Austrian

Philatelic

Society:

The first 75 years

This 'Festschrift' was created by and for the members of the Austrian Philatelic Society to celebrate the Society's 75th anniversary on 1st January 2023.

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The APS thanks all those who sent contributions for this book.

Greetings from Dr. Kunczier, Austrian Post

Dear members of the Austrian Philatelic Society,

First of all, the Austrian Post congratulates you on an amazing 75 years of interest in and dedication to Austrian Philately. We share the enthusiasm for one of the most beautiful passions in the world.

In 1851 the Austrian Post issued the first newspaper stamp in the world - it was mainly meant for the distribution of newspapers to a reduced pricing. The Zinnoberrote Merkur, released in 1856, is to this day one of the oldest and most precious stamps from Austria.

Moving on since then, the Austrian Post has a long history of releasing beautiful, unique stamps. Today about 50 commemorative stamps are brought out each year - some with great technical innovations, such as the world's most popular Crypto stamp with blockchain technology.

Let us celebrate together many more years of enthusiasm and joy with our wonderful passion!

Best regards from Austria,

Dr. Harald Kunczier, Österreichische Post AG

Greetings from the Vindobona Stamp Club (Austria)

Dear Austrian Philatelic Society members,

You have been active for 75 years! 75 years of serving collectors collecting Austrian stamps, frankings and postal history. This anniversary is the visible proof of your success over the years. Publications, gatherings and exhibitions, to name only a few activities, show the competence and philatelic knowledge of your members. Keep the pace and the enthusiasm for our common hobby and the future will be bright. Another 75 years waiting to be tackled.

The Vindobona Stamp Club based in Vienna is thankful and proud to have active ties to the Austrian Philatelic Society. Common interests and the common language "Philately" will help to develop our relationship across borders even further.

We wish you another 75 years (minimum!) of interesting and joyful philatelic activities embracing Austrian postal history up to today.

Günther Stellwag,
President, Vindobona Stamp Club, Austria

A letter to our founder
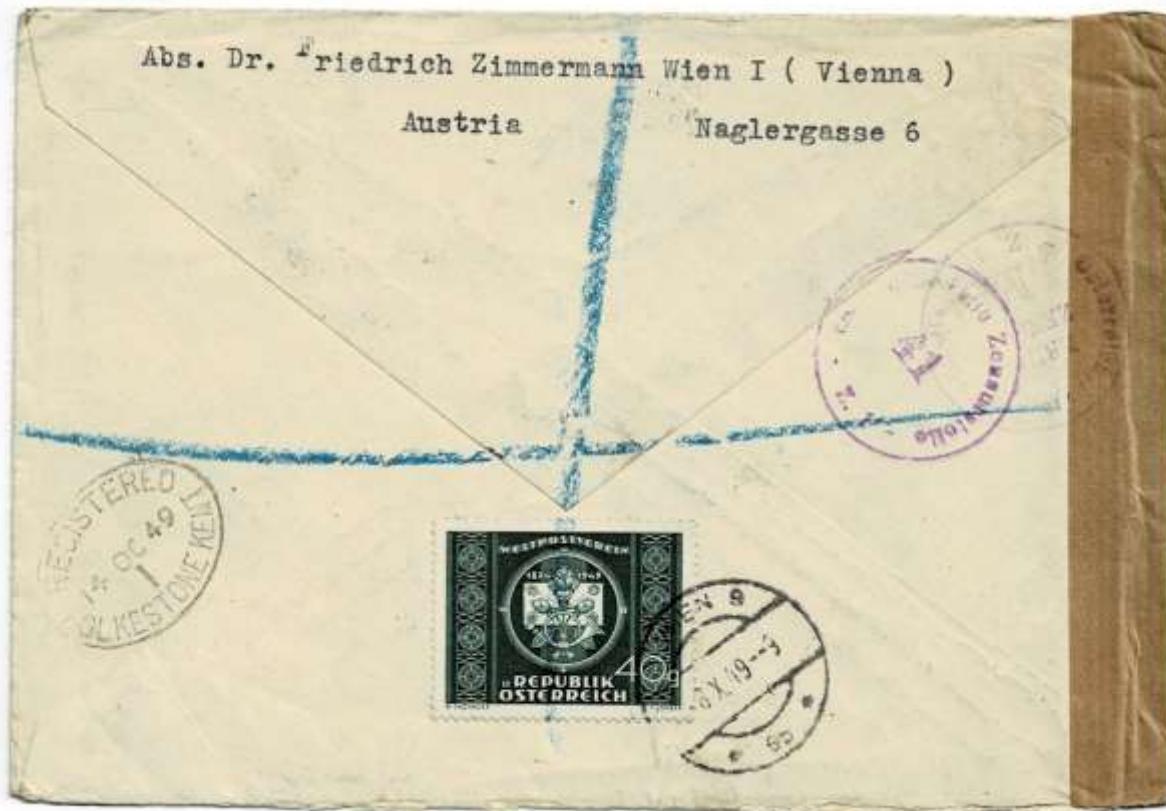
Introducing... The Austrian Philatelic Society

In the beginning

Eminent historians have proclaimed the End Of History; philatelic pundits have stated that *There Is Nothing Left To Publish*. Yet we're still here, and have every intention of continuing. Indeed, the records of organised Austrian Philately in Great Britain go back to 1948, as is recorded in the first-ever Bulletin of the ASCGB.

> **Feb 2nd 1948. Dear Members, for some years I have toyed with the idea of starting an Austrian Stamp Club which would cater fully for the wants of collectors … On Jan 1st 1948 the Austrian stamp club was formed … in time we shall have a club of which we shall be proud. … (signed) Major C.B.E. Cowie**

The Austrian Philatelic Society [APS] started life as the "Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain" [ASCGB] and has become through a series of advances and setbacks the leading international organisation for English-speaking collectors of Austrian stamps and postal history (having many members in Austria itself!). The APS welcomes anyone who is, or wishes to become, a specialist collector of Austrian philatelic material, and anyone who wishes to deepen their knowledge of the political and cultural conditions from which it came.

The ASCGB was founded by Major Cowie [*an envelope addressed to him is opposite*!] and a small group of enthusiasts on 1st January 1948, with the objective of "serving the interests of collectors of postage stamps of Austria, and fostering good fellowship between collectors in Great Britain and in Austria". Regular meetings were held in London. Until he retired in 1950, Major Cowie single-handedly ran the ASCGB, issued a monthly newsletter, circulated a packet and ran a new issue service! Later, Mr E. Lewy & then Mr K. Tranmer carried the load. The subscription in this period was 25 (old) pence per year.

Growth and change

The changing needs of the membership led to the formation of a new society "The Association of Austrian Philatelists" [AAP] to hold meetings in London; ASCGB meetings there ceased. As part of Mr. Tranmer's plan to extend the activities of the ASCGB outside London, an Austrian Philatelic Exhibition was held in Manchester in September 1961; this was a great success and many new members joined the ASCGB. Soon, monthly meetings in Manchester were held, the interests of the whole membership being met by the Bulletin and by a regular circulating packet. A Manchester-based Committee emerged and took over the running of the ASCGB.

On its tenth anniversary, in 1958, the ASCGB visited Vienna and was affiliated to the VOePh (the Association of Austrian Philatelic Societies). This brought considerable benefits to the ASCGB; but later a change in Austrian law made it impossible for VOePh to support a society that, being British, couldn't comply with the Austrian Legal Regulations for Societies.

The Bulletin continued until 1965, and was then relaunched as the present journal "Austria" under the editorship of John Giblin, continuing the features which had proved popular in the previous issues with the aim that "the accumulated issues would eventually be a handbook in English to cover the entire scope of Austrian Philately". We now have our third editor (Andy Taylor); and issue 216 was published in Autumn 2021. The format has grown over the years, from black/white quarto to black/white A4 ("*it's difficult to read on a bus*") to the occasional page in full colour to full colour throughout with a front cover designed by Professor Hannes Margreiter ("*it looks like 'Hello'!*").

On 14th December 1967, the ASCGB gave an invited display of Austrian Philately to the Royal Philatelic Society London, a leaflet being made available by the ASCGB giving information about the various stamps in the frames. The display was a great success and the ASCGB was presented with the R.P.S.L.'s plaquette as a souvenir of the occasion
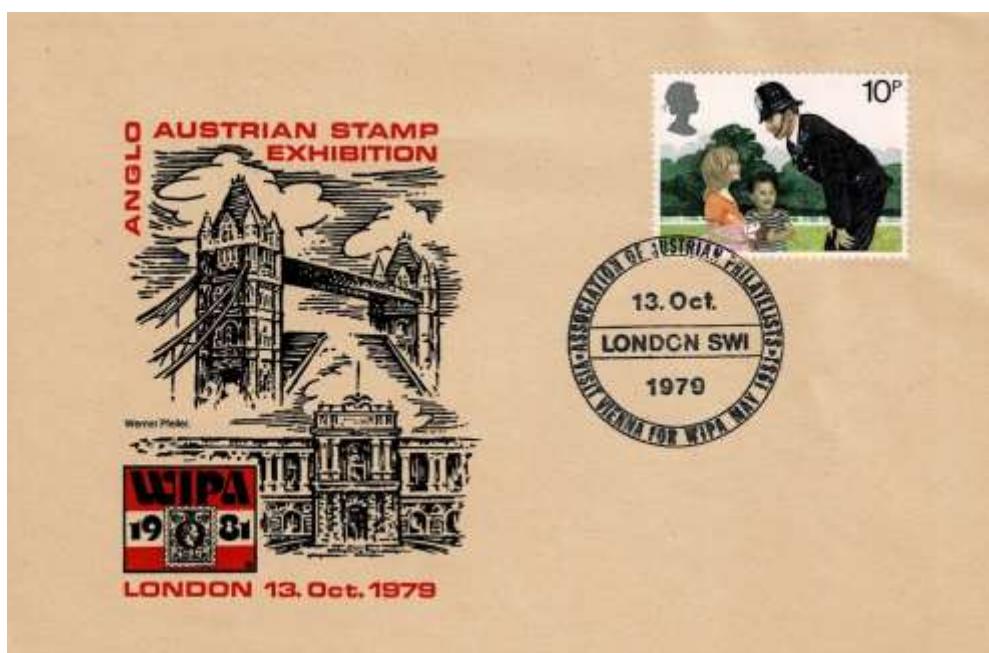
The British Postal Strike at the beginning of 1971 had a calamitous effect on the ASCGB. Literally hundreds of letters to the Secretary piled up in the post office from all over the world so that, when the strike ended, Mr. Syddall was quite overwhelmed by the volume of mail. In addition, his own engineering business was making increasing demands upon his time, so that he had to resign his offices.

The programme of monthly meetings in Manchester (and occasionally elsewhere in the north of England) ran successfully for many years. An exhibition was mounted in Manchester on 1975. An annual weekend meeting for members and partners was held in 1991, and proved so enjoyable that it has been repeated every year since (pandemics permitting): see "Fests" below.

Meanwhile, the AAP organised an Anglo-Austrian Stamp Exhibition in London on 13 October 1979.

Zusammenfassung

Friendly relationships had been re-established during 1998 between the AAP, who had continued to hold monthly meetings in London, and the ASCGB. The passage of time and the departure of some older members (along with the happenstance that Dr John Beech was Hon Secretary of both societies) made it possible to address the oddity of there being two Societies in Great Britain with basically identical objectives. After lengthy discussions, the final negotiations being held on the neutral ground of Baden bei Wien during WIPA 2000, the re-united Austrian Philatelic Society was created. Its structure explicitly encourages Local Groups (not necessarily confined to GB!). The old ASCGB north-of-England activists became the Northern Group and the AAP became the London Group.

A visit to Vienna was arranged in 1998, the excuse (should one be required) being the ASCGB's 50th anniversary, and repeat trips were held in 2000 (for WIPA), and annually (again, pandemics permitting) from 2001 for the December Numiphil

Attempts were made to found sub-groups in the Midlands and in the South-West, but not enough support was given so they foundered.

2004 saw us back at the Royal, showing 52 frames each containing 9 sheets. A photographic record of each sheet was made, and a CD produced to make it permanent. A second plaquette was added to the Society's collection!

In 2008 we provided the "Village Green" display at Spring Stampex, as part of our 60th anniversary celebrations. In total, 3200 sheets from 32 people were displayed, arranged in 100 double-sided frames. The erection (and subsequent dismantling) of the display was masterminded by Colin Tobitt, and several passers-by commented on the quiet efficiency of our team and were they available for hire? The contents for several frames were brought by members of Philatelisten Klub Merkur Innsbruck. The display was opened by the Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum. See it here:

https://www.austrianphilately.com/stampex2008/index.htm

Fests

What's a Fest? For the APS, it's a weekend residential get-together, from a Friday evening to the following Sunday lunchtime. There would be displays on a wide range of topics, an auction, probably a 'bourse' when members try to offload their unwanted material, perhaps a guest speaker, and the AGM. The first was instigated by Nick Harty and held in 1991 at The Berghof perched on top of a very steep hill overlooking Todmorden (the landlord came from Linz). This was called the Berghof Event; the nickname 'Fest' derives from festival, festschrift etc and somehow the name stuck.

There were Fests in 1991 - 1994 Berghof; 1995 - 1996 Bath; 1997 - 1998 Cambridge; 1999 - 2000 York; 2001 - 2002 Canterbury; 2004 - 2005 Honily; 2006 - 2007 Leeds; 2008 Winchester; 2009 Croydon; 2010 - 2011 Harrogate; 2012 - 2013 Croydon; 2014 York; 2015 - 2017 Peterborough; 2018 - 2019 Derby. [2020 and 2021 would have been at Derby, but Covid.) In 2003, a Fest was arranged at Leamington Spa, but the hotel's boiler blew up shortly before our booking and we were sent to Coventry instead! Only photographs have survived of what took place there.

Discussions at Fests…

Gongs and medals

Over its life, the APS has been awarded several medals at various exhibitions for the then-current issues of Austria. These include Silver bronze at WIPA 1975; Vermeil at ABPS Chester 2002; Silver at PKMI Innsbruck 2003; Silver at ABPS Torquay 2006; Silver gold at National Philatelic Literature Exhibition, New Zealand 2007; ABPS Specialist Society Journal of the Year for 2008; Large Silver at Praga2008; and Vermeil at London International 2015. It was entered at London 2020, which became 2022, and received 83 points and another Vermeil. We also have an RPSL Plaquette awarded to the ASCGB on 14 Dec 1967 and another awarded to the APS on 8 Jan 2004.

Publishing

Apart from the Bulletins and the Journal, we have published many books and CDs over the decades. The APS produced most of the first editions of Austrian Post Offices Abroad authored by Tchilinghirian & Stephen. The log of ISBN numbers records the following:

1. K Tranmer - *APOs abroad* (probably one of his revisions)

2. K Tranmer - *APOs abroad* (probably another of his revisions)

3. M Brumby - *Dalmatia* (1997) cardback

4. R Dubniak & P Cybaniak - *The Austro-Hungarian army in Ukraine censor handstamps 1914-1918* (March 1997) cardback

5. C Tobitt & A Taylor - *The Pneumatic Post in Vienna* (2005) spiralbound

6. A Taylor (editor) - *A Celebration of Austrian Philately* (2008) cardback

7. C Tobitt & A Taylor - *The Pneumatic Post in Vienna* (2008) spiralbound

8. M Brumby & A Taylor - *The History of Revenue Stamps in Austria by Dr S Koczyński* (2008) CD

9. A Taylor - *Austro-Hungarian Post Office Index, 1910* (2010) CD

10. H Smith - *The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant - Tchilinghirian and Stephen Revisited* (2013) hardback

11. C Tobitt & A Taylor - *Rohrpost: the pneumatic post in Vienna* (2016) CD

12. K Brandon, R Morrell, A Taylor - *The Story of the Austrian Post up to 1850* (2021) hardback. Awarded a Gold Medal at London2022.
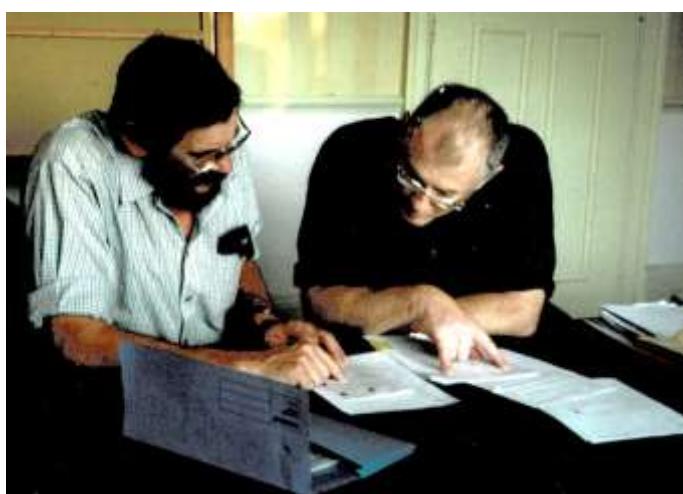
Colin Tobitt and Andy Taylor working on the Rohrpost book at Coventry.

The APS also commissioned a "Meine Marke" - the Austrian personal stamp - to commemorate the 130th anniversary in 2005 of the opening of the pneumatic mail system in Vienna (nobody in Austria thought to do so).

In 2008, an anonymous donor (later revealed to be Henry White) organised another one for the 60th anniversary of the APS. They were used to frank envelopes sent from Austria to each APS member.

APS OFFICE-HOLDERS

FOUNDER

1948   Cowie, Charles

PRESIDENT

1962   Tranmer, Keith

1964   Wilcox, Thomas

1983   Syddall, James

1988   Giblin, John

2002   Brumby, Martin

2014   Brandon, Keith

2018   Anthony, John

2019   Taylor, Andy

CHAIRMAN

1948   Godfrey, M

1962   Syddall, James

1995   Brumby, Martin

2002   Hooper, James

2004   White, Henry

2011   Tobitt, Colin

2021   Bravery, David

SECRETARY

1948   Lewy, Edgar

1951   Blake, E

1961   Scadden, Leslie

1962   Bacon, Harold

1965   Syddall, James

1971   White, Henry

1985   Brumby, Martin

1995   Beech, John

2000   Rogers, Gordon

2001   Smith, Hans

2005   Brandon, Keith

2010   Jones, Alan

2012   Frost, Geoff

2015   Coverdale, Nick

TREASURER

1950   von Lämmel, J

1961   Scadden, Leslie

1963   Hulme, Edward

1974   Dutton, John

1985   Howie, Peter

1986   Hewgill, James

1990   Taylor, Andy

1999   Boyer, Mrs Joyce

2003   Anthony, John

2017   Taylor, Andy

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

2003   Frost, Geoff

PACKET SECRETARY

1950   Baycock, K

1951   Katz, Mano

1952   Scadden, Leslie

1955   Tranmer, Keith

1965   Showell-Anderson, Thomas

1978   White, Henry

2000   Brumby, Martin

2009   Clark, Barry

EDITOR

1951   Lewy, Edgar

1955   Tranmer, Keith

1962   Bacon, Harold

1965   Giblin, John

1993   Harty, Nick

1999   Taylor, Andy

LIBRARIAN

1955   Tranmer, Keith

1966   Godden, Arthur

2001   Boyer, Mrs Joyce

PUBLICITY OFFICER

2006   Presland, Brian

2009   Smith, Hans

2015   Bravery, David

AUCTIONEER

1962   Tranmer, Keith

1997   Brumby, Martin

1998   Tobitt, Colin

2013   Brandon, Keith

2018   Brumby, Martin

Notes:

1.   During some periods, not all offices were filled, the work (if done at all) being carried out by others. The dates shown are first-appointment; our archives don't tell us when somebody demitted office. Local Groups are not included.

2.   There are many other roles and tasks required to make a philatelic society function, some permanent and some transient: Journal-despatcher; meeting-organizer; display-frame-provider; Technical Editor; Festmeister; Webmaster; and many more!

3.   The duties of Membership Secretary were usually carried out by the Secretary or the Treasurer; but on rare occasions by a member with no other role.

The start of the Partnership between the Austria Philatelic Society of Great Britain and PhK Merkur Innsbruck.

The picture above, taken at the Innsbruck Ski Jump in 2003, shows from left to right Hans Moser, Tony Boyer, Joyce Boyer, Dorli Haslauer, Andy Taylor & Johannes Haslauer.

It was during the 50th Anniversary trip of the ASCGB (now the APS) to Vienna in December 1998 that Joyce Boyer discovered that Austrian Philatelic Clubs were not like those in Britain but were a place where members gathered to talk about and sell or exchange stamps and other material. As she had been having great difficulty in finding material for her chosen areas of Ötztal and Innsbruck Postal History, she spoke to Prof. Richard Zimmerl of VÖPH and asked if he knew of any collectors in the Tirol who she could contact for help. His response was to give three names and then followed up with confirmed addresses. The people concerned were Mag. Klaus Schopfer, then Obmann des Philatelistenklub Merkur Innsbruck, Dr Hans Moser, and Theo Bader. Joyce wrote to all three and each encouraged her in their own way. Mag. Schopfer and Dr Moser both invited and encouraged her to visit the Merkur Club, and told members of her interests and the dates on which she would visit the Club so that they could bring any material they had for sale. The success of this first visit to the Club has led to further visits each year when she is on holiday. One year Joyce was asked if she was interested in Postablagen and when a positive reply was given she was asked to say what these were. The reply was obviously acceptable since the next week many previously unseen examples were produced.

Joyce has also visited Dr Moser and viewed sections of his very interesting collection and it was during one of these meetings that the suggestion was made that the Philatelistenklub Merkur Innsbruck and the Austrian Philatelic Society should become partners. In addition to the English members being welcome to visit the Innsbruck Klub the APS editor has taken advantage of the partnership to seek help with articles in our magazine. To mark the formal formation of the partnership in July 2002 Joyce visited the Klub on a Wednesday evening and gave a display from her collection of "Postablagen of the Ötztal". After the meeting many members visited a nearby hotel for less serious discussions.

In September 2003 three members of the APS with two partners attended the "Salon" at Innsbruck taking with them ten exhibits from seven members. These exhibits were positively acknowledged by many visitors. (See next page) A photo survives of the Social Side of the event →

More recently Joyce has given displays of "Tirol TPOs" and "Postal History of Spalding, Lincolnshire" to the Klub.

Since 2003 the partnership has grown. It is encouraging for the future that several members of each club have joined the other.

L-R: Alan Berrisford, Hans Smith, Colin Tobitt, Geoff Richardson, Andy Taylor, Joyce Boyer, Henry White

Presentation of the Innsbruck certificates by Joyce Boyer at the Coventry Fest in 2003:

It does not seem like five weeks ago that five of the people here tonight were sitting round a table at another dinner, that time it was the award ceremony for the Innsbruck Salon. As the presentation of certificates progressed I was regularly receiving polite applause but most times under a different name.

I would now like to pass on the various certificates I received together with the thanks and congratulations of the Organising committee to all of our members who took part. I will tell you the medal level achieved but not the actual marks - on this point I felt the marking was harder than in UK competitions but the medal level marks were lower. Two entries that had been in the Interfederation competition at Chester 2002 received the same medal although the marks were lower.

I would now ask the exhibitors to come and collect their certificates these are all in the lower Rang 3

Alan Berrisford - Poland, Krakow Provisional Postal Stationary - Vermeil

Geoff Richardson - Slogan cancels 1938-1945 - Silver; and Postal Stationary - Vermeil

Colin Tobitt - Vienna Censor marks 1946-1953 - Vermeil

Henry White - Costume series 1948 the effects of inflation - Silver

Our other awards were

Andy Taylor - Newspaper postage stamps - Silver; Postal history of Kitzbuhel - Silver-Bronze; and the 2002 editions of 'Austria' in the literature class - Silver.

Joyce Boyer - Austrian Airmails 1918 - 1938 - Vermeil

In Rang 2

Hans Smith - Habsburg Friends and Foes - Gold and the best postal history exhibit. As an aside I will tell you that as Tony and I were putting this up, members of the Arge Feld and Zensurpost 1914-1918 group who were having a meeting at the Salon were looking at it and had already decided it was "best in show" after only three frames! Tony was receiving congratulations but had to admit he knew nothing about what he was putting up.

My Favourite Cover

Carol Ralph

By definition all Rohrpost covers are scruffy: because they were folded to fit in the tubes and were well handled even before they got to their destinations. (They were hand-sorted/checked at every stop on their journey through the pneumatic system to their destination). This card is grubbier than most!

This is my favourite – it is very ordinary but has a little story. It has a funny little cartoon picture on the front and is a 'sorry I forgot your birthday' postcard, which the sender has amended to "Name Day"; something I have never heard of before. It is from Karl to his mother, Ida, and he says: 'Darling Mother, forgive me for sending late congratulations, however you are always in my heart". (Sons are all the same in every country!)

Karl wrote the card on 3 September 1930 but it did not get cancelled at Lienz post office until 7am the next day. From Lienz the card went by rail to Südbahnhof, Vienna, arriving at 9am, 5 September 1930, 2 days after it was written. The card then took an hour to travel between Südbahnhof Pneumatic Office No.76 and arrive at Pneumatic Office No.59 in Mittelgaße, District 6, just round the corner from the addressee's home.

It has the correct postage of 40 groschen, (the rate from 1 January 1928 to 31 August 1932 and made up of 10 groschen for the postcard and 30 groschen for express delivery), and an express label, not a Rohrpost label; so it was the post office staff who decided that the quickest way to deliver the postcard was by pneumatic post. From Pneumatic Office No. 59 the card would have been given to a boy on a bike to deliver by hand.

The stamp is ANK507. As well as the Lienz and two Vienna bridge datestamp cancellations, the post office clerk at No.76 Pneumatic Office has manually written in red crayon "59", the destination pneumatic office, 5 Offices west and about 4500 metres away.
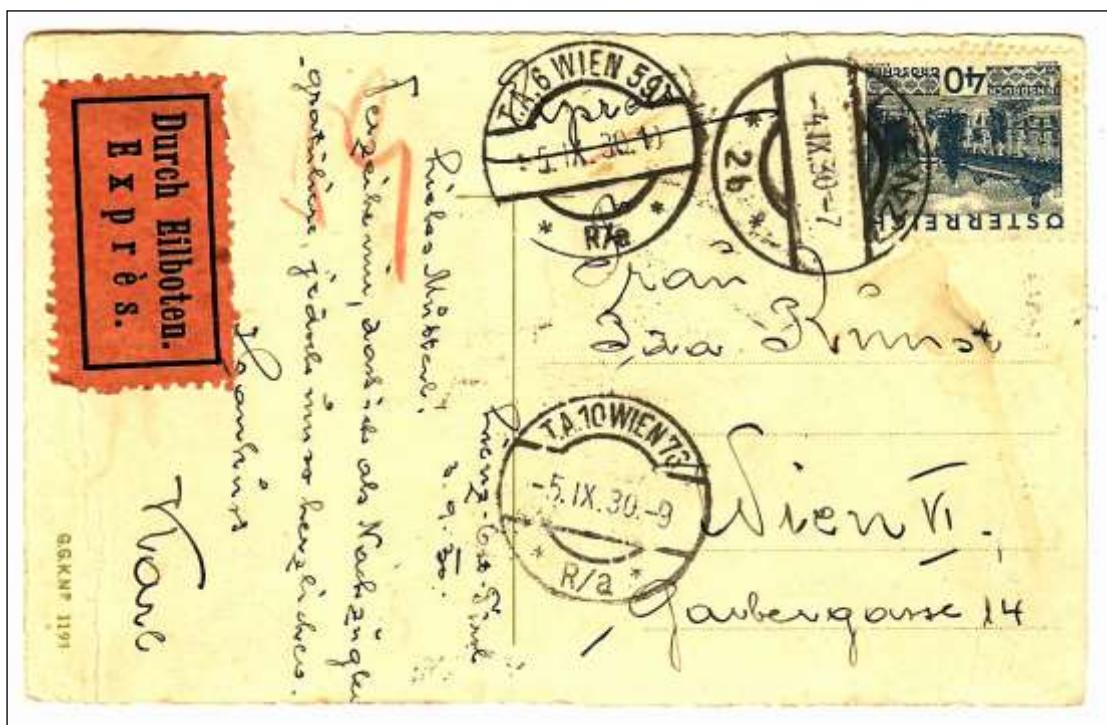
A Schnorkelbrief from 1638

Derek Baron

The favourite item in my collection is illustrated below. It was purchased on ebay after Martin Brumby had alerted me that there was a piece from Olomouc for sale. There are no mail markings, but the date appears in the contents – April 1638.
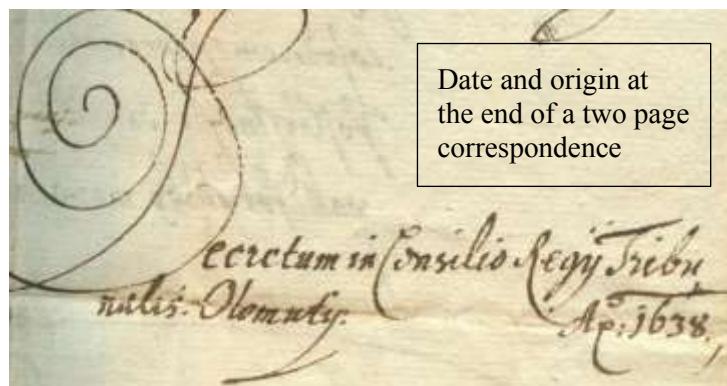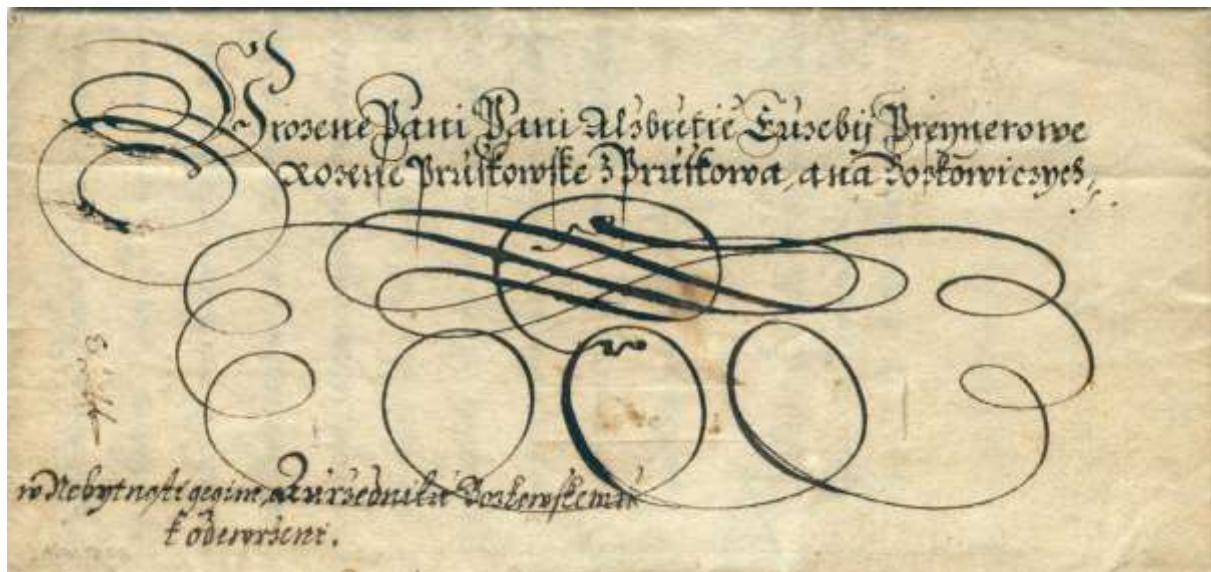
Date and origin at the end of a two page correspondence

Remains of paper seal on reverse

Not many people can read old Czech, so I was lucky that I found an old colleague, a history teacher at Hejčin Gymnasium who had learned the language at University. I am much indebted to Jan Dvorsky who not only provided the translation, but also the historic background.

It is a letter written in the office of Julius of Salm, Margrave of Moravia, Lord of Tovačov an estate near Olomouc, from his palace on the main square in Olomouc, to another aristocrat the Lady Alzbeta Eusebie Breinerova, born Pristovska, from Pristov and Boskovice. Julius is responding to complaints by her serfs that she has introduced to her estates higher taxes and duties and more forced labour than the old customary obligations. Julius of Salm strongly advises or even orders as Chief Justice that Alzbeta returns to the old customs. After all, in the middle of a thirty year war with the Swedes he didn't want a peasant revolt as well!

The Salm Palace, now Horní náměste 1, was the Olomouc 1 post office from 1853 to 1886 when a new purpose built post office was erected in Republika náměste but the public complained about the distance they had to walk from the city centre to the new post office, so it was reopened as a sub-postoffice . It suffered the indignity during my stay of hosting a Macdonalds cafe, now thankfully moved. Julius resigned in 1640 and Olomouc was then occupied by the Swedes until 1648, the end of the Thirty Year War. Olomouc was left devastated with just 600 inhabitants remaining; it lost its status of Capital which moved to Brno.

Serfdom in England had already almost disappeared by 1500, officially abolished in 1574. It continued in Czech lands until officially abolished in 1781, but partly remaining until 1841.

The Sad Story of Nurse Albine Pecha

A PARABLE FOR TODAY

Keith Brandon

The inscription on the picture-side of this privately-illustrated postal-stationery card reads: "*Andenken der Wienerin Pestträgerin, die Wärterin Albina Pecha, 1898.*" (In memory of the Viennese plague-victim, nurse Albine Pecha, 1898).

Albine Pecha (4 May 1877 to 31 October 1898) worked as a nurse at the Kaiser Franz Joseph Hospital in Vienna where she assisted the scientist Hermann Nothnagel. A member of his staff, Franz Barisch, contracted what was thought to be pneumonia but turned out to be plague. Nurse Pecha and a colleague, who were assigned to his treatment, both caught the plague and were hermetically isolated within the hospital, where they both died. Nurse Albine Pecha was the last person to die of the plague in Vienna.

The 2 kreuzer stationery-card (reverse shown below) was mailed from Vienna to nearby Mödling three days before her death. The story of the pretty young nurse suffering a lingering death had featured in the newspapers for several days, and had captured the public imagination. The postcard had been published in sympathy for her plight.

The 1906 Landscape Series of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Ingert Kuzych

Art Nouveau is an international art style that was most notably manifested in architecture and the applied arts between 1890 and 1910. The style went by different names in different languages: Jugendstil in German, Stile Liberty in Italian, Modernisme in Catalan, etc. Characteristics of the style were simplified natural forms such as the sinuous curves of plants and flowers, or whiplash lines giving a sense of dynamism and movement.

Vienna developed into the center of a distinct variant of Jugendstil that became known as the Vienna Secession. The Secession style was notably more feminine, less heavy, and less nationalistic than the Jugendstil in neighbouring Germany. The 1906 Landscape Definitive Series for Bosnia-Herzegovina represents the introduction of Jugendstil into Austrian stamp design.

A widespread peasant rebellion against the Ottomans in 1875, known as the Herzegovinian rebellion, came to involve several Balkan states as well as the European Great Powers and led to the calling of the Congress of Berlin in 1878. By terms of the subsequent Treaty of Berlin, the Balkan region was restructured; Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro were recognized as independent states; and Austria-Hungary was allowed to occupy Bosnia-Herzegovina. In order not to cause offense in the multi-ethnic region, for the next several decades all Bosnia-Herzegovinan postage stamps carried no identifying inscription – simply the Imperial coat of arms and the stamps' value.

By 1906, the governments of Austria and Hungary decided that it was time for Bosnia-Herzegovina to have its own distinctive postage stamps, which were designed and engraved respectively by two of their finest artists, Koloman Moser and Ferdinand Schirnböck. No pains were spared in the execution of the issue: the frame of each stamp enjoyed its own pattern, in what must have been an extravagant outlay of time and money. But the effort to showcase Jugendstil was worth it; the 16-stamp issue with its strong colours brought the beauties of this region to the attention of the philatelic world. This stamp series (Fig. 1) is one of the best known to collectors worldwide from the first decade of the 20th century; it went on sale 1 November 1906 and remained valid until 3 December 1912.

The stamps exist with an incredible array of perforation varieties as well as imperforate (some of the perforation differences are apparent on the main illustration). The complexity of perforations can be overcome by collecting a set of the 12.5 only (the most common) or imperforate only. All of the stamps may be found printed in black ink and also in trial colours. These too are very collectible.

On the occasion of Emperor Franz Joseph's 80th birthday, the set was reissued with an additional tablet at the base with the dates "1830-1910", which makes each of those stamps slightly taller than the originals (Fig 2). This issue, perforated 12.5, remained valid only between 18 August and 31 December 1910.

On 1 June 1912, three further values (12-, 60-, and 72-heller) were added to the original 1906 set, bringing the final total to 19 shown in Fig 1. In this case, however, while the stamp vignettes were new, the frames repeated earlier designs. These stamps were issued 12.5, but also exist imperforate. They are not illustrated here.

The 5- and 10-heller values of the 1906 set were reissued with war charity surcharges in 1914 and 1915 (Fig 3). The variety of overprint settings, missing punctuation, double overprints, and inverts can provide hours of fascinating study.

The 1906 Bosnian Landscape Series and its myriad perforation varieties are thoroughly covered in early issues of *Austria*, particularly Nos. 1-3, 5-8, 10, 15, and 30. Additional info appears in Nos. 126 and 133.

Figure 1. The colourful stamps that make up the 1906 Bosnia-Herzegovina Landscape Series.

Figure 2 (left). Examples of the 1910 reissue with the date tablet inserted in the bottom of the frame.

Figure 3 (right). Examples of the two stamp values overprinted in 1914; the additional 2-heller added value went towards war charity. The same overprint was again applied the following year, but with a 1915 date and in black ink on the 10-heller stamp.

The Frauenschuh (Lady's Slipper orchid) Postal Stationery card of 23 Aug 2002

Joyce Boyer

I have liked this card since it was first issued for the simplicity but detail in the design of the Lady's Slipper orchid by the artist and stamp designer Hannes Margreiter. It is also an item that finds its way into several of my collections.

- Firstly, in a collection of work by the designer Hannes Margreiter;

- Secondly, in a collection of Orchids and again in a sub-section for Endangered species; and

- Thirdly, in my 2002 display of the year they changed the currency from the schilling to the euro.

The card was launched at Gmunden Junior '02 a philatelic event, and both the specially printed card signed by the designer and a card with first day cancellation by the same designer are shown.
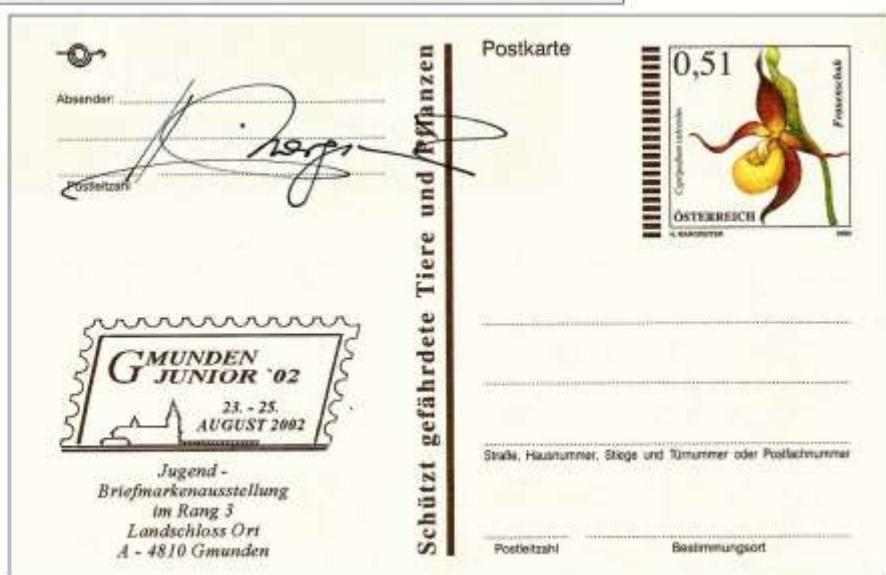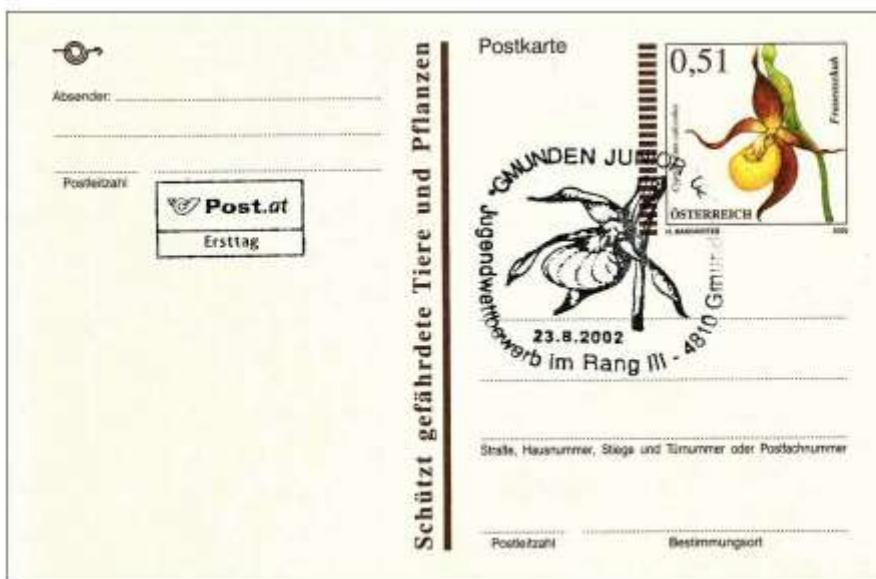
Added to this, in 2002 I had a Special Birthday and my husband was able to purchase artwork of the design from Hannes Margreiter - it now hangs in my study.

The Heidenreichstein Stamp of the Architectural Monuments Series

Ingert Kuzych

The Architectural Monuments stamp set of 1957-70 presents an excellent cross section of Austrian building subjects and styles. Additionally, the stamp series turned out to be a philatelic specialist's dream-come-true since in addition to the original 25 stamp values, more (make-up) values were produced over time (four in total), plus three of the stamp values were recreated in a reduced format for stamp-dispensing machines – combining for a total of 32 distinct stamps. But that was only the beginning! Several of the stamp values – including the 10 schilling that is the subject of this description – have imperforate varieties. Also, virtually every value has colour varieties and almost all display some plate or printing defects – some 150 are cataloged – making this set (along with the earlier 1948-52 Folk Costumes Series) one of the two Austrian Holy Grails for fly-speck collectors.

Austria is particularly rich in castles and castle ruins and Lower Austria, with over 500 castles and ruins, contains the largest number. So it was apropos that a fortress from this province was chosen for the Architectural Monuments stamp set. Heidenreichstein lies in the northwestern Waldviertel (Forest Quarter) of Lower Austria not far from the border with the Czech Republic. The castle is thought to date to about 1160 and the earliest written reference to the locale is contained in a Zwettler Document of 1205, which mentions an Otto von Heidenreichstein and his son Wolfhart. Over the centuries the fortress was enlarged and strengthened, and possession of the castle passed through various noble families. Today it is the permanent residence for one of the scions of the House of Kinsky.

Heidenreichstein rises proudly from the top of a crag and fits harmoniously into its surrounding forest setting. The walls of the castle's four wings, its three corner towers, and the keep are all up to four meters thick. Despite its massive size, the fortuitous positioning of the moated castle allows Heidenreichstein to be billed as "the most beautiful water castle in Austria"; it now operates as a museum with daily guided tours during the tourist season.

While some of the strength and majesty of Heidenreichstein may be gleaned from the 1957 stamp, the true beauty and splendor of the fortress site are revealed on a postcard showing a romantic and evocative painting from the 1920s by Otto Stoitzner – one of the renowned artists from the Austrian Stoizner lineage.

Austria - the Land of Music

Andy Taylor

Austria has produced some of the most sublime achievements in the fine arts, the theatre, literature, architecture, medicine and science. The culture is part of the mainstream of Germanic culture. All of this produces numerous opportunities and excuses for well-designed commemorative stamps and special cancellations - and the Austrian Post Office takes full advantage of this.

Austria is famed for its contributions to music, especially during the Classical and Romantic periods. Names like Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Brahrns, Mahler and Bruckner spring to mind - and there were many more. The Viennese operetta reached its peak about 1900. One thinks of the Strauss family, Franz the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna State Opera. There's also a strong folk music tradition.
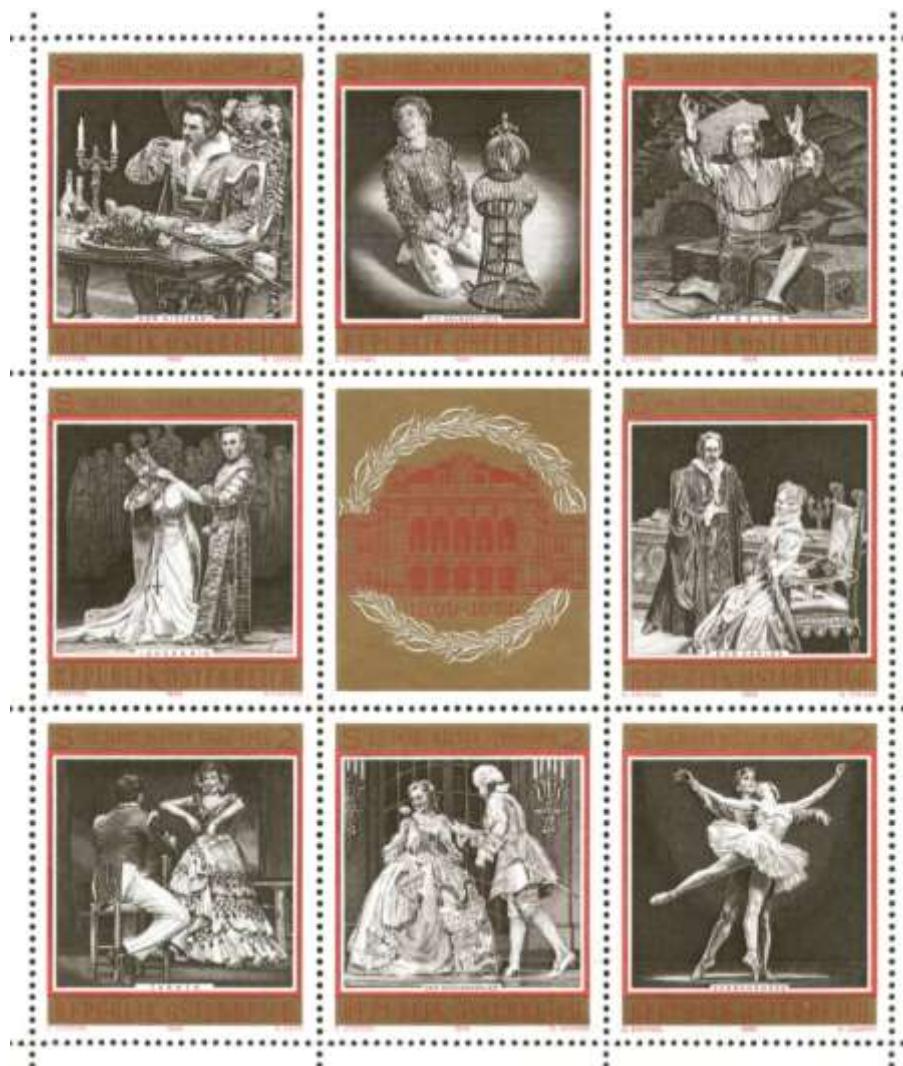
The opera house on the Ring was opened on 25 May 1869, so the centenary was duly celebrated on 25 May 1969 with an exhibition in the Hofburg. The Austrian Post Office rose to the occasion, producing a sheet of 8 stamps plus a vignette, accompanied by a magnificent 44-page booklet containing a black print, essays on the history of Viennese opera, discussions on the building, dissertations on the musical directors, and descriptions of each stamp. There is even an 8-page supplement in English.

The stamps depict Don Giovanni by Mozart; Magic Flute by Mozart; Fidelio by Beethoven; Lohengrin by Wagner; Don Carlos by Verdi; Carmen by Bizet; Der Rosenkavalier by R. Strauss; and Swan Lake by Tchaikovsky. The printing sheet consists of 4 blocks, each with a border of stamp-sized blanks: so it's 10x10 'stamps' plus a 10mm margin and extremely difficult to display!

Imst Railway Station Letterbox

Joyce Boyer

These two cards show the station letterbox cancellations from 1908 and 1910. The earlier cancellation was not listed in Hans Stohl's book and when I wrote to him to check the type he replied "I was surprised to receive a letter from England! I am happy to see the rare first type from railway station letterbox cancellation (5a2) which was unknown until today." When part two of his book was issued, this cancellation was included in the amendments section.

Empress Maria Theresia and Ukrainians

Ingert Kuzych

Empress Maria Theresia (r. 1740-80) is remembered fondly by Ukrainians – particularly Western Ukrainians from Eastern Galicia and Bukovyna – to this very day. She made her son Joseph co-ruler in 1765 and it was during their joint reign that Austria annexed Galicia from partitioned Poland (1772) and Bukovyna from the Ottoman Empire (1774). Maria Theresia saw to it that the same administrative, fiscal, economic (including postal), judicial, ecclesiastical, educational, and military reforms were implemented in these new lands as had been introduced elsewhere in her empire.

She instituted a number of reforms to improve the legal status of the peasantry and limited the powers and privileges of the Polish magnates. She also launched various measures to stimulate the development of agriculture and commerce. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic (Uniate) clergy had their status raised to that of the Roman Catholic clergy (which had not been the case under Polish rule), a seminary was founded in Vienna (the Barbareum), and subsequently a Church of Saint Barbara was granted to the Uniate faithful in Vienna with a mandate of establishing new elementary schools.

These reforms of Maria Theresia did much to lift Galicia and Bukovyna out of the cultural restrictions and economic stagnation that they had endured under Polish and Ottoman rule respectively.

In 1980, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the passing of the great empress, the Austrian Government set up a special five-month exhibition at the Palace of Schönbrunn from the 13th of May until the 26th of October entitled "Maria Theresia and Her Time." Three stamps (Netto 1669-71) marked the opening day of the exhibit: 2.50 S showing Maria Theresia as a young woman, 4 S presenting her as Empress, and 6 S showing the dowager Empress. All three values (along with special cancels) were affixed to all sorts of special commemorative first-day stationery and folders.

The Ukrainian Stamp Collectors Club in Austria (UBSV) took an active part in the memorial celebrations and prepared a beautiful official first-day envelope that on its cachet depicted the sumptuous Evangelion (Book of Gospels) that Maria Theresia gifted to the Church of Saint Barbara (Figure 1). The treasured volume displays porcelain medallions affixed to its front cover, which are surrounded by precious silver filigree. The central lower portion of the elaborate cover flaunts the empress' crowned 'MT' monogram, the design of which was used by the UBSV to create its own commemorative first-day cancellation.

On the exact day marking the 200th anniversary of the empress' death, 29 November 1980, the UBSV again marked the occasion with a special cancellation and a commemorative card. This time the subject depicted on the card and cancel was the Maria Theresia Cross – the other splendid gift bestowed on Saint Barbara's Church by the monarch (Figure 2). At its center, the elaborate, enamel-decorated processional cross contains a petit point embroidery that depicts a bust of Christ and that is set under rock crystal. Supposedly, the embroidery was the work of Maria Theresia's daughter, Maria Antonia, who would become the French Queen Marie Antoinette.

Multi-picture Postcards

Andrew Brooks, Ingert Kuzych, Rex Dixon

An interesting sideline is postcards with a liftable flap that conceals a strip of small pictures. This one is dated 13 Nov 1914, cancelled at Krakow, and censored. The stamp side is below.

The next example is a do-it-yourself version. It was written in Lemberg on 9 June 1916 but mailed and censored at Prerau railway station on its way to Kralupy. The sender has created a multi-scene postcard of Lemberg by gluing two postcards together, cutting out a flap, and inserting a folded strip of 8 city scenes. The 5-heller stamp was adequate to deliver this double-plus-weight postcard. Or maybe nobody bothered to check.
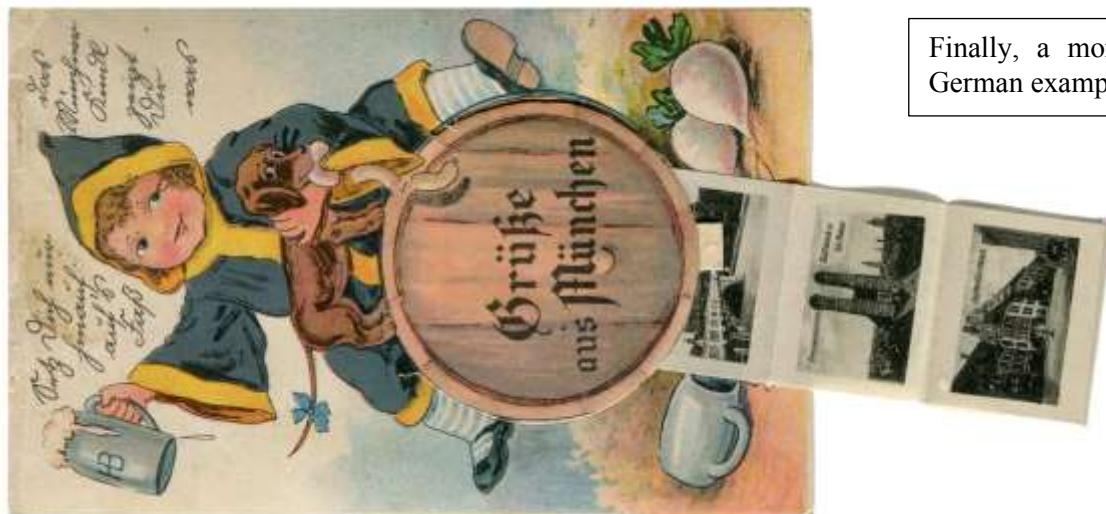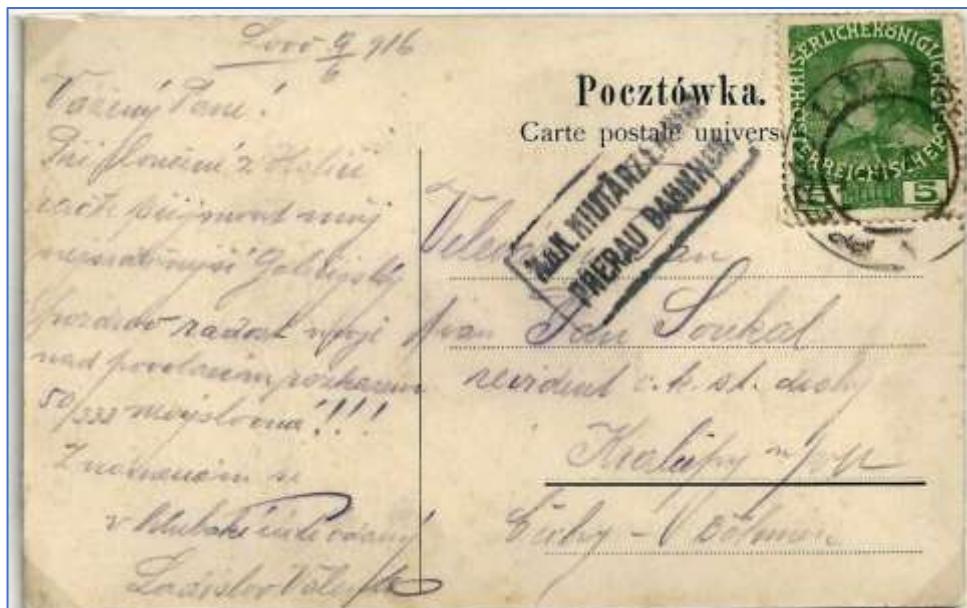
Finally, a more recent German example.

The Recommando-Marke.

An almost forgotten episode of Austrian Philately

Richard Zimmerl

Registration Stamps were issued in many countries to pay the registration fee on a letter, including Canada, Columbia, Montenegro, Victoria and several Central- and South- American countries. The same idea was floated in Austria: in 1879 the dealer & collector Sigmund Friedl produced an Essay for a registration-fee-stamp. The postal authorities did not adopt the idea. A few items remain from this initiative; they are rare and thus expensive.

The essays depict the Imperial Eagle in a double circle having KAISERTHUM ÖSTERREICH between the rings and a posthorn at the bottom. On both sides are shields containing the value 10 surrounded by ZEHN KREUZER Ö. W. At the top is a swagged banner displaying RECOMMANDO, and at the bottom a rectangle with N^o and space for the item's registration number. [The fee for both inland and foreign registration in 1879 was 10kr] These essays come on three different types of paper:

A: Thin grey 'silk' paper; only imperf specimens are known, all having broad margins.	B: Thick yellowish paper; these are relatively rare, and are known both imperf and line perf 10:8	C: Thick white paper: these are relatively common, and are found with line perf 9, 10 and 10:8

The existence of line perf 9, 10 and 10:8 shows that the so-far-unknown printing works where the essays were prepared had three different line perforators (8, 9 & 10) and used them randomly.

It is also interesting that all the essays, both those on yellowish paper and those on white paper, display a characteristic break of the upper left corner. The essays on the grey silk paper do not show this break. This suggests that the pieces on the grey paper are the first edition. Evidently this edition did not correspond to the ideas of the client, which from the available pieces can easily be recognised. Perhaps a second edition was prepared on better paper - and during the printing the cliché was broken. A very few of the white-paper prints have partial offprints on the back.

The idea of the Recommando-marke was not adopted by the Austrian postal administration, although at this time such stamps were already usual in other countries. A critical consideration of the stamps shows that the Friedl design would not have been successful - the inscriptions were far too unusual, and the space for the registration number was probably inadequate.

Sigmund Friedl had yet more far-reaching ideas. He presented also an essay for a "Worldwide postage stamp" which should be used in all countries and should be sold in ten different currencies. So pioneering

was this idea that even today it has not yet been implemented in this form. Who knows whether this will ever be successful?

In 1979 the First Austrian Registration Label Collectors' Association (of which I was formerly the head) celebrated its 30th anniversary. As it was also the centenary of the Sigmund Friedl Essay, the Association commissioned a reprint thereof as a 2x2 block; an original essay was used and the perforations done by the Austrian State Printing Works. These are highly sought after!

A Visit to the Fireworks

(Using modern Austrian stamps made with or from non-standard material)

Joyce Boyer

Before going out to meet his young lady, Franz dressed in his Lederhosen (*leather with crystal buttons*) and put on his traditional hat (*woven*). He bought a red rose (*petit point*) to give to Helena (*lace*) when they met under the oak tree (*wood*) in the park, from where thy watched a firework display (*Swarovski crystals*).
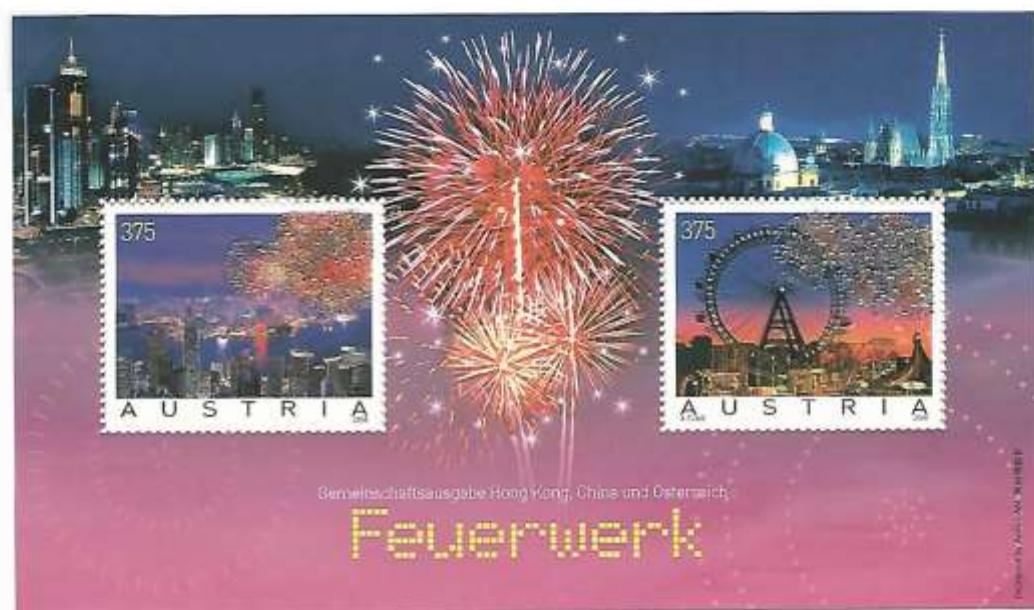
The 1922 Musicians Set Presentation Folder

Andy Taylor

Austria has issued numerous stamps featuring composers and conductors, mostly of classical rather than modern music. The first 'composer' issue was on 24th April 1922 when a set of seven stamps was issued to raise money for "indigent Austrian musicians". It depicted seven famous Austrian composers (OK, Beethoven was born in Bonn, and Mozart in the then-independent country of Salzburg).

The illustration shows the 230mm square "presentation folder", where the stamps are displayed behind cutout windows in a sheet of heavy 'Japan' paper which is signed by the designer Dr Rudolph Junk and the engraver Ferdinand Schirnbock. There were 100 folders issued; this is nr 39. The stamps are printed on heavy Japan paper, and also numbered.

This is the outer cover of the folder, which is printed in dark grey on shades of black. This is almost impossible to reproduce, so here is a false-colour version

The Countess seeks a Nanny

Nicholas Rogers

The address caught my eye when I saw this cover in a dealer's box many years ago. Who was Miss Page, and what was she doing in Vienna in 1917? The letter-card, bearing a 40 heller olive (ANK 194) was sent by registered post from Alt Aussee on 21 August 1917 to Miss Page at Giselastraße 5 in Vienna I. At top left is the annotation 'aus Colloredo'. The letter had attracted the attention of the state police, who inspected the contents before sealing with a censor label (Thielk 1.90; frame 63 x 41 mm). It was at this point that the word 'zustellen' was scrawled across the front in blue crayon.

The letter, dated 20 August, on a letter-card where the Vienna IV address Plößlgasse 13 has been struck through and replaced by 'Alt Aussee Steiermarkt' [sic], reads:

Dear Miss Page,

Miss Langridge now writes she could not come Sept. 1st but would be free the first days of October. One of her letters to me never arrived but I imagine she is more of a governess than a nurse?? I suppose however she is not fussy or too grand in her ideas, for in war time I have no nursery maid, only a Stubenmädchen to do out the nurseries & Miss L. would have to take care of the children's clothes & her own herself, except shoes, of course. What do you think? Do you advise waiting for her? Thanking you for your reply, Very truly yours N. Colloredo. 2 letters of mine to Graz have gone astray.

The writer, Eleonore (Nora), Gräfin von Colloredo-Mannsfeld (1881-1939), daughter of Charles Oliver Iselin of New York, was a rare case of an American marrying into the Austrian nobility. Her husband, Ferdinand, Graf von Colloredo-Mannsfeld, was attached to the embassy in Rome at the time of their marriage in 1909. They had two children, Franz Ferdinand (1910-1944), who became a Squadron Leader in the R.A.F. and was killed in action, and Marie Eleanore (1913-1955). Nora is the subject of a striking portrait by Philip de László.

Lehmanns Anzeiger reveals that the addressee was Miss Emma Page, Principal of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Home for English Governesses. This institution, which provided accommodation and social support for English governesses in Vienna, was founded in 1887. It was originally in Weihburggasse, but moved in 1898 to the Graben, shortly after Graf Heinrich Wurmbrand shot himself in front of the Home, for unrequited love of a governess.

Emma Page, who was born c. 1856, first appears as a summer visitor from Vienna in the Gmundner Kurliste for 1895. On 24 May 1909 she was present at a celebration of Empire Day in Vienna. She is listed as Principal of the Home for English Governesses in the 1910 Anzeiger, which gives her address as Graben 29A. By 1912 the Home had moved to Giselastraße 5. The Neues Wiener Tagblatt of 28 April 1913 reported that she had taken on the role of Lady Bracknell in a production of The Importance of Being Earnest at an Englischer Amateurtheaterabend in the Josefssaal. Miss Page's death on 5 March 1926 was reported in the Neue Freie Presse, which noted that she had been in charge of the Home for fifteen years and paid tribute to the support she gave to English women in Vienna during the war. She was buried in the Protestant section of the Central Cemetery at Simmering.

The identification of Miss Langridge is somewhat more difficult. The most likely candidate is Jessie Langridge, born in Leytonstone, Essex, on 15 November 1879, the daughter of a solicitor's clerk. In the 1901 Census she is listed as an elementary school teacher boarding in Morton, Lincolnshire. Her elder brother Henry S. Langridge (b. 1871) had moved to Vienna by 1898 to teach English at the k.k. Exportakademie. In 1900 he married Lucy Wortham in Vienna, and their daughter Hilda was born in 1901. Henry died of peritonitis in 1918, but Lucy and Hilda remained in Vienna until the Anschluß. A J. Langridge from Graz was staying at the Hotel Kaiserin Elisabeth in Vienna in September 1917. In 1918, at the end of the war, Jessie Langridge obtained a passport enabling her to return to England via France. In 1939 she was registered as a teacher in Oxford, where she died in 1947.

Countess Colloredo's letter-card is of interest philatelically as an example of the use of registration to ensure delivery at a time when the postal services were disrupted. But it also opens a window on to a largely forgotten community, the English colony in late imperial Vienna.
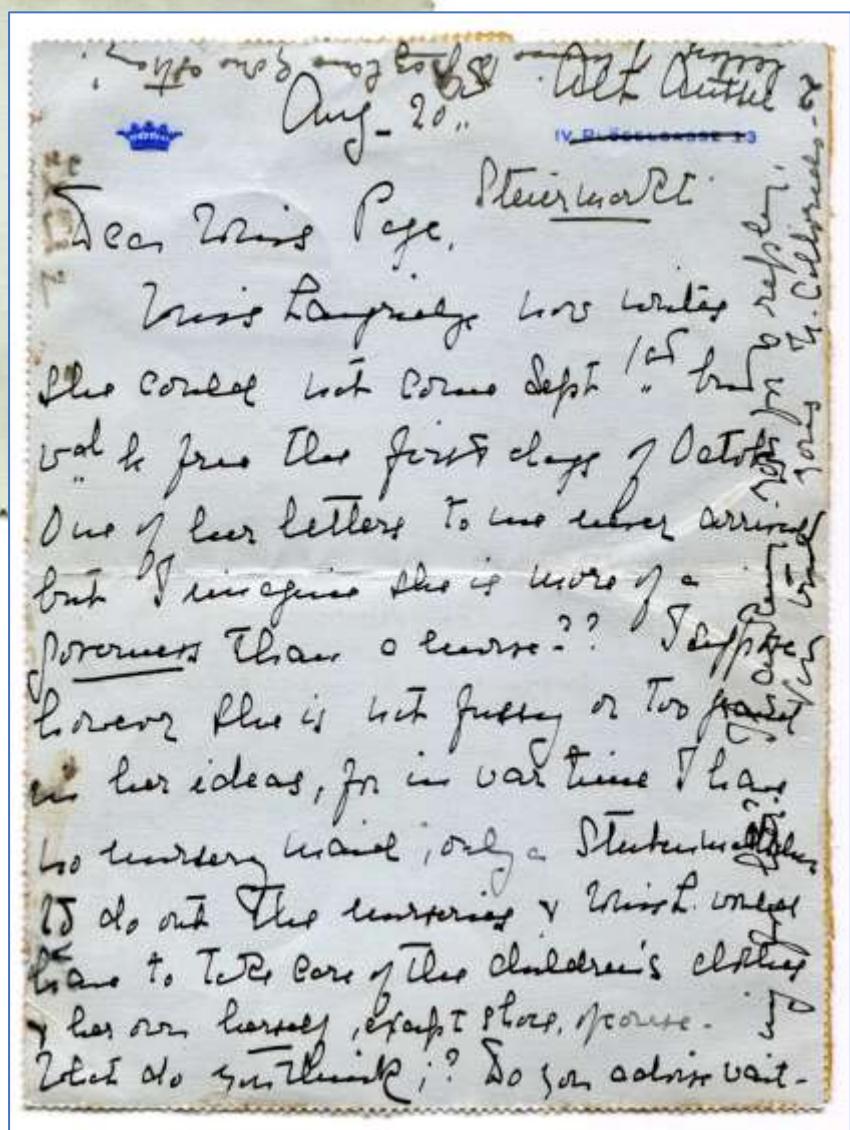
The relation between the stamp, the cancel, and the post office where the stamp is cancelled.

Henry Pollak

As you get into collecting more and more seriously, you learn to pay more and more attention to the cancellations on the stamp(s), or as is often the case, on the cover. This is probably true for a collection of every country, but it can be of special importance in Austria. Cancellations which look very similar may be associated with stamps which look very similar. How much you notice about the association can make a large difference on your desire for, and your evaluation of, the cover. Two examples:

In the first example, you have a franking of three 5 kreuzer stamps of the 1867 issue on a letter. This is not common because 15 kreuzer is an unusual rate. It became the rate from Vienna to Milan or Venice after Lombardy and Venetia were separated from Austria (say 1869 or so) but before the UPU establishment in 1875. Yes, it's a nice cover. But wait a minute! The cover addressed did not come from Vienna, or elsewhere in Austria, it came from the Austrian post office in Constantinople!

The cover should have had stamps denominated in soldi, not in kreuzer! But except for the currency, a 5 kreuzer and a 5 soldi from 1867 look just alike. So this is actually a very unusual cover. In 1871, the correct rate from the Austrian office in Constantinopel to Triest was 15 soldi.

[Note that the cover has been perforated all over, presumably for disinfection. There is a faint pencil marking *Fumigation slits 100-* just to the left of Trieste" on the front.]

Let us now look at another cover in which the relation between stamp and cancellation becomes interesting. We have an 1861 5 kreuzer stamp on a cover from Klagenfurt in July 1861 addressed to Strassburg. Within the Austro-German postal union this is unreasonably cheap. But wait a minute, before the Franco-Prussian War, Strassburg was in France, not part of Germany. A letter from Klagenfurt to Strassburg would have cost at least 25 kreuzer! Something is wrong. What could it be? Think!
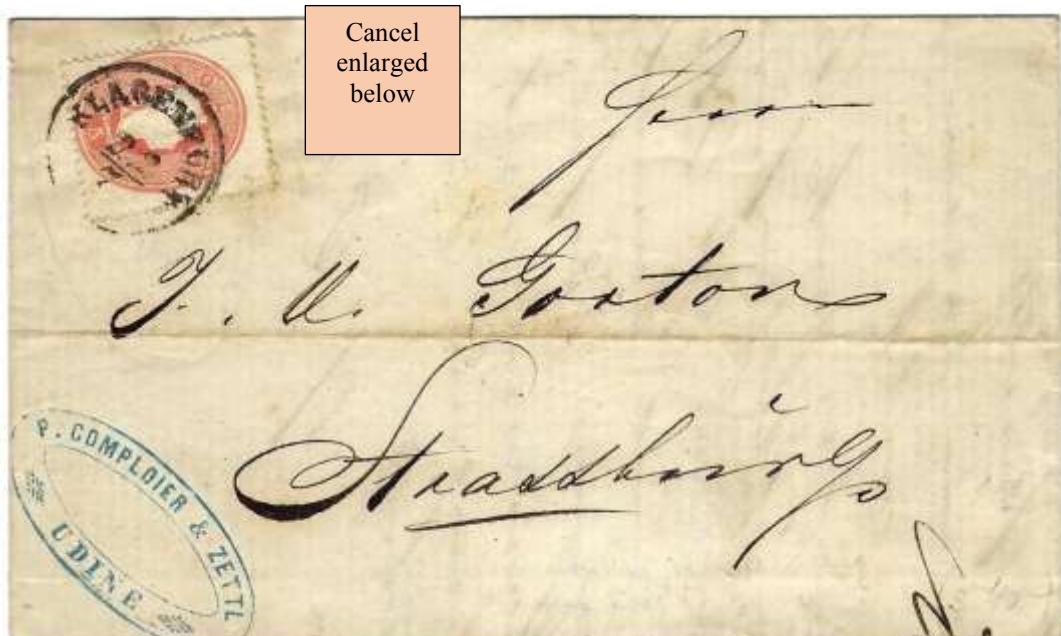
Finally, a thought. Is there another Strassburg besides the one on the border between France and Germany? Ah, yes, there is a fairly big Strassburg in Carinthia! Below is another cover, addressed to the same firm in Strassburg, but this one says Carinthia. It's interesting in its own right because the stamp is an envelope cutout. But it's the lucky chance that proves that the first cover's Strassburg is in Carinthia. That would only cost 5 kreuzer.
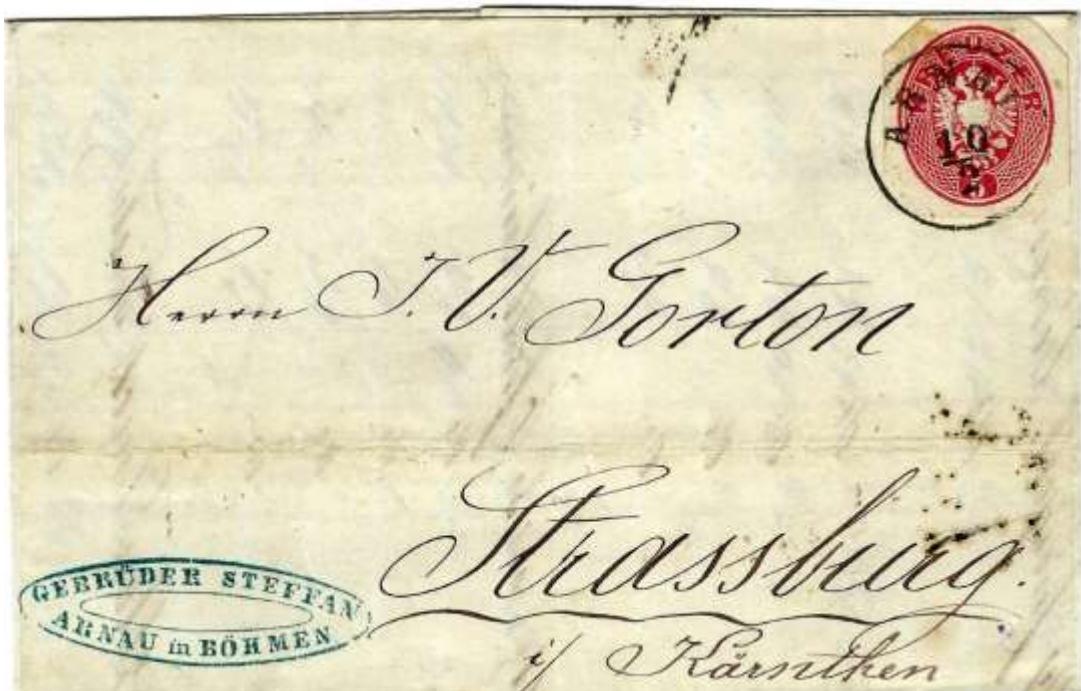
But there is something else strange that has not been considered: The blue double-oval handstamp of the first letter's sender is Udine, not Klagenfurt. Where is Udine? In Venetia, not that far from Venice. Take a closer look at the stamp itself. Surprise: it is a 5 soldi, not a 5 kreuzer stamp. So the sender is saving a lot of money, with perhaps someone carrying letters from Udine to Klagenfurt to mail them. A postal employee would have to notice that the currency on the stamp is soldi, not kreuzer. And then make somebody pay for using a Lombardy - Venetia stamp to defraud the Austrian post office.

Does all this sound implausible? Look on page 607 of volume 1 of Ferchenbauer's 2008 four-volume handbook. A cover with an 1861 5-soldi stamp cancelled in Klagenfurt and addressed to Wiener-Neustadt. In this example, there is a penalty of 15 kreuzer indicated in ink. The sender got caught. The cancel could be October 1861, but I have not personally seen that cover. For such covers, you have to consider the currencies of the stamps, the cancels and the geography of sender, cancel, and receiver. But in both cases you have to look carefully. What fun! Both covers are especially interesting because the currency of the stamps is wrong.

Berlin in Canada

John Anthony

Cover sent in 1913 from Tuzla in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Mayor of Berlin, which was in Ontario, Canada. It was a bustling industrial city, proud of its German heritage. In 1914 when WWI broke out, the link became highly unpopular, and in 1916 after a largely-boycotted referendum the name was changed to Kitchener, in memory of Lord Kitchener who had just been killed in action.

The envelope is franked with B&H stamps totalling 50h, paying the postage of 25h for a 15-gram foreign letter plus the 15h registration fee. The usual arrangement of all the postage on the front, all the registration on the back was not followed.

A "Metternich Letter"

Keith Brandon

After the disruption of the Napoleonic Wars, the 1815 Treaty of Vienna reallocated all the fought-over territory and a period of relative peace ensued. However, there was still a feeling of unease and distrust between the former opposing powers.

The Austrian diplomat Prince Klemens von Metternich was a major figure in European politics for four decades as Austria's Foreign Minister from 1809 and Chancellor from 1821 to 1848. He relied upon espionage and censorship both to monitor developments in other European states and to suppress unrest at home. The historian Adam Zamoyski wrote that: "Metternich employed hundreds of spies and battalions of men who were experts at unsealing letters, copying them and resealing them. Others would then decrypt and translate the copies. In order to extend the range of his surveillance, Metternich managed to divert various international postal routes through Austrian dominions, where interesting letters could be examined".

A major concern was that the Kingdom of Sardinia, with the backing of a traditionally-friendly France, would attempt one day to wrest Lombardy & Venetia from Austrian control. Metternich had little opportunity to examine suspicious mail between the non-Austrian Italian States and France because, for both topographical and political reasons, this mail travelled through the Kingdom of Sardinia (marked as Piedmont on the map) rather than over Austrian territory.

The schematic map below shows (in green) the long-existent route from the Italian States via Bozen (Bolzano), over the Brenner Pass to Innsbruck, turning west to Landeck, over the Arlberg Massif to Vorarlberg, entering northern Switzerland from Bregenz or Feldkirch. From there mail would traverse Switzerland to Basle and cross the River Rhine to the French exchange post-office at Huningue. However, this route was time-consuming and unattractive compared with the route through the Kingdom of Sardinia (Piedmont) to France.

Metternich's plan was to develop a fast route through Austria to France (in red on the map) that would attract Italian mail. This turned west at Bozen, and followed the Vinschgau valley through Mals, over the Reschen Pass to Landeck, rejoining the historic route to Vorarlberg and Switzerland. Prerequisites for Metternich's plan were the improvement of the horseback-post over the Arlberg massif between Tirol and Vorarlberg (achieved from 1822) and the foundation of a new express-route through the Vinschgau valley in western Austria (from 1823).

The Vinschgau route was seven postal-stations fewer than the old route via Innsbruck. Not only was this faster, but it was cheaper too: 10 kreuzers vs 14 kreuzers from Bozen to Bregenz.

All the pieces were now in place for mail from the Italian States to France, the German States and beyond (or *vice versa*) to travel fast through western Austria and to enjoy the attention of Metternich's inspectors *en route*, particularly at the Bregenz post-office.

Vorarlberg's position at the western extremity of the Austrian Empire made it an important crossing-point for Austrian mail to the German States, the Swiss cantons, and thence to France. The border-exchange post-office was at Bregenz, on Bodensee (Lake Constance). The post-office there became a centre of postal espionage. As early as 1777, officials of the Vienna State Chancellery were opening and reading important-

looking political letters in Bregenz. Of particular interest was mail coming via Milan to Bavaria via the old messenger route through Switzerland, the *Fussacher Bote*.

Metternich's new north-south route via the Vinschgau and Arlberg was successful in bringing mail from the Italian States to France through Bregenz where it could be examined. Mail to France was subject to the 1817 and subsequent Austro-French Postal Treaties which required particular treaty-markings to be hand-stamped on the mail at the border-exchange post-offices of Bregenz (and, later, Feldkirch).

According to these Treaties, mail from the non-Austrian Italian States was officially supposed to travel via the Kingdom of Sardinia, not through the Austrian Crown Lands. The French Government retaliated to Metternich's diversion of letters through Austria by instructing the French border-office at Huningue that it could only accept mail originating in Austria (which included the Kingdom of Lombardy and Venetia) and must turn back mail from third countries.

Metternich was not to be outdone. His response was to intercept interesting-looking mail from the Italian States as it transited Lombardy & Venetia and to divert it to Verona or Milan. Here the original postmark was erased as far as possible and then over-stamped by a large Verona or Milan postmark. The letters were also hand-stamped **L.I.;** the Austro-French treaty-mark used for mail originating from Lombardy & Venetia. At Bregenz these letters were inspected and then mixed with genuine Austrian mail in the bag to Huningue.

These are known as "Metternich letters" and are highly-prized by collectors of Austrian and Italian mail of this period. The example below originated from the Grand Duchy of Tuscany but was diverted through Verona and given the Metternich treatment before continuing to France via Austria.

*Folded letter to Paris dated Florence (Duchy of Tuscany), 11 September (1830) - see dateline below. The Florence postmark was erased in Verona and replaced by the **VERONA / 19 SET** postmark and the boxed* **L.I.** *Austro-French treaty-mark. The letter was accepted at Huningue as Austrian mail and was bagged to Paris. Arrival handstamp **Septembre** 23 / **1830** and marked **15** (décimes) for the recipient to pay.*
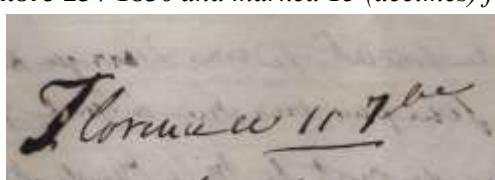
Gmunden: Transports of Delight

David Bravery

I have visited Gmunden many times, to see the trams, eat the cakes, consider buying the pottery, count the swans, meet the in-laws, or simply enjoy the magnificent views. So I welcomed the stamp issued on 23 Aug 2019. Not totally, though…

This shows the stamp design as released in advance on the ÖPost web site (left) and the actual stamp as sold in Gmunden Post Office (right). There are several interesting differences, which depending on your background either shriek at you or pass you by. For a start, the design tram has no means of connecting to its power supply: half the pantograph is missing, perhaps to give a better view of the other side of the lake. The run is a Sonderfahrt, now shown on the board beneath the driver's window; and the long white board now tells us that the trip is sponsored by the activist group who brought into being the modernising and extending of the historic line: "..damit sie weiterfährt: / Pro Gmundner Strassenbahn"

The Gmunden Tramway is now part of the tram-train-system Traunsee Tram, opened in 2018, which connects the shortest and oldest tram system in Austria with the updated and extended Traunseebahn. This is the old Stern & Hafferl line from Gmunden-Traundorf (on the opposite of the lake from the main town) to Vorchdorf, opened in 1912 to connect Gmunden - then a successful spa resort - to the agricultural area around Vorchdorf. Early investment in electrification allowed the railway to remain viable where a steam railway would not have been. The terminus was moved from Traundorf to Seebahnhof in 1990. Today the historic railway carries a mix of commuter and tourist traffic.

The original 2.3 km long Gmunden town tramway was opened on 13 August 1894. The line's maximum gradient of 9.6% makes it one of the world's steepest surviving adhesion-only tram lines. The main Vienna-Salzburg line passes through Attnang-Puchheim, and a line was built from there via Gmunden to Bad Ischl (allegedly to give Franz Joseph access to his summer hideaway!), later extended towards Bruck a. d. Mur. From Gmunden Hauptbahnhof the tram ran down the hill and alongside the road to Rathausplatz. In February 2013, the municipal council of Gmunden decided to link the tram to the Traunseebahn, and it was finally completed on 1st September 2018.

The tram route was reactivated to Rathausplatz, and extended over a new bridge to the terminus of the Traunseebahn at Klosterplatz. The tram-train has a passenger interchange at Engelhof to the Lambach line and terminates at Vorchdorf. All services are now operated by modern Stern & Hafferl low-floor vehicles, and three historic trams were retained for excursions on the Gmunden section.

The old tram line is 1000mm gauge and this has been retained. So, the new tram-trains are 1000mm, as is the line to Vorchdorf. Onward connections from Vorchdorf and Lambach are on standard gauge, which is why the passengers need to change.

The Traunseeschifffahrt company (*yes, there's three 'f's*) was founded in 1839 by ex-DDSG John Andrews, a British shipbuilder. It transported salt and tourists and for many decades was highly profitable; the construction of a railway along the lakeside reduced the goods traffic but more than compensated by bringing flocks of tourists to Traunsee. The paddle-steamer Gisela, which entered service in 1872, features on innumerable photographs and several stamps. On 19 May 1989 150 years of shipping on the Traunsee was marked by a commemorative stamp; and 25 years later the 175th anniversary was marked on 17.5.2014 by another.

The 1989 stamp	The Gisela in action	The 2014 stamp
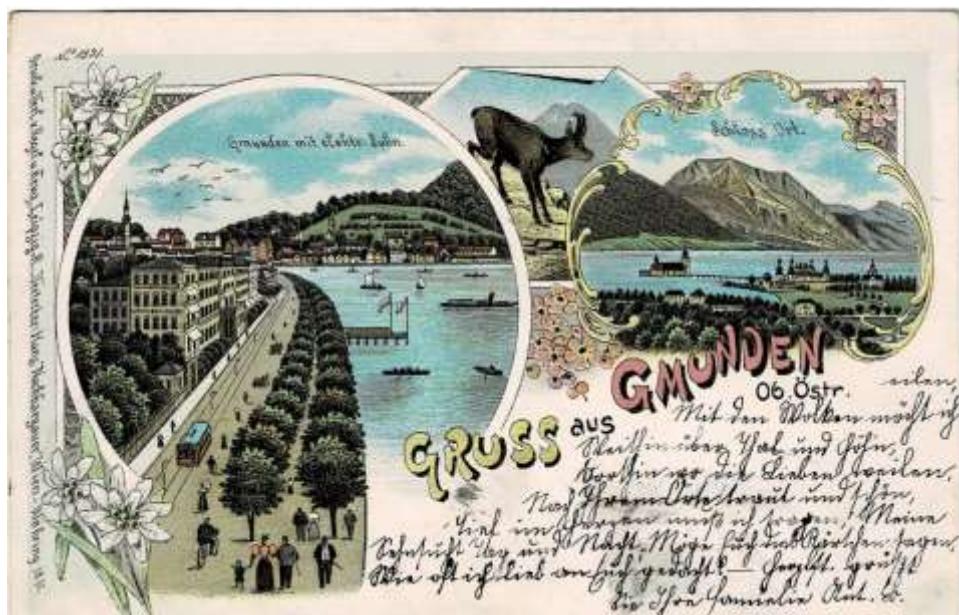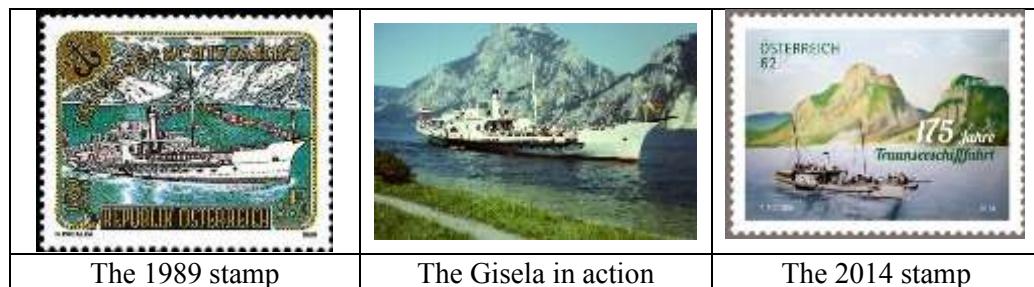
A "Grüss aus" card (1898) of Gmunden - spot the tram!

The 2021 celebration of Gisela's 150th anniversary

The 1890 Emperor Franz Joseph I Definitive Issue

Karel Michielsen

As time has progressed, I have become increasingly fascinated with this issue as a result of the wide scope for collecting it offers, with paper and perforation variations, varieties in size, combination perforations, colours and finally cancellations.

This unremarkable 5Kr stamp, catalogue EU 0.50, is valued at EU 50 as the cancel is rated at 140 points in the Klein cancellation catalogue.

The issue was made in response to the wider application of postage stamps, for money letters and package post, for which additional values were needed. The increased demand caused problems with the utilisation of the perforation machines and the paper substitutions, due to production problems, anti forgery measures resulted in further variations.

Papers

The catalogues identify 3 paper varieties, but careful examination reveals 6 different types, which lead to substantial colour variations. The illustration is of the initial range of papers

Perforations

The 4 common varieties are the harrow 10 and line 10.5, 11.5 and 12.5 and comb 13:12.5 AND 13:13.5 perforations. Additional line perfs used are 9.25, 9.75, 11, 12, 13 and 13.5. In my album I provided for the perforations as shown and subsequently identified the cancellations as well.

If that is not enough, combinations of line perforations were made to overcome production pressures. Production problems also resulted in long/short and wide/narrow stamps due to misaligned perforations.

Cancellations

The Cisleithanian portion of the empire contained more then 6000 post offices. A wide variety of cancels were utilised including the thimbles introduced in 1867, round-dated, round-dated expedition, roller machine as well as locally specialised / adapted versions.

This is a range of the standard Vienna cancels that can be found to which one can add:

Standard cancels in which the expedition was eliminated or obliterated

Plus there are anonymous ones.

The nice thing about this is that the most expensive stamp in the set, the 2 Gulden green, is EU 35.00 and the rest is catalogued at EU 25.00 total.

As millions were produced, they can be found in very basic collections and they tend to be unsorted so a lot of pleasure can be found in identifying them and building your own specialised assembly.

The Austrian Post Office in Smyrna:

A card from Smyrna to Samoa!

John Anthony

This card was sent on 21 December 1888 from Smyrna to a ship's doctor on board the SMS Olga in the Samoan Islands. It has transit marks of Post Said in Egypt on 29 December and Sydney in Australia on 5 February 1889. It's addressed care of the German Consul in Apia, and probably arrived just after the events described below.

The 'Olga' was a corvette of the Imperial German Navy launched in 1880. Her sister ships were the SMS Carola, SMS Marie and SMS Sophie. The 'Olga' was named after the Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna of Russia, daughter of Tsar Nicholas I, who had in 1846 married the future King Charles I of Württemberg.

Initially, in 1884, she was deployed in the newly-formed "West African Cruiser Squadron" under Rear Admiral Eduard von Knorr, giving protection to German residents in West Africa, particularly the Niger Delta, Gabon, and today's Cameroon.

Four years later, in 1888, the Olga was sent to Samoa to suppress a rebellion against German merchants and immigrants who were strengthened by American arms sales. A landing force of the Olga with the Eber on 18 December 1888 in the vicinity of the port of Apia got into heavy fighting with the natives. Two officers and 14 men were killed and 1 officer and 38 men wounded. During the conflict, the German side was supported by SMS Adler and SMS Eber as well as the USS Trenton, USS Vandalia, USS Nipsic, and the British corvette HMS Calliope.

All seven ships were at anchor in Apia on 13 March 1889 when a cyclone hit the island. The ships were steaming onto the weather, to reduce the forces at work on the anchor chains. The next morning the storm was so strong that the Adler, the Eber, and the Nipsic could not even at full power ride the wind. The Eber tore itself away from the anchor chain, collided with first the Olga and then with the Nipsic before running aground on a coral reef, where it lay upturned; only four members of the crew survived.

The USS Nipsic broke free and collided with Olga then drove onto the reef. The Adler was washed ashore and lay on its side on the beach; 20 sailors were killed. Next, the USS Vandalia was wrecked on the reef. The German barque Peter Godeffroy and the Danish schooner Azur crashed and were destroyed. When the Calliope began to drift also, her commander decided on a daring manoeuvre to avoid the same fate - he weighed anchor and steamed as fast as possible (about 1 knot!) out of the bay and to sea. Since the Calliope has exceptionally powerful engines, the move was successful and she survived.

Not only the USS Trenton and the SMS Olga remained afloat in port. As the wind shifted slightly, Olga hoped to get away, but was pulled towards the Trenton. Olga didn't have the power of Calliope and was holed by the collision with the Nipsic, but her commander decided to set full speed ahead. However, she was caught by the bowsprit of the Trenton and finally came aground on the beach; the ship and crew were saved. The Trenton however was thrown onto the reef and destroyed. When the storm subsided, seven naval and six merchant ships had been destroyed.

The Olga was patched up and ran under her own power to Sydney, where she was made seaworthy for return to Germany. Along the way, she collided in the Suez Canal with a merchant ship! Back in Germany, Olga was repaired and converted to a training ship. In the summer of 1898 she took an expedition trip to Bear Island and West Spitzbergen on behalf of the German Sea Fisheries Association. In 1906 she was sold and scrapped.

Left: SMS Olga (German Corvette, 1881) and SMS Carola (German Corvette, 1881) in the Albert drydock, Tanjong Tagar, Singapore, during the 1880s.

Right: SMS Olga, Samoa, 1889 after the storm. Note the missing funnels.

Carry on up the Danube

John Pitts

A tribute to a man whose postcard and a stamp launched my interest in the Danube.

The man. On 8 April 2000, Arthur Godden presented a 50 sheet display on the River Danube to the Manchester section of the (then) Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain. This was subsequently published in a shortened form in 'Austria', the Journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society, issue number 132, winter 2000. In his conclusions, Arthur commented that the display provided only a glimpse of the wide range of Danube-related subjects that can be found. On a personal note he added that *after a lifetime engaged with the finer points of Austrian philately, there remained much satisfaction within the simpler realms of a thematic collection devoted to Europe's second longest river (after the Volga)*. The satisfaction he enjoyed in his pursuits cannot be overstated. It is obvious to all who knew him. However his reference to *the simpler realms* is probably an understatement of Danubian proportions. Arthur was encouraged in his efforts by his many friends in the Society, including myself, who over the years supplied postcards, covers, stamps and cancels not only from their own journeys and holidays on the Danube, but also from their own collections. To all these friends he would undoubtedly have extended his warmest thanks; sadly Arthur passed away in June, 2006.

I was fortunate to know Arthur, a founder member of the Society and its first Honorary Librarian, when my interest in Austrian philately was in its embryonic stage. I collected everything and specialised in nothing! At that time, being able to visit frequently the Society library at his home in Grange-over-Sands meant that I was also able to peruse his jaw-dropping collection. His naval background was reflected in his interest in the Kriegsmarine and the Danube Flotilla. He became my perfect mentor providing the advice and encouragement to me in those early days. Hardly surprisingly, matters naval and maritime subsequently became important areas of interest to me.

The postcard. Given to me by Arthur in exchange for a card showing the Danube at Belgrad
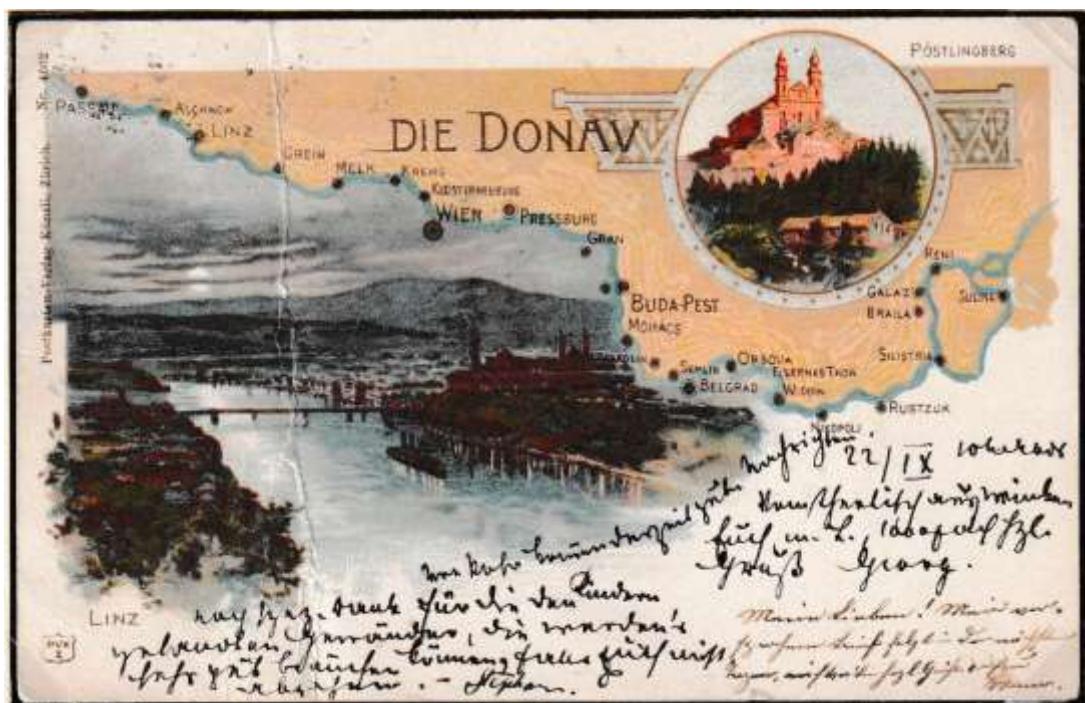
The Danube from Passau to the Black Sea. Used from Linz to Baden Württemberg on 22 Sept 1902.

The stamp. 1 S. airmail of 1936 showing an aeroplane over the Danube. Used by Arthur to illustrate page one of a display (his first?) which dates to the early years of the Society (c. 1950).
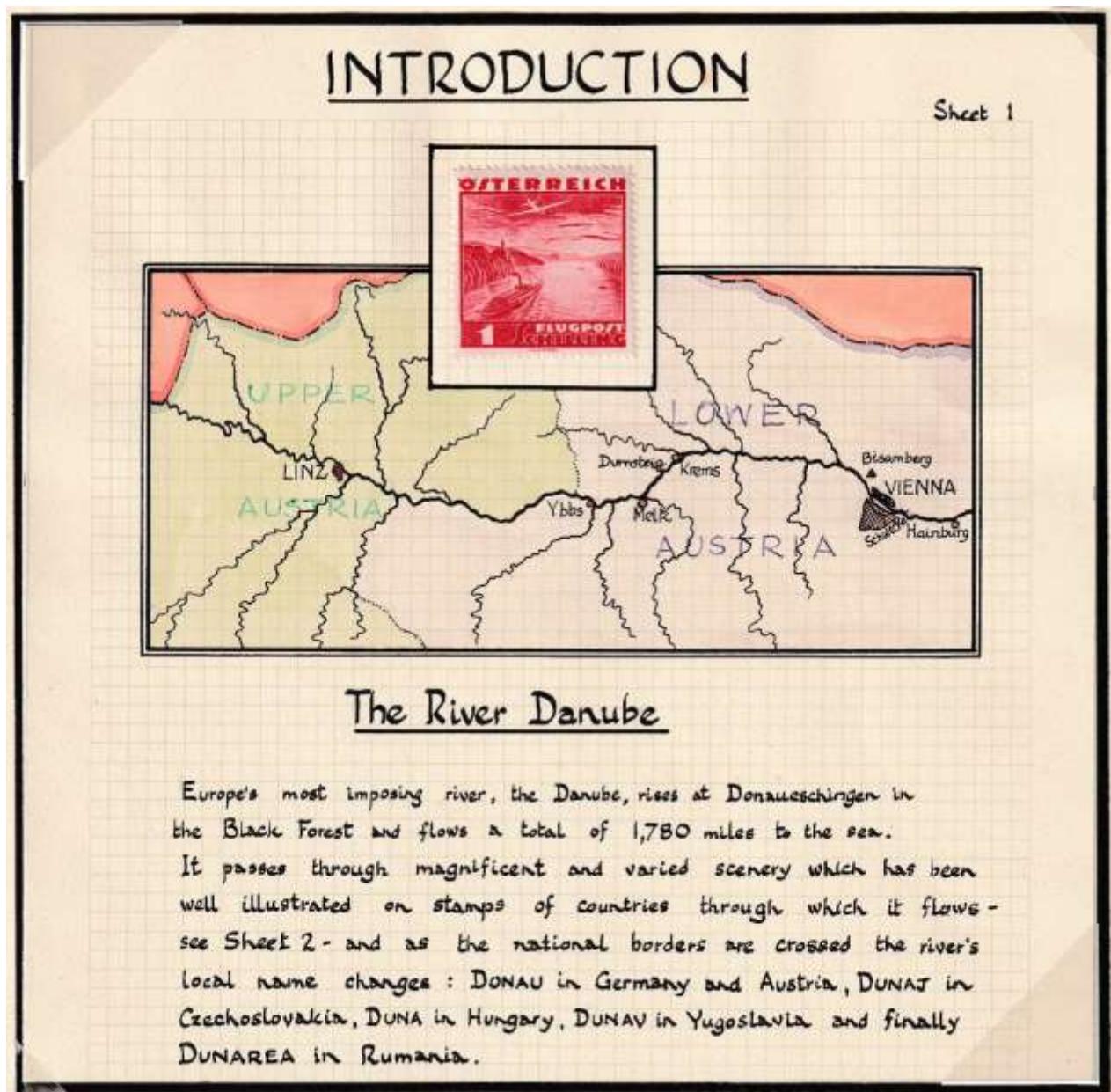
Intrinsically the postcard and display are clearly of little value. However they represent a nostalgic reminder of the work of a founder member of the Society in 1948 and as such are worthy of a place in a Festschrift to mark its 75th anniversary. Arthur's memory, postcard and display remain at the heart of my own collection.

In memory of a friend

David Potts

Two marginal copies of the special stamp issued on 23 June 1933 for the Vienna International Philatelic Exhibition (WIPA1933), one on ordinary wove paper (40,000 printed) and one on granite paper incorporating blue silk fibres (20,000 printed). Affixed to a registered airmail cover and posted on the first day of the exhibition from the Sezession building on 24 June to Innsbruck (arrival cancel on the back). Stamps cancelled with the Sezession special cancel for 24 June 1933. Special registered label No 229. Also WIPA WIEN FLUGPOST cancel 24.Vl.33

The stamp remained valid for postage until 31 August 1933. The exhibition lasted 16 days, from 24 June to 9 July, and took place in 3 locations: Official exhibits and the printing machines of the State Printing Works were in the Sezession building, Friedrichstrasse; competitive exhibits in the Kunstlerhaus, Karlsplatz; and the Congress and the dealers at Schwarzenbergplatz.

The personal appeal of this cover is that it was purchased at a local auction in 2011 -- made possible by a generous legacy from a family friend.

And for completion, the other WIPA special cancels, from Joyce Boyer. The first example is a beautiful **KUNSTLERHAUS** special cancel; the sender wrote on the back that he was working at WIPA and the card was imprinted before his eyes!

This card has all three of them: SEZESSION, KUNSTLERHAUS, and CONGRESSHAUS. Those present at WIPA1933 could take an item of mail to the special post office at each venue and obtain their cancellation. The card was airmailed to Holland, and is correctly albeit messily franked for the journey. Something has been removed from the middle!

Western Ukraine I:
The Kolomyia Surcharged Issue

Ingert Kuzych

Although often overlooked when reflecting on the scope of Austrian stamp collecting, successor-states philately (nachfolgestaaten philatelie) is most definitely a part of Austrian philately. It occupies a significant section in the Austria Netto Katalog, where the stamps of five post World War I Austrian successor countries are listed: Czechoslovakia (with 179 stamps), Yugoslavia (95), Poland (49), Romania (48), and Western Ukraine (105). Of these 476 provisional stamps, all but two are overprints (or in some cases surcharges) on remainder Austrian (or Bosnian) definitives, newspaper, postage due, charity, expedited mail, or even airmail stamps. All were produced in late 1918, after the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, or in 1919. Some of these stamps are quite pricey and are among the scarcest in European philately.

Of the five newly formed states, it was only Western Ukraine – the former eastern half of the crownland of Galicia – that did not succeed in retaining its independence. Despite the fact that the country was overwhelmingly ethnically Ukrainian, it was forcibly incorporated into reconstituted Poland, which had annexed Polish Western Galicia, but claimed all of Galicia for itself. Western Ukraine's independence came to a close on 18 July 1919, less than nine months after it was first proclaimed on 1 November 1918.

Western Ukrainian stamp production took place at three sites: Lemberg (Lviv), Kolomea (Kolomyia), and Stanislau (Stanislaviv), but stamp distribution only occurred from the latter two cities and the two Western Ukraine-related contributions to this volume will present one spectacular cover from each of these locales.

By early December 1918, the Galician county capital of Kolomea's post office was anticipating a shortage of 5-and 10-heller stamps. At a hastily convened meeting on 5 December 1918, officials decided to surcharge four still-available Austrian stamp values into provisional Ukrainian stamps: the 3-, 6-, and 12-heller stamps of 1916 (showing the Habsburg crown) would be revalued to 10-sotyk (the denomination most needed) and the 15-heller Emperor Karl value of 1917 would be transformed to 5-sotyk.[1] It was also agreed that the upper portion of each of the stamps would display the Ukrainian "Укр. Н. Р." (Ukr. N. R. – Ukrainian National Republic) inscription. Overprinting onto panes of 25 stamps took place on 10 December, the stamps were carefully scrutinized and quantified the following day, and they entered circulation throughout the southern part of Western Ukraine (a region known as Pokuttia) on the 12th.

A total of 11,300 15-heller stamps received the 5 [sotyk] surcharge (including three panes (75 stamps) that ended up with inverted surcharges); while the 10 [sotyk] surcharge was applied to 10,100 3-heller, 452 6-heller, and 404 12-heller values

The stamps of the Kolomyia Surcharged Issue remained in postal circulation from 12 December 1918 until the Romanian occupation of Pokuttia on 26 May 1919.[2] The stocks of the less numerous 10-sotyk/6-heller and 10-sotyk/12-heller were quickly depleted and they sold out in Kolomyia on 23 December 1918. The more numerous 5-sotyk/15-heller and 10-sotyk/3-heller stamps remained in use in Kolomyia until the last part of February 1919 (when they too ran out) and in some satellite post offices of Pokuttia until May 1919.

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[1] The old Austrian heller and Krone monetary values were on par with the new Western Ukrainian sotyk (referred to as shaha in the Stanyslaviv area) and Hryvnia. 100 sotyks (shahiv) = 100 heller = 1 Hryvnia = 1 Krone.

[2] Romania, an ally of Poland, occupied the Pokuttia region on behalf of Poland for 90 days before withdrawing and allowing the Poles to occupy this remainder section of Western Ukraine.

Three of the four Kolomyia Surcharged stamps are displayed on the illustrated envelope that was sent by a Kolomyia lawyer from the neighboring town of Baginsberg bei Kolomea to the Market Bank in Vienna on 10 February 1919. The franking total of the five stamps comes to 40-sotyk, which became the letter postage fee in Western Ukraine beginning with the new year.

This cover is one of Western Ukraine's most famous because of the indicated stamp on the lower left. The stamp is the only recorded example of a doubled overprint on this stamp value – or on any of the four Kolomyia Surcharged Issue stamps. It is surmised that only one pane received a double overprint and this is the sole surviving example.

The Ukrainian-language circular "Kolomyia Cities Command" military marking in the upper right was used as a censor cachet. The bold, red, Cyrillic manuscript censor inscription spells "Provireno," meaning "Examined."

Western Ukraine II:
The first two Stanyslaviv issues

Ingert Kuzych

Following the establishment of the Western Ukrainian National Republic in November 1919, remaining Austrian stamps – including definitive, postage due, and expedited mail stamps – continued to be widely used as valid franking for regular mail. With time, however, the stocks of these stamps continued to decline, so that by March 1919 shortages of definitive postage stamps were occurring in most major post offices of Western Ukraine.

Additionally, the Secretariat of Post and Telegraph in Western Ukraine's provisional capital of Stanyslaviv (formerly Stanislau) was facing another problem. During the first months of 1919, inflationary pressures were causing the Austrian Krone to fall in value in relation to the Ukrainian Hryvnia. Some resourceful persons were purchasing stamps in Austria and selling them in Western Ukraine to the detriment of the postal service.

To ameliorate the stamp shortage, to forestall any more smuggling of Austrian stamps from abroad, and to create distinct "Ukrainian" stamps, the Secretariat in March authorized the overprinting of most of the remaining Stanyslaviv stock of 1916-18 Austrian definitives with Ukrainian text. The stamps all carry a four-line Ukrainian inscription applied with black ink: first line: Пошта (Poshta – Post), second line: Укр.Н.Реп. (Ukr.[ainian] N.[ational] Rep.[ublic]), third line: шагів (shahiv),[1] and fourth line: double asterisk obliterators. A decision was made to try and create overprinted stamps in quantities of a thousand: 2,000 for each of the low values of 3- and 5- shahiv, and 1,000 for most of the other values (10-, 12-, 15-, 20-, 30-, 40-, 50-, 60-, 80-shahiv, 1-Hryvnia, 2-, 3-Hryvni). Only 900 were created of the 6-shahiv and 4-Hryvni, and 199 of the 10-Hryven, since lesser quantities of these values were available. The 3- and 4-Hryvni quantities were cobbled together from various 3- and 4-Austrian Kronen stamp printings from 1916, 1917, and 1918. The thousand-quantity totals were likely made in order to more easily keep track of remaining overprinted stamps over time.

A total of 17,999 stamps – 17 stamp values with a face value of 14,974 Hryven – were overprinted at a local print Shop in Stanyslaviv. The release date for these stamps, today referred to as the First Stanyslaviv Issue, was on or about 18 March 1919.

The production of this First Stanyslaviv Issue did not result in the amelioration or stabilization of Western Ukraine's dire postage stamp situation for long, however. Several well-known Viennese stamp dealers – including Karl Körner, Rudolf Friedel, Josef Baumgarten, and Hermann Fischer – found out about the existence of new stamps in an Austrian successor state and a race ensued with each of them trying to procure stamps for their own customer base.

It was these stamp dealer purchases, much more so than customer purchases, that by the end of April were causing another postage stamp dearth in Western Ukraine. But this time, not many Austrian definitives remained available to be overprinted.

Timely relief arrived from a completely unexpected source. A Ukrainian military officer in the Austrian army, returning home from the Serbian front, brought with him a large quantity of no-longer-viable Austrian field post and charity stamps, as well as Bosnian postage due stamps, and these were eventually forwarded to the Postal Directorate in Stanyslaviv.

Recognizing that it now had a sufficient quantity of stamps available for overprinting, the Directorate set about doing just that – preparing four distinct sets as part of a Second Issue. The same three lines of overprint text were used as on the First Issue, but the asterisks were dropped. While we don't know the exact order in

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[1] The old Austrian heller and Krone monetary values were on par with the new Western Ukrainian shaha (referred to as sotyk in the Kolomyia area) and Hryvnia. 100 shahiv (sotyks) = 100 heller = 1 Hryvnia = 1 Krone.

which these stamps were transformed, conventionally the First Set has been described as the overprinted postage due stamps of the Bosnian Field Post from 1904. The Second Set customarily is the Austrian military charity stamps – the Kaiser Karl Fonds (Emperor Karl Fund) stamps of 1918, while the Third Set by tradition is the Austrian Field Post stamps of 1917-18. The Fourth Set, made using small quantities of remaining postage due and definitive stamps of 1916-18, was likely the last to be completed.

In total, the 47 values produced came to over 32 thousand stamps, valued at almost 17 thousand Hryven. Exact totals cannot be computed since final quantities for most of the Fourth Set stamps are unknown. Despite these substantial amounts of new stamps, dealers yet again quickly bought up most of what was produced, necessitating two Further Stanislaviv Issues (a Third and Fourth).

Seven stamps from the First and Third Sets of the Second Stanyslaviv Issue grace the illustrated registered express letter sent from Stryi to Stanyslaviv on 17 May 1919: a block of four Third Set 50-shahiv stamps – each with a double overprint – and a strip of three First Set 4-shahiv values. The 2.12-hryven franking (2-shahiv extra) included the letter rate (40 shahiv), registration (50 shahiv), and the express fee (1.20 hryven). Having run out of 5- and 10-shahiv stamps, the Stryi Post Office used the three 4-shahiv stamps to cover the final 10-shahiv of the 2.10-hryven mailing cost.

Not many examples of Western Ukraine express mail survive, perhaps no more than ten. This cover is unique in that it is the only one recorded that displays use of Third Set double-overprinted stamps.

# The secret messages of twin postal cards

Frans Jorissen

Somewhat more than hundred fifty years ago, the postal card was invented in Austria. In those days, it was quite usual that business partners wrote each other every few days. When postal cards were used, this resulted in very similar postal objects, with the same sender and receiver, but also similar departure and arrival cancels. Rather surprisingly, such twin objects, which at first view look almost identical, and therefore without much interest (to have both) have many secrets to reveal us!

We will start with two examples:

On 23 and 25 March 1870, Mr Shrokovsky in Brünn sent two postal cards to Mr Palchner in Pressburg (now Bratislava in Slovakia). On both cards the indicium (the yellow stamp) has been cancelled with the small thimble cancel of Brünn, and there is an arrival cancel of Pozsony (the Hungarian name of Pressburg) of 25 and 26 March, respectively. This is the first Austrian postcard, type I, available since 1 October 1869.

The two cards look very similar, the same paper nuance, the printing is centred in the same way on the cardboard support. But in reality, the two cards are even more identical. When looking more closely, it appears that the cards have some striking details in common.
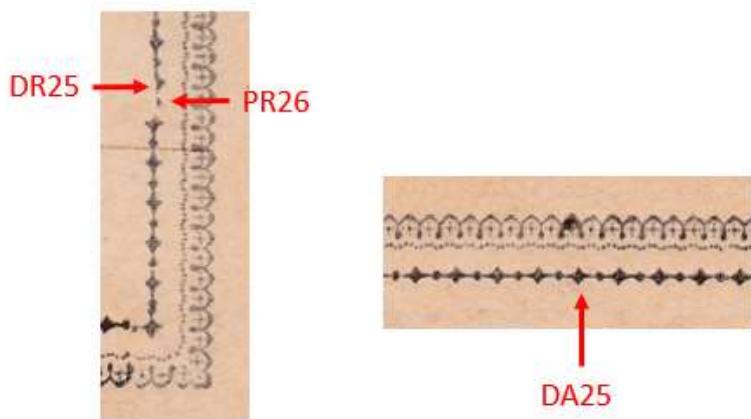

In both cards the arch in the outer frame above the 25th diamond is blurred, whereas in the inner right frame, the 25th diamond and 26th dot are both damaged at the left. A closer inspection shows that the two cards have many other minor anomalies in common, they are truly identical!

On 28 and 29 August 1871, Mr Mopper from Petzka in Bohemia sent two cards to Mr Leopold Küffler in Friedek. In both cases the indicium has been cancel with the beautiful cancel of Petzka, and there is a rather vague arrival cancel of Friedek on the back (of 30 and 31 August, respectively). Both cards are number 2, type II, for which the oldest date is 25 June 1871. Again, the two cards look very much the same, and most collectors wouldn't see the interest to have both in their collection!

However, when looking in detail, we see that there is indeed an interest.
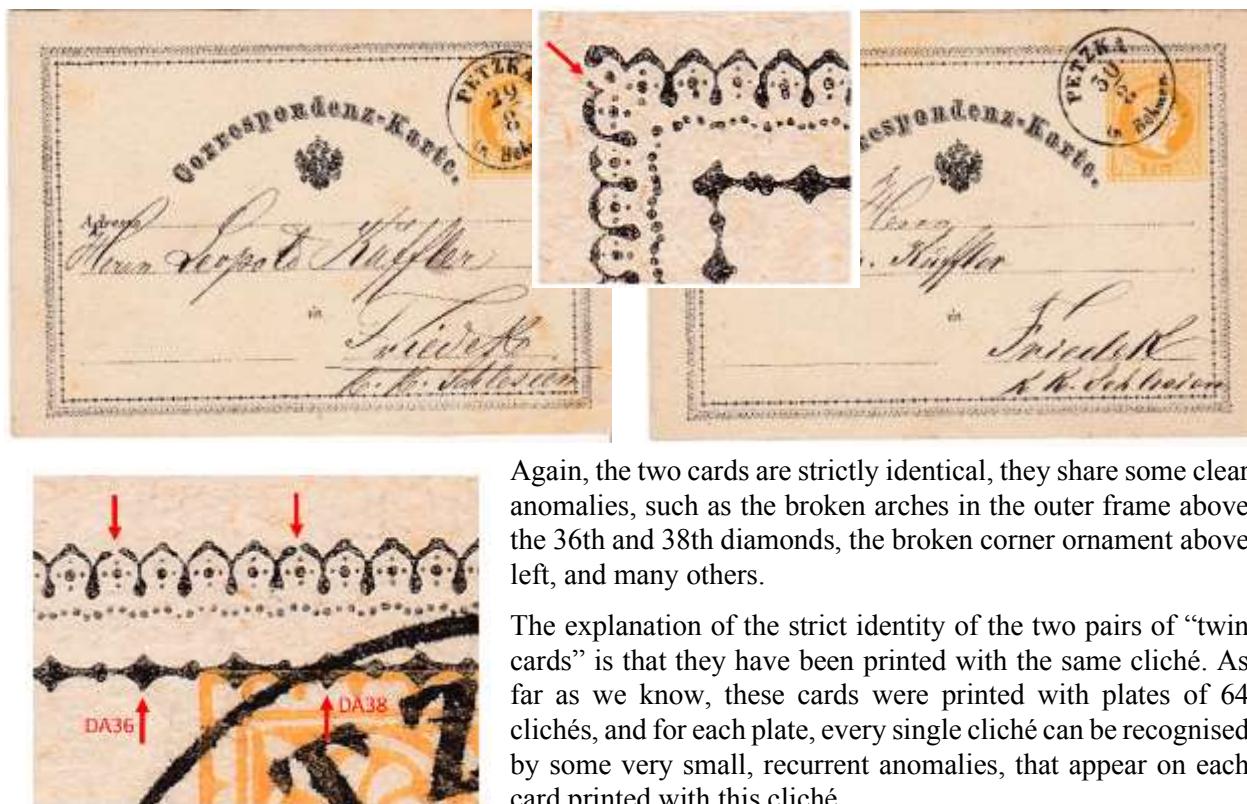
Again, the two cards are strictly identical, they share some clear anomalies, such as the broken arches in the outer frame above the 36th and 38th diamonds, the broken corner ornament above left, and many others.

The explanation of the strict identity of the two pairs of "twin cards" is that they have been printed with the same cliché. As far as we know, these cards were printed with plates of 64 clichés, and for each plate, every single cliché can be recognised by some very small, recurrent anomalies, that appear on each card printed with this cliché.

But of course, when someone sends two different cards, the chance to have two times the same cliché should only be one out of 64, or about 1.5%. Whereas in all "twin cards" I encountered until now, the two cards had been printed with the same cliché! This can only be explained if at the moment the sender bought the cards at its local post office, only cards printed with a single cliché were sold. We know that the Austrian printing office sent packages of 50 cards to the post offices. And apparently, these packages systematically contained cards printed with a single cliché! What means that at the printing office, 50 or more printed sheets (of 64 cards) were piled up, before being cut, resulting in 64 individual piles of cards, each pile printed with a different cliché.

The final example concerns a couple of twin cards sent on 22 and 27 April 1872 by two different employees of the Brevillier & C° Factory of Metal and Screws in Neunkirchen to their business relation Michael Hainisch in Nadelburg, a suburb of Wiener Neustadt. Both cards (card n° 8, type I, earliest observed date 26 October 1871) have the linear departure cancel of Neunkirchen and an arrival cancel of Wiener Neustadt, of 23 and 27 April, respectively.

Also in this case, the two cards are strictly identical, and several small anomalies confirm that they have been printed with the same cliché. The position of the printing on the cards is identical; in both case, the cards are decentred towards the lower right, so that there are large margins at the left and above.

It is interesting to notice that both cards have a small hole above right. At first view, these holes may look like archive holes, but that is not the case. In fact, such small holes appear regularly in one of the four corners of some of the first Austrian postal cards, and Heimo Tschernatsch has suggested that these holes are due to the use of needles that were used to position the paper sheets, when they were introduced into the printing machines.

This case of twin cards with such "fixing holes", printed with the same cliché, confirms my observations that for the successive cards and card types issued between 1871 and 1876, "fixing holes" on the same position on the cards (above right, below left, etc.) systematically correspond to the same cliché. It appears that these holes can be found in the four cards (out of 64) printed with the clichés positioned in the corners of the plate. The two cards shown here apparently come from the upper right corner.

When we look in more detail, we notice that if we align the two "fixing holes", also the black upper frames are perfectly aligned. But rather surprisingly, this is not the case for the yellow indicium, which clearly has a different position on the two cards, although printed with the same cliché. Since the yellow indicium has been printed separately, after the black parts of the card, the only conclusion can be that the sheets were not perfectly aligned when the indicium was printed. Consequently, I wonder whether the hypothesis of Tschernatsch, that the needles/pins who made these holes served to position the paper before printing, is correct. I wonder whether these holes were not rather made by needles/pins which served to align the printed sheets before they were cut into piles of individual cards!? This would much better explain the perfect alignment of the frame with respect to the holes, and the apparent shift of the indicium.

In conclusion, it is always interesting to have a closer look at our material. Even postal stationary items which look similar, and therefore without much interest, may have plenty of things to reveal to us!

A surprise find on a visit to Kraków.

Alan Berrisford

An Exhibition of Regional Crafts and Industry was held in the Galizien town of Jaroslau/Jaroslaw from the 13th to the 28th of August 1908. This Picture Postcard depicting the Entrance to the Exhibition was sent to Krakau on 27th September 1908. A temporary Post Office numbered Jaroslau-Jaroslaw 3 was opened for the Exhibition and a canceller supplied. It's shown in the postal proof book for Galizien; the date 20 VIII 08 would be the date that the impression was made before being dispatched from Vienna.

According to the Circular-Verordnungen of the Post and Telegraph for Galizien, the dates that the office was opened are 28-8-1908 to 30-9-1908. It was allocated the control number IX 989 and was connected by three daily Cariol post services with the Jaroslau 1 main office.

Regarding the scarcity or not of items from the exhibition, although it is referred in specialist books on special cancellations no one appears to illustrate it. My source of supply in Krakow had seen very few examples, the unused cards being relatively more common.

Scholz's Catalogue lists it with a used-on date of 20th August, adding that he had never seen one. Wurth's Sonderpostamt book repeats the 20th August date, states that the cancel looks like an illustrated one (which looks like the proof book image), and assigns it 1000 points!

Money Letters

<div align="right">J McCollister</div>

The uniqueness of Money Letters and receipts appeals to me - and the difficulty of finding suitable storage for them!

A varied assortment of receipts for services rendered!

The Jennersdorf/Gyanafalva affair

Roger Morrell

After WW1, the treaties of St Germain and Trianon specified that, much to the disgust of the Hungarians, three of the four Western Hungary districts should be ceded from Hungary to Austria (one containing Poszony/Bratislava went to the Czechs). The region contained an overall majority of German speakers but had been Hungarian territory for centuries. When the Treaty of Trianon finally came into force in July 1921, the smooth entry of the Austrian gendarmerie into the territory that was to become the Burgenland was resisted by right-wing Hungarian guerrilla groups, including the 'Ragged Guard', that were not under the control of the Hungarian Government. The latter did little to control them, and on several occasions these groups took Austrian hostages, and pushed the gendarmerie back across the Austrian border. By September 1921, the guerrilla groups were in control of most of Western Hungary. They started overprinting current Hungarian stamps, partly as propaganda, and partly to raise funds for their operations against the Austrians. For the most part these were accepted by the Hungarian post office for use within and beyond Western Hungary. Some were even overprinted in Vienna, and despite Austrian Government attempts at confiscation, this activity proved to be legal because the formal handover of the Western Hungary territory had not yet happened.

Not to be outdone, two private issues of overprinted Austrian stamps appeared (Burgenland Befreiung and Burgen / land), but unlike the Hungarian issues these seem not to have been used on mail. In addition, an unknown pro-Austrian group in Jennersdorf/Gyanafalva decided to cash in on the philatelic market by not only doing their own bit of handstamped overprinting, but also creating fake registered express covers with fake datestamps. Demonetised Hungarian stamps have the country name covered by a bar, the Austrian coat of arms in the centre and a new value (it is inflation time). And, believe it or not, these 'stamps' have also been forged. Oh, what fun! A zombie being out-zombied.

An example of a well-handled Jennersdorf cover; (left) one of the stamps; (right) attempts to forge the overprint using the wrong Austrian eagle and no surcharge.

A "Gelblinge" with a red stamp

Lars-Olof Nilsson, Trelleborg, Sweden

I am a dedicated collector of the first Austrian postal cards, *Correspondenz-Karten* P1-P24, that were issued 1869-1876. These cards are available in great numbers and usually not very expensive. The cards, however, had to be printed in several issues and several times for some issues. This means that you can find an extremely large variety between these cards, if you look carefully enough.

One part of my collecting habits is to try to identify the date of issue of all the various types of these cards. Since no exact dates are known for issuing each card, I am looking for cards that are used as early as possible. So far, I have a large number of card types that are the earliest known use. Some of these cards are listed in Breitwieser (2019)[1].

Another collecting area is of course cards to foreign destinations. One of my favorite objects in my collection is this one.

It is an ordinary postal card P1-II (Ascher's numbering), or P1-I (Michel's numbering), with a hidden yellow value stamp of 2 Kreuzer.

It was sent from Wieden, in the very center of Vienna, on 26 January 1871 and arrived two days later in Frankfurt am Main in the North German Post District NDP.

The use of postal cards to foreign countries was obviously not common to everyone in early 1871. The sender of the card at least knew that the postage to "Germany" was 5 Kreuzer so he/she bought a 5 Kreuzer stamp and put it on top of the 2 Kreuzer value stamp, without realizing that the card now is over-franked.

I think I have seen another Austrian card with the same franking but don't remember if the red stamp was put on top of the value stamp. I would be glad to know if anyone else has seen a card like this.

[1] Gelblinge. Die Klassifikation der Österreichischen Korrespondenskarten P1-P24. MICHEL MehrWissen, 1. Auflage. Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH

Walserschanz

Rex Dixon

COD parcel card from Walserschanz to Hamburg.
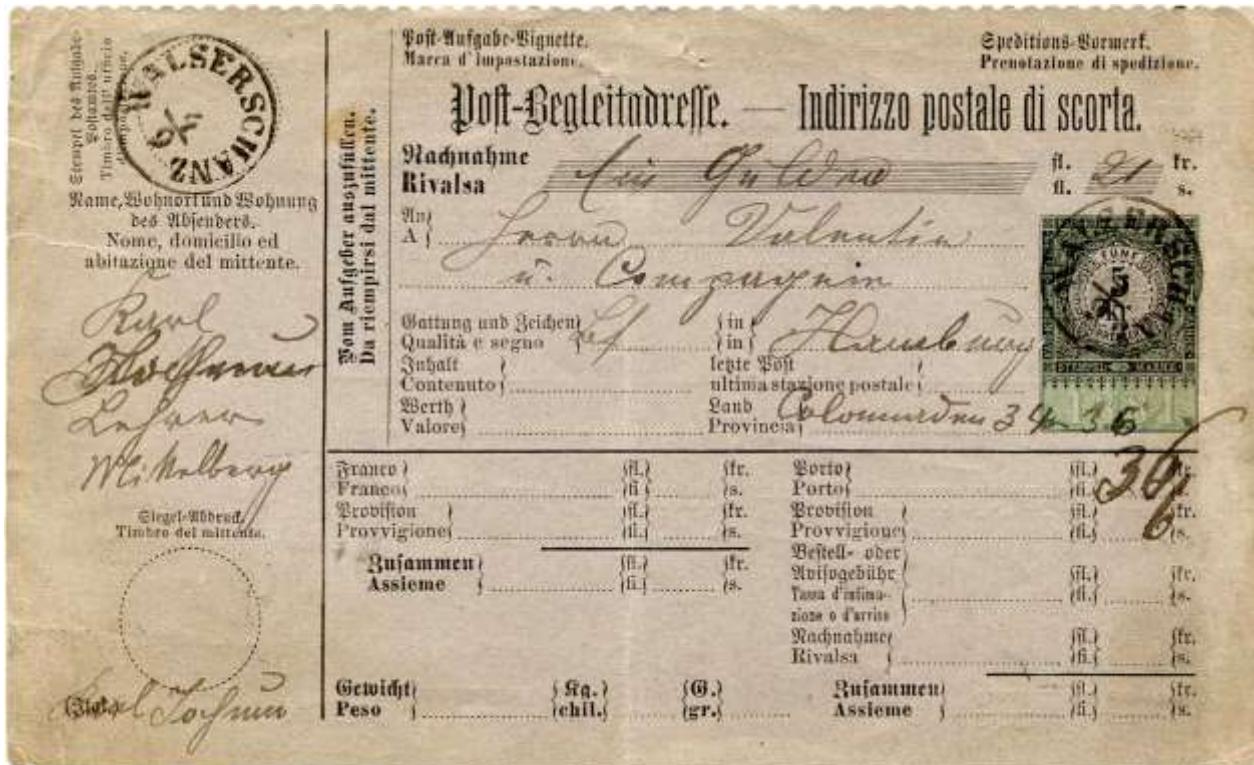
No weight given but must be less than ½kg. Initially marked 24kr, the internal rate for 500g, but amended to 36kr. 30kr was the rate to Germany for 5kg (no ½kg step) plus 6kr 'unpaid' fee for a parcel sent *Porto*, to be paid by the recipient. COD fee of 6kr for an amount of 1fl 21kr – 3kr per 5fl, minimum 6kr – marked against *Provision* rather than *Nachnahme*. Routed via the Hof–Leipzig TPO, 5.9.1882 train VII. Single-circle WALZERSCHANZ datestamp 4.9.1882

For a lengthy article on the postal history of the Kleinwalsertal, see "Austria" 131 of Autumn 2000.
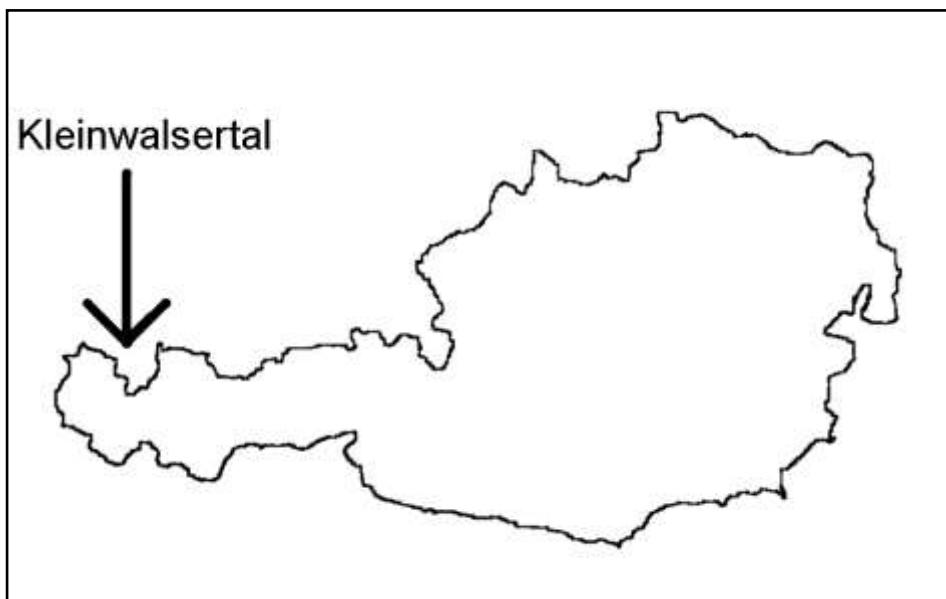
The area itself is almost 100 sqkm large and has about 4500 inhabitants. The first immigrants came from the Wallis district of Switzerland and settled in what is now Mittelberg; their old homeland gave the Walsertal its name. Today Kleinwalsertal is a Gemeinde of Bregenz in Vorarlberg, called Mittelberg.

On 1st July 1862 the first post office in Kleinwalsertal opened. It was directly on the boundary with Bavaria and was called "WALSERSCHANZ" after the border inn. It was active as a post office till 30th June 1886, and was run by the innkeeper Ludwina Fritz. After that (until 1914) Walserschanz was a postablage.

This pair of cards show photographs from the same position, before and after the inn was rebuilt in 1937.

Walserschanz before 1937

Walserschanz after 1937

Newspapers from Germany

Andy Taylor

Piece of wrapper sent from Germany to Oetz in Oetzthal in Tirol, arriving 1 Sept 1899. The cancel on the blue German 20pf stamp is a standard German Gitterstempel of the period; the details are unreadable. 20pf was the German inland printed matter rate for 250-500g from 1875 to 1918. The addressee is Heinrich Klett, Kapitänleutnant a.D (ie lieutenant commander, retired.). It was sent Postlagernd (Poste Restante) which was free in 1899.

These are privately-sent newspapers, so eight Austrian 1kr newspaper tax stamps have been applied, and cancelled Längenfeld 1/9/99. One has been violently defaced; under the top row is handwritten "Drucksache" (printed matter). Germany and Austria treated each other as inland, so the Austrian inland tax rate applied and the wrapper must have contained 8 newspapers - probably from Herr Klett' s home town.

The item was addressed to Oetz but was forwarded up the valley to Längenfeld where in 1893 a 65-bed "spa-hotel" had opened specialising in hydrotherapy. milk & buttermilk cures, massage etc. Oetz has been crossed out and an elongated capital L is visible from the back. Oetzthal mail was then carried by a postal messenger, and as the recipient had to pay for this item the messenger fee was 10kr shown by the pencilled 10kr.