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The AUSTRIAN STAMP CLUB



of Great Britain

OCTOBER 1962

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The next meeting of the Northern Group  
will be held at the Houldsworth Hall,  
Deansgate, Manchester, at 2.30 p.m. on  
Saturday 10th November.

Packets. Are there any members still not  
complete on the mint modern issues from  
1946? One whole packet will shortly be  
available. Those desirous of early view-  
ing should send a postcard immediately to  
Keith Tranmer, quoting packet No. 64

Reminder: The Bolton Exhibition will be  
held in the Museum & Art Gallery from  
3rd November for three weeks. Austrian  
material should be sent to James Syddall  
forthwith.

<p>The AUSTRIAN STAMP CLUB of GREAT BRITAIN</p>
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\* ALL A.S.C. members are also members of the  
VERBAND OSTERR: PHILATELISTEN-VEREINE  
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\* The A.S.C. offers: Bulletin, Packets, New  
Issues, Meetings, Publications, Library,  
Expert advice, Contact with specialists,  
Publicity of all queries in the Bulletin.

\* Please direct all enquiries to the appropriate  
official of the Club: and please be generous  
in your support of all efforts.

# EDITORIAL

IT WAS with something approaching dismay - and we freely confess it - that we read in a recent Bulletin the sad news concerning the obviously inevitable temporary cessation of the London Meetings. It was with even more disquietude that we 'read between the lines' to an understanding that more and more work was equally obviously about to be placed on the shoulders of Keith Tranmer, who has for so long held the ASC together. It has always been a maxim of ours that criticism should never be merely destructive: and that disquiet or criticism to be helpful - or indeed, of any use at all! - should be constructive and contain within itself a readiness to be used, where this may be, to remedy the situation. And that may serve as an introduction to ourselves as the Editor of this issue of our Bulletin! IF WE MAY inflict even more philosophical ponderings upon you, another maxim commends itself to us: that to disagree, one need not be disagreeable. There has been - and all who have the ASC at heart well know it - much acrimony in the recent past: and certain it is that our President has had much to bear with patience and in fortitude. It is perhaps a source of wonder to many that he is still with us!

THIS first Editorial is something of an appeal, and a call for the gathering of the clans (if you will forgive that allusion in an 'Austrian' bulletin!). It has seemed to us that the time is surely here for a concerted effort on the part of EVERYONE to bring the ASC back to its initial glory: and to work together for what is, after all, our common interest and good. THE BULLETIN may have a part to play in all this. There are, to our own certain knowledge, many members who could assist: not with the actual mechanics of producing it: but with an adequate supply of material for its pages. There should be - and will be - room for any and every member to express himself on any topic whatsoever: and the blue pencil is not a major part of our official impedimenta. Without support, the Bulletin will die. May we ask, then, the help of all? Small items, in this connection, are quite invaluable. One does not need to produce a finely-written piece of deathless prose in four or five pages to find his way into the Bulletin hereafter. ANY - and repeat, ANY - suggestions are also more than welcome; for this is YOUR medium. Will you help? AS WE WRITE this, the Manchester Meetings are almost due to begin: and indeed, it is hoped to include a report in the pages that follow. A new departure, this, the meeting in the North: an opportunity to the northerners (and some of the Midlanders, too, we trust) to enjoy the benefits that for so long have been the privilege of the London Group. And so - the obvious corollary - LONDON, calling you! It is time that the South returned to active philately: and we of the North sincerely hope that, troubles past and gone, you may return like the phoenix and soar to greater heights!

And so to the end. Do re-read what we have written: and think, perhaps, on what we have not written: and - let us have your support. It will be well received by

yours sincerely

*David Bacon*  
Editor

From the President

My brief visit to Manchester for the first meeting of the Northern Group was all too short. Nevertheless, I am delighted with the results. Members had travelled, in some cases long distances, to be present: and I should have liked the opportunity to spend more time with them. I had the pleasure of meeting most of the members present on my earlier visit, but I do want to assure you all that you are not just names on the membership list, and that had I had more time than the three hours at my disposal I should have liked nothing better than to have a personal chat with each individual. I wanted more time to talk gums and papers with Tommy Wilcox, and to chat on Triest postmarks with Mr. Ward, and a chance to get together with the new members and those I have not had the pleasure of meeting before.

I did see the proofs of the new bulletin, and I am sure that you will share with me in praise of the efforts of the Editor. All told, this has been a good month for the ASC. A new bulletin, new meetings, and the publication of Part II, Austrian P.O.'s Abroad. I should like every member to support the new bulletin by sending articles, snips of information and advts. to the Editor. Give him all the help he requires to maintain the standard at the present level.

I believe that we have in the Northern Group a body of active, interested collectors, with a genuine appreciation of anything connected with Austrian Philately, and as such I consider my visit well worth while. My thanks go to our Committee who planned the meeting, the Editor who has made such a splendid start, and the members who attended from far and wide to give me such a fine reception.

Keith Tranmer

Literature

Addendum No.4 to "The People on Austrian Stamps"  
by  
J.F. GIBLIN

Gauermann, Friedrich.

SG.466 - 1962

Friedrich Gauermann was born on 20th September 1807 at Scheuchenstein near Miesenbach in Lower Austria. He was the third child of Jakob Gauermann (1773-1843), an artist from Franconia, and of the latter's wife, Rosina Schöffstoss. The boy, together with his elder brother Carl (1804-1829), learned drawing from his father at Miesenbach but soon his work surpassed that of his parent. Although Jakob Gauermann had originally intended that Friedrich should study agriculture with his grandfather, the boy's artistic talents could not be denied and, in 1824, he entered the Vienna Academy where his brother Carl was already doing brilliant work. Here his style was influenced by the Dutch masters but a tour of the Salzkammergut in that year confirmed his love for the landscapes of the Alpine districts of Austria. He left the Academy in 1827, after winning many prizes, and started to tour abroad visiting Lake Garda in Italy and the Art Galleries of Dresden and Munich in 1828 and 1829. He now obtained the patronage of the Imperial family, and of Royal Houses abroad, becoming well known for his landscapes and for his portraits. He also became a member of the artistic circle which included Waldmüller, Amerling, Danhauser and Raimund and the years before the Revolution of 1848 were spent either painting to satisfy his clients or travelling abroad, particularly in Northern Italy. The extent of his success may be gauged from the fact that one of the Rothschild family

paid 500 ducats for his picture "Heimkehr von der Alm". Every summer, however, he would retire from the gay social life in Vienna to live with his parents in Miesenbach and to paint landscapes. In 1838 he married Elisabeth Kurz and the descendants of their daughter, Maria, still live on the farm in Miesenbach; now called Gauermannhof. The social changes after 1848 lost Gauermann many patrons but he continued painting until his death in Vienna on 7th July 1862. He was buried at Scheuchenstein three days later. For details of his life reference may be made to the entry in the "Allgemeines Lexikon der bildenden Künstler" by U. Thieme and F. Becker. Leipzig. Volume 13, p.263: and to the Guide to the 1962 Centenary Exhibition of his works in Lower Austria.

(Ref.1.Vol.5. p.104: Ref.2.Vol.1. p.411: Ref.3.Vol.8.p.  
420:  
Ref.5.Vol.7. p.133: Ref.6.Vol.7. p.23: Ref.6a.Vol.4.  
p.413:  
Ref.10.Vol.2.p.219: Ref.11.Vol.4.p.175).

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The new Editor cannot here forbear a personal tribute to the author of this magnificent publication, which he has recently had the opportunity of viewing. The key quotation - or so it seems to us - is that from Emerson 'History is Biography': and it is true to say that even the most cursory glance through these most erudite pages will leave the reader with a great deal of valuable information, not only concerning the people of whom Mr Giblin writes but also of the times, and of the conditions of the times, in which they lived and worked. It may be that most members of the ASC already have this invaluable magnum opus in their philatelic libraries, and that this reference is quite unnecessary. It is, however, no 'blurb': "a good wine needs no bush"! but a sincere tribute to a most valuable member of our Club.



## THE END OF THE AUSTRIAN LEVANT POSTS

by

Wing Commander I.B. Clark

WHEN World War I broke out in the summer of 1914, Turkey remained neutral and as a consequence was in a position to further her plans to close all foreign post offices. At the beginning of the war Turkey was being pressed by both belligerent parties to join their side, and in the political negotiations which took place the question of an abolition of postal services was not a matter of high policy. As Turkey became more and more inclined to join the Central Powers the latter were less and less willing to resist proposals made by their potential ally and they contented themselves with notes of protest. The Allied Powers, on the other hand, already regarded Turkey as a potential foe, and so were resigned to the closure of their post offices the moment hostilities with the Turks broke out.

THE Turkish Government took the first step towards the abolition of foreign postal services only two weeks before the actual closure of the offices. On September 18th 1914, the Austrian Foreign Ministry informed the Austrian Ministry of Commerce:-

"As you must be aware already, Turkey intends to terminate the Capitulations. According to a telegraphic participation from our Embassy in Constantinople, dated September 14, the Turkish Government proposes to close, in connection with the abolition of the capitulations, the foreign post offices in

Turkey, as from October 1st. The Italian 8  
Ambassador, who had the opportunity of meeting  
the Grand Vezier, on the question of abolition  
of foreign post offices, proposed to him  
confidentially the following solution: the  
foreign post offices in Turkey could operate,  
in the future, as Imperial Ottoman post  
offices, for the handling of correspondence  
with their respective countries. It seemed as  
if the Grand Vezier was prepared to consider  
the idea, but he pointed out that the officials  
employed by these offices would have to enter  
the service of Turkey and receive their pay  
directly from the Ottoman Government."

THIS report was answered by the Ministry of  
Commerce on September 21, 1914:-

"Referring to your memo of September 18, we  
wish to inform the Foreign Ministry, that we  
are also of the opinion that the question of  
abolition of the Austrian post offices in  
Turkey must be considered in the light of  
Article VII\* of the "Entente-Protocol" of  
February 26, 1908."

MEANWHILE, the Ottoman authorities continued to  
take action towards the closing down of foreign  
post offices. On September 19, the Turkish  
Minister of Posts, Oskan, cabled to the  
Austrian Ministry of Commerce:-

"SUSPENSION OF FOREIGN POSTAL SERVICES PER  
1st OCTOBER, 1914. As from October 1st, 1914,  
foreign posts temporarily functioning must stop  
their operations. Please suspend totally all  
dispatches accepted so far by your bureaux  
established in Turkey and send your bags  
directly to my offices of exchange in  
Constantinople, Smyrna, Mersina, Alexandrette,  
Aleppo, Baghdad, Tropizund, Beyrut, Haifa,

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Jaffa, Jerusalem, Tripoli (Syria), Dardanelles." IT is perhaps interesting to note that this cable shewed that the foreign offices were regarded by the Turkish authorities to be in any case "temporary". However, in the event, the Austrian postal administration was unwilling to agree to the Turkish proposal and replied by cable on September 21st:-

"Your cable concerning the foreign post will be dealt with by diplomatic channels. However in the case of the suppression of Austrian offices we would be prepared to enter into negotiations, but would require term of four months to regulate details."

IN the diplomatic negotiations, Turkey insisted on going ahead with her intention to close all foreign offices on October 1st and so on September 26, the Austrian Foreign Ministry reported to the Austrian Ministry of Commerce:-

"Further to our communication of the 22nd, concerning the abolition of Austrian post offices in Turkey, we bring to your attention a communication from our Ambassador in Constantinople, according to which the Ottoman Administration of Posts has already informed the foreign post offices, that, in view of their being constrained to close down from October 1st, the Turkish Administration would be prepared to take over all items not yet dispatched at the above date. At the same time the Ottoman Postal Administration has also requested them to remove without delay all signs and letter boxes of foreign offices. Supplementing this communication in his conversation with Marquis Pallavicini\*, Talaat Bey remarked that the closure of the foreign offices and the removal of their signs on the 1st of the coming month would be carried out,

if necessary with the assistance of the police...In view of the acts of force contemplated by the Turkish Government the Austrian Embassy has issued instructions to close the Austrian post offices in Turkey and to remove their signs."

IN view of the short time remaining to them, the foreign postal administrations were unable to consider common steps against the Turkish ultimatum. The Turks benefitted from the fact that the Governments concerned were at war with each other and so were not in a position to enter into talks between themselves. The Austrian Postal Administration could only contact the German and Italian administrations. The latter sent to the Austrian Ministry of Commerce, on September 29, the following:-

"Please inform us whether according to the informations of the Ottoman Administration your offices in Turkey will close down on October 1st."

to which the Austrian Ministry replied the same day:-

"According to information received Austrian offices in Turkey will probably close on September 30, in the evening."

THIS is, then, the final history leading in our time to the catalogue note on the validity of Austrian Levant stamps as "valid until 30 September, 1914" or if you prefer, "Gültig bis zur Schliessung der Levante-Postämter".

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#### NOTES

ARTICLE VII of the Austro-Turkish Treaty of 1908 said "Inasmuch as the common Austrian-Hungarian Government recognise the sovereignty of the Ottoman Government as regards postal

services, they undertake to relinquish, upon ratification of this Act, those Imperial and Royal post offices at present existing in localities where there are no other foreign post offices. They further undertake to close down also the remaining Imperial and Royal post offices in the Ottoman Empire as soon as the Powers, maintaining post offices in Turkey, shall also close them down."

MARQUIS Pallavicini, the Italian Ambassador, was able to act as a go-between in these negotiations because at this time Italy was the only neutral power.

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#### EXCHANGE OFFERED

Mr. L. Scadden, 37, Mead Road, Edgware, Middlesex has a quantity of current German and Swiss stamps for exchange or sale. He needs in exchange Vienna post office postmarks of 1900: especially those bearing place names of post offices, i.e. Wien/Atzgersdorf, Bisamberg, Enzerfeld, etc., etc. Offers direct to Mr. Scadden, please.

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#### INFORMATION WANTED

The authors of 'AUSTRIAN POST OFFICES ABROAD' (S.D. Tchilinghirian and W.S.E. Stephen) write that they are working on Part III, which will deal with ship markings of other Austrian Navigation Companies and with the shore office of Constantinople. They add: "the story of the latter is fairly well known, although should any members of the A.S.C. hold some

really unusual material from this Office, we should naturally like to hear from them. On the other hand, material from the Navigation Companies is far from abundant, and we should be very much interested indeed to receive particulars of any such material held by members from:

1. the D.D.S.G. (ship markings only)
2. the AUSTRO-AMERICANA
3. Tripcovich and Co.
4. Navigazione Libera Triestina
5. Navigazione a Vapore Ragusa: and
6. any other Austrian Company.

Co-operation from members of the A.S.C. is earnestly sought: and we invite members to write to us".

The address on the letter is 'Claire-Ville, 10, rue du College, Clarens, Switzerland': Mr. Stephen's address is: 94, High Street, Aberlour Banffshire.

IT would be rather wonderful if the co-operation of the 'Austrians' exceeded that afforded rather more than that given by the 'Russians' for a previous publication!

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**AND NOW - YOUR OPPORTUNITY!**

The Editor will welcome want-lists, requests for information, and so on, from ALL members. It is a simple matter to include them in the body of the Bulletin: and in point of fact they make quite useful 'space-fillers' - like this one! Requests for exchange-correspondents are also a thought. For a start - anyone in Austria like to communciate with - ME ?

An unsere Freunde in Oesterreich!

Dies ist, soweit wir wissen, das erste Mal, dass eine Botschaft an die Mitglieder des Verbandes, dem natuerlich die A.S.C. angeschlossen ist, ergeht. Es ist einer der Werte des Markensammelns, dass es hilft Freundschaften zwischen den Angehoerigen verschiedener Nationen zu foerdern und zu staerken, und dies sollte, wie wir glauben, zum Vollsten ausganuetzt werden.

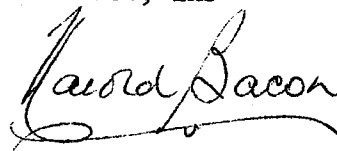
Augenblicklich ist nichts von Bedeutung an unsere Philatelisten Brueder zu Berichten. Es ist nur ein Versuch die Sache in Bewegung zu setzen.

Manche von Ihnen moechten vielleicht eigenen Korrespondenten hier in England haben, nicht noetigerweise ausschliesslich zum Marken Tauschen. Diese kurze Botschaft hat nur den Zweck Sie wissen zu lassen, wie solche Beziehungen angebahnt werden koennen. Es sind nur einige Zeilen noetig, mit Namen, Adresse und Interessengebiet - vorzugsweise in Englisch, wenn das moeglich ist.

Es kann natuerlich viel mehr gesagt werden.

Wir schliessen mit bruederlichen Gruessen an sie Alle - in Wien, Graz, Linz, Klagenfurt, oder woimmer Sie sein moegen, und versichern Sie unserer Freundschaft innerhalb des Verbandes.

Herzlichst, Ihr



To our English readers -

If, like the Editor, you are not very proficient in German, you will doubtless like to know that the letter written above is a message of friendship to the members of the Verband. It also offers to try and find correspondents for our Austrian members. If any of our English members would like to participate in this, will you please let the Editor know? He can then compile a list, in readiness.

Reviews

NETTO CATALOGUE 1963

All copies of this edition are sold, and I regret to say I had to turn away orders received at the last moment. Please note that to ensure a copy a reservation must be made at the first announcement: and this applies to anything offered in the Bulletin.

The distribution was made at 6s6d per copy post free. This is cheaper than the usual price in this country, the next cheapest being Harris Publications at 7s0d per copy. They may have copies left for those whose orders arrived too late. We experienced a lot of trouble with supplies this year. It appears the Publisher did not want to offer the usual discount: so we placed our order elsewhere. I am afraid the ASC order for 50 or so copies makes very little impression now that this catalogue is so well established. It is the catalogue used by all specialists in Austria: and it is worth remembering that dealers in Vienna sell at full price and buy at about 60%: so you will have a very fair understanding of what your collection is worth.

Quite a number of items have maintained the upward price trend in this edition. I am sorry for anyone now atarting to collect or complete the modern issues: but if anyone has had the last 18 months in which to complete his collection and has failed to do so, well, he will now be paying the new fancy prices, but - it will not stop here. These are the Viennese dealers' stock-in-trade, and the turn-over on modern pictorial stamps is such that they welcome all that the PTT produce. Classic collectors also share the burden: but not to the same extent. The Milano forgery 15c is now priced at £50, whilst the 45c is now over £100 - which pleases me very much; for I had the good fortune to find one in a collection I bought in the Strand of all places! The unissued pair of 1946 'Never Forget' now stand at £28 against the £5 in a Club packet three years ago - then at half catalogue, and sold only after the second time round. The once common sets like Flowers, Prize Race, Salzburg, now stand at or near 20/-.



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The good pre-war sets show a remarkable increase over the last two years. Dolfuss and WIPA have passed over the reach of most collectors, and others follow closely behind: £20 for the first F.I.S., £12 for the 1933 Relief Set, £4 for the good 2sch. 1934 set, and £18 for the Rotary 1931. The Levant remains pretty steady with just a few small increases: but the Feldpost are all up, as are the Bosnian issues.

#### GINDL SPECIALISED CATALOGUE

Part 4 has now been distributed to subscribers. Whilst I consider this handbook a worthwhile publication, I confess I am disgusted with the price of this part. You will recall that parts 1, 2 and 3 were offered at 7s0d (£1.) per section: and with the discount allowed we were able to save you a few shillings on the original cost. Now, however, after subscriptions have started the price of part 4 has jumped to 10s0d. To make things worse, it is only half as thick as the other parts: and of course, now we have started we must go on. However, I do not see that we need order any further parts of this work if this is the way that future business is going to be conducted. I appreciate that printing these days can be expensive: but suddenly to increase the price by over 40% is too much - especially if it is done without prior warning. I am, however, determined that those members who support the literature offered by the ASC shall not lose on the deal: and I have in consequence distributed part 4 at 7s0d in the normal way. Future supplements will not be supplied by the ASC, unless desired by the members. Due notification of future supplements will be made in good time.

K. Tranmer

#### SPECIAL POSTMARKS - - ?

ALL members who are interested in special postmarks are asked to contact Leslie Scadden without delay.

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NORTHERN GROUP REPORT

James W. Syddall  
Chairman, Northern Group

SATURDAY, the 13th October 1962 was something of an event in the history of the ASC. On this day 14 northcountry members held their first meeting, with myself acting as Chairman, our President, Keith Tranmer (who had travelled from Hornchurch) presiding over the meeting, and the Revd. Harold Bacon attending to the secretarial duties.

The members attending were drawn from within a fifty-mile radius of Manchester: from Rotherham some 50 miles to the east, Liverpool over 40 miles to the west, and Stoke some 30 miles to the south; and this will give some indication of the enthusiasm and active interest of the Northern Group. If this first meeting is anything by which to judge, we shall have a very strong and flourishing Group. MY FIRST DUTY was to effect a general introduction: as, although the names were familiar ones, many of us had not previously met: and this brought about an immediate air of relaxation and informality. Following this came an address from Keith: and then we were down to business. The first thing we did was to increase OUR ASC subscriptions: the next, a review of the 'new look' Bulletin - a fine and attractive edition prepared and produced by our new hard-working Secretary: and then to arrange a series of monthly meetings taking us up to next May. We then discussed the progress of the Annual Exhibition - this is the second consecutive year it has been held in the north: and finally came a display and discussion of material presented by Keith Tranmer.

A VERY SINCERE and hearty vote of thanks to our President was proposed by Mr. T.J. Showell-Anderson, and seconded by Mr. J.F. Giblin: not only for his so-ably-presented paper, but also for his support and encouragement in making a 400 mile journey just to be with us at our inauguration. With this kind of encouragement and the support of all I feel sure that the ASC can look forward to such a period of prosperity, enthusiasm and increased membership as we have not previously known.



The Pinzgau is one of the most charming country districts of Austria, comprising mainly the headwaters of the River Salzach. To the south of the river the high mountain range of the Hohen Tauern towers above the country where the famous mountain road crosses the Grossglockner and storage lakes supply the water power station of Kaprun. The Pinzgau derives its name from the Celtic tribe of the Asonti who settled in the region around Zell/See. Gold and silver were mined in the valleys of the Tauern and for two centuries the rich copper deposits contributed to the prosperity of the region. The Upper Bavarian farmhouse is predominant in the region north of Saalfelden, the rest of the Pinzgau being characterised by twin tract houses. There are some interesting traditions in this area; such as the 'Frautragen' when a picture or statue of Our Lady is carried from house to house, being left for one night in each; and the 'Perchtenjagen', the exorcising of evil spirits and demons, usually during the Twelve Nights, by a procession of people wearing old masks. Other forms of local customs include curling in the winter, 'Ranggeln', a form of wrestling, and the 'Gasslgehen', which is a traditional entertainment of marriageable young people.

In the heart of the mountainous landscape of Upper Carinthia, which is so rich in charm, lies Spittal upon the river Drau. The settlement has developed over the course of centuries; it began as the Hospital upon the Lieser in 1191, became a market



in 1242: and was granted municipal status in 1930. Now it is not only the administrative centre of the second largest district of Austria, but the economic and cultural focus of the region, and the traffic junction of the district. It lies at at the ancient crossroads between the trade route from Northern Europe to Italy and from West to the Slavic Southeast. Almost unaffected by all this change, the Schloss Porcia - the Porcia Palace - rests in the heart of the original settlement. It is a magnificent Renaissance building designed by an unknown Italian architect who has skilfully blended Venetian-Lombard and Florentine elements. The name of the Palace is derived from the ancient noble family of the Friulian Porcias who lived here from 1662 to 1918. Today the Palace is the greatest art treasure of the town. The well-balanced harmony of the northern facade, the magnificent gate and the three-storeyed arcades in the courtyard are sights of unique beauty; the delicate and rich ornaments never distracting the eye, and never disturbing the impression of harmony and unity.



The region around Bruck in Styria has been inhabited since times immemorial. Here the Romans founded Poedicum. In 806 Bruck is first mentioned in a document. In 1263 Przemysl Ottokar II granted the settlement the charter of a town. In 1963 Bruck will celebrate its 700th anniversary as a township. With 17,000 inhabitants it is an industrial town, centre of commerce and

trade. It is the most important junction of Upper Styria. The most famous of the sights of the town is probably the "Kornmesserhaus", a Gothic building with a richly decorated pergola. Pankraz Kornmess, a citizen of Bruck, had it built in 1499-1505; and the first date can still be seen on the coat-of-arms inside the house. A loggia inspired by Venetian models with ribbed vaults rests upon the arches of the ground floor arcades which are supported by slender columns. The architect is not known; but it is probable that the stone mason was Kristoff of Eisenerz. Another famous sight of Bruck is the Iron Fountain. The Church of the Friars Minor is decorated with remarkable frescoes, and contains the tomb of the minstrel Hugo v. Montfort.



The town of Wels - a name of Romano-Celtic origin - is situated on the crossroads of two natural trade routes. From West to East the road runs along the river Traun. Wels boasts the oldest Christian memorial of Austria: the Roman tombstone of Christina Ursa.

The Hapsburg Emperor Maximilian I, the 'last of the knights' and grandfather of Charles V, died in the fortress of Wels on January 12th, 1519. The first railway of the Continent ran across the Franz Joseph Square in Wels as early as 1834. The north-south thoroughfare crossed the Traun here and leading across the Phyrnpass was the main trade route to Venice and Upper Italy. The Parish Church possesses wonderful glass windows dating from the 14th century. Present day Wels is a modern town with some 40,000 inhabitants. Its 'Welser Ferkelmarkt' - market of

pigllets - is held every Saturday morning: and is one of the most important in Europe. Ever since 1878 the 'Welser Volksfest', the celebrated Fair, has taken place every other year. The combination of a rural Harvest Festival with an Exhibition of intercontinental standard has proved extremely fruitful. The number of visitors has already exceeded one million.



The name of Ludwig van Beethoven is inseparably connected with the village of Heiligenstadt which, since 1892, is part of the 19th district of the municipality of Vienna. Five houses have been preserved in Heiligenstadt in which Beethoven lived for some time.

Though of less interest as a place of work of the composer the house presented here - 2, Pfarrplatz, Vienna 19 - is the best known. It is an interesting example of the former type of Lower Austrian farm house (twin tract: the huge gate in the middle leading to a spacious courtyard). During the first half of the summer of 1817 Beethoven lived on the first floor of the northern part: his windows opened out into the Eroicagasse: and at that time gave a panoramic view of the Kahlenberg and the Leopoldsberg, the famous hills of the Vienna Woods. Those who are familiar with the details of the life of this great composer will know that the 'Heiligenstadter Testament' was written at 6, Probusgasse: and that it was here that he lived through the most tragic hours of his life. The 'Eroica' was composed at 92, Döblingerstrasse.