

Oct 1965 Nr 63

The AUSTRIAN STAMP EXHIBITION



of Great Britain

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THE BULLETIN OF THE AUSTRIAN STAMP CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Whole No. 63 : October 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.

EDITORIAL.

I should like to thank, first of all, the various members who have written to me after receiving the last magazine, in so appreciative a fashion. It was particularly pleasing to hear from two U.S.A. members; Mr. E.C.Coleman, the Bosnian specialist, and Mr. F.S.Schanzer whose article will appear in the next issue. It is indeed most encouraging that our labours in this country are valued on the other side of the Atlantic. My thanks are also due to Mr. Paul Schoenmann, of Cardiff, who has provided the information on which the article "To Rib or not to Rib" is largely based. Mr. Schoenmann wrote: "I would only wish that the members take more interest by sending you more contributions" and I would like to echo this sentiment, since a magazine such as this stands or falls by the interest taken by the membership.

For those members who take a wider interest in Austrian history than the purely philatelic, I should like to mention a recent book of great interest which I can readily recommend to everyone. This is the work by Joan Haslip: "The Lonely Empress: A biography of Elisabeth of Austria." which was published in May 1965 by Weidenfeld and Nicolson at 55/- In the absence of a reliable biography in English of Franz Joseph I, this very readable biography of his wife provides a most useful history of the Austrian dynasty in the second half of the 19th century. If it be read in conjunction with the book by Edward Crankshaw: "The Fall of the House of Habsburg", published by Longmans in 1963 at 45/-, a very full historical background to that important period is obtained.

Finally, may I point out that this magazine is privately circulated to members, and should not be quoted from without permission. The views expressed in it are those of the author, and not necessarily those of either the Society or the Editor.

John F. Giblin.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Again I have the privilege to welcome you to another year, and the first thing I must do is to thank all of the members for according me the honour to serve another year in office as your President.

I must also thank the Secretary and members of the Committee for their loyal support, and the hard work which they have done for the Society during the past year, and which I am sure they will continue to do for many years to come. Special thanks should go to our Editor of this Magazine, through whom we are able to keep in touch with all of our members, especially those members who live in other countries. A quick glance through our membership list reveals just how wide spread is our membership:-- Austria, Australia, New Zealand, United States of America, Canada, France, Switzerland, South Africa, Sweden, Finland, and I think nearly every county in the United Kingdom must be represented; quite an imposing list when duly considered.

Whilst we regret the loss of the editorial services of the Rev. H. Bacon, I am sure that his successor, John F. Ciblin is more than capable of carrying on the good work, and here I would like to appeal to all members; - Give us news of your progress, - and discoveries. Let the magazine be something alive with a personal interest for each of us, the means whereby you can speak to other members of all the little interesting, - and maybe quite important things that come to your notice. Your personal efforts may well start or uncover something from which we may all profit.

And finally, may I wish you all every success in what ever you are trying to achieve, good hunting in the philatelic safari, and to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, as I don't think we have another magazine due out before then.

Happy Days,
Thomas H. Wilcox.

Annual General Meeting: September 18th. 1965.

Held at the Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate, Manchester.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Whilst there have been no startling developments during the past year, it has been a period of steady progress, - and a lot of 'cleaning up' and consolidation.

Good progress is seldom that which occurs overnight, and while some progress may appear to be revolutionary to those not involved in its execution, there is always a lot of hard, long, and tedious work carried out behind the scenes by those involved, which is never considered when the work begins to bear fruit, - only the quality of the fruit is examined, - or criticised.

The past year of the A.S.C. commenced under our new President, Mr. T. Wilcox, with the A.S.C. participation in the North-Western Federation Stamp Exhibition at Stockport, which created a record attendance of visitors to the Memorial Art Galleries where the Exhibition was held, - and the A.S.C. occupied one third of the exhibition.

Meetings: There have been ten regular meetings of the A.S.C. Manchester Group, and two Committee meetings, - officially, but unofficial meetings of committee members take place with far greater frequency. One particular meeting of note was not an A.S.C. meeting at all, but when member Mr. Schoenmann of Cardiff was scheduled to give a paper on Austria to the Wolverhampton Philatelic Society, some half a dozen or so A.S.C. members turned up to support the speaker, - a very nice gesture indeed.

Membership: During the past year we have two resignations, but on the other hand, have had twelve new members added to our ranks, - a nett gain of ten, which we would like to see doubled during the comming year.

Whilst the total count is not known, we do know that several of our members visited the 1965 WIPA, and quite a

number of members exhibited there, with a considerable measure of success; I suppose a diligent study of the catalogue would reveal all their names, which we would like to have published in this magazine.

A year ago we were hoping to achieve the amalgamation of the two Austrian Societies in this country during the year, whilst we have not seen the fulfilment of this effort, the progress has been slow, but steady, - which is probably better than jumping into something hastily, and regretting it later.

Finally, a general word of thanks to all those members, particularly those abroad, who have taken the trouble to write to me during the past year, - some grumbles, some queries, and some just chatter, - and whilst it does make a lot of work, I've written over 180 letters to members during the 12 months, it is one of the more pleasant aspects of the secretary's work, - we all like to receive a letter occasionally, and it does show that the members are interested in their Austrian Stamp Club.

J. W. Svddall.

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PACKET SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The present A.S.C. Exchange Packet is something which does belong to the A.S.C., and must not be confused with the other packet which no doubt some of our members receive, under the name of the Austrian Stamp Exchange Club, which is an approval packet organised as a private venture by an ex-member of the A.S.C.

The present Exchange Packet was only started during the past year, and up to date, only two packets have completed the circuit, but there are three more at present in circulation. More material from members would help to enlarge the packet, and increase the circulation value.

Send in your books now, they are always welcome, and needed.

T.J.L. Showell Anderson.

EXCHANGE PACKET ACCOUNTS

to 31st August 1965.

Sales from 2 packets completed. £ 24 - 1 - 11.

Sale of club packet booklets. 4 - 8.

£24 - 6 - 7.

Returns payed to contributors £21 - 12 - 0.

Packet Expenses(postage etc.) 10 - 3.

Commissions payed in to Treasurer 9 - 11.

£ 22 - 12 - 2.

22 - 12 - 2

Commission in hand £ 1 - 14 - 5.

General Accounts.Statement of income & expenditure up to 31st August 1965.

Balance br'ht f'wd as at 31.8.64. £21-14- 7.

Subscriptions £70- 3- 0.

Bank interest

(nett of Bank charges) 1- 0.

Commissions from Exchange Packet 9-11.

Hire of meeting rooms £ 7- 0- 0.

Printing & Stationary £ 4- 3- 6.

Subscription to Verband
(2years. 1964 & 1965) £10-11- 3.

Stockport Exhibition Expenses £ 1- 5- 6.

Magazine Production Expenses £ 4- 3- 0.

Magazine Postages £ 5-11- 0.

Treasurer's Expenses £ 1- 3- 0.

Secretary's Expenses £ 3-12-11.

Deficit on currency exchange 11.

£37-11- 1.

Balance in hand at 31. 8. 65. £54-17- 5.

£92- 8- 6. £92- 8- 6.

Cash at Bank. £51- 4- 1.

As presented to the A.G.M.

Cash in Hand. £ 3-13- 4.

by Treasurer: E. Hulme,Esq.

NEWS FROM AUSTRIA (2)

The first stamps to be issued in the second half of 1965 appeared on 15th July. They consisted of two stamps in honour of the 4th Gymnaestrada in Vienna and depicted, on the lower value, two male gymnasts exercising with staves, whilst on the higher value, are shown two female gymnasts exercising with tambourines. The Centenary of the death of Dr. Ignaz Philipp Semelweis (1818-1865), the doctor who discovered how to eliminate puerperal fever, was commemorated by a portrait stamp which was issued on the 10th August (f. Addendum No. 12, to P.O.A.S.). Another famous man, Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller (1793-1865), a talented portrait and landscape painter (f. - P.O.A.S.p.90), was also commemorated on the 18th August by the issue of a stamp. Waldmüller had previously appeared on a stamp in 1932 (S.G. c78/Netto 545).

The 20th International Conference of the Red Cross was held in Vienna in September 1965, and a special stamp showing the Red Cross symbol was issued in its honour. On the 17th September an 8 Schilling stamp depicting the town hall at Steyr in Upper Austria was issued as an addition to the Buildings Series. Netto also records that a stamp depicting a crowned eagle's head and the Austrian Tricolour, was to be also issued in September in honour of "50 Years of the Austrian League of Cities, 1915-1965". On 20th October, a special stamp is to appear in honour of the 10th Anniversary of the Admission of Austria to the United Nations. This will show the Austrian Flag against the U.N.O. building and arms. In November a pictorial stamp, showing the school, will be issued in honour of the 150th year of the Foundation of the Vienna Technical High School.

On the 29th November a portrait stamp will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bertha von Suttner (f. Addendum No. 11 to P.O.A.S.). On the same day will appear the last issue for 1965; the annual "Day of the Postage Stamp" value. This will depict an Austrian postman taking mail from a postage box.

John F. Giblin.

by S. D. Tchilinghirian.

A list of the most important recent discoveries of Austrian Lloyd ship markings was given in the 4th instalment of this Commentary (June, 1964 issue of this magazine) but, for considerations of space, the list was limited to ships whose names ranged from 'A' to 'K'. This Commentary will now cover those with names from 'L' to 'Z', but will also include some very unusual material recorded in the meantime from the remaining units.

(1) s/s BRUENN. Serial 209: The first example recorded from this ship was listed in Commentary No. 4 by courtesy of member F.J.Tritsch, and was on a stamp of Austrian Levant. A. Kohane now follows with a cover to Constantinople franked with a 5 st. 1911 and a pair of the 10 st. 1912 (SG.178) of Bulgaria, all cancelled with Type LF - 7 in black, dated 19. XI. 13. No need to stress the great rarity of the 10st. SG. 178 (commemorative of the Balkan War victories) with the markings of any Lloyd ship, and it is indeed amazing to find that it is first recorded with the cancellation of s/s BRUENN itself one of the most elusive Lloyd markings of the 20th. century.

(2) s/s BUCOVINA. Serial 192: Member H.G.Walker notified Type LG - 8 in black on a 7 k. Romanov issue of Russia, this being the first example on stamps of this country.

(3) s/s Carinthia. Serial 187: Member G.T.Houston adds yet another country to the long list of those whose stamps are known with markings of Lloyd ships; his item consists of a 25 reis of Lourenzo Marques (SG. 76, 1902 issue with the PROVISORIO overprint), cancelled with Type LD - 14 in blue, dated 23. 1. 03. A sensational find indeed, for which our member deserves warm congratulations.

(4) ~~s/s~~ GISELA. Serial 169: Only a couple of examples from this unit could be listed in Part II, showing their great rarity. The following can now be added: A 5kr. letter-card

of Austria, with Type LB-46, dated 24. 3. 95. (coll. A. Kohane); and a 50348c. (SG.46) of Hong Kong, with the same cancellation dated 4. 1. 94. (coll. G.T. Houston) Colour of both cancellations is blue.

(5) s/s GORICIA. Serial 199: Mr. R. Bernardelli, of Verona, in Italy, notified at one go two types of hitherto unrecorded oval markings used by this ship (both on stamps of Austria) Type LCa- 32, - see Fig. C.43, current in the 1900s, and also Type LCD - 32, see Fig.C. 46, used in the 1910's.



FIG. C.43



FIG. C.46

Note that the name is spelt on both of these types with the letter 'T', instead of the letter 'C'.

(6) s/s HABSBURG. Serial 177: It would appear that this liner of the Treiste - Alexandria Express was sent on one or more occasions to some Turkish and Russian ports, presumably on 'replacement' duties: Mr. M. Sacher has notified a postcard to Trieste franked with a 20 para, 1892 of Turkey cancelled with Type LB - 42 dated 20. 12. 98, whilst Dr. A. Kohane secured a 3k. 1909 of Russia with Type LD-34 in black.

Both are the first examples from the countries concerned, and should be very rare, owing to the exceptional nature of these 'replacement' trips.

(7) s/s HUNGARIA. Serial 110: Readers will be aware of the great rarity of Lloyd ship markings on denominations higher than the blue stamps used to frank ordinary letters.

Member F. J. Tritsch has notified Type LD-36 of this ship on a 5 piastres, 1900, of the Austrian Levant.

(8) s/s LEDA. Serial 148: Member A. J. Babiak owns a 10h. of Austria 1904, with the Type LD-44 of this ship in an hitherto unrecorded carmine colour.

(9) s/s MARIA TERESA. Serial 156: Another type of the oval



marking for this unit has now been communicated by Mr. R. Bernardelli on stamps of the Austrian Levant, Fig. 47. As will be seen, this is in the later style 'LCd', introduced in the 1910's. It should be classified as Type LCd-45, while the earlier oval listed in Part II, (Fig. 130, page 92) now becomes Type LCa-45.

The first stamp of Turkey to be recorded for this ship has been notified by member F. J. Tritsch: It is a 20 para 1902 (Exterior) with Type LD-65 in black.

(10) s/s MARQUIS BACQUEHEM. Serial 171: The markings of this Far-Eastern liner could be expected to turn up on the stamps of the Straits Settlements: A beautiful strike of Type LB-33 in blue Q.V. 8 cent orange (1882 issue, SG.59) was offered at auction last year, and is now in the collection of member L. G. Uridge, dated 8. 9. 94., it is the first example to be recorded on the stamps of this Colony.

(11) s/s MELPOMENE. Serial 159: The oval markings of this unit, in Type LCa-49, has been communicated by Dr. Ugo Del Bianco, of Udine, Italy, on a parcel receipt in carmine, - Fig. C.44, and should be added to the list on page 97 of Part II.

Another addition to the check list on page 139 is the 1h. Austria 1906 with Type LD-49 in a hitherto unrecorded violet colour, - submitted by member E. Fitz Henry.

(12) s/s MEMFI. Serial 125: The very scarce Type LB-41 of this ship has been communicated by Dr. Kohane on a 15 st. of Bulgaria 1889, the first example on the stamps of this country.

(13) s/s NIPPON. Serial 194: Messrs. A.J.Babiak and J. M.



Weinstein share the score on this occasion, as each notified a 3h. of Austria 1906 with Type LD-52, (see Fig. C.48 reproducing the worn state of this date stamp by 1906). It is only fair to add, however, that Mr. Babiak's copy is on cover, flanked by a pair of the 1h. and a single of the 6h. same issue, completing the franking to 10 heller.

All of these cancellations are of an oily brown colour, believed to be a chemical alteration of the original cheap black inks used during this period.



(14) s/s PANDORA. Serial 152: Member G. H. Torrey sprang a major surprise by securing a 20 kr. Austria 1883 issue with the oval marking of this ship in what appears to be an earlier version of the standard Type 'LCa' than that mentioned on page 95 in Part II. As will be seen from the incomplete strike reproduced in Fig. C.41, the inscription at the top



includes the word UNGARICO. It would thus appear that the oval markings in standard Type 'LCa' introduced as from 1891 had been preceded by another set with the inscription LLOYD AUSTRO-UNGARICO at the top, in the years when this

was the official title of the Company.

What is most extraordinary is that not a single copy with this early wording should have been detected in the past by students like Eberan, Mueller, and others. The importance of this fresh find cannot be too much emphasized, as ovals in this type must have been issued to all of the 70 ships operating in 1888, and perhaps even to units withdrawn before that year. Readers can thus have a glimpse of the immense fresh field now opening up for investigation as a result of Mr. Torrey's remarkable discovery.

Incidentally, the s/s PANDORA is one of the comparatively few ships from which no material could be listed in Part II, and it looks really the limit that the first example to be recorded should consist of this unexpected oval in a com-

pletely unknown type, rather than of the normal single circle in standard Types 'LA' or 'LB', both of which are still missing.

Fresh problems now arising regarding the classification of this new type, and also of the other very early oval of the s/s SULTAN illustrated in Fig. C. 5. in the April 1963 issue of this magazine (Commentary No.2). For the time being, the SULTAN type of the 1880's will be designated the standard Type 'LW'. With the speed at which fresh discoveries are now being made, it looks safer to set aside Type 'LY' for any intermediate hitherto unknown unidentified version which may possibly have been current during the 1870's.

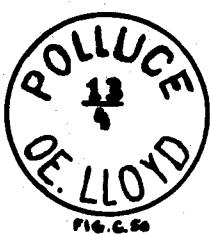
(15) s/s PERSIA (II). Serial 200: As readers of Part II will know, the story of this ship is very similar to that of the s/s NIPPON above. Both ships served on the slow line to Kobe, and the Check-Lists of both show a blank in Part II, no examples being then known. What is even more surprising is that this similarity in fate should persist even with recent discoveries, the first examples for this unit were communicated together with those of the NIPPON, and by the same correspondents, Messrs Babiak

and Weinstein. Even the denominations are mostly the same, the 1h. Austria of 1904 (coll. A.J.Babiak) and the 3h. Austria of 1906 (coll. J.M.Weinstein), both with Type LD-54 in black. Mr. Babiak adding a 5h. of 1908 with the same date stamp in carmine. Type LD-54 is now illustrated in its accurate form in Fig.C.49, which replaces the approximate Fig.186 in Part II.

(16) s/s POLLUCE. Serial 131. Fig.C42 reproduces the lower half of the oval marking of this unit, as identified by member A. Kohane from a 1 pi. 1888 of Austrian Levant. Colour: Pale bluish-grey. In other circumstances, this hitherto unrecorded cancellation would have been automatically classified as Type LCa-55, but Mr. Torrey's discovery of the fresh standard Type 'LW' of the s/s PANDORA



makes it now necessary to carefully assess the merits of Dr. Kohane's item before deciding to which type it actually belongs. As no part of the upper inscription is showing, the only elements available for study are the stamp on which it appears, the size of the cancellation, and the style and the shape of the characters in the inscriptions. The 1 pi. stamp of 1888 was current in the years when the Company was known as LLOYD AUSTRO-UNGARICO; the word 'PIROSCAFO' in the centre is in wider characters than those recorded for the other ovals in standard Type 'LCa' issued as from 1891, and the length of the rectangle containing this word is distinctly larger than on these later cancellers (compare Fig. C.42 with Fig. C. 43 to C.45). All available elements coincide therefore to establish that this POLLUCE oval is in the same new standard Type 'LW' as Mr. Torrey's PANDORA, and this writer has no hesitation in classifying it as Type LW- 55. In other words, two A.S.C. members have discovered almost simultaneously examples of a type of cancellation which had remained unknown for nearly 80 years to the greatest authorities in Austrian philately. Hats off to them, and let us hope that these extraordinary achievements will spur other members to similar efforts, and equal success.



The later Type LD-55 of POLLUCE is of course much commoner than the oval listed above, but Mr. Weinstein has now notified a variant with the year date missing which is shown in Fig. C. 50. This is a very unusual occurrence with cancellers in this particular standard Type 'LD', although fairly frequent in the earlier types.

(17) s/s POSEIDON. Serial 164: The cancellations of this ship rank among the rarest of the Lloyd, and a single item (on stationary postcard) could be listed in Part II. Member E. Fitzhenry submitted the first stamp of Austrian Levant to be recorded, a 1 pi. of 1890 with Type LB-52 in blue, dated 30. 8. 93.

(18) s/s SATURNO. Serial 105: The markings of this unit are of course much commoner than those of the POSEIDON, but had

not yet been seen on stamps of Bulgaria. Member A. Kohane has now filled this gap, with a 15st. of 1882 (SG.28) bearing Type LA-55 in black.

(19) s/s STYRIA. Serial 190; The oval in Type LCa - 62 of this unit is now listed and reproduced in Fig. C. 45, by courtesy of Mr. Bernardelli.



FIG. C. 45

(20) s/s URANO (II). Serial 153: Recent aquisitions by member A. Koh-

ane comprise a 5st. of Bulgaria with Type LB-11 in blue, a 10 lepta stationary postcard of Crete with Type LD-69 in carmine, and a 25 centimes 1908 of Austrian Crete with Type LG-33 in carmine. In all three cases, these are the first items notified to this writer on the stamps of the countries concerned. As the markings of this ship were already known on stamps of seven other countries (see Check List in Part II page 117) the total of countries now stands at ten, which may well be a record for any Lloyd ship.

(21) s/s VENUS. Serial 114: Mr. A. Lascarides submitted the first stamp of Greece to be recorded for this unit; a 10 lepta 1901, with Type LD-70 in black.

(22) s/s VORWAERTS (II). Serial 140: The rare Type LD-73 of this ship has been notified by Mr. H. G. Walker on a 1pi. Austrian Levant 1901 issue with bars, in black.

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* POSTPONEMENT * - In this issue it was intended to commence with the first instalment of a series on the "1945 Overprinted Issues of Austria." The material is all ready for publication, - no problems - but due to the volume of material already made up for this issue, something had to be left out this time, and as this article runs to 12 pages, it has been decided to leave it over until the next issue, due 1st January 1966, when the magazine takes on an entirely new look.

J. W. Syddall.

THE PEOPLE ON AUSTRIAN STAMPS.

Edenda Nos. 12 & 13. by J.F.Giblin.

Semmelweis. Ignaz Philipp. (SG. - 1965)

Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis was born on 1st July 1818 at Ofen in Hungary. He was the son of Josef Semmelweis, a grocer, and of the latter's wife; Theresia Müller. The boy was educated at elementary school and at the grammar school at Ofen and then went, 1836, to the University of Vienna to study law. However, after being taken to an anatomical lecture by a fellow student, he started to study medicine in 1837 and spent a year at the Vienna Academy of Medicine. Next he returned to Hungary to spend two years at the University of Pesth but returned to Vienna in 1840 where he graduated in medicine in 1844 with a thesis: "De vita plantarum." Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis had become interested in puerperal fever which caused a fatality rate of 25% among women in the Vienna maternity hospitals and he now obtained a position as an assistant doctor in the obstetric clinic of the Vienna General Hospital under Joseph Klein. The main point that he observed was that the mortality rate was only a third as high in the maternity wards served by midwives as in those served by medical students. From this observation he reasoned that the students were carrying infection from the dissecting rooms and he instituted antiseptic measures which reduced the mortality rate from puerperal fever to less than 1%. However, this success did not convince Josef Klein who, blinded by jealousy and ignorance, blocked his promotion to the rank of assistant professor and forced him to leave Vienna in 1850. Dr. Semmelweis then went as obstetric physician to the St. Roch Hospital in Pesth where his antiseptic measures were equally as effective. He also went into private practice and, in June 1857, married Maria Weidenhofer; the daughter of a rich silk merchant. The marriage was blessed with two sons, Ignaz and Bela, and with three daughters; Mariska, Margit and Antonia. He was made a full professor of obstet-

ics of the University of Pesth and director of the obstetric clinic but the slowness in the general acceptance of his antiseptic ideas preyed on his mind and he died on 13th August 1865 in the mental hospital at Döbling bei Wien. A biography by A. Hegar: "I.P. Semmelweis: Sein Leben und seine Lehre" was published in Freiburg in 1882.

(Ref.1.Vol 34. p88; Ref.8.Vol 6. p453; Ref.3.Vol 33. p704; Ref.6.Vol 4. p505; Ref.6.Vol 17. p283; Ref.7.Vol 20. p318.)

Röhm, Ernst. (SG. c189 - 1947)

Ernst Röhm was born on 5th November 1862 at Gotha, which was then the capital of the German Duchy of Saxe - Coburg - Gotha. He attended the elementary school in Gotha but nothing further is known of his life until, on 2nd January 1906, he became an official at the State Printing Works in Vienna. Here he rose through the rank of assistant printer to that of "Kunstkuferdrucker" or "Copper Art Printer". It is known that, in 1913, he received a special remuneration for the production of the works of the Archduke Karl when these were produced in a most lavish edition by the State Printing Works.

It is possibly because of his reputation with this book that Professor Ferdinand Schmutzler (1870 - 1928) chose Ernst Röhm as the model for his etching: "Werkstatt des Kupfordruckers" which was made in Vienna in 1914. This "Workshop of the Copper Printer" shows Ernst Röhm applying an etchant, probably ferric chloride in hydrochloric acid, to the engraved copper printing sheets in order to deepen the lines of the design and thus to control the depth and quality of the final print. An incline of illuminating screen is suspended above the etching tanks, to ensure that the printer can see at once even the smallest change in the sheet, whilst racks of bottles holding the etchants are visible in the background. Further tools and implements may be discerned in the foreground on a small table. Ernst Röhm, himself, is wearing a long heavy apron, either of leather or of rubber, to protect his clothes from the corrosive effects of the acidic solution. The processed sheet

engraved in recess or in intaglio, was then inked and wiped by hand so that all the ink lay in the recesses and the plate itself was clean. The plate was then covered with paper and weak card, and above this was placed a double "Kupferdruck" cloth of felt about 2 m.m. thick. The whole was then placed between the two steel cylinders of the "Kupferdruck" press and rolled through under a fairly strong pressure to transfer the design from the plate to the plate.

Nothing further is known of the life of Ernst Röhm 'til his death in Vienna on the 26th April 1923. This biography is based upon information obtained by Dr. L. Haibock from the official records of the State Printing Works, and supplied through the intermediary of Professor H. Woyty-Wimmer.

* POSTAL STATIONARY *

This vast almost virgin field of philately is neglected by most collectors. One of the main reasons is probably due to the lack of information available on this subject. The only catalogue of any note is the old "Ascher" Catalogue of Postal Stationary of the World, which of course only deals with the earlier material, and even then, is not entirely complete from a specialist standpoint.

We would like to endeavour to rectify this position, - at least, so far as Austria is concerned.

Mr. Paul Schoenmann has put forward a suggestion that with the help and co-operation of all members, the task of compiling a new 'Postal Stationary Catalogue of Austria and Former Austrian Territories' should not present insurmountable difficulties, - but as a basis to work on, we firstly require the loan of a copy of the Ascher catalogue for a few days. Does any member possess a copy, or know of where a copy may be available on loan. If anyone can help in this way to start with, will you please contact the secretary.

J. W. Syddall.

The article by F.S.Schanzer referred to in the Editorial for the next issue is now here incl.:-

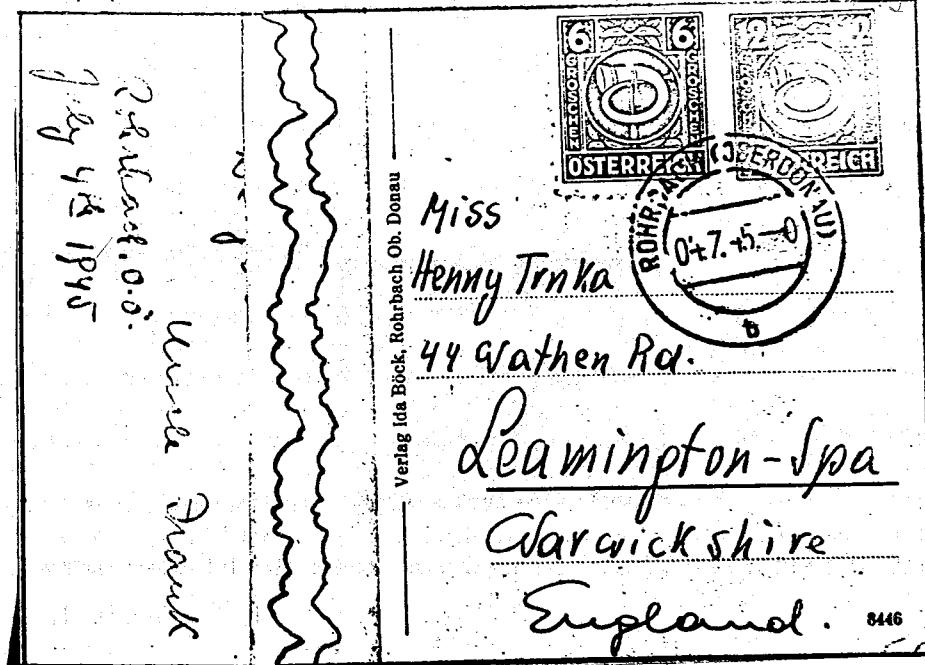
An interesting document from the first weeks of the Second Republic came recently into my hands again. It is a postcard that I wrote to a niece in England when I was with the United States Army on occupation duty in Austria. After 20 years it was returned to me. It has several interesting features that make it more interesting than just a personal war souvenir.

The picture postcard is from ROHRBACH, Upper Austria, and has two stamps (Netto Cat. 701 & 704) on it, of the so called Posthorn issue. This issue was printed in Washington D.C. long before Austria's liberation and had been kept ready for later use. The issue finally went on sale on July 4, 1945 in the U.S.A. Zone of Occupation, which was also the day, when civil mail service started again officially in the U.S. zone.

The postcard in question was mailed in Rohrbach on July 4, which makes it a first day cover for this issue, which in itself is not seen too often, but an even more interesting feature is that it was mailed and cancelled in that part of Upper Austria, the part north of the Danube known as "Mühlviertel", which shortly afterwards had to be cleared by the U.S. Military Occupation troops, according to an agreement among the Allies and taken over by the Soviet Occupation Forces. Naturally the Posthorn issue was no longer valid in this part of Upper Austria from when the Russians moved in. Therefore the Posthorn issue was valid in the "Mühlviertel" for only about three weeks before being replaced by the Coat of Arms issue of the Russian Occupation Zone.

Incidentally, the Rohrbach cancellation on this postcard still shows the Nazi German name "Oberdonau" for Upper Austria, which soon afterwards was replaced in the postmark with the old Austrian name Ober Österreich.

— A simple postcard can sometimes be read like a history book. — Frank S. Schanzer, U.S.A.



*** NEW DISCOVERIES ***

- (2) A funny thing happened while I was shaving this morning". President T.H.Wilcox has submitted an unusual flaw on the 10 soldi value of the 1867 issue.

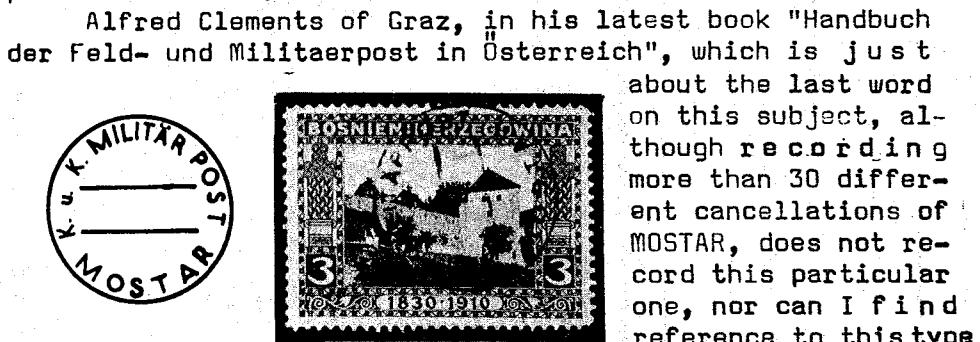


A colour flaw, most likely caused by the adherence of some foreign material to the printing plate, has cut off the Emperor's chin.

We would like to be able to record any identical or even similar items which you may have seen, in order to establish whether this flaw achieved any measure of consistency.

* *

- (3). Submitted by member E. C. Coleman, U.S.A., a hitherto unrecorded postmark of the Austro-Hungarian Military Occupation of Bosnia.



of cancellation elsewhere in his book, from which we must conclude that this is a type unknown to Clements, - and consequently of considerable rarity. The absence of any date indi-

ication in the postmark suggests that it was of an emergency nature, and served only for a very short period of time. Can any reader supply further information, or know of any other copies of this postmark?

J. W. Syddall.

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

The following article has been compiled by the Secretary from correspondence between himself and Mr. Paul Schoenmann. It incorporates a letter from the latter which points out that statements made by an anonymous 'Research Committee' are:

- "utter nonsense".

We know that three firms in this country have also received the same products, and we feel that it is, therefore, advisable to draw the attention of members to this matter.

We must stress that any attack upon the late Ing. Edwin Müller and the Mercury Stamp Company is highly reprehensible, and we wish to dissociate ourselves from it in the strongest possible terms.

The Editor.

TO RIB OR NOT TO RIB - or Who's "RIBBING" Who?

Some time ago, we had a query concerning "RIBBED PAPERS" from Mr. Paul Schoenmann (see issue Sept. 1963, page 13) which resulted in some correspondence between the writer and the secretary on this subject, with particular reference to the 'ribbed paper' on the 1850 issue. The main point at issue in the correspondence was forgery, and the possibility - or probability, of producing these ribbed papers by mechanical means, and, just to prove a point, the secretary - that's me - managed to produce some very good (even though I say it myself) specimens of ribbing on a number of different stamps, from the 1850 issue of Austria to some current GB. I'm not going to disclose how it was done, but believe me, it was very simple and only took a few minutes to effect, and I believe that I could have produced much better specimens if I had taken a little more time and trouble.

In this issue we bring you the sequel to this query and the subsequent correspondence, in the form of a letter received from Mr. Schoenmann, together with some correspondence he has received from a certain Adolph Ernst apparently residing in the U.S.A..

We publish here the relevant extracts from Mr Schoenmann's letter (with Mr. Schoenmann's full permission) and the whole of the correspondence from Adolph Ernst, - it makes some very interesting reading.

** "An auctioneer with whom I have been on very good terms for many years recently received two 3 kr. Austrian stamps of the 1850 issue, on laid paper, - one of the most expensive of Austrian stamps - if genuine! (Netto S.45,000.00). Each stamp carried a certificate signed by a man professing to be an 'Expert on Austrian stamps' residing at Stuttgart, but completely unknown to me, and his name does not appear in the official listing of 'Experts'. I was asked for an opinion, and said quite frankly that I have no such stamp in my collection, nor have I seen one before, - however, I have similar stamps in my collection but would not call them

'on laid paper'. Being rather cautious, I offered to send them to my friend Seitz in Vienna, - they came back fairly quickly, Seitz confirming what I had guessed, they were the so called 'quadrillé paper', not rare at all, the value of such a stamp is about 10/-, and I have better specimens than those accompanied by the Certificates.

With the stamps came the enclosed literature. On reading the article and the printed 'Comment'sheets, one might be lead to believe that these people are genuine, and are hunting the criminals. Funnily enough, the enclosed price list arrived from the same source, wherein Lot No. 7 just happens to be the particular stamp in question(The list referred to appears to be an auction list of the material that the Adolph Ernst is offering for sale, and Lot No 7 reads,- "Austria, 9Kr. S.G.No 5ba, on LAID HAND MADE PAPER with photo certificate, very fine copy, Scott Cat, \$1650.00 - and the reserve price is \$225.00)

The article by Ernst is utter nonsense, and having been in the paper trade for more than 40 years, I can confirm that the writer has no idea of how the hand made paper was produced. Point 2a is utter nonsense,- there were no rulers or rollers used. A vat, a sieve, and some linen sheets, a press similar to the old fashioned copying press, and that was the entire equipment used to make paper by hand.*****

HERE NOW! FOLLOWS THE LITERATURE FROM ADOLPH ERNST,
(Exactly as written, without alterations or corrections)

30 years ago I purchased in Europe a lot of 12,000 Austria 1850., 9 kr., mostly on paper and smaller quantities of the 3 and 6 kr.---

Only 3 years ago I decided to work our this virginal material by cancellations and look out for copies on the ribbed and laid paper. I had to soak off for this purpose most of the stamps and I found about a dozen copies which paper was ribbed or laid. I am myself an old expert and functioned as such in Jugoslavia before the War and a special expert on ribbed stamps since I lived around the Century's turn, as a stamp wholesaler in SARAJEVO, Bosnia,

where quantities of ribbed stamps of the 1900 issue went through my hands.

Since I came to America I do not function any more as an official expert, therefore I sent a few copies of stamps on ribbed and laid paper to the late Ing. Edwin Mueller of Mercury Stamp Co in New York, ordering Photo certificates for all my stamps. Mueller, however, sent them all back simply stating that they are not ribbed and not laid. - I answered how he can make such an unreasonable statement when everybody can see with the naked eye that they ARE ribbed and laid. -- He answered that it is not his duty to explain his "opinions". -- I ordered then from him for cash a number of the cheaper values of Austria and Lombardy Venetia at full retail prices, since I wanted to find out what HE is considering as ribbed and laid. But he answered that he is not selling stamps, only expertizing and the Mercury Stamp Co is making only auctions.....

This was naturally a lie since many people were constantly buying stamps from them. I sent a friend of mine in New York to their office who purchased stamps for me on two occasions and he wrote he is also constantly buying stamps from them for his own collection.

I contacted a Lawyer-collector submitted to him the whole correspondence and also Muellers catalog, where he is stating that the stamps had been purposely ribbed by "the Postal Authorities". - Since a thing like that had never happened before in no other country and since his explanations regarding the laid stamps also sounded very phony, he formed a special philatelic research committee to find out the truth.

The Committee sent out hundreds of letters and questionaries to all large dealers of the world and to all experts on classival stamps. They soon had the notion that an important counterfeiter gang is at work and they purchased a number of ribbed stamps from dealer - experts of the suspected counterfeiters-circle. Most of these stamps proved to be counterfeited with a mechanical ribbing and those few which were good had the natural ribbing, exactly the same as mine stamps, but they were only the cheaper values, namely the Austrian 3 kr. and Lombardy 15, 30, and 45 s. on ribbed paper.

The Committee's next step was to produce a "ribbing machine", a cheap \$25 gadget, but made exactly secondly the teachings and prescriptions of the late Mr. Mueller. The Committee then took a number of the 6 and 9 kr. stamps on hand made paper, type 1, worked them over for two minutes and transformed them into beautifully ribbed "rare" stamps. This of course had been done under the tightest control of the participants and the machine afterwards put into a safe-deposit.... These newborn rarities had then been sent to about a dozen noted experts all over the world (including U.S.A. and G.B.), and they all declared them as originals and issued photo-certificates of genuineness. Only three experts, who were from the beginning suspected as belonging to the counterfeiter ring, held the stamps back for months and after threatening with law suits or similar, they sent the stamps back stating that they were forgeries. It is assumed that they wanted first to find out whether those stamps came from their own factories or from some outsider.

In this way with a simple \$25 gadget almost valueless stamps can be transformed within minutes into stamps costing thousands of dollars. Is this alone not already the sentence of death for all mechanically ribbed stamps ?...

While most of the experts contacted by the Committee (with exception of those in the counterfeiter-circle) stated that they know only of single copies of ribbed and laid stamps and only few saw or heard of pairs and very few knew that also unused copies exist of them, there is one expert dealer, who issued a special catalog, but who seemingly lives in the clouds. It was the late Edwin Mueller, who was offering in his catalog 164 different combinations of stamps on ribbed paper with a total net value of about \$50,000.00, and in 14 combinations of stamps on laid paper with a net value of \$ 35,000.00. -- In this phantastic catalog there are offered blocks of up to 12 stamps, stripes up to 8, all kinds of letters, stamps with and without St. Andrews Crosses, mint and used. Mueller states that all these rarity combinations are known up to 10 of each. -- By whom are they known ??? Who supplied them to whom?

The experts and dealers who were questioned knew at the time only of 9 different possibilities of ribbed and 3 of laid stamps. - Only dealer-experts from the suspected counterfeiter-ring knew of more. It has to be therefore assumed that Muellers phantastic catalog was issued exclusively for the very wealthy collectors of the whole world, who do not care to have re-examined rare stamps which they purchased from reputable dealer.

How did they get the idea for such phantasy products? Stamps on ribbed and laid paper known maybe already 100 years. The earliest reference to them appears in J. B. MOENS, CATALOG PRIX-courant de Timbre-Poste, published in 1891, secondly an information by the Smithsonian Institute.... Such stamps are very rare. I found between 1,000 stamps on average, only ONE COPY. Even this is comparatively much and can be explained only so, that no expert before has laid an eye on them. In Europe there are no such stamps of the 1850 issue which have not been checked a dozen times.

On the other hand there are great numbers of Austrian special collectors in the world generally and on the territory of the former Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy in particular.. All the wealthier collectors wanted stamps on ribbed or laid paper. Since all stocks of them were sold out, certain counterfeiters simply figured out why not produce them? They thought that nobody could find it out because there were not any more stamps to find for comparison. So started this lucrative business. Nobody hesitated to buy stamps from them, since they mostly were at the same time the sellers and the experts.- But now the truth came out nevertheless, However the counterfeiters and the Muellers pupils and satellites will naturally try to deny everything to the last breath...

All independent experts, auctioneers and dealers are invited to help discover the third group of delinquents. (Secretary's note- It isn't me, I destroyed all that I made and havn't done any more since). The first two are known: The sellers of such stamps, and the phony experts.

The committee is now trying to find out who are the manufacturers of the forgeries.

You can help by asking those "expert-dealers" to sell

you such ribbed/laid stamps, which they consider as originals or to indicate where you could find such stamps. Mostly, they used to answer, that they do not have any in stock and do not know where you can find them. (They might be suspicious that your order is only a trap).

But if someone of them should send you such stamps, I suggest to hand them over to the paper expert of the Scotland Yard with the question whether their characteristics (laid or ribbed) are 116 years old or 116 days.

The research Committee made already some comments about the case, of which I am sending you a copy herewith.

signed. Adolph Ernst.

AND HERE FOLLOW THE " COMMENTS ABOUT THE CASE BY THE
RESEARCH COMMITTEE "

(A photostat reproduction)

COMMENTS

1. Stamps of Austria 1850 and Lombardy 1850, were never deliberately or mechanically ribbed.

(a) There is no documentary evidence of mechanical ribbing as indicated by response of Austria Postal Museum.

(b) The only authoritative source for the proposition that such stamps were mechanically ribbed, is the writings of Edwin Mueller. Mueller however, cites no authority for his statement, nor was he living at the time such stamps were made.

(c) The Mueller rationale has no validity, since ribbing exists more frequently on red stamps than on sensitive blue stamps. Accordingly, the reason ~~to~~ "to prevent the removal of cancellations" is not supported by logic.

2. Ribbed stamps exist only by virtue of impressions in the paper created as a result of the paper-making process.

(a) Hand-made paper (ribbed stamps only exist on hand-made paper) was made by rolling pulp over linen cloth. The nature of the process was such that the paper was either thick or thin, based on the technique of the person rolling it, and would have been impressed by the threads of the linen backing.

(b) If the preponderance of threads were heavier in one direction, the impression created was one of ribbing in that direction. This could have resulted in either horizontal or vertical ribs. Since the art of linen making was not perfect as it is today, and since linen is a natural fiber whose thickness is not controlled by machinery, it is even possible that the impression created could have been both partially horizontal and partially vertical, or both, in which latter event, the impression would have been clearly quadrilled, or mesh-like.

3. It should also be pointed out that if the pulp was rolled in such a way as to create a very thin area over the threads, the impression created would appear like a water-marked line and depending on its direction, would make the paper appear horizontally laid, vertically laid, both, or partially both. I would further point out that since any given sheet of paper would vary greatly in thickness, it is possible that a stamp could be both laid and ribbed, or partially both.

4. As a result of the foregoing conclusions, it is irrevocable then that handmade paper must be classified as essentially quadrilled, or ~~XXX~~ with mesh.

5. Since all values of the first issue were printed on handmade paper and since, in the manufacture of handmade paper, ribbing, or laid marks will show wherever the linen ~~impression~~ - 

impresses the paper, Ribbed and laid stamps will appear in all values.

6. Ribbed and laid stamps will be found in all values and in all types of values where handmade paper is used. *X X X*

7. There exists a small market in ribbed stamps today, but almost invariably these stamps are mechanically ribbed. Hence, counterfeit.

(a) The preceding conclusions indicate that mechanical ribbing never took place.

8. Enquiries to all major stamp houses in the world, indicate that the number of available ribbed stamps is minute.

(a) It should be pointed out, however, that the catalogue of Mercury Stamp Company of 1952, indicates a gigantic stock of such items in various forms, such as pairs, blocks, strips etc.

(b) Enquiries to Mercury Stamp Company today indicates that they do not fill orders, but conduct auctions only. The auctions of Mercury Stamp Company indicate no ribbed stamps.

(c) The possibility suggests itself that since there are so many mechanically ribbed stamps around, their source may have been Mercury Stamp Company.

(d) Enquiries of members of the A.I.E.P. indicate that only 2 or 3 blocks of ribbed stamps were ever seen. Many indicate that they have never seen any. What was the source of Mercury's blocks?

(e) It should also be pointed out that the writings of Edwin Mueller, for publication in Austria (not the U.S.) indicates that ribbing will disappear if ribbed stamps are placed in hot water. This true of any mechanically ribbed stamps, and

begs the question, how Mueller soaked used values off of covers. Since the gum was so thick, hot water was necessary. How was it then that Mueller had used ribbed stamps off cover? The ribbing impressed by the linen does not soak off or disappear under any condition.

9. Stamps cannot be expertized by ~~xxxxxx~~ dealers.

(a) While no accusations can be leveled at any specific expert, the motivation to expertize a non-genuine item as genuine, is present if the expert is also a seller. It could be further stated that while the expert will not profer himself, nevertheless, in perhaps a questionable case, or a questionable item, he may be influenced to expertize it as ~~xxxx~~ genuine if he is the seller.

(b) The A.E.I.P. should set one of its rules or standards that an expert cannot be in the stamp business, or have any financial interest in the stamp business.

Well! Now what do you make out of that little lot ? or as I said at the start, - " Who is ribbing who ".

But to conclude on a more serious note. - We know that at least three prominent firms in the stamp business in this country received this literature, - and the stamps, so it would appear that these "extremely rare items" are not quite as rare as may be indicated by the catalogue prices, or, alternatively, these so-called rarities emanating from this particular source are not altogether what they are alleged to be.

We are not offering any prizes for the correct solution to this, we just leave you to draw your own conclusions, and await your comments.

J. W. Syddall.