

of standardizing, only of registering. A "Commission for Philatelic Terms, Standards and Measurements" established by the leading philatelic societies of the English-speaking world could tackle the job and could be the answer to many philatelic prayers. Such a commission would have to be a permanent one, its first job being the establishment of recognized terms, standards and measurements, which certainly would take quite a number of years to accomplish. Afterwards, the commission, to which only the ablest philatelists should be appointed as long-term members, would have to watch the application of the established terms, standards and measurements, as highest authority make decisions in questions which may arise

and see to it, that proper adjustments are made to changing or new conditions. Philatelic authors of all kinds will in the great majority conform or will have to be compelled by the philatelic press to do so. But we believe every serious philatelist will welcome uniformity in terms and measurements in articles and books; every author who will not want to be considered stubborn will create no difficulties and in the general interest of philately will compromise his own individual views to the general good. To achieve this end would be almost too good to be true; to know precisely what the author of a philatelic article is talking about would seem like a further step toward a philatelic paradise.

EUROPEAN CLASSICS

III. AUSTRIA

During the classic stamp period, *Austria* was an important country, one of the great powers of Europe. In 1850, it covered about 240,000 square miles and had 37 million inhabitants. The origins of Austria go back to the 8th century, when Charlemagne founded the "Ostmark". It came under the rule of the Dukes of *Babenberg* in 976 and in 996 adopted the name "Oesterreich". The Babenbergs were succeeded by the House of *Habsburg*, which came to power in 1282. During the following centuries, the Habsburgs expanded by treaties and marriages until they became the most powerful family in the world, being also the rulers of Spain and its possessions, as well as of the Holy Roman Empire, which comprised Germany and most of Italy. But this great empire soon split up, and the Habsburgs concentrated on Austria. During the Napoleonic Wars, Austria suffered great losses in territory; Emperor Franz II renounced the crown of the Holy Roman Empire and in 1804 assumed the title of *Emperor of Austria*. In 1815, Austria proper regained most of its losses and its borders remained practically unchanged during the following hundred years. Austria became a member of the *German Confederation*, where it had a leading position. It severed its close connections with the German States in 1866 after losing a war with Prussia, which now took over the dominant position in the German Confederation. At the same time, the national aspirations of the various nationalities in Austria became so strong that a definite change from an absolute monarchy—which had some democratic institutions since 1848—took place. The monarchy was made

into a *dual monarchy* in 1867, giving the Hungarian part equal rights and creating the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy which existed until 1918. Austria itself was reduced in this way to 116,000 square miles with a population of about 29 million. In 1871, the various Austrian nationalities received full equality of their languages as *second languages* to the official German tongue. Seven languages, namely Czech, Polish, Ukrainian (Ruthenian), Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian (Illyrian), Italian and Romanian were recognized in that way.

During the classic stamp period, Austria was ruled by *Emperor Franz Joseph I*. Despite several wars (Occupation of Moldavia-Walachia 1854 to 1857, wars against Denmark in 1850-52, Sardinia and France in 1859, again Denmark in 1864 as well as against Prussia and Italy in 1866) the territory of Austria proper remained unchanged. The *currency*—paper money—was changed in 1858 from Convention Currency (1 gulden=60 kreuzer C.M.) to the Austrian Currency (1 gulden=100 kreuzer).

From 1850 Austria was a founding member of the *German-Austrian Postal Union*, from 1852 also of the *Austro-Italian Postal Union*. In 1867, when *Hungary* assumed its own postal administration, it worked henceforth in a postal union with Austria. In 1875, both became founding members of the *Universal Postal Union*.

We have limited this study to the *classic issues to about 1875* which necessitates breaking the 1867 issue of postage and newspaper stamps, as well as the stationery pertaining to this issue into two parts. Therefore we will deal only with the first part, the so-called "soft" printings (with felt-covered cylinder) of the

1867 issue which ended about 1874 and dis- regard the "fine" printings manufactured after- wards. The stamps of Lombardy-Venetia, which were separate issues of the Austrian Postal Ad- ministration necessitated by different curren- cies as well as the stamps used in Hungary since 1867, have also been excluded and are dealt with separately. The stamps used at the Austrian post offices in the Turkish Empire and its satellites are described with the stamps of Turkey. Austrian stamps were also used in Liechtenstein and this use is dealt with under Liechtenstein.

Austria issued its *first postage stamps* on June 1, 1850; it was the 12th country (the 7th in Europe) to adopt the system of adhesive stamps. It was the first country to introduce *Newspaper Stamps* (on Jan. 1, 1851) and was beaten only by one month by Parma in the adoption of *Newspaper Tax Stamps* (March 1, 1853). *Telegraph Stamps* were issued on Aug. 1, 1873, but abolished again March 31, 1879. Of Postal Stationery, the first *Envelopes* were issued rather late, on Jan. 15, 1861. But Austria was the first country to issue *Postal Cards*, on Oct. 1, 1869. *Money Order Cards* were first issued on May 1, 1870, and *C.O.D. Money Order Cards* (another "first") on Dec. 15, 1871; both were abolished in 1878. *Wrappers* made their appearance on Oct. 1, 1872. *Telegraph Receipts* and *Telegraph Blanks* were first issued on Aug. 1, 1873, the latter abol- ished on March 31, 1879. With the introduc- tion of a pneumatic mail service in Vienna, *Pneumatic Envelopes* and *Pneumatic Letter Sheets* were issued on March 1, 1875.

The first issue of *Postage Stamps*, intro- duced on June 1, 1850, remained valid until Dec. 31, 1858. Due to the change of currency, it was replaced on Nov. 1, 1858 by an issue in new currency. In 1860 when the introduction of envelopes was considered, it was decided to issue the postage stamps in the same new design intended for the envelope stamps, the first values were issued in the last days of December 1860. The 1858 and 1860 issues both remained valid for postage until May 31, 1864. In 1863, the design and some of the colors were changed, due to the introduction of a new color scheme—red for 5kr, blue for 10kr and brown for 15kr—in the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union. The separa- tion of Hungary made necessary a new pro- visional issue to be used for both countries simultaneously. It was introduced in Hungary on June 1, 1867, but in Austria only gradually, after the 1863 issue was used up, which re-

remained valid until Aug. 31, 1869. New high values, 25kr and 50kr, were introduced on Sept. 1, 1867. The 1867 issue was demonetized on Oct. 31, 1884.

Of the first *Newspaper Stamps*, issued on Jan. 1, 1851, the 6kr was demonetized on Dec. 31, 1858. The other values, as well as those of the 1858 and 1860 issues—introduced simul- taneously with the postage stamp issues—were demonetized on May 31, 1864. New news- paper stamps were also issued simultaneously with the 1863 and 1867 postage stamp issues. The former remained valid until Aug. 31, 1869, the latter remained in use until 1899 and were demonetized on Sept. 30, 1900.

The *Newspaper Tax Stamps* of March 1, 1853, were demonetized on Oct. 31, 1858 and replaced by an issue in new currency on Nov. 1, 1858. Two new values, 1kr and 2kr, were issued on Jan. 1, 1859, due to a reduction of the newspaper tax. The 1858 and 1859 issues, although replaced by new issues in 1877 and 1890, remained valid until Dec. 31, 1899.

The *Telegraph Stamps*, introduced on Aug. 1, 1873—the 25kr value on Nov. 1, 1873— were first typographed as a provisional issue and came out in the same year recess-printed. They were withdrawn on March 31, 1879, be- cause payment in cash was reintroduced.

There were also some *color changes* in the issues during their use. In 1859, the black 3kr postage stamp, on which the cancellations were badly visible, was changed to green, tak- ing the green 1sh stamp of Great Britain as example. The yellow color of the 6kr News- paper Stamp, frequently mistaken for the 1kr postage stamp, was changed in 1856 to scarlet, in 1859 that for the blue 1kr Newspaper Stamp, due to confusion with the 15kr postage stamp, changed to lilac, in which case the color of the 6p stamp of Great Britain was taken as example.

Several *changes in the face values* also oc- curred. Of the Newspaper Stamps of the 1851 issue, the 30kr rose and the 6kr yellow were used up as 0.6kr stamps from October 1852 and March 1856 respectively. The Newspaper Stamps of the 1864 and 1867 issues, which were sold, as had been those of 1858 and 1860, for 1gld 5kr per sheet of 100, were sold from Jan. 1, 1868 for 1gld per sheet, which made the face value 1kr instead of 1.05kr. Of the Newspaper Tax Stamps, the 4kr of 1858, which became obsolete beginning Jan. 1, 1859, due to the tax reduction, was used from that date as 2kr, sometimes with manuscript "2" over the figure of value.

Postal Stationery followed the changes of the adhesives, as far as the stamps on them were concerned. The same designs as for the adhesive postage stamps were also used for the stamps imprinted on stationery except Telegraph Receipts, Telegraph Blanks, Pneumatic Envelopes and Pneumatic Lettersheets, for which the design of the typographed Telegraph Stamps was used. The first envelopes of 1861 were replaced by new issues in 1863 and 1867, simultaneously with the postage stamps. Postal Cards, Money Order Cards and C.O.D. Money Order Cards show changes in the printed text only, especially due to the introduction of various bilingual cards in 1871-72. The wrappers, which first had a yellow border, changed its color to lilac in 1874 and omitted the border in 1875. The Telegraph Receipts were either in German or bilingual from the start.

All Austrian Stamps, including those on stationery, were printed by the *Austrian State Printing Works* at *Vienna*, a renowned printing institute, which was founded in 1804. Except for the second issue of the Telegraph Stamps, which was engraved and recess-printed—as were all classic Austrian Revenue Stamps—all classic Austrian stamps and postal stationery were typographed. For the 1858, 1860 and 1863 issues of Postage, Newspaper and Envelope Stamps embossing combined with typography was used. The designs featured either the Austrian Arms (1850 postage, 1863 postage and newspaper, and all newspaper tax stamps) or the head of the Emperor (all others).

The *original dies* of all issues of postage and newspaper stamps were cut either in steel or, in a few cases only, in wood. For the postage stamp issues 1850, 1860, 1863 and 1867 the original dies were without value indication which was inserted in secondary dies for each value. For the 1858 postage stamp issue, of which every value had a different design, secondary dies were obtained from dies which were prepared with value indications in the old currency. In this case the value indications were partly changed to obtain the needed dies with value indications in the new currency. The newspaper issues had no value indications; therefore the original dies were used directly. The designs of the Newspaper Tax Stamps were set in type. The die for the Telegraph Stamps was engraved without value indication; for the provisional typographed issue a working die was created by transposing a secondary engraved die into a typographed

die. For the typographed as well as for the recess-printed stamps the value indications were inserted in new secondary dies.

There was only *one* original die used for each issue (1858 for each value) and only in two cases new secondary dies were made, therefore creating real new types. This was the case for the 5kr stamp of the 1867 issue and the 5kr telegraph stamp of the typographed issue. In all other cases of typical differences they are the result of re-engraving of secondary dies and although also called “types”, they are only subtypes in a strict philatelic sense. Such re-engravings took place for all values of the 1850 and 1858 issues of the postage stamps, the 1851, 1858 and 1867 issues of the newspaper stamps and 1kr stamp of the Newspaper Tax issue of 1859. Aside from this, the dies (or matrices) suffered some small accidental damages, or foreign matter stuck to them for a period, creating subtypes, which are known for all values of the 1850 issue, the 3kr black of 1858, the newspaper stamps of 1867 and the newspapers tax stamps of 1853 and 1859. For the stamps imprinted on stationery the same dies as for the adhesives were used without exception.

All *plates* of classic Austrian stamps (except for the engraved telegraph stamps) consisted of single clichés. These clichés, obtained from the secondary dies, were originally stereotypes, from 1851 until 1867 partly electrotypes, from 1867 again stereotypes. The earliest clichés of the 1850 issue were made of soft type metal and show, as a result of damages, a great number of plate flaws; later clichés were hardened and show only few defects of the design. The first plate of the 9kr of 1850 was not obtained in the usual way from a



Fig. 7

secondary die, but from a plate of the 6kr, by removing the "6" and inserting a "9" in each cliché, resulting in each cliché becoming an individual. The different positions of the "9" have been grouped in subtypes, several of them rare, especially the subtype with 1.2 mm space between "9" and "KREUZER" (Fig. 7). In a plate of the 3kr of 1850 as well as in the first plate of the newspaper stamps of 1851 each cliché was improved by retouching, but otherwise no individual retouches are known on typographed Austrian stamps. On the engraved telegraph stamps, which were printed from plates obtained by galvanoplasty, we can find a great number of individual retouches, which make almost every plate position of each value an individual. As a general rule, the plates contained only one type or sub-type, but of the 1kr and 3kr 1850 as well as of the newspaper stamp of 1867 and the newspaper tax stamps of 1859, plates, which included two different types or subtypes, are known.

The plates for the 1850 and 1858 issue of postage stamps consisted of four panes of 60 stamps each. Each pane, 8 x 8, had four surplus spaces, which were filled in with the so-called *St. Andrew's crosses*. They are arranged in a strip of four, in the last horizontal row of each pane, occupying either the left or the right end of the row. Three different positions are known to have been used; for the 1850 issue first the crosses in all four panes were at the right; later the crosses which had been on the right sides of the right panes were placed at the left sides thereof, the left panes being unchanged. For the 1858 issue the crosses were usually in all four panes at the left. The crosses were for the 1850 issue and for the first plate of the 15kr 1858 colored on white, for the 1858 issue white on a colored rectangle, which came in two sizes, 20 x 24 mm and later 17 x 20½ mm. In the strips of both sizes, the first or last cross shows white dots, one, two, three or four, to mark the four panes of the plate. The plates for the 1860, 1863 and 1867 issues of postage stamps, as well as all newspaper and newspaper tax stamps, consisted of four panes of 100 (10 x 10) each, the panes being in some cases in tete-beche position. The plates of the postage and newspaper issues of 1860, 1863 and 1867 had *border lines* at the top and bottom of each pane, consisting of thin or thick bars or lines or combinations thereof. An exception, due to the larger size, was the 50kr of the 1867 issue; its plates consisted of four panes of 80 (8 x

10) each, probably without border lines. The plates of the Telegraph Stamps were single panes, consisting for the typographed stamps of 100 (10 x 10), for the recess-printed ones of 50 (10 x 5) stamps; they had no border lines.

For the printing of the embossed postage and newspaper stamps of 1858, 1860 and 1863, *counterplates* were necessary. These were obtained by embossing the plates in sheets of guttapercha, which then were nailed on wooden bases.

Only a few *errors* occurred in the composition of the plates. In a plate each of the 2kr of 1863 (perf. 91½) and the newspaper stamp of 1863 one cliché was inverted, producing tete-beches of both values; of the former only one used pair, of the latter a few unused blocks are known. In a plate of the 5kr of 1867 a cliché of the 3kr value was inserted by error, creating an error of color, 3kr red instead of green, of which a few used copies are known, but all used in Hungary and therefore belonging to that country.

All Austrian stamps and stationery (except the second issue of the telegraph stamps) were printed the typographic way on the letter press. Steam-driven presses, either flat or cylinder presses, were used. For the embossed issues (1858, 1860 and 1863) only the former could be used. The number of *printing varieties* for these issues is small, limited by the use of counterplates. But the 1850 and 1867 issues of the postage stamps and postal stationery, the 1851 and 1867 issues of the newspaper stamps, all issues of the newspaper tax stamps and the typographed telegraph stamps are rich in printing varieties, which are one of the main features of these issues. Various efforts are recognizable for improving the printing by the use of different kinds of make-ready. From the primitive way of printing with felt-covered cylinders—"soft" printing—to printing with elaborate make-ready—"hard" printing—there exist a number of intermediary phases which make the study of the printing varieties, especially of the 1850 and 1867 issues a highly gratifying undertaking. Efforts to make the center of the design (the arms or the Emperor's head) more prominent by appropriate make-ready produced very odd prints, with the center conspicuously printed heavier than the other parts of the design. The fine early prints of the 1850 issue are quite a contrast to the worn prints of later printings and on some printings of the 1867 issue the texture of the felt can be clearly seen on the fully colored

parts of the center. Dry prints (with hollow letters), oily prints, "dotted" prints (caused by improperly prepared ink) and other characteristic printing varieties can be observed, aside from the various kinds of offsets, spacers (the latter prominent in the early printings of the 1850 issue), paper folds during the printing, typical color spots in the colorless embossing and other particularities characteristic of typography. Real *printing errors* are stamps printed on both sides, which are only known of the 1kr, 3kr and 9kr 1850, 3kr 1860 and 15kr 1863 (perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$) postage stamps. Except for the 1kr 1850, which was obviously made on purpose—to use up sheets printed in too pale a color—they are rarities, of which probably only one sheet each existed. Of a number of values, double prints or stamps printed on both sides exist, of which one print is colorless. These varieties originated when by accident two sheets of paper were fed into the press, one receiving the colored print and embossing, the other embossing only. When the latter sheets—as apparently unprinted—were then again fed into the press, they received additional colored printing and embossing, which accounts for the variety. The only recess-printed stamps, the second issue of the telegraph stamps, were printed on hand presses and show no significant printing varieties.

The *paper* for the Austrian stamps came from various sources. For the postage stamps, first hand-made paper, provided by private manufacturers, with the sheet watermark "K K H M" in double-lined script letters, vertically in the middle of each sheet, was used. From December 1854, machine-made paper without watermark, came into use. This paper and all paper used for later issues was manufactured by the state owned paper mill at Schloeglmuehl, which was established in 1853. For the newspaper and newspaper tax stamps, machine-made paper without watermark was used from the beginning, as in the case of the envelopes. Beginning June 1, 1864, machine-made paper with new sheet watermarks was introduced. For the postage stamps, the sheet watermark read "BRIEF-MARKEN.", for the newspaper and newspaper tax stamps "ZEITUNGS-MARKEN.", in both cases twice, one line above the other, in each sheet. For the envelopes, the sheet watermark was "BRIEF-COUVERTS.", twice, one after the other, vertically in each sheet. In this set-up, parts of the watermark fell on the flaps of the envelopes only. In 1864, this was changed, due to the introduction of diamond-shaped sheets

for economy reasons. Now parts of the watermark fell on the face as well as on the flaps of the envelopes. The letters of the watermark were double-lined Roman, about 25 mm high. The watermarked paper was originally cut by hand in sheets and a vertical watermark line was inserted between the watermarks to facilitate this. But this bothersome procedure was soon abandoned and the sheets machine-cut, disregarding the watermark position. For the telegraph stamps as well as the other kinds of stationery only unwatermarked paper was used.

The papers used for the printing of Austrian stamps and stationery show many distinct varieties. The hand-made paper of the 1850 issue comes from *very thin*, almost *pelure*, to *very thick* (up to 0.15 mm. thickness). Sometimes it shows a very distinct *mesh*, which is in rare cases stronger in one direction and then simulates laid paper. The machine-made paper shows less diversity in regard to thickness; it comes thin—but never very thin—to very thick (up to 0.14 mm.). It can also be found with a more or less distinct mesh, sometimes more prominent in one direction and then having some similarity to laid paper. In some cases the smoothing rolls used for the calendering process produced a characteristic *fine ribbing* on the surface of the paper. On all machine-made papers occasional *stitch watermarks* can be found.

Aside from these accidental varieties, some more or less purposely introduced ones can also be found. In 1851, the use of *pelure paper* was ordered and hand-made very thin paper with the "K K H M" sheet watermark was used for several printings in 1851 and 1852. Later in 1852, as a rare exception, *vertically laid paper* without the "K K H M" watermark was used. It can be supposed that this was the result of the plight of a worker who could not account for the full number of watermarked sheets he had received and managed to get even by replacing them with sheets of another similar paper. The stamps on laid paper are rarities, as only one sheet of the 3kr and probably two sheets of the 9kr were printed on this laid paper.

Late in 1850 and early in 1851 an experimental *vertical ribbing*, about 30 ribs to 2 cm., was applied to a number of sheets after the printing. It is supposed that this measure would be a safeguard against removal of the cancellations, as was the case ten years later with the grills on U.S. stamps. The ribbing was applied to the printed sheets by metal

rolls after they were gummed; the ribbing was sometimes stronger on parts of the sheet than on others and in few cases is practically invisible in part, which fact accounts for stamps which are only partly ribbed. The ribbing weakens when the stamps are soaked and vanishes almost completely when the stamps are boiled. No documentary evidence has been found about the ribbing; it was abolished after a short period. Larger quantities were ribbed of the 3kr 1850 and the first printing of the blue newspaper stamp of 1851. The 2kr, 6kr and 9kr of 1850 also come with genuine ribbing, but they are very rare, especially the last.

The colors used for the printing of the classic Austrian stamps were generally mineral colors. For the first two issues of postage stamps a color scheme of yellow, black, red, brown and blue was adopted. Black was abandoned in 1859 and green adopted instead. In 1863, due to the new color scheme of the German - Austrian Postal Union, the two last colors, brown and blue, changed places. For the stamps imprinted on stationery, the same colors as for the respective adhesives were used, for the high envelope values of 1861, which did not exist as adhesives, orange, dark brown, violet and light brown. In the 1863 envelope issue which kept only the 25kr envelope, violet was used for this value. This same color was adopted for the new 25kr adhesive of the 1867 issue, with reddish brown for the new 50kr adhesive. For the newspaper stamps another color scheme, blue, yellow and rose, was chosen; in 1856 yellow was exchanged for red. For the single value of the 1858 newspaper stamps blue was first continued, but in 1859 changed to lilac, which color was kept for all later issues. For the first newspaper tax stamp green was used, for the new 1858 issue brown, both colors in accordance with the colors of the contemporary revenue stamps. For a new low value blue was adopted. The telegraph stamps had their own color scheme of brown, blue, black, green, gray, red, orange and lilac.

The stamps of all issues are rich in shades, which are especially noticeable for the yellow stamps, which come from sulfuric yellow to orange. Of the 1858 issue, the 2kr comes in a distinct orange shade, light to dark, but without any intermediate shades to the regular yellow color. The lilac colors of the newspaper stamps and the 25kr 1867 stamps are rich in shades, which go from gray to deep violet and

brown violet, and for the 1867 newspaper stamp even to plain brown. For this the very sensitive mauve ink used for these stamps is responsible.

The gum on classic Austrian Stamps was an animal glue, except for the first printing of the 1850 issue, for which a vegetable glue, Arabic gum, was used. This latter was colorless and dissolves easily in water, while the animal glue had a yellowish to brownish tint, does not dissolve in water and therefore is quite difficult to remove. The gum was applied with brushes by hand.

The 1850 issue of the postage stamps, as well as all issues of the newspaper and newspaper tax stamps, were issued *imperforate*. For the 1858, 1863 and 1867 issues, *harrow perforations* were used, of which the State Printing Work had three devices, which perforated panes of 60 stamps, from 1860 on panes of 100 stamps. For the 1858 issue, harrow perforation 14½ (15 x 18 perfs) was used, which was adapted for the slightly larger size of the 1860 issue by becoming harrow perforation 14 (15 x 18 perfs). This same perforation was first also used for the 1863 issue, but in the second half of 1863 a new harrow perforation 9½ (10 x 12 perfs) was introduced, which remained in use exclusively from 1864. *Line perforating devices* existed in the State Printing Works from 1854, but they were only used for revenue stamps. They were first used in 1867 for postage stamps, namely the odd-size 50kr value, which exists line perforated 12 only. The 5kr value of the 1867 issue is also known line perf. 10½, but only unused. For the large-size telegraph stamps also line perforations were used exclusively, first 9 and 10½, also mixed, later—for the engraved stamps only—12 and 13, also mixed.



Fig. 8

Perforation varieties exist of the harrow perforation 14 (15 x 18 perfs), which due to a repair of one device can be found also one perforation higher or lower (15 x 19 or 15 x 17 perfs). This typical variety is known of all values (except 15kr 1863) of the 1860 as well as the 1863 issue. It is especially scarce in pairs or blocks se-tenant (Fig. 8). The 50kr 1867 exists in vertical pairs as well as in vertical strips of 4, imperf. between, used only. "Double" perforations, resulting partly in so-called "mouse" perforations, can occasionally be found on all issues. The centering of the classic Austrian stamps is usually poor, due to the use of harrow perforations, and especially of the 1860 and 1863 issues perfectly centered copies are hard to find. Specialists are looking for off-center copies, which occasionally show parts of two or even four stamps; but also copies less off-center are often interesting, because on the 1858 issue they can show parts of the St. Andrew's crosses at the bottom or on the sides. On the 1860, 1863 and 1867 issues, off-center copies may show parts of the border lines at the bottom or, much rarer, at the top.

All values of the 1850 issue are known *privately rouletted*. A line roulette 14 can be found on stamps originating from Tokay (Hungary), which was applied either by the postmaster or by one of the stores which sold postage stamps in that small town. Such rouletted stamps were used only in the years 1852, 1853 and 1854 and come cancelled only TOKAY or, as an exception, HOMONNA. Several *official trial perforations* were applied on the 1850 issue, but only 1kr stamps with harrow perforation 18½ (18 x 21 perfs), which were made in 1852, have survived, of course unused only. Another case of private perforations is known for the 1867 issue. As the use of cut squares from postal stationery was expressly forbidden since 1866, several people had the idea of deceiving the post office by perforating cut squares and then using them for postage. In one case, the so-called "Szigethvar provisional", a postmaster himself seems to have done this by using line perforation 9½ on 5kr envelope cut squares in 1869 and 1870 and using them for postage.

(To be continued)

EMERGENCY STAMPS AND FRANKINGS

Many collectors are inclined to see in every overprinted stamp a "provisional" which in one way or another was the product of an emergency. This is correct to a small extent only, as most overprinted stamps, even if we interpret the term very broadly, are not caused by a real "emergency". Most overprints are applied by order of postal administrations to create new values, made necessary by the change in rates or new regulations; on other occasions overprints are required through a change in the form of government or by occupation by a foreign power, or they have been adopted as a matter of expediency for the creation of special kinds of stamps such as Air Post Stamps, Officials, Postage Dues and others. In many cases, overprints were simply applied to find a use for remainders of stamps which were no longer needed. There are only few cases where a postal administration was compelled by a real emergency to create "provisionals" or take other measures to cope with such an event.

Emergencies which result in a shortage of stamps can be of various kinds. *Catastrophies* such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes or war can destroy the existing supplies or printing facilities and be as much responsible for shortages as are strikes, which delay printing

or delivery of needed stamps. Or simply bad organization in the manufacture or distribution or even the lack of money to pay for ordered stamps may create shortages. In a number of cases, sudden rate changes, especially in times of inflation, have also had the same result. Usually such rate changes are foreseen long enough to avoid the necessity for emergency measures.

The *shortage of stamps* may be confined to one or several values or to certain categories of stamps or there may be no stamps available at all. The emergency may be *general* and engulf the whole country or it may be *local* and confined to a part of the country or even to a single post office. The measures to be taken in such an emergency are either covered by the *postal regulations*, or else *special regulations* for the specific case were established. But in many cases the existing regulations were insufficient or unapplicable and local administrations or even individual postmasters were obliged to find solutions for their emergencies. In a number of cases, they received *authorization* from the postal administration for the measures invoked, but in other cases this was not the case and quite frequently the postal administration *repudiated* the measures which had been taken by local postal authorities.

EUROPEAN CLASSICS

III. AUSTRIA*

The *use of postage stamps* was obligatory for domestic letters, printed matter and samples from June 1, 1850. To foreign countries, the old system of payment in cash was first continued, but on July 1, 1850, the use of postage stamps was made obligatory on mail to the first countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union. Gradually this was extended to the other countries of that Union and on April 1, 1852 to the countries of the Austro-Italian Postal Union. At the same time, the use of postage stamps was made optional to all other countries, but obligatory only from 1856.

For the *registration fee* the use of postage stamps was made obligatory from June 1, 1850 on domestic and foreign mail. The stamp covering the registration fee was to be applied until Dec. 31, 1865 on the back of all registered letters but can be found used in such a way often many years later. From the first years we can find such stamps for the registration fee also on the back of covers to foreign countries, which are otherwise "stampless."

The *fee for return receipts* had to be paid in postage stamps on domestic mail from June 1, 1850, on foreign mail only when postage was paid in postage stamps.

The *special delivery fee* had to be paid in cash. Only from June 1, 1868 was the use of postage stamps made obligatory for payment thereof.

On *money order cards*, postage stamps were used for the payment of the fee since their introduction on March 15, 1867, but only on money orders up to 25gld, for which the fee was 10kr. On money orders for higher amounts, the fees had to be paid in cash and postage stamps were introduced only on May 1, 1870.

As *postal cards*, only the official cards with imprinted 2kr stamp, issued first on Oct. 1, 1869 were permitted. The use of privately made cards with stamps pasted on was officially permitted from Jan. 1, 1885, but tolerated for a number of years earlier.

The *fees for parcels and money letters* had to be paid in cash during the classic period and postage stamps for the payment of these

fees were introduced only on Sept. 1, 1890. From Jan. 1, 1863, each parcel was subject to a tax of 5kr, payable in revenue stamps affixed to the letter which at that time had to be attached to each parcel. Although these 5kr revenue stamps were usually cancelled with the regular postmarks, they paid no postal fee but only a tax and therefore are not revenues used for postage for which they are frequently mistaken.

Newspapers and magazines, mailed by private persons, were subject to the same treatment as other printed matter, but when mailed by publishers under a special privilege, they paid reduced fees, which were to be paid in cash. From Jan. 1, 1851, special newspaper stamps were introduced and their use made obligatory on domestic newspapers and magazines mailed at the reduced publishers' rate. All newspapers and magazines imported from foreign countries (except those from the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union) were subject to a *newspaper tax* of 2kr which was to be paid for imported newspapers and magazines in cash by the addressee. From March 1, 1853 this tax was collected by affixing special Newspaper Tax stamps. On Jan. 1, 1858, a newspaper tax was re-introduced for domestic newspapers and those from the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union, payable in cash by the publisher or, for newspapers imported from Germany, by the addressee. From Jan. 1, 1859 this tax also was collected with newspaper tax stamps, but their use was obligatory only for newspapers and magazines imported by mail and optional for others, where the practice of payment in cash was continued.

The *newspaper delivery fee* was collected in cash during the classic period and special newspaper delivery fee stamps were introduced only on Dec. 1, 1880.

Postage Due was also collected in cash during the classic period, the amounts to be collected being simply marked by handstamps or in manuscript on mail. Special Postage Due Stamps were introduced only on Feb. 1, 1894.

Telegraph Fees were paid in cash until Aug. 1, 1873. From that date to March 31, 1879, special Telegraph Stamps were used. Beginning with April 1, 1879, regular postage stamps were introduced, but their use was op-

*Concluded from page 83.

tional until Jan. 1, 1884, when their use was made obligatory.

For *Pneumatic letters and postal cards*, only the official stationery with imprinted stamps was usable during the classic period.

The postage stamps and postal stationery were *generally available* and sold to the public by all post offices, except the 50kr stamps of 1867 which were originally sold only by larger post offices and generally only from 1868. Newspaper stamps were sold exclusively to publishers and only in full sheets of 100. The newspaper tax stamps were first used only by the post offices at the seat of tax offices and were not sold to the public. From Jan. 1, 1859, they were available at all post offices and tax offices, they were then also sold to the public.

During the classic period, Austria issued only stamps for the most frequently needed *postal rates*. The 1kr stamp was the fee for each loth (about $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce) of printed matter; in the new currency of 1858 it was replaced by the 2kr stamp. The 2kr (from Nov. 1, 1858, 3kr) was the fee for local letters. The 3kr, 6kr and 9kr (from Nov. 1, 1858, 5kr, 10kr and 15kr paid postage for each loth on letters in the three rate zones (up to 10 miles, 10 to 20 miles, over 20 miles; one Austrian mile was equivalent to 7420m). The registration fee was 6kr (from Nov. 1, 1858, 10kr), for local letters 3kr (5kr). Return receipts paid the same fee as letters of one loth weight. No changes in the rates occurred until the end of 1865, except that from October 1862 for printed matter only 2kr was charged for every $2\frac{1}{2}$ loth. On Jan. 1, 1866, the zone rates were abolished and a uniform postage rate was established, namely 5kr for each loth without regard to distance. On July 1, 1873, the rates were adjusted to the metric weight. Now letters up to 15 grams paid 5kr, from 15 to 250 grams 10kr; local letters 3kr and 6kr respectively. For printed matter the new rates were established on July 1, 1875, namely 2kr to 50 grams, 5kr from 50 to 250 grams, 10kr from 250 to 500 grams and 15kr from 500 to 1000 grams. The new high values of 25kr and 50kr, introduced on Sept. 1, 1867, were mainly necessary for high postage on foreign mail, from 1868 also for special delivery letters and from 1870 for money order fees. The fees for foreign mail were very diversified and, except for the countries of the German-Austrian and Austro-Italian Postal

Unions as well as to a few other countries to which reduced and simplified rates existed, they were quite complicated. The creation of the Universal Postal Union led to uniform foreign fees from July 1, 1875, 10kr (overseas 20kr) for each 15 grams letter weight, 5kr (8kr) for post cards and 3kr (6kr) for each 50 grams of printed matter.

The *reduced newspaper fee* for newspapers and magazines mailed by publishers was 0.6kr for every newspaper or magazine regardless of weight, distance and the number of supplements. From Nov. 1, 1858 the fee was 1.05kr and from Jan. 1, 1868, 1kr. The *newspaper tax* for foreign newspapers and magazines was first 2kr, then from Nov. 1, 1858, in the new currency, 4kr and was reduced to 2kr beginning with Jan. 1, 1859. The tax for domestic newspapers and magazines, which had been 1kr from Jan. 1, 1858 and 2kr from Nov. 1, 1858, when it was collected in cash, was reduced to 1kr from Jan. 1, 1859, when the optional use of newspaper tax stamps started.

Practically all Austrian classic stamps are considerably rarer *unused* than used. This fact is especially pleasant for the collector of cancellations as it eliminates most of the danger from faked cancellations. The notable exceptions are the scarlet "Mercury," of which only seven used copies are recorded, and the 4kr newspaper tax stamp of 1858. There are a number of postal stationery items which are much rarer used than unused, the most prominent examples being the high values of the 1861, 1863 and 1867 envelopes.

Multiples of classic Austria stamps, especially blocks, are generally rarer than those of many other countries. Unused blocks are rather common only of those stamps of which larger quantities of remainders came in philatelic hands (25kr and 50kr 1867, Newspaper 1863, Newspaper Tax 1859, recess-printed Telegraphs). The other values and issues are rare to very rare in unused blocks. The rarest issue in this respect is that of the 1858 postage stamps, as these stamps were used up and not many accidental remainders survived unused. Therefore, unused blocks are very rare and not known of all values in both types. Next comes the 1850 issue, of which the few existing blocks in their majority are accidental remainders, forgotten in drawers or books by private persons and found later. The rarest value here is the 2kr in unused blocks.



Fig. 9

The 1860, 1863 and 1867 issue of postage stamps were already available and especially sold to collectors and dealers, and blocks, although rare, exist of all values, with the exception of the 1863 issue in perf. 14, which was also used up. Of the newspaper stamps, most existing uncanceled blocks are used blocks which escaped cancellation. They are generally less rare than unused blocks of the contemporary postage stamps. The blue newspaper stamp of 1858 can be found much more frequently than the 1858 postage stamps because after the loss of Lombardy confiscated remainders of these newspaper stamps reached philatelic hands. Of the rare newspaper stamps of 1851-56 (yellow, rose and scarlet) only unused singles but no multiples are known. Of the newspaper tax stamps, only a few unused blocks are known of the 2kr green of 1853. Of the 4kr of 1858 several sheets which remained accidentally unused in a tax office later came into philatelic possession and blocks are therefore no rarities. We know of no unused blocks of the typographed telegraph issue. Of a number of stamps *full sheets* (panes) are known to exist, namely postage stamps 1867, 5kr, 25kr, 50kr, newspaper stamps 1851, 0.6kr, 1858, 1kr blue and 1863, 1kr, newspaper tax stamps 1858, 4kr and 1859, 1kr and 2kr, as well as all values of the recess-printed telegraph stamps.

Used pairs and strips of three are usually not rare of the postage and newspaper stamps. Of the rare newspaper stamps of 1851-56 the rose and scarlet stamps, like the unused, used are also only known in singles. One pair and one strip of three of the yellow Mercury, both defective, are known. Due to their special kind of use, the first two newspaper tax

stamps, 2kr green of 1853 and 4kr of 1858, exist used only in singles. Of the newspaper tax stamps 1kr and 2kr of 1859, no larger multiples than pairs are known; of the 2kr, used pairs are very rare. *Larger used strips*, of four stamps and more, are generally scarce to rare of all postage and newspaper stamps. Especially sought are the rare strips of eight of the 1850 postage stamps and the 50kr of 1867, as well as strips of ten of the other issues because they show the width or height of the pane. As a rule, vertical strips are scarcer than horizontal ones. *Used blocks* are rare to very rare. Of the postage stamps, blocks are known of all values of all issues, but some of them are extremely rare. Of the newspaper stamps, no blocks of the rose and scarlet stamps of 1851-56 are recorded, while of the yellow stamp only the famous used block of 12 is known. The other newspaper stamps are in used blocks scarce but less rare than the contemporary postage stamps. No used blocks of the newspaper tax stamps are known and in all probability do not exist. We know also of no used blocks of the typographed telegraph stamps and even only a few of the recess-printed issue.

As far as we can remember, the *largest known used blocks* of the postage stamps are blocks of 16 of the 1850 issue and blocks of 20 of the later issues. The newspaper stamps come partly in larger used blocks and we know used blocks of thirty of the 1851 (blue), 1860 and 1863 stamps.

Multiples of some of the imperforate issues (1850, Newspaper 1851, 1858, Newspaper Tax 1859) show differences in the *spacing* of the stamps which can be traced to various settings. Mixed multiples, including *two different types*

or sub-types, are known of the 1850 issue (1kr, 3kr), the newspaper stamp of 1867 and the 1kr newspaper tax stamp of 1859. Especially valuable are *gutter strips and blocks* which are known of the 1kr and 3kr 1850 (Fig. 9), as well as the newspaper stamps of 1851 (blue), 1858 (blue, lilac), 1860 and 1863, all showing vertical gutter. Great rarities are multiples showing the *tete beche* of the 2kr of 1863, perf. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$, of which only one used pair is known, and the newspaper stamp of 1863, of which several unused examples are recorded. The 2kr newspaper tax stamp of 1859 exists also *tete beche* but with the horizontal gutter between, unused only. Great rarities are single stamps or multiples of the postage stamp issues 1850 and 1858 with one or more full *St. Andrew's crosses* attached (Fig. 10). Of the 1850 issue, only 3kr, 6kr and 9kr are known in this condition and of the 1858 issue also not all values seem to exist. But all values of both issues are known with *parts of St. Andrew's crosses* visible at bottom, left or right. They are scarce, and sought by a number of collectors because they are a big help in the reconstruction of the settings. For the same reason, the sometimes very attractive margin and corner copies of the imperforate issues (1850 postage and all newspaper and newspaper tax stamps) are also desirable. Beginning with the 1860 issue, the margins show border lines of various designs at top and bottom. These border lines are fully visible only on the imperforate newspaper stamps. No perforated issues can be found with sheet margin because all sheets were issued without margins. The border lines — at bottom, very rarely at top — are only visible in the margins of off-center copies, which for this reason become desirable for the specialist.

In regard to *unissued stamps*, it happened only once in the history of the classic Austrian stamps that a stamp was printed and ready to be issued, but did not reach the post offices. This was the case with the 12kr value of the 1850 issue of postage stamps. 1,000,000 copies of this value had been printed before the domestic letter rate for the farthest distance was reduced from 12kr to 9kr. Except for a few copies which have survived in the files and which, with one exception, are all pen cancelled or obliterated with a postmark, the whole printing was destroyed in 1850.



Fig. 10

Relatively few real *proofs and essays* of the classic Austria issues are known, many of them being unique and partly in the collection of the Austrian Postal Museum at Vienna. Only a few plate proofs can be found more frequently in private collections notably of the 1850 issue, the 3kr blue and 3kr black, as well as the trial perforation of the 1kr, because full sheets or parts of such came into private hands. After 1867, the control at the State Printing Offices seems to have deteriorated and we can find of the 1867 issue of postage and newspaper stamps as well as of the 1859 issue of newspaper tax stamps a considerable number of various printers' proofs as well as printers' waste in private possession.

Austrian postal stamps and postal stationery were *reprinted* several times, first in 1866, mainly for official exchange purposes, later — the last time in 1904 — for sale to collectors and dealers. Reprints were made of all values of the postage and newspaper stamp issues 1850, 1858, 1860 and 1863, the newspaper tax stamps of 1853 (2kr) and 1858 (4kr), of the envelope issues 1861 (all values) and 1863 (3kr, 5kr, 10kr, 15kr), of the postal card issues of 1869 and 1871 (all languages), of the money order card issue of 1871 (all languages), of the wrappers of 1872 (with yellow border) and 1874 (with lilac border) and of the pneumatic envelopes of 1875. Furthermore, a small number of unofficial

reprints of the same issues and values were made, including a number of reprint proofs, the last one in 1907. Proof reprints also exist. The quantities of the reprints run from 500 copies to 20,000 copies each. The various reprints can be distinguished from each other and from the originals by more or less distinct differences in the design (types), printing, colors, paper and gum, the perforated issues also by the perforation, which is always wider than on the originals and line perforation while all originals have narrow perforation. The reprints of postal stationery can also be recognized by differences in size, cutting and in the printed text.

Fakes and forgeries exist of a number of Austria stamps, especially of the "Mercuries" and of rare varieties. But the study of Austrian stamps and postmarks has so developed during the last decades that the expert and generally even the experienced collector have no difficulty in spotting them.

All Austrian postage stamps are rather plentiful on *entires* except the 25kr and 50kr values of the 1867 issue which were mainly used on money order cards and are scarce on covers, the 50kr being rare. Newspaper and newspaper tax stamps can be found less frequently on *entires* than the postage stamps but are still rather easily available. There is also an exception, the scarlet "Mercury" of 1856. It is one of the few European postal stamps which are not known on *entire*. The telegraph stamps are very scarce on *entire* telegraph forms and not all values are known in that condition.

While *single frankings* and frankings with *two or three different values* of the postage stamps are rather common, *four different values* together on a cover are scarce and we have never seen all five values of a set together on an *entire*. *Mixed frankings* can be found between the various postage stamp issues, two different issues being rather common, except the issues 1850 and 1858 which could be used concurrently only for two months. The issues 1858, 1860 and 1863 (in both perforations) were valid simultaneously between middle of 1863 and May 31, 1864 and mixed frankings including all three issues are known. Interesting and mostly scarce are mixed frankings which include different types, especially of the same value, or color changes together with the original color (1858, 3kr black plus 3kr green and newspaper blue

plus lilac). Mixed frankings between the two perforations of the 1863 issue are common. Mixed frankings between different issues of newspaper stamps are very rare, and unknown between newspaper tax stamps.

The newspaper stamps and the newspaper tax issue of 1853 were also *used in Lombardy-Venetia* while the use of Austrian postage stamps, which was originally widespread there — because the Austrian paper currency had a disagio of about 15% compared with the silver currency current in Lombardy-Venetia— was forbidden by a decree of May 7, 1851 and henceforth occurred only occasionally. The use of the special postage stamps for Lombardy-Venetia (in Centesimi and Soldi currency) was permitted in Austria and such stamps can occasionally be found. Mixed frankings between Kreuzer and Centesimi or Soldi stamps also exist and are scarce. The same is true of the stamps issued for the Austrian post offices in Turkey. They come occasionally used in Austria and vice-versa regular Austrian stamps come used at the offices, also in mixed frankings, but they are all rare.

Newspaper stamps were occasionally *used as postage stamps*; this was sometimes tolerated although it violated the regulations. *Mixed frankings* between postage and newspaper stamps are known from such use and are very rare. For the *newspaper tax stamps* which were actually revenue stamps, occasionally — due to emergencies or ignorance — *other kinds of revenue stamps* (general issue or advertising tax issue) were used and the 1kr and 2kr values of these revenues are known used as newspaper tax stamps. We can also quite frequently find Austrian newspaper tax stamps on foreign newspapers which were mailed to Austria, franked with foreign stamps.

There exist a number of *frankings* which were due to *emergencies* or caused by *ignorance* and although not conforming to the postal regulations they were mostly tolerated. The use of *splits* — bisected or trisected stamps — was rather widespread, especially in the Hungarian provinces. Usually the normal domestic rates were made up through the use of *splits* (1kr, 3kr or 9kr before Nov. 1 1858, 3kr, 5kr or 15kr afterwards). Only one case is known, where a 10kr rate was obtained with the help of a bisect, and another case, where the foreign rate of 16kr to Sardinia was

obtained in a similar way. The following bisects are known:

1850 issue: 2kr (alone = 1kr, or with 2kr = 3kr), 3kr (trisect = 1kr), 6kr (alone = 3kr, or with 6kr = 9kr), 9kr (trisect = 3kr)

1858 issue: 2kr (with 2kr = 3kr, or with two 2kr = 5kr), 10kr (alone = 5kr, or with 10kr = 15kr), 15kr (with 3kr black = 10kr)

1860 issue: 2kr (with 2kr = 3kr, or with two 2kr = 5kr), 10kr (alone = 5kr, or with 10kr = 15kr)

1863 issue: 2kr, perf. 14 (with 2kr = 3kr, or with 15kr, perf. 9½ = 16kr), 2kr, perf. 9½ (with two 2kr = 5kr), 10kr, perf. 9½ (alone = 5kr)

1867 issue: 2kr (with two 2kr = 5kr), 10kr (alone = 5kr)

Of the newspaper tax stamps, the 2kr of 1859 is known bisected, used as a 1kr value. All bisects come divided either diagonally or vertically, the trisects, of which only one of each kind is known, both vertically. The use of splits was never permitted but not strictly prohibited and therefore tolerated or even practiced by some postmasters. They are all rare to very rare.

Another emergency measure, partly due to the desire of some postmasters to use up unsalable quantities of envelopes, was the use of envelope cut squares for postage. Their use was never permitted but obviously tolerated and practiced by a number of postmasters until a decree, dated April 10, 1866, expressly prohibited the use of cut squares for postage. The cut squares were from envelopes, but of the 1867 issue also cut squares from wrappers, postal cards and money order cards used for postage are known. The following can be found:

1861 issue: 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35kr

1863 issue: 3, 5, 10, 15, 25kr

1867 issue: 2kr (wrapper, postal card), 3kr, 5kr (envelope, postal card, money order card), 10kr, 15kr

Some values, especially the high values of 20kr or more, as well as some of the 1867 cut squares are very rare and of several only one or a few examples are known. Of the 1861 issue, also full envelopes (3, 5, 10, 15kr) are known to have been attached to covers and used in this way for postage. Mixed frankings between postage stamps and cut squares can also be found.

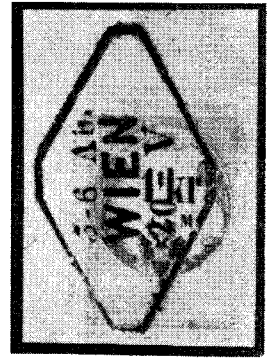


Fig. 11

The use of revenue stamps for postage was never permitted, but can be found occasionally after the first revenue stamps were issued on Nov. 1, 1854. Especially in the years 1855 and 1856 their use was rather widespread although much less frequent than in Lombardy-Venetia. With decree, dated July 9, 1857, the use of revenue stamps for postage was generally prohibited and occurred henceforth only sporadically. Of the 1854 issue, the values 1kr, 2kr, 3kr, 6kr, 10kr and 15kr are known used for postage, of which the 3kr and 6kr are rather common, the others rare to very rare (Fig. 11). Of the 1858 and later issues, few examples of the use of revenue stamps for postage, of the values 1kr, 2kr and 5kr only, are known. Mixed frankings between postage and revenue stamps are rare in all cases. From January 1, 1863, a tax of 5kr was collected on all parcels by putting a 5kr revenue stamp on the letter which had to accompany each parcel. This revenue stamp was cancelled with the regular postmarks and the revenue stamps on such letters which are common are frequently mistaken by collectors as having been used for postage although they covered a fiscal fee only. Vice versa, postage stamps can occasionally be found used as revenue stamps, on documents, bills, or the like, mostly pen-cancelled or cancelled by a fiscal handstamp.

Some fraudulent frankings can be also found, although they are rather scarce. They usually concern the use of cleaned stamps — even cleaned revenue stamps are known used fraudulently for postage — or of stamps, consisting of uncancelled portions of several used stamps. The use of St. Andrew's crosses for postage had also been attempted and slipped through in a few cases. No postal forgeries are known of the postage and newspaper

stamps, but of the 1kr newspaper tax stamps forgeries were used in 1875 and 1876 at Rovereto to defraud the government and are rare, especially on entire newspaper.

First Day cancellations and covers can be found of the 1850 issue (June 1) and the 1858 issue (Nov. 1) of the postage stamps; they are rare. Of the other issues of postage stamps, which were not issued on a fixed date, the collector can look only for the earliest known dates of use. Of the newspaper issues 1851 and 1858 and the newspaper tax stamps, as well as the telegraph stamps, first day cancellations or entires may exist but are not known. The same can be said in regard to first day copies of postal stationery. Earliest dates of use are the best the collector can look for. Last day cancellations and covers, from the last day of use, are known of the 1850 postage issue (Dec. 31, 1858), but we know none of the later issues, neither the postage nor the newspaper, newspaper tax and telegraph stamps.

The rarest Austrian stamp, the scarlet "Mercury," of which about 30 to 40 unused and 7 used copies are recorded as known derived its *rarity* by its use on the wrapping paper of newspaper packages which was not preserved and by the destruction of the remainders. The rose and yellow "Mercuries" which were originally used in the same way would have been even rarer and real world rarities if the remainders had not been used up as 0.6kr stamps on single newspapers. The 4kr newspaper tax stamp of 1858 would also be a very rare stamp in used condition, many times rarer than unused copies, because it was in use only two months. Only because the remainders were used up as 2kr newspaper tax stamps, used 4kr stamps can be found more frequently.

Special conditions twice led to the use of *postal stationery with adhesive stamps pasted over the imprinted stamps*. This was done the first time in 1870, when the large remainders of the 1863 envelope issue, including the values in soldi currency issued for Lombardy-Venetia, were used up in this way. Regular 5kr stamps of the 1867 issue were pasted over the imprinted stamps of the 1863 issue and the envelopes then issued at the post offices in Lower Austria. The second case happened late in 1873 when in a large quantity of postal cards a yellow 5kr instead of a 2kr stamp was erroneously imprinted. A small

number of the error cards — they had German-Czech inscriptions — were issued and used, the balance was withdrawn and, after regular 2kr stamps were pasted over the erroneous 5kr stamp, the cards were re-issued in Bohemia and Moravia early in 1874.

Philatelically, Austria's history starts in 1751, when the first *postal markings* were stamped on letters. The first *postmarks* appeared in Vienna in that year and a number of other large post offices followed a few years later. The postmarks were quite diversified because they were mostly of local origin, provided by the postmasters. In later years more and more regionally and centrally made postmarks made their appearance, but locally provided postmarks, although constituting a small percentage only, insured continued diversity, with many attractive and unusual types of postmarks. Three periods can be distinguished in Austria's pre-stamp history, the first running to about 1790, when the further use of postmarks was generally abolished. Until 1818, when postmarks were re-introduced at all post-offices, only very scattered and occasional use of postmarks, mostly at small post offices is known. In this second period fell the Napoleonic Wars, during which Bavarian and French postal administrations were established in the occupied provinces of Austria and postmarks of various kinds used there. With the renaissance of the postmarks in 1818, the period of the most attractive and fanciful Austrian postmarks started. When postage stamps were introduced in 1850 almost all post offices had their town and date postmarks and used them from then on as cancellers. No special cancellers were generally introduced as had been done in other countries. A few postmasters introduced such special cancellers of their own — the so-called "mute" cancellations of various design — but they were used for a short period in the early Fifties only.

Special "*Paid*" postmarks, usually inscribed "Franco" were used by some post offices from 1818; their use on paid letters by all post offices was made obligatory in 1839. "*Registration*" postmarks, mostly with the inscription "Recommandirt" or the like, were also used by a number of post offices since 1818 and had to be used by all post offices on registered letters from 1839. The use of the "Paid" postmarks was generally discontinued when postage stamps were introduced, while the

"Registration" postmarks were continued in use.

There were about 400 *post offices* in 1751. This figure doubled to 1790 and in 1817 increased to about 1000. When stamps were introduced in 1850, there were more than 1700 post offices in the monarchy. At the end of 1858, the number had increased to 2300 and to more than 3100 on June 1, 1867, when the Hungarian provinces became postally independent. The Austrian portion of the monarchy had at that time about 2000 post offices and their number increased to the end of 1875 to about 3900. Aside from the post offices in cities and towns, there existed traveling post offices on railroad trains since 1850 and on ships since 1869. Fieldpost offices were in operation during all wars in which Austria was involved. For the newspaper service, special newspaper post offices existed in large towns. A separate rural postal service was organized from 1868.

The *types of postmarks* were very diversified. The 18th century postmarks were generally straight lines, with the town name only. From 1818, the date, occasionally with year, was added, and aside from straight lines other types, especially ovals and rectangles, partly ornamented, came into use, with a number of fancy types from various towns. The inclusion of the date in the town postmarks was officially ordered in 1839; from that year on, all centrally provided postmarks, almost exclusively straight lines, had the date indication on a second line. In 1846, the first centrally made circular cancellations, double circles, were introduced and became the regular type, to be replaced in 1850 by single circle postmarks, which remained practically the sole new official type until the end of the classic period. In 1868 the inclusion of the year date in all postmarks was ordered and at the same time a very small type of single circles, only 17mm. or 18mm. diameter, were introduced, and these were gradually abolished in 1870 when the diameter started to increase to 20mm., to settle eventually at 23mm. and 24mm.

A great number of the pre-stamp types which were in use at the end of the pre-stamp period were used as cancellers together with the newly introduced types. This alone provides plenty of diversity, which is increased by "Paid" and "Registration" postmarks, occasionally used as cancellers, as well as railroad,

ship landing and ship postmarks, fieldpost and other occasional cancellations. For the pre-stamp postmarks originally black and red, later also blue, green, in a few cases also violet and yellow *ink* was used. When used as cancellers, mainly black was used, with occasional blue, and, rare, red in the early Fifties. Later, the colored cancellations disappeared almost completely except for scattered blue cancellations, which again became more frequent in the later Sixties and early Seventies. Red ink, which in the pre-stamp period was used indiscriminately but frequently for "Paid" letters, in the stamp period was regularly used in Vienna from 1857, in Pesth from several years later, for the "Registered" postmarks, up to 1866, in Vienna from 1857 to 1859 also for local letters. Most values of the postage stamps of the issues 1850 to 1863 come quite frequently with such red cancellations, but the 2kr values of the 1860 and 1863 issues are rare, because they were almost never used on registered letters. The 1867 issue is also known with red cancellations but only from Hungary.

The postage stamps were normally *cancelled* by the post office of mailing, but for the newspaper and newspaper tax stamps special regulations existed. Most of the newspaper stamps were cancelled on arrival — many escaped cancellation at all — and the newspaper tax stamps were normally affixed and cancelled by the post office which delivered the newspaper to the addressee. Therefore, the postmarks on newspaper stamps usually give no indication where they were used. As the newspaper tax stamps were not only affixed and cancelled by post offices but from 1859 also by the tax offices, they come — except the 2kr 1853, which exists only with postmark cancellation — either cancelled by a postmark or by the handstamp of a tax office, otherwise in use for tax purposes only.

Austria is philatelically a country where everybody can collect as he pleases. The general collector of classic Austrian stamps finds in the Scott Catalog only 46 main numbers listed, which — if we neglect the three rare Mercuries — list together a little over \$150, and therefore will be available in very fine copies for around \$100. The three rarities of course involve much larger amounts; a very fine copy of the scarlet Mercury will not be available for much less than full catalog price. But of the 46 classic Austrian stamps,

not less than 24, or more than half, catalog less than a dollar a piece which makes them ideal for specializing. The great popularity of specializing in Austrian stamps is based on this relative abundance of cheap stamps which are within the reach of the average collector. Of the 24 cheap Austria stamps, 20 catalog less than 50c and 13 less than 25c, two even not more than 10c. They are available in quantities and the collector will have no difficulty in getting material for the specialized collection he wants to start. Therefore Austria specializing is not the pastime of a few who can afford to spend large sums required for specializing many other countries, but can be started with a very modest amount of money. Of course, after the collector has advanced along his way and has picked up all the bargains his superior knowledge has enabled him to buy, he will have to be ready to dig deeper into his wallet because most principal varieties are today too well known to be picked up for a song. He will nevertheless be able to specialize just as far as his pocket-book permits him. Many specialized Austria collections which were assembled with a minimum of money but with much love and work, have stood up well in exhibitions side by side with the other Austria collections which featured the great Austria rarities, each worth hundreds or thousands of dollars. In this flexibility, in the many possibilities of collecting Austria, lies the basic reason for the many friends this line of our hobby has in all countries.

The philatelic student finds in Austrian stamps and stationery an equally large field for his activities. An extensive and quite well developed literature exists, but there are still many fields which have been only incompletely tilled and others which have been largely neglected. In the field of reconstruction of the various settings, establishment of the earliest dates of use, regional study of postmarks and cancellations, postal rates etc., to mention only a few, many improvements of the data in the existing literature are possible. The postal stationery which has been quite neglected for the last decades, will also prove a rewarding object for thorough study. The plentifulness of material of most stamps and stationery will facilitate the research and give

the philatelic student many chances to improve our knowledge and satisfy his desire to contribute to the progress of philately.

There exists plenty of literature about Austria, although most of it is in German and not easily available. The books of our editor about the stamps ("Die Postmarken von Oesterreich," 1927) and the specialized catalog of Austria pertaining to it, as well as the monographs about the cancellations ("Grosses Handbuch der Abstempelungen von Altoesterreich und Lombardei-Venetien" and "Die Poststempel auf der Freimarken-Ausgabe 1867 von Oesterreich und Ungarn," 1925 and 1930) belong in this category, but are still the standard books in the field. Of older literature only Hans Kropf's book ("Die Postwertzeichen des Kaisertumes Oesterreich," 1908), although outdated, is valuable for the listing of the stationery and the pictures of many essays and proofs. A booklet by Arthur Ladurner on the first issue ("Alt-Oesterreich," 1920) was full of new ideas and is still remarkable. In English, there exists only a booklet about the issue of 1850 by Philip F. de Frank, with a great amount of valuable research ("The First Issue of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia 1850-1858," 1935) and the booklet about the pre-stamp period by our editor ("The Pre-stamp Postmarks of Austria," 1950). Very much has been published about Austria in articles in the philatelic press, and especially in Austria and Czechoslovakia after 1918 a great amount of new research was recorded. Therefore, knowledge of German will be quite helpful for the study of Austrian stamps. In English, not much has been written about Austria in philatelic magazines, except in recent years, in this country by Felix Brunner and our editor. All in all, the specialist of Austria will not have much difficulty in obtaining philatelic literature which he needs for his collecting. He will find, that for few other countries exists such a systematically developed basis for specializing and for further research as does for Austria. He will find it an easy task to acquire a good guide for specializing and all information he may need for further research and for thorough enjoyment of his collecting activities.

(Next: IV. Baden)

If you want information not connected with business matters, please enclose a franked self-addressed envelope.