



Austrian Postal Rates up to 31st.

January 1921 Part 3

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3. Newspapers

The so-called "Beneficium correspondendi" formed a special source of revenue for the postal officials. These manuscript newspapers existed at the time of the wars between Emperor Maximilian I and the Venetians. Such reports in note form were sent from various cities to the great commercial houses which wanted to be informed about the state of the world. These newspapers, also called "Particular Blattel" formed an additional source of revenue. In 1722 an agreement was concluded with the postal officials that they had to pay to the Public Treasury a given amount for each newspaper copy as postage due compensation. In 1751 booksellers were forbidden to sell foreign newspapers since the post office alone was empowered to do this since it raised a duty tax for each item.

It was decreed, from 1st June 1789, that all newspapers, brochures and journals, which went through the post, should be submitted to stamping. For newspapers, the stamp tax was established at $\frac{1}{2}$ Kreuzer. The stamp had to bear the Austrian coat-of-arms. In 1853 special stamps were introduced in place of the newspaper strikes for payment of the stamp tax for foreign newspapers. The lifting of this tax took place by the law of 27th December 1899 (Imperial Law Sheet 261). According to the tax decree of 22nd December 1906,

up to a weight of 250 g., 2 heller was to be paid for each copy of a newspaper appearing at least twice a month as well as 2 heller, without distinction of weight, for each copy of a newspaper appearing many times in the week.

Newspapers did not undergo the raising of tax very often. Paragraph 5 of the postal tax decree of 1907 determined for each copy up to 250 g., 2 heller. If over 250 g. then a tax of 2 heller for each 100 g. was specified. The Agreement of 1916 regulated the traffic in newspapers in Section V (articles 18 and 19) and appointed the raising of a tax of 50 heller upon alteration of the appointed locality of a newspaper.

4. Postcards

The postcard - known as correspondence cards for short manuscript messages - was introduced in Austria on 1st October 1869. To all destinations they cost 2 new Kreuzer. They were also allowed from 1870 in traffic with the German Empire and after 1871 also in traffic with other foreign countries against determined fees.

Correspondence cards with paid replies were introduced on 1st August 1880. After 15th October 1884 there were postage free correspondence cards with and without answer cards. Correspondence cards produced by private industry were also permitted from 1st January 1885. The fees amounted to: From 1st October 1869 to the end of 1899 in inland traffic 2 new Kreuzer, with attached reply cards $2 + 2 = 4$ new Kreuzer. In the foreign traffic, excluding the border traffic with Switzerland, the card postage amounted to 5 Kreuzer or $5 + 5$ Kreuzer with reply card. From 1900, after conversion of the gulden to Kronen currency, up to the postal tax alterations of 1st October 1916, the Inland or Union tax for postcards was 5 heller, with reply cards $5 + 5 = 10$ heller. The foreign card tax amounted to 10 heller.

From 1st October 1916, the inland card with imprinted stamp was raised to 8 heller, other postcards cost 10 heller. From 1st September 1918 up to 14th January 1920, the inland card tax in the Union countries amounted to 10 heller. The following tariff alteration of 15th January 1920, valid until

14th April 1920, determined 25 heller for an inland postcard, 40 heller for the foreign traffic, at any given time double the fee for reply cards. The tax decree then applicable from 15th April 1920 to 31st January 1921 determined 50 heller for the inland postcards, 80 heller in the foreign traffic.

B. STAGE COACH POST

1. Packet and Valuable Mail

Up to the introduction of the post wagons, also called travelling posts, mail with money, merchandise etc. was forwarded according to the regulations of the time, by the ordinary post; the horse or letter post.

The first tax decree of the stage coach post dates from 1750 in a printed register concerning all ordinary post wagons and tariffs. The taxes and passenger fees were different on all routes, only the taxes for official mail remained constant. The merchandise was taxed according to distance and weight, there were sub-divisions according to size. From the earliest beginnings, a forwarding tax and a value-insurance tax were levied. Also in 1750 we find the distance scale established at 4 miles; the weight progression was fixed up to 20 pounds with each 5 pounds; over 20 pounds with each 10 pounds. For each piece of money mail, the letter postage of 12 Kreuzer had to be paid irrespective of whether a letter was included or not.

Up to about 1806 there were modifications in the weight progressions and the fees and taxes dependent upon them. This took place currently with the postage increases which were dependent upon the political circumstances and the drop in currency. Convention money was introduced in 1817 and, from 1818, various reductions in the postage took place.

In the year 1842 a new postage regulation was introduced for all the countries of the Austrian Empire. These rules led to a strong basis for a systematic tax frame in the transport matters of the stage coach post (see inter alia the stage coach post decree). The postage measurement for the forwarding of the stage coach post mail to inland regions

took place according to the relation of the value and the weight, by which the registration fee and the letter fee however came into use.

The value postage for each 100 gulden C.M. amounted according to the measure of the distance:-

up to 2 miles	...	...	2 Kreuzer C.M.
up to 6 miles	...	...	4 Kreuzer C.M.
up to 10 miles	...	...	6 Kreuzer C.M.
up to 16 miles	...	...	8 Kreuzer C.M.
up to 22 miles	...	...	10 Kreuzer C.M.
up to 28 miles	...	...	12 Kreuzer C.M.
up to 36 miles	...	...	14 Kreuzer C.M.
up to 44 miles	...	...	15 Kreuzer C.M.
up to 52 miles	...	...	16 Kreuzer C.M.
up to 60 miles	...	...	17 Kreuzer C.M.

and from there on from 10 to 10 miles each 1 Kreuzer C.M. more. For valuable mail under 100 gulden was raised of the established postage amount, up to and including 25 gulden a quarter, over 25 up to 25 gulden a half of the postage amount established for 100 gulden. For valuables over 50 gulden the whole postage rate for 100 gulden was incurred. With valuable sums over 1000 gulden for the increased amount the above tax was reduced by about a sixth up to the total value of 10,000 gulden, by about a third above 10,000 gulden.

The weight postage amounted to 2 Kr. with mail from 8 Lot to 1 pound on 3 miles; 2 Kr. in addition each up to 36 miles by each 3 to 3 miles; over 36 to 100 miles by each 4 to 4 miles; over 100 miles by each 5 to 5 miles. For mail under 8 Lot a half was to be paid of the fee established for 1 pound. With mail above 1 pound, the weight increase became, up to 6 pounds for each pound, above 6 to 22 pounds for each 2 pounds, above 22 to 52 pounds for each 3 pounds and above 52 to 100 pounds for each 4 pounds; the half of the postage rate for 1 pound. For a weight increase above 100 pounds however for each 5 pounds the full postage rate for a pound was raised. The registration and letter postage fees corresponded to the letter post postage. Further information and details are to be seen in the Stage

Coach post decrees.

From 1st January 1850 basic alterations came into force:-

- (a) all Stage Coach postal mail, without distinction of the contents, value, weight and distance had to pay a basic tax with the invariable amount of 10 Kreuzer.
- (b) with Stage Coach postal mail without a given value, or with a value below 50 gulden, the tax was fixed solely according to the weight; with mail with a declared value of 50 gulden and above, both according to the value and according to the weight.

The postage fee according to value and weight of the mail amounted to 1 Kr. for each 100 gulden of value and for each pound of weight up to and including 5 miles. Above 5 up to 50 miles, for each further 5 miles, above 50 up to 100 miles for each further 10 miles and above 100 miles for each further 20 miles; each 1 Kreuzer in addition. For the mailing of banknotes, exchange notes, promissory notes, for small gold and silver consignments and for documents with and without value, there were special provisions.

From 1st November-1858 onwards, the Stage Coach post was calculated in Austrian currency. The inland tax rates were reduced by the Imperial Decree of 21st January 1867. As a weight postage for each custom's pound or a part of the same was to be calculated 1 5/10 new Kreuzer, and indeed up to a distance of 50 miles for each 5 miles, of 50 to 100 for each 10 miles and of 100 for each 20 miles and there was thus established a minimum postage amount. For mail of which the weight did not exceed 5 custom's Lot and the value 50 gulden, the weight postage was determined as 10 new Kreuzer up to 5 miles, 15 new Kreuzer above 5 up to 50 miles and 20 new Kreuzer above 100 miles.

(To be continued).

FOR SALE: 'Austria' 1966 to Summer 1980 (Nos 1 and 4 missing); some are bound. Price £7.50 + postage. Apply O.Winter, 24 Tennyson Road, London NW7. 01 959 2458.



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For low stage coach postal mail with a maximum weight of 5 custom's pounds; instead of the weight postage a fixed amount of 10 new Kreuzer was to be raised. The value postage, with local mail for each 150 gulden Austrian currency or a part thereof, amounted to 2 new Kreuzer. For all other mail up to and including 5 miles it amounted to 3 new Kreuzer, over

AUSTRIA 1938 - 1945

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5 up to 15 miles: 5 new Kreuzer, over 15 up to 50 miles: 10 new Kreuzer, over 50 miles: 15 new Kreuzer. There were postage reductions for more important mail if the value of this was above 1500 gulden.

New stage coach postal tariff from 1st November 1878.
A value postage for all declared mail in addition to the weight postage. The weight postage:

1. Up to 500 g. with distances up to 10 geographical miles (1st Zone) inclusive at 12 Kreuzer; for all further distances (2nd - 6th Zone) at 24 Kreuzer.
2. Above 500 g. up to 5 Kg. for the 1st Zone at 15 Kreuzer, for all other zones at 30 Kreuzer.
3. Above 5 Kg.; for the first 5 Kg. with the rate as under 2; then for each further Kg. up to 10 geographical miles (1st Zone) 3 Kreuzer; above 10 to 20 miles (2nd Zone) 6 Kreuzer; for the following zones 20 to 50 miles 12 Kreuzer; above 50 to 100 miles 18 Kreuzer; above 100 to 150 miles 24 Kreuzer; above 150 miles 30 Kreuzer.

For cash sent by mail about a half more.

For letters with a declaration of value, without distinction of weight up to 250 g. for the 1st Zone 12 Kreuzer; for all other zones 24 Kreuzer.

For local stage coach mail, which was not allowed to exceed $2\frac{1}{2}$ Kg. on the weight postage: 12 Kreuzer, on the value postage for each 150 gulden or a part thereof 3 Kreuzer. As a value postage without distinction of distance:

up to 50 gulden	...	...	3 Kreuzer
over 50 gulden	...	...	3 Kreuzer for each 150 gulden with a minimum of 6 Kreuzer

A widening of the weight limit took place on 1st April 1886, to 50 Kg. with state offices, with non-state offices to 30 Kg. The weight postage was measured as stated in the 1st Zone.

From 1st September 1890 onwards, stamps were introduced for the payment of the fees. A new postal tax decree for stage coach mail came into force on 1st January 1900.

For packets without information about value : The postage was measured according to distance and weight:

up to 5 Kg. in 1st Zone : 30 h.; for all further distances : 60 h.
 above 5 Kg. for each further Kg. in addition 6 h. per Kg.
 for the 2nd Zone : 12 h.
 for the 3rd Zone : 24 h.
 for the 4th Zone : 36 h.
 for the 5th Zone : 48 h.
 for the 6th Zone : 60 h.

For sending bulky goods a half more, for unfranked mail 12 h. surcharge. A postage (weight) and insurance fee (value tax) was raised for mail with valuables.

For letters, without distinction of weight, 24 h. in 1st Zone; 48 h. at all other distances; for unfranked letters a surcharge of 12 h. A 6 h. insurance fee, without distinction of distance, with a value up to 100 Kronen inclusive; with higher value 6 h. for each 300 Kr. or part thereof with a minimum of 12 h. A one and a half times fee was to be paid with unsealed delivered letters. A surcharge of 1.20 Kr. per item, in addition to the fee according to the tariff, took place for urgent packets.

The postal tax decree of 22nd December 1906, with effect from 16th January 1907 took over the fore-mentioned taxes from 1900 into its paragraphs 13 and 14.

In paragraph 23, concerning the collection of packets by local letter carriers, the latter may accept 6 heller. Now, according to paragraph 24, the delivery amounts to 10 heller for a packet up to 5 Kg.; 20 heller with packets above 5 Kg. The sender must pay 50 heller in addition for an express delivery, which sum must be placed on the packet card in postage stamps. Paragraph 26 declares concerning the postal customs tax, including the carrier's fee of 25 heller, a supporting tax for the transfer of the mail to the custom's official of 10 heller, if this is not settled by the sender himself. In 1916 the new united postal tariff took place with effect from 1st October 1916. According to article 11, only postal packets up to 5 Kg. are now permitted. All mail above 5 Kg. was considered a postal freight which was forwarded up to 20 Kg. weight. The postal packet fee for packets up

to 5 Kg. for all distances now amounted uniformly to 80 heller.

For postal freight pieces was calculated:

up to 10 Kg.	...	...	...	100 heller
10 - 15 Kg.	,...	...	...	150 heller
15 - 20 Kg.	...	...	...	200 heller

These fees applied for the neighbouring German countries : the province of Silesia, Saxony, the states of Thuringia, the Duchy of Anhalt, Baden, the Hohenzollern Lands and Bavaria, with the exception of the Bavarian Rheinpfalz and Württemberg.

For the rest of Germany applied:

packets over 5 up to 10 Kg.	...	140 heller
packets over 10 up to 15 Kg.	...	270 heller
packets over 15 up to 20 Kg.	...	400 heller

The Austrian inland tariff was uniformly for the whole of Austria:

packets over 5 up to 10 Kg.	...	100 heller
packets over 10 up to 15 Kg.	...	150 heller
packets over 15 up to 20 Kg.	...	200 heller

The tax at any given time was raised by about a half for bulky mail. For express packet mail a surcharge of 1 Krone 20 heller was raised uniformly.

In the framework of the usual raising of the taxes, as with the letter post, tariff alterations also took place here.

2. Transport of Persons

The transport of persons by the post - covered since 1608 - was originally dependent upon official approval. The post masters were not allowed to put post-horses into service without officially displayed permits or also passenger tickets. Persons were later forwarded by the stage coach post.

3. Postal and Money Orders

The transmission of cash by money order up to 50 gulden was introduced from 1st October 1850 onwards for post offices of equal rank where state officials were employed. The amounts, in the course of time, were raised up to 5000 gulden; the letter tax and in addition a value tax applied.

A new regulation of the postal order procedure first came in on 15th March 1867. Money orders up to 25 gulden Austrian Value could be received and paid out at all inland

post offices against a fee of 10 new Kreuzer. For larger postal orders up to 5000 gulden, and to determined places, the ordinary postcoach postage must be raised as for a transmission of money of equal value, by which the weight postage amounted for 25 to 50 gulden over 5 miles to 10 new Kreuzer for postal orders; 15 new Kreuzer up to 50 miles and 20 new Kreuzer over 50 miles. With postal orders over 50 gulden the minimum rate was calculated.

From 20th May 1868 onwards, telegraphic postal orders could also be accepted. The upper limit, with many tariff alterations, always lay at a maximum of 500 gulden until 1890. After 1900 the following tax rates applied, also according to the postal decree of 22nd December 1906 with effect from 16th January 1907:

Amounts up to and including 20 Kr.	...	10 heller
over 20 up to 100 Kr.	... ..	20 heller
over 100 up to 300 Kr.	... ..	40 heller
over 300 up to 600 Kr.	... ..	60 heller
over 600 up to 1000 Kr.	... ..	1 Krone

Paragraph 10 regulated the telegraphic postal orders, they were compounded from the postal order and telegramme fees.

Since 15th September 1884 there were postage fee postal orders and, since 1904, specific newspaper orders for the transference of the money covering inland newspapers to the newspaper offices. The postal order was introduced on 1st November 1882, one could withdraw by postal orders up to 1000 Kr. (after 1900). Paragraph 11 of the postal tax decree of 1907 determined the letter fee and the registration fee in a case of withdrawal (see also letter post fees).

Nothing further can be asserted at the present time concerning other alterations in fees up to 1921.

4. Estafettes

By "estafettes" (from the Italian "staffetta": a light or little stirrup) one understands the transmission of letters and other objects by means of special postal mounted messengers. They were also called "extra-ordinari posts". The Austrian Post Office abolished the estafette service with effect from 9th April 1897. The estafettes may have been of no importance for Liechtenstein.

C. ABBREVIATED SUMMARY OF THE POSTAL TAXES IN KRONEN CURRENCY FROM 1.1.1900 TO 31.1.1921.
(all fees are given in Heller)

Period	Letters				Postcards		Printed Matter		Registered	Express	
	Weight	Local	Neighbour Zone	Inland	Foreign	Inland	Foreign	Inland			
1. 1.1900 -15. 1.1907	20g	6	6	10		5	10	applies from 1899 - 1916 50g 3 100g 5 250g 10 500g 20 1,000g 30	25	30*) in place of post- ing	* in addition 1 Krone for 7.5 Km.
16. 1.1907 -30. 9.1916	20g above 20g	10 20	10 20	10 20		5	10		25		
1.10.1916 -31. 8.1918	20g each further 20g	15	15	15	25	8 (printed matter)	10	each 50g 3	25		German-Austrian Postal Union : German Empire (Bavaria and Wurtemberg) and K.u.K. Austria.
1. 9.1918 -14. 1.1920	20g each further 20g	20	20	20	25	10	10	each 50g 3	25	60 200	for Liechten- stein and Austria. for Germany and Switzerland.

Period	Letters				Postcards		Printed Matter		Registered	Express	
	Weight	Local	Neighbour Zone	Inland	Foreign	Inland	Foreign	Inland			
15. 1.1920	20g	40	40	40	100				60 inland	60 inland	Inland: L-stein Austria Germany Hungary and Yugoslavia.
14. 4.1920	each further 20g	10	10	10	60	25	40	each 50g 10	120 foreign	120 foreign	Foreign also now Switzer- land and Czech -oslovakia.
15. 4.1920	20g	80	80	80	200				120 inland	120 inland	Inland, in add- ition to L-stein and Austria now also Germany
31. 1.1921	each further 20g	20	20	20	120	50	80	each 50g 20	200 foreign	240 foreign	Hungary Yugo- slavia and Czechoslovakia.