

Austrian Philatelic Society

Packet Rules, 1 August 2025

- 1) Members of the Society who are resident in the United Kingdom shall be eligible to receive the Exchange Packet if they so notify the Hon. Packet Secretary in writing, The Executive Committee shall have the power to refuse access to the Packet or to delete the name of any member from the circulation list without assigning any reason
- 2) Note that packet material is NOT insured by the Society, whether in transit to or from the seller or on circulation to members. Also, it is not possible to extend the availability of the Exchange Packet to members residing outside the United Kingdom because of difficulties from customs and taxation requirements.
- 3) Absence from Home and Changes of Address must be reported to the Hon Packet Secretary at once to avoid unnecessary delay in the circulation of the Packets.
- 4) A member who wishes to discontinue seeing the Packets must give one month's notice to the Hon Packet Secretary.
- 5) Members passing the packet onward shall contact the recipient before posting to ensure that the Member will be aware that it is en route and is at home to receive the packet. They should also confirm that the address on the circulation list is still current. Contact can be made by phone or email but a response must be received before posting. The use of voice mail does not constitute making contact unless the potential recipient rings back. Members receiving a phone call / email shall note who rang and in respect of which packet; and shall contact either the other member or the Hon Packet Secretary if it doesn't turn up within a week. Members unable to get a response within 48 hours shall mark the circulation list "skip" to indicate that the Member concerned has been "skipped" and shall make contact with the next Member on the list. Members lower down the list shall try to re-route the packet to include "skipped" members after circulation has continued for (say) a fortnight. Annotations and changes to the circulation list shall be clear and legible!
- 6) Material for the Packets cannot be accepted from non-members. Any such should find a sponsoring member, who then becomes the seller - or join the Society themselves. However, heirs of members are treated as members.
- 7) Stamps must be mounted properly in the standard booklets on the right-hand pages only, and the net selling prices clearly marked in ink above them. The catalogue number and/or value may be inserted in pencil to the left of the selling price. Blocks etc must be indicated by diagrams and due note made of any thinned, repaired or doubtful stamps.
- 8) Booklets of damaged or excessively priced items, or containing items not from Austria or associated territories, may be rejected by the Hon Packet Secretary and returned to the owner at the owner's expense.
- 9) Where contributors describe a stamp by a catalogue number or in any other manner, the Hon Packet Secretary cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the description. Intending purchasers must satisfy themselves by reasonable methods before purchase.
- 10) A member removing stamps must sign or initial their name, or preferably use a rubber name stamp, in each space from which a stamp has been removed. Care shall be taken not to damage other stamps by pressure or ink leakage.
- 11) Members must enter on the front of every booklet received the number of stamps or items purchased by them and the total value thereof.

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- 12) Upon receipt of a Packet, careful examination should be made for all spaces from which stamps have been removed. If any spaces are found without signature or if any other irregularity is observed, this should be indicated at the time for reconciliation by the packet secretary once the packet has completed its circuit.
- 13) A Packet may be retained for no longer than 1 week unless agreed with the Hon Packet Secretary, after which it must be passed on to the next member on the postal list. If a Packet is sent through the post, it must be by Ordinary Second Class Letter Mail. Do not use recorded delivery; do get a Certificate of Posting; do not mark the envelope in any way that might suggest its contents are valuable.
- 14) One of the advice slips (enclosed with each Packet) must be completed and posted, together with a remittance for the value of the stamps removed AND the Certificate of Posting or the receipt for delivery by hand, to the Hon Packet Secretary at the time of forwarding the Packet to the next member on the list. A member who does not remove any stamps must nevertheless complete the advice slip, stating the dates of receipt and despatch of the Packet.
- 15) Members are reminded that they are personally responsible for the packet when it is in their care, especially when out of their normal residence. Members shall not allow any other person to have access to the packet except in their presence.
- 16) Neither the Society nor the Hon Packet Secretary shall be held responsible for the debts of members, or for material lost in transit or otherwise.
- 17) A commission of 10% will be deducted from all sales to defray expenses including postage, the surplus being transferred to the funds of the Society. Return of unsold material to vendors will be by post with the postage deducted from sales.
- 18) All material submitted for circulation in the Packet will be deemed to be vested in the name of the Hon. Packet Secretary for the whole period it is in the hands of the Society and its members. Selling members will be deemed, by the act of submission of book or books, to assign to the said Hon. Packet Secretary all claims, title to sue or other legal rights competent to them in respect of each book or books.
- 19) Any member receiving the packet after the 5th December in any year shall confirm to the Hon Packet Secretary as soon as possible that he has the packet safe and will post it onwards after Boxing Day.