



2022 Fest, Peterborough



“Glad to be back!”

AUSTRIA 220 – Autumn 2022 – Contents:

Page	Contents
1	Editorial
2	Red D mark on a cover to Wien
2	Christkindl Handbook Update
3	The APS bookshop
4	Supplement to „Das Postleitgebiet 12”
5	Advert: Stamp Insurance Service
6	2022 new issues (3rd instalment)
9	Carrier pigeons in the Imperial and Royal Army and Navy
13	“Crippled Children” charity labels
14	How many Austrian stamps are there?
15	“About a new species of correspondence by post”
17	Vienna’s Strahlenstempel
18	The valiant heroine of Rawa Ruska
30	Wipa1933 mystery
32	York Fair report
33	At the sign of the Brown Cow
37	Notes from other journals
38	Oscar Pongratz-Lippitt and Austria’s auxilliary postal services
43	The centenary of the fall of the hapless emperor

Edited by Andy Taylor

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EDITORIAL 220

For several reasons, notably anno domini, I have decided to retire from my positions in the APS. So, **from a date to be arranged in 2023 I won't be the Editor, and from 1 April 2023 I won't be the Treasurer.** Excellent replacements have been lined up and will be announced after the Zoom-AGM on 12 October. I plan to remain as President/Obmann for a year or three - sometimes it impresses waiters in Viennese cafes!

Preparing for this, I realised that my "business card" in both language versions gives my email address as 'editor at austrianphilately dot com'. That will remain as a valid address, but will reach the new Editor. If you want me, send to andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk. Similarly, **the society's paypal address will change** - watch out for this! Payments made to the old paypal address will be welcomed, although a note of thanks may arrive postmarked from the Cayman Islands.

I'm not retiring from Austrian Philately! However I won't become a cuckoo in the APS nest, as some politicians do. A considerable quantity of topics and material lies around my house, awaiting time to deal with it. The results may appear in this Journal, or on the web site.

Andy's Virtual Army

As you may have noticed, my work as Editor has been helped by several Virtual Assistants. They are credited as authors of articles and writers of letters, but are curiously elusive when you want to actually meet them. Are they shy? Have you ever seen two in the same place at the same time? Can they come to the Fest? Will they now retire? Who knows!



Probably their first appearance in our pages was Austria 162 pp 32-35 where they co-wrote *A visit to APS@Stampex* in 2008.

The team is led by naturwissenschaftler **Herr Breitmaul Frosch**, whose main interest is the collection, collation, and presentation of useless facts and figures.

Albrecht Mangai, born in the Pinzgau region of Land Salzburg, wrote articles on Kaprunerthal (especially the electricity dams and the now-submerged construction camp) and Post-WWI famine relief in Austria.

Mauritius Adalbert Rillen's interests tend to the classical, although he dabbles in thematics; he interviewed Prof Hannes Margreiter for 'Austria'.

Jablečný Koláč joined us for Prague 2008; he is a Czech aviator and wrote two Fest Reports plus an article on an unusual 1946 cover.



Andreas Daumenschmertz was welcomed to the team when the Editor had an accident in Vienna in 2011, and wrote the guest editorial for the following Austria, including the comment that "*A former member of our Society once remarked that Austrian Philately was dead, everything of note having already been discovered and written up. Life as always fails to meet our expectations...*".



More recently, the team was joined by our camera-shy Culinary Consultant, **Gräfin Hestia Schwarzkümmel**. Her refined views on Knodeln and Beuschel are not universally shared.



Austrian politics and its effect on philately - and conversely - is of ongoing interest to us, and we were recently able to retain the services of **Prof. Colin O'Scopy** to give us a detailed inside view.

And my faithful messenger **Igor** tramps ceaselessly around Europe, exchanging information between regions that the Internet cannot reach.



However, **Jatkuu Seuraavalla Sivulla** was too busy to accept an appointment as our Nordic affairs advisor.

I as Editor - and you as reader - owe all of them a considerable debt, and on your behalf we wish them well in whatever the future may bring.

Andy Taylor

RED D MARK ON A COVER TO WIEN

Mehdi Farrokhrooz emailed: I just came across a couple of airmail covers from Teheran to Wien (1950') and none of them have an arrival postmark but all have a red "D" mark (please see attachment). I wonder if you can provide me with more information about this mark? Also, is it common for that era non-registered covers to not be marked by an arrival postmark?



Joyce Boyer states that Krueger's Censorship of Civil Mails explains that the red "D" mark is a 'Diplomatic' censor exemption mark. It was used by the censorship facilities in Vienna to denote mail which was exempt from opening and review by the censors. Initially thought to indicate some sort of diplomatic exemption, it was later thought that it was also applied to mail to or from an addressee with military rank in one of the [occupying] allied military services.

The blue mark bottom left is a Vienna supplementary censor mark appropriate to the period. Both marks were used from mid 1948 to the end of censorship in August 1953.

Joyce adds that it is usual for mail not to have received an arrival mark. If it was diplomatic mail it would have no doubt have arrived in the Diplomatic Bag and any arrival mark would have been on the bag label.

Christkindl Handbook Update

On the morning I left for the Fest I received the 5th latest update to the second edition of the Christkindl Handbook. Issued every two years, this provides information on the cancellations, personal stamps, balloon flights and everything else for the years 2019/2020 and 2020/21. It also provides extra information or corrections for earlier years. A look at the list of new pages does not indicate that any new sections have been added.

The 'Foreword' does however include one a paragraph of concern to collectors who may have acquired items with the early cancellations – for the years 1950/51 to 1955/56. It has been discovered that 'fakes/forgeries' of these covers have been circulating in recent years with a number being sold on Ebay and through other sources. I have been making enquiries about these and hope to be able to publish more details in the next edition of 'Austria'. Some of the 'expensive items' may also have a faked Certification of authenticity! If anyone would like details of how to get the up-date or information on the cancellations please feel free to contact me – my e-mail address is mjoyceb@uwclub.net

Joyce Boyer

THE APS BOOKSHOP

To purchase any of these items, **contact the President**. If you pay by credit card, it will appear as “German Railway Society” or “GRS” on your card statement.

CDs

- ❖ *All CDs cost £10 or €15 including postage to anywhere in the world.*
- ❖ “**The History of Austrian Revenue Stamps**” by Dr Stephan Koczynski. Enhanced and published on CD in fully-text-searchable form. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-07-4.
- ❖ **1910 Post Office Index.** This is the “*Verzeichnis der Post- und Telegraphen-Ämter in Österreich, Ungarn und in Bosnien-Herzegowina sowie der österreichischen Postanstalten im Fürstentum Liechtenstein und in der Levante*”, published in Vienna in 1910. It lists all the Austrian post offices open anywhere at that date; with symbols indicating the facilities available at each. The CD contains deep-cleaned pictures of the original pages, not searchable text. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-08-1.
- ❖ “**Rohrpost**” – **the pneumatic post in Vienna**. Second completely revised edition, now in web-site format in full colour with numerous added appendices. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-10-4.

Books

- ❖ “**The story of the Austrian Post up to 1850**”. 380pp. A4 hardback in full colour. ISBN 978-0-900118-11-1. Price £39; member’s price £32. P&P £4 in UK, elsewhere at cost.

Back numbers

- ❖ **Back numbers** of “Austria” are **£1** each to members (**£5** to non-members), subject to us having stock. Some may be facsimiles or second-hand originals. Be aware that they will not be reprinted when copies run out. Postage extra at cost. Bulk orders by negotiation.
- ❖ **Issues from 127 onwards** are available as PDF files, either on CD for £10 per CD including p&p, or by web transfer for £5 per transaction. “All of them” will fit on two CDs.
- ❖ Some back numbers of *Austria* are available to read on the APS website. They are selected from issues 127 onwards; we do not have electronic versions of previous issues. Go to the APS home page <http://www.austrianphilately.com/index.htm> and select [Index of the APS Journal “Austria”](#) in the left-hand box. webmaster@austrianphilately.com would welcome comments on this feature.

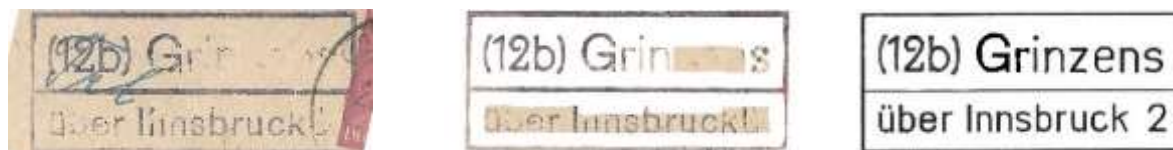
A full and illustrated report of the Fest held at Peterborough will be in the next issue. As a taster, the Group Photograph is on the front cover.

Supplement to „Das Postleitgebiet 12” ¹

By Hans Moser, Bärenweg 14, A-6410 Telfs (hans.moser@uibk.ac.at)

Firstly, my thanks to Herr Reinhard Schmidt (Braunau) for sending scans.

From cancel template to cancel image:



The cancel (left) was found on a postal stationery postcard written in Grinzens on April 25, 1945. It was cut out with the “paintnet” program and partially cleaned (middle), then reconstructed using similar cancels (right). It should thus correspond closely to the original. The stamp was unknown to Kühnel and he did not suspect it.



The assumption expressed in the book (see footnote) that this cancel, which was previously only known from BADGASTEIN 2, would also be found from BADGASTEIN 1 has been confirmed. The “1” can be clearly seen in the document above when enlarged. The date of December 31, 1944 given by Schnellbacher for BADGASTEIN 2 is probably an error and should be deleted from the book (page 157).

All additions to the Moser / Huter / Stohl book “The postcode area 12 Ostmark and integrated areas” can be found on and downloaded from <https://www.phk-merkur-innsbruck.at/wissen/literatur/literatur-detail/>, the PHK Merkur Innsbruck homepage.

On the same homepage you will find further articles and information on the project “OT stamp of today's Tirol from 1850 to the present”. The help of collectors is requested for this project, especially for cancels that are mentioned in the (downloadable) missing list. I look forward to your valuable cooperation. Addresses: see above

¹ Published as Schriftenreihe “Zur Postgeschichte der ehemaligen Postdirektion Innsbruck”, Band 2



The cancel (12b) Klagenfurt 4-a was previously unknown.



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2022 NEW ISSUES (3rd instalment)

by the New Issues Correspondent

The information given here is face value ('c' is Euro-cents); issue date; quantity printed; designer; engraver if any; printing method; printer; and sometimes details on the design. Many issues are also available in mini-sheets, blackprints, 'Buntdrucke' (ie printed in different colours from those issued) etc. The language-choice selection on the Opost web site is now in the black border at the bottom of each page instead of at the top right corner. Much of the detail has been taken from Diebriefmarke; the OPost web site lacks it.



"**Maria Straßengel pilgrimage church**". 85c; Kirsten Lubach; 24.06.2022; 260,000; Offset; Enschedé. The Maria Straßengel pilgrimage church in Judendorf-Straßengel near Graz, visible from afar, is one of the most important sacred buildings in Austria built in High Gothic style. It was inspired by Stephansdom in Vienna.

"**MQ Libelle – MuseumsQuartier Vienna**" 1Eu80; Karin Klier; 29.06.2022; 130,000; Offset; Enschedé. From the freely accessible MQ Libelle on the roof of Leopold Museum, visitors enjoy an impressive view of MuseumsQuartier as well as downtown Vienna.



The 'total work of art' of the MQ Libelle, which opened in 2020, was designed by Laurids Ortner, who together with Manfred Ortner had already redesigned the area of the Museums Quartiers in the late 1990s. The terrace landscape, which can be reached via elevators on the outside of the Leopold Museum, is combined with an event room that is used for art and culture projects as well as for events. The glass facade was designed by Eva Schlegel. Glass "spikes" and millions of white dots make the glass look like a delicate veil and emphasize the appearance of a dragonfly. The recently deceased artist Brigitte Kowanz designed the three ring-shaped circles of light that float above the terrace on sloping supports.



"**Giuseppe Arcimboldo – Water, 1566**". 2Eu10; Kirsten Lubach; 29.6.2022; 130,000; Offset; Enschedé. Arcimboldo is known for his unusual portraits consisting of objects that matched the subject matter. The painting "Water" is on display at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna.

With his imaginative so-called composite heads, the Milanese late Renaissance painter Giuseppe Arcimboldo (around 1526-1593) is one of the representatives of Mannerism. From flowers, fruits, animals or even books, he designed a portrait of a librarian and a cycle of the four seasons, as well as the corresponding series "Four Elements", in accordance with the objects. This also includes the painting "Water" from 1566. A head is formed from various animals living in water such as fish, a frog, a seal and much more. A small crown on the head is a reference to the emperor as the patron of the work - Arcimboldo worked for a long time as court painter to the Habsburgs in Vienna and Prague.

"**The Mercury**" 3Eu70 block: 85c, 85c; 100c, 100c. Picture on the front cover! Benjamin Hammerschick; 01.07.2022; 150,000; Offset + 485C + Lack; Enschedé.



A philatelic messenger from the past! In Latin, Mercurius; in English, Mercury; in Greek, Hermes: the messenger of the gods and the god of commerce. Eloquence and the conveying of messages also fell under the remit of this ancient "hero". No wonder then, that his portrait featured on the first newspaper stamps.

"The start of Crypto stamp Art". This star among messengers, says OPost, has already been celebrated multiple times with reprints, souvenir sheets and a commemorative stamp. In 2022 the philatelic interpretation of the

messenger of the gods will find its next incarnation in the form of an innovative miniature sheet. This is linked to digital wonders, CSA Mystery Boxes, usw usf which I'll leave to our younger readers to decipher and explain.

”Lois Weinberger – Onopordon acanthium (common thistle), 1995” 85c; Regina Simon; 06.07.2022; 280,000; Offset; Enschedé. This time, the focus of the “Modern art in Austria” series is on Lois Weinberger, whose work has been influential in shaping the debate about nature and art from the early 1990s right through until today. *[Your correspondent is unimpressed - these thistles grow in Scotland and can be 3m tall!]*



“100th anniversary of the birth of Georg Kreisler” 2Eu10; Anita Kern; 13.07.2022; 150,000; Pantone 429C+431C+805C+ black; Enschedé. The master of black humour! A cabaret artist, satirist, composer, performer and author, Georg Kreisler was incredibly versatile, but he was also a polarising figure. Austrian Post is celebrating the “Anarchist’s” 100th birthday by dedicating a commemorative stamp to him.

“150th anniversary of the Austro-Hungarian North Pole expedition 1872-1874” 2Eu10 & 85c; Robert Höfler; 13.07.2022; 130,000, Offset/Stichdruck/metallic Pantone 8202C; Enschedé. A journey to the ice! The Payer-Weyprecht expedition of 1872 to 1874 made a significant contribution to the exploration of the northern polar region and resulted in the establishment of the “International Polar Year” research programme.



“Fliegenpilz” - the mushroom with the elf on top. 1Eu; Marion Füllerer; 26.8.2022; 360,000; Offset; Enschedé.



Even people who otherwise hardly deal with mushrooms can usually recognize it: the distinctive red fly agaric with the white “spots”. These white flakes form when the velum, that is the covering that surrounds the young mushroom, tears open and remnants of it stick to the cap. However, there are also specimens without flakes or with a more orange or brownish colour. The lamellae, stalk and flesh of the mushroom are white. Toadstools are very common, mostly growing under spruce or birch trees, whose roots provide them with nutrients. A relative of the death cap mushroom, the fly agaric is beautiful to look at but is poisonous, though rarely fatal. Its toxins lead to hallucinations, convulsions and intoxication. In the past, flies were caught with pieces of toadstool pickled in milk, which is probably where the name of the mushroom comes from. Today the toadstool is a popular symbol of good luck.

Austrian Photo-art: Birgit Jürgenssen - Let me out of here! 1976. 1Eu35; Theresa Radlingmaier; 26.08.2022; 180,000; Offset; Enschedé. Birgit Jürgenssen (1949-2003) was one of the most important representatives of Austria's feminist avant-garde. After completing her graphic studies at the University of Applied Arts, she not only dealt with drawings, prints, collages and paintings, but also increasingly with artistic photography. From 1982 she taught at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. In her complex works, the artist deals with female identity and traditional gender roles. She used her own body as a medium and projection surface to reveal stereotypical social and cultural role assignments using various methods and with a lot of self-mockery. The work “*I want out of here!*” deals with breaking out of unloved identities and roles by crossing borders and creating a self-determined space.



Birdpex 2022 - Mute Swan. 2Eu30; Marion Füllner; 27.08.2022; 210,000; Offset; Enschedé. In 2022, Birdpex, a special exhibition on birds in philately, will be held in Austria for the first time.



Birds are a popular subject in philately (and on Austrian stamps). The first Birdpex was held in New Zealand in 1990 and since then it has been held in a different country every four years. Birdpex 9 took place as part of “phila-Toscana” from August 26 to 28, 2022 in Gmunden, Upper Austria. Mainly exhibits of thematic philately were shown, but other exhibits on the subject of birds can also be seen. With the mute swan, which is the largest native water bird and one of the heaviest birds capable of flying, the special stamp shows a particularly majestic bird. Swans remain attached to one partner throughout their lives, and both parents take care of the rearing of the young. The young cygnets

still have a grey plumage; the mother sometimes transports them on her back. (*Gmunden is also famed for its ceramics - including swans - and its trams.*)

“Dispenser Stamps” - 15th set in the series. Issued 1 June.

	<p>The motif on the subject of buildings and architecture shows the oldest castle complex in Burgenland, Güssing Castle. It was built around 1157 as a fortified castle on a steep volcanic cone and was owned by the Batthyány family for a long time. Today the castle is managed by a foundation. It has been thoroughly restored and houses an extensive castle museum.</p>
	<p>Worthy of a visit is the Sitzendorfer Kellergasse in Hollabrunn, which was voted the most beautiful place in Lower Austria in 2021. With a total of 1.2km on four alleys, it is also one of the largest cellar lanes in the Weinviertel. “In the footsteps of the cellar cat” is the name of a themed circular route through the cellar alleys, through which the cellar cat leads as a storyteller.</p>
	<p>Buchteirn are a classic dessert from Viennese cuisine, which - like many other baked goods - have their origins in Bohemian cuisine. They are made from yeast dough, traditionally filled with Powidl or apricot jam and then baked in a pan. They are sprinkled with sugar while still warm and served with vanilla sauce. [<i>Sounds like a small Germknodel!</i>]</p>
	<p>The landscape motif this time is the picturesque Gschnitztal, a side valley of the Tirolean Wipptal, which is home to a particularly large botanical diversity. It is one of the mountaineering villages, an initiative of the Austrian Alpine Association. The municipalities of Trins and Gschnitz are located in the Gschnitz Valley, which is surrounded by the mountains of the Stubai Alps. The highest peak is the Habicht at 3,277 meters</p>

Carrier pigeons in the Imperial and Royal Army and Navy

By Hans Moser

I have come across an announcement in German and Italian from the Imperial and Royal District Command in Gemona (some 100km N E of Venice) from 1918, which, among other things, concerned the finding of “carrier pigeons” (Fig. 1; see appendix).

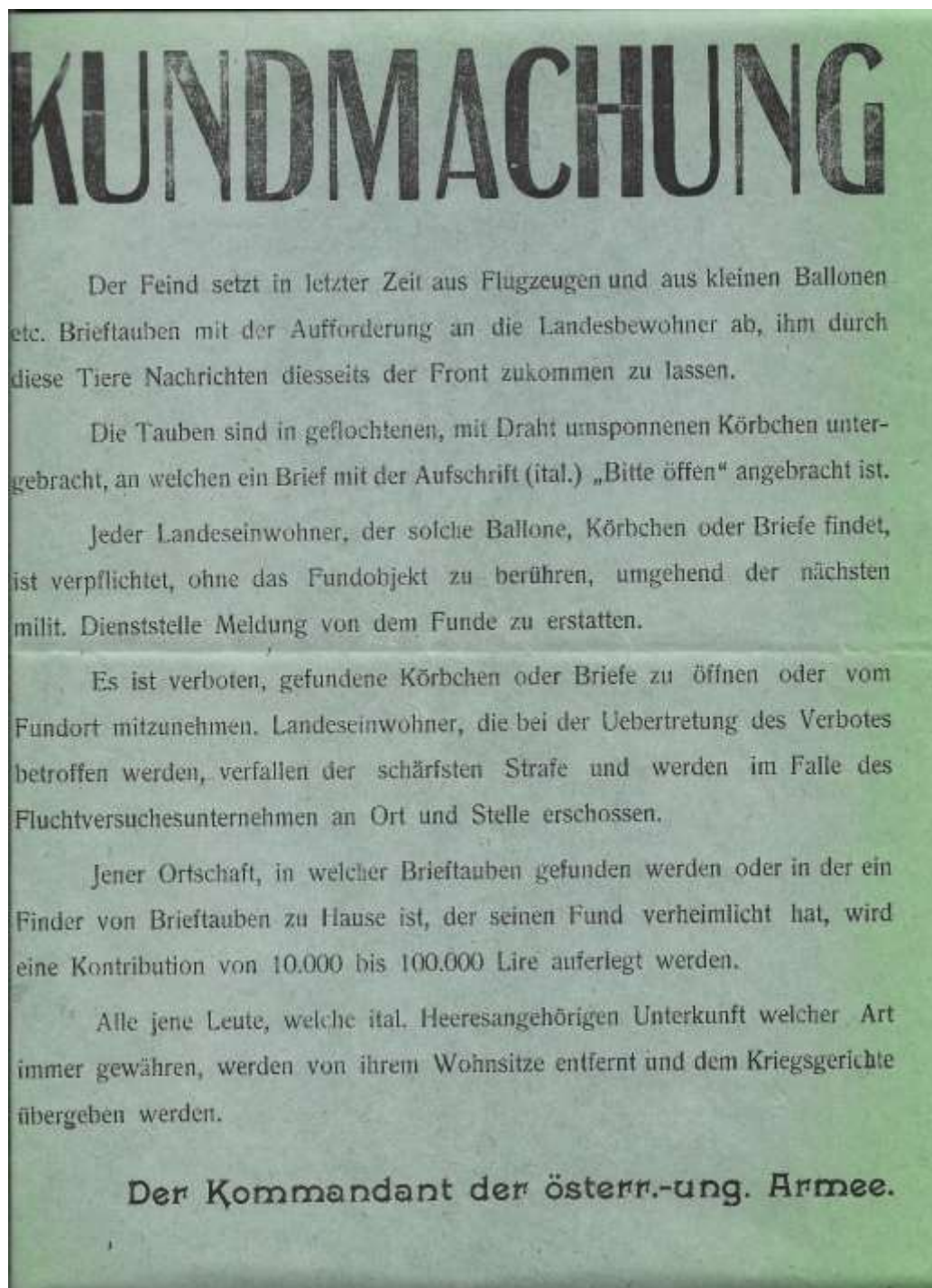


Fig. 1: Announcement: carrier pigeons are being used by Italy for espionage purposes! Instructions on finding carrier pigeons; rewards; punishments. The same announcement is on the other side in Italian.

My interest in this topic was aroused in connection with a “carrier pigeon view postcard” from the “International Photographic Exhibition in Dresden 1909”, see Figs. 2a, 2b



Fig. 2a: Postcard presented at the International Photographic Exhibition in Dresden on 31 May 1909, and provided with a special cancel on the reverse.

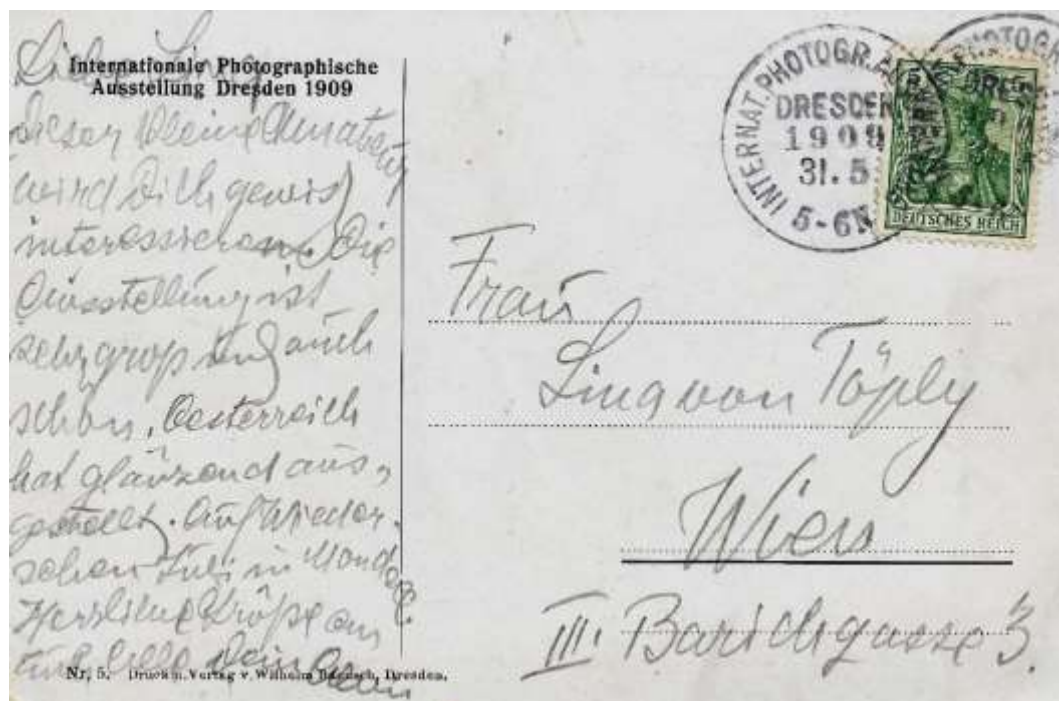


Fig. 2b: Note the special cancellation. Text: "Dear Lina, this little amateur will certainly interest you. The exhibition is very big and also beautiful. Austria exhibited brilliantly..."

Oskar Schilling drew my attention to 2 circulars from the Arge Feldpost Austria-Hungary and with the consent of Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer, copyright issues were clarified and agreement was reached. Carrier pigeons were provided by clubs or private individuals in the army administration. In the event of war, the management of a carrier pigeon station (or "Loft") was (usually) taken over by an expert officer with a corresponding number of crew members.

Carrier pigeons were used in the army and navy for reconnaissance and intelligence. A 1914 decree of the k.k. Landwehr command in Graz is known, which concerns the training and use of the birds in the carrier pigeon stations. The training of the young birds began in the summer at around the age of 4-5 months with orientation flights around the dovecote and was increased in the same year on fixed flight routes to a distance of 50 to 80km.

Pigeon stations and holding rooms from February 1915 are known from the Imperial and Royal Innsbruck Military Command (Fig. 3).

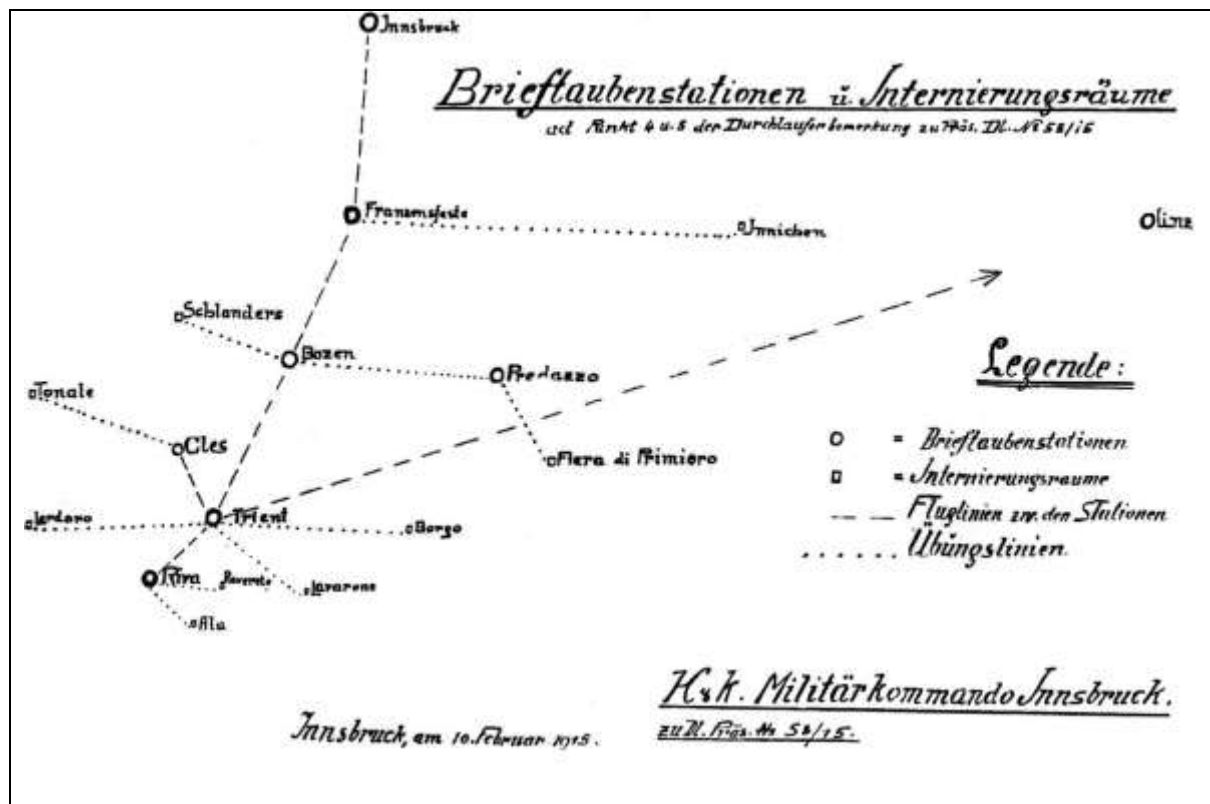
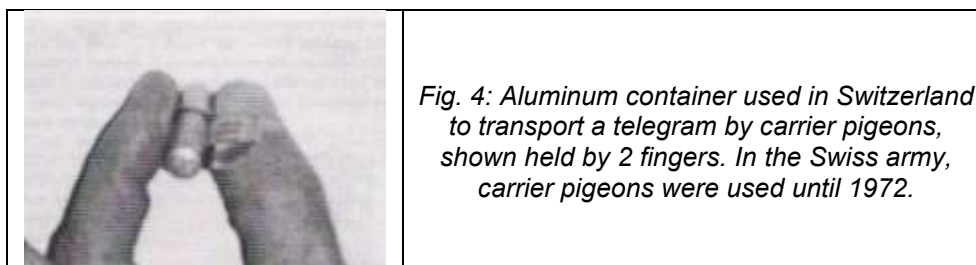


Fig. 3: Pigeon stations were located in Innsbruck, Franzensfeste, Bozen, Predazzo, Trento, Cles? and Riva. The birds were transported to holding rooms to carry dispatches from them back to their respective stations. However, the towns of Ala, Lavarone, Borgo and Fiera di Primiero were evacuated at the beginning of the war with Italy (May 23, 1915). It is probably **Lienz** and not Linz. The caption has been moved.

In the **intelligence service**, carrier pigeons carried a “dispatch” (message), which was placed in an aluminum container (Fig. 4) and attached with string to the pigeon’s leg-ring. A message had to contain: (1) the name of the message patrol (who wrote it), (2) a sequential number, (3) the place and time when the message was made, and (4) the number of birds equipped with the same message.



For the **reconnaissance service**, carrier pigeons were equipped with a camera that was fastened to the chest (see Fig. 2a at the top). The birds could carry contraptions weighing up to 75 grams, which is 1/3 of their body weight. Tinkerers managed to fit cameras with 2 lenses, one facing forward and the other facing down. It was not clear to me when and how a photo was taken and how many photos could be taken on one flight. It seems to me that the success of “flight reconnaissance” was largely left to chance at the time.

In the course of my correspondence with the Arge Feldpost Austria-Hungary, Herbert Robisch got in touch and provided me with documents from his exhibition collection. According to his research, the first carrier pigeon station was set up in the central port of Pola in 1886, which was subordinate to the Marine Technical Committee as VII Department. The following year further stations were established in Sebenico, Teodo and Comisa (Lissa). The task of the carrier pigeons was to deliver despatches from crossing ships to one of the war ports.



Fig. 5: Registered bilingual service postcard (German-Italian) from the Imperial and Royal Navy carrier pigeon station in Pola dated February 5, 1902 to the one in Sebenico, where it arrived on February 7, 1902. At the top right is the official stamp “KK MARINE TECHNICAL COMITÉ / BR.-TAUBEN-ST”. The attached text was about the preparation of an exercise with carrier pigeons from a torpedo boat.

My **thanks** go to Messrs Oskar Schilling, Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer and Herbert Robisch for their generous support.

Literature

RAINER Norbert. carrier pigeons. In: RB 67/2001 of the Arge Feldpost Austria-Hungary, page 33-40. This is where Figures 3 and 4 come from.

NN: A gas protection box for carrier pigeons. In: RB 81/2005 of the Arge Feldpost Austria-Hungary

Neubronner Julius: “The photograph with carrier pigeons”; Special reprint from the memorandum of the First International Airship Exhibition ILA Frankfurt a. Main, 1909

KUNDMACHUNG	NOTICE
Der Feind setzt in letzter Zeit aus Flugzeugen und aus kleinen Ballonen Brieftauben mit der Aufforderung an die Landesbewohner ab, ihm durch diese Tiere Nachrichten diesseits der Front zukommen zu lassen.	The enemy has recently been dropping carrier pigeons from airplanes and small balloons with the request to the country's inhabitants to use these animals to send him messages from this side of the front.
Die Tauben sind in geflochtenen, mit Draht umspunnenen Körbchen untergebracht, in welchen in Brief mit der Aufschrift (ital.) “Bitte öffnen” angebracht ist.	The pigeons are housed in plaited baskets covered with wire, in which a letter with the inscription (in Italian) “Please open” is attached.
Jeder Landeseinwohner, der solche Ballone, Körbchen oder Briefe findet, ist verpflichtet, ohne das Fundobject zu berühren, umgehend der nächsten milit. Dienststelle Meldung von dem Funde zu erstatten.	Every resident of the country who finds such balloons, baskets or letters is obliged to report the find to the nearest military station without touching it.
Es ist verboten gefundene Körbchen oder Briefe zu öffnen oder vom Fundort mitzunehmen. Landeseinwohner, die bei der Uebertretung des Verbotes betroffen werden, verfallen der schärfsten Strafe und werden im Falle des Fluchtversuchesunternehmen an Ort und Stelle erschossen.	It is forbidden to open found baskets or letters or to take them away from the place where they were found. Residents who are found to be violating the ban will be subject to the severest punishment and, if they attempt to escape, will be shot on the spot.
Jener Ortschaft, in welcher Brieftauben gefunden werden oder in der ein Finder von Brieftauben zu Hause ist, der seinen Fund verheimlicht hat, wird eine Kontribution von 10.000 bis 100.000 Lire auferlegt werden.	A contribution of 10,000 to 100,000 lire will be imposed on the locality in which homing pigeons are found or in which lives a finder of homing pigeons who has hidden his find.
Alle jene Leute, welche ital. Heeresangehörigen Unterkunft welcher Art immer gewähren, werden von ihrem Wohnsitze entfernt und dem Kriegsgerichte übergeben werden.	All those people who provide accommodation of any kind to members of the Italian army will be removed from their residence and handed over to the court-martial.
Der Kommandant der österr.-ung Armee.	The Commander of the Austro-Hungarian Army

“Crippled Children” charity labels

Note: the language used in the German original, and its machine translation, are no longer what we would use. I’ve left it, to give a flavour of how our ancestors thought. This piece seems to be a page from some catalogue; this is chapter 10. Additional information welcomed!

Für Krüppelkinder. (Disabled children)

Double bust portrait of a woman with a child. Country name above.

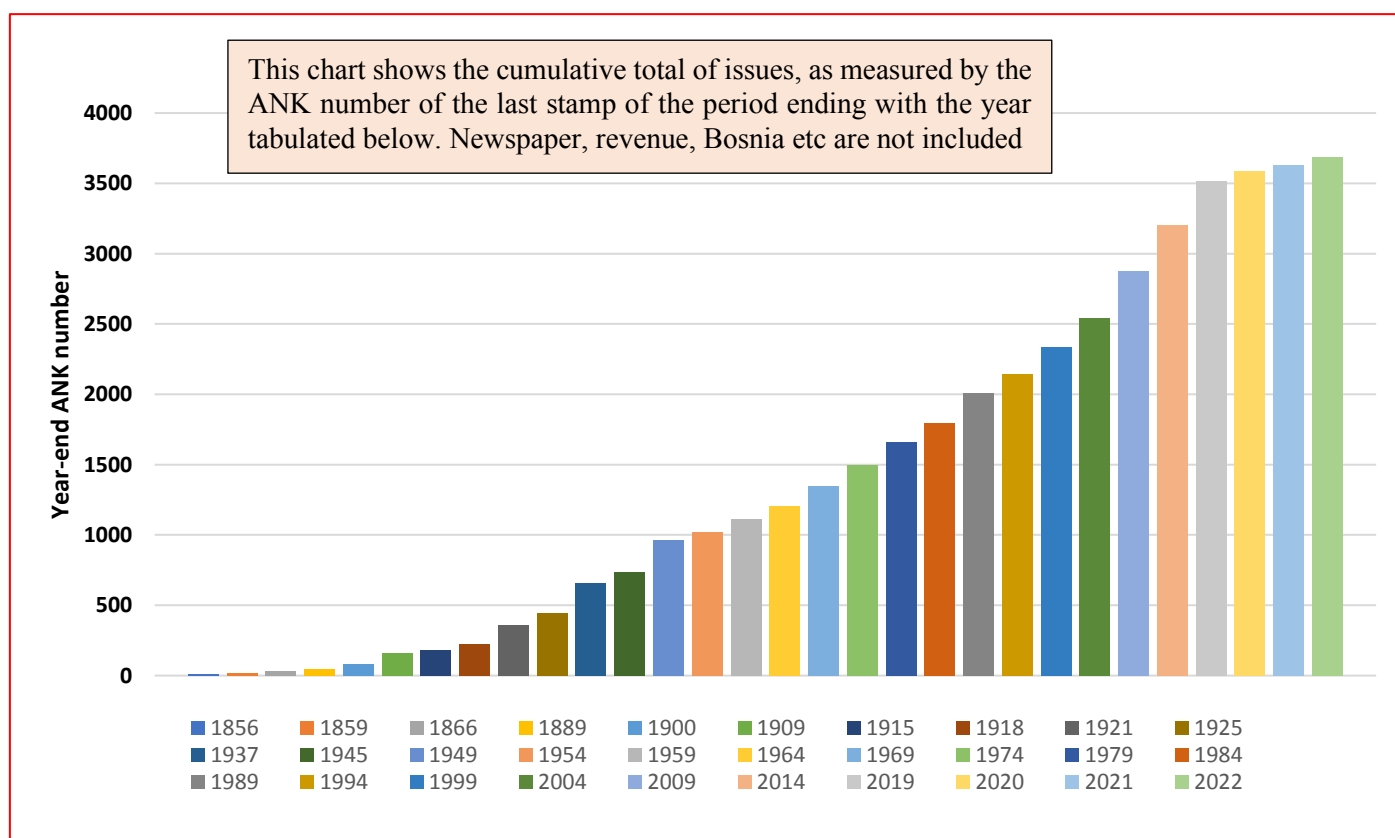
This issue for the benefit of the cripple-homes of the Austrian monarchy (published in 1906) is unique, as here (similar to the Austrian postcards) the mixed-language conditions have been taken into account by using a 1- and 2-Heller stamp for each of the different nationalities in whose national language they were issued. From the complete series of these stamps, one learns more easily than from geography the mixture of peoples of the Danube Empire and its local distribution, by reading the stamp inscriptions in the language of that nationalities or group for each individual crown land.



Nr	Land name(s)	Language	1 heller label	2 heller label
1	Böhmen	Deutsch	Kirschrot	Grau
	Cechi	Tschechisch		
2	Bukowina	Polnisch	Hellblau	Braunkarmin
3	Dalmacya	Serbisch	Gelb	Hellblau
	Dalmatia	Illyrisch		
4	Galizien	Deutsch	Blau	Kirschrot
	Galicya	Polnisch		
5	Gorica-Gradiska	Illyrisch	Gelb	Dunkelblau
	Gorizia-Gradisca	Italienisch		
6	Istria	Italienisch	Ultramarine	Orange
	Istra	Illyrisch		
7	Kärnthen	Deutsch	Rot	Grau
	Korosco	Illyrisch		
8	Krain	Deutsch	Grau	Hellblau
	Krajnsko	Slovenisch		
9	Mähren	Deutsch	Kirschrot	Hellblau

Nr	Land name(s)	Language	1 heller label	2 heller label
	Morava	Tschechisch		
10	Nieder-Österreich	Deutsch	Hellblau	Gelb
11	Ober-Österreich	Deutsch	Grau	Kirschrot
12	Salzburg	Deutsch	Kirschrot	
13	Schlesien	Deutsch	Gelb	Schwarz
	Slezsko	Polnisch		
14	Steiermark	Deutsch	Grau	Grün
	Stajersko	Slovenisch		
15	Tirol	Deutsch	Kirschrot	Grau
	Tirolo	Italienisch		
16	Triest	Deutsch	Grau	Kirschrot
	Trieste	Italienisch		
	Terst	Slovenisch		
17	Vorarlberg	Deutsch	Rotbraun	Grau

How many Austrian stamps are there?



About a new species of correspondence by post.¹



Who calculates exactly how many letters he writes and sends each year? There are commercial undertakings, which spend up to 5fl on postage daily; every mother in the country, on the other hand, will probably not write a letter in ten years. However, the desire to write has increased very rapidly in recent years. In 1840 24,200,000 letters were sent in Austria; in 1863 86,990,000, an increase of 259% in 23 years; and in 1866, Austrian correspondence amounted to 96,412,417 items, i.e. almost one hundred million a year.

Since the letter postage patents of November 21, 1865, the postage for each letter under one customs-loth for all of Austria is known to be only five kreuzers. If you now add that stationery, envelopes (since postal envelopes are still not generally used) and seals cost only one new kreuzer per item on average, and if you leave the costs of writing letters completely aside, this results in an annual expenditure of 6 million gulden on letters! The need and motivation to write letters is, of course, very different for different professional classes and nationalities, for city and country dwellers. This table compares the number of letters posted and delivered per capita in Vienna and in the rest of Lower Austria.

Year	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865
Vienna	25	27.6	30	32.4	36
Lower Austria	2.8	3.07	3.125	3.4	4

Up until 1863, Upper Austria reached only 3 letters per capita, Carinthia 2.9, Moravia and Silesia 2.6, Styria 2.5, Dalmatia 2, Hungary 1.65, Galicia 1.25, Croatia and the military frontier 1.11, and Transylvania only 0.7.

If, on the other hand, we keep the figures which correspond to the correspondence in the industrial provinces abroad, such as in Westphalia and the Rhine province with 7.7 and 7, in Prussian Silesia with 5.5, in Lombardy with 4.8, or even in the capitals of industry, like Birmingham with 31, Bristol with 36, Liverpool with 37, Manchester with 39, Dublin with 40, Edinburgh and Paris with 42, London with 51, we may well boldly assert that the correspondence of letters is far more decisive as the indicator of education and economic development than the consumption of soap (as Liebig believed) or iron (according to Mischler).

But it is not only the result of education and economic development, it is also one of the most active founders of the same. Therefore, everything that facilitates correspondence also promotes education and economic well-being in a way that cannot be overestimated.

Few calculate how high the individual costs of writing a letter actually are. We should not be accused of pettiness in giving an estimate of the cost of a hundred letters, which an educated man or businessman would certainly write annually.

1	Purchase of stationery including envelopes, loss of time or costs	10kr
2	Storage of paper	2kr
3	Preparing it for writing, folding, folding after writing - per piece 0.2kr	20kr
4	Writing: an average of 15 minutes per piece; the business day lasts 8 hours and brings in around 2 to 8 fl; so 10kr per piece	10fl
5	Applying sealing wax or stamps to 100 pieces	3kr
6	Sealing and posting at 2kr per piece	2fl

¹ This is a translation of Dr Herman's original Public Notice proposing the introduction in Austria of what became the Postcard. The original appeared on page 4 of the Trade and Industry newspaper's evening edition for 26 January 1869. A few rewordings have been made, to render the original meaning more accessible to the modern reader. Thanks to M Brumby for OCR-ing the original, and to Google for translating it into Google.

So for 100 letters 12fl 62kr; or per piece 12.6kr. In addition there are the costs of the stamp (5kr) and the stationery itself (1kr) to include, giving a final cost of 18.6 or nearly 20kr per letter. The 100 million letters sent annually in Austria have therefore cost almost 20 million gulden.

Couldn't one save quite a bit of this not insignificant sum without in any way impairing the correspondence?

We believe we have found a remedy for at least part of the letters. Letters fall into three main categories:

- Simple notifications;
- business letters and intellectual communications;
- Love and family letters.

Under the category of simple notifications we include: business notifications and intimations, messages about the departure and arrival of all kinds of consignments, about births, marriages, deaths (unless they are sent by special printed slips under a cross-band) and name days, birthdays or New Year's Congratulations. This category must account for almost a third of all letters.

And here one could introduce considerable savings by having the government remove that section of the Postal Act in which "open cards" (business advices, price lists, family notices and the like) can be sent by means of "crossband" if they are printed or otherwise are mechanically produced and do not contain any additions or changes to the content other than adding the place, date and company signature to it, [*and agree that*] all cards that are written or produced by copier machines or by means of printing in the format of an ordinary envelope may be sent through the post office with a two-kreuzer stamp if they do not contain more than twenty words, including the address and the sender's subdivision.

With these postcards we would have created a kind of post-telegram, which, except for the speed of sending, shares almost all the advantages of telegrams. The content of the notifications, which seldom contains anything other than the most ordinary notes or congratulations, etc., could easily tolerate the lack of a seal. But how great would be the savings in stationery, envelopes, writing and reading work, how great would be the savings in time with such an arrangement!

Many notifications have to be cancelled at the moment because of the expense or loss of about 15-20kr that a letter causes, or because one is put off by the once indispensable phrases, inscriptions, assurances of the most undivided respect, etc. of such a letter.

All this would be left out, one could, as one has long been accustomed to do with telegrams, limit oneself to the absolutely necessary expressions. We would soon have our own telegram-letter language, which could boldly compete with Tacitean. And the postal gap would only increase, because now, instead of the 33 million personal letters, more than 100 million such letters would be exchanged annually, and a few million gulden would be saved every year in the cost of the letter and the letter material.

May this certainly not utopian proposal be acknowledged in authoritative positions and may Austria, for once, go ahead with the preferred nations of the West!

dr E.H—n.



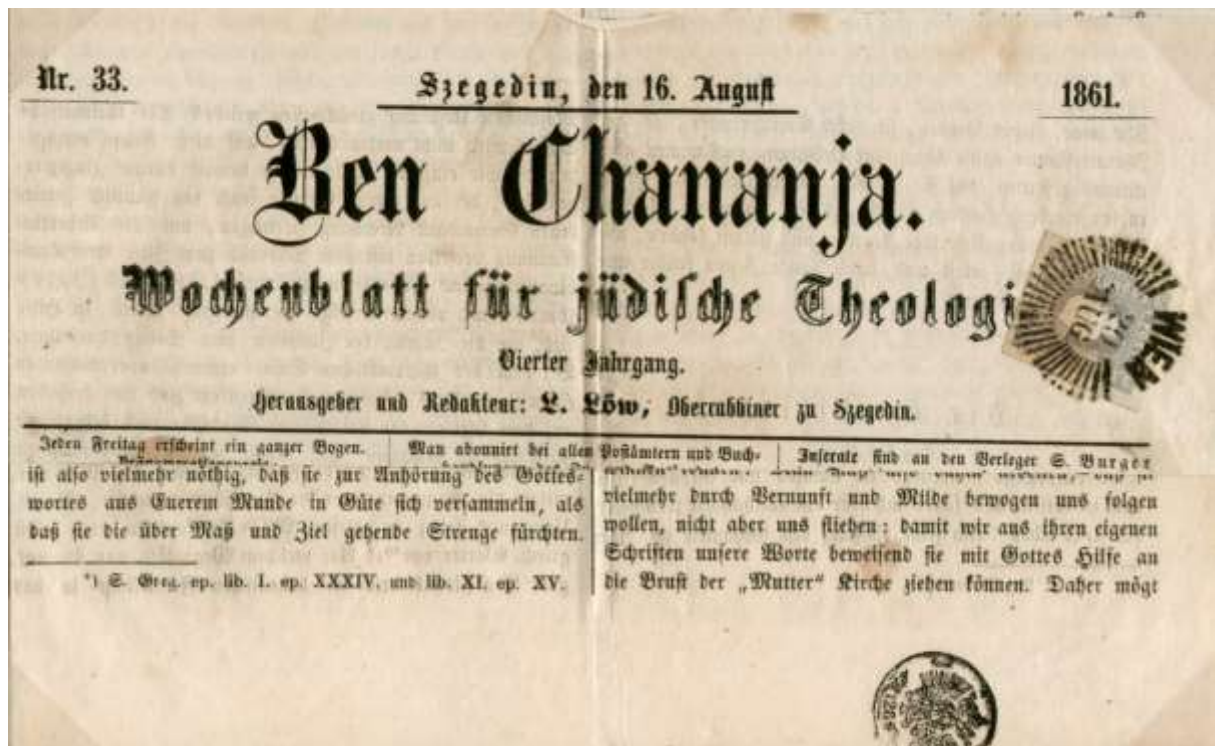
VIENNA'S STRAHLENSTEMPEL

By Andy Taylor

Many issues of the ArGe Öst's Rundbrief have articles on the Strahlenstempel, also called the Starburst, which was used in Vienna. The first mention I can find is #45 (1999-1) when Herr Blaas asked if anybody had a specimen on an entire, so that the date could be determined. In #48 (1999-4) Herr Geber gave Müller's entry, adding that he knew of use between 8 Feb and 17 July 1852 but earlier and later dates couldn't be ruled out. The Vienna cancel was used in the head post office; similar ones were used in Czernowitz, Würbental and Znaim. In #49 (2000-1), Herr Blos reported his example. Issue #50 (2000-2) saw Herr Kapeller listing the earliest dates of use on the types and subtypes of the stamps, taken from Huber/Wessely's Special Katalogue. Issue #52 (2004-4) had Herr Rismondo's contributions; he noted that the usage-period was now known to be 31 May 1851 to 26 July 1852. In #56 (2001-4) Herr Rismondo remarked that two types of this cancel had been identified, Type I being 26mm diameter and used on the 1850 definitives and Type II being 24mm diameter and used on newspaper postage stamps of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd issues (ie 1851, 1858/9, 1861).

Perusing Müller reveals Strahlenstempeln from Vienna (Mü3210o, type GCj-R) and Czernowitz (Mü475d, type RCj-I). Cousins with the starburst but no date (type RCj) exist at Würbental (Mü3287b) and Znaim (Mü3356b)

Time passed, as it does, and the next mention is 9 years later in issue #91 (2010-3) where Herr Rismondo presented the results of collecting and catalogue-trawling, now with colour illustrations. An added difference between the types had been detected: in Type I the letters of WIEN were 4mm high (the E sometimes 4.5mm) but in Type II the letters were 5mm high.



Traditions are to be kept up, so 12 years later here is the 2022 contribution to the Strahlenstempel Saga. "Ben Chananja" was a weekly newspaper about Jewish theology published by Leopold Löw, the Chief Rabbi of Szegedin; this is issue 33 dated 16 August 1861. It was taxed 1 Kr, shown by signet nr 126 at the bottom which was applied in the tax office in Szegedin before the paper was printed. In the illustration, the paper is folded. Grey-lilac 1859 newspaper postage stamp (ANK & Michel 17) cancelled by a Strahlenstempel on 20 August. The newspaper would have been sent along with other copies to a subscriber in Vienna and cancelled on arrival. The cancel is well-defined, and 26mm in diameter with lettering 3.8-4mm high - so is Rismondo Type I despite being used on a newspaper stamp.

THE VALIANT HEROINE OF RAWA RUSKA

by Inger Kuzych

In 2008, I submitted an article to *Austria* entitled “The Heroine of Rawa Ruska.” In the years since, I have been able to track down a great deal more information on the brave youngster, Rosa Zenoch, from the northern part of the Austrian crownland of Galicia.

Earlier this year I was approached by the editor of *The Congress Book* (a prestigious annual US philatelic publication of invited articles) to submit a Ukraine-related piece to somehow recognize the situation created by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. I was happy to oblige and composed a biographical account of Rosa Zenoch that included all of the facts that I had been able to compile about her. Remarkably, after tendering that article, I came across yet more tidbits of material about Rosa Zenoch, which I include in this submission.

While some of the text below appeared in my earlier article, I trust that readers will not mind having their memories refreshed. A considerable amount of the information below is new.

[Note: for layout reasons, all the illustrations apart from the map are at the end. Ed.]

* * * * *

“The peasant woman Maryna Zenoch knelt, wringing her hands and weeping in the stable of her farmstead.

The house of Jatko Burins, her next-door neighbour, had gone up in flames and become a desert, a smoking wreckage from which emanated an acrid stench of roasted animals and shrill cries of pain from the terribly wounded inhabitants.

Any second, Maryna’s little house could suffer the same terrible fate...but it was not this worry alone that dominated the fear and alarm of the peasant woman.

Her child, her only beloved child, the little Rosa, had disappeared! All the searching of the frightened mother as well as other neighbours had been in vain. The child was not to be found in the entire village – it was as if the earth had swallowed her up.

Where in truth this worthy, valorous, little Rosa Zenoch actually was during the flame-engulfed, violent hours of battle, no one would have believed!

With a jug in her hand, she stood outside on the battlefield of Rawa Ruska. Since she was so familiar with the terrain, she crossed it repeatedly, going from a nearby well up to the foremost trenches where the Austrian infantry was fighting.

Back and forth, back and forth hurried the little heroine! Her jug was emptied by some of the thirstiest soldiers lying under the burning sun. And, quite matter of factly, without a whimper, Rosa Zenoch once again crossed the shrapnel-showered battlefield, filled the jug at the well with clear, ice cold water, and hurried off to revive other soldiers – pining for a refreshing drink – with her precious wetness.

The trenches at Rawa Ruska were manned by several companies of the famous and successful house regiment from the imperial city on the Danube, the Vienna Noble Lads (Wiener Edelknaben) – “The Sublime and German Masters No. 4” (Hoch und Deutschmeister Nr. 4). Flabbergasted, both officers and enlisted men watched as the little Galician farm maiden, dodging hails of bullets, came up to the soldiers and cordially and with a smile presented them with their refreshment. The captain called the girl over to himself and stroked the cheeks reddened with happiness.

“Well done, well done, my child!” he praised the little one. But then, in a more serious tone, he continued: “But now you have to stay here in this bunker and not return to the well. You could all too easily be hit by one of the many Russian bullets!”

But Rosa broke away from the officer.

“Oh, then I would be a poor Austrian!” she cried in childlike indignation. “You battle for us and are expected to put up with such an overwhelming thirst? This cannot be allowed!”

And before anyone could hold her back, the girl once more grabbed her colourful, flower-painted jug and jumped out over the edge of the trench onto the battlefield.

The captain watched after the child for a long, long time. There waved her red skirt and nearby burst an enemy shell. Fire, smoke, and earth whirled upwards. The powder gradually cleared and the officer saw with a beating heart: hale and unhurt the little one going onward toward the well.

The grey-bearded Company leader folded his hands, shaking from agitation. "May God protect you, you heroine from Rawa Ruska!" he said in a quiet, tear-choked voice.

No less than seven times did Rosa Zenoch undertake the trek of life and death. Smiling, a picture of childish innocence, she went off onto the battlefield with its ghastly roar of firing...

Just outside the trench of the German Masters she met her fate: a Russian shell shattered her right foot. With a cry of pain, the little heroine sank to the sod, her young blood colouring the small, white daisies that sprinkled the dark grass like bright stars.

The captain was the first to spring from cover and carry off the unconscious girl into his Company dug-out.

Under the greatest of care, the Commandant of the Austrian Army Operations – to whom the heroic deeds of the little Zenoch had been reported – allowed the wounded youngster to be brought to Vienna. Maryna Zenoch accompanied her courageous daughter.

In the imperial capital of the Danube monarchy the deed of the valorous little Samaritan on the battlefield of Rawa Ruska was soon made known. The daily newspapers reported on it and from many quarters benefactors pressed in, offering to help. The finest doctors volunteered their services, but sadly all efforts to preserve the wounded foot of the child were in vain. Because of the extreme danger resulting from necrosis, it had to be taken off.

Steadfastly, the little martyr Rosa Zenoch bore all the hurts; it was only when she went about the hall of the Red Cross Hospital for the first time with a crutch that her big, blue eyes filled with private tears. She thought about the meadows of her home upon which she used to nimbly run...but when she saw her mother coming, she wiped away the tears from her cheeks and smiled at her happily.

Great delights and honours were prepared for the brave Rosa Zenoch. The Emperor awarded her the silver medal of the Red Cross along with a war decoration and donated, in addition to a considerable monetary amount, a gold chain with a diamond-inlaid cross. Archduchesses and princesses visited the simple farm girl and gifted her with dresses and silk fabric, which were a thousand times lovelier than the one in the store display in Rawa Ruska.

And so it was as Rosa Zenoch had dreamed: she wore beautiful dresses, was able to go about wide streets that were full of glitter and magnificence, and the people there did not just greet her, no, they exalted her – the Heroine of Rawa Ruska."

Translated from Feinde ringsum! (Enemies all around!) No. 31, Reutlingen, Germany: Entzlin und Laiblins, 1915; pages 10-13. Feinde ringsum! was a series of propaganda booklets described as "Narratives for young and old from the great war 1914/15." Pages 3-10 dealt with Rosa Zenoch's life prior to the outbreak of World War I (Figure 1).

* * * * *

Rawa Ruska – A Historic Border Town

The town of Rawa Ruska (today Rava Ruska) lies about 65 km (40 mi) north of the city of Lviv (formerly Lemberg) in present-day Lviv oblast (province) of western Ukraine. Founded by Polish Prince Władysław I of Plock in 1455, the town developed quickly due to its convenient location on the merchant trail from Lublin (Poland) to Lviv. It acquired a mixed Polish-Ukrainian (and later Jewish) population due to its location on the Polish-Ukrainian ethnic frontier. The town became part of Austria in the First Partition of Poland in 1772; it grew rapidly after two railway lines were laid through it in 1887. At the outbreak of World War I, Rawa Ruska was both a county and district capital, as well as a major rail junction, and thus a key target of the Russian assault.



The upper right quadrant of a 1910 map of the Austro-Hungarian Empire shows parts of the Empire including the crownland (province) of Galicia. Rawa [Ruska], a major transportation hub, was situated in the northern part of the crownland, near the border with the Russian Empire and not too far north of Lemberg, the crownland capital.

Following World War I, Rava Ruska became part of Poland and an important stop on the railway link between Warsaw and Lviv. The town was also home to the Main School of the Polish Border Guard. After World War II and the redrawing of borders and the resettlement of populations, Rava Ruska became part of Ukraine. Situated 8km from the current Polish-Ukrainian frontier line, it serves as one of the major crossing points between the two countries.

In early 2022, both Rava Ruska and nearby Lviv quite unexpectedly entered the datelines of news articles worldwide. Following the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia on February 24th of that year, both locations became stopover points for hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees heading west as well as staging points for arms and humanitarian supplies dispatched eastward.

Rosa Zenoch (Zenokh) was only 12 or 13 (the accounts vary) in September of 1914 when, during the Russian offensive on Lemberg, the front line moved up to the vicinity of her family's farmhouse near Rawa Ruska (see sidebar).¹ Ignoring the bursting of shells and machine gun strafing, this Ruthenian (Ukrainian) youngster supported the defending Austrian Army soldiers in the trenches by bringing them water until she herself was badly wounded by a bursting shell.²

Some of the soldiers that she had shortly before assisted now came to her aid and made sure she received timely medical assistance. Although the doctors were able to save her life, she had to have her left foot amputated (not the right one as the story says).

The gallant actions of Rosa Zenoch did not go unrecognized. She was decorated personally by the Austrian Emperor Franz-Joseph with a war medal, a locket with the initials "FJ", a cash prize, and a promise to provide her with a new prosthetic leg. Along with her silver medal of merit from the Red Cross, she was given the title of Samaritan, and became known as "Rosa Zenoch, the Heroine of Rawa Ruska."

These are the basic facts of what occurred to Rosa, uncoloured by the sensationalism of the months and years that followed. Additional details were provided by her mother to the *Berliner Vossische Zeitung* (*Berlin Vossian Newspaper*) and the account was subsequently translated in *The New York Times* of 29 November 1914. An emended form of the translation appears below.

"We are poor farmer folk from the neighbourhood of Rawa Ruska. We have only one acre of ground and a little house. Now that too is gone: the Russians burned it down and dragged my husband away – God knows where. Daily the soldiers marched past us. We are poor and have little to eat. But Joseph, our eldest joined the colours [i.e., joined the Austrian Army], and always, when the soldiers knocked at the door and entered, Rosa would ask, "Is Joseph with them?"

"The soldiers spoke only German or Hungarian, and she speaks only Ruthenian [Ukrainian]. The soldiers were fearfully hungry and thirsty. Finally, Rosa learned to understand one German question, "Haben Sie was zu trinken?" ("Have you anything to drink?") And she learned the German sentence, "Ja, wir haben." ("Yes, we have.") As long as we had milk and bread, we gave them milk and bread. Then I had to go to the well and lower the pail and fetch water for the soldiers. Often the soldiers marched past our home. Then Rosa would say, "Give me the pail." and then she would run along with the soldiers and give them water."

"For days the soldiers had nothing to drink. Whenever we went out of the house, we could see them drinking out of the swamp, for there are many swamps and much sand in our country. Then, for several days, no one came there. But we heard the thundering outside and Rosa kept urging me, "Mother, draw up a lot of water!" As soon as the pail was filled, she would carry it out to the soldiers, who lay in a ditch [trench]. The soldiers [soon] recognized her."

"Yes, they petted and caressed her and always begged her for more water. And so she travelled all day long from the well to the soldiers and from the soldiers to the well. I often looked to see if an enemy was coming. But I never saw an enemy."

"Finally, all the soldiers knew her. She was all worn out from running her errands and carrying water [remember, her father and brother were gone, leaving the women to run the farm], and at night she could not sleep so soundly because of the noise, which was worse at night than in the daytime. Neighbours came to our house and said that the cannon could be heard much more plainly now and that the enemy must be quite close. I forbade Rosa to go out; but now and then a soldier would come to us who could hardly speak for thirst. Then I myself went out and fetched water; but Rosa runs much faster, and the soldiers all shouted the moment they saw her and they kissed her hands and blessed her. And whenever I said she must stay in the house, she would say, "But maybe Joseph is among them."

"This went on till one morning when I left the house and heard a cry behind me. When I turned around I saw Rosa falling. I lifted her up and saw her foot dangling loosely. Then I carried her to the barracks where the

¹ Lemberg, present-day Lviv, Ukraine, was the capital of Galicia, the largest crownland in the Austrian half of the multi-national Austro-Hungarian Empire.

² Up until the early 20th century, the Austrians continued to refer to their Ukrainian subjects as Ruthenians. Many of the Empire's Ruthenians, however, had begun to self-identify as Ukrainians by the second half of the 19th century.

wounded soldiers were, far away, and the nurses carried her on a wagon to the hospital at Megierow (Maheriv) and took her foot off there. Then she was brought here to Vienna, and I with her to take care of her.”

The article in *The Times* goes on to mention that Rosa Zenoch had carried water to the soldiers over a period of 12 days. While in the hospital she was showered with gifts including “fruits and dainties and flowers, and many books of which she cannot read a line. There are occasional gifts of money, too, which the child’s mother, who now lives with her in the hospital ward, takes thrifty care of.”

The story of the *Heldenmädchen* (literally heroic girl; i.e., heroine) of Rawa Ruska became a phenomenon that would not die. Many articles (Figure 2), stories, and even poems were written about her.¹ It did not matter that most of the details about her early life were made up or that her water-carrying activities were embellished. The Austrians – who had fared poorly in the early months of the war – wanted a hero, and in Rosa they had one. Her story became a staple of wartime children’s literature.

Philatelic Commemorations

To date, I have come across five postcards depicting Rosa Zenoch. The first shows a photograph of Rosa propped up in her hospital bed (Figure 3). The Red Cross medal of merit is pinned to her gown, while around her neck may be seen a necklace, likely the locket given to her by the emperor. The patient simply stares at the camera and seems dazed by her unfamiliar surroundings.

Taken at about the same time is a photograph of Rosa with her mother that appeared in a newspaper magazine entitled *Das interessante Blatt* (*The Interesting Page*), Figure 4. Here the young girl seems a bit more at ease and a faint smile appears on her lips. The clipping caption states: “Decorated with the Red Cross Medal, the 13-year old heroine of Rosa Zenoch, who as is well known lost a foot while performing Samaritan services by Rawa Ruska, is in recovery and with her mother at the Vienna General Hospital.”

Another postcard again shows Rosa in her hospital bed, but this time her image is much reduced and she is surrounded by flowers (most of which, of course, are roses). The larger scene on the card depicts the heroine bringing a bucket of water to the thirsty troops (Figure 5). Here she is described as “The Little Austrian Heroine, Rosa Zenoch” and as being 12 years old.

A full-colour drawing of Rosa assisting the troops by Adolf Karpellus was made into an official Red Cross postcard that was sold to raise funds for the organization (Figure 6). The card was printed in 1915 by the Alb. Berger Print Shop in Vienna and was in use for the duration of the conflict. On this card, Rosa is using jugs to bring water to the troops. Her hair colour is shown as brown, when in actuality it was blond.

The postcard in Figure 7 reproduces an illustration by L. R. Barteau from the *Illustrierter Wiener Extrablatt*. Beneath the “Rosa Zenoch, Heroine of Rawa Ruska” title, the follow-on inscription states: “As she refreshed our soldiers under a rain of bullets.”

The postcard in Figure 8 depicts young heroes from the two German-speaking allies of World War I, Germany and Austria-Hungary. Rosa Zenoch, representing Austria, shares the honours on a postcard with Fritz Lehmann, a German youngster wounded performing an exploit in Dinant, Belgium. The underlying inscription (set to rhyme) is meant to stir the heart and inspire patriotism: “The youngest of the youth in the holy war, they want to partake in the noble victory! Whether in a man’s breast, or whether in a child’s heart, to the fatherland, faithful, in blood and suffering!”

Rosa Zenoch also appears at least twice on war souvenir labels. The first issue was a sheet of 25 different war images prepared by the firm R.P.W.J. in 1915 (perf. 9 ½ x 10). This was the second series of labels put out by the firm and it was entitled “Weltkrieg 1914” (World War 1914; see Figure 9a). The “Heroine of Rawa Ruska” appeared on label number six, shown propped up in bed in the same photo as used for the postcard in Figure 3. Her endeavours on behalf of the war effort were considered on par with those of the soldiers and medical personnel seen on many of the other labels. Figure 9b is an enlargement of the upper left labels. The sheet is known in four colours: pink and black, green and black, violet and black, and pale-blue and black.

¹ One of the literary works was even made into classical music by the German composer, Paul Scheinflug, who entitled his work: *Rosa Zenoch, Eine Erzählung von Albrecht Schaeffer mit begleitender Musik* (gr. Orch, Soprano und Alt Solo, Frauenchor, und Sprecher), opus 23. Heinrichshofen, 1918. (*Rosa Zenoch, A Narrative by Albrecht Schaeffer with Accompanying Music* (featuring a large orchestra, soprano and alto solo, a female choir, and narrator), opus 23. Heinrichshofen, 1918.)

Later, the labels were marketed by the Imperial War Charity Office and to raise funds for the Red Cross. For the latter, each sheet was enclosed in an envelope inscribed “OFFIZIELLE SAMMLUNG FÜR DAS ROTE KREUZ HILFSBUREAU KRIEGSFÜRSORGEAMT – PREIS PER SERIE (25 STÜCK) 50 HELLER” (Official Collection for the Red Cross Aid Bureau, War Charity Office – Price per set (25 pieces) 50 heller). This inscription may also have appeared on the selvedge of the sheets.

The second label release featuring Rosa Zenoch is Sheet A of the *Kunstler War Scenes Issue* prepared in 1915. The set of eight multicolored war scenes may or may not have a green publishers imprint “Johann Kunstler, Leipa, Bohemia” on the back of each label (perf. 10 or 11¼). Rosa Zenoch appears on stamp number four offering a soldier a drink (Figure 10). The drawing makes the youngster look like a child of about five.

What Happened Later

A short six-paragraph article in *The Morning Sentinel* (Orlando, Fl.) of September 18, 1915 (i.e., one year after Rosa’s heroics) gives further information as to what happened to the youngster; it is reproduced in full.

“During the second battle of Rawa-Ruska, Rosa Zenoch, a thirteen year old Galician girl, carried water to the soldiers in the trenches until one of her legs was torn off by a Russian shell. She was brought to Vienna where Emperor Francis Joseph, who had heard of her bravery, visited her in the hospital and personally decorated her with the military cross.

The girl recovered and is now at a fashionable boarding school, where she will be educated at the expense of the emperor.

Recently a young girl, who claimed to be the “heroine of Rawa-Ruska” appeared at Franzensbad, Bohemia. She wore a military coat with the stars of a corporal and her breast was decorated with a silver medal. The alleged heroine walked with the aid of a crutch, but seemed to be in perfect health.

Society lionized her and showered money and other gifts upon her. When her fanciful tales created suspicion, she went to Karlsbad, where she also had a golden harvest until detectives arrested her. In court she calmly confessed that she was an impostor.

“Why should I not make a little money out of that Rawa-Ruska stunt?” she said. “The real heroine is taken care of and does not need the cash that patriotic people would gladly give her.”

The swindler is only fifteen years old.”

Portraits of Rosa

Rosa Zenoch’s celebrity status enabled her to be photographed by a variety of portrait artists. I have been able to locate two fine photographs of Rosa – one of which was taken by an American.

Portrait photographer, Pauline Hamilton, left a successful career in Minneapolis in 1908 to undertake further training with the renowned Viennese photographer, Dora Kallmus. Following a two-year apprenticeship, she was able to set up her own studio and become court photographer to the Habsburgs – the first woman ever granted that honour. Hamilton, who was appreciated for getting to know her subjects and capturing them in less formal poses, photographed Rosa Zenoch while she recuperated (Figure 11). The image shows a close up of the girl with her penetrating eyes. She seems comfortable in the presence of this photographer and even gives the impression of showing off her medal. The photographer described Rosa as “the Joan of Arc of Austria-Hungary.”

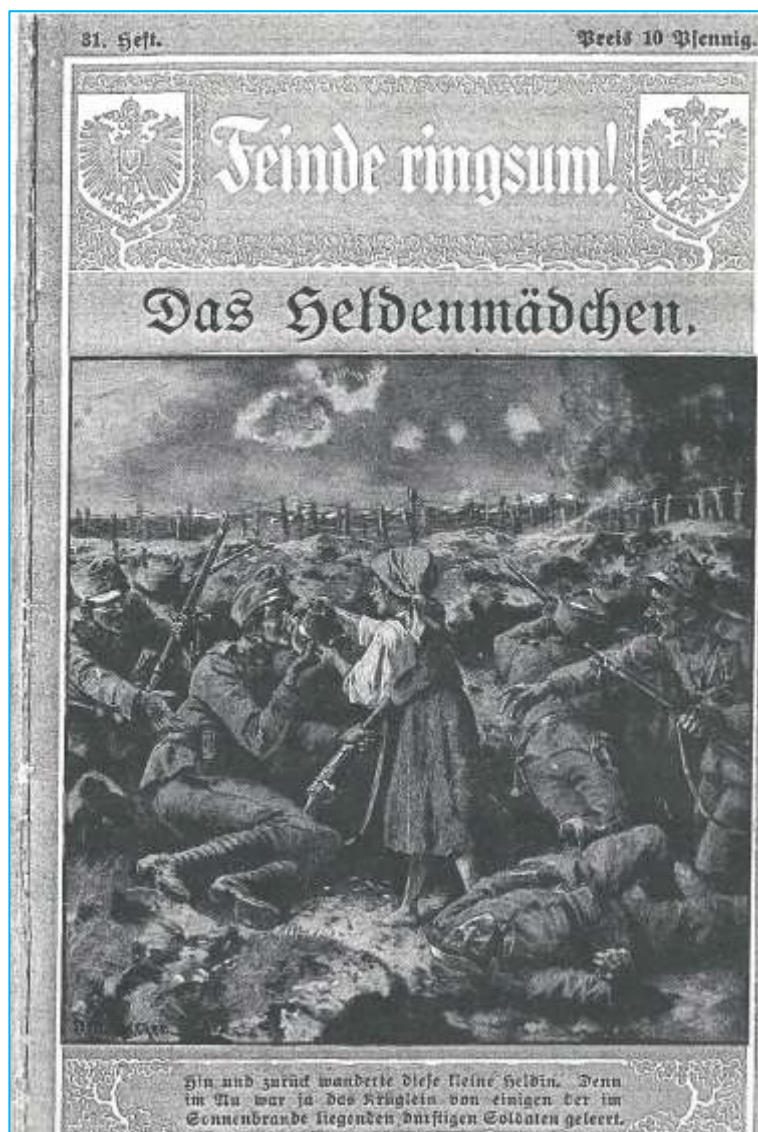
The second portrait – more formal and obviously set up in a studio – was taken the following year (1915) when Rosa was well on her way to recovery (Figure 12). Here she is all dressed up and sitting in a wheel chair. Her hair is now curled and decorated with flowers, and she wears her various medals. Also evident is her new prosthetic left leg. The photo is credited to a Mr. Jagerspacher.

* * * * *

This article is dedicated to Ukraine’s present-day heroes and heroines, who have earned the world’s admiration through the resolute defence of their homeland.

References

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8. "The Heroine of Rawa-Ruska." *The Morning Sentinel* (Orlando, FL) Vol. 3 No. 188 (September 18, 1915).
9. "12-Year-Old Heroine." *The New York Times* (November 29, 1914).
10. Untitled photo clipping in *Das interessante Blatt* (date unknown, likely in September 1914): 6.



PICTURE GALLERY

Figure 1. The front cover of the *Feinde Ringsum!* booklet showcasing Rosa Zenoch providing water to parched Austrian troops.



Figure 2. Rosa Zenoch coming to the relief of soldiers in battle as illustrated in the front page of the *Illustriertes Wiener Extrablatt* (Illustrated Vienna Special Edition) of 22 September 1914.

Figure 3. Postcard showing a photograph of Rosa Zenoch in her hospital bed.





Figure 4. Taken at about the same time is a photograph of Rosa with her mother.



Figure 5. Another postcard showing drawings of Rosa Zenoch in the hospital and on the field of battle.



Figure 6. The Rosa Zenoch Red Cross postcard.



Figure 7. A Rosa Zenoch postcard reproducing the newspaper illustration from the *Illustriertes Wiener Extrablatt*.



Figure 8. Rosa Zenoch on a sentimental postcard highlighting youthful German and Austrian heroes.



Figure 9a. A sheet of World War I labels from 1915 showing Rosa Zench (position 6) in a hospital bed.



Figure 9b. Enlarged section of the sheet showing the Rosa Zench label.



Figure 10. A 1915 Kunstler War Scenes series label depicting Rosa Zenoeh.



Figure 11. Informal portrait of Rosa Zenoeh taken by Pauline Hamilton while the patient was still in the hospital.



Figure 12. Rosa Zenoeh literally sitting for a formal portrait many months into her convalescence.

WIPA1933 Mystery

We have found images of what we believe to be designs, proofs and trials of the 1933 WIPA commemorative stamp. They may have reached us from the late Prof Zimmerl; we have no knowledge of where the originals were or are! We're printing them here in case any reader can tell us any more about them. We know that what seems to be these items (or identical twins!) were recently offered at auction and fetched huge sums. The single proofs in green, grey, dark green and dark blue were all sold, we believe, two of them we know for €11,000 each. The JPGs are numbered 149-157, so could be from the auction catalogue?



#149 1933 01 WIPA Bildvorlage Junk



#156 1933 08 WIPA gew. Papier



#157 1933 09 WIPA Faserpapier

	
#150 1933 02 WIPA Stichphase	#151 1933 03 WIPA Karton
	
#152 1933 04 WIPA Einzelprobe grün	#152 1933 04 WIPA Einzelprobe blau
	 <p>INTERNATIONALE POSTWERTZEICHEN-AUSSTELLUNG WIEN 1933</p>
#154 1933 06 WIPA Schwarzdruck	#155 1933 07 WIPA-Block Schwarzdruck

YORK FAIR REPORT

Keith Brandon reporting on the APS meeting, York Stamp & Coin Fair, 16 July 2002.

Perhaps it was the imminent heatwave or perhaps the rival attractions of golf and cricket on T.V., but attendance at the York Fair was the lowest I have ever seen. Our meeting was similarly affected with only five attendees, but that didn't prevent us seeing some interesting material and having a good chat.



First up was Martin Brumby who told us about the Austrian graphic artist Ulf Seidl (1881-1960) and showed us a folder of twelve of his drawings. These have also been featured on a series of postcards.



Andy then showed us the latest in his collection of modern Austrian stamps printed on exotic materials - this one on the material used to manufacture ski-tips! (Picture on cover)

I introduced a counter book used at the Eferding post-office in Upper Austria from 1897 to 1901. It was used to record details of items of value despatched by the office; registered mail and postal orders through the Briefpost and money-letters and other valuables via the Fahrpost. Such records were necessary in case a claim was made.

Finally, Alan Berrisford treated us to more from his bottomless collection of immaculate material from the northern fringes of the Austrian Empire. This time he showed us postmarks from Austrian Silesia and handstamps of postal-agencies of Bohemia & Moravia.



At the Sign of the Brown Cow

A meeting of the Usual Northern Suspects and friends took place at the Brown Cow, Leeds, on Saturday 13 August. This is International Left Handers Day; Alfred Hitchcock's birthday; and National Prosecco Day. Or so the internet says, and who are we to challenge it?

Reporting by Roger Morrell; photos by Andy Taylor.

On a very fine but very hot day, sixteen souls from the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Polish and Yugoslav specialist societies braved the busy roads and the rail strike, some attired in shorts and sandals, to enjoy a day of central European philatelic variety organised by Yvonne Wheatley. Unfortunately, compared with previous events, these numbers were depleted by temperature, transport and domestic issues, but nonetheless an excellent time was had by all. Also, besides apologies for absence, Yvonne Wheatley had to announce that unfortunately Malcom Stockhill of the Polish Society, a long-standing attendee, had passed away earlier in the week. Four rounds of short displays were held before lunch, and two more afterwards, the following eclectic mix of subject matter being shown:

Martin Brumby: Official free-post cards of Austria from the 1870s to the 1920s, and a few from Hungary (in two parts), with identification of all the issue types, some of which appeared to be very scarce, or simply 'not previously seen'.

Roger Morrell: Troubled times in Ukraine – the philately of the various parts of Ukraine during and after both WW1 (Western Ukraine, Romanian occupation, Polish and Bolshevik intervention) and WW2 (German occupation, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Subcarpathian National Government and Soviet interventions) and with a bit of historical scene setting and some maps to help.

Joyce Boyer: The Innsbruck to Vienna TPO through the ages, shown in two parts, Vienna to Salzburg and Salzburg to Innsbruck, showing the postmarks, some questionable (or at least questioned!).

Keith Brandon: Russia to Western Europe pre-stamp mail from Ukrainian towns via various routes and identified by postmarks, commencing with the Danube route from the 1830s but changing with the development of the railways which provided faster connections.

Nick Coverdale: Mail from Serbia to Austria-Hungary 1867-1880. Post was initially handled via the Austrian Consulate in Belgrade, but from 1869 was handled by the Serbs themselves through the Austria-Serbia Postal Union with reduced rates which changed again in 1875 following the UPU convention.

Yvonne Wheatley: Small, 'thimble' datestamps of Austria introduced from 1867, selected especially from places destined to become Czechoslovakia.

Wojciech Kierstan: East Prussia and the development of the Polish Corridor in 1920, including the local stamp issues for plebiscite areas Marienwerder and Allenstein.

Garth Taylor: The Czech Grand Prix of the 1930s on the 29 km long circuit near Brno, with postmarks and commemorative cards, including some of the drivers and their successes.

Andy Taylor: Austrian composers and music as commemorated on stamps, with the accompaniment of the Austrian National Anthem played on his phone, shown in two parts.

Alan Berrisford Warsaw local delivery post under German occupation, 1916-18, including stamps and the six series of hand-stamped marks displayed on covers, with rate changes, shown in two parts.

Richard Jagielski: Polish Camp stamps during WWII, including Montecasino and the rapidly withdrawn Mountbatten issues, with covers collected by his father during and after, supported by resettlement documents and other ephemera.

Peter Chadwick: History of East Prussia including WWI plebiscites, the Polish corridor, WWII occupations and the eventual formation of the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad.

Wojciech Kierstan: The Prague Exhibition of 1968 with all the special issues for each day and covers with the appropriate postmarks.

Richard Wheatley: The Czech Airmen series of 1945 in complete sheets, noting only one ‘error’, a ‘feather in the cap’, which ironically he then couldn’t locate.

Garth Taylor: The USA’s WWII stamp series showing the flags of oppressed nations and covers bearing the stamps sent to various envoys and military attachés.

Roger Morrell: The introduction in 1918/19 of special Hungarian newspaper money orders for paying for newspaper subscriptions and the confusion this caused among post office staff.

Richard Jagielski: The first post-WWII issue of Poland printed in Russia with overprints and postal history.

Before the thirsty audience rushed for the cakes and tea, Andy Taylor gave a vote of thanks to Yvonne for hosting the meeting and making all the arrangements (some of which sounded very frustrating). In response, Yvonne said she was considering the possibility of changing the next meeting to a weekday to improve the chances of more reliable public transport and lunchtime catering, which attendees welcomed (since we are all getting older!).

Picture Gallery



Garth Taylor



Keith Brandon



Wojciech Kierstan, Garth Taylor



Nick Coverdale, Ian Bergel, Yvonne Wheatley



Martin Brumby



Joyce Boyer



Alan Berrisford



Keith Brandon and Peter Chadwick

NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS

From our New Issues Correspondent.

Note that most of the items described are not retained long-term by the Society, although copies may be available for a short period.

Die Briefmarke

6/2022: The Prater's Big Wheel; 'that' Ukrainian stamp becomes a bestseller; Crimea; do you know Winkl bei Traunkirchen (*I've been there! Ed.*); new issues; Dachauer's sketches and designs for the 1922 issue; Christkindl forgeries; society reports; meetings and exhibitions; etc.

7-8/2022: Gmunden besieged by birds; 25 years of Alp-Adria philately; 250 years since the First Partition of Poland; 150 years since the Austrian North-Pole expedition; the first Kronen-heller stamps, 1899-1907; new issues; society reports; meetings and exhibitions; etc.

Germania

Vol 58 Nr 3: Colour guide to Prussian stamps; 1888: the 3-Kaiser year; Frei It Avers labels; hyperinflation and beyond; 2-colour postmark; Intro to German colonial philately (i); meetings reports; etc etc etc.

Vindobona Vereins-Nachrichten

2/2022 June 2022: Prephilatelic registration marks from Freiberg; a previously-unknown cancel from Vienna's Kleine Post; forwarding of parcels overseas (especially to USA) via forwarders in Bremen and Hamburg, with examples of Frachtbriefe; a pneumatic mail card with a perfin; private stationery 1903-1918 part II; Postbegleit-adresse cards with free-from-duty inscriptions; Thurn & Taxis freepost labels (2); etc etc

##*##*1st October 2022 - postage rates rise*##*##

	Tariff/service	Stamp name	Value		Quantity
			Current	New	
1	Additional stamps	Astrakhan fur hat - Seewinkel	0.05	0.05	50 (R)
2	Additional stamps	Lake Constance Radhaube - Lake Constance	0.10	0.10	50 (R)
3	Prio letter S (domestic)	Steinfeder grass - Wachau	0.85	1.00	100 (R)
4	Prio letter S (domestic)	Kärntner Roserl rose - Carinthia	0.85	1.00	4
5	Prio letter S (domestic)	Fuhrmannsbesteck knife - Bad Ischl	0.85	1.00	25
6	Prio letter S (international within Europe)	Czismen I Schaftstiefel boots - Rechnitz	1.00	1.20	4
7	Prio letter S (international within Europe)	Knoschen clogs - Ausseerland	1.00	1.20	50
8	Prio letter M (domestic)	Ranzen ornamental belt - Ötztal	1.35	1.50	4
9	Prio letter M (domestic)	Belt buckle - Bregenzerwald	1.35	1.50	50
10	Eco letter M (international within Europe) and Prio letter S (worldwide)	Lamberg hat - Salzburg	1.80	1.90	50
11	Prio letter M (international within Europe)	Saurüsselhaube hat - Neunkirchen	2.10	2.30	4
12	Prio parcel S (domestic)	Goiserer shoes - Bad Goisern	2.75	3.00	4
13	Prio parcel S (domestic)	Collar brooch - Vienna	2.75	3.00	25
14	Prio parcel M (domestic)	Bindlring ring - Bad Aussee	4.30	4.50	4

(R) means "in a roll". Subscribers usually get strips-of-5, not the full roll; and similarly for 25s & 50s on cards.

OSCAR PONGRATZ-LIPPITT AND AUSTRIA'S AUXILLIARY POSTAL SERVICES

by Keith Brandon

Readers may be aware of the Landbriefträger service (literally “rural letter carrier” but translated in this article as “rural postman”) set up in Austria in 1868. Its aim was to facilitate mailing and delivery of letters in smaller, rural communities where a post-office would not be viable. The procedures are described in full in Klein part II, and examples of the handstamps used by these postmen are depicted. Such items are very hard to find today.

However, readers may not know that the rural letter-carrier has been re-established in modern times with much the same aims and procedures as 140 years earlier.

The background notes and the examples of mail depicted in this article come from correspondence between Dr Oscar Pongratz-Lippitt and myself in 2013. OPL, as I will call him from now on, was a long-standing member of the APS who passed away in December 2018. Although he was best-known as an expert on the stamps and postal history of Bosnia-Herzegovina, he also showed a keen interest in modern Austrian philately.

Today's rural postman delivers letters in country areas, but also accepts letters handed to them, which they take to the nearest post-office. They accept franked, unfranked and partly-franked mail, with the balance payable in cash. Registered, express and foreign mail is also accepted.

OPL experimented to see what type of mail he could send via his local postman. Although there was a sub-post-office in Pernegg, Styria, where OPL lived, the rural postman took the mail to the Breitenau sub-office which was at the end of their circuit.

Fig 1 is (a black and white photocopy of) a letter sent registered by OPL on 3 January 2013 to his brother Maximilian at the family seat in Pernegg. He could have handed it over personally as they both lived there, but OPL wanted an example of the rural postman's markings. The letter was already franked 62c for postage, and OPL paid €2.20 in cash for the registration-fee. The postman's boxed handstamp on the front confirmed this payment, and it was postmarked at the Breitenau sub-post-office.

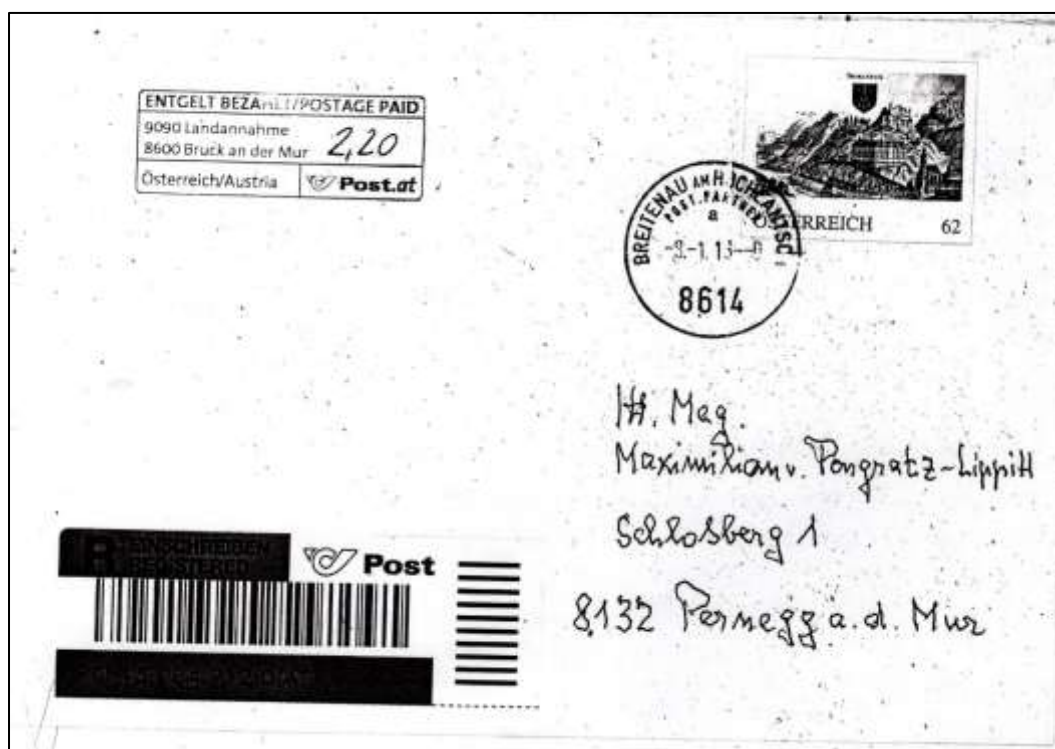


Fig 1

Bestätigung		Post.at
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrichtete Postengelte	2,93	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nachnahmebeträge		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
Gesamtbetrag	2,93	
Datum	11.01.2013	
Unterschrift	<i>[Signature]</i>	

Österreichische Post AG, Firmenbuchnummer: 180 219d, Firmenbuchgericht: AG Wien
Es gelten die für das jeweilige Produkt anwendbaren Allgemeinen Geschäftsbedingungen der Österreichische Post AG in ihrer jeweils gültigen Fassung.
DVR: 5008803 UID-Nr.: ATU 46674503 7 661 301 701 PRM/LOG 551433/08

Landannahme 9
Bruck a. d. Mur
Datum 11.1.13
Unterschrift [Signature]

The rural postman had a second, smaller handstamp which he used on the receipt for the cash payment. Fig.2 shows the receipt for €2.94 for a different letter sent the same month. Both handstamps contain the text “Landannahme, Bruck an der Mur”. Bruck is the main post-office overseeing the rural postmen and the sub-post-offices (“Post Partners”) in the district.

< Fig 2

The letter in fig.3 (again to Maximilian, and again a black & white photocopy) has the rural postman’s boxed handstamp with a cash payment of 62c for postage. It seems that the postmen don’t carry postage-stamps, even for basic inland rate. It’s a cash-only business, and

the sender receives a receipt for his payment. The letter illustrated bears no stamp and therefore no postmark; the rural postman’s handstamp was sufficient for its inland journey within Austria. The receipt is shown as fig.4 and is dated 11 January 2013.

Fig 3

Bestätigung		Post.at
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrichtete Postengelte	0,62	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nachnahmebeträge		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
Gesamtbetrag	0,62	
Datum	11.01.2013	
Unterschrift	<i>[Signature]</i>	

Österreichische Post AG, Firmenbuchnummer: 180 219d, Firmenbuchgericht: AG Wien
Es gelten die für das jeweilige Produkt anwendbaren Allgemeinen Geschäftsbedingungen der Österreichische Post AG in ihrer jeweils gültigen Fassung.
DVR: 5008803 UID-Nr.: ATU 46674503 7 661 301 701 PRM/LOG 551433/08

Landannahme 9
Bruck a. d. Mur
Datum 11.1.13
Unterschrift [Signature]

ENTGELT BEZAHLT/POSTAGE PAID	
9090 Landannahme	0,62
8600 Bruck an der Mur	
Österreich/Austria	Post.at

Sgt. Mag.
Maximilian v. Pongratz-Lippitz
Schloßberg 1
8132 - Pernegg / Mur

Fig 4

OPL’s next move was to hand the rural postman a letter addressed to me in England (fig.5). It bears the postman’s handstamp, but without the cash payment recorded. It was safely delivered with no further markings by the Austrian or British post offices. The postman’s handstamp includes the text “POSTAGE PAID” in English, and this was accepted by the Royal Mail.

Future postal historians will not be able to date letters like this or the next example in the absence of a dated postmark. It is surprising to me that neither the sub-post-office at Breitenau nor the main post-office at Bruck was required to add a dated postmark. In the earlier system of postal agencies (“Postablagen”), this was mandatory.

In a July letter, OPL observes that: “The local postman is on holiday at the moment - his substitute is an idiot”. By August, the regular rural postman had returned and OPL decided to try a registered foreign letter, handed to the postman on 9 August 2013 and paid for in cash (fig 6). Again, the letter was successfully delivered to me with no markings apart from the rural postman’s handstamp and the registration label. Again, the amount paid has not been recorded. In this case, we can date the letter because OPL separately sent me the proof of posting (fig.7).



Fig 5



Fig 6

Aufgabebeschein RQ 15 024 927 0 AT		Bitte hier knicken und abziehen
Empfängername <u>Keith Brandon</u>		
PLZ/Bestimmungsort <u>YO626NU Kirkbymoorside</u>		
<u>England</u>		
Landannahme <u>8</u>		Datum <u>9.8.13</u>
<small>Bitte den Teil oberhalb der Stanzlinie am oberen Rand in der Mitte aufheben. Bei der Aufgabe am Schalter wird der Aufgabebeschein abgezogen. Rückseite Es gelten die Allgemeinen Geschäftsbedingungen der Österreichischen Post AG 1010 Wien, Postgasse 8, Firmenbuchnr. 180 219d, UID-Nr. ATU46674503, DVR: 1008803</small>		

Fig 7

Having had his fun with the rural postman, OPL reverted to posting his mail to me at the post-partner in Pernegg. In his 1997 article, Andy Taylor describes the usage of “Posthilfsstelle” and “Poststelle” for these sub-post-offices, and it seems that “Post-Partner” is the twenty-first-century nomenclature.

They differ from regular post-offices in that they are hosted in another organisation’s premises and manned by their staff. We have seen similar developments in the U.K. in recent years. The Pernegg post partner is located in the ADEG supermarket at 19 Kirchdorf, and the Breitenau (am Hochlantsch) post partner is in the council office at St Jakob 9. According to the Austria Post website, (on 22 March 2022) there are currently 400 post offices in Austria and some 1300 post partners. Other forms of post-office seem to have been done away with, and post partners appear to be in the ascendancy.

Fig.8 shows a letter to England correctly franked 70c and cancelled **PERNEGG AN DER MUR / POST-PARTNER / a / 31.01.11 / 8132**. The next example (fig 9) uses a 62c postage-stamp plus a computer label for 8c paid in cash to make up the correct rate. Finally, fig 10 shows the same 62c stamp plus a 5c definitive plus a label for 3c cash paid at the post-office!

The postage stamp used on the last two letters is a personal stamp (“Meine Marke”), of which OPL had two hundred printed. It shows his family coat of arms set against an engraving of Pernegg. The Pongratz-Lippitt home, Schloss Pernegg can be seen in the centre of the picture, below the ruins of a former castle (fig.11).

In 1576, the Lordship of Pernegg (then spelt Bäreneck - “Bear corner”) was handed over to Baron Gallus von Racknitz. He commissioned the Renaissance chateau, a little down the hill from the by-then-uninhabitable mediaeval castle. The Schloss then had a number of owners before Mathilde Lippitt became the owner of the Pernegg estate in 1879. She was followed in direct line by her son Alfred Josef, Markus von Pongratz-Lippitt and Dr Oscar Pongratz-Lippitt, the subject of this article.

After Oscar passed away in 2018, his brother Mag. Maximilian Pongratz-Lippitt became head of the family and the Pernegg estate. Since 2006, the Pongratz-Lippitt Foundation “Herrschaft Pernegg” has owned the Castle. Part of it can be hired for weddings and other large events.



Fig 11

References:

- ❖ Klein W: “Die postalischen Abstempelungen und andere Entwertungsarten auf den österreichischen Postwertzeichen-Ausgaben 1867, 1883 und 1890”, 1973
- ❖ Taylor A: “Postablagen und Posthilfsstellen cancellations”, AUSTRIA 127, Autumn 1999
- ❖ The Schloss Pernegg website. <http://www.schloss-pernegg.at/> [Impressive - worth a look!]

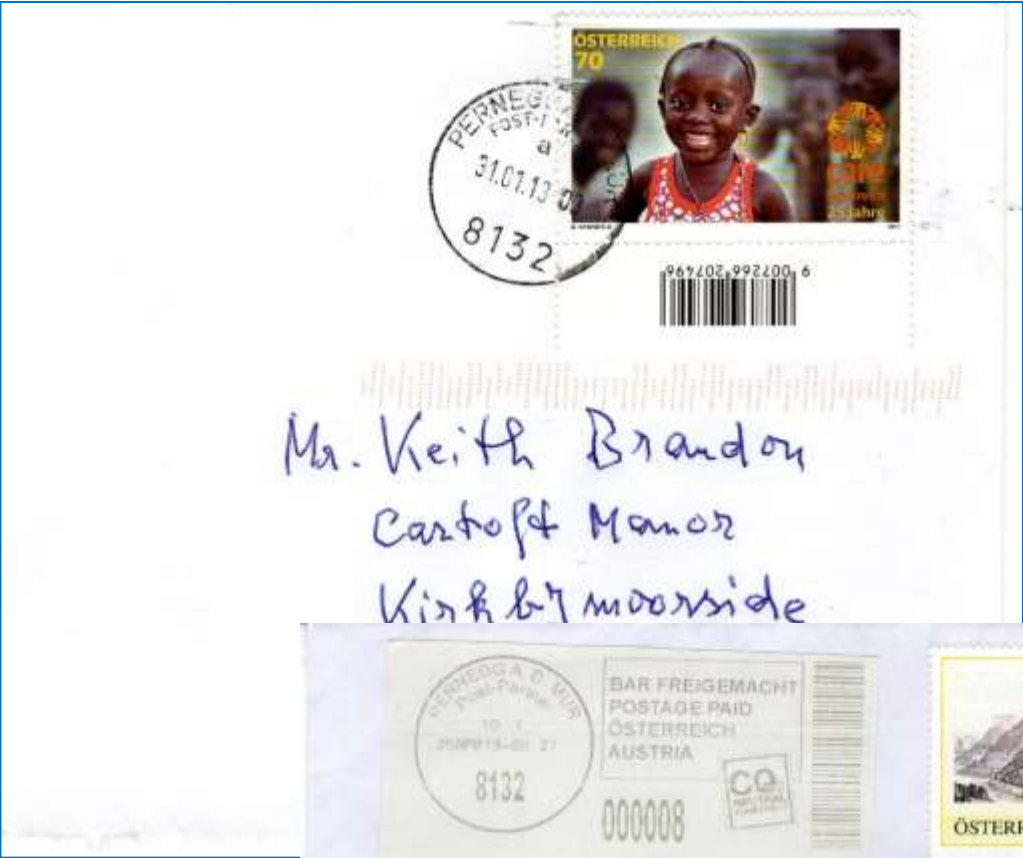


Fig 8

Fig 9



Fig 10

The centenary of the fall of the hapless emperor

The last Austrian Emperor, Charles I, died of pneumonia on April 1, 1922 at the age of 34. The Habsburg, who was expelled from Austria, spent his time in exile in Switzerland and from the end of 1921 on Madeira. The fact that Karl's death day fell on April Fool's Day is of course due to coincidence.

Of course, coincidences often pile up. Three years earlier, in 1919, also on April 1, the imperial Schönbrunn Palace, where Karl had lived with his wife Zita and their children a few days previously, was opened to the public. Crowds of Viennese flocked to the recently deserted imperial rooms to see the splendour in which their deposed ruler had lived. The contrast to the miserable life in the city, which was marked by hunger and poverty this winter, could not have been greater.

The bedroom of the imperial couple was particularly popular with voyeuristic visitors. Egon Erwin Kisch, who was living in Vienna as a young reporter at the time, reported about the new castle tourists in the daily newspaper "Der Neue Tag" at the beginning of April 1919: "Since the 1st of this month, visitors have been able to walk across the icy parquet floors for an entrance fee of one crown of the foreign and ceremonial apartments, into the large gallery, into the Chinese round cabinet, into the carousel room, the ceremonial hall, the tapestry salon (...) and into the bedroom, where (...) ex-Emperor Karl and ex-Empress Zita until November spent the nights." And he added smugly: "If Emperor Franz Joseph received permission from heaven to visit his Schönbrunn pleasure palace now, he would throw up his hands in horror."

A new image

Emperor Karl, when he took over the reign of the monarchy after the death of the aged Emperor Franz Joseph (who also died of pneumonia), certainly imagined his future and that of his country differently when it finally came. When he left Austria forever with a few confidants on the night of March 23/24, 1919, the population did not shed a tear for the Habsburg. When his train, on its way to Switzerland, stood at the train station in Feldkirch, those present reacted with embarrassment, but not sadly. In his memoir "Die Welt von Gestern" (The World of Yesterday), Stefan Zweig recalls: "The gendarmes, the police officers, the soldiers seemed embarrassed and looked aside, slightly ashamed, because they didn't know whether they were still allowed to pay the old marks of honour."

A good two years earlier, in the spring of 1917, Karl had reached the peak of his power. Unlike Franz Joseph, he did not enter the imperial inheritance as a reserved, judicious monarch, but, in the middle of the war, pulled out all the propaganda levers to create a new, energetic image for himself. On the public stage, he presented himself as a determined and successful general. He informed the people and the media that he would soon be able to bring the war, which was now in its third year and becoming increasingly unpopular, to a victorious end. A false promise, as it turned out.

In the almost two years of his tenure, Karl was constantly on the move. The first trip took him to the Dolomite front in January 1917, in April he visited the Isonzo front, at the beginning of May he was traveling in Galicia, in mid-May he went back to the Dolomite front, in June 1917 he visited the theatres of war in Carinthia, Istria and on the Isonzo, he went to Hungary and again to the Dolomite front. At the end of June and beginning of July Karl was again in Galicia, and in October he also visited the eastern front. It went on like this.

Media Narcissism

The Kaiser's propaganda department, which had been set up "by the highest order" a few weeks after he took office, was always present. The "Press Service for the Highest Rulers" ignited veritable media fireworks surrounding the young emperor. The facility was managed by Karl Werkmann, a reserve captain and journalist, who had a perfect command of media staging. He recognized that the visual media, film, but above all photography, were particularly suitable for mass media marketing of the Kaiser. Two photographers, Ludwig and Heinrich Schuhmann, accompanied the monarch at every turn. They provided the images that were needed: Karl inspecting parades, Karl striding through crowds,

The young monarch knew about the presence of the cameras, he played his role as media emperor perfectly. A smile here, a greeting there or a wave at the camera. Days later, the Kaiser pictures appeared in large print runs in the country's magazines. The Habsburg had practiced the use of visual media for his benefit long before he became emperor. Even as heir to the throne, Karl had a strong tendency towards media narcissism, he loved being photographed. On September 26, 1915, the war photographer Alexander Exax noted: "Heir to the throne Karl Franz Josef snapped 28 times."

With the defeat in the First World War, the propaganda war in the service of the Kaiser collapsed in the late autumn of 1918 within a very short time. "The mood against the imperial couple is also in Austria the worst imaginable," Vienna police chief Franz Brandl, an orderly and Habsburg-loyal official, wrote on October 28, 1918. And on the following day he recorded that the crowds were moving along the Ringstrasse, shouting: "We want the Republic! Down with the Habsburgs!" Also on October 28, the politician and lawyer Josef Redlich visited the Kaiser. On the same day he wrote in his diary that the monarch was "poor looking, pale, small face".

Karl didn't want to accept the approaching end. On November 9, 1918, two days before his declaration of renunciation and on the day that the revolution reached Berlin, medals were being awarded in Vienna in the name of the Emperor. Karl Werkmann, meanwhile the monarch's private secretary, was raised to the rank of baron on November 11, 1918. On the same day, the Emperor put his signature - in pencil - under the prepared declaration in which he renounced government business. He did not want to sign a formal abdication. "The throne," wrote Joseph Roth in 1919, "decayed like a rotten bench in a neglected park; the monarchy dissolved like a sugar cube in a teacup. When there was no longer an emperor, the republic was discovered."

His actual words were "Ich verzichte auf jeden Anteil an den Staatsgeschäften", that is, "I renounce all participation in the affairs of state". See <https://www.austrianphilately.com/ausintrans/karl.htm> for more details and a copy of the renunciation document.

The "ruler tragedy"

The deposed emperor did not want to submit to his civilian fate. He revoked his renunciation and returned to Hungary twice more, in April and October 1921, to assert his claim to the Hungarian throne. Both attempts at restoration failed miserably. In Austria, the mood towards the Habsburgs remained negative after 1919 (with the exception of the legitimist circles).

On November 1, 1921, after his second attempt to return, Karl left the territory of the former monarchy forever. Even now, he didn't want to give up his desire to be in the public spotlight. His former personal photographer, Heinrich Schuhmann, followed the ex-Emperor to Switzerland and photographed him several times, now in civilian clothes.

When Karl died on April 1, 1922, the reactions in Austria were, to put it mildly, unsympathetic. The "Neues Wiener Tagblatt" published an extra edition on April 1 with a single message in huge letters on the front page: "Ex-Kaiser Karl died". No further comment on this. The day after, the colossal crash of the emperor was traced in the newspaper under the title "ruler tragedy", without much sympathy. And the critical "Arbeiter-Zeitung" summarized after Karl's death: "Everything about him was stale and insignificant."

His "megalomania" and his bad advisers would have made him a "disaster" and a "danger" for the people. And that's how it came about, the newspaper summed up, that "one remains unmoved when the last Habsburg dies".