

Sept 1963 Nr 59

The AUSTRIAN STAMP EXHIBITION



of Great Britain

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The Northern Group Report has been held over this month. Full details will appear in the next issue. Meetings are held at the Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate, Manchester, at 2.30 p.m., usually on the second Saturday of the month. In September the meeting is on the 21st.

THE AUSTRIAN STAMP CLUB
OF GREAT BRITAIN

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SUBSCRIPTIONS are noted when due in this Magazine. Membership, including magazine subscription: 15s0d per annum.	
The ASC is affiliated to the VERBAND ÖSTERREICHISCHE PHILATELISTEN-VEREINE, Universitätsstrasse 8, WIEN IX/71.	
The ASC offers: Magazine, Packets, New Issues, Publications, Library, Expert Advice, Specialist contact, Publicity.	
PLEASE direct all enquiries to the appropriate Officials. Enquiries for membership to the Secretary, please.	

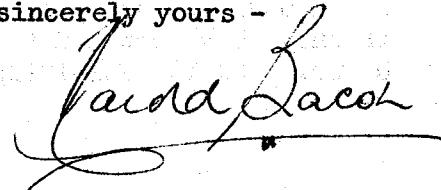
EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

May I draw your immediate attention to the new items on the page opposite? - and particularly to that which has to do with subscriptions. It has had to be decided that the annual subscription must now be 15s0d for all members: and that this will now include the cost of the magazine. I have no intention here of justifying this. To my mind, for one, it is self-evident that with the increased cost of the new-look magazine, there must be a slight increase in subscriptions! There are one or two members who are always ready to 'dig down deep' and to help out with the money problems. But really, this should not be necessary: and will not be necessary provided everyone realises that there are no unlimited funds! SUBSCRIPTION DATE is now SEPTEMBER the FIRST. This applies to all members: so - all are now in arrears!!! (This excludes one or two new members who have recently joined: they win on this - and will only pay again in September 1964). One word more on this: REMINDERS ARE A BORE! so - please - let Ted Hulme have your subscription by return of post. Lists of paid-up members will begin to appear in the next magazine.

On financial matters, too, may I now ask a very simple favour. Namely, that if you have to write to any official asking for help, information, or what have you, will you state whether you want your reply in the magazine or by post? and if the latter, will you please enclose return postage?? We are trying to keep down expenses: and it does seem that this is one of the major costs.

The magazine is a little later than I had anticipated. Like most of you, however, I have to work for a living! - and I do not always have the amount of free time that I would like to have. Only one or two know that the entire production is done single-handed; and it DOES take time! However, we do our best.... Very sincerely yours -



WE REGRET ...

to announce the death, on Saturday, 31st August 1963, of our original founder-member, Mr. A. ALLERHAND.

Mr. Allerhand joined the ASC in 1948 as a dealer member, and until his death he was a regular visitor to all Club functions. His stock was mainly classic Europe: and his private collection of Austria - which was shewn on several occasions in the old days - contained many fine items of the 1850-1864 period.

With his death we lose not only our senior member but also one who participated whole-heartedly in every activity of the ASC. To his family and other friends we send the sympathy of all our members.

Keith Tranmer
President

AVE atque VALE

- or, in the vernacular, HAIL and FAREWELL! Since the last publication of the magazine, the Secretary has received notification of the following changes. We welcome as new members:

- 357 Elliott, C.J. Bishops Stortford
- 358 Abel, Dr. P. London N.W.8
- 359 Wise, D. Newton Aycliffe
- 360 Wilde, F. Hyde, Cheshire
- 361 See, Franz Vienna

One member has resigned, as he is giving up collecting Austria:

318 Sanderson, W.B. Beaconsfield.
We wish him 'happy hunting' in whatever field he has now chosen to cover.

THERE MUST BE many people who would love to join the ASC if only they knew something about it, and what it has to offer. DO YOU PUBLICISE YOUR CLUB???

INSURANCE

The way the market trends in Austria are going, most of our members are now holding some very good property. Austrian stamps can be turned in for cash with the greatest of ease and holding on to them is proving to be a very sound investment. For a good number of years the ASC has covered packets and holdings with a very good insurance policy. There is a discount which would apply to the ASC if the matter were taken up, which would reduce premiums to something just under 5s0d per £100. If sufficient members are interested in covering their collections against loss by fire, theft, etc., a proposal can be sent to the Insurers. All members need do at this stage is to quote the total value of the stamps they wish to cover on a postcard and send it to Keith Tranmer. If the business is accepted at a suitable rate, the full details of your collection will then be required: but then only after you have agreed to the terms of the policy, the cover you want, and the price of the premium. Will members PLEASE REPLY WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF RECEIVING THE MAGAZINE?

NEW ISSUES

We are still hoping that more of the 70 members who recently received a circular from Leslie Scadden will reply: and join the New Issue Service. It is surprising how many members have, from time to time, left the Service in order to obtain their stamps either from a local dealer or by exchange with a collector abroad: and then after a few months have decided to rejoin the Service again, because of the things they have missed! IN THE SERVICE YOU MISS NOTHING! - and - we are still offering to supply all issues of the last TWELVE MONTHS at the N.I. rate.

NEW MEMBERS ...

If you are a new member and have not received a packet within four weeks of joining, please write to the Packet Superintendent. It also helps if members will inform him what they hope to find in a packet - this will ensure that you get early viewing of desired (and desirable!) material ...

BLACK PRINTS 1956-1963

Members requiring Black prints on sheet can have a quotation of cost on receipt of S.A.E.

From time to time a number of these items are received for circulation in the packets, and we also receive offers from dealers in Austria. They are too large for the packets, but are sent out on approval to members who are known to be interested. Prices are quite reasonable and below the Netto quotations. Please do NOT ask for those issued prior to the date mentioned. We are not yet in a position to obtain these quite so easily: but your name can be kept in mind should they become available. (This note does not apply to those members already known to the Packet Superintendent).

MEMBERS ABROAD

can have selections of better-class material sent by airmail. Minimum value £50 per book. Insurance costs are high: and there is a postage charge of anything between 6s0d and 10s0d. This means that subscribers on these circuits must add to their purchases a fee of 5s0d each to offset the insurance and postage costs: and must bear their own airmail postage to the next member. If any overseas member thinks it worth while he is at liberty to ask for a selection. The material in these packets is 1850 to 1867 only: no covers; simply stamps and postmarks. It IS quality material only: selected carefully from the best material to hand. On the home circuit it is only circulated among a minority of serious collectors likely to make full use of it. The prices of stamps may range from 20s0d to £10 each. Not more than five overseas members will be placed on the list at any one time.

K. Tranmer

STUDY GROUPS. Some half dozen members replied to the last note in the magazine about these. It should be made clear that such groups will work under their own steam: and those who desire to join, make the start. A leader will be appointed for each group: who will be expert, or expert

enough in the field to take the lead. He is not going to start by writing volumes about the subject to supply to the Group. The Group is going to start by writing intelligent questions to him: and he will reply in a circular. Such material as is published in book form will be done by the Club. The first book is already in preparation, as you will read in this magazine. Keith Tranmer will lead a Group on: Feldpost cancellations, stamps, naval postmarks and military postal history. Leaders are required for (a) Austria First Issue: and (b) 1858-1867 stamps (and? postmarks).

Will those with knowledge of these subjects write to Keith Tranmer or the Secretary?

THE NETTO CATALOGUE 1964 : with some thoughts on trends

By one of those strange coincidences, the new Netto made its appearance a few weeks after the offer of a small collection 1920-38. Members who took advantage of the Charities will have no regrets. All have increased considerably, with some of the moderns and the main portion of the 1850-1918 stamps. In the pre-war range some sets are: Rotary £20; Writers £1, Catholic Congress £13; Artists £12. In the modern, the unissued pair of 1946 now £35. Costumes show an increase to £2 for the 90g., 50s0d for the 1s red and £3 for the 10s. The 1950/53 Airs have jumped: common sets like the 10 Years Republic show an increase of 25%. In the classic period there are expected increases. Those who do not attend the London auctions may not be aware of the high prices now asked for good Austria. And if stamps have gone up in price, certainly the postmarks of 1850-1864 have shown considerable increase. The Mueller system - which most of us reckon at 1s0d per point for 1850 postmarks - seems to bear no relation to the prices obtained; a pity; for collectors have thus ruined what could have been a static guide to value. The price of the Mueller handbook (about £12) was too much for the large majority of collectors - even though the old 1927 edition was selling at anything up to £30 prior to the publication of the new edition. The position at the moment is rather

complicated. On the one hand we have collectors who do not have the book (and therefore have no idea of either postmarks or their value): and on the other, the collector who will pay more than the points value of the book. Postmarks are offered either much above or much below points value. The strange thing is that even postmarks offered at the price of normal stamps which are worth quite a bit more, do not sell simply because no one has the means of knowing their value - i.e. do not possess the handbook. Consequently someone selling at only 6d per point has the frustration of having most of his material returned unsold: whilst on the other hand, auctioneers clear them at well above the price asked! This problem does, however, work both ways. Many local dealers have a few postmarks in stock which they would be happy to clear at a small profit because they have neither the time nor the means to check each one for its point value. You may be lucky to discover something: as those with the handbook often do; but the uninformed collector may still reject them as 'too expensive'. The late Edwin Mueller once said that the profit from his books came years later: he always lost money on publication. The collector may take a lesson from this.

Keith Tranmer

Editorial note. There is one point here where Keith and I do not agree. I still maintain that the Mueller handbooks - if used correctly - can ALWAYS be a static guide to real value. The major problem is simply that there seems to be no authority who can issue the necessary statement from time to time that "One Mueller-point is now equal to - so much". But the relationship of the various values will always remain the same: M.points 60 will always be worth 3 times M.points 20! As a matter of interest, I am busy copying (by hand, and for the second time) the complete works of Mueller - that marvellous man. I have now completed nearly 4000 post offices. If anyone has in their possession any material other than that listed in the Mueller books, I should be glad to hear from him. I can then incorporate this into the body of the 'Master volume' which is now fast taking shape. H.B.

A NEW PUBLICATION

Some questions ???

- (a) CAN YOU estimate the value of a block of four of the 3 kreuzer, 1850 issue ?
- (b) CAN YOU tell the difference between the Verona and the Milano forgeries - or, for that matter, CAN YOU tell a forgery when you see one ...?
- (c) CAN YOU describe the difference between an 'offset' and a 'printed both sides'?
- (d) HAVE YOU yet learned the difference between hand-made and machine-made paper on Type 3 stamps ...?
- (e) WHAT would you pay for the 9 kreuzer, Type 1, with broken crown ...?
- (f) WHAT IS the basic value of a stamp on cover as compared with a single used copy?

???

The answer to these and many other questions is contained in

The 1850 ISSUE of AUSTRIA and LOMBARDY-VENETIA
a new handbook by
KEITH TRANMER
(in collaboration with The Revd. Harold Bacon)

Each stamp is fully described, listed and valued for shades, papers, types, multiples, mint, used, as singles or on cover or piece. Paper varieties are fully described with aids to detection for those unfamiliar with these stamps. Plate flaws are summarised; and for the first time an attempt made to value them. A chapter is devoted to the famous forgeries of Milan and Verona. Reprints, rouletted and perforated stamps are also dealt with. The whole book superbly illustrated with clear photographs of forgeries, plate types and flaws: and specially designed to take the reader from the stage of beginner to that of near-specialist. It deliberately avoids the complicated sub-types that confuse the potential student but leads to the stage where study can be continued with the specialist handbooks. Perhaps what is most important, it is, of course, in English: and can be used as a catalogue or a handbook. Every page is packed with information: almost every line will tell you something that can save you

money and turn your collecting habits to advantage. The vast majority of these stamps are still cheap: and the varieties can still be picked up at normal prices - provided that you know what the varieties are! The pre-publication price, to members who order before the 31st December 1963 is only 20s0d plus 7½d postage. The actual publication price will be much higher. Whatever you do, don't try to get a copy when it is too late. Some of you will - you always do! - and like every time in the past you will have to be disappointed. We do not pretend for one moment that this book will result in a reprint. We have far too much experience of philatelic literature to expect this! - and in point of fact, a reprint will not be possible. We do predict that every copy will sell. The number estimated is on the assumption that only ten to twelve members of the ASC are in the class of specialist who cannot find a use for this handbook. YOU may not be collecting these issues just yet: but will you be able to say the same next year - ?

THE PEOPLE ON AUSTRIAN STAMPS

Addenda numbers 5 and 6

by

J.F. Giblin

Bahr, Hermann.

Hermann Bahr was born on 19th July 1863 at Linz in Upper Austria. He was the son of Alois Bahr (1834-1898), a lawyer from Brünn, and of the latter's wife: Wilhelmine von Weidlich (1836-1902). The boy attended the grammar school in Linz and then studied classical philology, law and economics at the Universities of Vienna, Graz, Czernowitz and Berlin. He next travelled extensively abroad: visiting Paris, Switzerland, Spain and Russia, and then became editor of the "Freien Bühne" in Berlin where he was a friend of Arno Holz and Josef Kainz. After 1894 he settled in Vienna as an author, dramatist and theatre critic, and in the next two decades his philosophical position spanned the whole spectrum from Marxism to Catholicism. Whilst still a student he had become an anti-clerical

liberal and his early essays "Studien zur Kritik der Moderne" (1890) and "Ueberwindung des Naturalismus" (1901) reflected his interest in Naturalism and the influence of Ibsen. Then he turned to Neo-Romanticism, as is evinced in his essay: "Wien" (1907), and finally, under the influence of Maeterlinck, passed through Decadency and radical Individualism to Mysticism and Symbolism. Hermann Bahr wrote two dramas: "Die neuen Menschen" (1887) and "Das Tschaperl" (1897), and seven amusing comedies, such as "Wienerinnen" (1900), "Der Krampus" (1901) and "Das Konzert" (1910), which reflected the Vienna society of his day. In 1903 he was appointed as director of the Deutsches Theater in Berlin and on 24th August 1909 he married Anna von Bellschan-Mildenburg (1872-1947), a very famous operatic singer. They lived during the First World War in Austria, where he became the leader of the conservative and Catholic school of thought, as exemplified in: "Himmelfahrt" (1916), and from June to November 1918 he acted as director of the Burgtheater in Vienna. After 1922 they lived in Munich, where his wife was a professor of music at the Academy, where he wrote his autobiography: "Selbstbildnis" (1923) and his last novel: "Oesterreich in Ewigkeit" (1929). Hermann Bahr died in Munich on 14th January 1934; his works having been published by his wife in a number of editions since that date. A biography by W. Meridies: "Hermann Bahr" was published in Vienna in 1927.

(Ref. 2.Vol.1.p.44; Ref.4.Vol.1.p.540; Ref.5.Vol.2.p.351; Ref.6.Vol.2.p.224; Ref.7.Vol.2.p.928).

Florian, Saint and Martyr.

Florianus, whose feast is celebrated in the Roman martyrology on 4th May, was a Roman officer who held the high position of "princeps officii praesidis" as head of the civil administration of the Roman province of Noricum Ripense; now part of Austria. Nothing, whatsoever, is known of his life until the initiation of the persecutions of Diocletian in 304 A.D. At that time Florianus was living near the town of Cetium, now St. Pölten in Lower Austria, when he heard that the Roman governor, Aquilinus, had ordered the arrest of forty Christians and that they were now awaiting martyrdom. He at once proceeded to the seat of the governor at the city of

Lauriacum, now Lorch bei Enns in Upper Austria, to confront Aquilinus in person. There Florianus refused to sacrifice to the Roman gods and, imploring divine aid, made a full and bold confession of his Christian faith. Whereupon Aquilinus stripped him of his rank, had him scourged twice so that he was almost flayed alive, and ordered that he should be drowned in the Enns. Florianus accepted his sufferings joyfully and prayed aloud to God as he was being thrust under the water. His body was washed ashore but was hidden behind a rock from the searchers sent by Aquilinus; being recovered by a pious woman who buried it. Later, when Christianity triumphed over paganism in the Roman Empire, the body of Florianus was buried at Pucche in Upper Austria and over the tomb was erected a great monastery. During the barbarian invasions the body was taken to Italy and, by the 9th century St. Florian was revered in Verona and Friaul as the arch-protector against fire and water. In 1183 Pope Lucius III sent some of the saint's relics to Casimir II of Poland and St. Florian became a patron not only of Linz and Upper Austria but also of Poland. The Abbey of St. Florian, which was a college of Augustinian Canons from 1071, was rebuilt in the baroque style between 1686 and 1751 by Carlo Antonio Carlone and Jakob Prandtauer (q.v.). The only sources of the life of St. Florian are his "Acta" which are printed in the Acta Sanctorum. Maius I. 1866 14. pp.466-472. These have been critically edited by B. Krusch as "Passio Floriani" in the Monumenta Germaniae Historica; Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum. 1920. 3. pp.68-71.
(Ref.4.vol.5.p.254;Ref.5.vol.6.p.574;Ref.6.vol.6.p.338;
Ref.7.vol.9.p.395)

Note: In our reading we also find that St. Florian is usually represented in armour, in the act of pouring water from a bucket upon a house on fire: and that "he was thrown into the Enns from a bridge, with a millstone round his neck. It is related, however, that by some miraculous interposition the stone assumed the buoyancy of cork, and kept the saint afloat long enough to enable him to preach a sermon to his persecutors". St. Florian is also eminent in Bavaria for his aid in extinguishing fires. Editor.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS
from
Our Post Bag

Q. I have recently bought a copy of the Austrian 1867 issue, 5 Kreuzer, fine impression. This stamp looks perfectly normal, but it is printed on a ribbed paper, similar to that used for the 1850 issue. The peculiar thing is that the lines are running diagonally, top left hand to bottom right hand corner and they are clearly visible on both sides, showing even more clearly in the postmark - Vienna 1881. There is nothing mentioned in Mueller's reference book and it would be very interesting to hear if anybody else knows about such a variety.

(P. Schoenmann)

Q. 1. I have a newspaper stamp S.G.J3 with a FRANCO cancellation and no other postmark. On ordinary stamps this is rather rare and I have never seen it on a newspaper stamp:

2. Recently I obtained a cover Austrian Italy with a S.G. 13, 5 soldi: and on checking I found it had 19 teeth instead of 18. These longer and shorter stamps are listed by Müller but only on the 3rd. issue Austria. I cannot find any reference to it anywhere. The cover is posted on 19/5 1860 and has a 4-circle TOLMEZZO cancel. Any information, please?

(H.H. Rubin)

KT answers: (1) so far as I know, rare postmarks on newspaper stamps are not rare: (2) I agree, starts on 3rd issue. Suggest other members compare their collections.

SOME ANSWERS to Correspondents:

A.V. Allo, New Zealand: Hope THIS magazine reaches you!

W. Stephen, Aberlour: Will send copy as you suggest. Thanks.

S.D. Tchilingharian, Switzerland: Thanks for offer. We managed to supply all new members without the trouble of a reprint. (Cannot supply any more, though!)

H. Wildan, Alloa: Will you do me the favour of a reply to my query, please?

D. Wise, Newton Aycliffe: 'Netto' is now on the market: and is advertised in this issue of the magazine. They are usually soon sold, though; so be quick!

H. Ayling, Melbourne: Thanks for covers of your correspondence. Very thoughtful: and much appreciated.

E.C. Coleman, California: You will see that great minds have been thinking alike! See: 'Who and what we are' in this issue. Your idea of duplicate exchange a good one: but would take some organising. Glad to hear that SOME Bosnian have been coming your way! Thanks for envelope.

D.G. Ward, Sheffield: What about the list of Triests postmarks you want examining?

D. Morrison, Aberdeen: You were one of the very few who took the trouble to write as requested. Just a postcard, I know: but thanks very much indeed. If only other people would also take a bit of trouble and time, how much easier life would be.

C.S. Hoskins, West Drayton: And you were also in the 'good' category as far as the Editor is concerned! Thanks. Your query is printed now.

Q. I have only recently become interested in Austria. My interests are Germany used in Austria. At the moment I would appreciate information on which issues were used? I would also like some information on types of gum used on issues 1945/8. The specialist catalogue deals with the Costumes but no other.

IT IS HOPED that this may become a regular feature of the magazine. If you know the answers, will you send them to the Editor: all printed will be duly acknowledged. Who knows - this may set someone off on an entirely new line!!

ASC***ASC***ASC***ASC***ASC***ASC* *ASC***ASC***ASC***ASC***A

WHO - and WHAT - WE ARE

In response to the request for information in the last issue of the magazine, we are now able to give particulars of the few members who took the trouble to reply. The Editor is very grateful to them: and hopes that their kindness may be well rewarded...

S.D.TCHILINGHIRIAN: "Claire-Ville", 10, rue du College, CLARENS, Switzerland. Interests: Austrian P.O.'s abroad; A. Levant; A. P.O. in Crete: A. ship markings: Bosnia-H. perf varieties, etc.

W.M. STEPHEN: 94, High Street, ABERLOUR, Banffshire, Scotland:
Interests: All Austrian issues to 1918; Postal History with
special interest in 'Used abroads'; DDSG issues and Postal History.

P. SCHOENMANN: 14, The Parade, WHITCHURCH, Cardiff, Wales:
Interests: Postal History, especially Republic of Venice:
Classical stamps of Austria, especially on covers: Postmarks of
the first five issues including Lombardy: Austrian postal
stationery until 1918: TPO markings 1850-1938. Also: FRANCE,
ITALY, Bosnia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary.

In order that ENGLAND should be able to hold up her head I am now forced to add:

(REVD) H. BACON: Park Cottage, 58 Singleton Road, SALFORD 7, Lancs. Interests: Cancellations, particularly to 1921, and literature appertaining thereto; Naval and Field-Post: the issue of 1867; maps and literature of Austria-Hungary and the Balkans generally. Montenegro.

NOW will YOU send in your particulars???

FOR SALE: Gibbons "Europe" 1952 and 1957; 3 copies Austria Philatelist 1962-3: US Postal History Soc. Journal 1962: Chambers' Concise Gazetteer of the world. The lot: 12/6 post free. Apply: Keith Tranmer.

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED: that (1) subscriptions are now DUE: and (2) even though they may be last on the packet postal list they must still post within 48 hours.

NETTO CATALOGUE 1964. 7s0d post free. From: L. Bradbrook,
38 Poundgate, ALTON, Hants. (Adv).

PACKETS. when filling up the advice note PLEASE quote the number of the packet! It is not enough to say 'current packet'. In July there were SIX circulating (an all-time record). Unfortunately, due to delays they become mixed up and as many as two or more can arrive in the same week. THE NUMBER of the packet on the ADVICE NOTE. All right?

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICES ABROAD Part III
by
S.D. TCHILINGHIRIAN and W.S.E. STEPHEN

The above is scheduled for publication during September 1963: price 30s0d, 4:50 Dollars U.S.A. and Canada.
CONTENTS: D.D.S.G. and other Austrian Navigation Companies. 80 pages, fully 100 illustrations of cancellations: several pages half tones.

READERS interested in securing this book can order it at the special reduced price, pre-publication, of

TWENTYONE SHILLINGS
3 DOLLARS, U.S.A. and CANADA
POST FREE.

Applicable to all pre-paid orders received up to NOVEMBER 30, 1963.

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Mr. W.S.E. Stephen
94, High Street,
ABERLOUR,
Banffshire,
Scotland.

(Advt.)

THE POSTAL REGULATIONS of 26TH MARCH 1850

A translation
by
J.F. Giblin

Historical Introduction.

The postal administration of Austria, under the title "Directorate for Communications" or "General Administration of Communications" became the third section of the "Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Public Works" on 1st February 1849. In that month its Director, Franz von Löwenthal, advised in a report to his Minister, Karl Ludwig von Bruck (p.9 of 'The People on Austrian Stamps') that it would be profitable to investigate the use of adhesive postage stamps for the prepayment of mail: as was being done in other countries.

In consequence of this recommendation of Löwenthal, it was decided to send a Dr. Johannes Jakob Herz (p.33), who was then Postal Inspector for Lower Austria, to tour Munich, Brussels and London in order to study both the production and use of postage stamps in the Kingdoms of Bavaria, Belgium and Great Britain respectively. Dr. Herz left Vienna in May 1849 and returned in July so that on 10th July he was able to hand to von Bruck a memorandum detailing his own conclusions and incorporating an "aide memoire" from the Royal Bavarian Postal Administration. His separate report for his visit to London is still preserved in Vienna but the other reports have unfortunately been lost.

In the composite memorandum Herz urged the use of pre-paid adhesive postage stamps in the Imperial Dominions and it is interesting to note that exactly the same scheme had been proposed to the Postal Authorities eleven years previously by Laurenz Koschier (p.47) but had not been adopted. Herz recommended the use of the typographical process for the production of the stamps, as that was the method used in Bavaria, suggested that the Imperial Arms should be used as the design and even drew, himself, a rough sketch to illustrate his proposal. A conference of the officials concerned was held

on 20th July to consider Dr. Herz's memorandum. At this conference the Director of the Court and State Printing Works Aloys Auer (p.5) objected to the proposed design which, he thought, he could improve. Nevertheless it was decided to authorise Dr. Herz to proceed with the proposed design pending Imperial approval.

The Minister then produced a long "Memorandum on the Reform of the Letter and Stage Coach Tariffs" dated 14th September 1849, based mainly upon that of Dr. Herz, and submitted it to the Emperor Franz Josef I (p.24) for approval. In this document von Bruck pointed out that very soon after Great Britain had changed to the penny post from a most complicated postal tariff, Austria in 1842 also took many significant steps in simplifying and reducing its postal tariff. This reform was, however, regarded everywhere merely as the first stage towards a single postal rate within the boundaries of the Austrian Monarchy and von Bruck, after showing how successful such a single rate had been abroad, urged that it should now be introduced into the Austrian lands. He proposed that the postage should be fixed at 3 kreuzer up to and including 10 miles and 6 kreuzer above 10 miles for a single letter, whilst the city postage in Vienna should remain at 2 kreuzer. Further the weight of a single letter should be fixed at 1 Vienna Loth weight and the tax progression should be determined by raising the postage by an equal amount for each extra weight of 1 Loth. All these letters should be franked by means of adhesive postage stamps and von Bruck asked that all the details of the production, use, sale and cancellation of such stamps should be left entirely in his hands. This report was endorsed by the Emperor at his palace of Schönbrunn on 25th September 1849 with the words: "These proposals on the reform of the letter and stage coach tariffs receive my approval."

Upon receipt of this approval, von Bruck, acting through Löwenthal instructed Dr. Herz on 27th September to collaborate with a Councillor Langer in reforming the actual tariffs and to proceed with the preparation of "saleable adhesive stamps". By 3rd November 1849 Dr. Herz was able to submit in his progress report, not only the details of production and sale, but also a drawing of the proposed design which did not differ significantly from that finally used. The next few months

were spent in producing the stamps. On 5th February 1850 a committee meeting was held to consider the essays and these were approved, although Auer still wished to improve them, and the Minister then gave Auer the formal instruction that: "the postage stamp die is to be cut as the model tabled." In order to meet the decision that the postage stamps were to be issued on 1st June 1850, the final decree authorising their use was published on 26th March 1850 and the following is what is believed to be the first translation into English of the complete text of that decree.

Journal of Regulations for Posts, Railway Administration and Telegraphs No. 25-28. 27th April 1850. Number 968. 1132 H.M.
Provisions concerning the letter post taxes and their collection by means of postage stamps.

In execution of the proposal of the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Public Works, which received Imperial approval on 25th September 1849, with reference to letter post taxes and ancillary dues, the sale of postage stamps is to take effect from 1st June 1850 in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Postage Tax. The postage tax for one single letter amounts to:-

- (a) in the district of the issuing post office itself 2kr.C.M.
- (b) for a distance of up to 10 miles inclusive 3kr.C.M.
- (c) for a distance of from 10 to 20 miles inclusive 6kr.C.M.
- (d) for a distance of above 20 miles 9kr.C.M.

2. Single Letter. A single letter is one which does not exceed one loth in weight.

3. Progression of the Tax by Weight. For letters of above one and up to two loth inclusive the postage for a single letter shall be doubled, above two and up to three loth trebled, etc.

4. Marking the Letters for parcels of equal contents. What are considered as letters, in the narrow sense of the word, have also to be considered for all other parcels in the letter packets of suitable material, as writing, printing, specimens etc.

5. Reduction of the Postal Tax. For postal or newspaper wrappers, if such contain nothing written apart from the address, the date and the normal signature, they are to be paid without difference of distance, at only the equal weight charge of one kreuzer per loth upon delivery.

For commercial specimens and samples, where the limitation of the contents to this matter is readily visible, which are of a type delivered charged, the charge for each two loth is according to the distance of the single letter post.

These parcels of commercial specimens and samples, if the preceding reduction is to be granted, must only be supplemented by a single letter which, when ascertaining the tax, is weighed together with the specimen or sample. The parcels of the latter type are, however, accepted only up to a weight of 16 loth inclusive as letter post parcels according to the above regulation.

6. Returned letters. For returned letters the letter post parcel which can not be delivered to the addressee is not to pay a special tax.

7. Registration Dues. Parcels which are charged and registered (against an issuing receipt) must be fully franked, and the registration due is to be paid by the sender i.e. for parcels between places in the same postal district (Town Post) at 3 kreuzer and for all others at 6 kreuzer per piece.

8. Return Receipt. If he wants such a receipt, the sender is given one after handing in the parcel. This suffices with the signature of the receiver and the sender has therefore to pay when handing it in, the tax due as for a single letter.

9. Demand Letters (Quästionen). Demand letters are liable for advance payment of the tax due for a single letter.

A tax-free forwarding of a demand letter can however be provided:-

(a) if the deliverer to the post office gives a letter for examination of the address, in accordance with which the same registered and charged parcel was not yet due at a time at which it could be delivered by the regular postal channels, or
(b) if the numbered return receipt is not yet returned after the passage of the required time.

10. Delivery Tax. There is $\frac{1}{2}$ kr.C.M. per piece to pay for the delivery of the letter post parcels in the postal districts where there are no postmen provided by the State available.

11. Departmental Tax. If the parcels be kept until called for in a special department, to be asked for by the addressee at the post office of delivery, there is a departmental tax of 1 kreuzer C.M. per piece to pay.

12. Obligation to Frank. All inland letter post parcels delivered inland must definitely be franked.

13. Franking and Registering by Postal Stamps. This franking, as well as the payment of the registration tax, has to be done by the use of postage stamps.

14. Value of the Postage Stamps and the Sale of the same. Such stamps are manufactured to the declared values of 1,2,3,6 and 9 kreuzer, viz.:-

of 1 kr. in yellow colour

" 2 " black "

" 3 " bright red "

" 6 " red brown "

" 9 " blue "

These can be bought against payment of the values at all Imperial and Royal Post Offices in any desired quantity.

Every different part of the post office used will indicate the place of sale of the stamps by means of a placard. Outside the post office no one is, for the present, permitted to sell postage stamps.

15. Use of the Stamps. The person who hands in a letter post parcel has to fix a stamp fast to the address side, at the upper edge in the middle, by means of moistening the gum applied to the reverse side, or so many stamps as are necessary to settle, by their value, the franking due proportional to the tariff dependent upon weight and distance. The person who hands it in has to pay the registration due by sticking a stamp to the value of 6kr. on the sealed side of the letter.

16. Means of handing in a letter. The parcels are to be placed in the letter boxes, but, if they are to be registered, are to be handed to the postal employees to whom the tax is to be paid in cash for the return receipt eventually desired.

17. Estimation of the Provisions concerning the Letter Post Tariff and the List of Places. At each post office are provisions concerning the letter post tariff and the list of places that belong to an appointed 'single district' and an example (for those removed not above 10 miles, then above 10 to 20 miles inclusive) is attached for general inspection.

At the important post offices the printed lists of places are in stock for sale.

18. Exceptional Sticking on of the Stamps by the Post Employees. In doubtful cases it is freely allowed for the parties to

enquire the correct tax at the post office and for the postal employees to stick the necessary stamps on the parcels upon cash payment of the value of the same.

19. Treatment of the Parcels that are not properly franked.

Parcels that are found in the post box without or with only incomplete franking of stamps are indeed sent on without delay. However the sum owing is collected as postage from the address and moreover an additional increasing tax, according to the weight of the letter, of 3 kr. for the single letter. If a letter post parcel, for which the reduction of the postage is applicable (para 5) has been placed in the letter collection box without or with only insufficient postage stamps, the privilege of the postal reduction is lost and it is handled as an unfranked or incorrectly franked letter.

For registration, parcels that are not properly ffanked are not accepted at all.

20. Exceptions. Official letters between postage free officials and persons at addresses subject to postage are covered with the proper tax without additions.

21. Procedure against repeated use of the same stamps. The postal official partially impresses the stamp, which is on the parcel submitted to him, with his normal delivery postage stamp.

Parcels with stamps, that carry an indication of earlier use, will be treated as unfranked.

22. Forgeries. A forgery of the stamp is confiscated in a similar way as is one of the paper money.

23. Letter Post Communication with Foreign Countries. With regard to the letter post communication with foreign countries the earlier respective provisions remain in use in regard to the postage tax and the weight progression, and for a time both the franking through cash payment and the choice between franking and not franking continues in this case. But the registration tax (paras 13 and 15) is to be paid also for letters to foreign countries by the adfixing of stamps.

Vienna 26th March 1850

Letter Post Tariff

For one letter and for all other objects suitable for sending in the letter packets.	Distance		
	I	II	III
	In a distance of miles in a straight line		
	Up to 10 inclusive	Above 10 up to 20 inclusive	Above 20
Postage Tax			
to one loth inclusive above 1 loth to 2 loth inc.	Fl. Kr.	Fl. Kr.	Fl. Kr.
2	- 3	- 6	- 9
3	- 6	- 12	- 18
4	- 9	- 18	- 27
5	- 12	- 24	- 36
6	- 15	- 30	- 45
7	- 18	- 36	- 54
8	- 21	- 42	1 3
9	- 24	- 48	1 12
10	- 27	- 54	1 21
11	- 30	1 -	1 30
12	- 33	1 6	1 39
13	- 36	1 12	1 48
14	- 39	1 18	1 57
15	- 42	1 24	2 6
16	- 45	1 30	2 15
and so on.	- 48	1 36	2 24

Translator's Note

On 1st June 1850 there were 12.26 florins (each of 60 kreuzer) to the pound sterling and thus a kreuzer was worth almost exactly $\frac{1}{3}$ penny. In addition an Austrian post mile was 4 English miles, 1256 yards and a Vienna Loth weighed approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Editorial Note. para 14. "These can be bought against payment of the values at all Imperial and Royal Post Offices IN ANY DESIRED QUANTITY" - my emphasis. The only possible comment is - COR!!!

THOSE WERE THE DAYS!

by

Harold Bacon

DO YOU avidly search for books relating to Austria - her past and her people? It is a quest almost as fascinating as seeking for rare perfs! - and yet, sometimes, out of the blue a gem comes our way. It happened to me the other day. On my way home after an hour spent browsing by the bookshops and stalls, my attention was suddenly caught by an oldish looking volume. I picked it up: and my day was made! Look

"Feldkirch to Coir: a postroad, along the rt. bank of the Rhine, traversed daily by a diligence. It passes through the principality of Liechtenstein, the smallest state in Europe - $2\frac{1}{2}$ Germ. square m. in extent, with a population of 5500.... Balzers (Inn: Post, comfortable), a miserable village Gratz... is far from being so cheap as it was 10 years ago, yet the prices of most things are still very reasonable. The markets are well stocked with fruit and vegetables wh. are to be bought at reasonable prices. Beef costs about $4\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. Veal is rather dearer. Poultry is cheap and excellent. ..Laibach..excellent crayfish may be had here...Owing to unusual engineering difficulties nearly 15 years were consumed in constructing the railway from Laibach to Triests (Karst-bahn) 1843-57 .. a singular tradition exists that Ober-Laibach was founded by Jason and the Argonauts ..Idria (Inn: Schwarzer Adler, especially bad and dirty)..as Idria is not a post-station, the horses which brought the traveller must take him on...Budweis to Linz..the stations are Halkau, Angern, Kerschbaum, Lest, and Oberndorf..the Danube Steam-Company..at present possesses 85 steamers and steam-tugs, and 270 vessels for merchandise, besides vessels of a peculiar construction, used for the conveyance of pigs from Servia to Vienna..steamer leaves Vienna, Sund. $6\frac{1}{2}$ A.M., Pest Mond.7A.M., Basiasch Tues. $8\frac{1}{2}$ A.M. arrives at Czernavoda Wed. even and Constantinople Thurs. morn...Vienna to Pest 3rd. class Fl.4Kr.50: to Galatz 1st.cabin Fl.60Kr.75...Hungarians almost surpass the Americans in the filthy habit of spitting which is not always confined to the deck". A good buy? I think so: all 578 pp of this 1860 Travel guide & Handbook!

THE AUSTRIAN POST ABROAD : COMMENTARY NO. 3

by

S.D. Tchilinghirian

The cancellers discussed in preceding Commentaries consisted largely of rather elusive items. This instalment will deal with a few markings which, despite their unusual appearance, are comparatively common, and should exist in every collection of Austrian Levant.

1) THE "ROESINENSTEMPEL" OF SMYRNA. Next to Constantinople, the cancellations of Smyrna rank as the commonest of the A.P.O. There were two Austrian Post Offices in this second city of the Ottoman Empire: the main Government PO with over a dozen counters open to the public: and a smaller branch operated by the agency of the Austrian Lloyd. Up to the 1890s the circular cancellers used by the Government PO contained only the name SMIRNE, while those used by the LA displayed a multiplicity of inscriptions which has made them favourites with "Used Abroad" specialists (the name of the town being accompanied by such descriptions as AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO, or LLOYD AGENZIE, or SPEDIZIONE POSTALE PRESSO LLOYD, this latter with or without the initials I.R. for 'Imperial & Royal'). Although spectacular, most of these are abundant, due to the great volume of mail in this important port.

In the 1890s all these early types were superseded by fresh date-stamps, mostly double-circles, with a uniform inscription SMYRNA OESTERREICHISCHE POST, the main PO being designated as SMYRNA I (although the serial 'I' does not appear on all its cancellers) and the Lloyd Agency as SMYRNA II.

These circular types remained in general use until the Austrian POs closed in 1914, but, in the opening years of the 20th century a fresh type of marking begins to appear: and it is with this that these notes are concerned. It consists of a rectangle with a large thick 'Z' at left, and inscriptions in 3 lines reading SMYRNA (or SMYRNA II) - date - and OST.POST. This type is invariably applied in VIOLET, in contrast with the normal circular date-stamps (black) and is usually found on the lowest denominations, turning up more often on stamps in CENTIMES currency (the so-called issues for Crete), than on those in PARAS or PIASTRES.

This rectangular type is known in Austrian philatelic circles as the 'Roesinenstempel' = 'Raisins-canceller': because it has been ascertained that it was used exclusively at the counters reserved

for commercial samples, for the cancellation of stamps franking the many 1000s of packages containing dried figs and raisins, which were mailed each year to all countries in Europe by the exporters of these products. Even though bulk shipments would be in cases, these had to be preceded by many postal samples allowing wholesale buyers abroad to make a selection from the many qualities available: and in addition exporters had their own clientele who would order small quantities, such orders being executed through the Post as commercial samples. The figs and raisins of Smyrna, then as today, were renowned in the Western world, and enormous quantities were exported. The total of commercial samples sent in a single year must have been running into six figures.

The late Edwin Mueller, whose view was sought a few years ago as to the meaning of the 'Z' on the date-stamps, replied that no one knew with certainty; but this writer is of the opinion that it is the initial of "Zoll", German word for "Customs": and that it indicated that the package concerned had to go through Customs and pay duty upon arrival in Austria.

The rate charged by the Austrian PO for these samples was 5 centimes per 50 grams, and senders could frank either with a 5 centimes stamp of the special issue for "Crete", or with a 10 para of the normal issue for the Levant. As 10 para were then equal to $5\frac{1}{2}$ centimes, the exporters saved 10% by using the stamps in centimes currency: and this explains why these special cancellations are mostly found on stamps of that currency. Needless to say, the majority of these samples would exceed 50 grams in weight: and be franked with higher denominations than the 5 centimes: that is, 10 centimes for 100 grams (this is the commonest denomination), and so on, up to 1 franc for 1 kg., which is believed to have been the maximum weight allowed.

In fact, although all denominations in centimes are met with with this cancellation, those ranging from 15 centimes upwards are not common, and deserve a good premium: as do also the cancellations on paras and piastres, seldom used for this purpose. On the other hand, the 5 and 10 centimes are abundant, and are barely worth 1/- or 2/- in the case of the 1908 series, where the basic stamps are priced at 3d or 4d in Gibbons. It must be kept in mind, however, that some of the 5 and 10 centimes issued between 1903 and 1907 for "Crete"

(in particular SG. 9, 12, 13 and 15) are priced at much higher levels in the catalogue, and the rectangular cancellations, which are also found on these earlier stamps, naturally command a commensurately higher premium.

Owing to their heavy use and to their being made of rubber, the rectangular date-stamps gradually deteriorated, and had at times to be replaced by fresh ones: with the result that several types are known. As they will have to be listed in the chapter dealing with SMYRNA in "Austrian Post Offices Abroad", it is necessary in the first place to ascertain how many different types exist, and any help given by members to this effect will be greatly appreciated. At this writing, the authors know of the following types:

USED AT SMYRNA, MAIN P.O. (name limited to SMYRNA on first line):

- a) size $31\frac{1}{2} \times 15\frac{1}{2}$ mm., SMYRNA in serifed capitals, length 13 mm.
(fig. C-11);
- b) size $34\frac{1}{2} \times 17$ mm., SMYRNA in baton capitals, length 18 mm.
(fig. C-12);

USED AT SMYRNA, LLOYD POSTAL AGENCY (name given as SMYRNA II):

- c) size $32 \times 16\frac{1}{2}$ mm., SMYRNA II in serifed capitals, length $22\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (fig. C-13);
- d) size $38\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{2}$ mm., SMYRNA II in baton capitals, length 23 mm.
(fig. C-14).

Readers having in their collection cancellers in this style with other characteristics than those described above, are kindly requested to communicate particulars of any such material to Mr. Stephen or to this writer.

Until recently, the authors were under the impression that these rectangular cancellers had only been used at Smyrna, but now, our member Mr. R.S. Blomfield has submitted an example of a similar marking used at TRIESTE 8, which is illustrated in fig. C-15. This raises fresh problems and opens further avenues for investigation.

As explained in Part I of "Austrian Post Offices Abroad" (page 75) "TRIESTE 8" was the Branch Office operating inside the harbour of Trieste. Considering that this office was actually situated in Austrian territory, it is difficult to explain how and why the parcels brought to it for franking and cancelling could be liable to Austrian duty, necessitating the use of a

special canceller similar to those in use at Smyrna. The only suggestion this writer can offer - and it looks far-fetched - is that passengers or sailors of the ships which arrived at Trieste brought parcels of dutiable goods with them and, knowing that there was a Post Office inside the harbour, tried to evade paying duty by mailing these packages at this Harbour P.O., prior to going through the Customs. The PO may have defeated this trick by cancelling such packages with this special "Z" date-stamp, and sending them to the Trieste Customs for clearance, before forwarding them inland for delivery.

Members who can suggest a more likely explanation are earnestly invited to express their views.

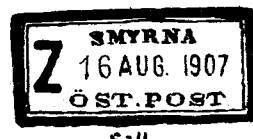
REPLIES TO QUERIES

Will member H.A. Ayling please note that the replies to the two problem cancellations he submitted are as follows:

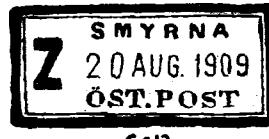
- a) BUDUA single-circle (fig.1 page 5, December 1962 Bulletin): member M.R. RASIC of Toronto promptly identified this marking as one of the earlier bilingual date-stamps introduced at Austrian metropolitan P.O.s. The inscription reads in full BUDVA-BUDUA (Croatian at left, Italian at right): and has nothing to do with any navigation line. Mr. Rasic explains that the 10 soldi stamp of Levant, on which this marking was found, must have been in the possession of some traveller or sailor who will have franked with it a letter he mailed after landing at Budua.
- b) B.M. in small oval (fig. C-10, page 17, April 1963 Bulletin): markings in this "Boite Mobile" type are listed by R. Salles under several French Post Offices in the Levant, and were apparently applied on letters travelling by French ships. It looks therefore likely that the letter franked with Mr. Ayling's 10 soldi stamp was actually dropped in the letterbox of one of the units of the French Messageries.

S.D. Tchilinghirian

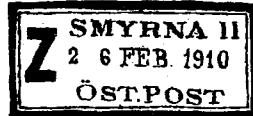
Note: Illustrations to this article are in the Appendix (Ed.)



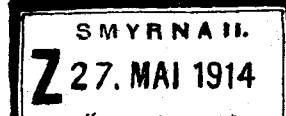
C-11



C-12



C-13



C-14



C-15

