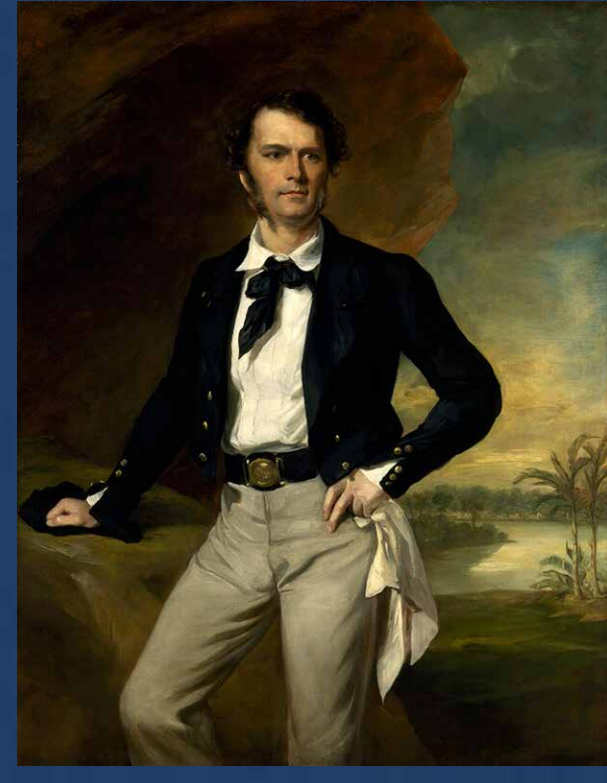


INVERTED SHIP

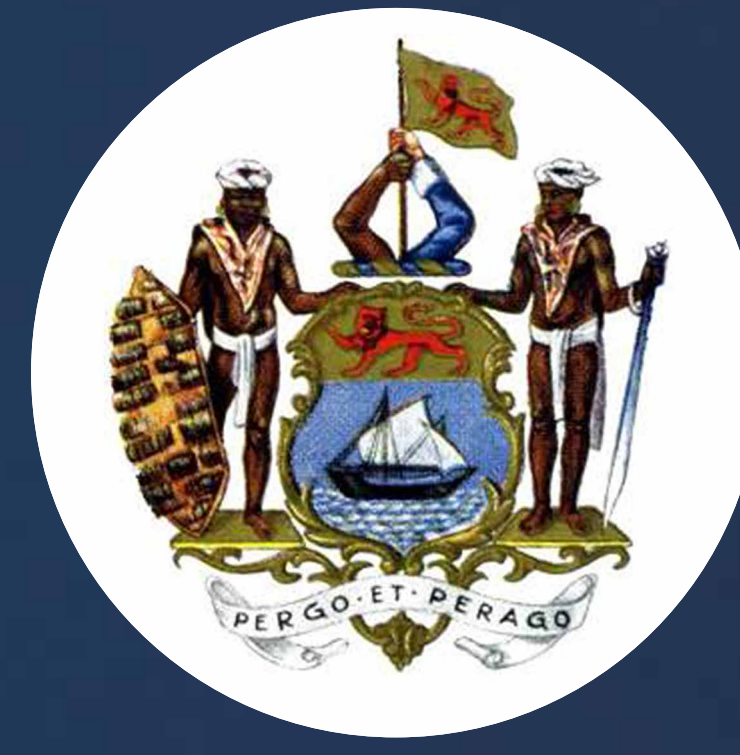


James Brooke
(1803-1868)

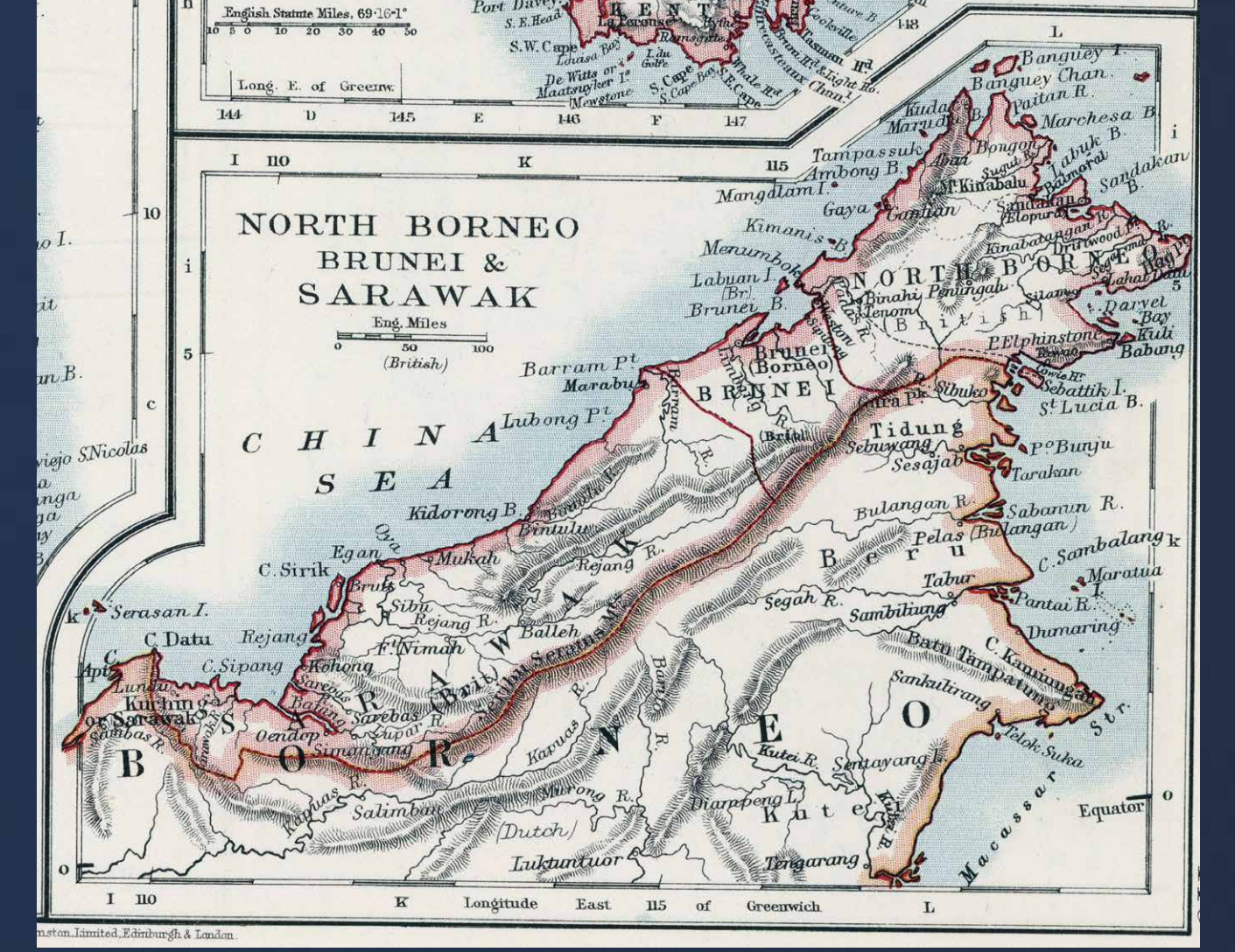
The first governor
of Labuan



The emblem of Labuan
according to French
sources, around 1890



The emblem of British
North Borneo Co.



West Malaysia, 1900

In 1846, during its colonial expansion in Southeast Asia, Great Britain took control of an island close to the shores of North Borneo called Labuan. This island, having little over 90 km², was uninhabited until the 16th century, when it was taken over by the Brunei Sultanate, which held it for 300 years. Labuan was ceded to the British Queen Victoria *in perpetuity* in December 1846 according to the *Treaty of Labuan* (between GB and Brunei). Sultan Omar Ali reportedly signed the Treaty while being aimed at by cannons of the British fleet.

The other signatory was and James Brooke known as the *White Rajah of Sarawak*, who at the time successfully spread British influence in the Malay area. The British used Labuan to protect West Malaysia and naval routes from the Philippines against indigenous pirates and intended to create a mercantile centre similar to Singapur as well as mining local rich supplies of coal. However, their entrepreneurial plans failed and in 1890 the administration of the *Crown Colony of Labuan*, heavily burdened by debt, was taken over by the British North Borneo Company, which was created in 1881 to govern the British North Borneo. Labuan becomes a part of the Straits Settlement group of colonies in 1906.

Stamps of Labuan



The first stamp -
Victoria 2 Cents,
May 1879

The eventful history of the island is also reflected in its postal history and stamp emissions. Labuan had a postal connection with Borneo as early as 1849. From 1860 the postal administration started franking with British India and Hong Kong stamps, based on an agreement with the British Post. Strait Settlements stamps were put in use 7 years later and in 1879, Labuan's own stamps printed by the famous De La Rue Company in London are issued.

North Borneo's stamps for Labuan

In 1892, under the British North Borneo Co. administration, Labuan started using North Borneo stamps with beautiful local motives printed by another famous company - Waterlow, with two printing plates: *frame plate* and *vignette plate*. In 1894 a *LABUAN* inscription was added to the *vignette plate* and the colours changed. They were replaced in 1902 with another issue. A beautiful motive of a boat called the *Malay Dhow* begins to appear on Labuan and Borneo 8 cent stamps in 1894.



Borneo 8C, 1897
brown purple



Labuan 8C, 1897 - 1901
same as Borneo 8C but
with an added Labuan
inscription and a change
of colour - vermilion



Labuan 8C, 1901, same
but with Postage Due
Overprint



Famous printing error

Printing with two plates sometimes led to an accidental rotation of the sheet in the second phase of printing. Therefore very attractive printing errors called *inverted centre* began to appear in many countries including the British colonies. Due to the meticulous control of the printing process by postal authorities, these stamps exist only in very limited amounts, which makes them extremely rare and highly valued on the philatelic market. These *erroneously printed stamps* are icons of colonial philately and always were only a part of the biggest collections.

A Labuan 1901 8 cent with an inverted centre belongs to this group of rarities. Only a single sheet was found by chance in a pack of stamps in the British North Borneo Co. postal depository (probably in 1906). After their validity ended, the stamps were withdrawn from the Labuan Victoria post office and Borneo offices and being unused, they were marked with a supplementary cancellation *cancelled to order*. They were then sold to merchants under their nominal value. All of the *Labuan Inverted Ship* specimen (only a few dozen are estimated to remain), carry a typical line mark used for the devaluation of all the withdrawn emission from Borneo and Labuan.



The Labuan Post
Office was located
in the residence
of the governor in
Victoria Harbour,
approx. 1900

Pirate ships and an inspiration for Labuan and Borneo stamp emissions

The name Labuan is derived from the Malay word *laboh-an* meaning a harbour. The previously uninhabited island, then in possession of the Sultan of Brunei, was used by Malay and Chinese merchants as a safe haven to protect them from storms and pirate attacks. Naval raid of both the pirate and Viking type belonged to the life style of many native groups in the area. The increasing contact with European and Chinese merchants led to their modernisation by taking over Western technologies - weapons, navigation techniques and boat designs. They became more organized, militarily and socially. The result was a boom of pirate populations in a matter of decades at the end of the 18th century, peaking in the 19th century. Pirates carried out massive raids on shores in order to secure and enslave the local population. Their attacks and the displacement of inhabitants had a significant impact on the demographic and economical evolution of individual Sultanates in Southeast Asia, where they rounded up tens of thousands of slaves in the local tropical rainforests and sorted exotic commodities for Chinese traders. The market growth between the most powerful trading nations (the Dutch, Spain, Britain, China, United States of America) went hand in hand with the development of piracy, especially in the second half of the 19th century. The raids should not be seen as a display of savagery or the decline of local populations, but as a result and a prerequisite of economical growth.

Local pirate population (such as the Iranun, an ethnic group inhabiting a part of Borneo) used large boats (*prahu* meaning a boat) called *lanong*. It is a derivative of the word *Lanun*, which means the people of Iranun.

They ranged up to 30m in length and were equipped with outriggers and rows of vessels manned by slaves. They carried up to 150 people and were intended for naval battles and pirate expeditions, always accompanied by smaller ships. Their use in the Southeast Asia regions dates from the 18th to the half of the 19th century.



Lanong
boat

On the image is a *lanong* boat of the Iranun people - a drawing from 1890 by Rafael Monleón. Rafael Monleón y Torres was a Spanish painter, archaeologist and professional naval pilot. We can most likely assume, that this picture was an inspiration to the Waterlow engravers in London, while working on the Borneo 8 Cents stamps!



THE FIRST POSTCARD IN THE WORLD – ITS FIRST DAY IN USE

History of creation

The creation of a postcard was mentioned for the first time at the 5th Austro-German postal conference held in Karlsruhe, Germany, on 30 November 1865. A visionary document put together by Heinrich von Stephan, a Prussian postal official, was handed out to those in attendance, containing a proposition of introducing an *open post-sheet* to postal communication. Although his proposition was well received at first, postal officials eventually denied it because they believed that nobody would give up their privacy and if so, that a cheaper substitute for letters would reduce their revenue. Prussia eventually implemented the postcard in 1870.

Austria was represented at the Karlsruhe conference by Wilhelm Kolbensteiner a department chief of the Ministry of Commerce, who spoke of this revolutionary idea to his friend, Dr. Emanuel Herrman a professor of national economy at the Theresian Military Academy in Wien Neustadt. On January 26, the Viennese *Neue Freie Presse* newspaper published Dr. Herrman's article, called *Über eine neue Art der Korrespondenz mittels der Post*, where he argued for the implementation of the postcard.



A period postcard of the Bratislava post office from 1898

Unique use on the first day the issue

A postcard sent on 1 October 1869 from a post office in Bratislava. A mailing /POZSONY/ postmark is visible on the stamp with an arriving WIEN 2. 10. 1869 (at 9 a.m.) postmark in the front. It is clear from the contents of the writing on the backside, that it is a sales correspondence. It is only the second known specimen of the *first day* of the Hungarian version!

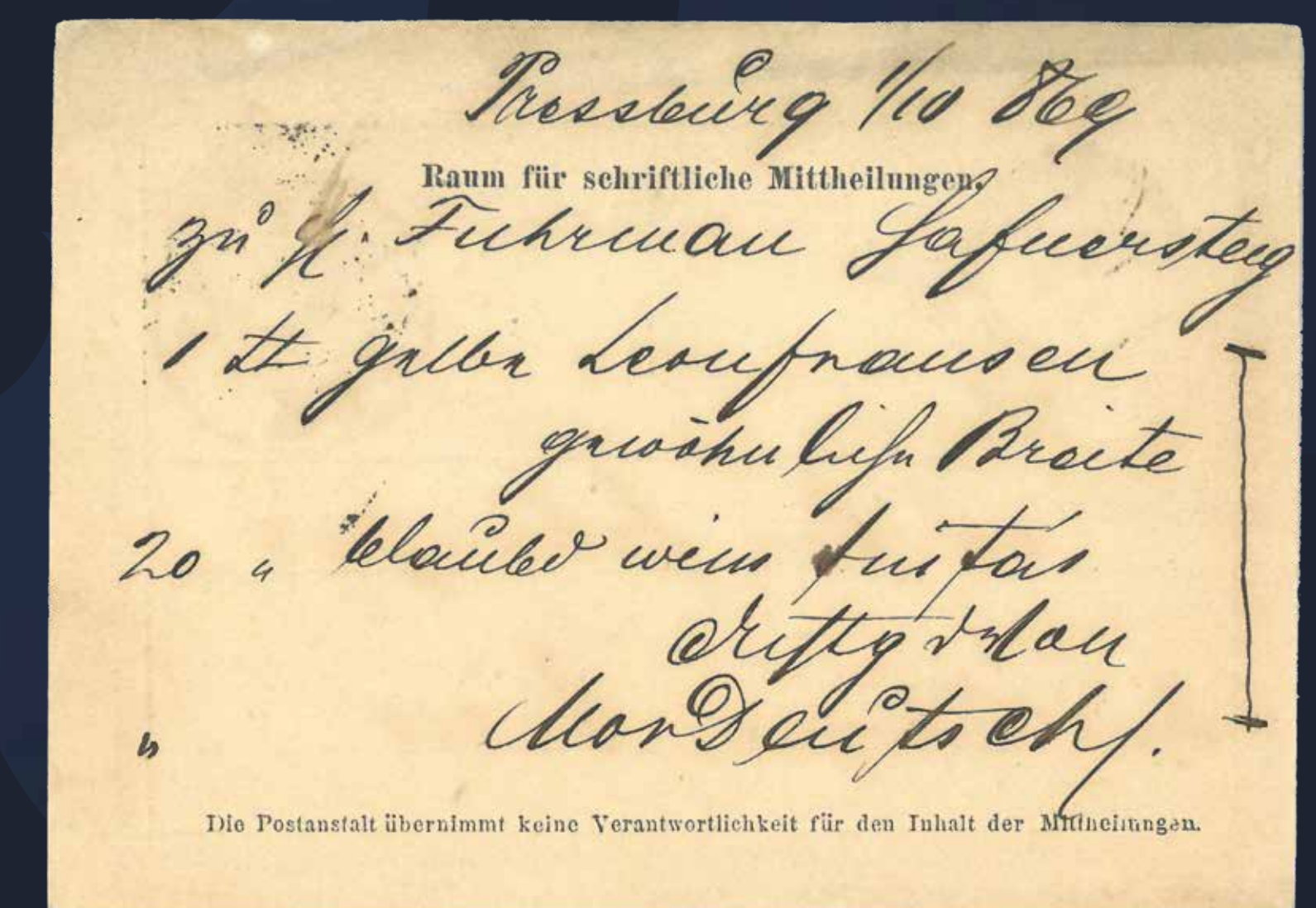
This postcard was discovered in small collection in USA in December 2014, its previous history is unknown. It was a discovery of a unique rarity of great importance, especially for postal history of Slovakia.



Pioneer in the creation of the world's first postcard



Dr. Emanuel Herrmann
(1839-1902)



Instant success

The article reached the Austro-Hungarian Postmaster's General Vincenz Baron Maly von Vevanovič, who understood the points, that Dr. Herrman was making, and started supporting and realizing the idea. The only discord between them was regarding postal costs, Maly proposed 3 Kr., whereas Herrman proposed 2 Kr.

An agreement was reached and the costs were set at 2 Kr. The first postcard in the world was introduced on 1 October 1869 and it gained immediate success. 2 930 000 postcards were bought during the first 3 months of use and 9 500 000 during the first year.

Specifications

The postcard's dimensions were 122x85mm. They were printed on smooth carton paper with grey white and white to yellow white colours. The 2 Kreuzer stamp of Emperor Franz Joseph, comes from a design of an emission 1867.



abiding by the following directives. These cards will be used for short written communication in all of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, no matter the distance and they will have a unified tariff of 2 Kreuzer per piece.

Separation of the monarchy

Due to the separation of the monarchy on an Austrian and a Hungarian part, two variants of the postcards were issued on 1 October 1869, a German one and a Hungarian one.



German variant



Hungarian variant

Issue

The first postcard in the world was issued on 1 October 1869 based on the No.21.18.916.1832 decree issued by the Ministry of Commerce from 22 September 1869. The postal administration will issue postcards in accordance with the Hungarian Minister of Commerce from 1 October 1868



MAJOR ANTARCTIC DISCOVERIES AND THE EARLIEST KNOWN CONCESSIONARY LETTER FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

1839-43 BRITISH (ROSS) ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Already a famous Arctic explorer, Royal Navy Captain James Clark Ross, led (1839-43) two Royal Navy ships (Erebus and Terror) on a worldwide magnetic study that included three expeditions to Antarctica (1840-41, 1841-42 and 1842-43).

He discovered a new coast line, islands and even two volcanoes while circumnavigating Antarctica. Some of them, such as the Ross Sea, James Ross Island and Ross Ice Shelf are named after him. The expedition spent five months on the Falkland Islands between April and September 1842.

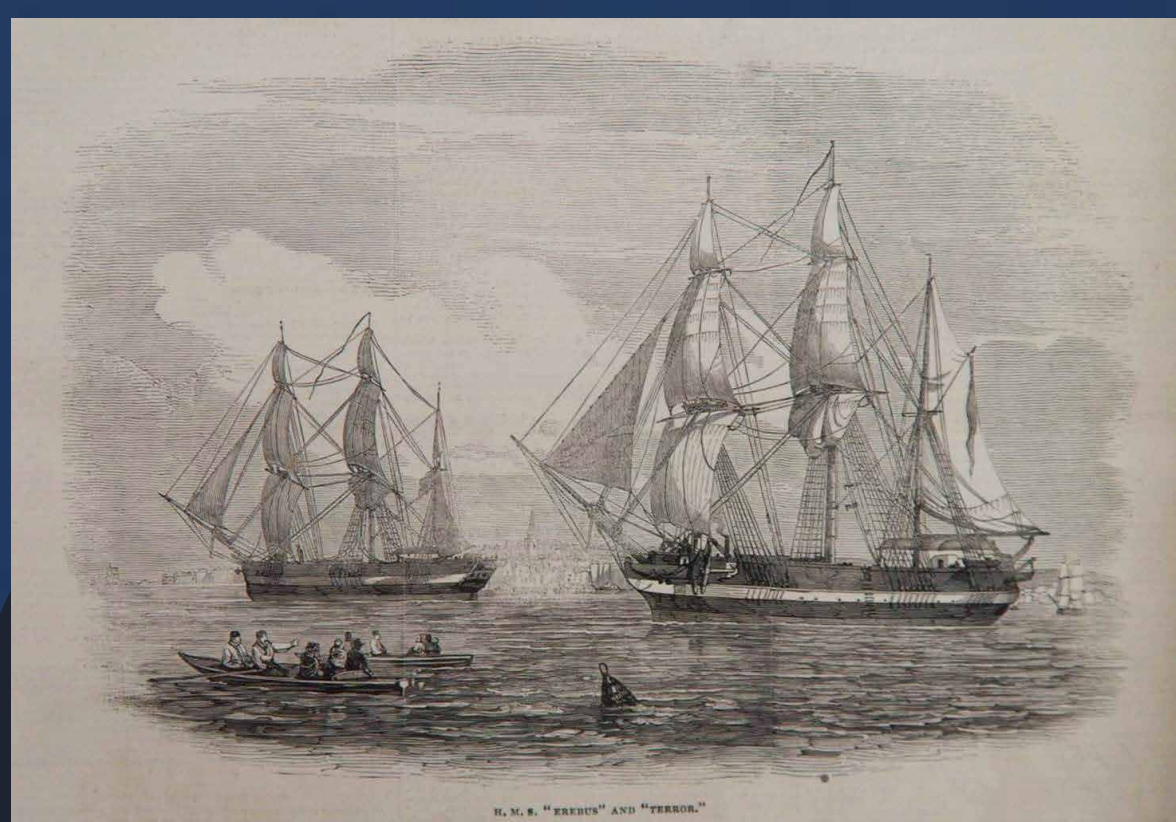


Sir James Clark Ross
(1800-1862)



Map of James
Clark Ross'
expeditions
in Antarctica

Ships Erebus and Terror

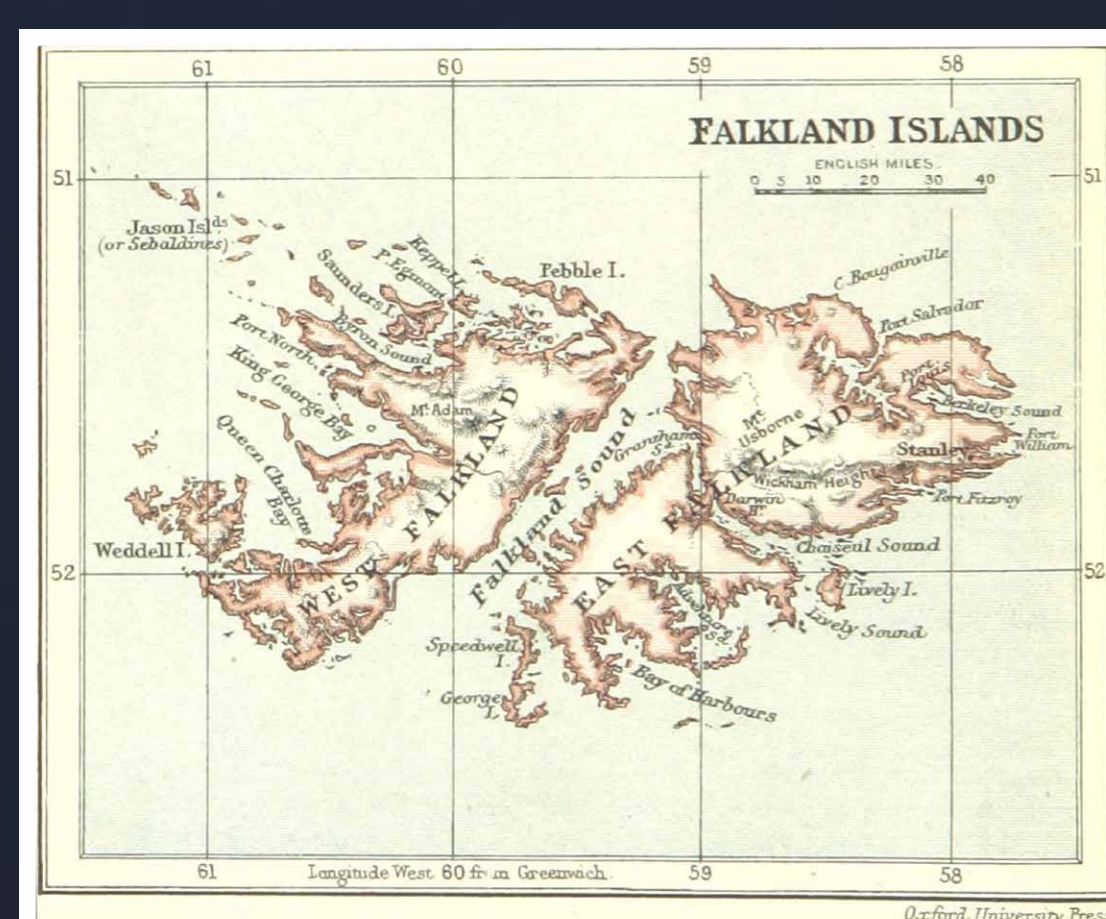


The volcanoes
Mount Erebus
and Mount Terror
were named after
the expedition's
vessels.

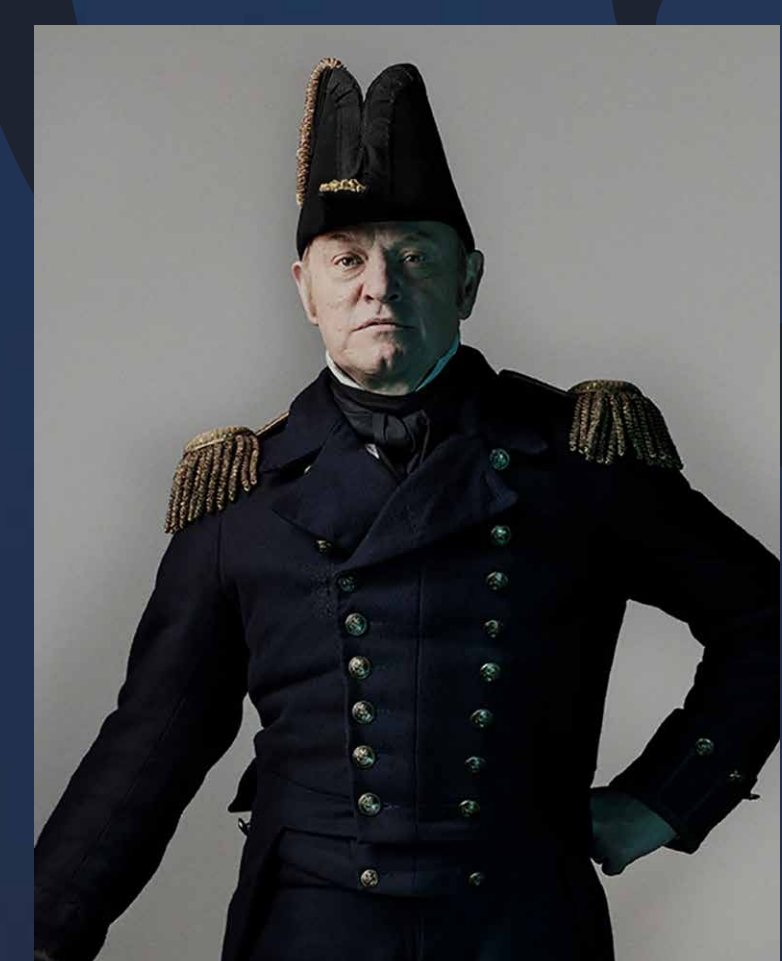


This is the oldest known
concessionary letter sent from
the Falkland Islands and one of
the oldest letters from Antarctic
expeditions.

Erebus seaman Richard Wall writes to his wife in Woolwich, England, 7 September 1842, during the expedition's first of two stays at Port Louis, the Falkland Islands, before heading back to explore more of Antarctica. He wishes for his wife to write to him at their next (populated) stop (Cape of Good Hope). He also comments on the dreary Falklands. First Lieutenant Edward Bird countersigns (7 September 1842) Seaman Wall's letter allowing it to go to England (unpaid) at the concessionary seaman's rate of 1 penny. It was received in London on 11 February 1843, after being brought by the brig Hebe, 10 February 1843, which had departed the Falklands (after having delivered its new governor) on 8 November 1842. No post office yet on the Falklands.



Map of the
Falkland islands,
half of 19th
century

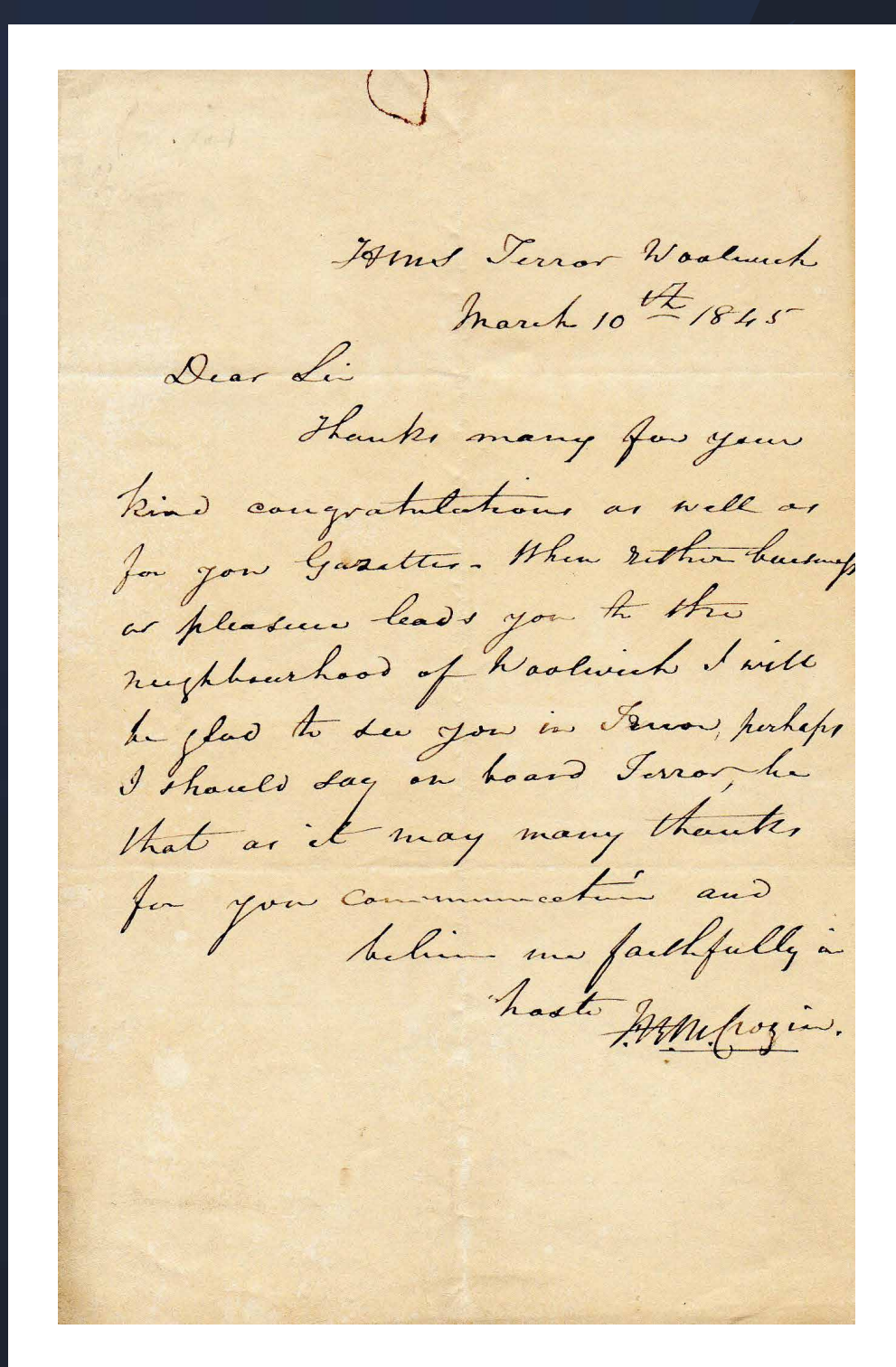


Francis Rawdon Moira Crozier
(1796 - 1848)

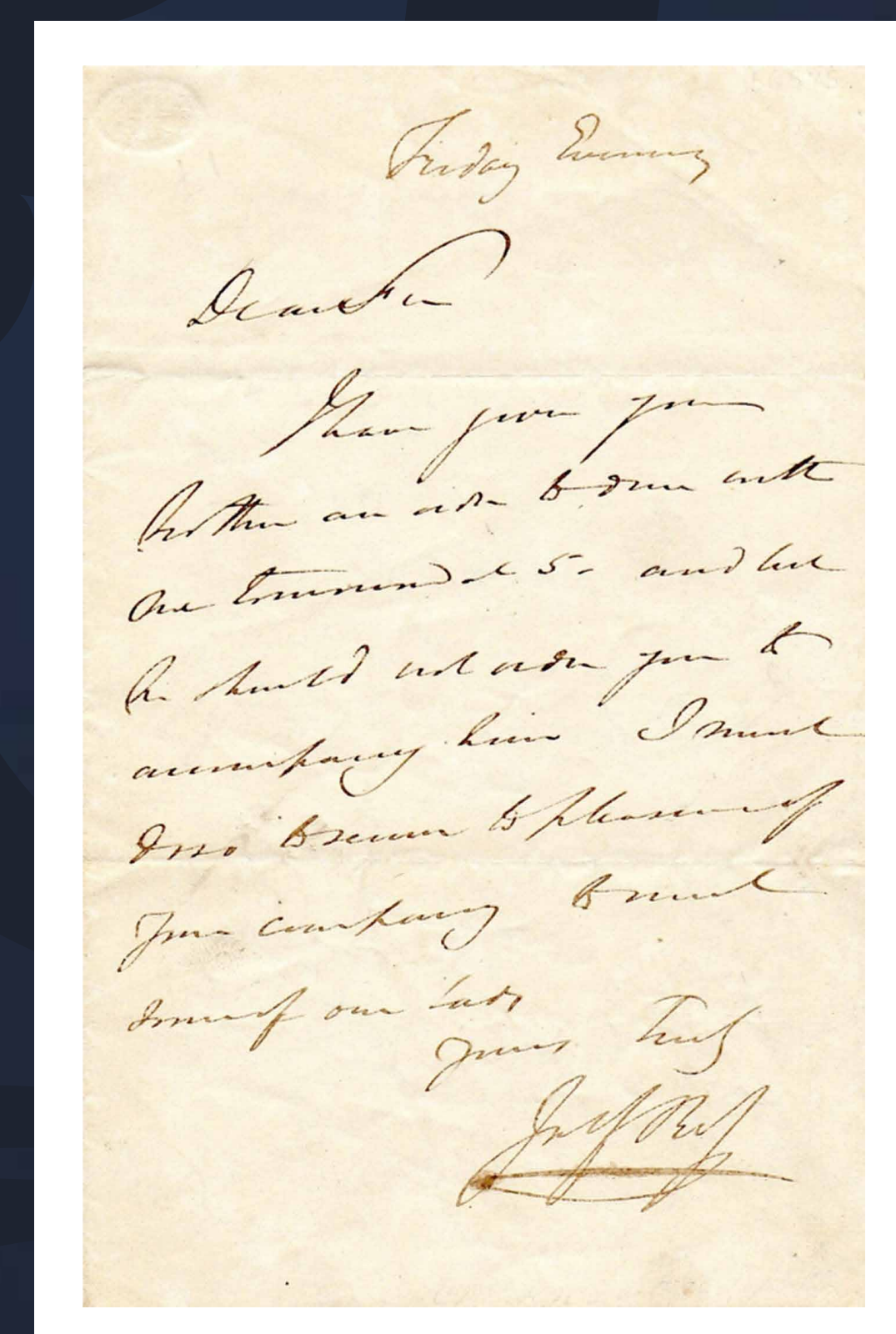
Royal Navy officer and polar explorer (17 September 1796 - disappeared 26 April 1848) who participated in six expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic.

In 1839, Crozier again joined James Clark Ross on the Ross expedition, as second-in-command of a four-year voyage to explore the Antarctic continent in the ships HMS Erebus and HMS Terror. Crozier commanded HMS Terror, and was appointed to the rank of captain in 1841.

Francis Crozier Autograph Letter Signed

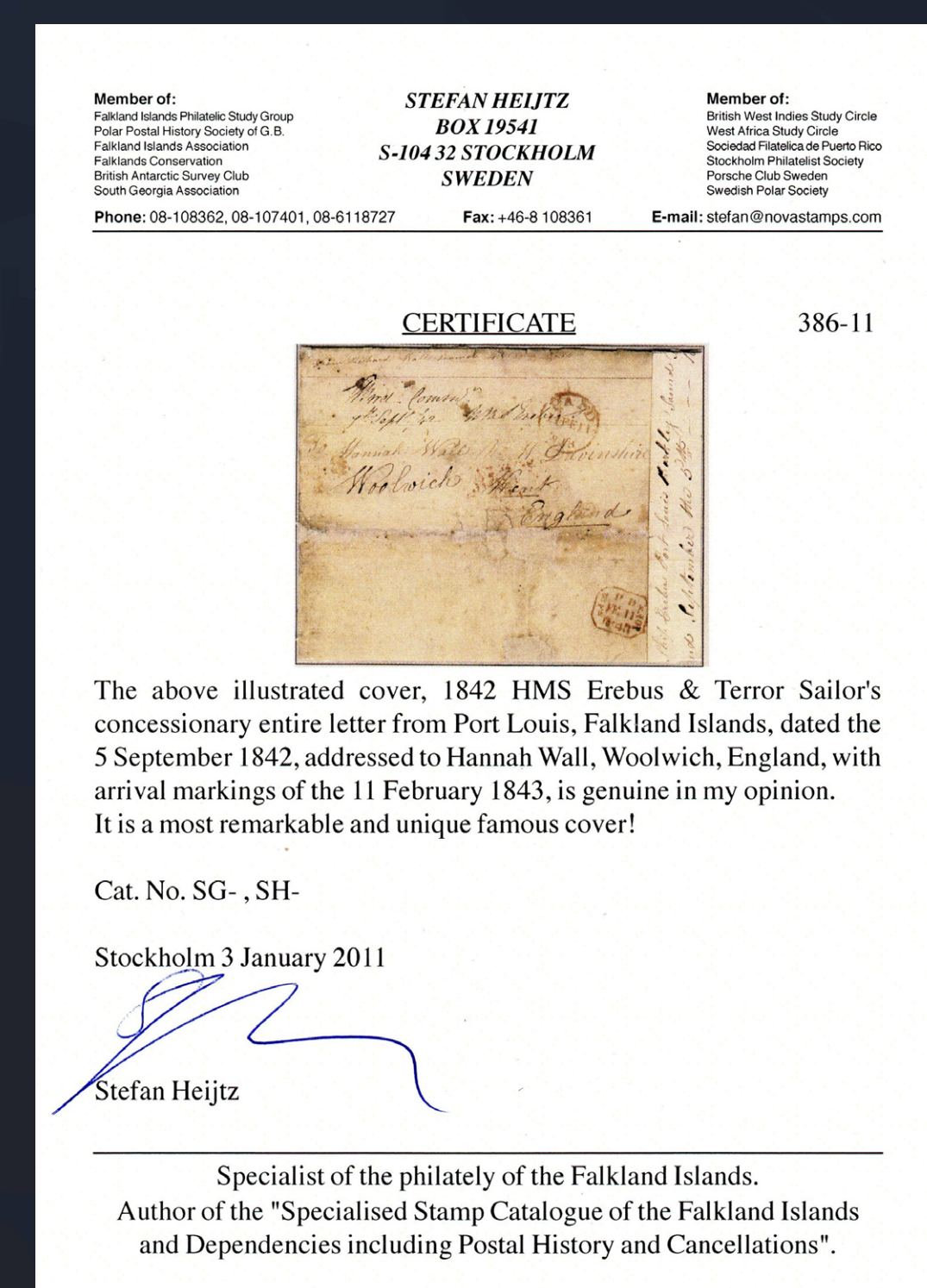


In May 1845, he was second-in-command to Sir John Franklin and captain of HMS Terror during the Franklin expedition to discover the Northwest Passage, which ended with the loss of all 129 crewmen in mysterious circumstances. Handwritten letter from onboard HMS Terror, one of the two ships that would be lost during Franklin's expedition. In part: „Thanks many for your kind congratulations as well as for your Gazette. When either business or pleasure leads you to the neighbourhood of Woolwich I will be glad to see you in Terror, perhaps I should say on board Terror, be that as it may.” signed “F. R. M. Crozier,”



J. C. Ross' letter

Autograph letter
signed by Sir
James Clark Ross
sent to Lt. Smith



Certificate

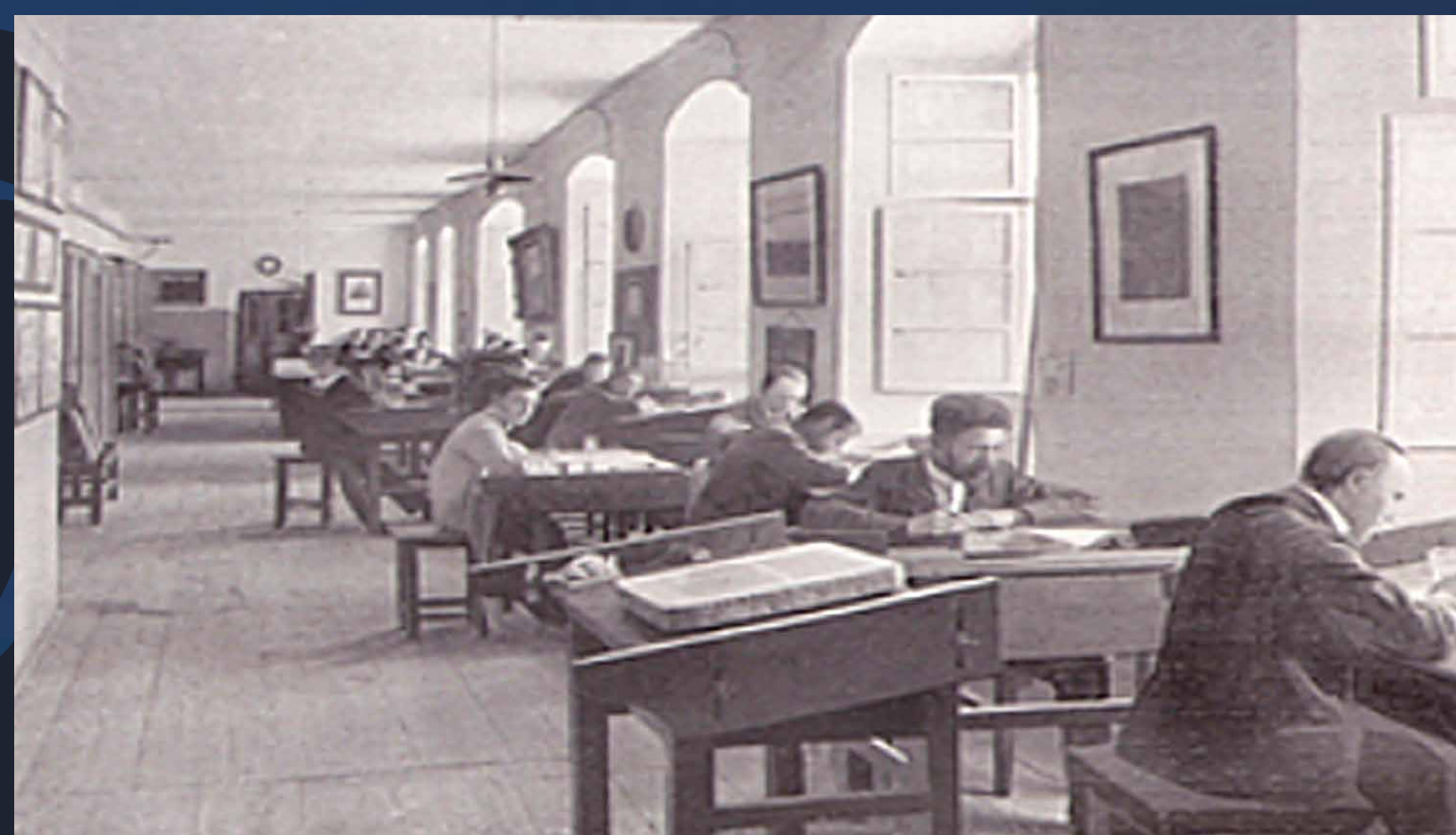


UNIQUE BLOCK OF NINE 20 F MAGYAR POSTA WITH PČ 1919 OVERPRINT

Overprint

Austrian and Hungarian stamps ceased to be valid in Czechoslovakia on 28 February 1919. Unsold stamps were provided with the POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 overprint in December 1919.

One sheet got among the sheets of Hungarian 20 f stamps with the designation of the postal administration Magyar Kir. Posta, which was printed only after the establishment of Czechoslovakia with the same design but a different inscription Magyar Posta.



Studio of the printing house



A view of the building of A. Haase in Anenský dvůr in Prague – the largest printing house in Austria-Hungary at the beginning of the 20th century



Hall of lithographers of the printing house



Stamps with the designation Magyar Kir. Posta and Magyar Posta



Of the larger wholes, only this unique block of nine (stamp positions ZP 51-53, 61-63, 71-73) has survived to this day, which is also the rarest multi-block of Czechoslovak stamps. Furthermore, two blocks of four and one strip of two are known.

The sheet escapes from control

The way in which this sheet got among the other sheets has never been explained. Some considerations assume that this happened when taking over stamps from post offices during changes of frontiers in southern Slovakia and Subcarpathian Ruthenia. In any case, it was not recognized among the other sheets and escaped control not only by employees but also by philatelists, because J. Lešetický does not mention it in his monograph from February 1920.

The first depiction of the block of nine



Discovery of the stamp

The discovery of this stamp is also dealt with in J. Kraus' commemorative article published in Filatelie 1974/530 *Reportáže z počátků naší filatelie* (Reports from the beginning of our philately), where the author tries to interview the owner of several exemplars, Z. Kratina. He states that the upper part of the sheet (he specifically speaks of fifty pieces) was bought by the merchant C. F. Stoupa, who allegedly went to the head of the philatelic counter Toman with a request for more exemplars. After discovering the existence of the stamp, Toman inspected the stock and found the remaining part of the sheet. It is no longer possible to verify this theory today, because no one offered the stamp in period advertisements.

On 18 January 1936, the largest known multi-block – block of nine was described in the magazine *Tribuna filatelistů* (page 20), on the basis of which it was found that the sheet was inserted in a shifted position during overprinting. The inclination of the overprint is not standard 55°, but only 53.5°. As a result, most stamps have a decent overprint.



Reverse side

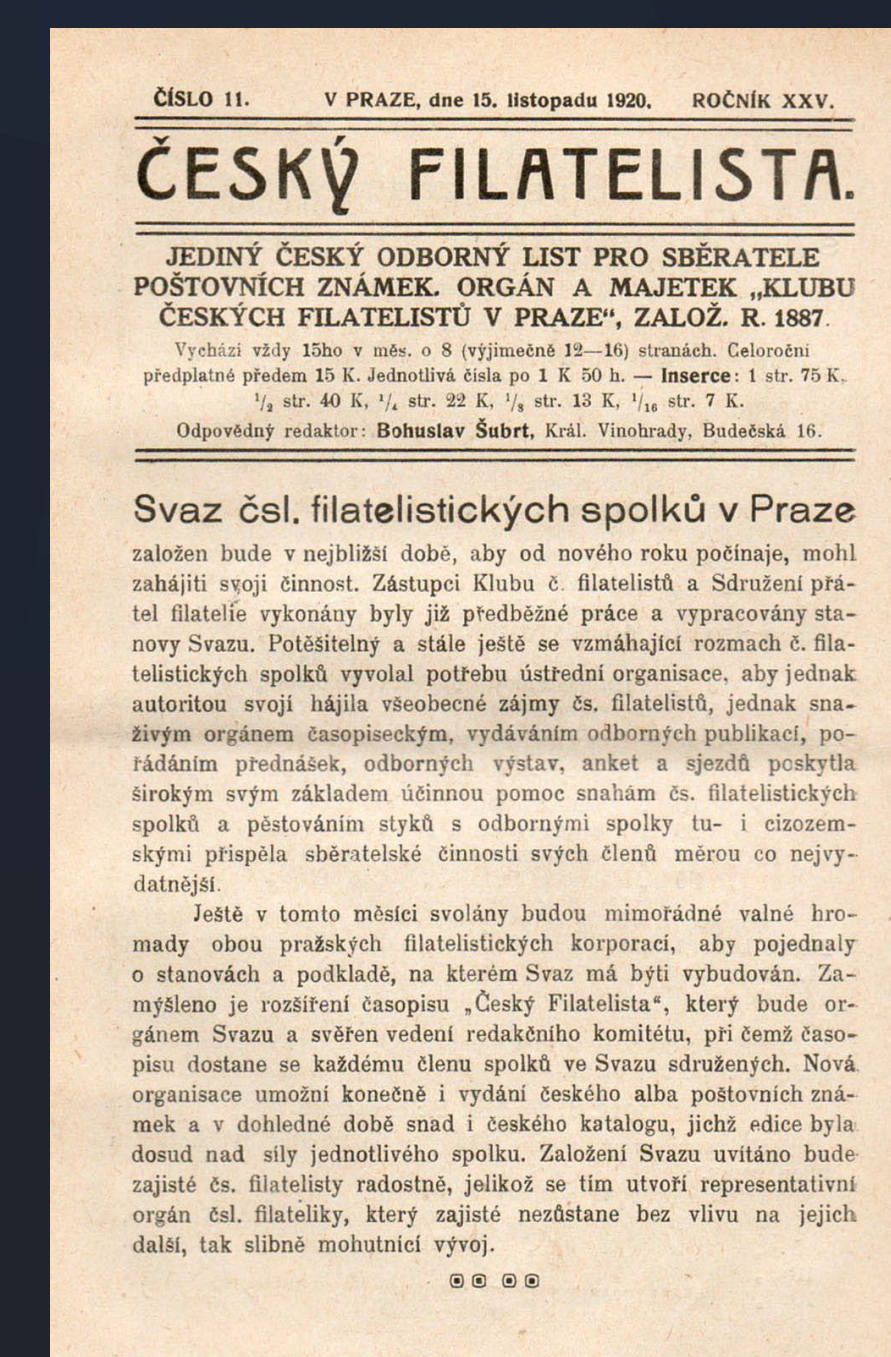
The first published mention

The first published mention of the stamp is as late as on 15 November 1920 in the magazine *Český filatelista*, where it is stated on page 165 that the stamp was recently bought at a philatelic counter by a member of our club (40 pieces) and whose existence was not known at all.



Title page of the magazine *Tribuna filatelistů* of 18 January 1936

This is where the block was also depicted for the first time. Subsequently, it disappeared from the public awareness. It was published again in the magazine *Filatelie* in 1974. It can therefore be said that although we know the exemplar already from the times of the First Republic, the first publicly known owner was L. Pytlíček. He publicly promoted the block and so its photograph can be seen in older catalogues or magazines. The block of nine is verified by expert marks Šula, Lešetický - Ústředna, Gilbert, Karásek and Vrba.



Sample from the magazine



Individual stamp Pof. 107a



CZECHOSLOVAK FIRST STAMP RARITIES

Use of Austrian stamps in ČSR as forerunner / parallel stamps and related stamps

Even though the independent Czechoslovakian state had just been created, most of the Austrian (and Hungarian) stamps from postal offices and warehouses were still in use for franking letters, first as forerunner stamps until the first „Prague Castle” emission of Czechoslovakian stamps from the 18th of December 1918, then until the end of February 1919 as parallel stamps.

That makes Austrian stamps de facto the first stamps of Czechoslovakia

Postal warehouses also contained stamps with their validity ending before the establishment of the Republic, for example 4 denominations from 1916 with an expiry date of 28.2.1918, or Airmail stamps ending 15.10.1918. These and other stamps did not reach postal use, but some of them were marked with „revolutionary” overprints, or POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 (Czechoslovakian Post 1919) overprints.

A collector's trend of recent years is adding these Austrian stamps from the end of the Empire to Czechoslovakia collections to complete overprint emissions or as a logical extension of „provisional” chapters. Today's collections also contain all specialties of these stamps as is traditional in Czech stamp collection, the same as with all emissions of Czechoslovak origin.

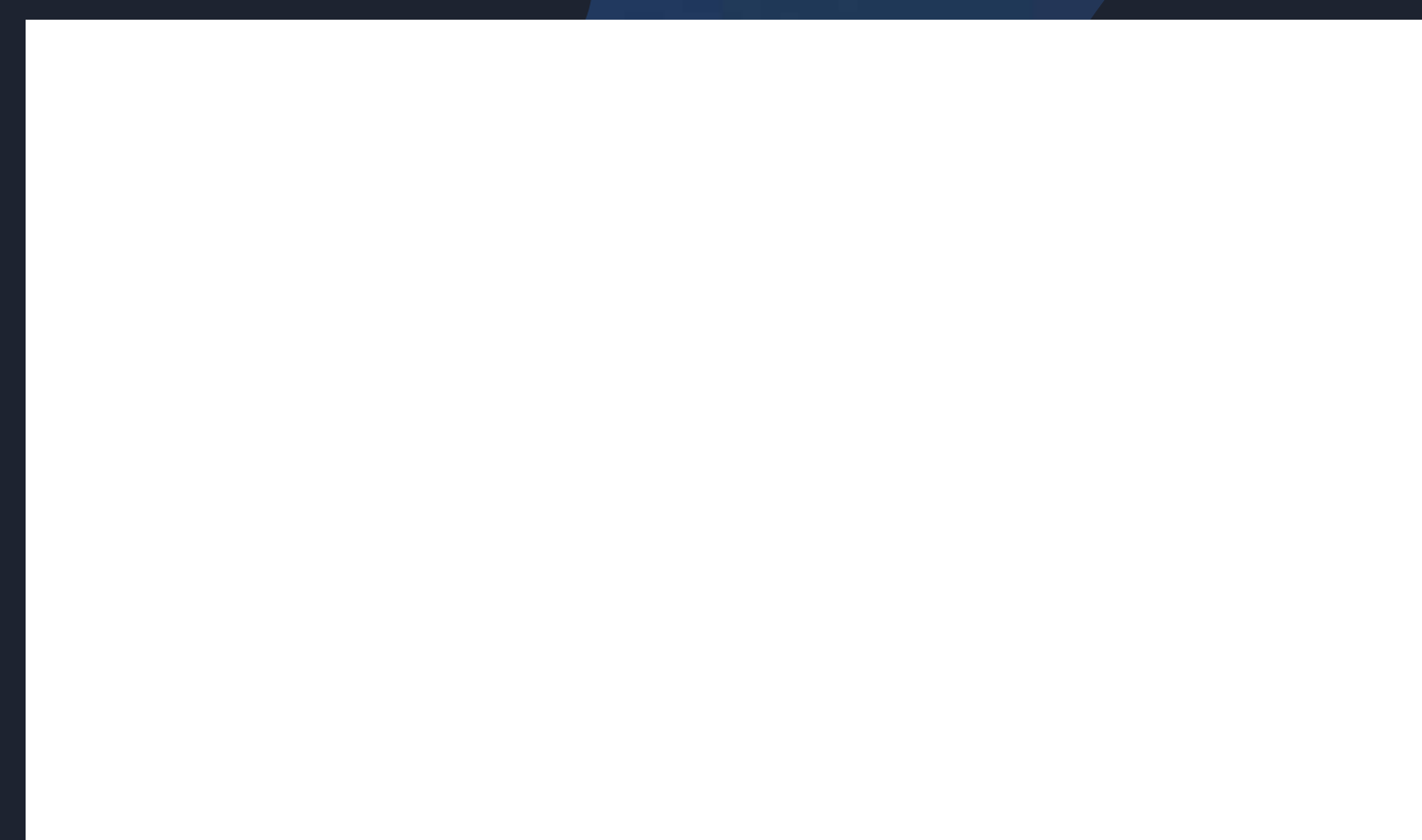
Some of them are extremely rare and interesting and the mentioned trend contributes to the rise of value and attractiveness of 1st Republic collections and adds a new type of rarity with a Czechoslovakian context to the Czech collector's field.



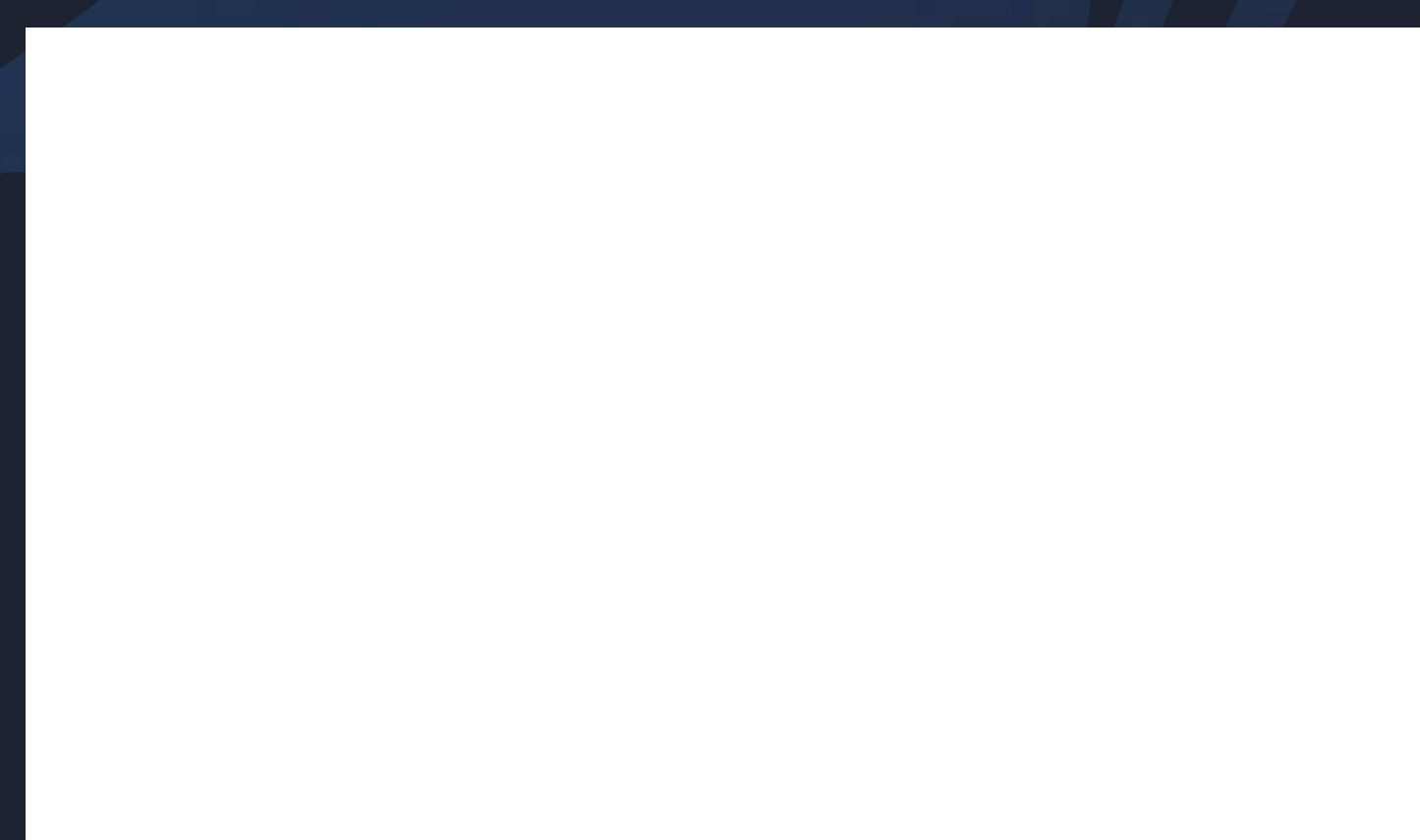
Forerunner stamps in use

Rarities among forerunner and parallel stamps are IMPERFORATE STAMPS which come from imprimatur sheets

These are called UNISSUED in our collector's milieu. Some denominations exist in only 50-100 specimens and larger multiples of those stamps are unique.

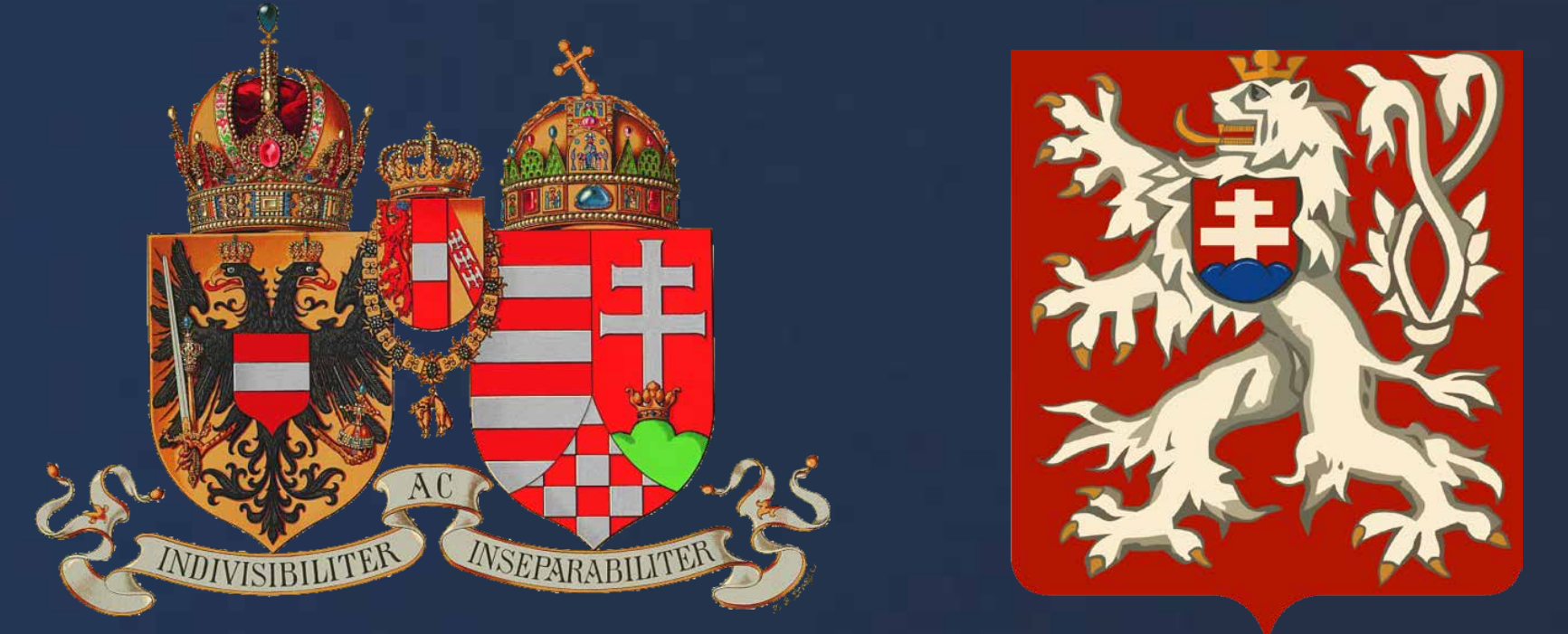


1917 July; 3K light red, wide format, **imperforate, the largest known multiple**. Even the definitive issue **perforated** mint wide light „threes” are counted among the rarest Austrian stamps; any blocks of imperforate stamps are first class rarities.



1919 February; 10K violet on granite paper, imperforate, **the largest known multiple**.

The issuing of 4K and 10K denominations on this paper were carried out, according to some sources, at the Österreichische Staatsdruckerei at the request of Czechoslovak postal authorities. Perforate 10K stamps on granite paper, later with a Pošta Československá 1919 overprint, are along with the 4K denomination the rarest and iconic stamps of Czechoslovakia. Imperforate variants of the original 10K are therefore immensely significant in First Republic collections. No imperforate 4K are known to exist.



„Invalid” forerunner stamps from postal warehouses, used for provisional overprints

A New Trend: Collecting Our First Stamps

- Our aim is to explain the whole period until February 1919
- with used, formerly Austrian stamps from the given period
- with mint, formerly Austrian stamps valid in the given period
- with Austrian stamps that had lost their validity, but which were still in stock at postal warehouses (reserves at head offices in Prague, Brno, and Opava) after the 28th of October 1918, therefore stamps used for the so-called „Pošta Československá 1919” and the „Revolutionary 1918” overprints
- and especially with their trial prints, imprimaturs, essay and various specialties, in line with the collector's tradition of Czechoslovak stamps

And Collection-Wise?



Present trends

- It is a show of continuity of Czechoslovak stamps with Austria and its stamps
- An enrichment of Czechoslovakia collections with new types of rarities and beautiful philatelic material in general with a purely Czechoslovak context in our collector's market
- There is still much to be explored, especially concerning trial prints, their rarity etc.



Present trends



370 SHADES OF RED

King George V

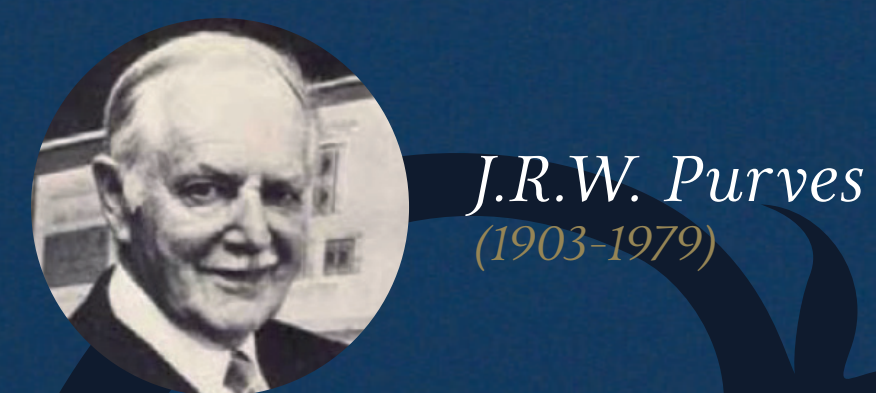


One penny was letter rate and postcard rate within Australia and British Empire (up to 28 October 1918). The first colour for one penny value was red (followed by violet and green) and the quantities of penny red produced were huge. In the period of its usage the average consumption of one penny stamps was more than one million units per day (this for a population of some 6.5 millions) and the total number produced since June 1914 to December 1920 were some 1.8 billions.

The printing coincided with the outbreak of World War I and therefore shortages of pigments and papers imported from Europe to Australia were common. The shortages were significant especially in the last year of the war, therefore mixing and matching of inks that were available to approximate "red" was done by the printer, resulting in remarkable range of shades. The combination of different watermarks, papers and dies resulted in five basic printings.

Penny Red Shades And Famous Researchers

Shade collecting is a popular area in philately but the George V penny red shade determination is quite tricky without having a lot of experience. It was not until 1920s that serious research into penny red shading began, the pioneers being J.R.W. Purves and Alec Rosenblum and since then followed by other researchers and philatelists. In 1932 a committee consisting of Messrs Appleby, Blogg, Hatcher, Johnson, Orlo-Smith, Purves and Rosenblum was formed to solve the penny red shade problem. The basis for this committee's work was Colenso Blogg's list of penny red shades, comprising some 370 shades. As a result, the stamps were allotted to shade groups designated by "G" numbers, starting from G1 and ending with G1.12, and forming the basis for penny red shade listings. There are three main requirements to consider for allocating a penny red stamp to its shade group – daylight appearance, ultra-violet light reaction and period of use.



J.R.W. Purves
(1903-1979)

J.R.W. Purves was a Melbourne solicitor who published researches and articles on many subjects of philately. He also covered the area of penny red shades in which especially he noted the brilliant fluorescent reaction of the salmon eosin shade under ultra-violet light. In 1928 an International Philatelic Exhibition was held in Melbourne where Purves competed with Rosenblum with their Australian Commonwealth exhibits and Purves' collection received the award for the best Australian Commonwealth exhibit. In 1930 his Australian Commonwealth collection was sold to King George V for the impressive sum of £2000.



Alec Rosenblum
(1895-1973)

Alec Rosenblum initiated the serious research in the area of Australian Commonwealth stamps. He spent his professional career working as a research chemist and it also influenced his research in penny red shades as he recorded ultra-violet light reactions for mint stamps. In 1922 he published the first edition of *The Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia*.

Colenso-Blogg

Colenso-Blogg formed a huge collection of penny red shades. His collection was sold in 1939 and is said to represent "the cream of three quarters of million penny reds". Colenso-Blogg produced a shade list in which he identified 273 smooth paper shades, 75 rough paper shades and 22 shades for Die 3 and Large Multiple watermark printings.

The "Italian Find"

The "Italian Find" represented an unchecked hoard of about 70kg of Australian Commonwealth mostly penny reds George V on piece assembled during World War 1. It is also called as "The Great Australian Find of the Century" by some collectors. This hoard of stamps was found in an Italian cellar untouched from the time the stamps were clipped off correspondence. An Italian dealer, who had discovered the stamps in two tea chests, had been selling them at stamp shows as unchecked old kiloware until the Austrian collector Martin Frischauf noticed that and bought all the material from him in 1998.

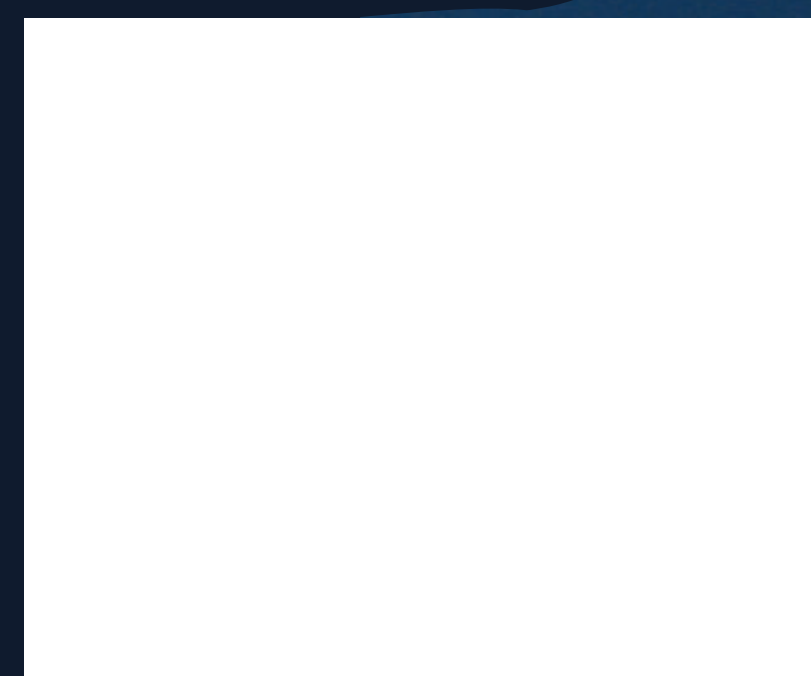
Top Penny Red Shade Rarities

Cooke Printings with Large Multiple Watermark

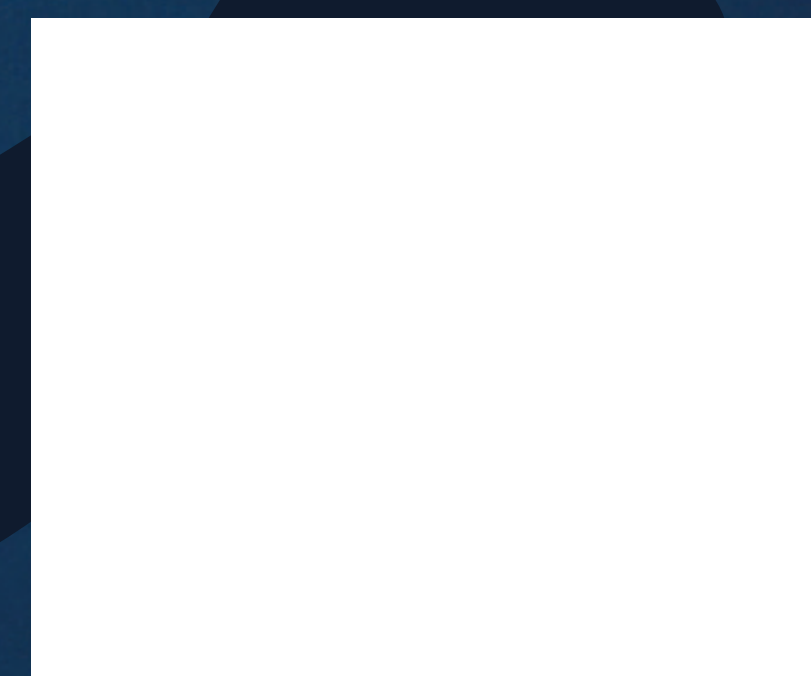


Large multiple watermark

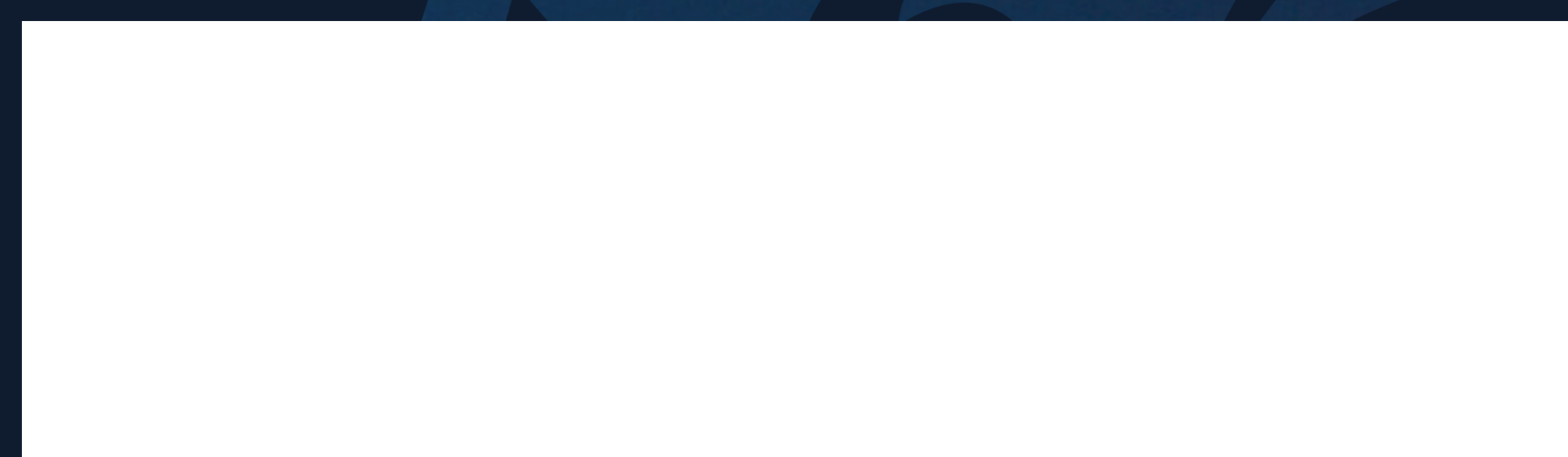
The Cooke printings on Large Multiple Watermark paper were very small and probably experimental in nature, being made soon after the arrival of the new paper early in 1917 for the purposes of testing. This paper was intended to replace the two different Single Watermark papers used for Kangaroo and King George V issues.



Rare carmine-pink shade (G101) perforated OS



Rare rose-red shade (G102) perforated OS



Scarce carmine-pink shade (G101)

Rare rose-red shade (G102)

Rare deep red shade (G103)

Rose-red and deep red shades were listed in the first edition of the *Commonwealth Specialist's Catalogue* in 1926-27. Their level of rarity was confirmed by the 1939 Colenso Blogg price list of used penny reds published by Orlo-Smith & Co. in which the quoted price was 35/- for each shade, i.e. the highest price from all 370 red shades (the cheapest shade was quoted at 1d). This status has remained till today but the deep red shade being one degree rarer than the rose-red shade.

J.B. Cooke probably disliked the paper because of the show-through of the watermark and this may be the reason why some of the sheets were also perforated OS. The 1d carmine-pink George V Large multiple watermark Cooke printing and perforated OS is one of the treasures from the "Italy Find". This stamp is currently listed in major catalogues and the note in the *Australian Commonwealth Specialist's Catalogue* states "Punctured OS stamps were unknown before 1998, when three used carmine-pink examples from an unquestionable source were discovered". The example shown is one of the three examples known in carmine-pink shade.

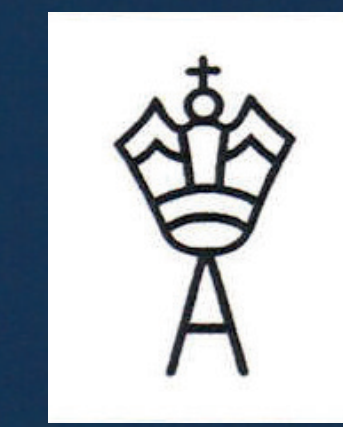
The 1d rose-red George V Large multiple watermark Cooke printing and perforated OS is a new discovery of a Melbourne stamp dealer Richard Juzwin in 2021. The stamp was part of a KGV collection and was identified as a common shade from ordinary printing. Currently only two examples are known in rose-red shade with OS perfin. The Cooke printing shade set including the OS perfins is probably unique.

Stan Orlo-Smith (1880-1946)

Orlo-Smith was the foremost stamp dealer of penny red shades who wrote a series of articles published in the *Australian Stamp Monthly* on the problems related to shade and colour identification. He published a diagram of the red shades. In 1926 Stan Orlo-Smith published *The Commonwealth Specialist Catalogue* which was one of the most specialised single country catalogues available.

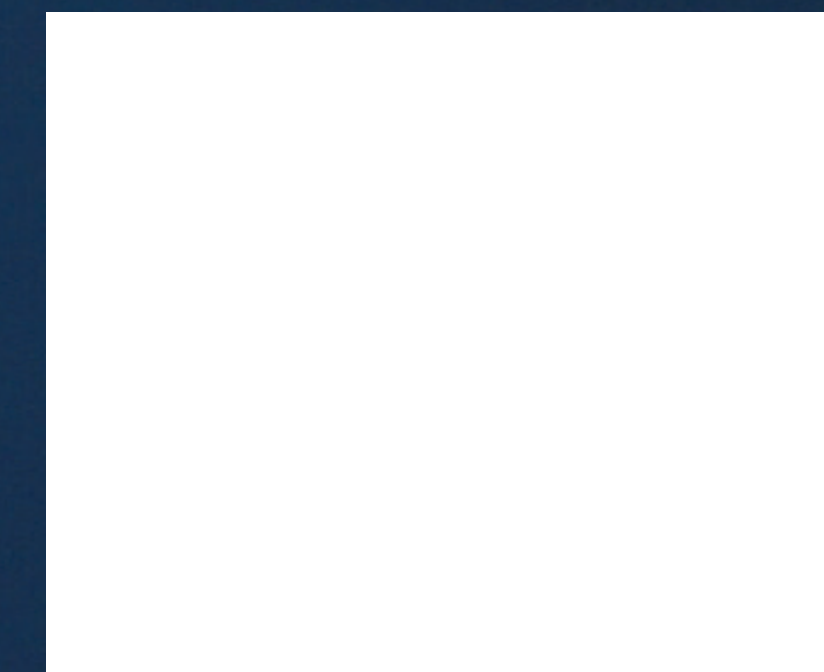
The Orlo-Smith diagram shows the relationships of the Red shades. Moving to the right of the Red column gives an orange tinge due to the addition of yellow, and moving to the left gives a purple tinge due to the addition of blue. Moving above the Red row results in paler shades due to the addition of white, and moving below this row results in darker shades due to the addition of black.

Smooth Paper Printing with Single Watermark

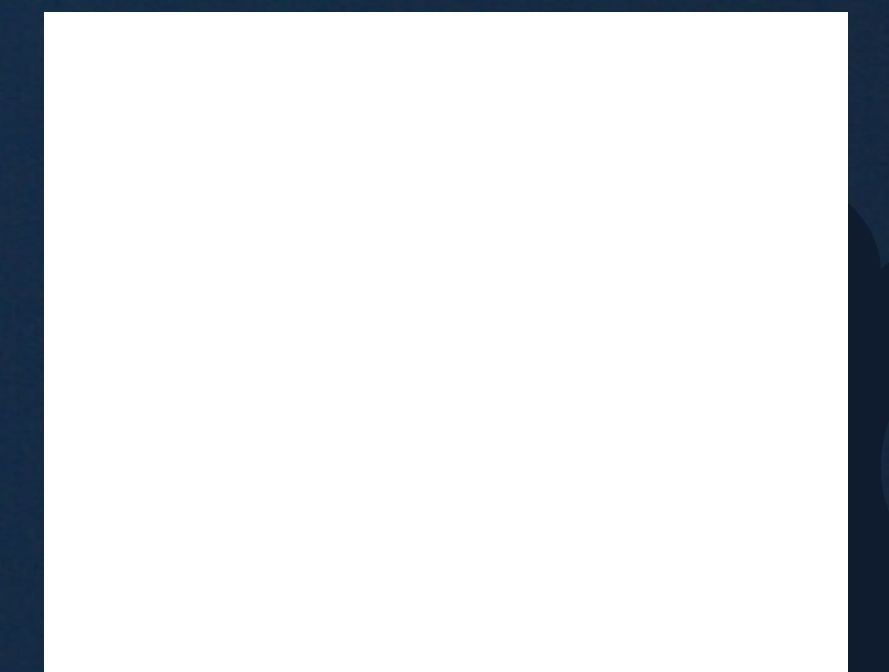


Single watermark

During the first years of the life of the penny reds, printing was done on well-surfaced paper which is referred to as smooth paper. This pre-gummed paper was manufactured in England and was prepared for letterpress printing by being surfaced, imparting to the paper semi-glazed appearance.



Common carmine-red shade (G31)



Rare deep salmon eosin shade (G27)



Dull red UV reaction

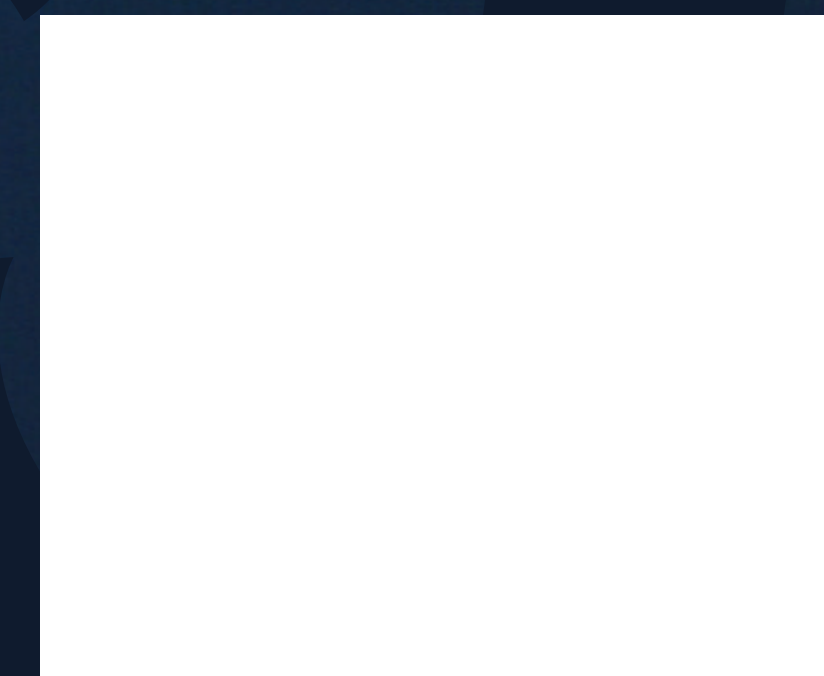


Brilliant yellow orange fluorescence

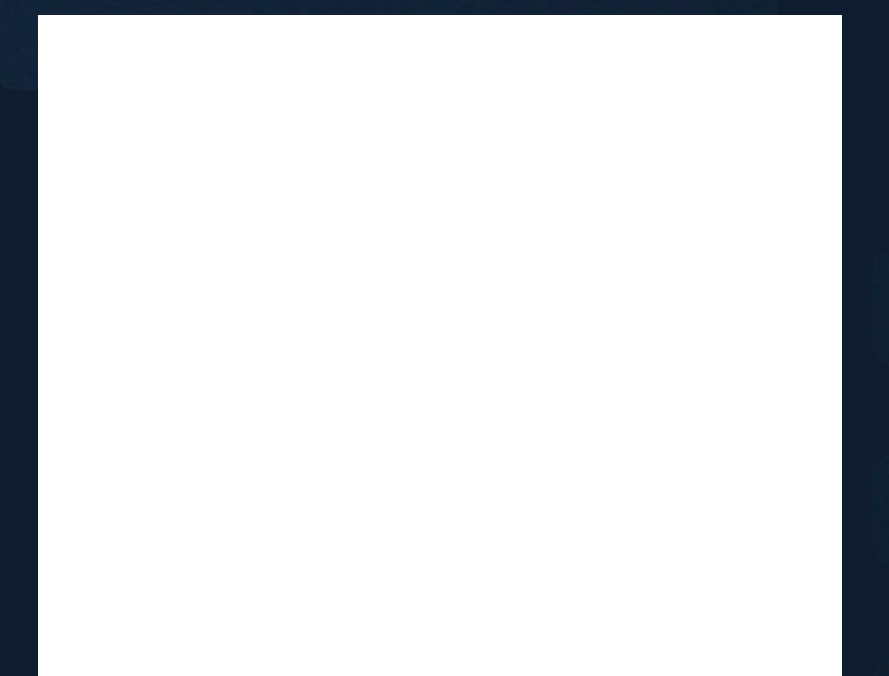
The example shown is a very fine used example of the rare one penny "Eosin" shade on smooth paper whose provenance is from the "Italian Find". The "Eosins" group is not the rarest shade group with well over 500 stamps having been found and shades exhibit a brilliant ultraviolet reaction which shines brilliant yellow, this feature being noted by J.R.W. Purves in 1926. This glow is due to the dye that gives the group its name, eosin. The research of the main group types of "Eosins" and their sub-groups has been done by Mr. Michael Drury who also provides special certificates to these issues.

Rough Paper Printing with Single Watermark

Due to shortages during the war, less well-surfaced paper had to be used, which was originally produced for the printing of postal notes. This paper was delivered from England un-gummed and is referred to as rough paper. Rough paper has a very patchy coverage of colour.

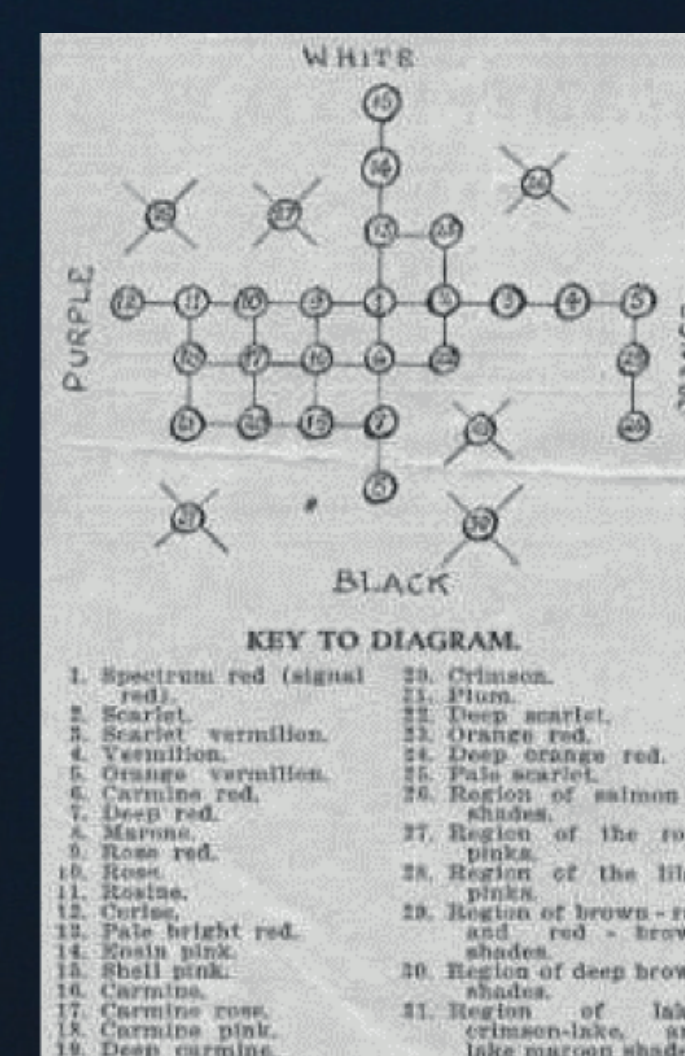


Common carmine-red shade (G73)



Rare orange-brown shade (G78)

The Orange-brown shade was listed for the first time in 1935 (fourth) edition of the *Commonwealth Specialist's Catalogue* but since this time was deleted from the listing for a number of years. The changing exclusion and inclusion in the catalogue is reflecting the doubtful status of the shade. The current consensus is that there exist around forty examples from this shade group. But the status of this shade (which even doesn't resemble a red shade) is dubious and not shared by all penny red shade collectors who suspect the shade is a changeling. The probable explanation for this shade might be that it was combined from the dregs of ink from a few prints. The sheets printed from this shade were rejected, perforated OS and provided particularly to government offices in Melbourne.



Original shade diagram of the colour red published by Orlo-Smith in the *Australian Stamp Monthly* in November 1, 1939



Adjusted reproduction of Orlo-Smith shade diagram



THREE RED MERCURIES - THREE WORLD RARITIES IN CZECH COLLECTIONS

The Red Mercury, also called vermilion for its specific shade, is a world famous and also most expensive Austrian stamp. Due to its use on Czech territories it is also the most expensive stamp of Czech postal history. It is traditionally

considered as one of the icons of *World classics*. Unused vermilion Mercuries have been considered rare from the beginnings of philately, especially when cancelled, and were always part of only the largest collections.



Print type IIIb



The Mercury stamps were gradually printed in 3 basic print types from the end 1850 and so due to its later emission in 1856, the vermilion Mercuries were printed in the last type IIIb, as were the largest and also terminal print-loads of blue Mercuries.

History

The Austrian mercuries were the first ever stamps to be used for franking newspaper packages. Their validity began on 1 January 1851 and they were issued in 3 denominations and colours: 0.6 Kreuzer blue for franking of 1 newspaper, 6 Kreuzer yellow for 10 newspapers and 30 Kreuzer rose for packages of 50 newspapers. They were also used in the then Austrian Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia with 3 Centesimi, 30 Centesimi and 1,5 Lire denominations. Newspaper publishing houses received them in sheets of 100 pieces based on a placed order and payment. The newspapers were franked with these stamps in the editorial offices and then delivered to post offices. The stamps were only ordered in numbers to cover the needs of post offices due to the obligatory subscriptions and it soon turned out, that the demand for yellow and rose stamps (for sending newspapers in bulk) was minimal. In October 1852 that led to the rose stamps being used as the blue ones with a makeshift value of 0.6 Kreuzers.

The yellow stamps were used in the same manner from March 1856. Both of these stamps were used up during the first month of their lowered value, which proves how rare they are, both cancelled or unused. The 6 Kreuzer yellow was replaced by a vermilion zinnober Mercury in March 1856. The print-load was only 120 000 pcs (by comparison, the blue was issued in 136 million pieces). But the demand for vermilion Mercuries was also low and instead of lowering its value and being depleted, their validity was terminated on the 31st of December 1858 and all of the remaining pieces were destroyed.

These circumstances paved the way to the emergence of an exceptional rarity. Ing. Edwin Müller (1898-1962, one of the biggest experts on Austrian stamps in the history of philately) states, that only 30-40 unused vermilion Mercuries and seven cancelled remain! No newspapers or fragments exist.



300%

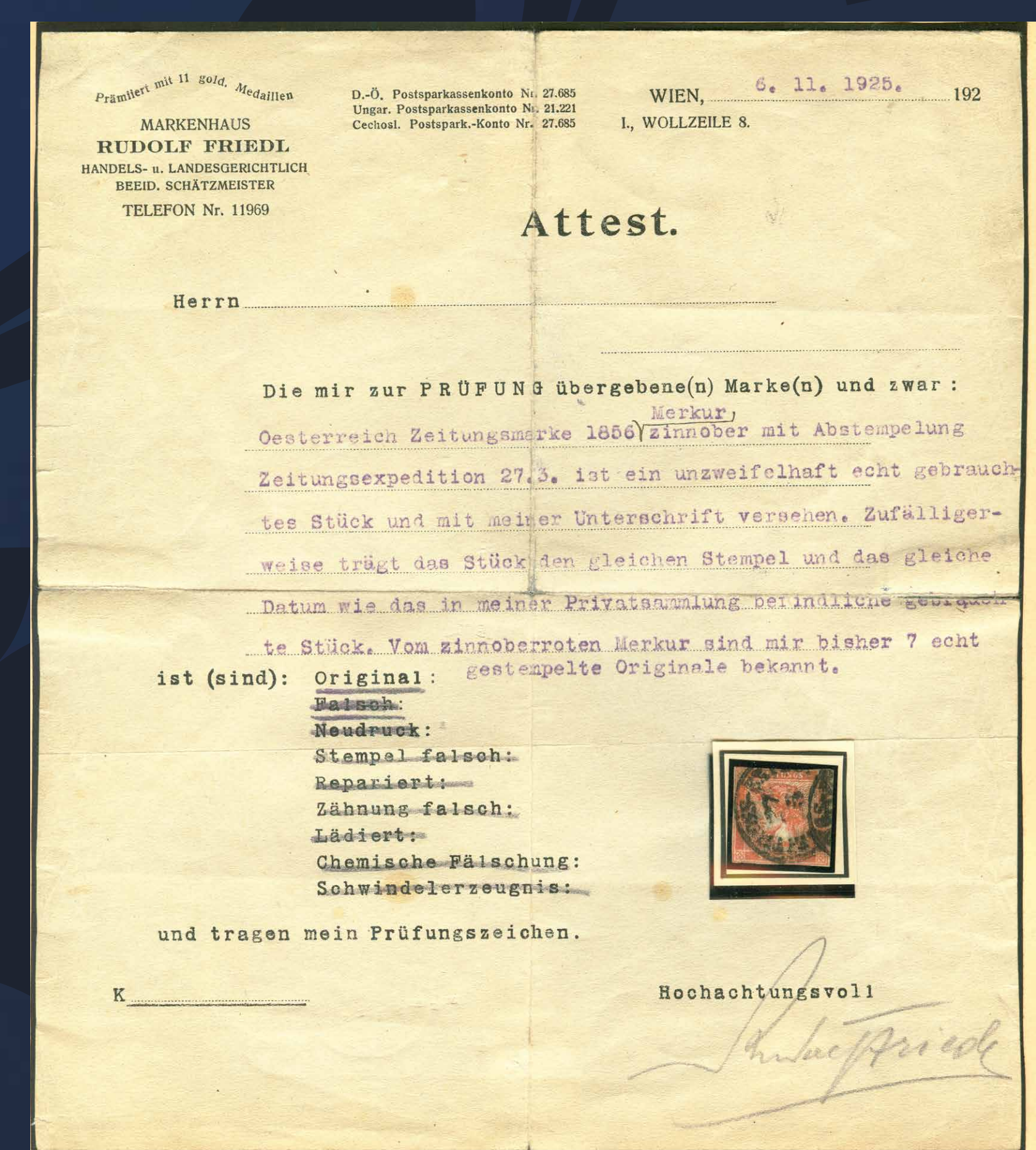


An early print, *Frühdruck* with clear printing features and distinct original colouring

One of the seven existing specimens of a cancelled *zinnober* Mercuries; from the collection of the Postal Museum in Prague

A specimen of exceptional quality with flawless cut and a complete original gum

Certificate from R. Friedl



The certificate mentions, that this piece has the same Viennese postmark and date as the *zinnober Merkur* in the private collection of Friedl. This may prove an old report from the end of the 19th century commenting on the finding of several cancelled vermilion Mercuries in 1880 in a registry of the Bürgerliche Brauhaus in Budweis (today's Samson brewery) in a newspaper package sent in short period of time.

Rudolf Friedl

A famous Austrian businessman, expert and collector. Originally from Lipník nad Bečvou, he lived in Vienna from his 6 years of age. After studying at a trade school he worked at stationery shop and printing house owned by his mother and in 1890 he joined the shop of his more famous brother, Sigmund Friedl (the creator and organiser of Austrian philately and a businessman of global significance, founder of the Vindobona Club and author of catalogues, founded the *Markenhaus Sigmund Friedl* in 1872), taking it over in 1904, after his brother retreated from the trading world after an affair concerning the sale of counterfeit Mercuries.

Later on he established his own *Markenhaus Rudolf Friedl* and carried on in business until 1934. He achieved international renown, Count Ferrary, F. Breitfuss or A. Moschkau were among his clients. He was in contact with the greatest businessmen of his time, S. Gibbons, J. Schlesinger, A. Maury, J.-B. Moens and others. His nephew, Otto Friedl, was successful in USA during and after the War by founding the Mercury Stamp Company and the famous Friedl Expert Committee.



Mercuries in Czech lands

This specimen, originally from a package of 10 newspapers sent from Prague to Příbram, proves the use of vermilion Mercuries on Czech territories; sold at a Schwanke auction in 2011 in Hamburg.



Period advert of R. Friedl



ENDLESS WAITING

The content of origin of the stamps

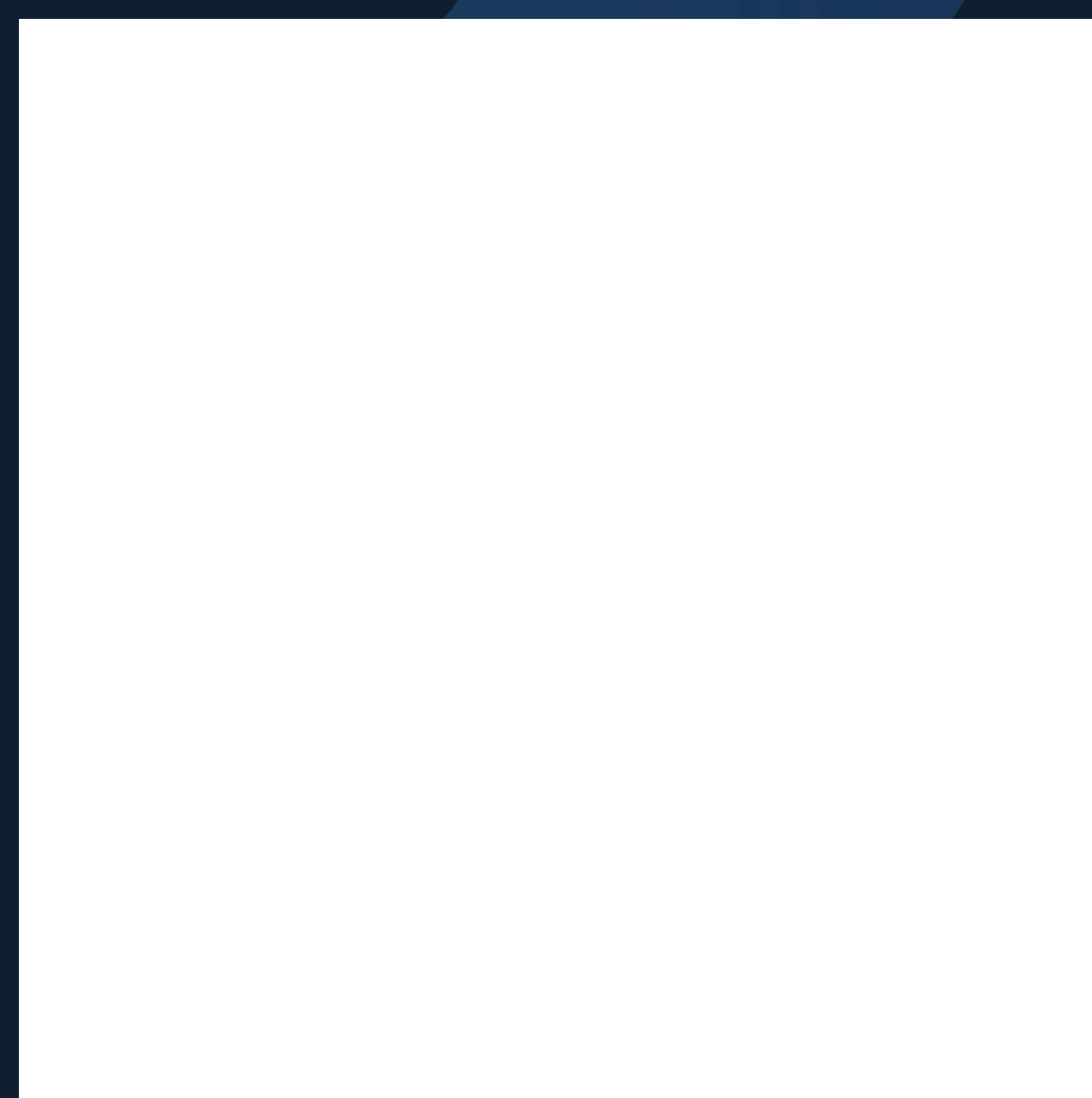
The stamps of the former Dual Monarchy (Austro-Hungarian Empire), which were valid on the territory of Czechoslovakia before October 28, 1918, were used for this issue. As the first years of the republic were marked by the joy of the newly formed state, the rest of the originally Austro-Hungarian stamps that remained in postal warehouses were reprinted with letterpress overprint called POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919.

Most of the stamps of lower values remained in stock amount. Rarely were overprinted values, which were in postal warehouses in smaller pieces of sheets. These marks are rare, their larger units occur very rarely.

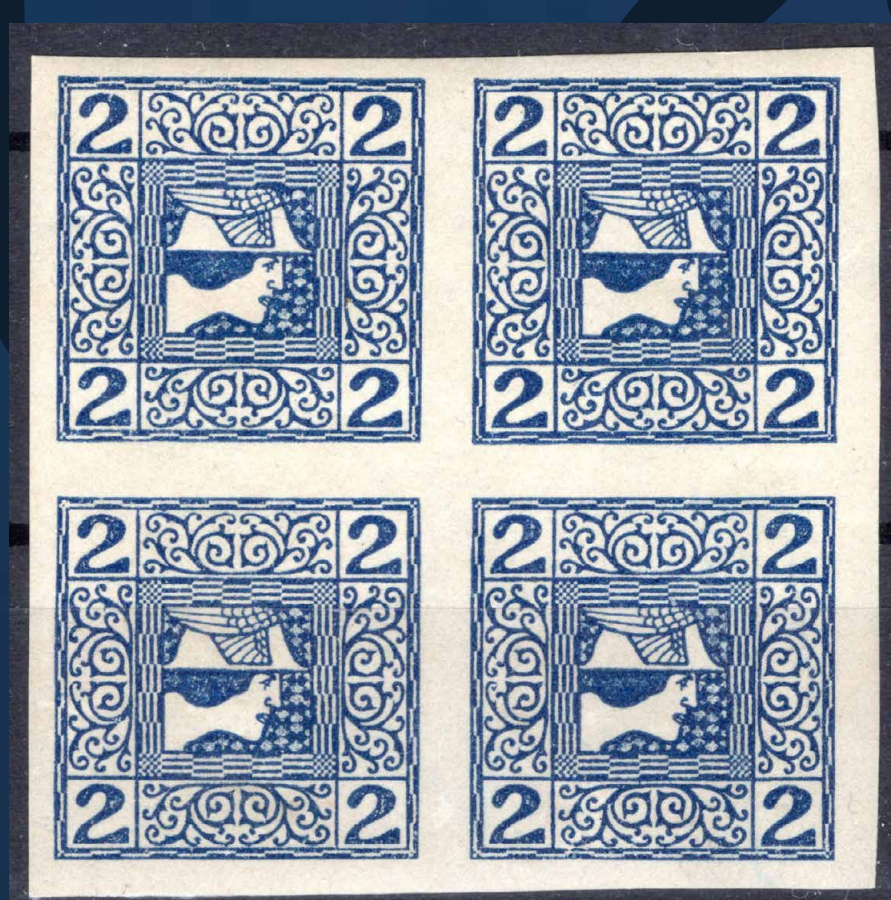
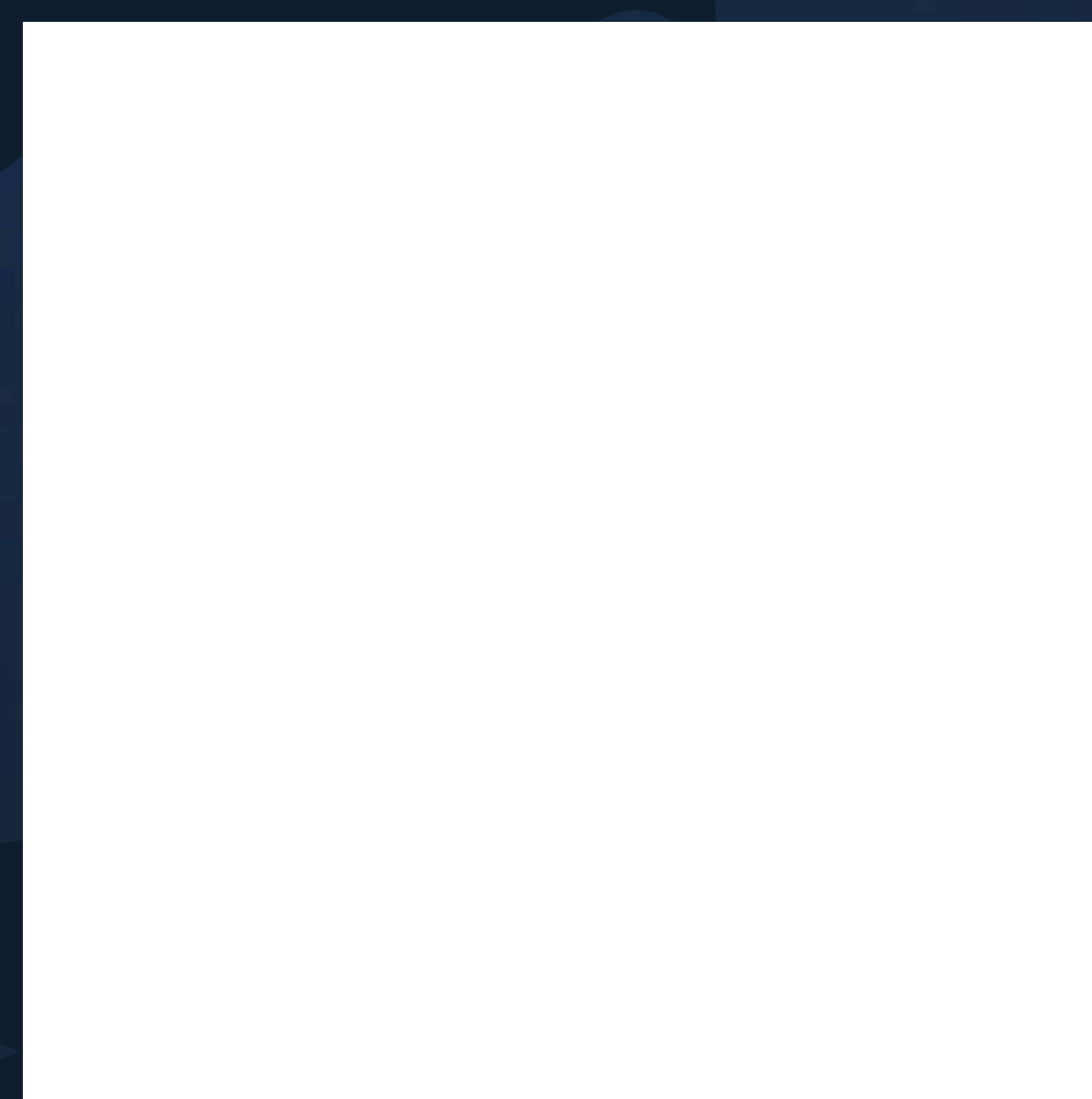
In this year this exhibition gives visitors a unique opportunity to see both exclusive items placed together on one exhibition sheet.



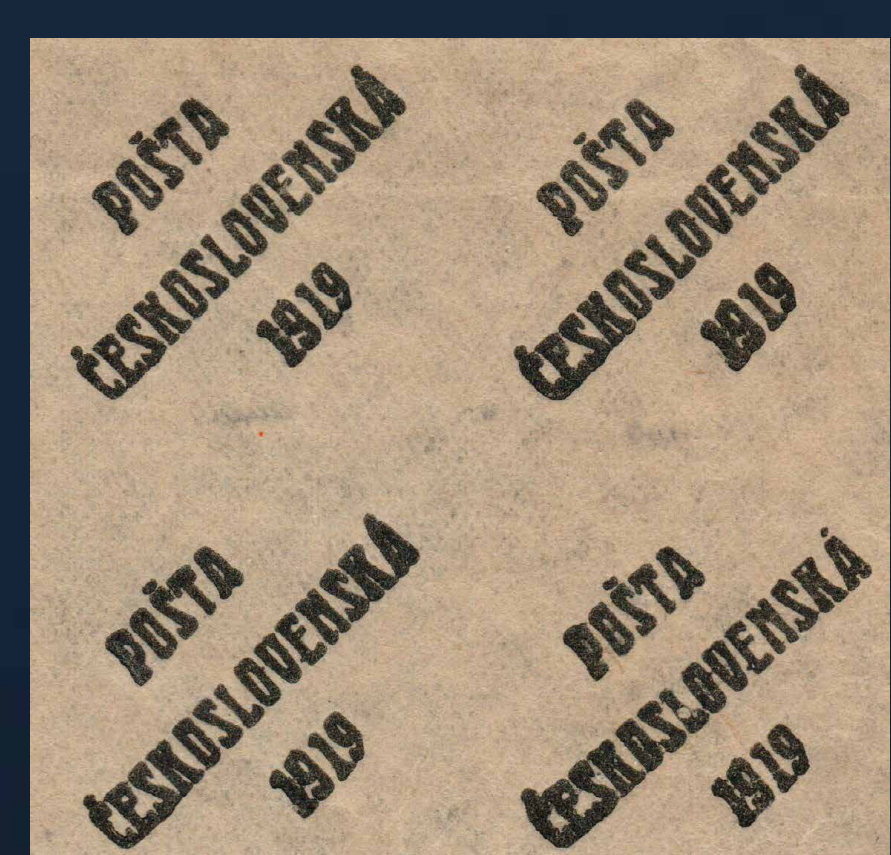
200 %



200 %

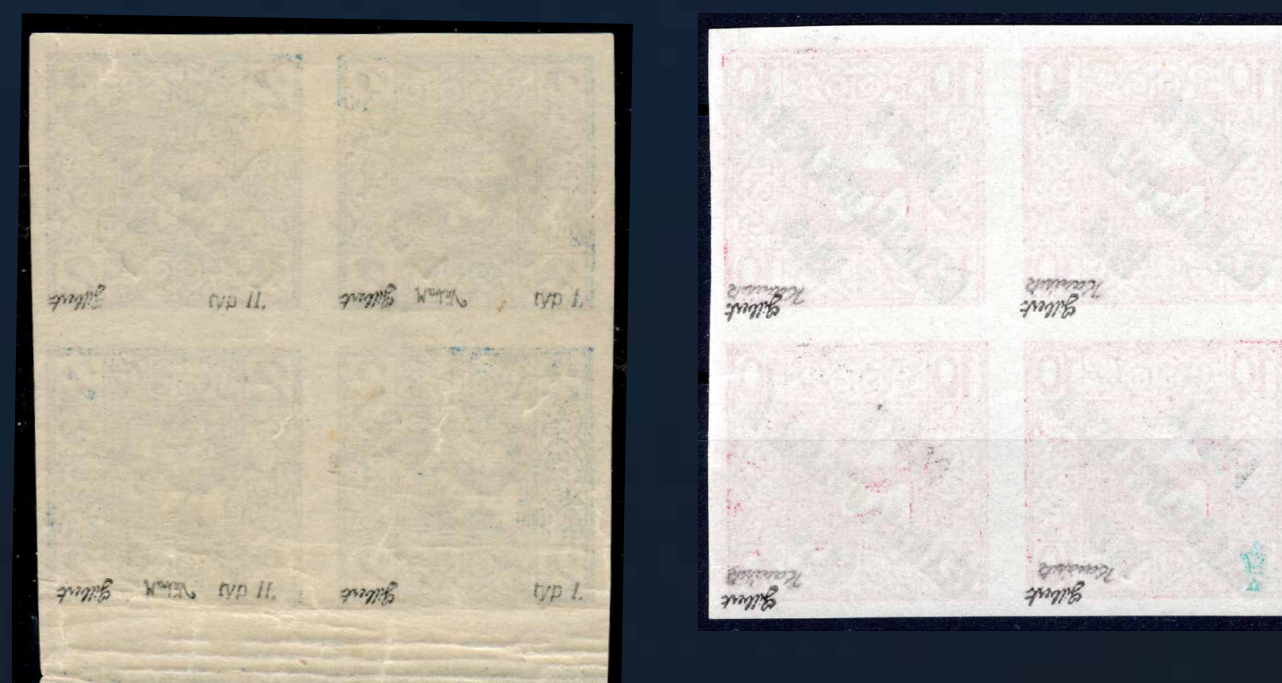


Blocks of four of Austrian stamps with Merkur's head without overprint



A sheet of paper with overprints POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919

Detailed copies of both sides of the described four blocks, on the reverse side all stamps are marked with expert marks.



Austrian newspaper stamps

During the years 1908 to 1910, Austrian stamps were issued with a portrait of Mercury looking to the right. All originally Austrian and Hungarian stamps valid in Czechoslovakia before the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state were reprinted by overprint POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 in 1920. Only a small number of red and blue stamps were reprinted, journal from Ministry of Post and Telegraphs stated the total volume of red stamps at 125 pieces and the volume of blue stamps is even smaller, unfortunately the official volume is not known. Both stamps are very popular among philatelists. The red stamp of value 10 heller is listed as officially issued and as such stamp kept under a normal catalogue number. However, the value of 2 heller in blue colour, which is probably marked as official unpublished in the journal from Ministry of Post and Telegraphs due to its small number of reprinted pieces.



In the first pair of pictures there are view to printing company Haase in Anenský dvůr in Prague - before establishment of Czechoslovakia was the printing company Haase the biggest printing company in the Austro-Hungarian empire.

A pair of blocks of four (!) of the stamps described above is displayed on this exhibition sheet, these blocks of four are extremely rare, and both of them connects a very interesting story. Immediately after their sale at the philatelic department of the main post office in Prague 1, both blocks were part of the large collections of leading Czechoslovak philatelists, each of whom was in a different collection, and both blocks met only at postage stamp exhibitions. The fate of the red block of four was not mapped in detail before the war (most likely it was owned by Professor Rudolf Gilbert since 1920), but the blue four-block was owned by the leading Czechoslovak collector and exhibitor Arnošt Berka. The turning point came in 1945, when the two four-blockers found themselves together in the collection of the leading Czechoslovak expert, Professor Rudolf Gilbert. They were part of Gilbert's magnificent collection until his death in 1984, and during those nearly forty years, both rarities were one of the crown jewels of his collection. The fate of the two quadruplets in 1984 divided them for a long time, but subsequently at this exhibition they found their way back to each other.



The second pair of pictures shows us a studio and hall of engravers in printing company Haase at the beginning of the 20th century.

The red block of four travelled from Professor Gilbert's collection to the leading exhibits of several Czech philatelic experts, and after the Velvet Revolution it reached the leading Czech exhibitor of Czechoslovak stamps, which made it one of the key items of its exhibit. While the fate of the red four-block is convincingly mapped after 1984, the fate of the blue four-block is largely shrouded in mystery. After the death of the expert Gilbert, it was completely forgotten until it was rediscovered in 2020 and it is only the third piece we have known of this popular stamp in the four-block. The red stamp in block of four is known in four pieces >> there are only three of these pairs of blocks of four. The fate of these ones has been connected since the end of World War II and it is basically small miracle.

THE FIRST STAMP ISSUE OF THE AUSTRIAN EMPIRE 1850

The introduction and further development of the first stamp issue of the Austrian Empire 1850-1858.

The Austrian Civil Servant Laurenz Koschier from Krain (today Slovenia) was far ahead of his time in terms of postal thinking. As early as 1836, he made a written proposal to the postal administration in Vienna on how to reform the postal system by introducing the „aufklebbare Brieftaxstempel“ (stick-on postage stamps). His ideas were rejected not only once but three times, in 1836, 1842 and 1848.

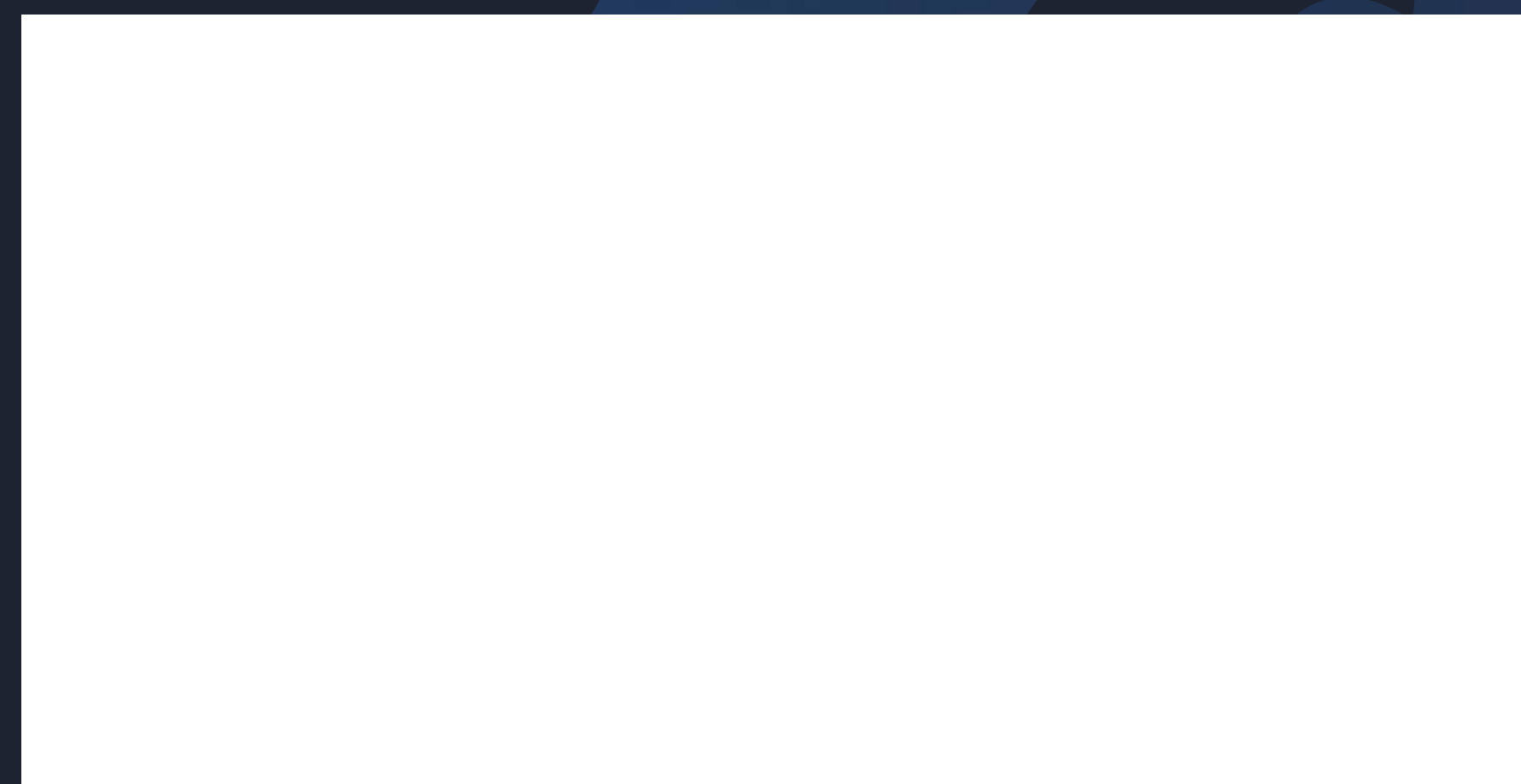


Laurenz Koschier
(1804-1879)

Finally in 1849, the administration of the largest central European state was ready to consider the introduction of stamps. In May 1849, the Austrian postal administration sent the civil servant Dr Johann Jakob Herz on an inspection tour abroad to study the stamp system. In July 1849 Dr Hertz placed in his report the recommendation to introduce „aufklebbare Briefmarken“ (stick-on stamps) in the Habsburg Monarchy in order to simplify the charging and logistics of letter traffic. He suggested to create three distance zones with additional local letters and printed matters, this led to 5 denominations (1,2,3,6,9 Kreuzer), for the Monarchy. Dr Herz also commented on how the stamps should like: he suggested the emperor's portrait or the Austrian coat of arms as the stamp image.



Mercury designs for the 1st stamp issue by Josef Axmann in 5 denominations and 2 currencies in 1850.



The first stamp issue of the Austrian Empire in its first edition 1850



In July 1849, at the Postal Authority, the Trade Ministry and k.k. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei conference in Vienna it was decided to introduce the postage stamp. In September 1849, the Minister of Trade, Freiherr von Bruck, reported to Emperor Franz Joseph I, who signed the decree introducing the postage stamp in the Austrian Empire on September 25th, 1849. The date of issue was set for June 1st, 1850. Therefore, there were only 8 months left to introduce a new rating system including the development and production of new stamps and thus the whole distribution system for the entire vast territory of the Monarchy.

In October 1849, Dr Herz had been promoted to Senior Civil Servant given the task of submitting final proposals to the Ministry of Trade on the appearance, condition, use, cancellation, sale and charging of stamps. Around 1849/50 Dr Herz started his negotiations with the director of the Staatsdruckerei, Ritter Auer von Welsbach, regarding the production of the first stamp issue. The Staatsdruckerei had acquired a good reputation for the production of state printed matter and official value papers, especially under its director Auer von Welsbach. Auer was confronted with Dr Herz's ideas, which, from his expert point of view, were insufficient in terms of production technology and security features.

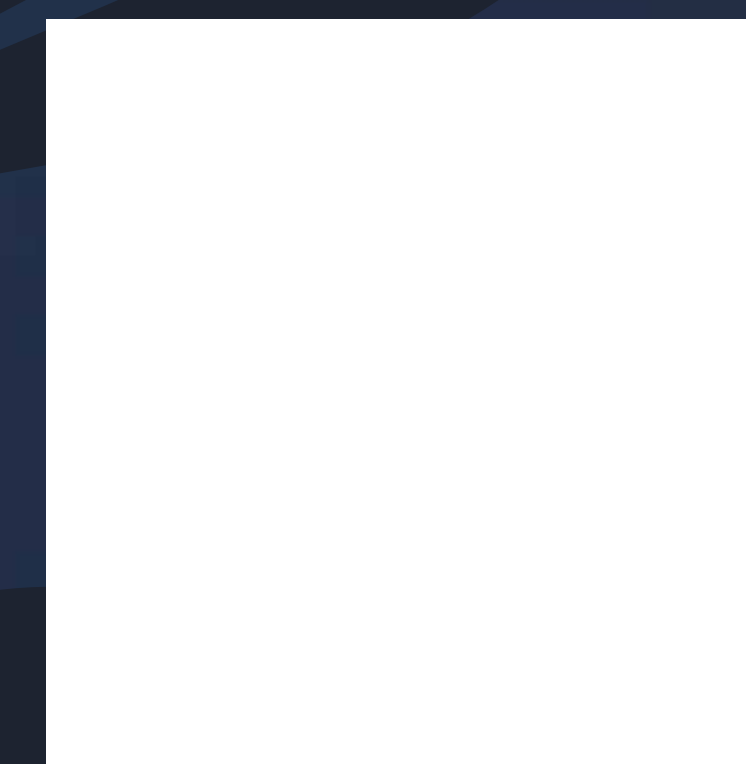
Dr Herz presented his ideas, to an official of the Staatsdruckerei, whose name has not been preserved, who then produced a wooden cliché and, after some slight modifications, steel clichés, of which we have a few proofs in the denominations of 6 Kreuzer and 1 Gulden.



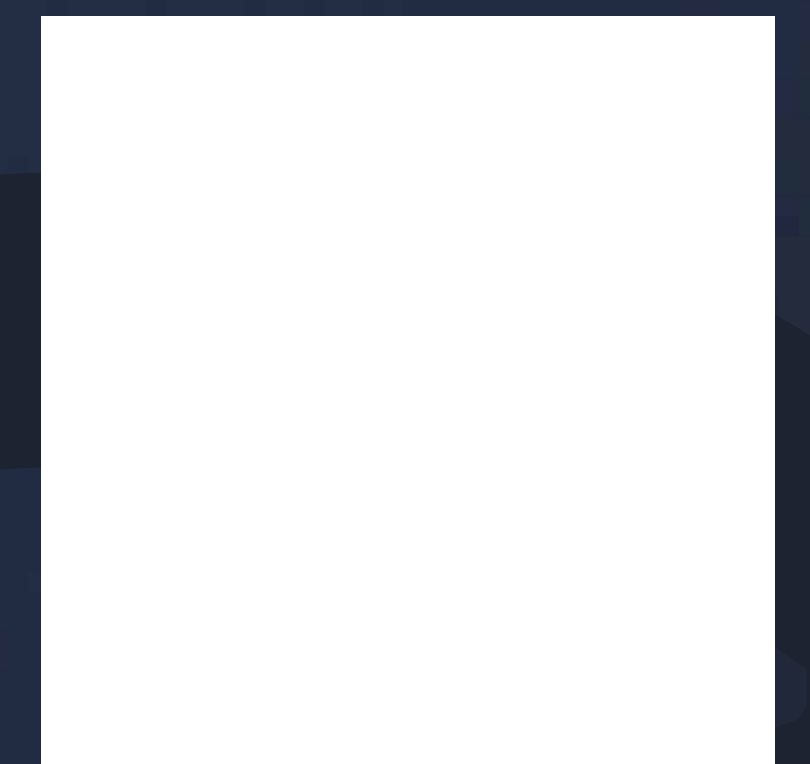
Josef Axmann
(1793-1873)

Famous engraver and creator of the mercury essays for the first issue and the famous mercury newspaper stamps.

At the same time and with the order of the Trade Ministry, the director of the Staatsdruckerei, Auer von Welsbach, had the famous engraver Josef Axmann produce another design for the postmark issue. For this design, the far more complicated, expensive, and much more forgery-proof method of copperplate printing was chosen. Josef Axmann chose Mercury heads as the stamp image, as they corresponded to the taste of the Biedermeier period and were understood in the politically turbulent time without any political context in the multi-ethnic monarchy. Furthermore, it was common for the Staatsdruckerei to use the Mercury heads for value papers. The 5 different designs were, just like the ones used for banknotes, made in different sizes and either with bearded or beardless faces - symbolising Kreuzer and Centesimi denominations. However, this design had nothing in common with Dr Herz's proposal. The postal administration rejected Josef Axmann's designs as too complicated and too expensive to produce. However, Axmann's idea of the Mercury head on stamp was executed by him shortly afterwards in the design of the world's first newspaper stamp, the blue, yellow rose and red Mercury, and achieved world fame in philately.



Pair of the 3 kr proof of 1851 in black



Block of four of the 3 kr proof of 1851 in blue

The engraver Carl Hermann Tautenhayn created the final stamp design of the first Austrian issue in steel based on Dr Herz's idea. On February 5th, 1850, the order for the Habsburg Empire's first stamp issue was placed with the Staatsdruckerei in Vienna, where a total of about 20 million stamps were produced using the comparatively simple letterpress printing process in five different denominations and two different currencies and distributed throughout the entire Monarchy by May 1850.



1 kr stamp and gummed paper sheet in trial perforation 18 from August 1852

The director of the Staatsdruckerei was expected to increase the security of the stamp that had just been very successfully introduced. Therefore, there was constant development and experimentation in the production of stamps. Over and over, submissions were made to the Ministry of Trade and the postal administration, initially mainly concerning paper and gumming. In March 1851, proofs of the 3 Kreuzer value were produced in blue and black to test the paper and gumming.

Furthermore, in 1852 trials with perforating machines were initiated in order to increase the usability with regards to the stamp separation. After a completely failed attempt with the 3 Kreuzer stamp - of which no piece has survived - further trials were initiated in August 1852 with the 1 Kreuzer stamp as well as with white, gummed paper sheets, of which very few individual pieces have survived. However, the perforation proved to be too fragile, and the stamps continued to be produced imperforated in the series production, which then changed with the 2nd issue in 1858.

About 280 million stamps were produced in total from the 1st issue of Austria between 1850 and 1858.

The pieces shown come from the collections of Dr Lazar (Bratislava), Dr Madl (Prague), Mag. Winter (Vienna).

Largest known units of the 6 kr and 1 fl proofs 1850, se-tenant proof of the 6 kr and 1 fl values in a vertical pair



UNIQUE 1.50 K AIRMAIL STAMP, NARROW WITH REVERSED OVERPRINT PČ 1919

1918

To speed up the sending of military messages between Vienna and the Eastern Front, an airline was established on 19 March 1918 between Vienna – Krakow – Lviv and later extended to Kiev.



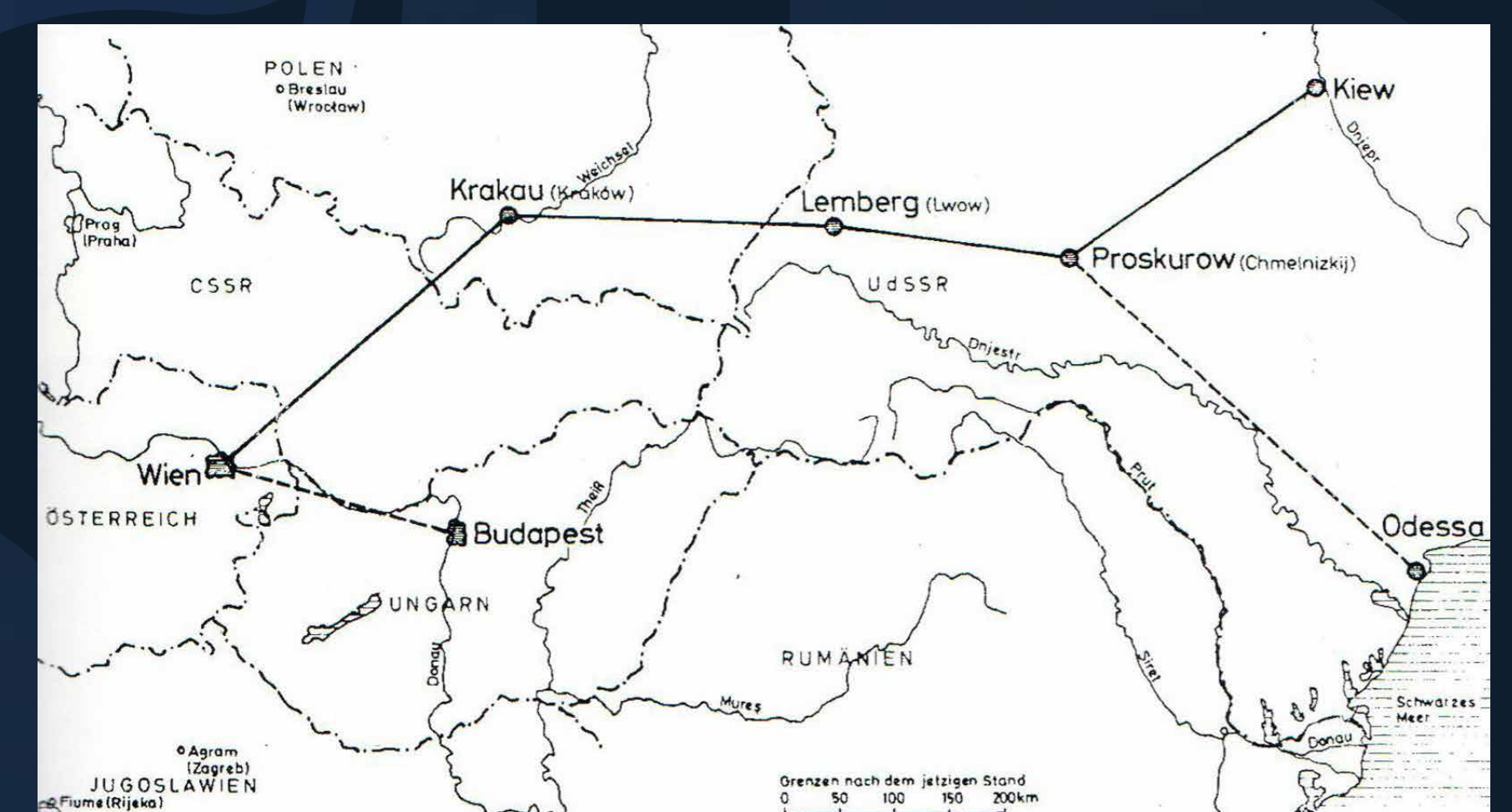
Basic series of Austrian stamps



Aeroplane with soldiers



250 %



Map of air routes for postal transport 1918

Regular correspondence

From 31 March, it was possible to send also regular correspondence on this line. The postage was 1 K basic surcharge and 1.50 K airmail fee for each section of the air route. For this purpose, three airmail stamps with values of 1.50 K, 2.50 K and 4 K were issued.

1919

In February 1919, Austro-Hungarian stamps ceased to be valid in the territory of Czechoslovakia, unused returned exemplars were officially overprinted with the inscription *POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919* in the autumn of 1919. For the values of 2.50 K and 4 K, only exemplars on white paper in wide format were overprinted. For the value of 1.50 K, even the exemplars from the first edition, i.e. in narrow format, of which about 10 to 15 pieces are known, were rarely overprinted.

Unique

To date, only one exemplar of the 1.50 K stamp in narrow format with reversed overprint is known – UNIQUE.

The stamp was first described in 1933 in the Ekstein catalogue. Since then, it has been listed in various catalogues and handbooks. In 2001, the stamp appeared in the Klim hall auction, where it was bought by a notable exhibitor, who later sold it in the Burda 2017 auction.

Issue of airmail stamps with overprint

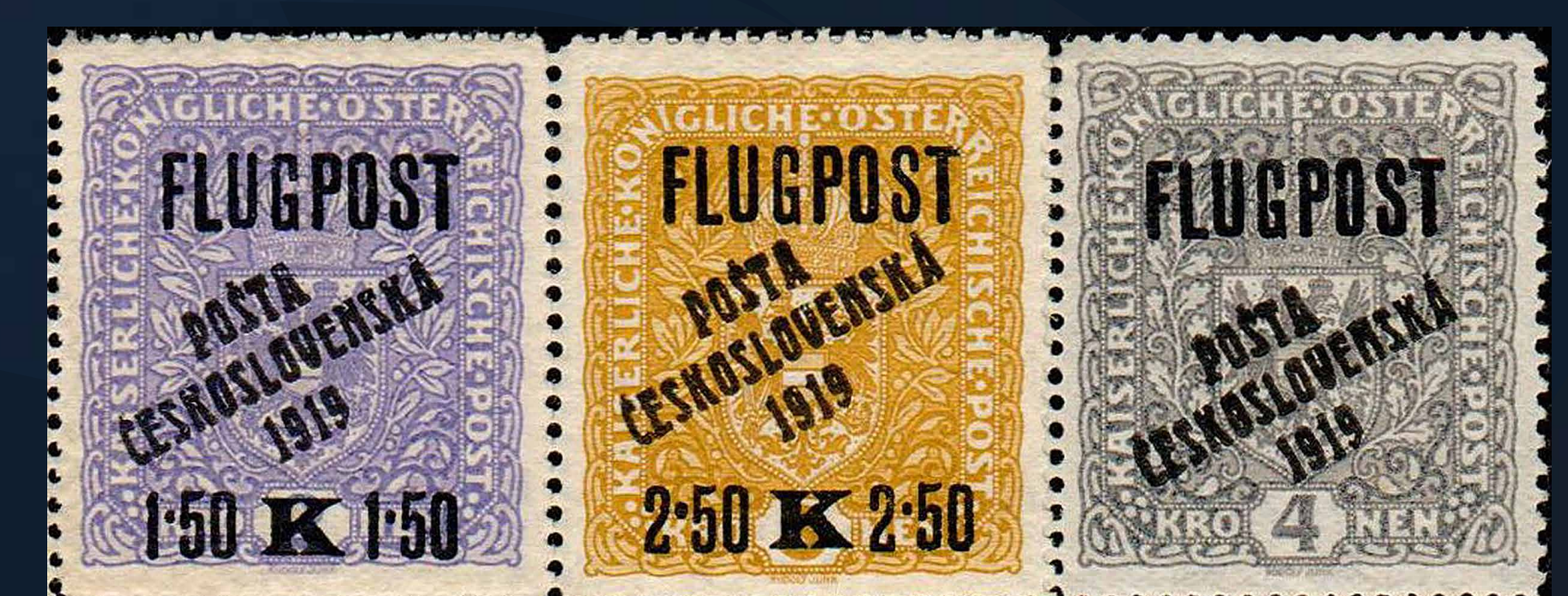
Two sizes

The author of the stamps with the motif of the national emblem is R. Junk, the stamps were printed on moistened paper using copper plate printing. Subsequently, they were provided with an overprint containing an indication of the new value.

The first edition from March was printed on light grey moistened paper. Due to the drying and physical properties of war paper, the design of the stamp changed its size to the so-called narrow format, where the size of the stamp design was 25 x 30 mm. In June, the second edition was issued on white paper, which had different properties, and the size of the stamp design was 26 x 29 mm after drying.



Narrow + wide stamp



Certification

Tested: Lešetický, Gilbert, Karásek, Pittermann and the ownership mark Alfons Stach and Kaufmann. Certificates: Karásek (2001), Pittermann (2002), Vrba (2017).



THE MOST SIGNIFICANT QUEEN ELIZABETH II. ERA RARITY

The Battle of the Falkland Islands

was a First World War naval action between the British Royal Navy and Imperial German Navy on 8 December 1914 in the South Atlantic. The British, after their defeat at the Battle of Coronel on 1 November, sent a large force to track down and destroy the German cruiser squadron. The battle is commemorated every year on 8 December in the Falkland Islands as a public holiday.

Vice-Admiral Graf Maximilian von Spee commanding the German squadron of two armoured cruisers, SMS *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, the light cruisers SMS *Nürnberg*, *Dresden* and *Leipzig*, and the colliers SS *Baden*, SS *Santa Isabel*, and SS *Seydlitz* attempted to raid the British supply base at Stanley in the Falkland Islands. The British squadron consisting of the battlecruisers HMS *Invincible* and *Inflexible*, the armoured cruisers HMS *Carnarvon*, *Cornwall* and *Kent*, the armed merchant cruiser HMS *Macedonia* and the light cruisers HMS *Bristol* and *Glasgow* had arrived in the port the day before.

The vanguard cruisers of the German squadron were detected early. By nine o'clock that morning, the British battlecruisers and cruisers were in hot pursuit of the German vessels. All except *Dresden* and *Seydlitz* were hunted down and sunk. To the British this battle was a successful retaliation for their defeat at Coronel (1st of November 1914, light cruiser HMS *Glasgow* also took part). This victory became one of the most prominent victories of the British Royal Navy throughout World War I.



The Battle of the Falkland Islands

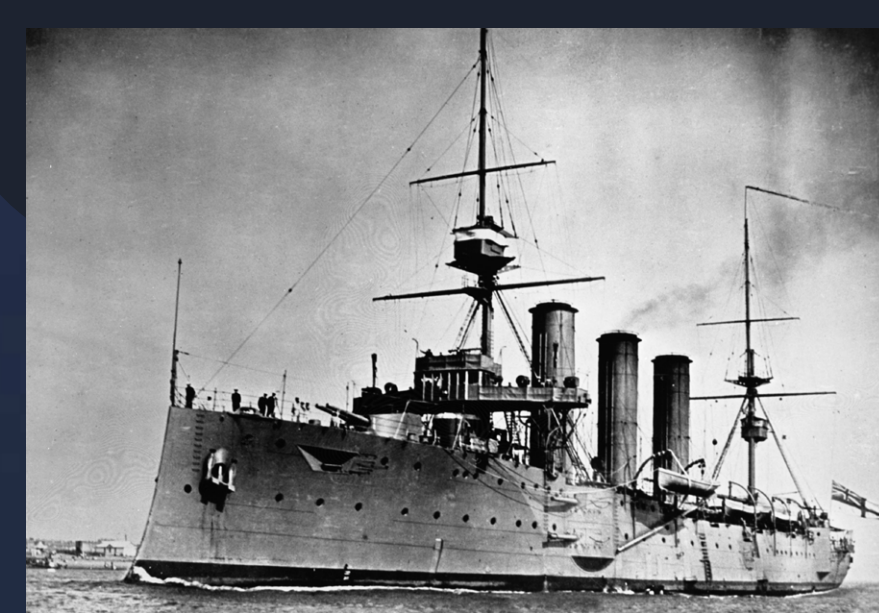
Jubilee issue and The HMS Glasgow error

The *HMS Glasgow error* is a 6d postage stamp error produced by the Falkland Islands in 1964. It commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1914 Battle of the Falkland Islands.

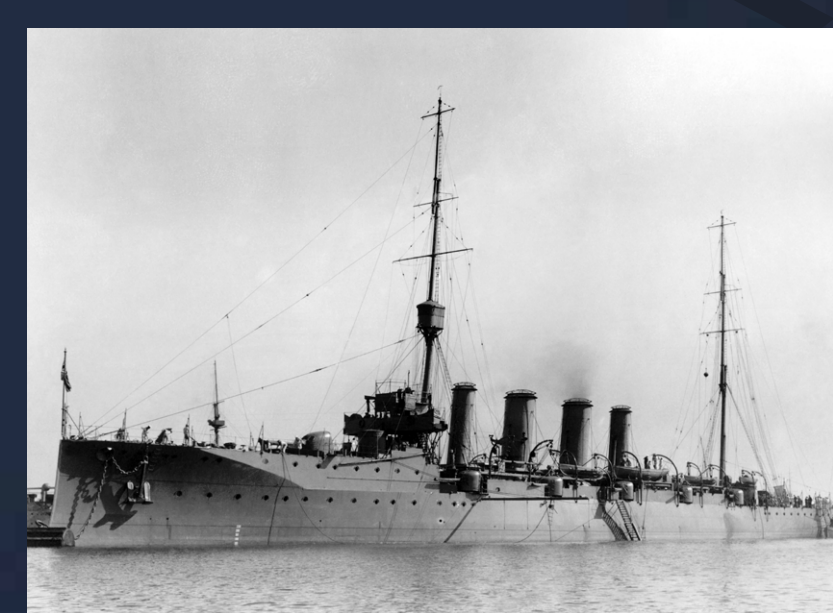
The design error featured the incorrect ship, HMS *Glasgow*, instead of HMS *Kent* which should have been used. It is believed that only the one sheet of 60 stamps was produced and only 17 stamps have been recorded. 3 of those are in the collections of Czech collectors! No specimen is known to have passed through post or on a letter.



300 %



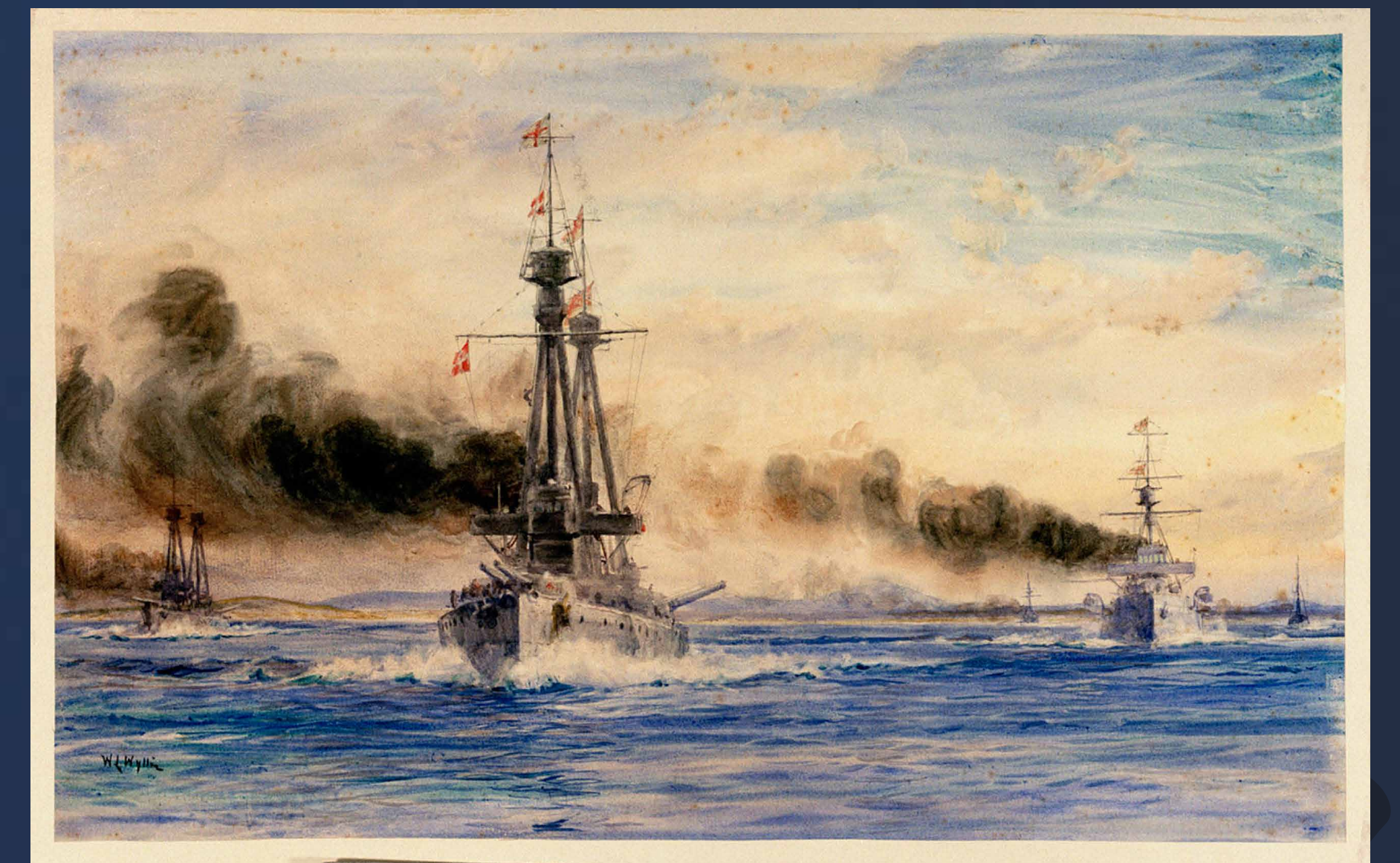
HMS Kent



HMS Glasgow

Prices and records

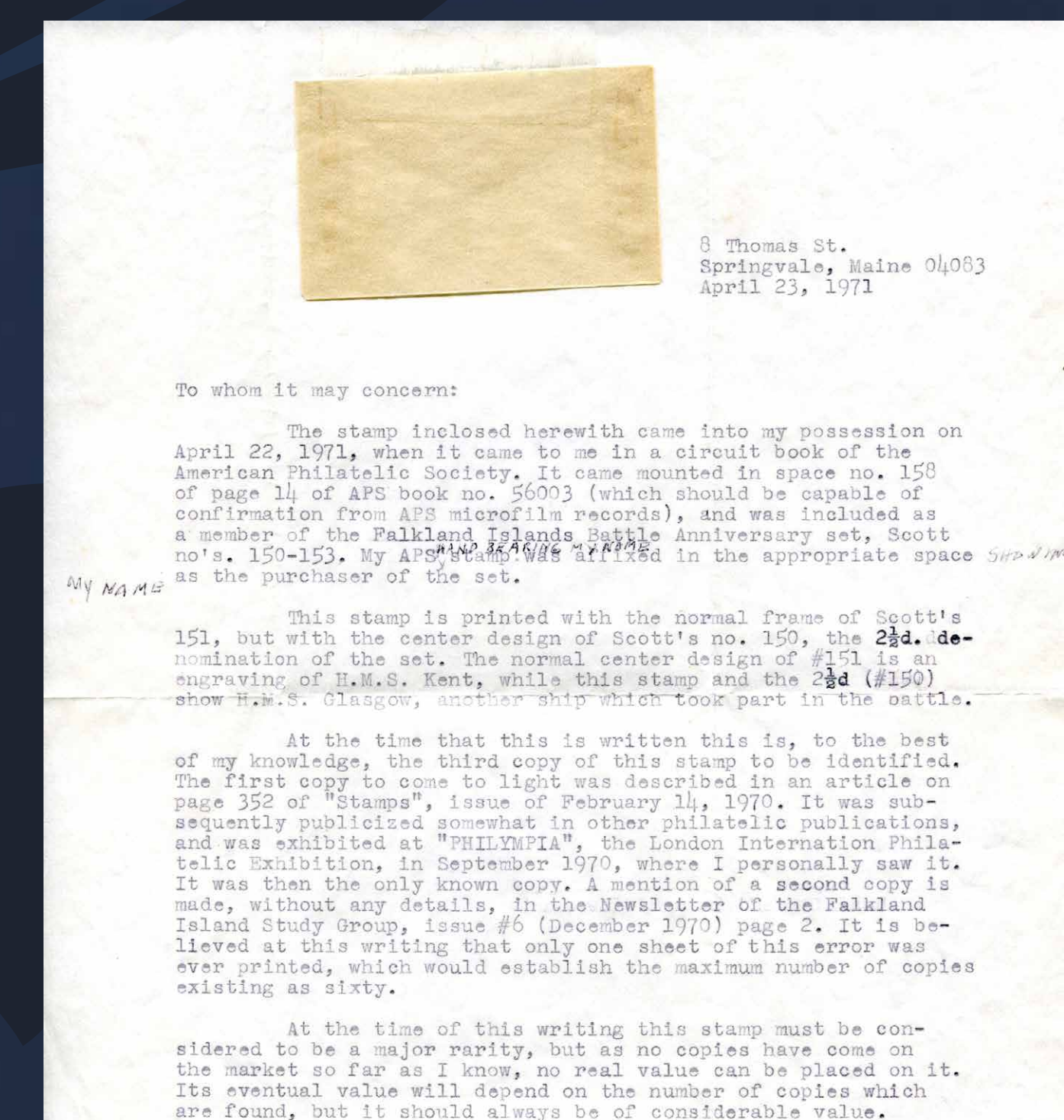
Prices of this super-rarity have been high for a considerable amount of time and prices are expected to rise. A single stamp from the Sir Gawaine Baillie collection was sold in 2004 for £24,000, and another example was sold in May 2005 for CHF29,000. A marginal never hinged example was sold in December 2006 for £30,555 by Grosvenor. Today, when appearing in private offers, this rarity costs approximately 50000 USD. A price record for a "mint-hinged" specimen of £28000 was reached this year at the Burda Auction company from the Czech Republic.



Cruisers *Invincible* and *Inflexible* steaming out of Port Stanley

Unnoticed

Apparently the aforementioned sheet was to a new issue dealer in the USA, who didn't notice the error and distributed the stamps as normals. These "errors" were then discovered a few years later among ordinary cheap stamps, as attested by this document.



Declaration of the discovery of the Glasgow Error from 1971. According to the author, this was only the third specimen to be found. It was found in a circuit book of the APS in the place of an ordinary 6d „Kent” in the given series.

A note in the H.R. Harmer auction catalogue shows that „errors” were accidentally sold in basic series even in 1968. In collections they were considered as ordinary „Kent” stamps.



BLUE TRINACRIA

Following the Congress of Vienna in 1815, a unification of two states took place in the south of the Italian peninsula. Sicily and the Kingdom of Naples formed the Kingdom of Two Sicilies under the reign of the Bourbon dynasty.

The last rulers, under which postal and stamp emission reforms were implemented, were Ferdinando II. Di Borbone and his son Francesco II.

Both departments used the same currency, Ducato = 100 Grana = 200 Tornese, but their respective postal administrations were never unified. The first stamps in Naples were issued in 1. 1. 1858 and exactly a year later in Sicily, which, compared

to other Old Italian states, was rather late. The Naples general post office chose a 3-part design based on a competition for the first emission of seven stamps with values from ½ Grana to 50 Grana. The design combined the emblems of Sicily - the *Trinacria*, Naples - the rearing horse, and the emblem of the governing dynasty - the *three lilies of Bourbon*. The Trinacria is an age-old mystical symbol widely used by ancient cultures, the meaning of which has not been as of yet fully uncovered. Today it serves as the emblem of Sicily and its use on Neapolitan stamps in the 19th century bears witness to the cultural and spiritual continuity of Europe, making these stamps very appealing to collectors.



Trinacria (Triskelion) coin, Syracuse 317-310 BC

Kingdom of Two Sicilies in 1860



Secret markings

The creation of the engravements and copper printing plates was entrusted to Giuseppe Masini, a prominent Neapolitan engraver. He also started printing the stamps in December 1857, but soon the contract was given instead to his competitor, Gennaro di Masa, which caused a large conflict and eventually led to court proceedings.

The first emission was issued going from lilac pink to carminium. It was printed on handmade paper from the nearby Salerno and it featured a heraldic lily watermark. Using the seven letters of his name, Masini added secret marking to the stamps to make future forgeries more difficult, a practice common among the old masters.



½ Grana red and brown

The first stamp of the Kingdom of Naples.



300 %

Ferdinando II di Borbone (1810-1859)



Trinacria

Trinacria - an ancient symbol showing the head of Medusa surrounded in a circular fashion by three legs bent in the knee. It is amongst other things the emblem and the oldest known name for Sicily, dating back to the time of the expansion of Hellenic Greece to the Mediterranean. The word comes from the Greek word *trinacrios* describing the three peaks of the island. Homer also describes Sicily using the term *Thrinacria* in his *Odyssey*. However, the significance of the Trinacria is mostly mythological. The imagery of rotating legs is related to primeval symbols representing the cycle of nature or the sun.

A similar spiral motive, the Triskelion, is known from the European Neolithic, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, especially from Celtic culture. The symbol is also often found carved into coins of cities ranging from the Mediterranean to today's Armenia and Syria from the 6th to the 4th century BC. The Trinacria was brought further west by the Normans, who came to Sicily in the 11th century. It also became the emblem of the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. Later on it appears in the heraldry of English, French, Danish and Polish nobilities. In the year 2000, the symbol officially became a part of flag of Sicily.



Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882)



Dictatorship and new nominal value

During September and October 1860, G. Garibaldi's army defeated Bourbon units stationed in Naples, who were until that point aside from Italian unification process. King Francesco II. was overthrown and Garibaldi established a dictatorship in Naples on the 7th of October 1860. A plebiscite vote on the 20th of October put a definitive end to the kingdom and on the 9th of November, the dictatorship was changed to a military administration led by L. C. Farini, the minister of interior of the newly emerging Italian state of Viktor Emmanuel II., who appointed Farini as the new viceroy of Naples for this purpose. On the 6th of November, during the aforementioned dictatorship, a new Trinacria stamp of nominal value ½ Tornese (¼ Grana) was issued. It was used for sending newspapers and printed matter and ½ Tornese was equal to the sardinian and italian 1 centesimo tariff, so to speed up production, the Gennaro di Masa printing office used the original 1858 ½ Grana printing plate and replaced the letter G with the letter T on every stamp position. The colour was changed to blue.

The limited print run (the extent of which is unknown) of the Blue Trinacria was during its short validity used up and only a few unused specimen remain, which makes it one of the rarest, and thanks to its unique context also one of the most sought after, stamps of the European classic (the period until 1874, before the establishment of the Universal Postal Union). The Italian 2020 Sassone catalogue has this stamp under number 15 and sets the price of an unused specimen with original gum at 600 000 euros!



Crocetta

The emission of the Blue Trinacria was replaced with another newspaper stamp called the Crocetta on the 6 November 1860, because the Bourbon lilies on stamps became unacceptable under the new governance. The cross of Savoy replaced the symbols in the circle. This stamp, valid until February 1863, is also very valuable when unused.

Certificate

Certificate of genuineness of this stamp, Silvano Sorani, born in 1934, the honorary president of *The Italian Association of Philatelic Experts Professionals (APFIP)*, one of the most important Italian experts of all time.



Flag of Sicily

