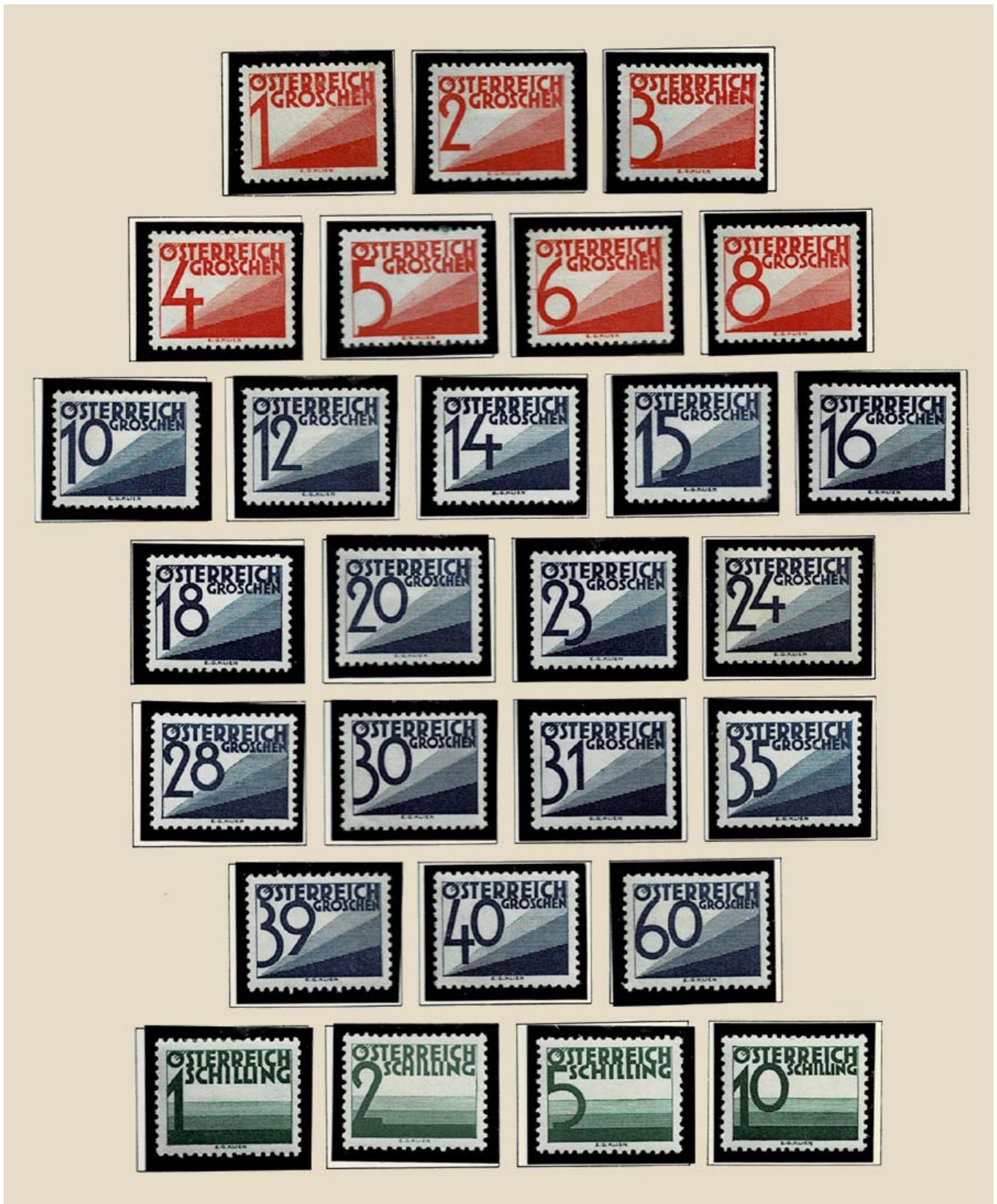


The 1925-34 Postage Due Issue

With the influx of 650 million gold crowns from the League of Nations to stabilize the currency, and with a 1000-to-1 revaluation, a new currency namely the Schilling and Groschen was introduced on 1 Jan 1925. Due to the late printing of the postage due stamps there was a period of 92 days when the old stamps were used at the revalued rate. A series of 27 postage due stamps in Schilling currency was issued from 1 June 1925 with additional odd values up to June 1934. The Kronen postage dues were withdrawn on 1st June 1925, and from that day onwards only the new postage dues were used. They mostly remained valid for use until the introduction of the set of 1st June 1935.



ANK	Face	Colour	Issued	Valid till	Number
132	1g	red	1.6.1925	31.13.1925	10,069,200

133	2g	red	1.6.1915	31.12.1935	10,485,200
134	3g	red	12.1925	31.12.1935	2,422,500
135	4g	red	1.6.1925	31.12.1929	3,364,350
136	5g	red	1.1.1927	31.12.1935	42,739,350
137	6g	red	1.6.1925	31.12.1929	1,590,300
138	8g	red	1.6.1925	31.12.1929	3,338,850
139	10g	blue	1.6.1925	31.12.1935	46,968,150
140	12g	blue	1.6.1925	31.12.1929	4,245,000
		(second printing)	9.1932	31.12.1935	
141	14g	blue	6.1927	31.12.1935	2,342,250
142	15g	blue	1.6.1925	31.12.1929	14,120,100
143	16g	blue	5.1929	31.12.1935	2,977,500
144	18g	blue	25.6.1934	31.12.1935	289,350
145	20g	blue	1.6.1925	31.12.1935	27,655,950
146	23g	blue	1.6.1925	31.12.1929	8,962,500
147	24g	blue	9.1932	31.12.1935	7,764,150
148	28g	blue	1.1.1927	31.12.1935	5,895,000
149	30g	blue	1.6.1925	31.12.1935	11,929,800
150	31g	blue	1.2.1929	31.12.1935	5,565,000
151	35g	blue	1.1930	31.12.1935	18,754,800
152	39g	blue	9.1932	31.12.1935	16,135,650
153	40g	blue	1.6.1925	31.12.1929	3,073,800
154	60g	blue	1.6.1925	31.12.1935	2,476,800
155	1S	green	1.6.1925	31.12.1935	3,927,000
156	2S	green	12.1925	31.12.1935	1,161,750
157	5S	green	12.1925	31.12.1935	446,550
158	10S	brown	12.1925	31.12.1935	864,900

Description

The stamps are introduced and described in the same decree (PTVOB 1925/32 I99) as the new definitives. The postage dues are a rectangular shape; the printed area of which is 22mm wide and 16mm high. The stamps were designed by Erika Giovanna Klein, whose name is on the bottom margin. The groschen values are divided diagonally from the bottom left to the top right, the bottom half of which is divided by rays which go from the left corner into three fields in the form of wedges. The bottom field is fully printed, the middle one is strongly shaded and the top one is delicately shaded, so that the stamp colour appears in three different gradations of tone. The schilling values are divided horizontally into two fields; the bottom field shows, in three horizontal stripes, the same gradations of tone as the groschen values.

With all the values, the numeral of value is placed in strongly coloured writing on a white ground, so that it takes up about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the height of the stamp. The stamps have "ÖSTERREICH" on the top margin in block capitals, and underneath it "GROSCHEN" or "SCHILLING". All are printed by typography in sheets of 150 stamps on white paper. The groschen values with one digit are printed in red, those with two digits in blue; the 1g to 8g values have the word "GROSCHEN" in a larger lettering than do the 10g to 60g values. The schilling values are in green. All have a 1½mm broad imprinted paper margin and are comb perf 12.

During the decade of validity of this postage due stamp issue, several values were added (as tabulated above) to deal with the steady rise in inland and foreign postage rates. The 10g value is known bisected on cover from the town of Stainz in Carinthia. Forgeries of the 24g and 39g values are known used at Andritz (the XII district of Graz), from April to October 1933. Mixed frankings with the 1922 Postage Due Set are also known. Imperforate specimens are known for many of the values.

Skart??

Specimens of these postage dues are common enough on covers, and on forms retained by the public. However, while the Schilling-groschen stamps were also used for Post Office internal accounting, examples still on the forms are very rare. This is caused by the practice of "Skarting". Internal forms were retained for prescribed periods, eg the end of the year after the year of use. Then they were sent for clipping, sometimes by convicts, where the stamps were cut off and bagged for sale to dealers and the paper sent for recycling. This also explains why the relative numbers of loose stamps on the market bears little relation to the numbers observed on covers.

Examples



Underfranked heavy cover Salzburg to Wien 23.1.1926.

The rates at that date were 15 groschen up to 20 grams, 17 groschen up to 40 grams, etc.

Taxed at 8 groschen, the smallest collectable amount, for a 2 groschen price increase for the extra weight



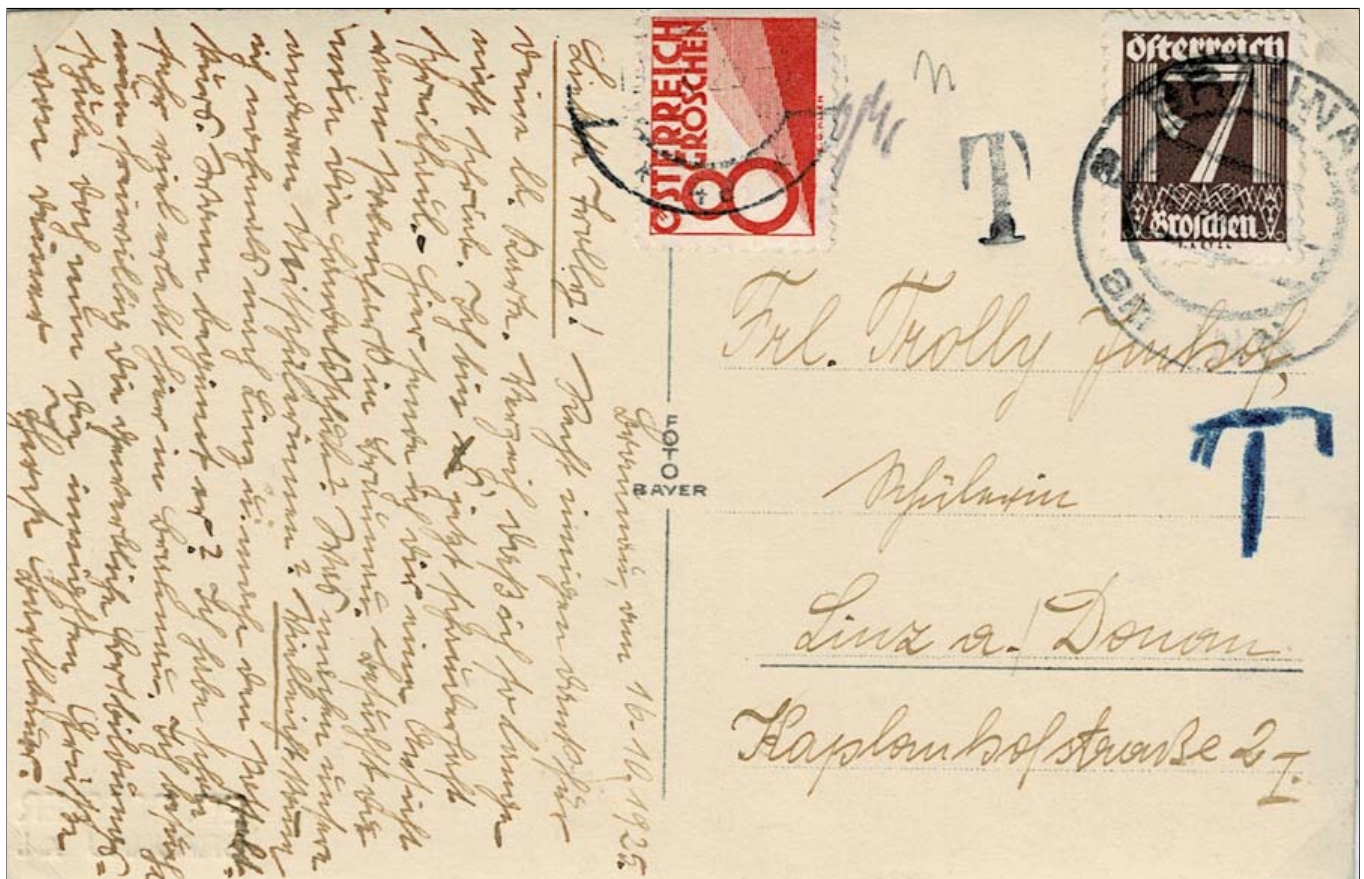
Inland letter, posted unpaid (to a lawyer!) in 1932. Rate was 24g. Large blue underlined T in crayon indicates a charge.

Dues charged at double the deficiency, minimum of 12g so 48g was applied.

The handwritten "eigenhändig" means "only to be opened by"; the lawyer's reaction is unrecorded



Very late use of the 1925 dues in November 1935 - the 1935 issue had appeared on June 1, 1935. Franked 1½d and cancelled at the House of Commons, London, GB. While 1½d is the rate for the British Empire, Austria is Foreign (and no longer an Empire) and the rate is 2½d, so it's 1d underpaid. The postage due is twice the deficiency ie 2d. The T mark would have been added in London (confirmed by the L below the T) and as it is foreign mail the charge is stated in French centimes not English pence. When received in Austria they would have converted the charge to groschen and applied the postage due stamps. The post mark indicates that the letter was posted at the House of Commons; it could have been sent by an MP, a member of staff at the House, or just someone visiting and wanting to get the cancellation.



Postcard; cancel date unreadable but "16-10-25" in text.

Rate was 8gro; franked 7gro so 1gro under. Charge is double deficiency but minimum of 8gro.

Dr. Theodor Helmbert
Rechtsanwalt



Waidhofen a/y.

eigenhändig!



Posted unfranked 1-12-1932. Inland letter is 24 gro so charged 48.

Revierbergamt Wels, O. Oe.

G.-Zl. 1445



An
die Bergwerksinspektion der
Wolfsegg Traunthaler Kohlenwerks A.G.
in

Wolfsegg.
O.Oe.

Postgebühr beim
Empfänger einheben.

Portopflichtige

Portofreie

Dienstsache.



G.-Zl. 1414

Gewöhnlicher Rückscheinbrief



An
die g. Betriebsleitung Gachwendt der Wolfsegg-Traunthaler
Kohlenwerks A.G.

in

Wolfsegg.

Postgebühr beim
Empfänger einheben.

Portopflichtige

Portofreie

Dienstsache.



Official mail; recipient pays but at a discount rate of 14gro instead of 15gro.
The lower item is certified as a Rückscheine which also qualifies for the discount - hence total charge is 28 gro.