

Aug 1965 Nr 62

The AUSTRIAN STAMP EXHIBITION



of Great Britain

*** CONTENTS ***

A S C officials and general information.	2
Editorial	5
News from Austria	6
Book Review	7
A visit to W I P A 1965	8
Forthcomming New Issues from Austria.	13
From the Secretary	14
The Austrian Post Abroad: Commentary No 6. . . .	16
New Discoveries.	22
The People on Austrian Stamps: Addenda Nos 10 &11.23	
A. S. C. meetings for 1965 - 66	26
A. A. P. meetings for 1965 - 66	27
Notice of Annual General Meeting.	28

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THE BULLETIN OF THE AUSTRIAN STAMP CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Whole No. 62 : AUGUST 1965.

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Please direct all enquiries to the appropriate officials.
A stamped addressed envelope would be a courtesy. Please
address enquiries regarding membership to the Secretary.

The
AUSTRIAN STAMP CLUB of GREAT BRITAIN.

Membership is open to all who are interested in Austrian philately, and over 21 years of age. The objects of the club are to further this interest in the following ways:

1. By arranging meetings where ever there are sufficient members actively interested to hold regular meetings, and by visiting other Philatelic Societies giving displays and papers on Austrian Philately..
2. By publishing a Magazine at regular intervals, containing articles and news of interest to the specialist, the intermediate, and to the new collector. The Magazine is also open as a forum in which any member may express opinions; and serves as a clearing house for questions and answers.
3. By holding or joining in local and regional exhibitions.
4. By giving advice or opinion (expert, where possible), on any subject related to Austrian Philately.
5. Handbooks and catalogues are available at reduced rates prior to publication. A.S.C. publications covering specialised subjects are made available at concessionary prices. (A member may easily save his annual subscription by this alone)
6. Inclusive membership of the Verband Österreichischer Philatelisten - Vereine in Vienna.
7. By providing an Exchange Packet for the purchase and sale of stamps and other philatelic material between members.
8. By organising, if required, a New Issue and First Day Cover service.

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THE AUSTRIAN STAMP CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

(Affiliated to the Verband Österreichischer
(Philatelisten-Vereine in Vienna)

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References should be persons known to the applicant
whether members of the Society or not.

Hon. Secretary:

James W. Syddall.
21 Moscow Road.
Edgeley, Stockport. Cheshire.

EDITORIAL

My first duty as your new editor is to pay due tribute to my distinguished predecessor. You will have gathered from his editorial in the January 1965 bulletin that the Rev. Harold Bacon has been considering for some time, and for personal reasons, the necessity of relinquishing the post of editor. This he has finally done, and I have been asked by the Committee to edit this bulletin.

During his term as editor, the Rev. Bacon was responsible for six really excellently produced bulletins (Nos. 56 to 61) between October 1962 and January 1965. The A.S.C. will always be in his debt for this work and I can only hope that I shall be able to continue in this high tradition.

Whether I shall be able so to do depends to a large measure upon the support that I receive from the membership. As has been said so often previously, a bulletin of this type depends for its vitality upon the reactions of its readers. So please do write to me to say whether you like the contents, or would wish to suggest improvements or modifications. In particular, I should like to know whether you approve the sort and level of the article that is included. I shall always be pleased to receive manuscripts for publication as well as adverse or favourable comment. The bulletin should also serve as a vehicle for contact between members, and queries for publication will always be gratefully received. The replies thus received from members would then appear in a subsequent issue.

Finally may I apologise for the delay between publishing this bulletin and the last in January. This was due to the change in editor and will not occur again. It is hoped that this bulletin in the future will appear quarterly.

John F. Giblin.

NEWS FROM AUSTRIA

Since our last bulletin the death has occurred, on the 28th February of President Adolp Schärf, (People on Austrian Stamps. p.76), and a mourning stamp appeared on the 20th of April (SG.689 / Netto 1207). His successor, Franz Jonas (born 4. 10. 1900 in Vienna) was elected as the fourth President of the Second Austrian Republic on the 24th of May. Herr Jonas was the Socialist Mayor of Vienna (since 1951) and had spent most of his life working for the Socialist Party in that city. A full biography of Herr Jonas will be printed in the bulletin when he appears on a stamp, as no doubt he will.

On the 27th April 1965 a stamp was issued to mark the end of the two decades of reconstruction in Austria that have taken place since, on the 27th April 1945, the representatives of the old Austrian parties declared that the annexation had been forced upon Austria in 1938, and was now null and void. (SG.690 / Netto 1208). Also on the 27th of April, the S.1•50 value of the Buildings set ("Rabenhof") was re issued in the smaller format and printed in photogravure for use in automatic vending machines (SG.580a /- Netto 1209A & B) as well as in sheets. On 10th May a special stamp was issued to commemorate the 600th Anniversary of the Foundation of the University of Vienna by Duke Rudolf IV (1365 - cf. P.O.A.S. p73). This beautiful stamp (SG 691 / Netto 1210) shows the golden seal of the University on which the Madonna and Child between two angels stand above a scene where a learned magister (in doctor's hat and gown), expounds his book to seven seated scholars. On each side of this scene are the shields of Vienna and Austria surmounted by the heads of woodmen.

Two stamps appeared on the 17th May; the first depicting an engraving of St. George by the master Albrecht Alt-dorfer of Ratisbon. This is to honour the art of the Dunube School which flourished between 1490 and 1540 in the valley of the Danube between Ingolstadt and Vienna (SG.692 / netto 1211) The other stamp issued on that date was to honour

the centenary of the International Telecommunications Union (SG.693 / Netto 1212) The I.T.U. was founded on the 17th May 1865 when twenty countries met in Paris to sign the International Telegraph Convention. The stamp depicts the I.T.U. emblem together with a morse key and a T.V. aerial.

The 175th anniversary of the birth of Ferdinand Raimund, the classic author of Vienna popular drama (f. P.O A.S. p 67), was commemorated on the 1st June by the issue of a stamp showing his portrait (Netto 1213). Raimund had previously appeared on a stamp in 1931 (SG.C71/Netto 524)

The last stamps to be issued in the first six months of 1965 were those (Netto 1214 - 1219) which appeared on 4th June in honour of W.I.P.A.. They take as their theme the history of writing and depict respectively the writing of Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Rome, the Middle Ages, the 19th Century, and today.

The stamps issued in the second half of the year will be dealt with in the next issue of the bulletin.

BOOK REVIEW
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"Austria - an airmail digest" by N. C. Baldwin.
(published by Francis J Field Ltd. Sutton Coldfield)
at 6/- plus postage.

This finely printed booklet of 16 pages gives a succinct account of the history of airmails in Austria since 1793. It deals with the balloon mails as well as the pioneer aeroplane mails of the First World War. Glider mails, Pigeon post, parachute mail, airship mail and the rocket mails of Friedrich Schmiedl are considered in some detail. The booklet continues with a history of commercial and special flights both before and after the Second World War, and concludes with a description of the foundation of the Austrian Airlines. The whole is well illustrated to show the cancellations, stamps, and covers used in this most interesting field.

J.G.F.

W.I.P.A. 1965

by Arthur H. Godden.

After months of toying with the idea of visiting Vienna for WIPA 1965 we eventually booked our passages on a cold and uninviting day in January, our new editor, John Giblin, who was exhibiting, my wife and myself making up the party. We were all eager to return to Austria as we had already made one philatelic visit on the occasion of the Club's tenth anniversary in 1958, and WIPA, we felt, was an opportunity not to be missed.

With only one week at our disposal air travel was the only possibility, and that, unfortunately, was where our arrangements came to grief. On the eve of our departure the B.E.A. porters' strike at London Airport completely upset our plans and those of many thousands of others. This was frustration indeed; only the previous Saturday we had been talking eagerly of the priorities once we arrived in Vienna and now the outlook seemed hopeless. However, patience and the Austrian Airlines, who had a flight to Salzburg eventually found two of us in Vienna (although some twelve hours behind schedule and after virtually thumbing an air-lift to get us from Salzburg to Vienna), but John, alas, was not so fortunate and for him the trip was a write-off. This was a bitter blow, not least because it meant having lost our interpreter we were back at the phrase book stage; I had been congratulating myself that there would be no need to brush up what there was of my German - John had been designated "official translator" and I was to look after the party's accounts - which would have been a fair division of labour.

Our first day in Vienna was Whit Sunday. One of the first calls was to the Hofburg to pay our first visit to WIPA. Not only was it the bank holiday break, it was also the Vienna Festival season and it seemed as if the whole of Austria, and much of Europe besides, had gathered in the city. One did not go for long without spotting the silver WIPA emblem; as a flag it was to be seen flying from the roof of the trams and it was on hoardings everywhere. This

was an event to be taken seriously!

WIPA was housed in two sections; for the more serious collector the Hofburg, once the palace of the Emperors, probably commanded most attention, for here were the 19th century issues and the displays of overseas governments, whereas the Messepalast, only a short distance away and designed as a permanent exhibition site, contained the more recent material, including philatelic literature, airmail, thematic, junior and country collections and the larger contingent of dealers.

First impressions of the Hofburg were the bustle and splendour. Entrance tickets were selling wholesale (we presume the 1933 WIPA reprints, strictly one for each ticket purchased, were the attraction). Once inside it was difficult to decide what to visit first. Situated in the entrance hall the inquiry bureau was kept busy answering all manner of questions, selling official WIPA covers, postcards, badges and 'blackprints' of the WIPA view vignettes. Across the hall was Stanley Gibbons stand and a little further on we found Harmers and Robson Lowe, who had, I recall, a copy of the 1921 Parliament "inverted centre" for sale. There was, of course, a large contingent of Austrian and German dealers (most of whom had the 1933 WIPA blocks on offer) but the busiest corner of all was the Special Post Office. Here there were queues every time we passed. The sale of complete sets of WIPA postage stamps was restricted, we were told, to 500 sets a day at the Hofburg and the Messepalast, and to obtain these 'one had to arrive early and line up when only one set would be allowed'. Our informant told us that "my woman" could also get a set if she were there! Dutifully we decided that we would make the effort, - once - as getting up early is not a habit to indulge in when on holiday. The immediate task was to purchase the exhibition catalogue and commence our exploration. We made our way past cases containing the splendid trophies which were to be awarded, and climbing the imposing staircase to the main part of the exhibition.

It was here that one immediately got the impression of size; one hall lead off another, nearly all being lighted by huge glittering chandeliers, and containing row upon row of exhibition frames. Interest was widespread, and every vantage point was occupied. All age groups, men and women alike were obviously out to feast their eyes on the material that one probably saw only once in a lifetime. In all, the Hofburg contained over three thousand frames, so that at the rate of one minute per frame, it would have taken fifty hours non stop to see it all. Comming to one room where there was a larger queue than usual, my wife decided to take advantage of a vacant chair, - travelling the previous day had been quite hectic, and now the warmth and brilliance of the Hofburg was having it's effect. For my part, I joined in the waiting crowd and eventually gained entrance to the Hall of Honour, where selected items from the British Royal Collection were causing quite a stir. It did an Englishman good to see the interest shown in the several " Post Paid " Mauritius stamps, my previous impression that Continental collectors were only interested in their own productions was proved completely wrong. On my return to the ante room, I found my wife 'spredaeagled' fast asleep in her chair, much to the amusement of quite a number of visitors. Later I was politely informed that she was merely 'resting her eyes'!

The Messepalast was visited the next day, and here the younger element had gathered in strength. Being designed for exhibition purposes, there was a little more space, and the many halls were all at ground level, which made our progress much easier. It was here that we discovered all the entries from our local group; these provided quite a sense of excitement in our day. Although it was even warmer than the Sunday had been, ther were plenty of open windows and places where one could rest, including an extensive refreshment room, where in spite of the temperature, consumption of soup and dumplings really had to be seen to be believed.

A little later we visited the Head Post Office in Vienna

but were only able to obtain three values of the six WIPA commemorative stamps. However, we felt that we hadn't 'done' WIPA unless we had taken our turn at the early morning queue and purchased the - at that time - prized complete issue. The idea that the British are the only race who keep an orderly queue was another illusion that this visit to WIPA dispelled. Although mainly a male affair there was a quota of the fair sex whose gay umbrellas helped to brighten up an otherwise sombre gathering on a rather damp morning. In line immediately behind us we heard whispers about "machinen - pistole", only to realise that the handle of our cine camera, protruding from it's case, did indeed look rather sinister. We assured our neighbours that ours was a peaceful mission, and proved it by taking some pictures. Promptly at 10 o'clock the doors opened, and we filed slowly inside, once again, of course, having to purchase entrance tickets to the exhibition. Once inside, a posse of grey-coated police lined the way to see that no queue-jumping took place, and we eventually reached our goal. One complete WIPA set was carefully handed to each of us, but in addition we could also purchase an unrestricted number of two odd values if we so desired. The transaction completed, it was then a question of tongues at the ready to stick the stamps onto envelopes which were already addressed and take them to an official who offered the choice of two special postmarks, - one, the standard Hofburg WIPA cancellation showing an old-time postman, and the other for "Tag der Aerophilatelie" - 10th June. Obviously the only reason why people were so avidly seeking the complete WIPA sets was to have them specially postmarked, as once the exhibition closed, all values would be available at the main post offices.

In a week crammed full of events our travels also took us to Melk, where we visited the magnificent Benedictine Abbey, with it's celebrated library of over 72,000 volumes, returning to Vienna on the Danube steamer through the wine-growing region of Wachau; thence to Klosterneuberg, now virtually a suburb of Vienna, where the priceless Verdun

screne in gold enamel, created by a process now unknown, is housed in the Abbey; from here to Schönbrunn and the Gloriette, from the top of which the view is magnificent. Two evenings were spent on Music Festival outings, to see Strauss' "Zigeunerbaron" at the Volksoper, and "Wiener Blut" at the Raimundtheatre; another evening to see Vienna by night, - Strauss music at the Kursalon in the Stadtpark, a "heuriger" in Grinzing, (wine by the tankard) and a visit to Vienna's first night club (rather naughty). All the time the city itself offered its own historical attractions and we lost count of the other numerous exhibitions we could have visited. It was indeed a week to remember, and we came away determined not to wait another seven years before renewing our acquaintance.

One little item of news interest - back here in England I found that WIPA first day covers could be purchased at approximately half the price as asked by the dealers at WIPA, which just goes to show that the local visitor does not always have all the advantages.

Arthur H. Godden.

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICES ABROAD : Part VI

by S.D.Tchilinghirian & W.S.E. Stephen.

This work is due for publication towards the end of 1965.
Price: 30/0 .; U.S.A. and Canada: \$ 4.50.

Contents: BOSNIA, SERBIA, & DANUBE PRINCIPALITIES.
80 pages, with 175 illustrations of cancellations, and several pages of half tone illustrations.

This book is available to A S C members at the concessionary pre publication price of;

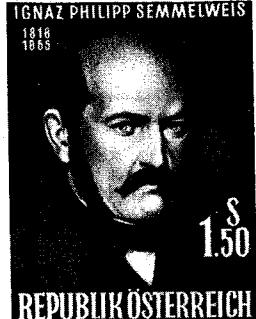
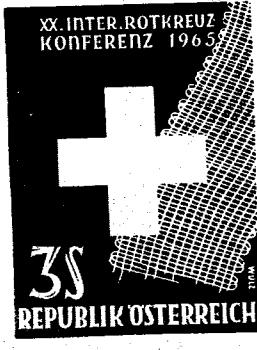
TWENTYONE SHILLINGS.: USA & CANADA: THREE DOLLARS.

Post Free.

Only on prepaid orders received up to 31st December 1965.
Orders with remittance to: Mr. W.S.E. Stephen

94, High Street. ABERLOUR.
Banffshire. Scotland.

FORTH COMMING NEW ISSUES FROM AUSTRIA.

	<p>169. The Centenary of the death of Dr. IGNAZ PHILIPP SEMMELWEIS. Date of issue: August 10. 1965 First day of Postal validity: August 13. 1965</p>
<p>20th. INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS 170. CONFERENCE in VIENNA. Date of issue: September ? 1965. First day of postal validity: September ? 1965.</p>	
	<p>171 10th Anniversary of the ADMISSION of AUSTRIA to the UNITED NATIONS. Date of issue: October 20. 1965 First day of postal validity October 25. 1965</p>
<p>172 TAG DER BRIEFMARKE 1965. Date of issue: November 29. 1965 First day of postal validity: December 3. 1965</p>	

The illustrations are $1\frac{1}{4}$ times full size.

FROM THE SECRETARY

No doubt you will have read the Editorial page before you deign to scan through my meanderings, and so will by this time be aware that we now have a new editor, -John F. Giblin.

I think John must be one of the best known of our members, and I could not think of a more capable person to take over this duty.



His book "The People on Austrian Stamps", and his numerous articles in the magazine over a period of many years must have made his name, if not his appearance familiar, so I am taking the liberty of disclosing his features here for all to see.

While we must all regret the loss of the Rev. Bacon, who has for the present retired from active philately, I feel sure that we can look forward to the continuance of the high standard set by him, under the editorship of Mr. Giblin.

The proposals for the amalgamation of the A S C and The Association of Austrian Philatelists received the overwhelming support from members, -of both the A S C and the A A P, and negotiations are well under way to this end. We will keep the members informed of further proceedings, and hope to have further news on this subject in the next issue.

In this issue is an article "New Discoveries". - We would like all members to join in this, - if you have, or find anything which you know or believe to be something new, please let us know, and we will publish it, and then believe me - the rest of the members will soon tell you how wrong you are, they've either got two of them, or have had one for years. That is the way information is gathered and recorded, - but not if it is hidden away in your collection, and you think it is the only one. Should you have anything to 'discover', if you could preferably send the item to me,

I will endeavour to illustrate it in the magazine, and see that it is safely returned to the owner.

In the issue for last June, you had what should have been the first of a series of articles on the "1945 Landscapes Series". Unfortunately this series got 'bogged down' in the production delays of the last issue, and to some extent, printing difficulties. All the material is still available, but during the past year, the Gindl Catalogue has been published on this material, and whilst the writer would disagree with what is in the Gindl Catalogue, and add quite a bit more to it, we feel that to carry on now with this series would only be duplication of effort, and of very limited appeal to members. Perhaps the members may not agree on this, in which case, let us know and we will carry on with it. Meanwhile, commencing with the next issue we would like to replace this series with a comprehensive illustrated series on the 1945 overprinted issues on the Hitler Heads (Wien I, II, & III, the Graz issues, and some other Locals), which we feel would have a much greater appeal, and contain much more previously unpublished work.

If there is any particular subject upon which you would like to see articles in the magazine, or even some earlier articles brought up to date and reprinted, why not let us know, and we will try to oblige, for after all, it is our job to serve, and give you what you want, but if we don't know what you want, then you may feel disappointed in that you don't find anything of your particular interest in the magazine. - Likewise, if you have anything which you feel may be of interest to other readers, I'm sure our editor would be more than pleased to hear from you.

And finally, one more appeal, - we all like to receive the Exchange Packet, but if the Exchange Packet Sec'y does not receive material from members, then there is little to circulate in the packet, and I'm pretty sure that although Mr. Anderson does all he can, he does not feel entirely disposed to break up his own collection just to supply material for the packet. I'm sure that many of you could send in a book to him occasionally, - every little helps.

by S. D. Tchilinghirian.

Once more, the writer and Mr. Stephen wish to express their thanks to the many readers who have so kindly written to notify fresh information, or to help in solving some of the problems outlined in the preceding instalments of this Commentary. It is only fitting that a tribute be paid to their help by beginning this 6th instalment with the solutions they have supplied to 'problem' items recently mentioned in this column.

(1) TRIPOLIS.(SYRIEN).

An incomplete illustration of the left half of the first issued to this office in 1902 was reproduced under Fig. C 27 of Commentary No.5 in the January issue of this magazine, but even before the magazine could be distributed, member

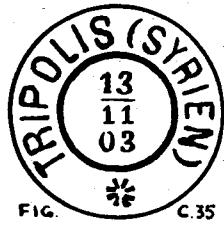


FIG. C.35

H. A. Ayling, writing from Australia had submitted the missing right half, and this elusive marking can thus now be illustrated in full, Fig. C.35. The credit for it's reconstruction must be shared by three of our members, Mr. E. Fitz-Henry, who supplied the left half on a 1 pi. Levant 1903 Mr. R. S. Blomfield who soon after notified another similar half on a 20 pa. Levant of 1903, and Mr. H.A. Ayling, whose right half is on a loose copy of the 1 pi. Levant 1901. As will be noticed, each of the three incomplete strikes recorded so far is on a different stamp, adding to the rarity of the individual stamps concerned and at the same time providing three different items for the Check List. More values should exist, and readers coming across further examples are requested to kindly supply particulars, so that the Check List of this office, when prepared may contain a coverage as comprehensive as possible of this scarce cancellation.

Another feature of interest in Fig. C 35 is that there is an eight pronged ornament at the bottom, instead of the large star which appears on the companion MERSINA and the ALEXANDRETTA markings (see Fig. C 26 in the January issue)

This peculiarity shoul prove of help in identifying the Tripoli cancellation even on incomplete impressions, where only the lower part of the date stamp is showing.

With this Tripoli marking now off our minds, the only 'problem' left in these Syrian offices is the similar date stamp issued in 1902 to LATAKIA. This must be missing from the collections of all our correspondents, otherwise they would have written to notify it after reading our appeal in Commentary No. 5. It's great rarity can be gauged from this negative score, and should prove a further incentive to members in their hunt for a copy. Whoever succeeds in locating even a very incomplete impression is requested to communicate with the writer or with Mr. Stephen.

(2) LLOYD AGENCIES IN GREECE

This little investigated subject was covered at some length in Part V.(pp 323 to 326), where it was stressed that markings of Lloyd Agencies at many other Greek ports than the three listed were bound to exist, although not yet recorded. The authors had even considered it desirable to give a list of eleven Greek ports which looked like 'probabilities' from this angle, in an attempt to help readers in their hunt. It is now most gratifying to record the first successful results scored by readers, and the most amazing aspect is that the discoveries described hereunder are not from any of the eleven ports cited in Part V, but from a twelfth port, VOLOS.

Mr. A. C. Lascarides has now submitted examples of two different markings used by the Agency of the Austrian Lloyd at this port during the 1890's. The earlier one is an oval in the standard Type 'R', found on a 25 lepta of the Greece 1896 Olympic Games issue, in violet (see Fig. C 37), whilst the later marking is in the rectangular type current around the turn of the century, as already recorded for Piræus, Stambul, and Sayada (see Fig C 38)

Mr. Lascarides owns incomplete impressions of this latter on a pair of the 20 lepta Greece of 1889, (Athens printing) and on a single copy of the same stamp, all of which are blue in colour.

These items may already be known to those of our members



FIG. C.37

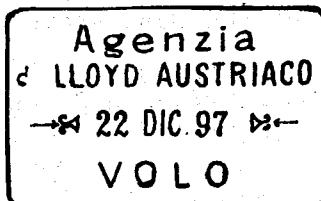


FIG. C.38

who visited the recent W.I.P.A. Exhibition at Vienna, as they were displayed in the frames containing the collection of Mr. A.C.

Lascarides, who

earned a well deserved Silver-bronze medal for this display.

Apart from these hitherto unrecorded VOLOS markings, Mr. Lascarides also notified the following fresh items with markings of the Lloyd Agency of Piraeus: Rectangle in Type 4 (Fig. 525 in Part V) on a pair of the 10 lepta Greece 1896 Olympic Games issue, and another strike on a single copy of the same issue of the 40 lepta value, both strikes in blue, and an oval as Fig. C 24 (see Commentary No. 5) on a 25 lepta purple 1893 issue of Greece struck in violet. All these additions to the Check List of this port on page 327 of Part V, and it will be noticed that the latter item follows at short interval the first example recorded with this oval type of cancellation, which had been listed in Commentary No. 5 by courtesy of Mr. J. Luscombe.

This batch of fascinating discoveries should only prove a beginning, and it is hoped that more readers will soon follow with further unrecorded markings of the Lloyd Agencies in other Greek ports.

(3) D.A.a.L. (Fig. C 30 in Commentary No. 5)

Apart from the Steinbauer item described in the January magazine, member Paul Schoenmann owns a stampless letter mailed at the Austrian P.O. of Salonica on the 27th March 1858 (date stamp in Fig. 594), and received at Genoa on the 3rd April 1858 (arrival mark GENOVA ARRIVO in the usual rectangular type in red). This letter bears on the front the D.A.a.L. marking in Fig. C 30, over which is superimposed another marking "A.3" in the same style, both in

red.

Furthermore, Mr. Schoenmann knows of a third letter sent from Constantinople on the 24th July 1857, which transited at Trieste on the 30th July - where it received the three line LETTERE ARRIVATE COL VAPORE DAL LEVANTE in black (Fig. 99) - arriving at Genoa on the 1st August 1857 (as witnessed by the framed GENOVA ARRIVO in red). This letter also bears the mysterious marking in Fig. C 30, but in this case with the initials D.A.d.L. (instead of the D.A.a.L.).

As all of the three letters recorded were addressed to Genoa, it looked likely that the problem marking had been applied at this port, and the writer submitted the case to Sig. L. Cocchi of Milan, a prominent student of Italian maritime mail. Sig. Cocchi replied that this marking was unknown to Italian specialists, and could not be of any Sardinian origin, as the Sardinian Posts were then using other types of arrival markings, all of which were well known. He also excluded the possibility of it's having been used at Leghorn (then in Tuscany), or at the Pontifical P.O. of Ancona.

It would thus appear that Fig. C 30 is indeed of Austrian origin, but the problems it raises are now more complicated than ever:-

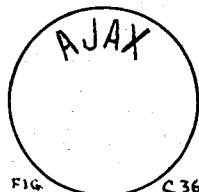
- (a) Assuming that the initials D.A.d.L. on the third letter described above are for DISPACCI ARRIVATI DAL LEVANTE (Despatches arrived from the Levant), what can be the meaning of the initials D.A.a.L. which appear on the other two letters?
- (b) Considering that the Steinbauer letter (mailed in 1855) and the Schoenmann letter (mailed in 1858) both have the initials D.A.a.L., whilst the third letter (mailed in 1857) has the D.A.d.L., we must assume that there were two different hand stamps!
- (c) Alternatively, could it be that there was only the one hand stamp, but that the upper stroke of the lower case "d" failed to print in two cases out of three, thus looking as a lower case "a"?
- (d) The letters originated from Larnaca, Constantinople,

and Salonica, thus excluding use of this handstamp at any of these three ports, and pointing to it's having been applied at a port of transit or arrival. This latter could be Trieste, but the Constantinople letter alone shows evidence of having gone through Trieste, where it received the transit mark in Fig. 99 in black, whilst Fig. C 30 appears on the same letter in red, thus making it unlikely that it was applied at this port.

- (e) If Trieste is to be eliminated, at what other port could this marking have been applied?
- (f) What is the meaning of the additional "A.3" on the Schoenmann letter? Why was it superimposed over the D.A.-a.L., rather than being printed alongside?

Suggestions from readers will be very greatly appreciated.

(4) s/s AJAX



Member G.T.Houston submitted an incomplete strike of a single circle cancellation on a loose 5kr. Austria 1890, containing the name AJAX at the top (Fig. C 36).

This looks definitely like the name of a ship, but no s/s AJAX is to be found in the list of Lloyd units given in Part I, (pp 18 to 20), and furthermore, the style of this cancellation is very different from the known date-stamps used by Lloyd ships during the 1890's. Does any reader know of an Austrian ship of this name in the period concerned? Or the name of the Company to which it belonged?

(5) CANCELLATIONS OF ROUMANIAN SHIPS ON STAMPS OF THE AUSTRIAN LEVANT

As explained in Part IV (p 280), the ships of the Roumanian Navigation Company "SERVICIUL MARITIM ROMAN" were operating a regular service between Constantza and Constantinople prior to 1914, their time-table ensuring an immediate connection with the trains of the Orient Express leaving Constantza for Vienna, Paris, and Ostend. The date-stamps

used on this joint ship - train service were listed and illustrated (Fig. 452 / 455) on pages 278 to 280 in Part IV.

In the 1900's, this Roumanian Company brought more ships into service, and extended it's line to cover an itinerary Constantza - Constantinople - Smyrna - Piraeus - Alexandria. Some of these new units (s/s "REGELE CAROL", s/s "Dacia" etc) were among the fastest in the eastern Mediterranean, and many traders brought their mail to the letter boxes of these ships for speedier transmission. As there were no Roumanian Post Offices in the Levant in those years, much



FIG.

C.39

of this mail was franked with the stamps of the Austrian Levant, which were cancelled on board with the date stamps of the Roumanian ships. Incomplete impressions of two such date stamps are illustrated in Fig. C 39 and Fig. C 40, notified by member G. T. Houston on a 10 para Levant of 1906, containing the names of the terminal ports CONSTANTA - ALEXANDRIA at

the top, but the position of these names indicates that there was another inscription at the bottom, missing from Mr. Houston's example.

Fig. C 40, notified by member G. H. Torrey, on a 1 pi. Levant of 1907, only shows ".ITINOPLE-CONST.." but the position of these in relation to the date suggests that the whole inscription must have been ALEXANDRIA - CONSTANTINOPLE - CONSTANTA. Both of these cancellations are violet in colour, and show 1906 dates, making it difficult to decide which type was the earlier. Should any reader possess examples, even though incomplete in form, of either of these markings, or of other similar types used on board these Roumanian ships, it will be much appreciated if he would kindly communicate with the authors in order that this fascinating side line may be adequately covered in the chapter dealing with Alexandria.



FIG.

C.40

Needless to say, these markings should also exist on the stamps of Roumania, Turkey, Greece, Egypt, or of other Foreign P.O.s. in the Levant: Examples of such stamps, although evidently unconnected with the Austrian Post, would nevertheless be just as useful in this very special case for the reconstruction of these particular cancellations in complete form, and, for this reason, should also be submitted to the authors.

THANKS IN ADVANCE TO ALL WHO CAN HELP TO FILL THESE GAPS.

— * —

NEW DISCOVERIES.

(No.1)

V:WIEN

size 22 x 4 3/4 m.m.

A previously unrecorded postmark of Vienna is found on an entire letter by Dr. F. W. Tritsch of Birmingham.

Dated 20th December 1788

The postmark on the letter is extremely clean and the serifs and points of the lettering are sharply defined, indicating a very early use of a new handstamp. It would seem very probable that this was a newly introduced handstamp — perhaps on this very date, 20. XII. 1788, which is very distinct in the letter, — only a few days before the start of the Christmas Festive period, and as the bulk of all mail at this time was of a business nature, there would be comparatively little mail posted between the 20th and the 30th of December. On the 1st January 1789 the new postal regulations came into effect, whereby the new rates were based on weight only, regardless of distance, and the discontinuance of the use of postmarks throughout Austria resulted. (vide: Edwin Muller's handbook on the "Pre-stamp Postmarks of Austria - 1960", page 22, par. 4.).

Has any reader seen another copy of this postmark?

— * —

THE PEOPLE ON AUSTRIAN STAMPS.

Addenda Nos. 10 & 11 by J.F.Giblin.

George, Saint and Martyr. (SG 692 / Netto 1121 - 1965)

St. George, whose feast is celebrated in the Roman martyr days on the 23rd April, was probably born about the year 270 A.D. in Palastine. Nothing whatsoever is definitely known about him except that he was martyred at Lydda, or Diopolis, in Palastine about the year 303 A.D. The earliest record of him, in a palimpsest of the 5th century, is so full of historical absurdities and incredible marvels as to be so completely useless as his biography, and these contradictions have been perpetuated in the version given in the *Acta Sanctorum Aprilis III* (1866.12. pp 101 - 165) under the title : "De S. Georgio Megalo - Martyre Lyddae seu Diospoli in Palastina." The most popular of the legends attached to the name of St. George is that of his fight with the dragon. This was given in detail in the 13th century text of the "Legenda Aurea" by Jacobus de Voragine (1230 - 98), which was translated into English and printed in 1483 by William Caxton under the title of "The Golden Legend". According to this legend, the city of Selena in Libya was being ravaged by a great dragon. For some time it was placated by being given two sheep a day to eat, but after a while, the supply of sheep failed, and a human victim was selected by lot. When the lot fell upon the daughter of the King, and she was lead to the dragon's lair, St. George happened to ride by. The Princess advised him to flee, but the Saint, making the sign of the Cross, attacked the dragon, transfixing it with his lance. Then, taking the maiden's girdle, he bound it around the dragon's neck, and the Princess was able to lead the monster back to the city. When they arrived at Selena, St. George cut off the dragon's head, and the citizens were converted to Christianity upon his exhortation. The King offered St. George half of his Kingdom together with the hand of his daughter in marriage, but the Saint refused both, and departed after urging the King to be strong in his new faith. St. George attained great renown in both the Eastern and the Western Churches.

In England his feast was made a lesser holiday of the Synod of Oxford in 1222; being raised by the Constitution of Archbishop Chichele in 1415 to a rank equal to that of Christmas. (Ref. 5. Vol. 7. p603; Ref. 6. Vol. 6. p188; Ref. 6a. Vol. 4. p505; Ref. 7. Vol. 10. p183; Ref. 8. Vol. 6. p453; Ref. 8a. Vol. 6. p441.)

* *

BERTHA von SUTTNER. (SG. / Netto 1226 - 1965)

Bertha Felicia Sophia, Grafin Kinsky, was born on the 9th June 1843 at Prague. She was the only daughter of Franz Joseph F.M.L. Graf Kinsky zu Wohinitz und Tettau (1769 - 1843) and of the latter's wife, Sophia Körner. Her father had died on the 4th January 1843 and thus the girl, together with her only brother, Arthur, were brought up by the widowed Countess Sophia in straitened circumstances. In 1876 she was, for a few months the housekeeper and secretary to Alfred Nobel (1833 - 1896), the munitions manufacturer, but later in that year she married Arthur Gundaker, Freiherr von Suttner (1850- 1902) whose family strongly disapproved of the marriage in view of both the discrepancy in their ages and the poverty of her family. However, the couple went to live at Tiflis in the Caucasus, and stayed there until 1885 when they were reconciled to the von Suttner family, returning to Lower Austria to live in the Castle of Harmansdorf.

Bertha von Suttner, whilst still at Tiflis, had corresponded with Alfred Nobel, urging upon him her pacifist views and leading him toward the foundation of the Nobel Peace Prizes. She also started to write novels to propagate her pacifism; first publishing: "The Inventory of a Soul" (1883) and "High Life" (1886). Her most influential novel; "Die Waffennieder" (1889) was published in an English translation by T. Holmes as "Lay down your arms" (1892) and had an astounding popularity. In 1891, Bertha von Suttner founded the "Austrian Society of the Lovers of Peace" and between 1892 and 1899 she edited an international pacifist journal entitled "Die Waffennieder!"... Her later novels included "Eva Siebeck" (1892); "Trente - et - Quarante" (1893); "The Emperor of Europe" (1897); "Chess of the Torture" (1898)

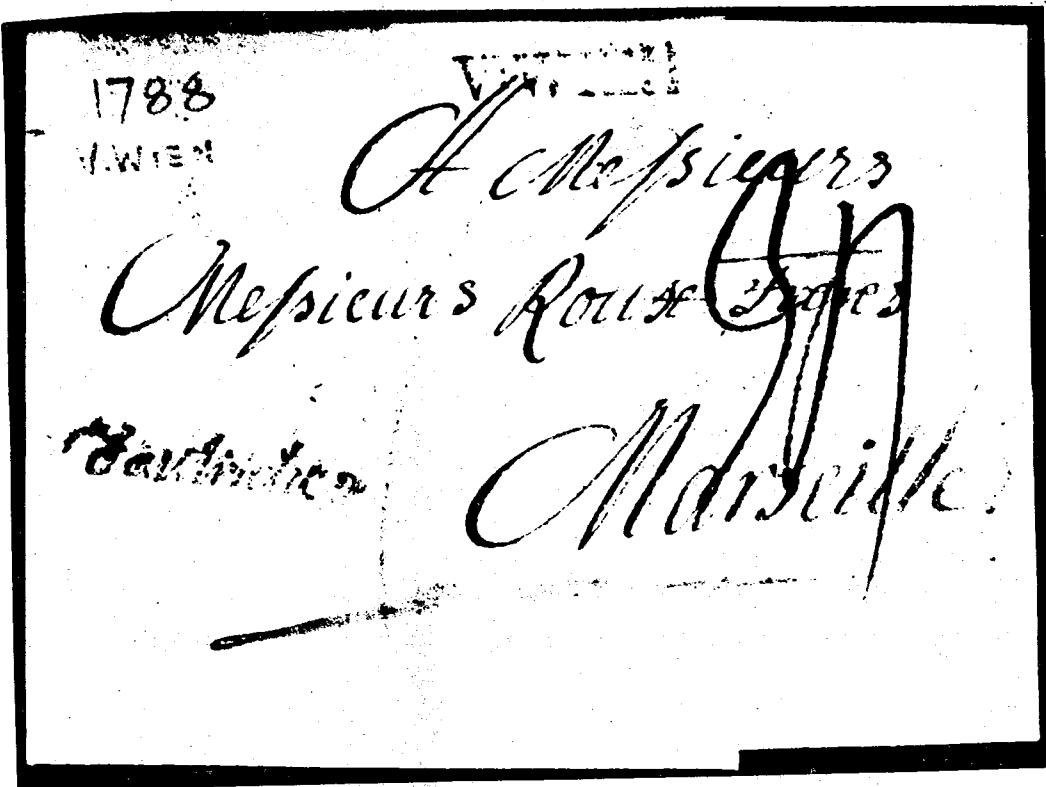
and "The Age of the Machines" (1899). In 1900 she wrote a pamphlet on "The Hague Peace Conference", and in 1905 was herself awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. A historical work: "Marginal annotations on contemporary history" appeared in 1906 whilst in 1909, she published her "Memoirs". Bertha von Suttner died in Vienna on the 21st June 1914, only a few months before the opening of the First World War she had tried so much to avert. A biography by H. Kraut: "Bertha von Suttner, und die Aufänge der Österreich. Friedenbewegung" was published in Vienna in 1950.

(Ref.1. Vol.11.p 304; Ref.5. Vol.16. p 579; Ref.6. Vol.18.p361. Ref.6a. Vol.11.p 355; Ref.7. Vol.21. p 625.)

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NEW DISCOVERIES.

The entire letter illustrated is described and discussed in the article on page 22.



The AUSTRIAN STAMP CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Syllabus of the MANCHESTER meetings for 1965 - 66.

1965. 18th September. Annual General Meeting.

• 23rd October. The PRESIDENT entertains.

• 20th November. Classical Austria, - on film.
by John F. Giblin.

• 18th December. W I P A - in full colour.
by Arthur Godden.

1966. 14th January. Cheaper by the pound!
by H.G. White.

• 19th February. All on cover. J.W. Syddall.

• 19th March. Austrian Levant.
by T.J. Showell-Anderson.

• 23rd April. To be arranged. . . .

• 21st May. To be arranged. . . .

• 25th June. B O U R S E.

*

The Manchester meetings are held at
The Houldsworth Hall. Deansgate, Manchester.
at 2.30 pm. on Saturday each month.

All members and visitors are welcome to attend the meetings
and can be assured of an interesting afternoons' entertainment

The ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIAN PHILATELISTS

Syllabus of the L O N D O N meetings for 1965 - 66.

1965. Wed. 8th September. All Members Display.

- " 13th October. A U C T I O N.
- " 10th November. Display by K. Weiss.
- " . 8th December. Vienna Postmarks.
Display by E.P.Fitzhenry.

* . " 15th December. Christmas Dinner & Social.

1966. Wed. 12th January. All Members Display
Austrian Levant.

- " 9th February. Display by the President,
Karl Kohler. Esq.
- " 9th March. Display by L. Gonville.
- * Tues. 15th March. Visit to O.P.A.L. with a
display by members.
- Wed. 13th April. A U C T I O N.
- " . 11th May. Display by F. F. Meyer.
- " . 8th June. Annual General Meeting.

*

The L O N D O N meetings are held at :

"The White Swan" 18, Farringdon St.
London. E.C.4. (just off Ludgate Circus)
at 7.15 pm. on the second Wednesday each month, except *.

All A S C members and visitors are invited to attend and
will be made most welcome at the London meetings.

The AUSTRIAN STAMP CLUB of GREAT BRITAIN* NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *

To be held in the Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate, Manchester,
on Saturday, the 18th September 1965, at 2.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the A.G.M. 1964.
2. Business arriving therefrom.
3. Correspondence.
4. Presidencial Address.
5. Secretary's report.
6. Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts.
7. Packet Superintendent's report.
8. Election of Officers & Committee for 1965 - 66.
9. Resolutions.
- 10 Progress re: Amalgamation with the A.A.P.
- 11 Any other Business.

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Nominations are required for all Officers and Committee.
MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND ARE REQUESTED TO EXERCISE THEIR
VOTING RIGHTS AND TO SEND IN THEIR NOMINATIONS AND VOTES
BY POST. ALL SUCH CORRESPONDENCE MUST REACH THE SECRETARY
AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE A. G. M..