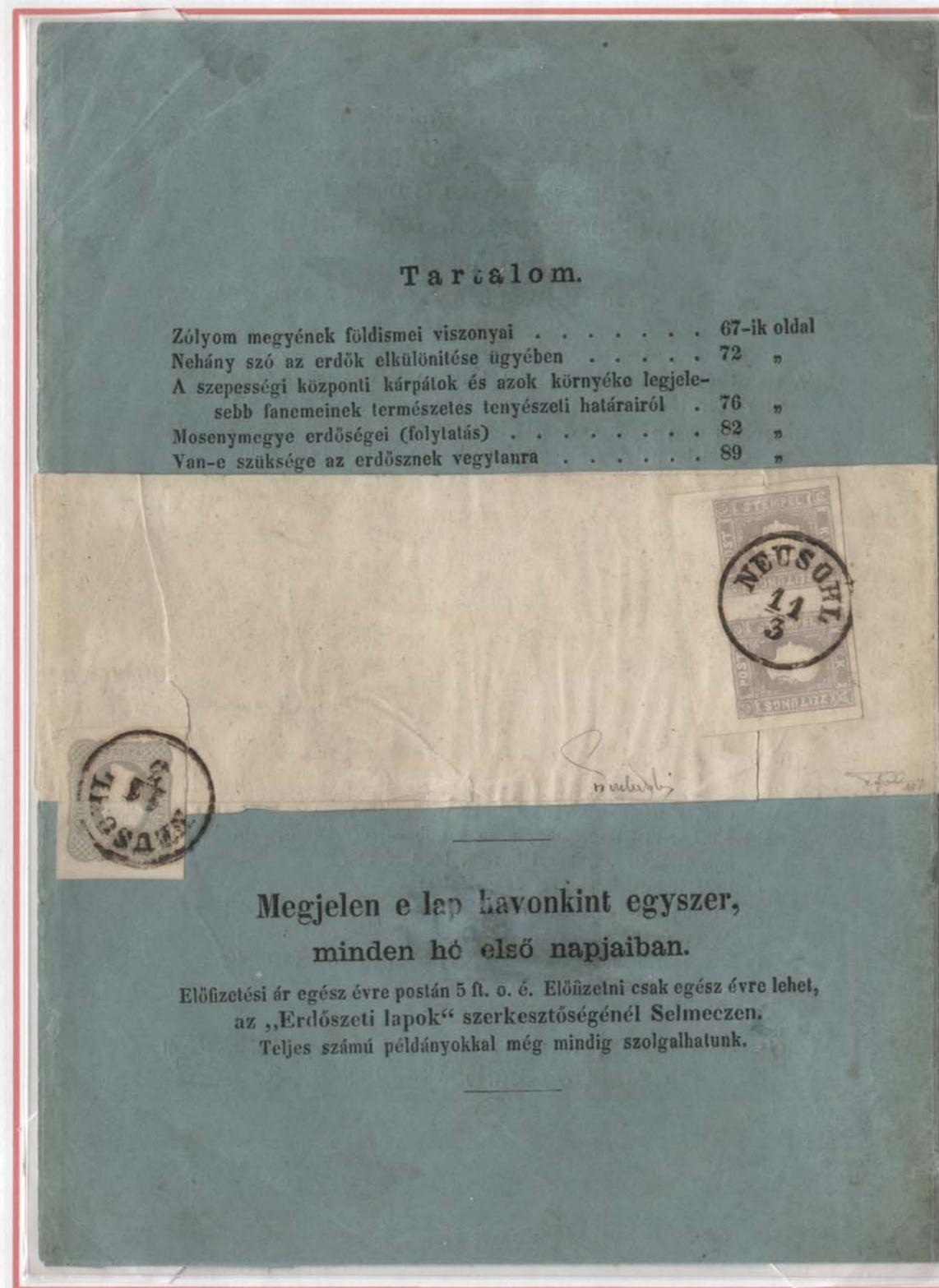


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Vienna City Post canceller from 1830s, modified for cancelling newspaper postage stamps in 1860s! The bottom line would have resembled I.Exp:7½ F. before alteration.

## 1858/9 - 1861 mixed franking

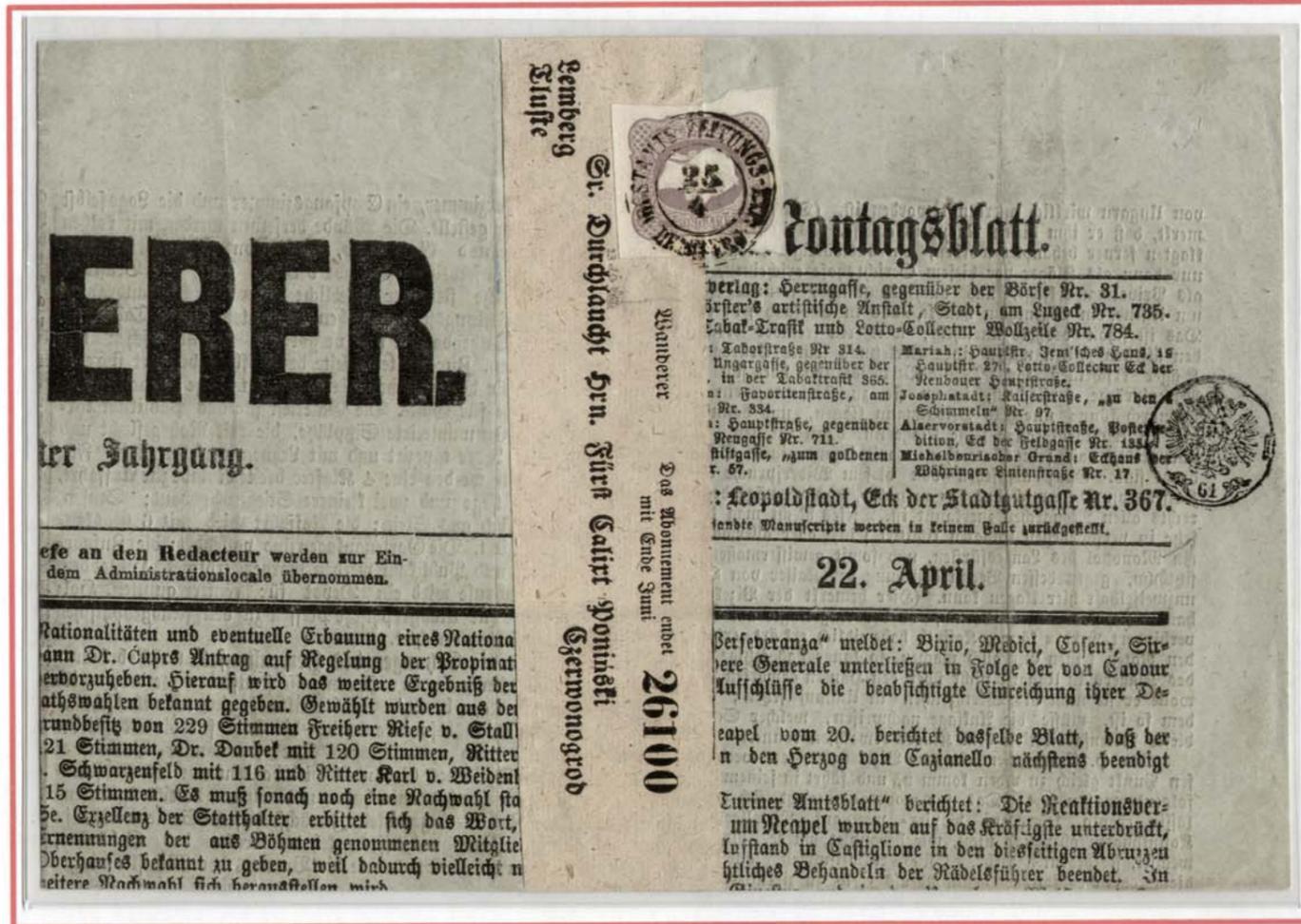


Extremely rare 1858/59-(pair)-plus-1861 mixed franking on the original wrapper of presumably three copies of The Forestry Newspaper. Published at Selmecezen in 1862; sent to Besztercze-Bányá (Bistricza); and cancelled at Neusohl.

©

# The 1861 issue

## Newspaper with postage stamp and tax signet



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 *Thluste* (office opened 1817; today called *Tovste*) to His Serene Highness, The Prince Calixt Poniński at his castle at *Czerwonogrod* (office only opened in 1911; entire village demolished by Soviets!).

In the right margin is a signet indicating that the 1kr newspaper tax had been paid.

## Printed address labels.

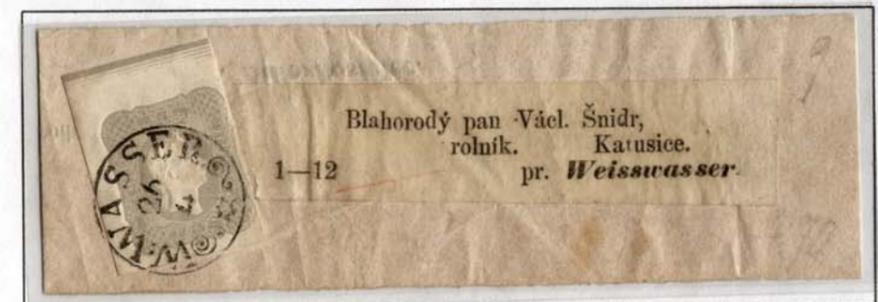


58 g.	Gegenwart
Sr. Hochwürden Herrn Josef M. Eferát, ev, Pfarrer	
Chrudim	Dvakačovic

The item is a *Schleife* - a newspaper wrapping band. It has two grey 1861 newspaper postage stamps, so must therefore have contained two copies of a newspaper. The scan shows the address details. It's addressed to the evangelical pastor at *Dvakačovice*, a small village about 7km N.E. of *Chrudim*, which still has an evangelical church.



Light-grey shade 1861 newspaper post adhesive with single-circle cancel "ZEITUNGS-EXPED: WIEN 16/8". Address label preprinted on tall sheet cut into separate label-wrappers. Sent to Maximilian Grabowski, a senior lawyer at *Neu-Sandec* in *Galicia*.



Address label fragment; 1861 stamp shows one thick above three thin top marginal bars. Single circle cancel **W:WASSER 26/4**. Addressed to Mr Šnidr, a farmer at *Katusice*, in central *Bohemia*. A post office in *Katusice* was only opened in 1894, so this item was sent to (or collected by a messenger from) *Weisswasser*, about 5km N-E, which opened in 1836.



# The 1863 issue (valid from 1.6.1863 to 31.8.1869)

The issue of 1861 did not last long. 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 10kr and 15kr 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 the inscription in a larger font. Valid till 31 August 1869.

## Stamps and wrappers



Thick and/or thin marginal bars are found.  
Left & middle: bar type B; right: bar type A with plate-numbering dot



Unusual cancels: three blue ink, one pen!



Haidenschaft      PÜRGLITZ      PRZEMYSL BAHNHOF      LINZ



Newspaper office cancels from Salzburg, Prague & Vienna



Pair with VENEZIA cancel



MYSLLENICE



Too much      Too little      Just right!

Over- and under-inking is common in 1863 stamps.



Thin wrapper sent in 1864 to Herr Brenner in Dimbach, upper Austria. 1863 stamp cancelled at nearby GREIN. Blue transit cancel of WALDHAUSEN on the back. There was no post office at Dimbach until 1870.



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



Address label with lilac 1863 stamp, sent to and cancelled on 27 June [1866] at Mödling, then a village south of Vienna. Piece of contemporary newspaper used as the wrapper.

# The 1863 issue

## Stamps and wrappers (ii)



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

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



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



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



Wrapper sent to Bleiburg; redirected to Riva via Trient (“RIVA IN TIROL” arrival cancel on back)

# The 1867 issue (valid from 1.6.1867 to 30.9.1900)



Following the 1867 Compromise with Hungary, new postage and newspaper stamps had to be rapidly issued without any inscription or inappropriate symbols; luckily the currency abbreviation was the same in Austria (kr - kreuzer) and Hungary (Kr - Krajczár). In this issue, private perforations appear in large numbers for the first time, occasioned by the need for strips of stamps to stick on sheets of address labels. Issued on 1 June 1867 priced at 1Fl 5kr per sheet of 100, ie 1.05 kreuzer each. On 1 January 1868 the price-per-sheet was reduced to 1 Gulden, so a single stamp's value was 1 kreuzer.

## The 1867 Issue

Issued 1 June 1867; valid in Hungary till 30 June 1871; in Austria till 30 September 1900. During these 33 years, an estimated 2 thousand million were printed. The face value was 1.05kr until 31 December 1867, 1Kr thereafter (Ref 9 p.200). The colours vary greatly: as well as intentional changes, countless shades have emerged through fading and decomposition of the light-sensitive water-soluble dyes. In this issue, large numbers of private perforations are found.

## Types of the 1867 stamp

There were three master dies during the 33 years of validity. Stamps of type I were issued on 1 June 1867 (and briefly around April 1876); of type II in mid-1873; and of type III at end 1876. Types I and II come in both coarse and fine printing; type III only in fine. All types have subtypes, for which the various catalogues use different and incompatible classifications. The subtypes are distinguished by the presence or absence of dots, meander ends etc; and by printing type and shades. This exhibit follows the classification scheme of Ferchenbauer's 2008 edition.

### TYPE:

I

II

III



Top of outer circle is:	unbroken	unbroken	broken
Centre line of helmet brim is:	dotted above the eye	dotted above the eye	missing
Helmet line at front above eye is:	dotted	slightly dotted	continuous
Hair curls between eye & ear:	merge with shadows	do not merge with shadows	do not merge with shadows
Lines at root of wing:	2 clumps	separated	separated
Wing outline?	none	has white rear edge	none

### Printing types

Coarse print: found in Types I & II only



Fine print: found in all Type III, some Types I & II



## Watermarks

The paper of this issue had a sheet-watermark placed horizontally in the middle over two sheets of 100 pieces. The letters were 23-24 mm high in double-lined Roman characters; the E, N, M, A, R, & K had internal lines. The total length of the watermark was about 445 mm. Since the word was present five times on the watermarking roller of the papermaking machine, one can find minor differences between the individual letters.

Z E I T U N G S - M A R K E N .

In 1884 the watermark was changed: the size and width of the letters remained very similar, but the internal lines were removed and the total length became approximately 440mm.

Z E I T U N G S - M A R K E N .

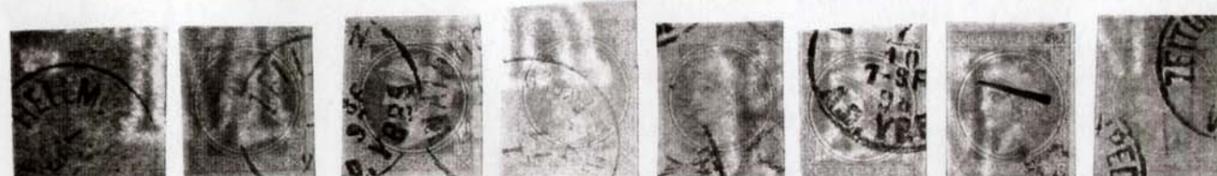
The watermark can be found reversed or inverted, depending on which way the paper was inserted into the printing press.

The stamps below, with transmitted-light photographs, illustrate the second watermark type.



Z E I T U N G S

- M A R K E N -



# The 1867 issue

## Proofs



Printer's Proof

This was made on thin low-grade paper to check the functioning of the press.

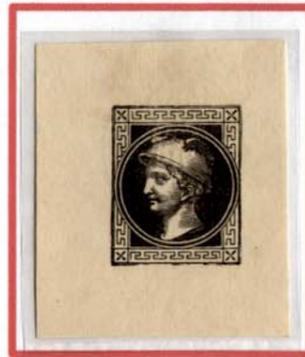


Plate Proof

Made on thicker high-quality paper.

## Perforations

Many different perforations are found; these were privately arranged (although probably done by the State Printing Works) to speed up the labelling & despatching operation.



10



10½



11



11½



imp x 10½



imp x 11½



12 x imp



10½ x imp

## Shades

Specialised catalogues list numerous shade variations for the 1867 stamp, eg Ferchenbauer2008 has 14, ANK has 17, Puschmann et al 19! Even more are found in practice; two reasons for this are that the printing inks are light-sensitive and are water-soluble. A selection of visibly-different shades follows.



1892 cancel, so a later shade.

# The 1867 issue

## Flaws on Type I stamps



Left: "stamp" assembled from two stamps. Fraudulent reuse or badly-aligned cutting?  
 Right: offprint at top, on back of normal Type III stamp.



Examples of the "mushroom helmet flaw" – the back of the helmet is elongated. It's caused by damage to the "make-ready", the material on the roller that presses the paper on to the clichés.



Over-inking at bottom and unusual chocolate shade.

Various degrees of under-inking.



Rear of helmet missing

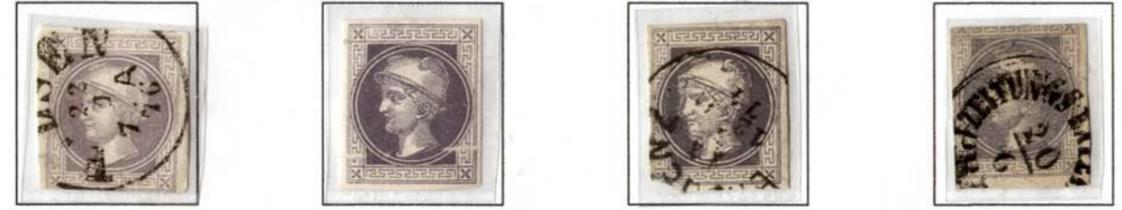
Circle partly printed double

Nose & chin damaged

Woolly appearance to left of face

## Flaws on Types II & III stamps

### Type II



Broken frame at bottom right

Plate scratch

Ghost image

Dirt at top

### Type III

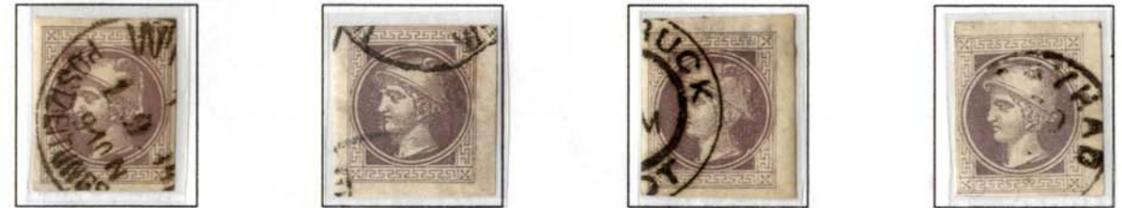


Dirt in wing

Dirt behind neck

Damage at top of helmet

Damage at left edge



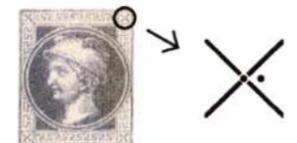
Ghost image

Ghost image

Ghost image. Type IIID stamp

Creased make-ready at front of neck

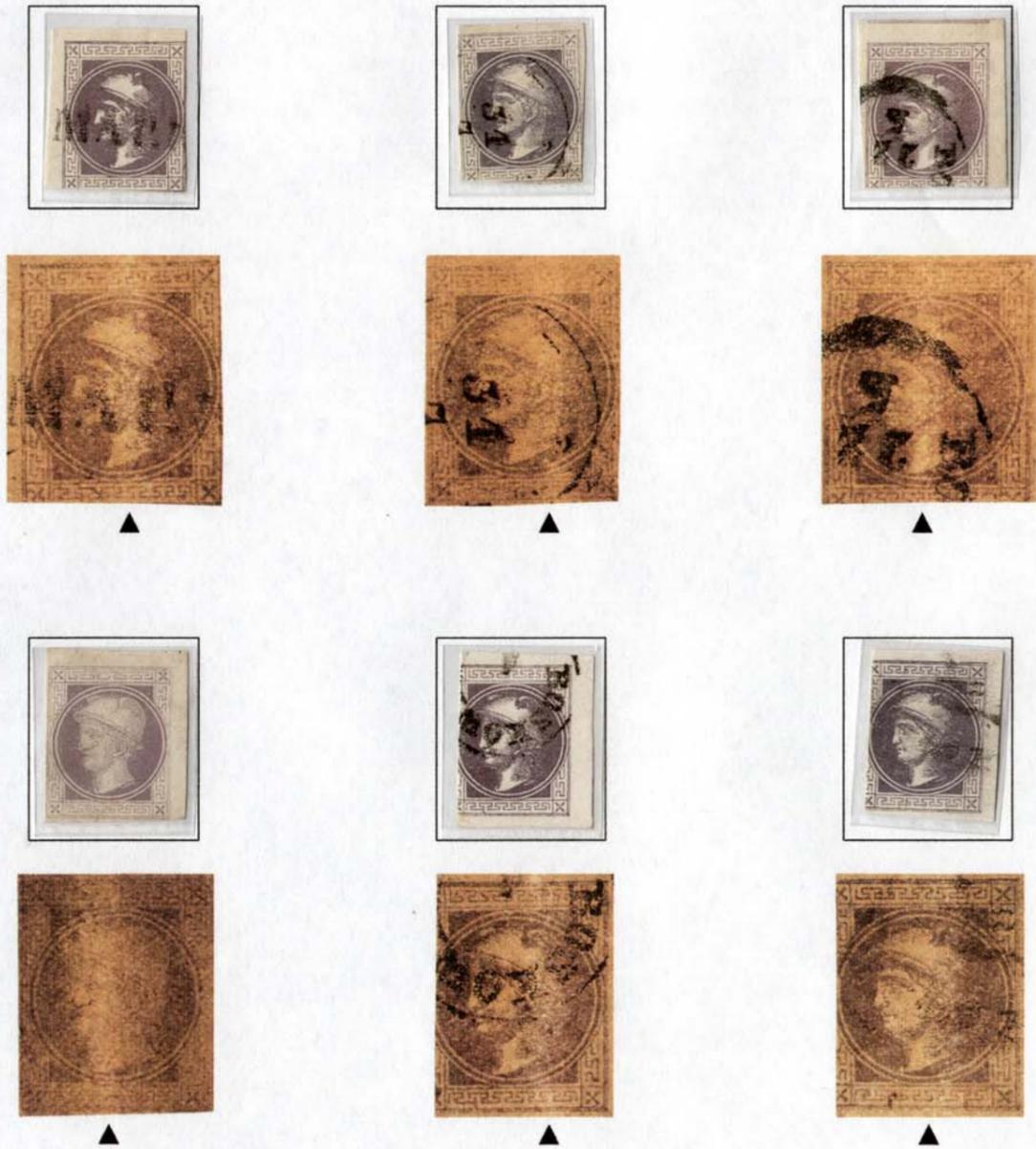
"Type IIID". In this flaw, there is an extra dot in the top right corner, as shown in the sketch. Some authorities ignore it; some list it as Type IIID; Ferchenbauer-2008 classes it as Plate Fault Nr 17. I have chosen to call it Type IIID.



# The 1867 issue

## Stitch Watermarks (Naht-, Sieb- or Ladurner-wasserzeichen)

The papermaking machine has an endless band on which the paper is formed. This band is a very long strip of material folded into a loop (like a rubber band but rather larger!). The material is joined by stitching, either regularly or irregularly, and the imprint of the stitches appears on the paper. It can be found on stamps either vertically or horizontally, depending on which way the paper was inserted into the printing press. These watermarks are not easy to see; the illustrations below are transmitted-light images of the stamps below them.



## Plate faults



Flying saucer

Scratch in front of nose

Dot inside meander

Large dot in inner circle

Damaged bottom left corner

Broken bottom left meander

Damaged bottom right corner

Broken bottom left meander

Severe damage, bottom left

# The 1867 issue

## Marginal rules

The authorities list almost a dozen different types of marginal rules above and below the printing plate. They helped to protect the plate against damage during printing. They were somewhat shorter than the full width of the 10 or 20 clichés, and can be found both above and below the stamps.

Rule type 'A' - single thick bar



Bottom left corner



Perf 8¼

Rule type 'B' - one thick bar and one thin bar.

Subtype B1 has the thin bar nearer the stamp; B2 the thicker.



B1; top left stamp



B1



B1



B2



B1



Left: Rule type 'C' - 4 thin bars and one thick bar

Right: trace of rule at bottom. The grey line above it is a "Randwasserzeichen" or "Randleiste" and is produced by the paper grippers in the watermarking or printing processes.



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.

# The 1867 issue

## Complete counter sheet

These stamps were printed in assemblies of 100 clichés arranged 10x10 with top and bottom rules. Four such assemblies were arranged 2x2 in the forme. Often, although not here, 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:

12	12	13	13	14	14
34	43	24	42	23	32

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, half, and whole 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.

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 half. The stamps were sold to newspaper publishers in these 10x10 blocks.

The stamps were cancelled **WIEN 1/1 POSTZEITUNGSAMT 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 Wohnungsanzeiger nebst Handels- und Gewerbe-Adressbuch*, 1894).



# The 1867 issue

## Multiples



Wrapper made from old newspaper, franked with 37 Type III adhesives: three strips of 10 plus one of 7, the latter with a type IIID in row 4.

Cancelled **WIEN 1/1 POSTZEITUNGSAMT 127.7.94 11-12V**  
 V = Vormittags so this is the 11 am – 12 noon period.



Strip of 5 Type III (second from right is a Type IIID) cancelled at **GABLONZ AN DER NEISSE**



**WIEN-INNSBRUCK TPO**



**PRAG KLEINSEITE**



**CILLI**



Block of 12 Type III, cancelled **WIEN 1/1 POSTZEITUNGSAMT 24.6.1896** plus an unreadable "barred lozenge" presumably from the destination.

# The 1867 issue

## Unusual blocks



Unusually-large block of 40 Type III stamps, the bottom 4 rows of a sheet. Cancelled in CZERNOWITZ on 14 Jan 1900; these stamps were valid until 30 September 1900. The four white lines at bottom left show that this is sheet 4 of the 2x2 printing pane.



Block of 18, cancelled WIEN POSTZEITUNGS-AMT I on 19.7.1894.

Type III; second stamp from left in middle row is Type IIID

Part watermark zeitungs-marKEN at top left; shown at right in transmitted-light photo.



## The 1867 issue (continued)

Unusually-large newspaper

Излази Уторком.

Цијена:  
За Аустро-Угарску, Босну и Херцеговину: на годину 6 ф., на по год. 3 ф., на четврт год. 1 ф. 50 н.  
За Србију и Црну Гору: на год. 17 фран., на по год. 9 фр., на четврт год. 5 франака у злату.  
За све остале земље: на годину 20 франака, на по год. 11 фр., на четврт год. 6 фр. у злату.

Преплата и огласи шаљу министрацији „Српскога Листа“ дру. Дописи шаљу се Уредништву. Рукописи се не враћају.  
За огласе плаћа се за сваки редак 5 новчића. Огласи од 10 редака стоје 40 новчића, а сваки даљи редак по 3 новчића.  
Један посебни број „Српскога Листа“ стоји 12 новчића, — а старији број 15 новчића.

# СРПСКИ ЛИСТ

Година II. У Задру, 10 (22) Фебруара 1881. Број 6.

### ХРВАЦКА СТРАНКА У ДАЛМАЦИЈИ.

Неколике црте донешене у прошлом листу довољне су, да нам осветле положај хрватских странака у Хрватској. Сад да упитамо: којом се од ових слаже хрватска странка у Далмацији? Пошто ова странка тежи за сјединењем, и осталијем што Хрва-

обзири, као што би била традиција њезиних недавнијих начела и оно што би назвали политичном досјетљивости, него ли искрено увјерење, да треба оставити на миру ове двије тврђаве народне независности на балканском полуострову. Та мала разлика између хрватске странке у Далмацији и странке права имала би сама по себи исчезнути. Вријеме је добар пријатељ, каже талијанска

трена чланке, који потресају живце државног одвјетништва, дачим чланци „Narodnog Lista“ падају као слатки мед на желудац високе господе. Странци права бан хрватски није ништа друго већ поглавица загребачке управе — тако је данас положај Хрватске жалостан прам њезином замишљају — дачим је хрватској странци у Далмацији и аустријски генерал Јовановић превећ велик

сове који се никад за народну слободу нијесу чули, него упрежу народ под њемачка кола. То и народ види и изрећи ће своју осуду уз пркос проклињању подмићенијех пророка и уз пркос моћнијех властодржаца!

У Задру, 9 фебруара.

“Serbian News” from Zadar/Zara (Dalmatia) on 10 February 1881; the (22) is the date in the Western calendar.  
1867 type III newspaper post stamp cancelled on arrival at Pancsova (Hungary). Single tax signet at top right corner.

# The 1867 issue

## Unusually-large multiple franking



52 stamps for 52 newspapers

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. Cancelled **WIEN 1/1 POST-ZEITUNGSAMT 117.7.94 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) row 1 column 8 and row 2 column 4 of both 10x2 blocks are Type IIID, which has an extra dot in the top right cross, suggesting that it occurs at constant plate positions.



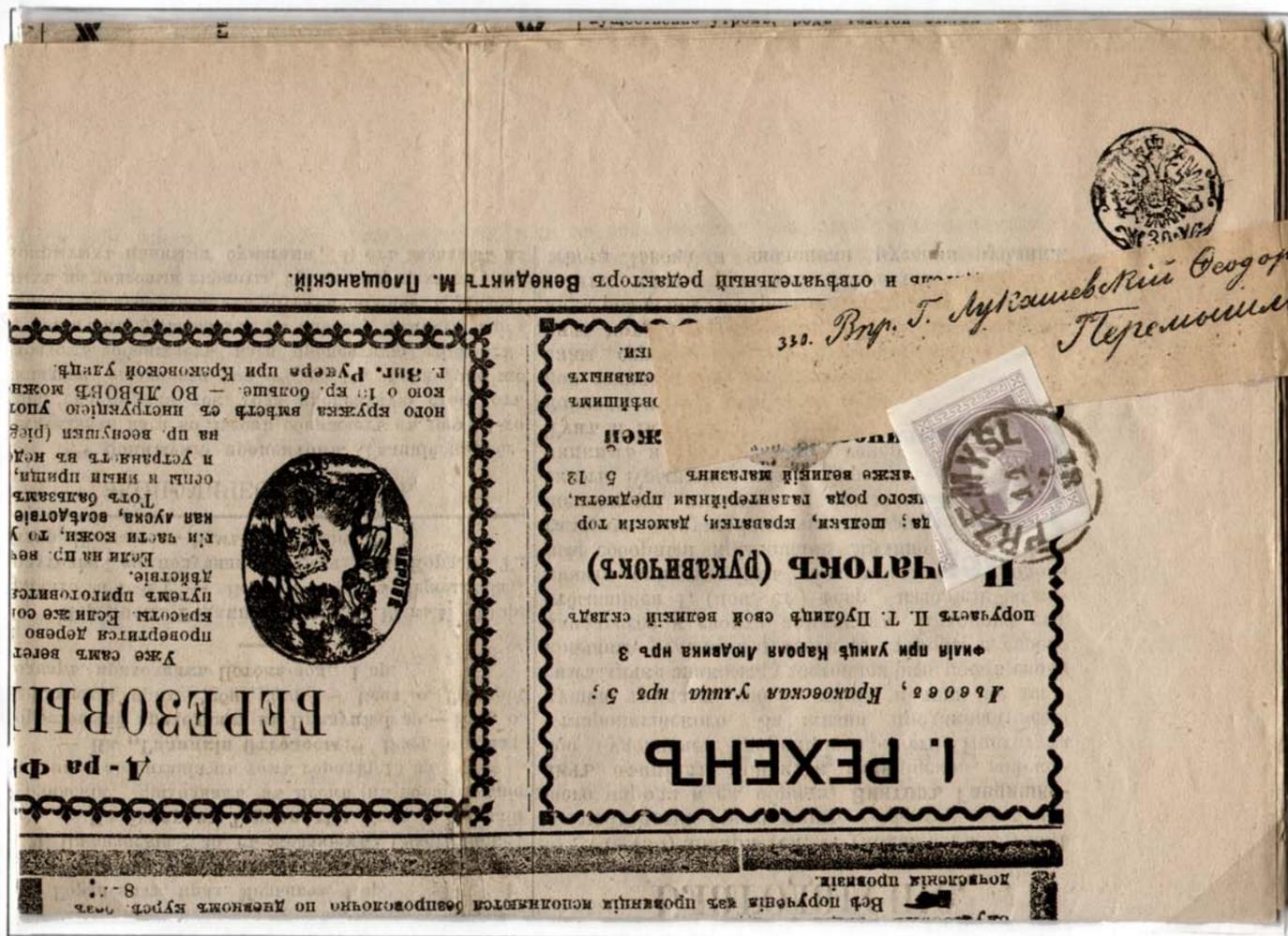
Left: 4x magnification of the right side of the stamp as oriented above. The Type IIID 'extra dot' shows on the left.

Right: Hi-resolution sharpened scan of the corner, showing the dot.



# The 1867 issue

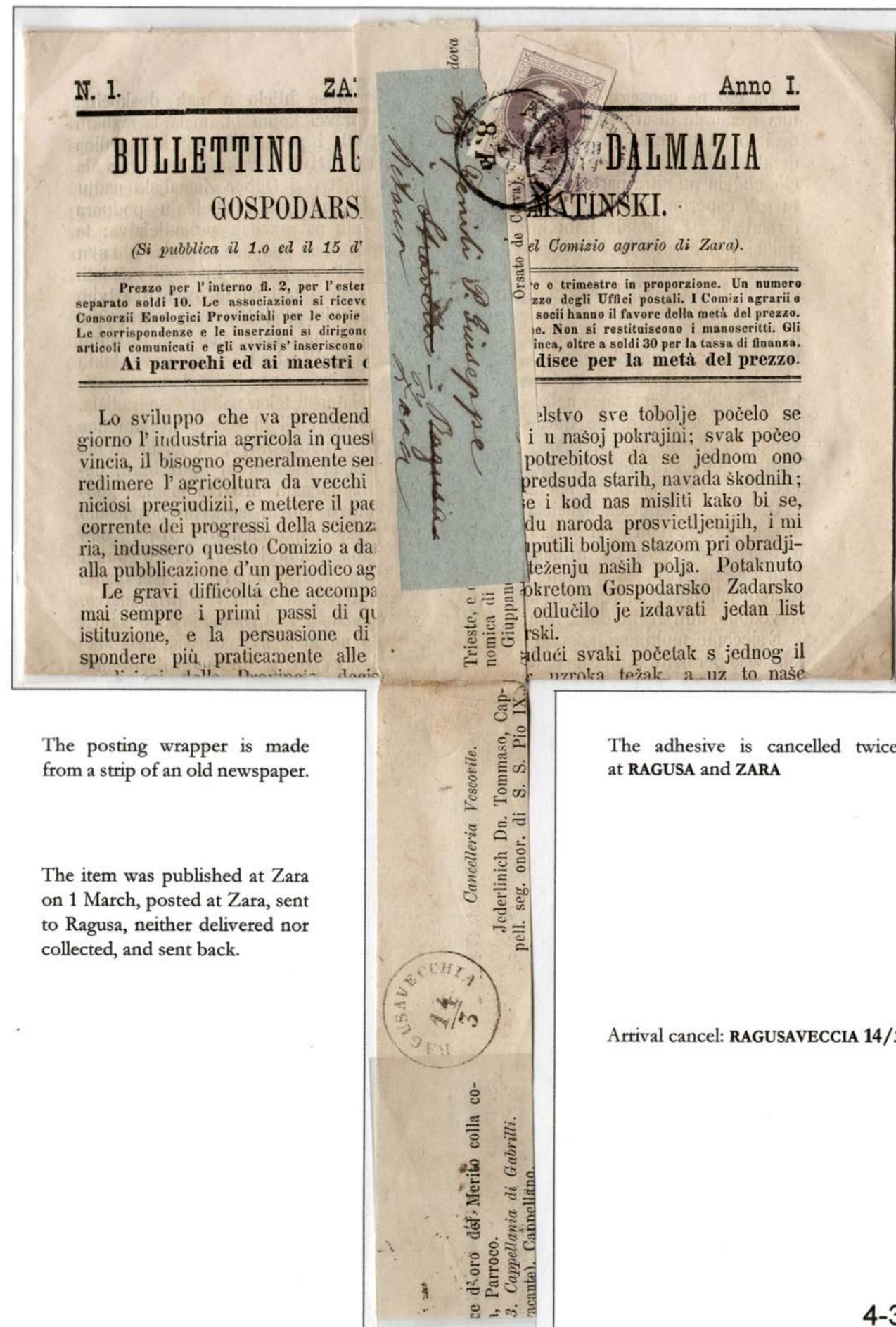
## Pseudo-mixed franking



So-called "pseudo-mixed franking" results from a newspaper tax adhesive or signet appearing alongside an inland or foreign letter- or newspaper postage stamp.

Newspaper "СЛОВО" ("Word") printed in Russian on 29 January 1881 (10 February in the Western calendar) in Lemberg. 1867 type III newspaper postage stamp cancelled 11/2/81 on arrival at Przemysl. Posted to subscriber 330, Mr Feodor Lukashovsky, Przemysl; the address label is handwritten in Ukrainian script. Newspaper taxed 1 kr, applied before addressing; shown by signet nr 30, a non-standard type only used in Lemberg.

# An uncollected newspaper



The posting wrapper is made from a strip of an old newspaper.

The item was published at Zara on 1 March, posted at Zara, sent to Ragusa, neither delivered nor collected, and sent back.

The adhesive is cancelled twice, at RAGUSA and ZARA

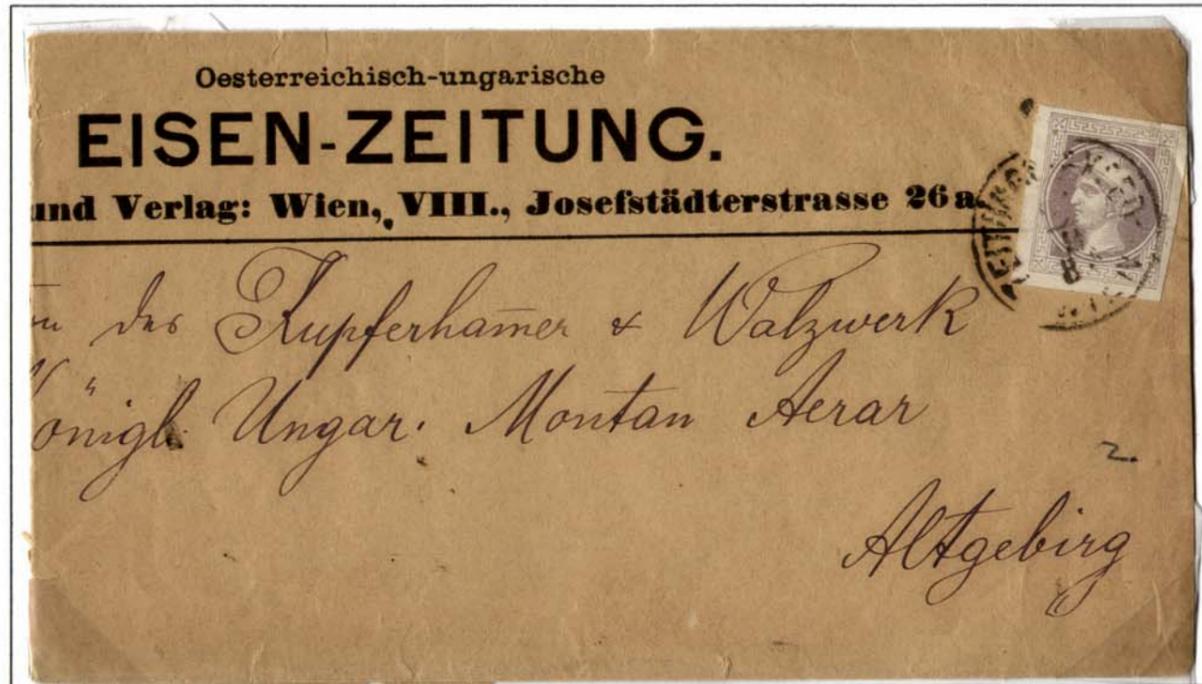
Arrival cancel: RAGUSAVECCIA 14/3

# The 1867 issue

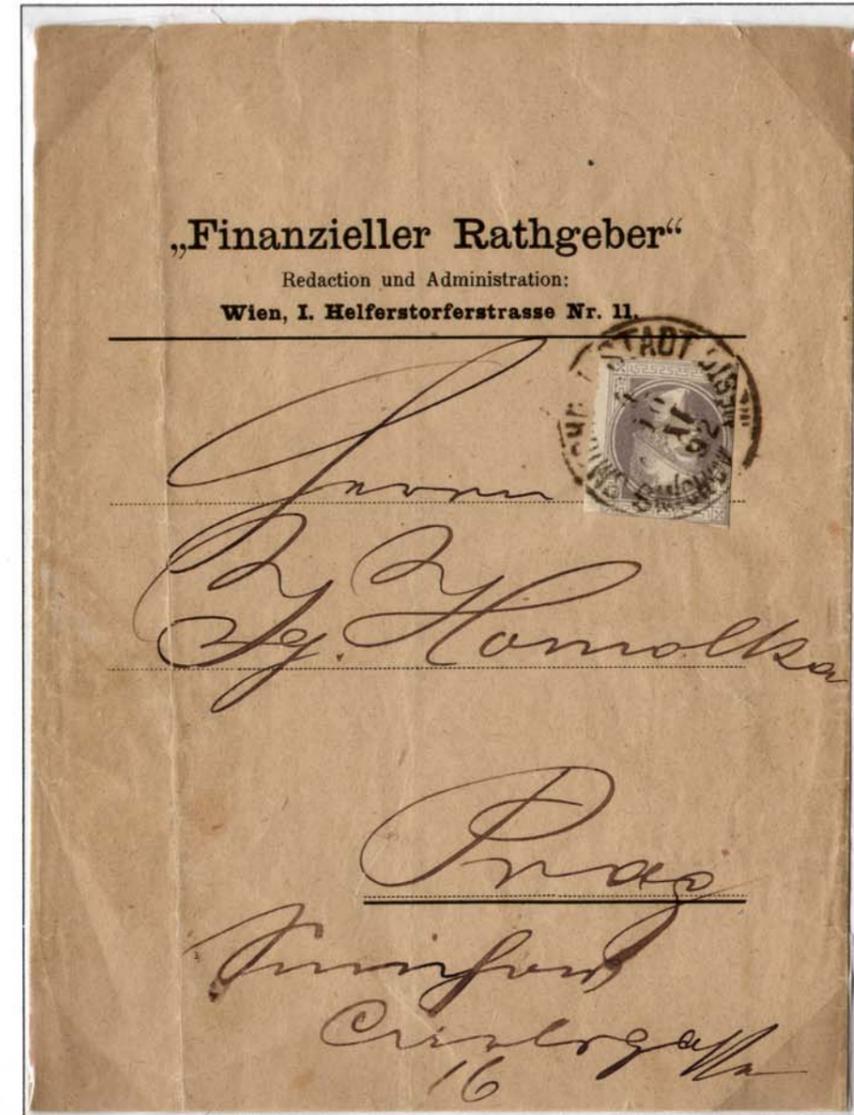
## Wrappers and sleeves



Unusual wrapper made from a piece of old newspaper and franked with two bottom-margin copies (so containing two copies of the newspaper) sent to the spouse of a First Lieutenant in Polička, which was in Bohemia. The stamps are type III with type A marginal rule, and are cancelled POLIČKA 2/6/96.



Long wrapper (folded here) sent from Vienna to Hungary and cancelled ZEITUNGS-EXPED / WIEN on despatch. Type III stamp.



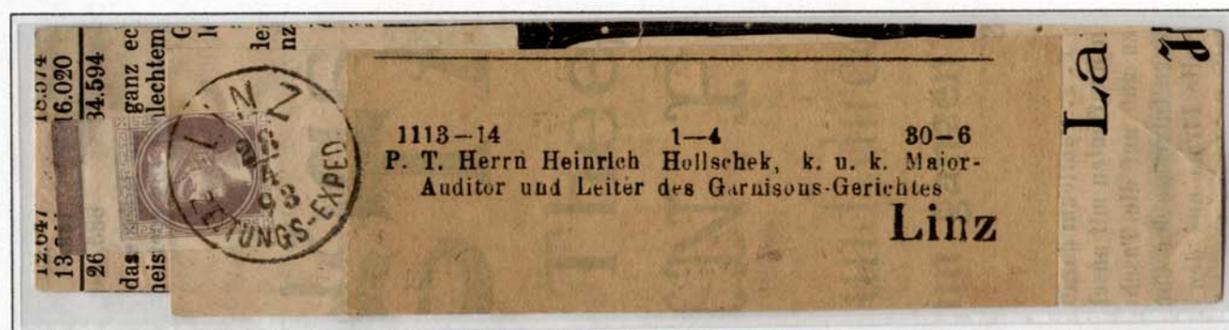
Sleeve sent from Vienna to Prague and cancelled SMICHOW STADT / SMICHOW MESTO on 4.11.1892 on arrival at the suburb of Smichow. Type III.



Stamps perforated 11 top and bottom, but applied as a vertical strip to a sheet of labels which was then sliced into address labels stuck with gum to narrow sleeves. Sent to Hallein and cancelled there. Type III.

## The 1867 issue

### Sleeves



Type III stamp with type 'A' marginal rule cancelled at Linz on 28 April 1893



Type III stamp on band cancelled at Lienz; the cancel date is 7 Jan 1862 but the 6 must be a '9' upside down as the stamp was issued in 1867!

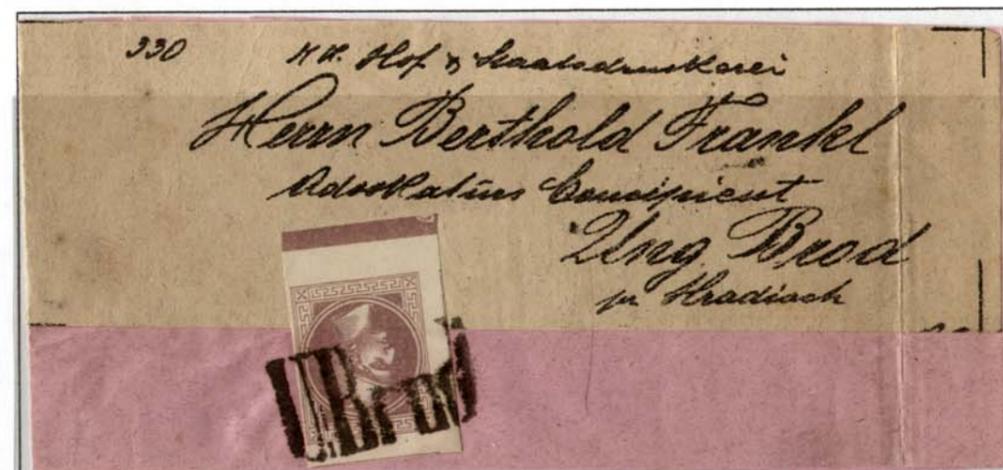


Type III stamp on band cancelled in Vienna and posted to ČACHRAU in Bohemia where it received a dual-language arrival cancel on the back.



Narrow sleeve sent to GRIES IM WIPPTHAL and cancelled there. Type Ie stamp.

## The Newspaper Verschleisser system



Sleeve with label sent to Ungar Brod (aka Uhersky Brod) in Moravia. 1867 newspaper stamp, type III, with type A marginal rule. The item was sent by the KK. Hof u. Staatsdruckerei to Herr Berthold Frankel / Advokatus Concipient / Ung. Brod / zu Hradisch. Herr Frankel is studying to qualify as a barrister. The 330 will be his number in the addressee list.

The undated straight-line cancel **U:Brod** (with a colon) is not recorded in any of the standard catalogues. It is probably a heavily-corroded cancel **U.Brod** (with a dot), which is catalogued but as a Postmaster Postmark, notionally used on forms etc but not on normal mail.

The handwritten address label is pasted on a red wrapper. This shows that it was sent by train to a **Verschleisser** – a newspaper retailer – who would collect it from the railway station in order to bypass the local post office delivery delay. The piece is undated; the stamp was valid from 1867 to 1899; the railway line to Ungar Brod was completed in 1888.

The regulations for the “Verschleisser” system were developed over the decades as postal subscribing to newspapers, and the Austrian railway network, both expanded. Regulations covering delivery-to-railway-stations are not in the 1882 consolidation [1] but do appear in the 1890 Postordnung [2] which introduced the “**Railway Station Letter**” and added almost as an afterthought that an analogous system could be applied to newspapers. As well as the postage, the publisher had to pay a fee of 5 Gulden a month per copy. Rules specifically for Verschleisser-newspapers first appeared in 1920 [3].

[1] This is a 37-side appendix to 1882 Postverordnungsblatt Nr 26, collecting together all the regulations on the posting of newspapers, and repealing all that preceded it. There's a copy in the Ferdinandeum in Innsbruck.

[2] 1890 Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt Nr 112.

[3] 1920 Postverordnungsblatt 23 Nr 13.

# The 1880 issue (valid from 1.12.1880 to 31.12.1899)



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 of ½ kr (per copy) to the postmaster, in advance and in cash. The issue and use of the green ½ kr newspaper delivery stamp (Zeitungsstellungsmarke) were announced on 14 October 1880, and published on 22 October as Postverordnungsblatt 64. The ½ kr stamp was introduced so that subscribers had 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.



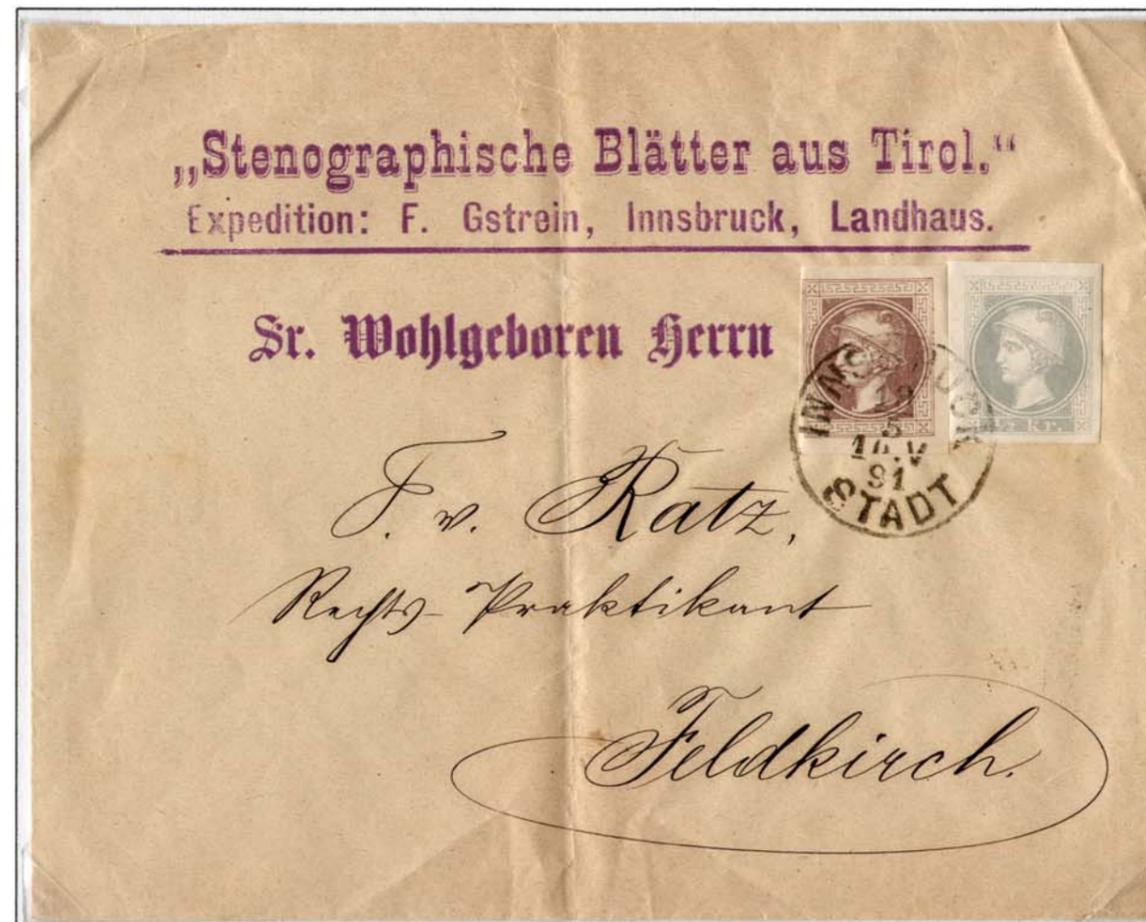
The stamps are found with a wide range of shades (the ink is photosensitive).



Transmitted light photograph, showing a partial watermark

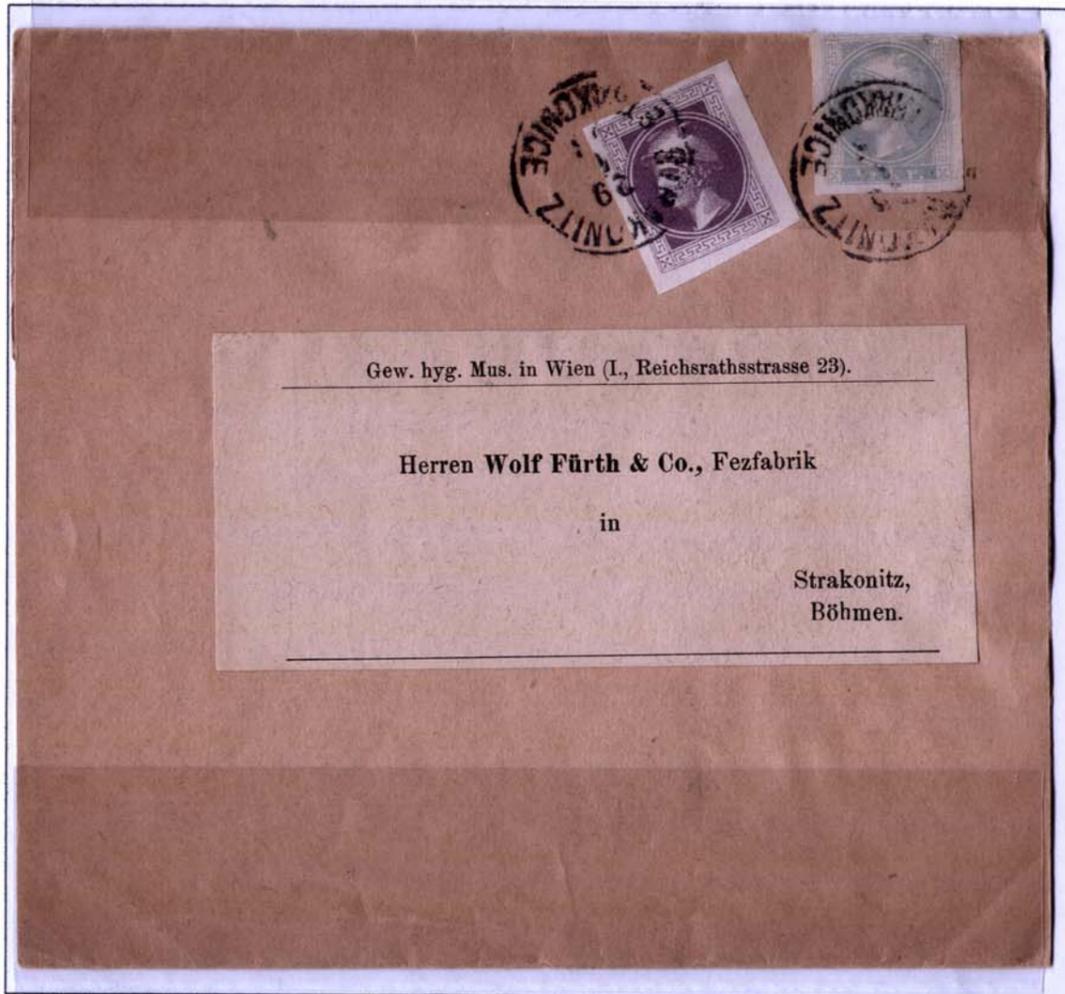


Examples of the 1 kr and ½ kr combination in use. Above: Innsbruck to Feldkirch (arrival cancel on back - see scan). Below: from somewhere to Baden.



## The 1880 issue

### The ½ kr in use



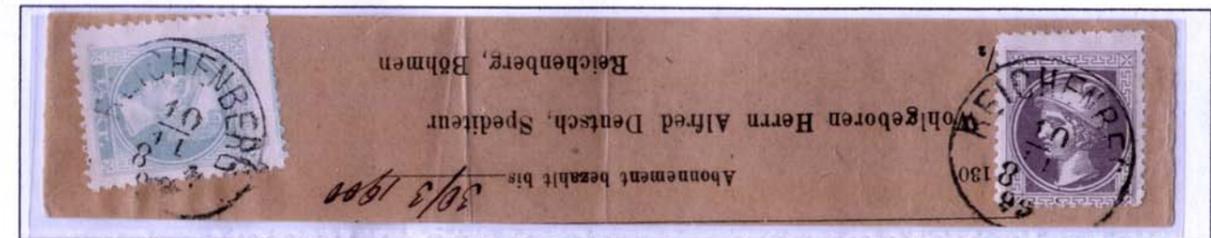
1 kr postage plus extra ½ kr local delivery, both cancelled on arrival at Strakonitz in Bohemia.



The same, both cancelled WIEN 40 on 24.8.1894 in the 11am-1pm duty period.



A pair of ½ kr used on 16 May 1899 for postage from Triest to Reichenberg; note sheet top border bar (on the left as stamps applied sideways!)



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

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 (nicht-ärarisch\*\*) 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, which also clarified that the pay-in-cash system could also be used at state-owned Post Offices.

From about 1890, pairs of the ½ kr were used to pay the 1 kr tariff. The ½ kr stamp remained valid until 31 December 1899.

\*\* **Ärarisch Post Offices** were owned by the state and run by salaried state employees. **Nicht-ärarisch 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.

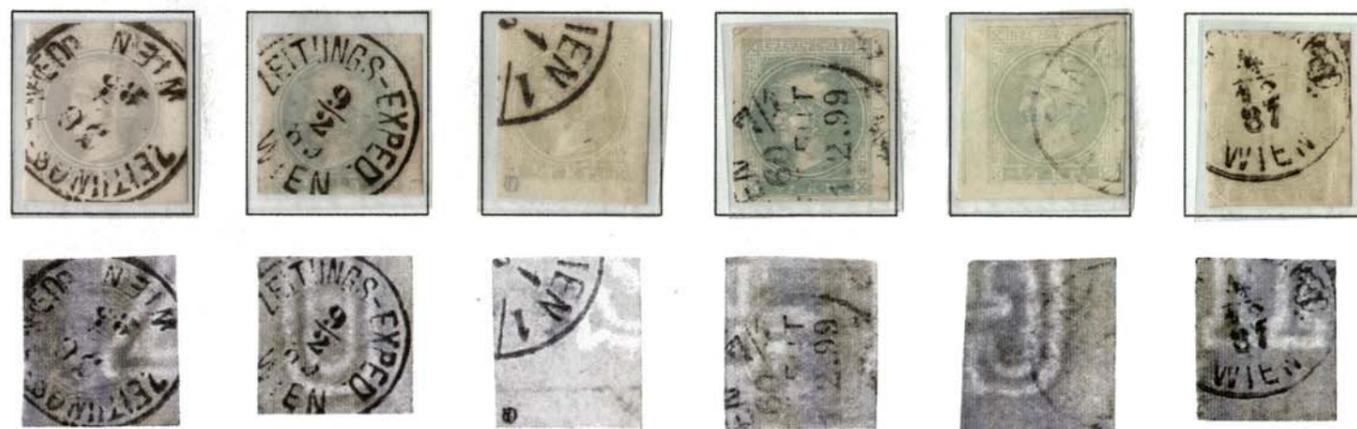
# The 1880 issue

## Watermarks

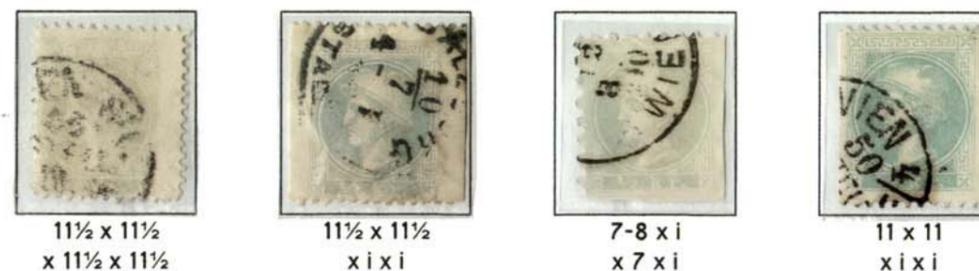
The 1880 issue was printed on the same paper as the 1867, so is found with the two types of watermark: originally Type I (sketched below) where in ZEITUNGSMARKEN the E, N, M, A, R, & K had internal lines; and from 1884 where the internal lines were removed.

### ZEITUNGSMARKEN.

The stamps are followed by photographs in transmitted light to show the partial watermarks



From 1888, the stamps are found with a wide range of private perforations and rouletting; noted below as top x bottom x left x right. 'i' = imperf; 't' = torn off



## The 1899 issue (valid from 20.12.1899 to 31.12.1916)

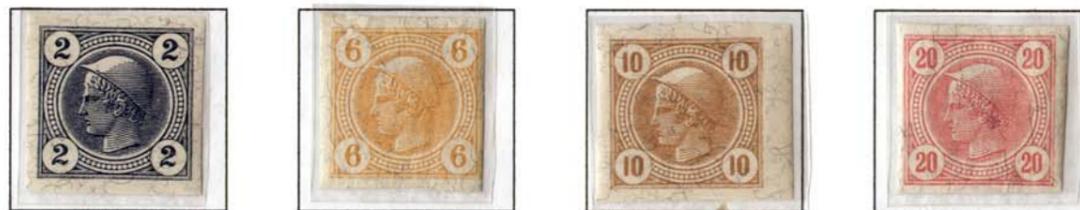


Austria moved to Gold Standard currency in the 1890s, and the new currency of "1 Krone of 100 heller" was introduced to the Postal Service on 1 Jan 1900. The new rate of 2 heller was more-or-less equal to the previous 1kr. New newspaper stamps were issued on 20 December 1899. They had a new design, with the familiar Mercury head, somewhat modernized, set in a square frame. As in 1851, there were 2h blue, 6h orange, 10h brown and 20h rose stamps for one, three, five or ten newspapers. The old tradition of the blue stamp for a single newspaper had thus been revived. The same design is found on postal stationery, especially on wrappers printed to private order for which the colour was changed, the 2h value becoming light green instead of blue with higher imprint values in a variety of different colours.

### The stamps, and their changes of design

In 1901 the paper was given slanting varnish stripes to protect against reuse; this was discontinued in 1905. The blue stamp was used unusually frequently; more than a thousand million were printed. The other stamps were infrequently used, and the higher values are very rare on whole pieces, since they were pasted on the packaging which was discarded. The stamps were valid until 31 Dec 1916.

The newspaper stamp issue of 1899 is also found on postal stationery, especially on wrappers printed to private order for which the colour was changed, the 2H value from blue to light green (usually washed-out).



1889 issue, without varnish bars



1901 issue, with varnish bars "to protect against reuse"



Privately commissioned imprint on large label; the washed-out green colour is normal.

### Plate marks, spacers, and rules

Items marked (VB) have varnish bars.



Bottom rule with plate-2 marking



The vertical line is a loose inter-cliché spacing bar



Top right corner showing end of forme-border rule



Bottom rule



Bottom rule with plate-3 marking



Bottom rule (VB)



Top left corner rule (VB)



Top rule



Top rule



Inter-cliché spacer at right



Bottom rule (VB)

# The 1899 issue

Plate marks, spacers, and rules (ii); those with varnish bars denoted "(VB)"



Top left rule



Bottom left rule with plate-1 marking (VB)



Bottom left rule with plate-1 marking (VB)



Cliché-separator blue line at top



Unusual strip of seven; heavy crease marks between the stamps probably to aid separation



Top left rule from right hand pane



Bottom rule with plate-4 mark (VB)



Above: strip of three



Left: two strips of four (VB)



Traces of next column on right



Top rule (VB)



Bottom rule (VB)



Right marginal strip



Bottom rule

# The 1899 issue

Private perforations are common; strips less so.



Perf 3 sides; mauve cancel      Perf 4 sides      Perf 4 sides; PRZEMYSL cancel      Perf 4 sides      Perf 3 sides



Perf 3 sides; pin roulette at bottom      Perf left & right; torn-off bottom      Perf 4 sides      Perf 3 sides      Perf 4 sides



Strip of 4; cancelled WIEN-PASSAU TPO



Perf left & right; cancelled BRECLAVA 2      Perf top & bottom; cancelled LINZ      Perf 3 sides; violet WIEN BESTELT cancel      Perf 3 sides; top rule

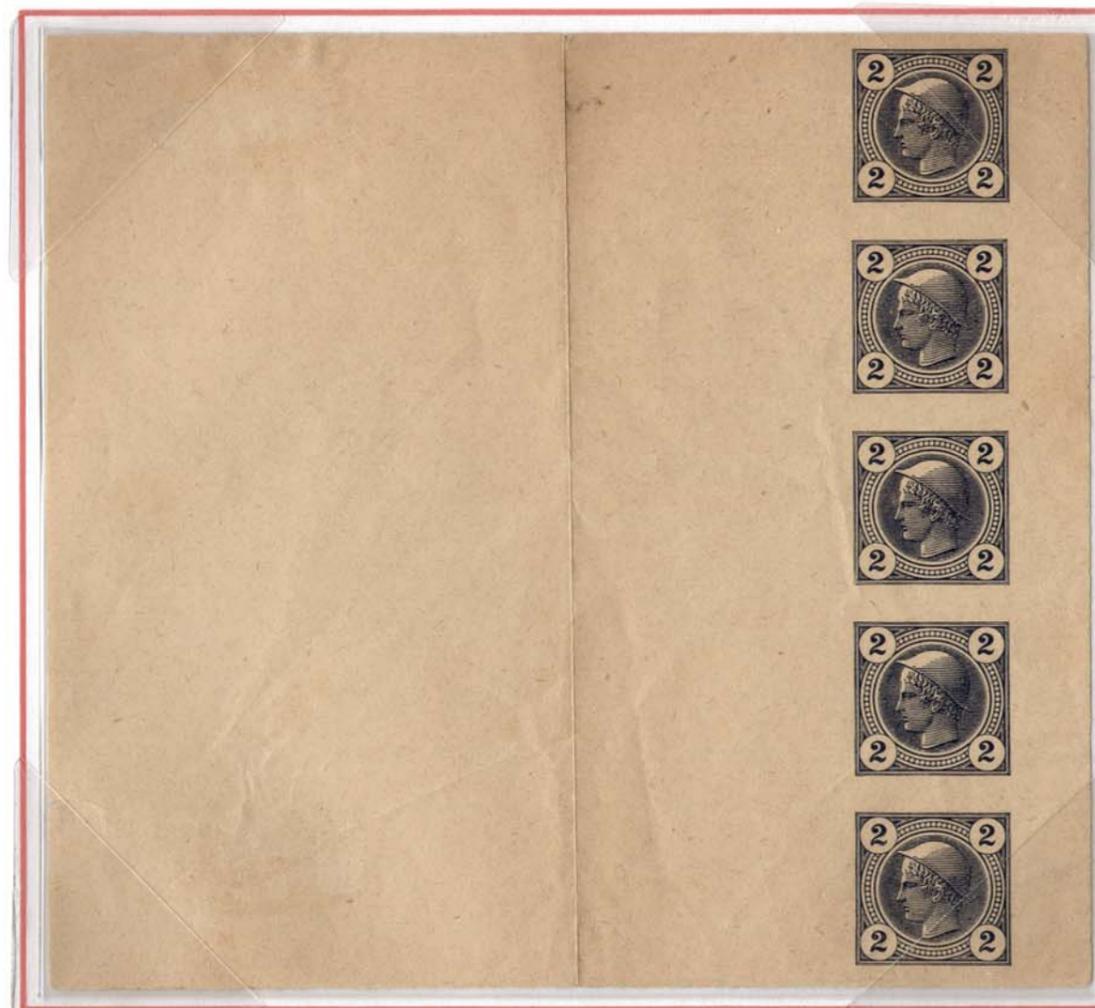


Strip of 2; WIEN ZEITUNGSAMT cancel



Strip of 3, perf all sides

## Address label sheets



Official "address label sheets" with imprinted newspaper postage stamps were issued from 8 March 1904, under the provisions of Postverordnungsblatt 25 (printed on 13 March).

They contained two columns of fifteen 2-heller 1899-design newspaper stamp impressions. They were printed in blue (the same as the adhesives) not green, since these were an official issue not a private printing. The complete sheet was 450x300mm.

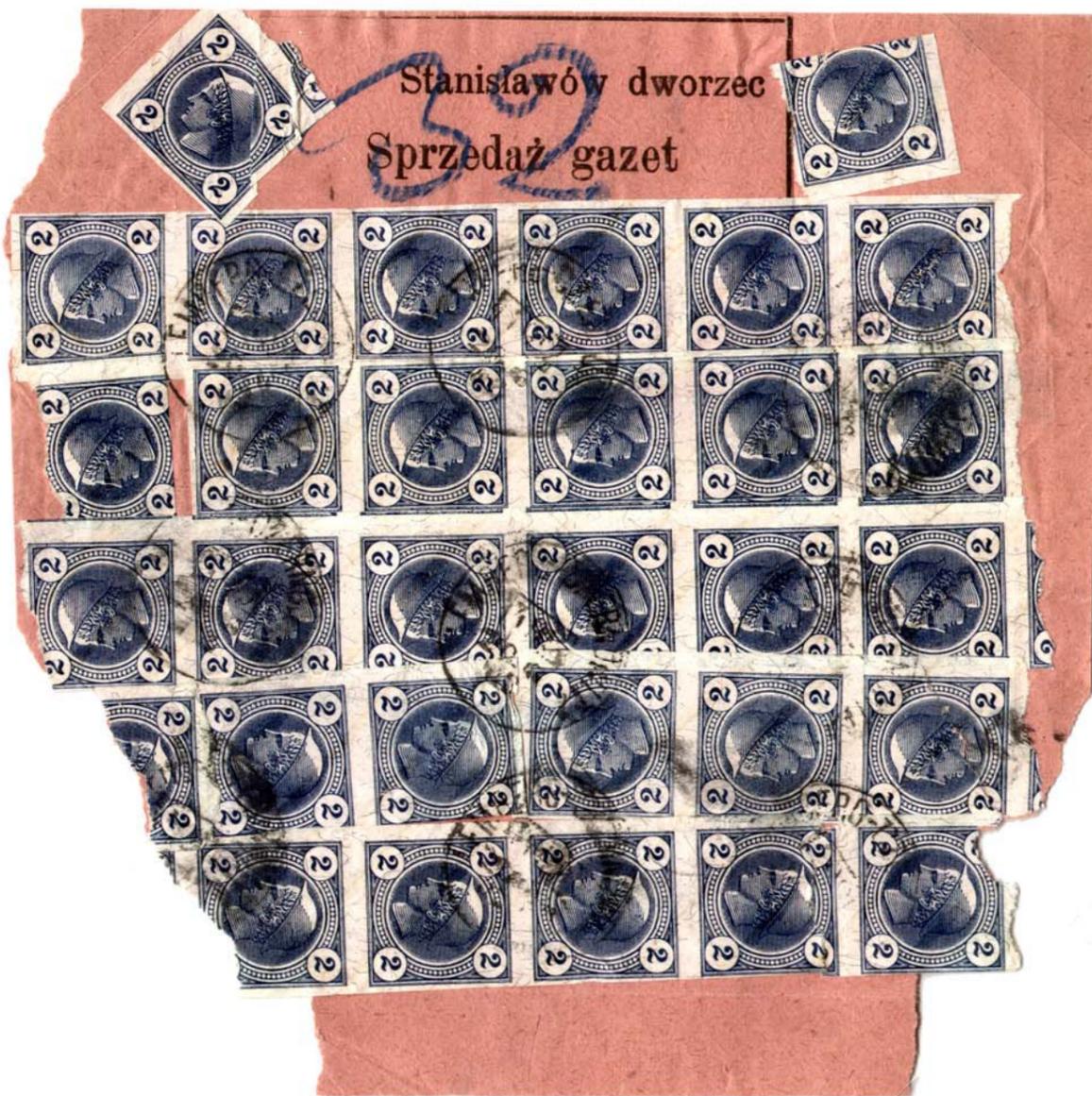
These were sold at face value to newspaper publishers, for them to type or write the subscribers names and addresses then cut into individual labels and glue to the newspaper wrappers.

The printing was done on various shades of buff and of green papers. Notionally, the green ones were to be used for the correct handling of newspapers that printed a morning and an evening edition on the same day; there is no evidence that this was done properly.

# The 1899 issue

## Zeitungsverleiher

A Zeitungsverleiher 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 Stanislawów railway station. Cancelled on 20 June 1902 on the Lemberg-Czernowitz Nr 381 Travelling Post Office. Stamps have 2mm single varnish bar.

## Newspaper stamps correctly 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 sent at the reduced newspaper rate, and franked with newspaper stamps. The lowest printed matter rate from 1900-1916 was 3h, while the newspaper rate was 2h, so the publishers saved 1h per item. The scheme was ended at the general rates rise of October 1, 1916.



Here, the "Mercury" company of Lemberg is sending its catalogue of imported foreign delicacies to a customer. Page 16 of this list shows their range of "Ciasta Angielskie", which are biscuits made by Huntley & Palmers of Reading!

\*\* See Müller's "Die Postmarken von Österreich", p.327; and Ferchenbauer 2008 vol II p.216

# The 1899 issue

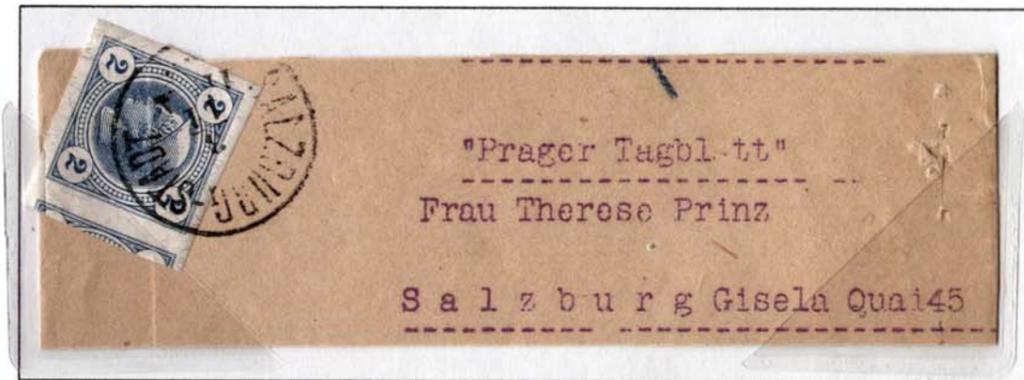
## Single and multiple newspaper wrappers



Single-newspaper wrapper: Vienna to Schässburg (then in Hungary; now Sighişoara in Romania). Stamp with varnish bars.



Piece of bundle of six newspapers, sent from Vienna to Bistritz am Hostein in Moravia. 2H with, 10H without varnish bars.



Single-newspaper wrapper: Prague to Salzburg (cancelled on arrival). Stamp without varnish bars, and a piece of the next stamp.



Single-newspaper wrapper: Vienna to Halbstadt. Single-circle arrival cancel on back for 20 July 1902. Stamp without varnish bars but with marginal rule.

[Chamotte (aka firesand) is a specialised ceramic material with a high percentage of silica and alumina.]



Piece of card reused as label for bundle of four newspapers. (The red 4 is the number of newspapers not the postage.) Sent to Gablonz a. d. Neisse and cancelled on arrival.

# The 1899 issue

## Single and multiple newspaper wrappers (ii)



Wrapper for two newspapers, sent from and to Prague



Wrapper (front) for two newspapers, sent from Prague to Kamenice nad Lipou in Bohemia



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 6h+2h (neither barred) means it contained 4 copies. The 2h is an unusually dark blue, and the large right-hand margin shows that it comes from the sheet's right hand side.

The 1899 issue

Wrappers with imprinted stamps (permitted from 10 April 1905)



Envelope from Humpoletz in Bohemia to Triest; cancelled on arrival



Very long thin envelope from Vienna to Steinschonau in Bohemia; cancelled in Vienna

Imprinted sleeves for newspapers sent to Triest; to Vienna; and to Linz thence to Innsbruck

# The 1899 issue

## Oddities



Back of a 2x2 block showing the "granite" paper



2x2 block with partial razor or knife cut at centre bottom (leading into a tear)

The sheets of stamps were frequently cut into strips to aid rapid separation. Often, this boring task was done badly!



Printed on creased paper



Badly cut



Very badly cut



Heavy and typically non-rectangular envelope, handed in (Aufgegeben) at Post Office Vienna 117 and addressed to the Post & Telegraph office at Smichow station, Bohemia. The preprinted "Aufgegeben..." and its alteration, plus the franking, suggest that this envelope was for 4 small newspapers. Perhaps Smichow Post Office handled subscriptions for 4 copies of whatever-it-was.

# The 1908 issue (valid from mid-1908 to 31.12.1916)



The 1908 stamp issue, produced to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Emperor Franz Joseph, was the first issue which was consciously conceived as a work of art. It was in the Jugendstil style (Austrian Art Nouveau), by the renowned artist Professor Koloman Moser. The newspaper stamps have the Mercury head gazing intently into the future, no inscription, and large value-numerals. Private printings occur; the 2h stamp being printed in green instead of brown.

## The stamps

The newspaper stamps, valid until 31 Dec 1916, have neither inscription nor perforation. There were 2h blue, 6h orange, 10h red & 20h brown; intended for packets of 1, 3, 5 & 10 newspapers. Initially they were printed on chalky paper; later a very thin, hard, translucent paper was used, and finally an ordinary, dull paper. The newspaper stamp clichés were again used as value impressions for private printings; again in changed colours: 2 heller green instead of blue, 6 heller brownish lilac instead of orange. There are also private wrappers with several identical or sometimes differently-valued impressions.

## Paper varieties



Left: thin, soft, creamy-white



Right: thin, hard, brownish-tinged

Chalky paper

Thin, hard paper

Dull paper



## Strips, margins and multiples



Left margin block



Strip of four



Right margin pair



Bottom rule; plate-3 marking



Bottom right corner & rule



Bottom left corner & rule; plate-4 marking



Bottom right corner, with rule & plate marking. Perfin J O which is J Otto, Publisher, Prague

# The 1908 issue

## Strips, margins and multiples (ii)



"TESCHEN 2"



Top rule



Bottom rule



Left margin copy



Cut from sheet with razor



"TROPFAU 1" with bottom rule



Left margin copy; perfs 3 sides



Left margin copy; fine perfs at right



Perfs all round



Top-right-corner copy; perfs 2 sides



Left margin copy



Bottom rule; perf 3 sides



Strip of three



Right marginal block of 10



Bottom rule; perfs all round



Left margin strip



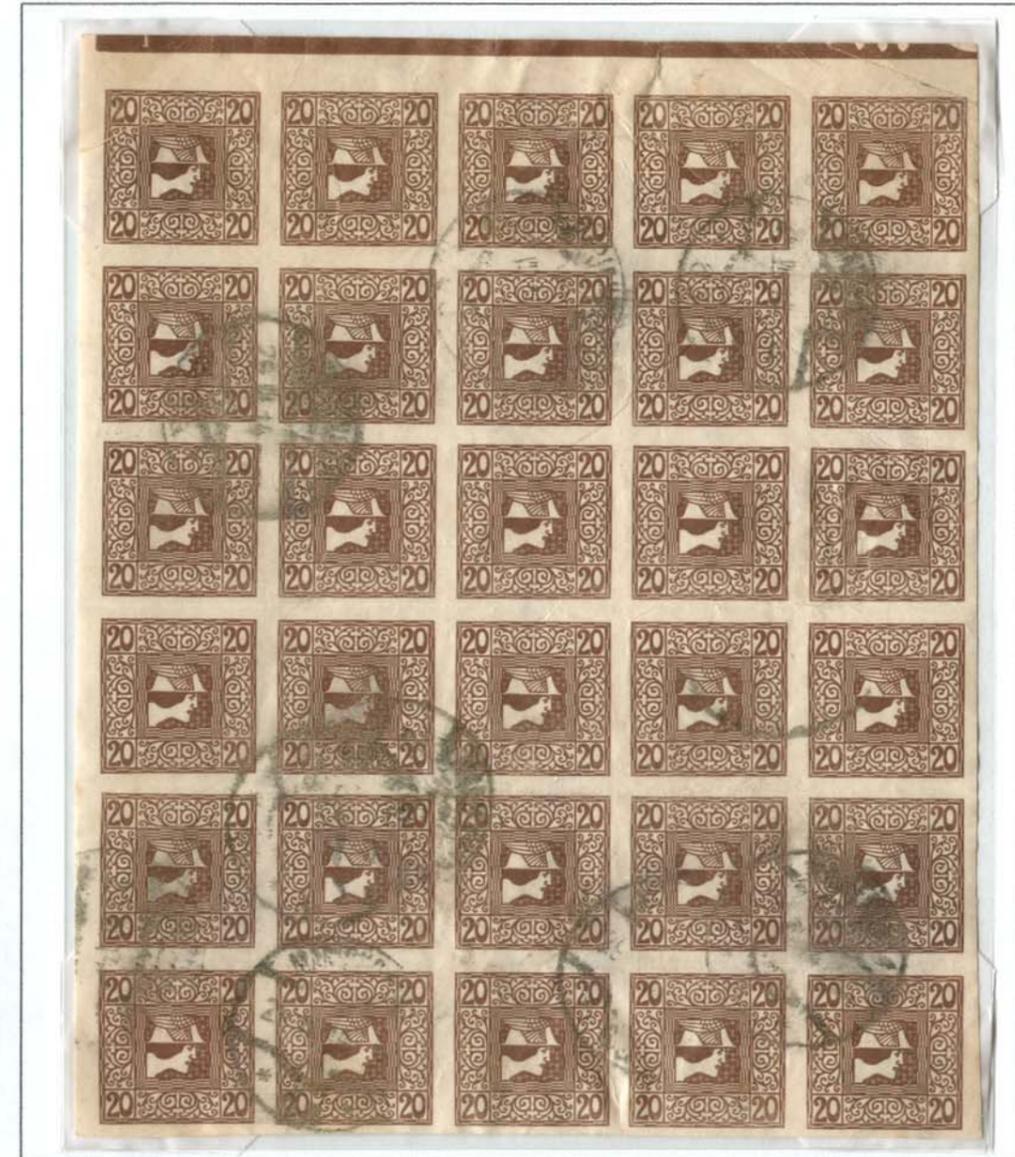
Broken bottom rule



Private perfs



Lightish printing



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

**The 1908 issue**  
**Multiply-franked wrappers**



Above: Wrapper with two copies of a newspaper, sent from and to Vienna. Pair of stamps, privately perforated at left and right only. Cancel WIEN 101, possibly June 1912.

Below: Wrapper for ten newspapers sent to Halm & Goldmann's bookshop, inner Vienna. Cancelled at 10am on 13 April 1910; 'counter letter' 10d which in 1911 was Vienna Head Office. Two strips-of-5, privately perforated; the wide margins show that they are from the top row of the sheet.



**Zeitungsverschleißer packages**



These packages had a red address label, and were sent to a railway station for the Zeitungsverschleißer (ie retailer) to collect once the stamps had been cancelled.

Left: front of a package of two newspapers sent to Herr Kilinger at the railway station, Neratovice in Bohemia.

Below: parcel front used to send three copies of "Die Zeit" (published in Vienna) to Herr Bettenhausen at Kufstein Station.



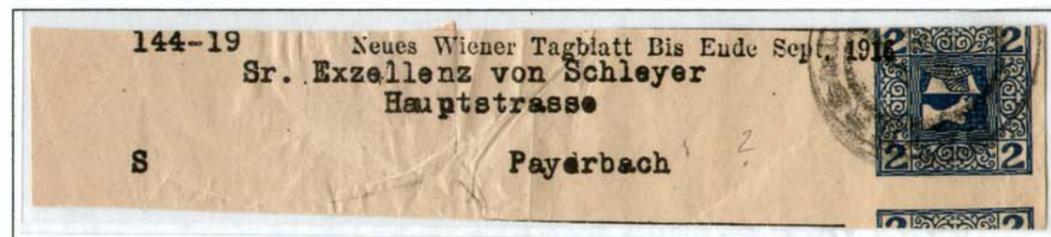
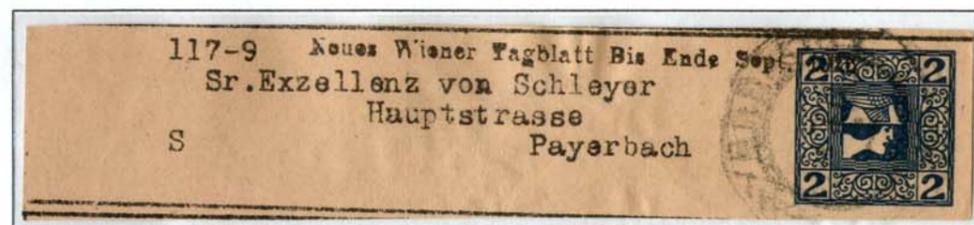
# The 1908 issue

## Official Address Labels



Address slip, cut from sheet of 2 x 15. These were officially printed [1], hence the imprint is blue, the same colour as the adhesive stamps. These sheets were only issued for the 1899 & 1908 issues, in late March 1904 and March 1908 respectively. They are found on both light buff and less commonly on light green paper.

As for the 1904 issue, the regulations require the light green paper to be used for newspapers which produced a morning and an evening issue. A study of address slips for the Neues Wiener Tagblatt [2] showed that this was not always adhered to.



Miscut stamp sheet, showing the vertical separation of 5mm.

1. See Postverordnungsblatt 27 of 28 February 1908:  
<https://alex.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/alex-day?aid=ptv&datum=19080303&seite=1&zoom=33>
2. A regular twice-daily publisher, now available on line at <https://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?aid=nwg>

## Wrappers and sleeves



Front of parcel of ten newspapers sent to Herr Hainisch at Stockerau and cancelled there on 23/9/1916. 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:".



Above: wrapper for two newspapers, sent via Moravany to Mr Shejbal, a shopkeeper in Horní Roveň (near Pardubice in eastern Bohemia) & cancelled there. Top-left-of-block vertical pair with margin rule.

# The 1908 issue

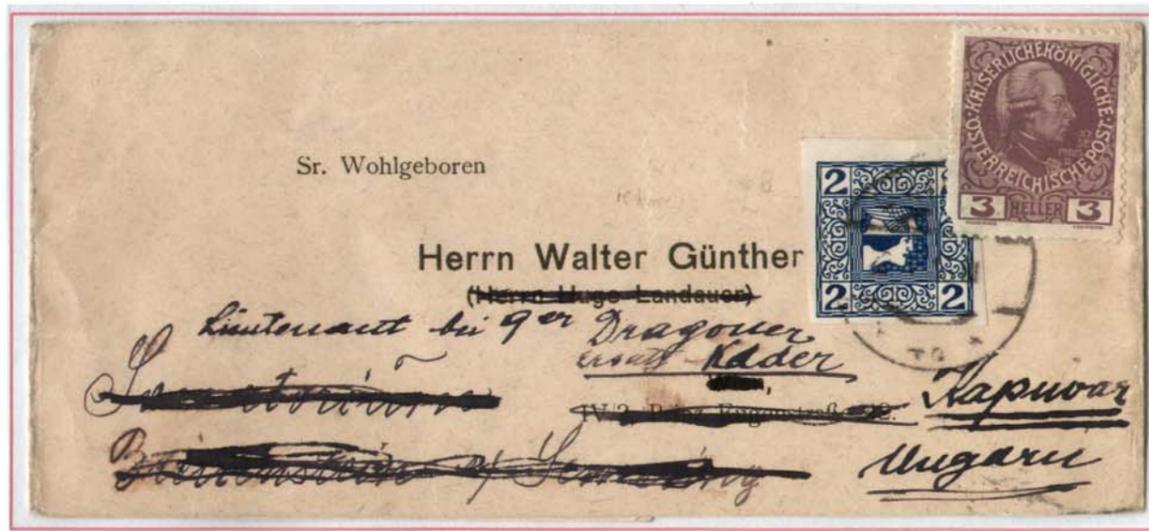
## Typical small and large wrappers



"To the Priest's office at Aspern", a suburb of Vienna. Private perfs and top rule.



7 copies of a newspaper sent to Reichenberg



Item forwarded to Hungary after delivery – printed-matter-rate applies and added adhesive required. BUDVAR transit cancel on reverse.



Very large wrapper (shown folded in half) with 2h adhesive on thin paper and 6h (with bottom margin rule) on surfaced paper. To and from Vienna. Cancelled 8 Oct 1909. Would have contained 4 copies.

Wrapper with a thin-paper adhesive.

To and from Prague; cancelled there.



The 1908 issue. Typical small and (very) large wrappers (ii)



Left: very large envelope sent from Wiener Neustadt to Popielniki in Galizien (on the north bank of the river Czeremosz, which was the inter-Land boundary) and redirected to Millie in Bukowina, which is 7km upstream on the south bank.

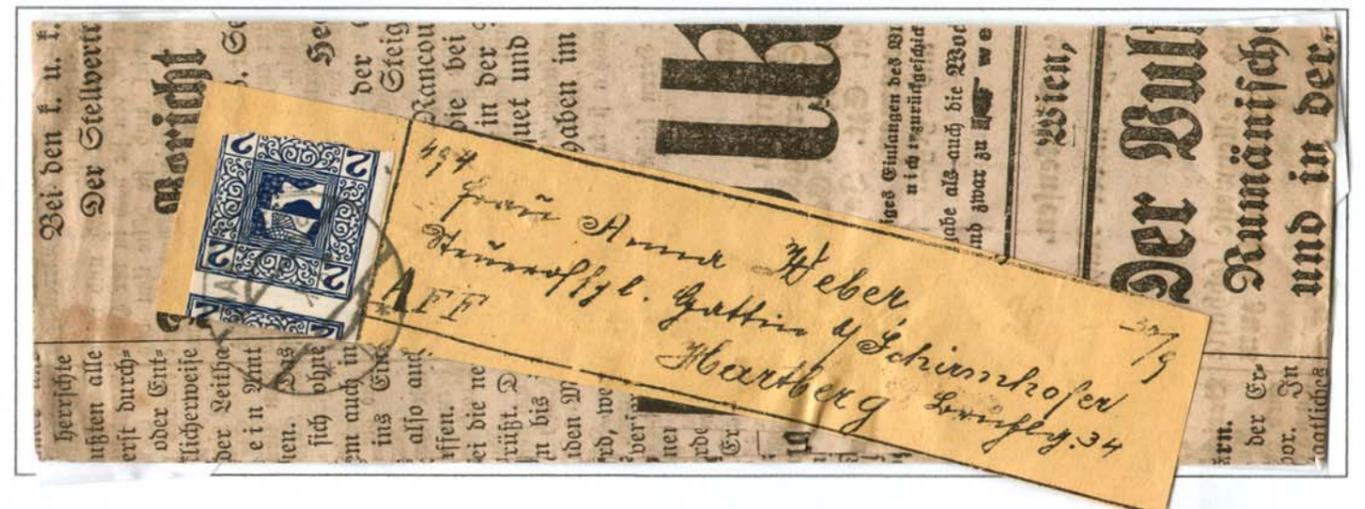
The stamp is privately perforated 11½x11. There is a POPIELNIKI 2/3/10 transit cancel on back.

The envelope is from the Wiener Neustadt firm of A. Grünwald, who extracted and sold conifer seed, and grew seedlings. The printed Polish address heading "Honourable Management board of goods and forests" indicates they must have been trading with a number of Forestry Management organisations throughout Galizien. The envelope contained their quarterly report and price list, as is printed at bottom left.

[The Grünwald family flourished in Wiener Neustadt from the mid-1850s until forced to sell up in 1938. They fled to France, but were interned until September 1942 when they were deported to Auschwitz and killed.]

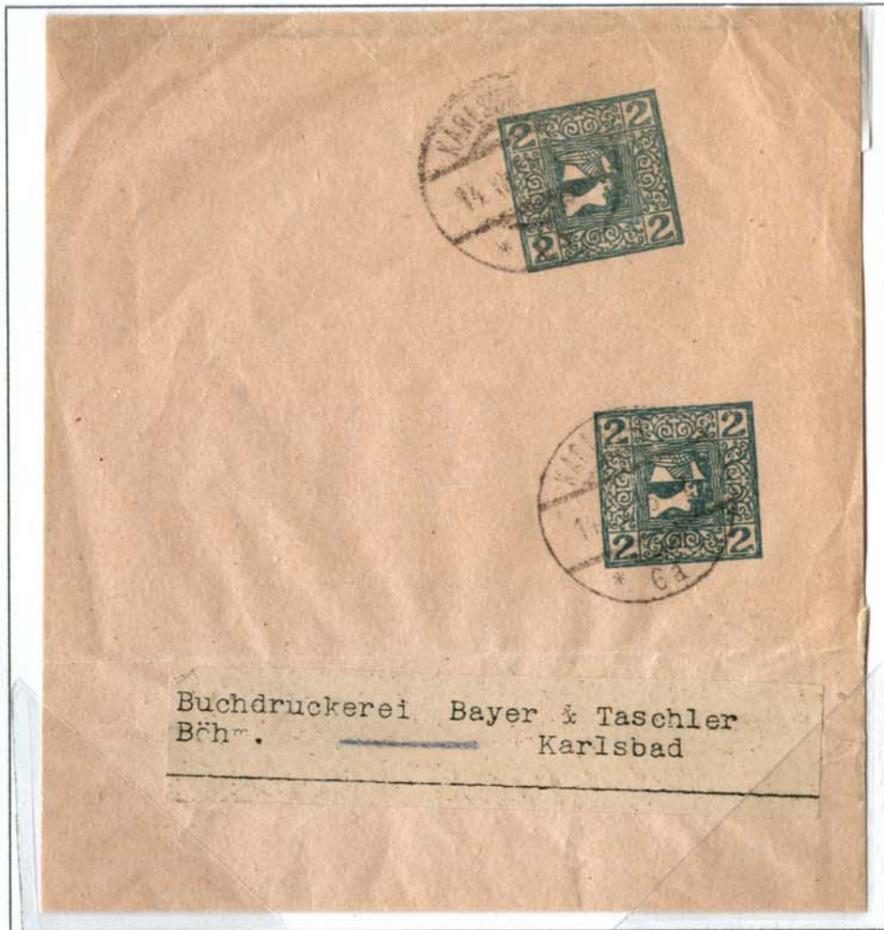


Newspaper wrappers were often made from sheets of old newspapers. Items sent to Baden (top right); Brünn (below left); and Hartberg (below right).



# The 1908 issue

## Private imprint printing on wrappers: colour change



The newspaper stamp clichés were again used as value impressions for private printings; and again in changed colours: 2h in green instead of blue, 6h in brownish lilac instead of orange. Private wrappers can have several same-value or different-value impressions.

Left: wrapper sent to Karlsbad and cancelled there. Two private imprints of the 2h, so contents were most probably two copies of a newspaper.

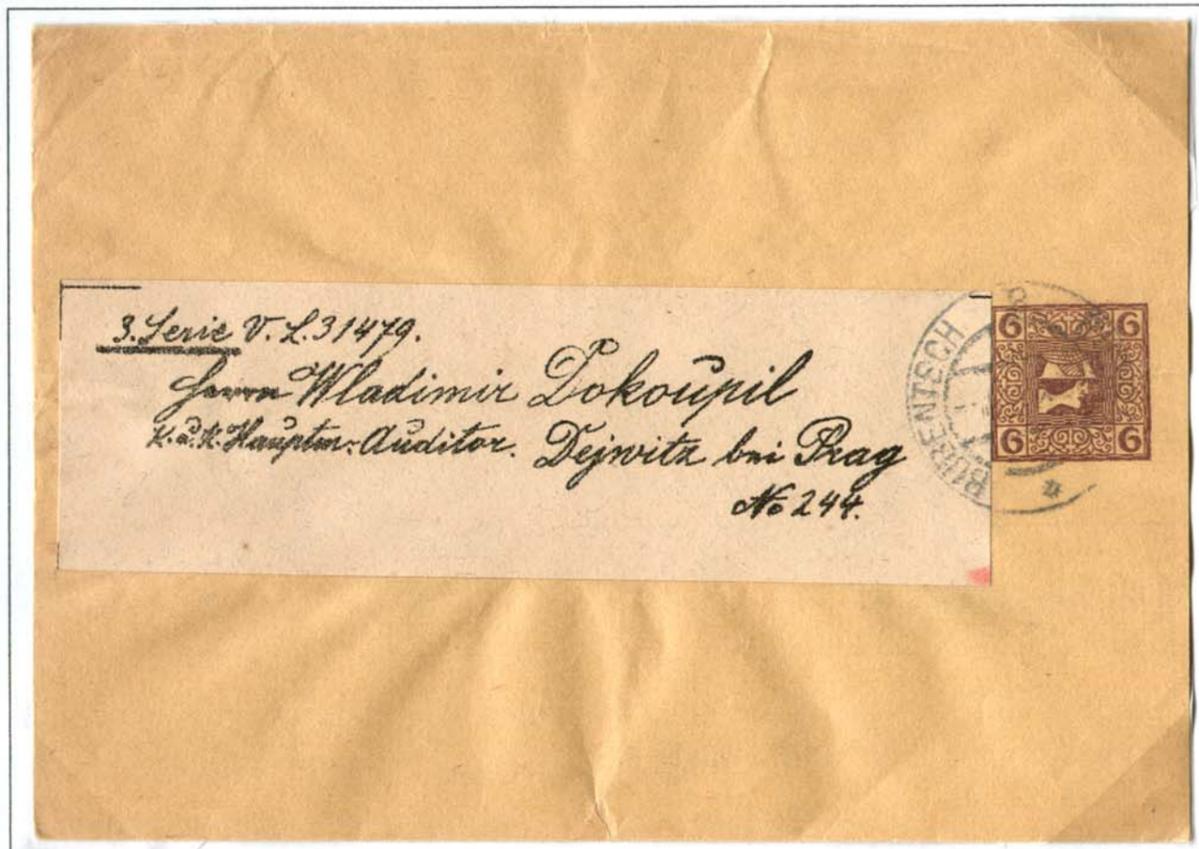
Below: wrapper with a private 6h imprint, for three copies of a newspaper sent to Dejwitz bei Prag. This office opened on 20.9.1908, so maybe the item had to be handled at nearby Bubentsch, open since 1854. Both places are now in Prague district 6.



Imprint on newspaper wrapper sent to Salzburg



Imprint on 'Deutschen und Österreichischen Alpen-Vereines' label sent to & cancelled at Klausen.



Twin-imprint: for 2 normal newspapers or 1 heavy and infrequent one



Mixed 2h + 2h + 6h imprint for bundle of 5 newspapers

# The 1908 issue

## 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 October 1, 1916. It operated with both adhesives and imprints.



# The 1916 issue (valid from 10.1916 to 31.10.1920)



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. The rates remained the same, but five values were issued: 2 heller brown, 4h green, 6h blue, 10h orange, and 30h maroon. Valid till 31 Oct 1920. Private printings occur; the 2h stamp is red instead of brown.

## The stamps



This strip of three 2h, in the darker shade, has part-way vertical razor cuts between the stamps to aid separation.

## Multiple frankings



Strip-of-5 & single 30h and pair of 10h: 200h = postage on parcel of 100 newspapers



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



Typical wrapper with private imprint and address label

## Oddities:



Unusually badly perforated!



Private printing – on the back of a map!



Top marginal stamp showing plate-number cut in rule and a fragment of the adjacent stamp



Privately-perforated bottom marginal stamp



Wrapper with bottom margin adhesive, privately (and badly) perforated

# The 1916 issue

## Wrappers with adhesives



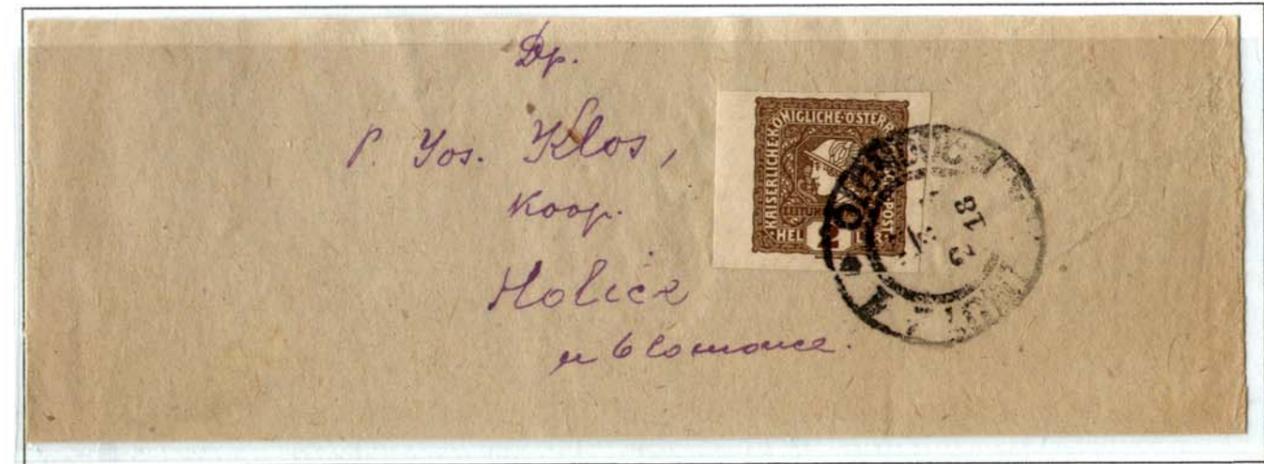
Wrapper with a 4 heller and a 10 heller adhesive, which contained seven newspapers as shown by the blue 7. From Vienna to a reseller at Mattsee. Posted 11 July 1918



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.



Wrapper with 6 heller and 10 heller adhesives, containing eight newspapers as shown by the blue 8. From Vienna to the same reseller at Mattsee. Posted 22 August 1918.



Newspaper sleeve sent to Holická, part of Olomouc, arriving on 12.3.1918.

# The 1916 issue

## Wrappers (ii)



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



Wrapper for a philatelic newspaper posted from Vienna to Bern in Switzerland. Franked with 2 heller 1916 newspaper postage stamp (which was only valid for inland mail) and 3 heller Deutschösterreich postage stamp, making up 5 heller which is the foreign printed matter rate. Cancelled on arrival at Bern on 22 Feb 1919, the invalidity of the 2h being ignored.

# The Meran Emergency Post, 1918



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.

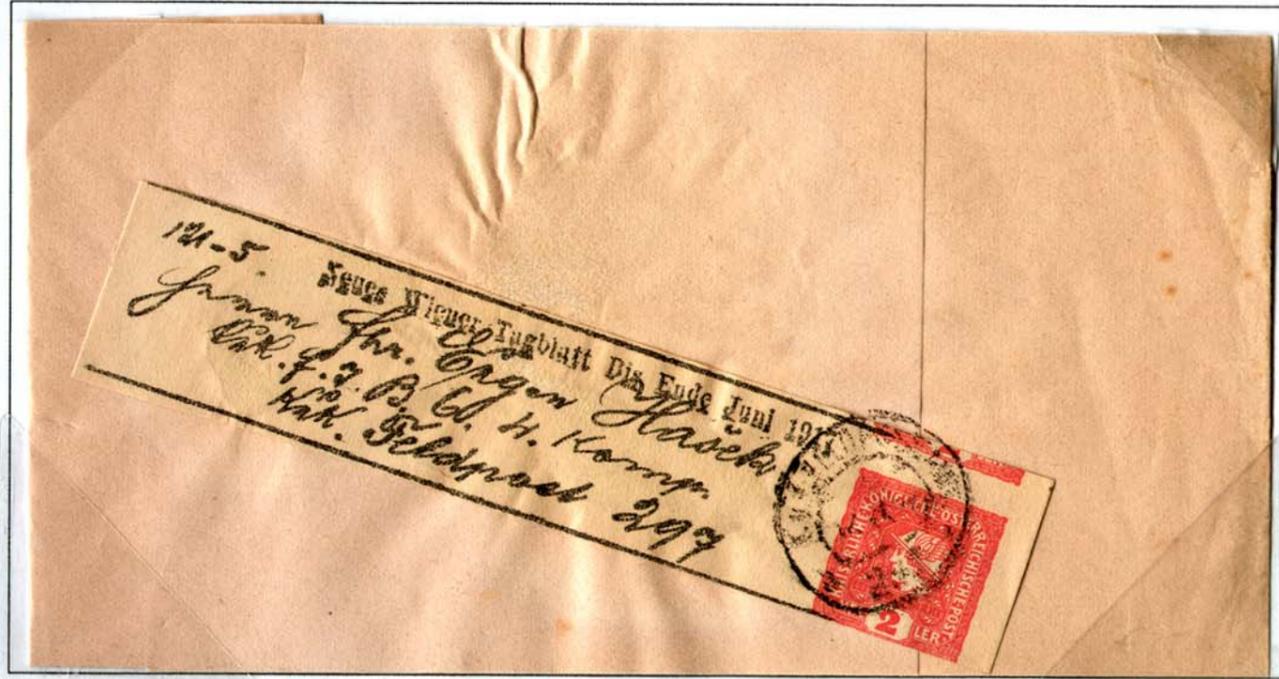
This example is the black-on-red 2h local newspaper postage stamp, issued on 25 November 1918 and replaced by a different design on 30 November - so in use for only 5 days. The 2h 1916-issue Austrian newspaper stamp covered the carriage to Meran. The newspaper is addressed to Naturns, about 15 km west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

[See ANK Spezialkatalog 2022/2023, page 539]

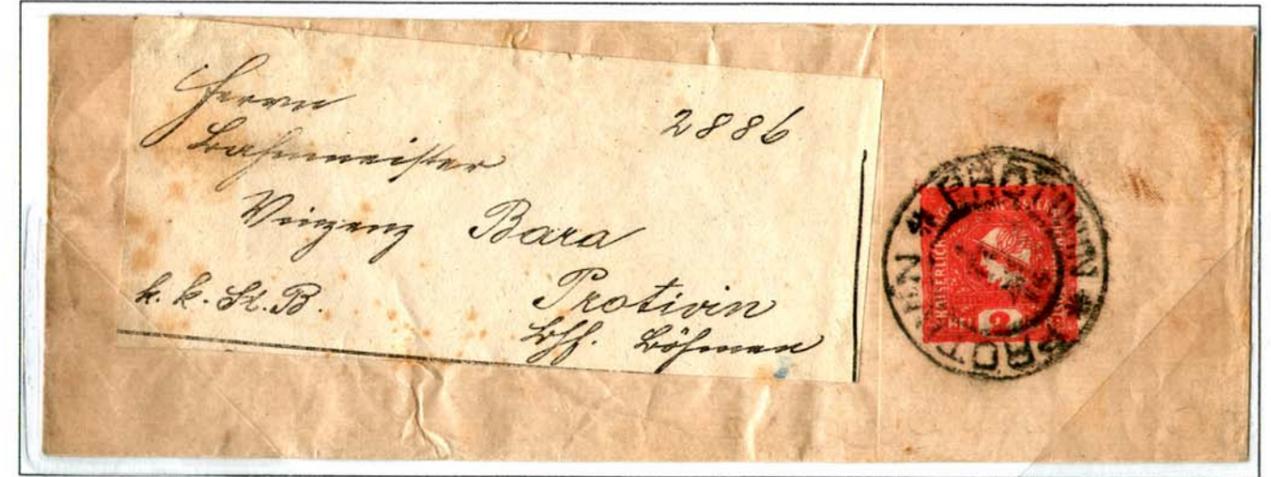
# The 1916 issue

## Privately-printed Addressbogen labels

Two wrappers (folded) from the Neues Wiener Tagblatt to subscribers at fieldpost addresses. Franked with 2h '1916' 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. 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 without the expense of a separate letter!



## Wrappers with imprints



Sent to Protiwin in Bohemia; cancelled there, with 2h private imprint. The initials at bottom left are k. k. St B. = kaiserlich königlich Staats Bahn.



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 1916 issue

### Large wrappers with imprints and adhesives



A large wrapper (here folded) to Herr Fähnrich Eugen Hašek, 4<sup>th</sup> Komp, Feldjägerbaon 6 at FPA 388/II. In 1917-18, this FPA operated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army area in the south-east of Austria-Hungary. [A Fähnrich was an officer cadet, but in wartime acted as if a commissioned officer.]

Franked with 2h '1916' imprint on a label from a privately-printed Addressbogen sheet. An added 6h adhesive bringing the franking up to 8h means this wrapper contained 4 newspapers.



A very large wrapper from Strefleurs Militärblatt in Vienna to Herr Hašek, Feldjägerbaon 6 at Kolosvar in Hungary (and onwards to FPA297). Franked with 2h '1916' imprint and a 6h (with a top marginal bar) and 2h adhesives. Wrapper torn in several places including just to right of the stamps, perhaps when redirecting, and repaired by internally-glued thick wrinkled paper. Note how the tail of the '2' of FPA297 continues over the repair, which must have been done first. Enthusiastically opened up the middle of the address side. Kolosvar arrival cancel unclear, but receipt noted by Hašek in pencil (top right corner) as 19/10/1917. Must have contained 5 newspapers.

# The 1919 "Deutschösterreich" overprints (valid from 1.1919 to 31.10.1920)



After the end of WWI, Austria emerged as a battered residue convinced that its only hope of survival was by union with Germany. From December 1918 the five 1916 newspaper stamps were issued overprinted "Deutschösterreich" ("German-Austria"), 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 Oct 1920. In other successor states of the Empire, the Austrian stamps were suitably overprinted and used until replacements could be produced. 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.

## The stamps



## Trial overprint

When the Deutschösterreich overprints were commissioned, 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. This is a trial print of the horizontal, and it's evident how difficult to see, and how much smaller (19mm long compared with 25mm) the rejected design is.



## Oddities and perforations



## Post-war rate rises

On 12 November 1918 the war ended and the Republic of Deutsch-Österreich was proclaimed; the weight-independent newspaper rate of 2h 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 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 6h up to 25 grams; over 25 grams 10h per 50 grams or part thereof; 50% extra if sent as a roll.

Inexorably, the rates rose (and rolls cost twice as much as flats): on 1 April 1921 to 9h, 15h, 30h; on 1 Oct 1921 to 18h, 30h, 60h; and on 1 Jan 1922 to 45h, 75h, 150h. From 1 March 1922, all newspaper stamps were invalidated and all postage was paid in cash.



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

# The 1919 "Deutschösterreich" overprints

## Printing sheet details



This is the top three rows of a complete sheet.

"A" indicates the position of the ink dot made by the paper-locating pin in the printing press.

"B" marks a scratched roman III, applied to the third pane of the printing forme. As is normal, the marginal rule bar does not reach the edges, although it lines up with the actual stamp impressions.

The upper and lower printing panes in the forme were assembled slightly differently, and can be distinguished by the stamp-to-margin-rule separation (which is the same for all denominations). All upper panes have a 7mm gap between stamp and margin rules; lower panes have an 11mm gap



Upper pane. The arrow points at a locating-pin mark.



Upper pane.



Upper pane.



Lower pane. This is the scarce blue-black colour.

# The 1919 "Deutschösterreich" overprints

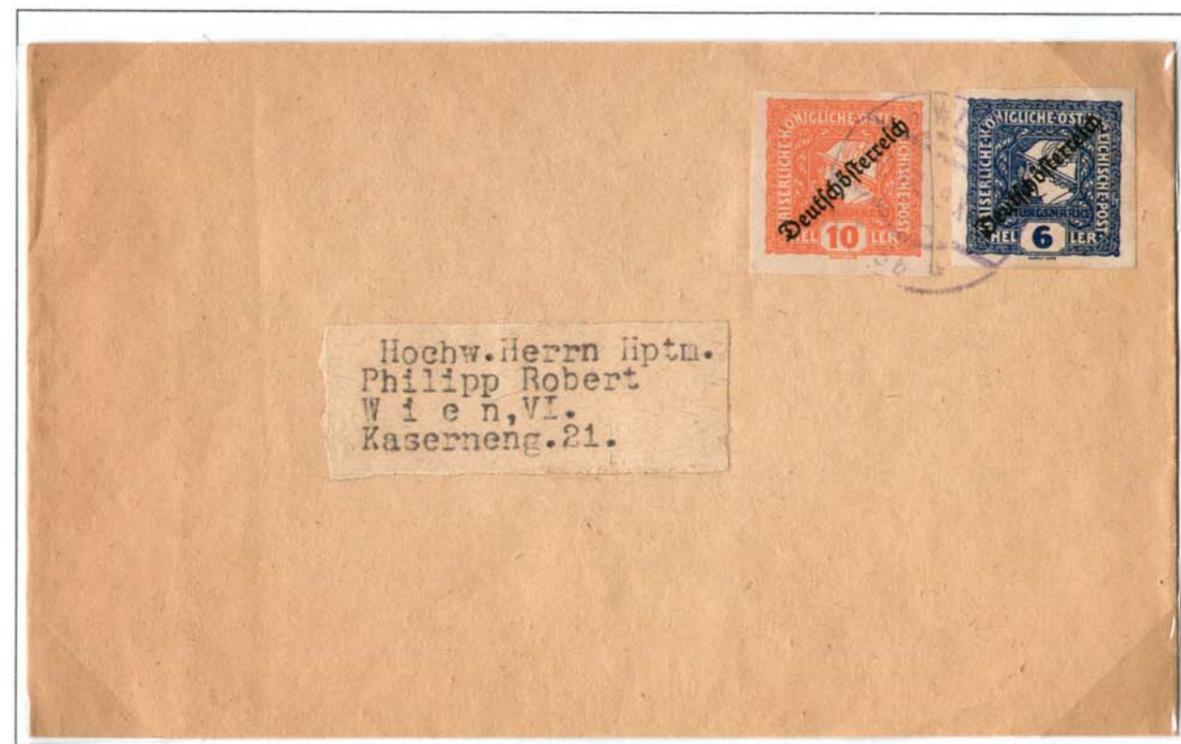
## The stamps on wrappers and covers



Newspaper of the Association of Factors, sent from Vienna to Graz



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



Newspaper wrapper, sent to Vienna. Cancelled 16 July 1919.  
 The 16 heller franking is the rate for 8 newspapers irrespective of their weight.  
 Frankings with different-denomination stamps are rare.



Another similar, with a rare 30h + 6h franking.  
 The only rate matching the franking of 36 heller is 18 newspapers in late 1919.

# The 1920 "Renner" issue (valid from 1920/21 to 28.2.1922)



When the postage rates increased on 15 January 1920, newspaper stamps in new values were required and a new design was chosen. 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 3Kr, and the series finally included 19 values. They were never all simultaneously available, since the low values were withdrawn or exhausted. Valid till 28 February 1922.

## The stamps

The printing was on ordinary, white paper; seven values were also printed on a thick, grey paper. Various values of this issue were also used for private impressions, which were specifically announced in the Postal Ordinances.



The seven values that were issued on grey paper



These stamps show "needle marks" (the small coloured dots) used for sheet registration when printing.



Left: plate-4 markings at bottom; private perf 11.5 not punched through (possibly made by a sewing-machine).

Right: Extra column of perforations.



# The 1920 "Renner" issue

## Private perforations

The stamps, both the white- and grey-paper printings, were privately perforated 10, 10½, 11, 11½, 12, and 12½. Examples follow; a caption of W10½ means white paper perf 10½ while G12 is grey paper perf 12.



## Plate faults

There are many plate faults. Shown here are "clouds" or "spider webs".



## Rate before 1 July 1920



Newspaper wrapper with 2h imprinted stamp.

## The rate change of 1 July 1920

After the war, everything that qualified as a newspaper paid the same rate of 2h. This changed on 1 July 1920, when Law 204 of 8 May took effect. Newspapers that published more frequently than once a week and on more than one day paid their postage in cash according to a complex formula. Less-frequently published papers continued to use adhesive stamps; the cost per 50 grams was 10h if posted flat, 15h if rolled. Flats up to 35 grams paid 6h.

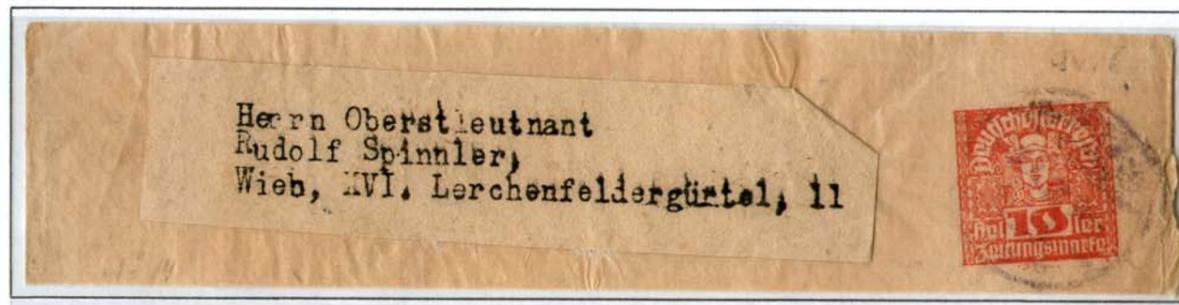


Rare mixed franking of 1919 and 1920 issues

Cancel date 3/7/1920. Rate correct for one lightweight flat newspaper at that date.

# The 1920 "Renner" issue

## The rate change of 1 July 1920 (ii)



10h imprint. Cancel date unreadable; only match is a 'standard flat'.



Left margin strip of two; presumably a 'standard flat'. Uncancelled.



Cancel date 7 July 1920. A lightweight flat newspaper.



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

The 1920 "Renner" issue  
The rate change of 1 July 1920 (iii)



Cancel unreadable. Most likely explanation is two standard flat newspapers at 10h each.

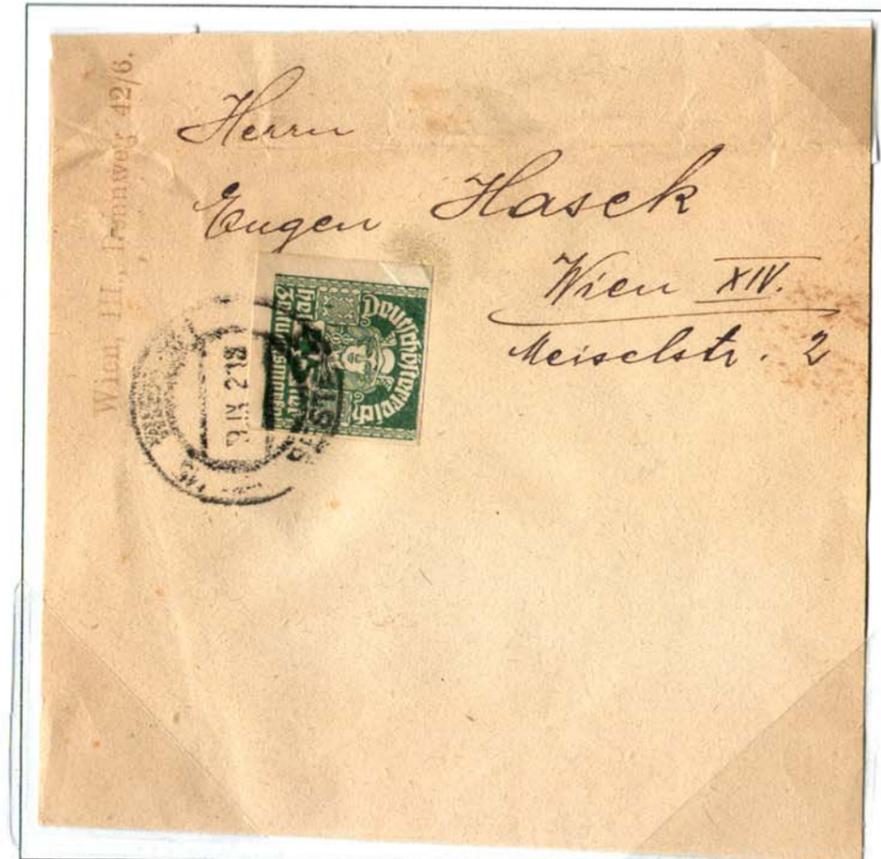
The rate change of 1 April 1921 [The rates became 9/15/30h]



Cancel 21 June 1921. Franking 15h, so for a standard 50-gram flat. [There was never a 7½ rate, so this cannot be a 2-copy posting.] The '223' must be his subscription number.



The newspaper reused as the wrapper was published on 10 March 1921 so the cancel date must be later. The contents would have been two standard flat newspapers at 10h each; note the two vertical lines at the bottom – a feature seen on several wrappers sent to Herr Hašek.



Cancel date is 9 September 1921. Medium wrapper. Franked 45h. Must be three standard flats at 15h.

# The 1920 "Renner" issue

The rate change of 1 April 1921 (ii)



Cancel must be after 10 March 1921, the date of the wrapping newspaper. The 10h stamp was obsolete on 1 October 1921. Franked 30h. Most likely usage is 2x15h for two standard flats.



Large wrapper; franked 6h & 9h = 15h; cancelled 1/1 WIEN 1 on 26 April 1921. The 6h was obsolete on 1 April 1921 when the 9h was introduced, so is an example of "using-up". "Post Hinterbühl" is a typo for Hinterbrühl, to the S W of Vienna.



Cancelled 11 September 1921. Franked 3 x 15h = 45h so would have contained 3 'standard flats'



Piece of privately-printed address label sheet with 9h imprinted stamp cancelled 28 April 1921.

# The 1920 "Renner" issue

## The rate change of 1 October 1921

[to 18/30/60h]

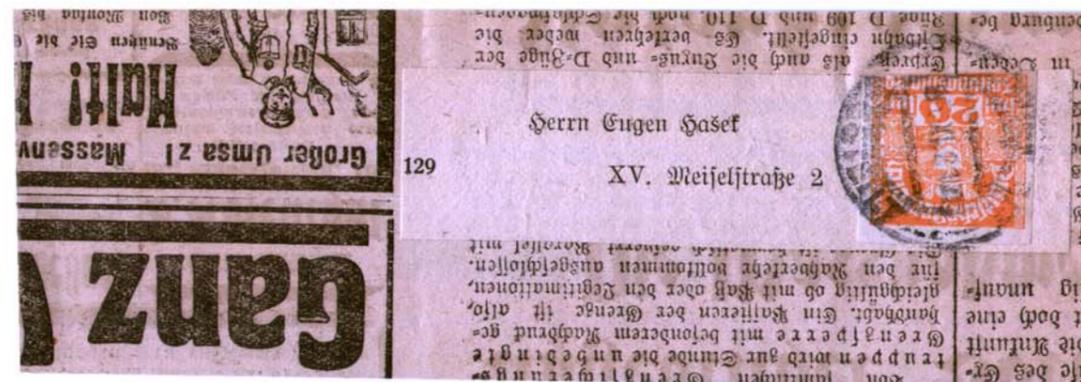


The 60h stamp was valid from 1 January 1920 to 28 February 1922. The wrapper is flimsy, and Hašek usually received 2-4 flat copies. The most likely match is 2 copies of a 'standard flat'.



Cancelled in October 1921; franked 18h. Single light-weight flat item.

## An enigma wrapped in a mystery



Newspaper wrapper made from a strip of an old newspaper; franked 20 heller; cancel dated 15- or 25-November 1921. There was no 20h rate at that date. Also, the adhesive, issued on 1 January 1920, had been withdrawn on 1 October 1921.

What might be happening? Possibilities include (a) franking error un-noticed by Post Office (b) date error on canceller, Nov 1920 being a valid usage for 2 standard flats at 10h each (c) something else.

The old newspaper is a mixture of adverts and news, and it is possible without damaging it to read: "seit langer Zeit vorbereitete Abreise des Exkaisers aus der Schweiz und über die Ankunft in Ödenburg machen." and on the inside a big-print headline "Angeblicher Vormarsch gegen Budapest. / Die Massnahmen der oesterr. Regierung. / Eine Kundgebung des Wiener Bürgermeisters."

[Translated: The old newspaper is a mixture of adverts and news, and it is possible without damaging it to read: "The ex-Kaiser's departure from Switzerland, which has been prepared for a long time, and his arrival in Sopron." and on the inside a big-print headline "Reported advance towards Budapest. / The measures of the Austrian Government. / An announcement by the Mayor of Vienna."]

"Ödenburg" (= 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 Ödenburg on the 20<sup>th</sup> and in Budapest on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. So this scrap of newspaper must be from the 20-somethingth of October 1921 - and hence a cancel of November 1921 is eminently believable while 1920 is impossible.

And the excess franking? The simplest explanation is that the 20h stamp, still valid although obsolete, is being used to pay the rate-since-1st-October of 18h. After all, you've bought the stamp already, and what can you get in 1921 for 2 heller?



## The 1922 "Dachauer" issue (valid from 1922 to 28.2.1922)

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 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. There were fewer private perforations than previously. This issue is the last newspaper postage issue of Austria: quite suddenly, a postal decree of 18 February 1922 withdrew newspaper stamps from 1 March 1922.

### The rate change of 1 January 1922 [to 45/75/150h]



There were fewer private perforations than previously, but more plate varieties!



Irregular & extra column by sewing-machine?



Top left corner

Paper locating pin at bottom left

Perf 10 through bottom margin

Foreign body in margin

The postal decree of 18 February 1922 withdrew the separate newspaper stamps from 1 March 1922: hence the 1922 issue had an extremely short life.

Kroiss (Ref 5 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 found, he suspects that only the 45h, 75h, 2.25K & 7.50K Dachauer values were delivered to and used by the newspaper publishers; hence none of the other values can exist genuinely used.



45h margin-copy stamp; private perf 10½ on one side



Uncancelled, but clearly one of the ongoing mailings of Die Postmarke to Hašek. Obtained at the same time from the same hoard! Probable arrival date of 13 February 1922 written in pencil at top, as on many other Hašek items. Franking of 2x75h = 150h, correct for two standard flats at this date. Most items posted with this stamp were not cancelled.

### Plate Varieties

Descri <sup>n</sup> , row/col pos <sup>n</sup>	Enlarged 4x
white spot to right of hat 5/8	
'micro-phone' 4/1	
'h' of heller joined to bottom border 3/1	
'split lower lip' 3/7	
accent on 'o' of kronen 8/3	
two dots on 'i' in Österreich 10/3	
white spot in front of nose 4/4	

# The 1922 "Dachauer" issue

## Marginal rules

These strips are the bottom rows of selected unused sheets of the 1922 "Dachauer" issue, showing the ink mark around the paper locating pin and four of the varied types of marginal rule that are found.

On the right is a piece reversed to show the actual hole made by the pin.



## The end of newspaper post adhesive stamps



It was announced on 16 February 1922 (*Bundesgesetzblatt 91*) that from Wednesday 1 March 1922 newspaper post adhesive stamps were to be withdrawn, with no using-up period. All payments were to be made in cash. Publishers could exchange leftover adhesives for letter-post stamps until the end of March; imprinted wrappers "could be used up until further notice" (*Postverordnungsblatt 009 Vf 35*).

This item was cancelled 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 45h (= a single lightweight flat) could have been valid when the item was posted!