

AUSTRIA
Postage Due 1894 - 1935

This exhibit displays the range of postage due (portomarken) stamps that were issued by Austria during the first 41 years. Mint and used stamps show the different currencies as well as the values especially during the inflation period. Tried to show as many as possible used stamps to confirm postal usage. A number of these postage due stamps are presented on cover to reflect their postal function.

Postage Due stamps were issued by Austria for underpayment of postage from 1894 until 2002. Germany never issued postage due stamps but the Austrian stamps were used in many of the German States i.e. in Baden and Bayern until 1938 and in Danzig and Bohmen & Mahren until 1939.

The exhibit follows the year of issue of the respective stamps. They were all printed without any watermark. A large number of stamps and issues were put on the market usually each showing a new design, perforations and also with changing currencies and often different shades of paper.

All stamps are perforated 12½ except where noted differently.



The first postage due stamps were issued on the 1st February 1894 with perforation of 10 x 13½. The denomination of the stamps were in Kreuzer and 9 values were issued as shown above. Currency: 100 Kreuzer = 1 Gulden

A new currency, 100 Heller = 1 Krone, was introduced in 1899 but the stamps were imperforated. The postal rate was now 6 H up to a 20gram postal item. A total of 12 values was printed.



Post card sent from Durban, Natal to Vienna on 7th March 1901 but postage underpaid by 15d so taxed 15 centimes, the deficiency, which was then doubled on receipt in Austria, as shown in blue manuscript. Paid with 2 x 15 Heller adhesives dated 23rd March 1901.

The next perforated Heller issue of 12 stamps followed very quickly in December 1899. Stamps with perforation of 10½ x 13.



A postcard sent from Hungary to Vienna showing a 2 in blue manuscript that postage was underpaid by 1 Heller and thus doubled. Dated 10 May 1901.

Another issue followed on the 15th May 1908 of 11 stamps with background motive the Double Eagle. Local postal rate now 10 H for 20gram envelope.



Above is a postal advice with customs declaration of a parcel sent from Hungary to the town Wörgl in the Austrian state of Tyrol. The rear of the notice show the 4 Heller payment dated 26.11.09. The front of the document is shown as a reduced copy.

A two set was introduced on the 16 July 1911 showing the double eagle but with a large "K" for the denomination (Krone). Printed in violet grey.



On the 16th October 2 sets were issued one in Krone (blue) with perforation 12½ x 13 and another in Heller (red) with perforation of 12½. Once again with a new design.

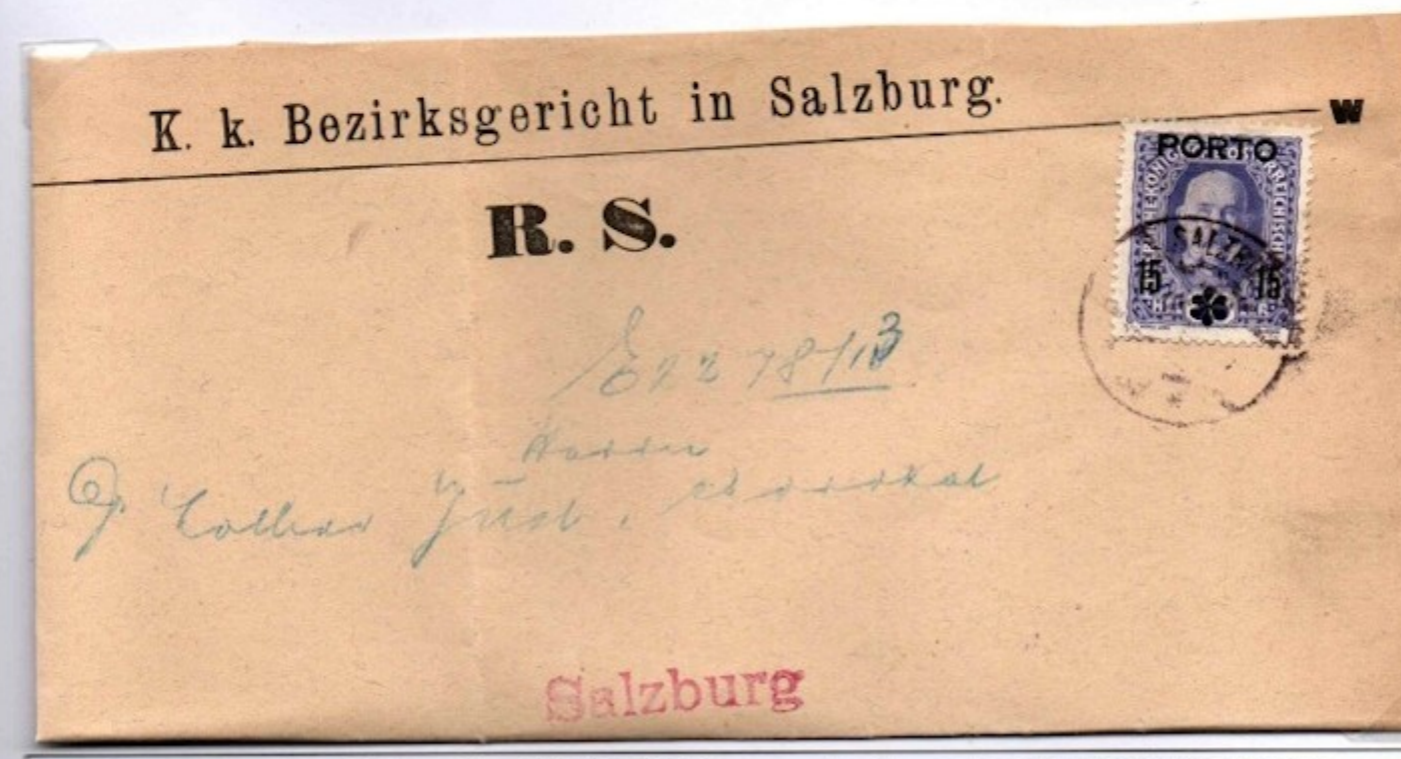


This postcard was underpaid by 2 Heller as postage was 10 H for a weight of 20 grams from 1907 to 1916. Double the deficiency was 4H but lowest denomination available was 5H.

The portraits of Emperor Charles VI and the Queen were used for a set issued on the 21 October 1916. The stamps were overprinted "PORTO" for postage due use. The 2 Heller stamp showing the Queen was surcharged in big black letters with a value of "15".



On April 1917 another definitive set showing Emperor Franz Josef was overprinted with "PORTO" and surcharges of 10, 15, 20 and 50 Heller. These were the last PD stamps printed by the Austrian Empire.



Shown above is a 1917 registered Official Mail cover using the postage due 15 Heller adhesive. Most unusual.

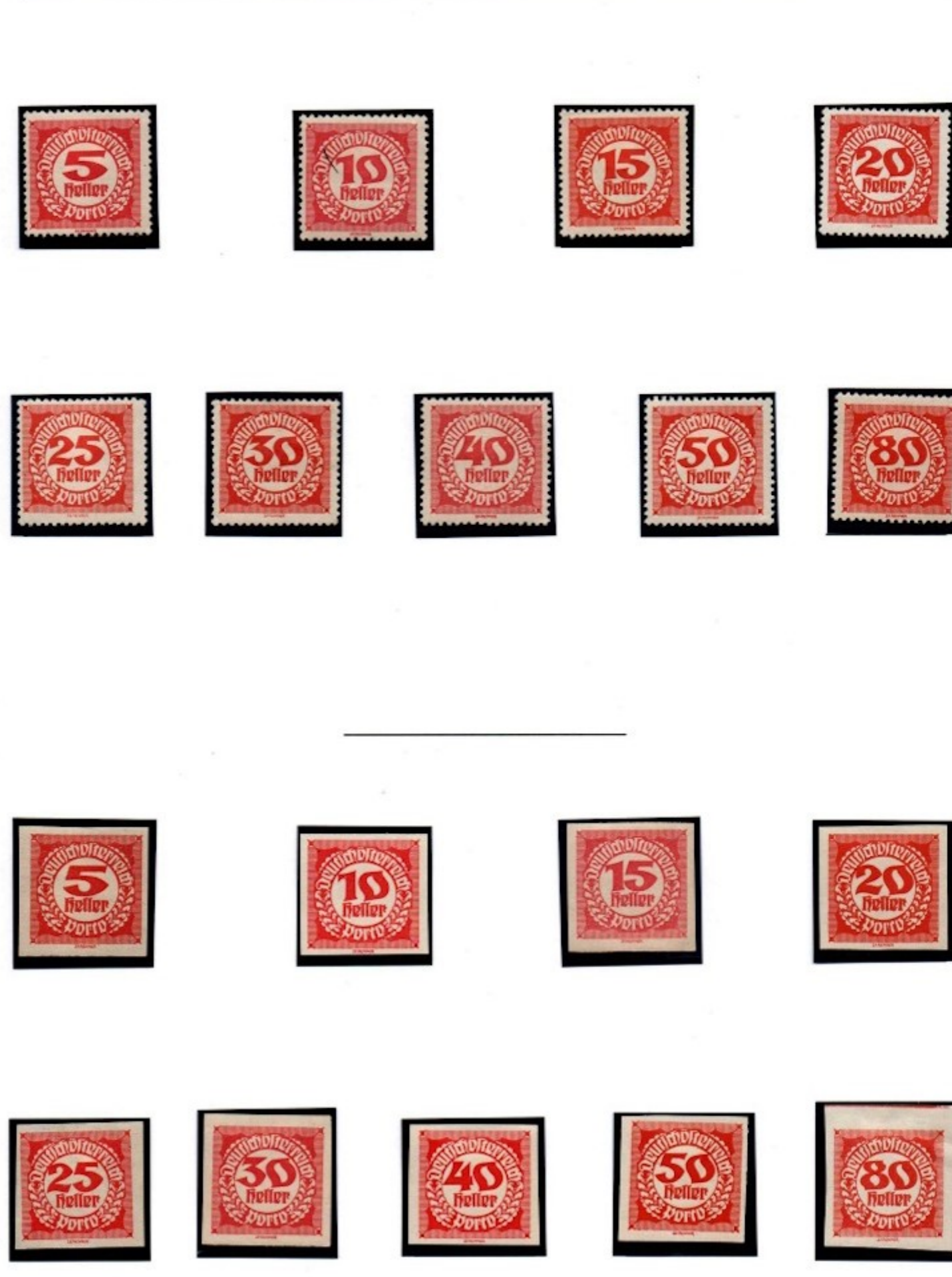
During 1918 the Austrian military postage due stamps set in Heller was overprinted for use in Italy with the Italian currency "Centesimi" in different values.



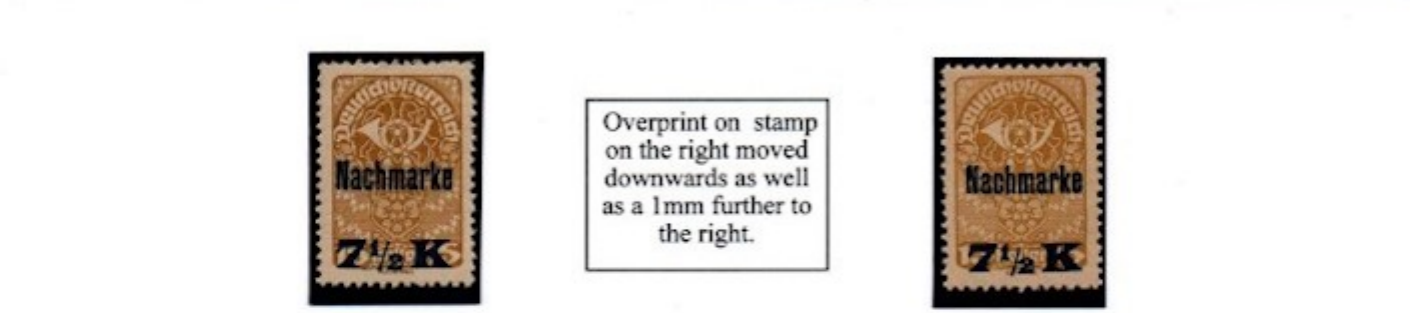
In March 1919 another overprinted set was issued. After WWI the Austrian Monarchy tried to join the German Empire, but was prohibited by the Allied Forces. During this time they diagonally overprinted the 1916 set in Heller with "Deutschösterreich" as well as the 3 blue stamps in Krone.



In February 1920 a perforated set of 9 was issued and this was followed a few months later with the same denominations in an imperforated set. Local postal rate set at 40 H.



In December 1921 the Austrian 15 Heller postage stamp of 1920 was overprinted and surcharged, in dark blue, with 7½K.



During 1920/21 a new design postage due stamps came on the market. They were light blue with denomination in Kronen and perforated 12½ x 13.



A postcard posted in Sweden (26 July 1927) for Vienna with incorrect postage. A 12½ centimes tax mark was added and this relate to Kronen and 20 Heller as shown in blue manuscript and paid with 3 adhesives.

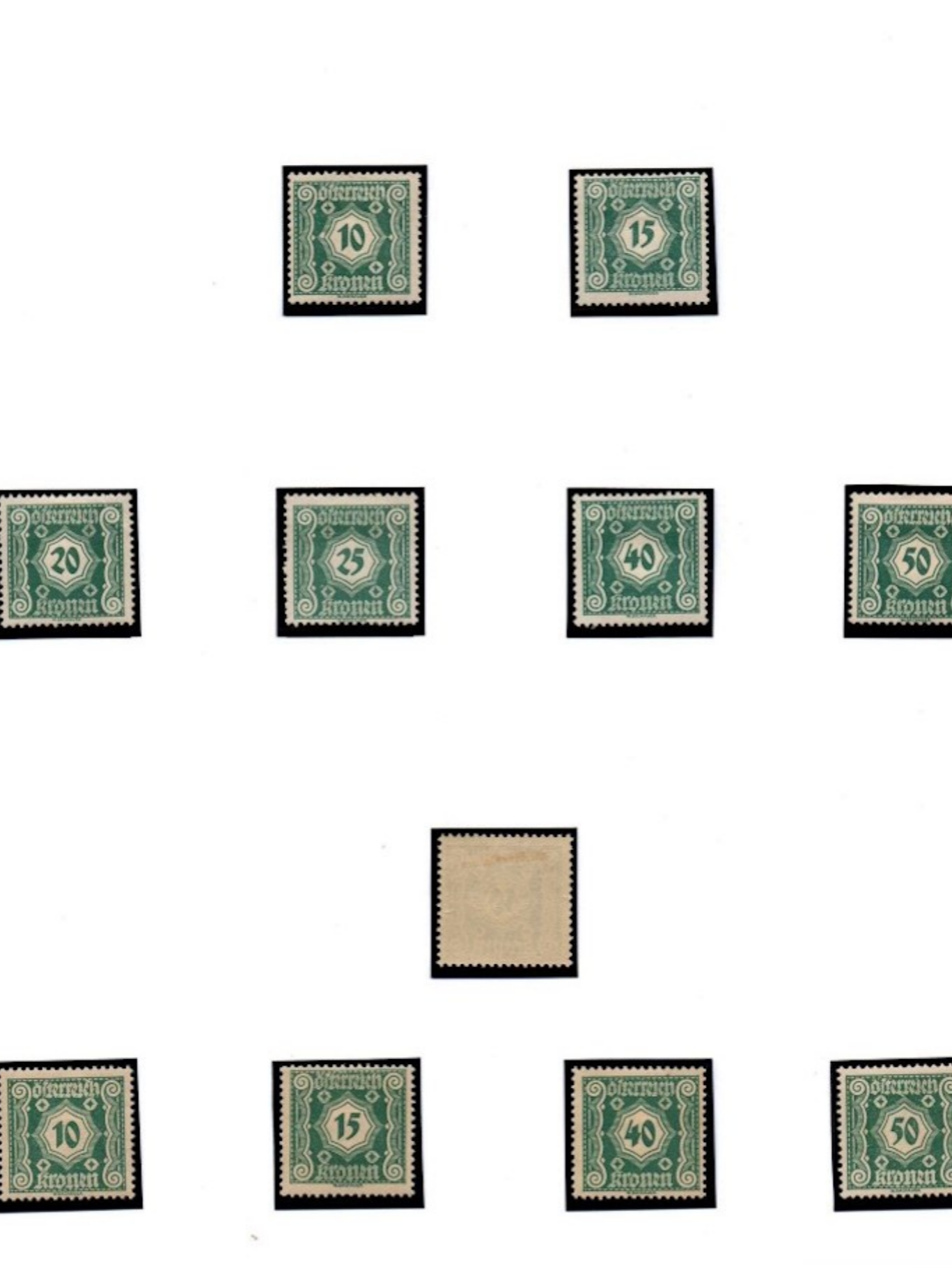
In January 1922 a new design was issued only in Krone which was the beginning of the inflation period. Two different coloured sets came to the market the lower value set of 5 in brownish orange and the higher values of 4 in greenish blue.



The inflation postal rate took off as can be seen from this table for local postage with maximum weight of 20grams.

1.02.21	150 H	18.09.22	180 K
1.08.21	3 K	1.11.22	320 K
1.12.21	7.50 K	1.08.23	600 K
1.05.22	20 K	1.12.23	1 000 K
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June 1922 saw a new design with a set of 6 in bluish green printed on white paper.



Above 4 of the same set but printed on brownish paper

During 1922 to 1924 a high value set of 14 greyish lilac stamps was introduced to manage the devaluation of the Krone as currency.



Throughout the inflation period from 1925 to 1934 a total of 3 sets were distributed. A new currency was introduced with 100 Groschen = 1 Schilling. The local postal rate was now 15 groschen for a 20 gram weight item. The first set from 1 to 8 Groschen is shown below in red as well as the high Schilling value set in green.



An underfranked cover sent from New York showing the NY tax mark and a 10 centimes cancellation. This relate to 16 Groschen which was paid by 2 adhesives.

Sixteen stamps was printed in cobalt blue with denomination in Groschen



Card sent from Luxembourg on the 31 December 1934. Correct rate should be with 1 Franc. Shown large "T" mark for tax due. Underpaid and double tax paid with a 20 Groschen stamp on 3.01.35

In 1935 another 16 stamps was introduced in 3 colours showing the Coat of Arms as motif. The first set is shown below in red as well as the high Schilling value set in green.



The internal postcard rate for this period was 21 Groschen. Postage paid on 12.03.37 in town of Klagenfurt of only 3 Groschen so underpaid by 18 Groschen. Show in red manuscript the deficiency of 18 Groschen which was paid on the 18.03.37 in Vienna. As card was not collected it was sent back to Klagenfurt (shown with arrow) with another 18 Groschen tax which was subsequently paid with 2 adhesives on the 7.04.37. Rather interesting but could be philatelic.

The 1935 middle values in blue.



An internal letter sent from Untertauern on the 16.06.37 to Salzburg but postage paid of only 3 Groschen. Correct postage 24 Groschen, so underpaid by 21 Groschen thus double the deficiency came to 42 Groschen. Paid with 4 adhesives on the 17th.

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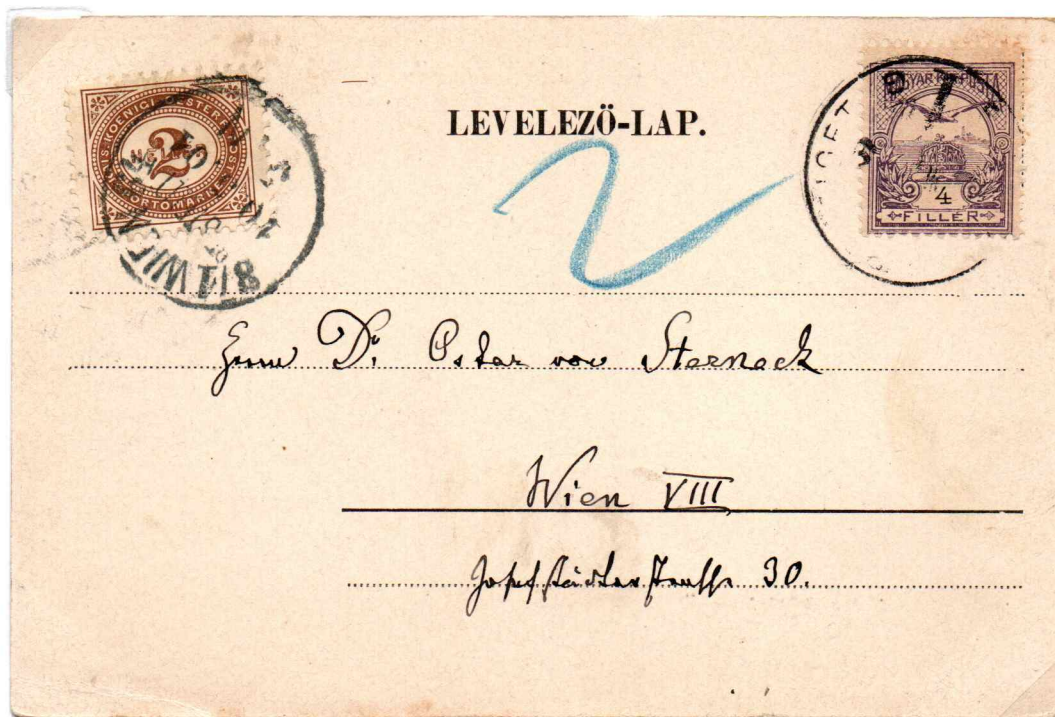
Currency : **100 Kreuzer = 1 Gulden**

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 A total of 12 values was printed.



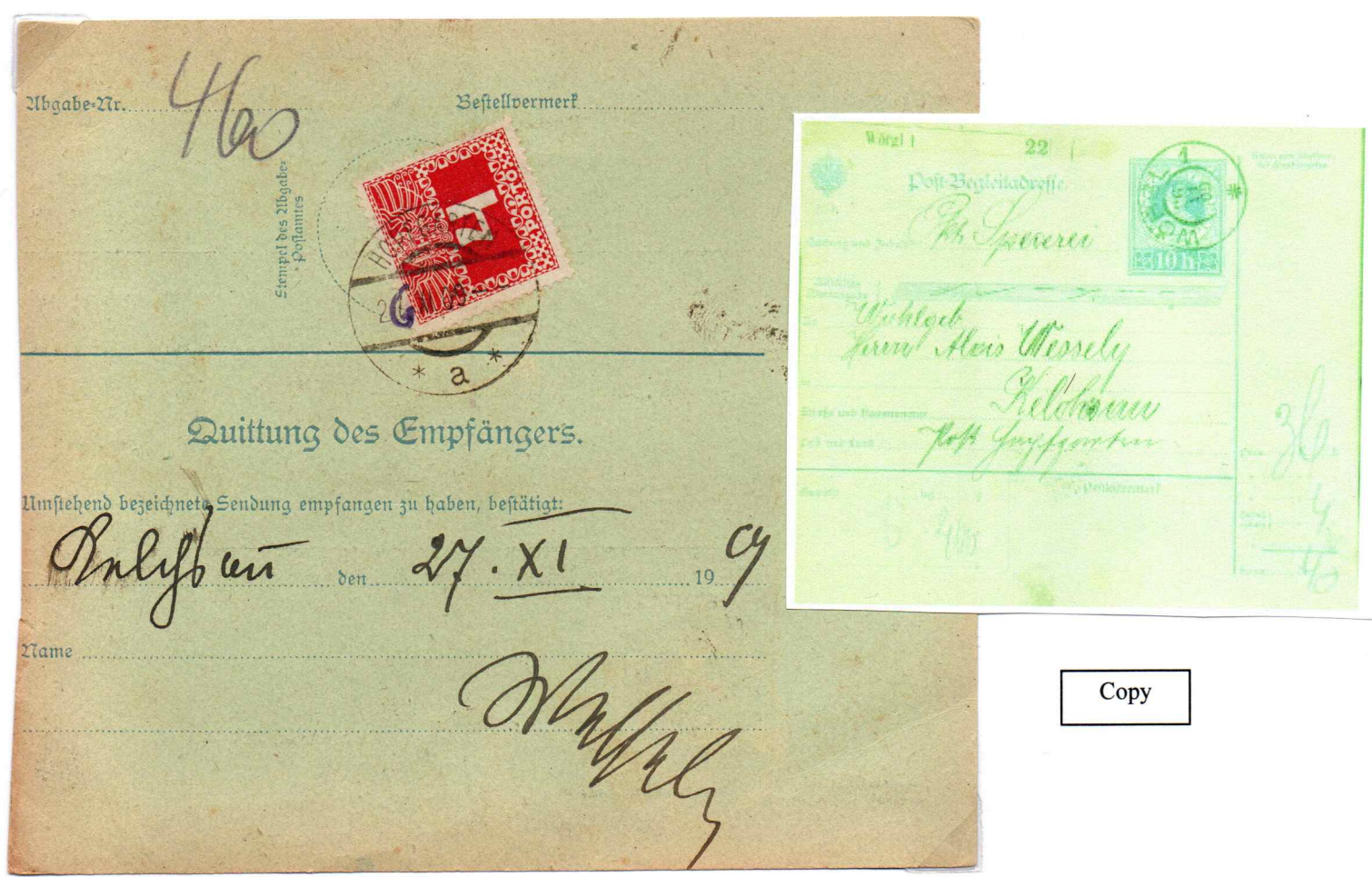
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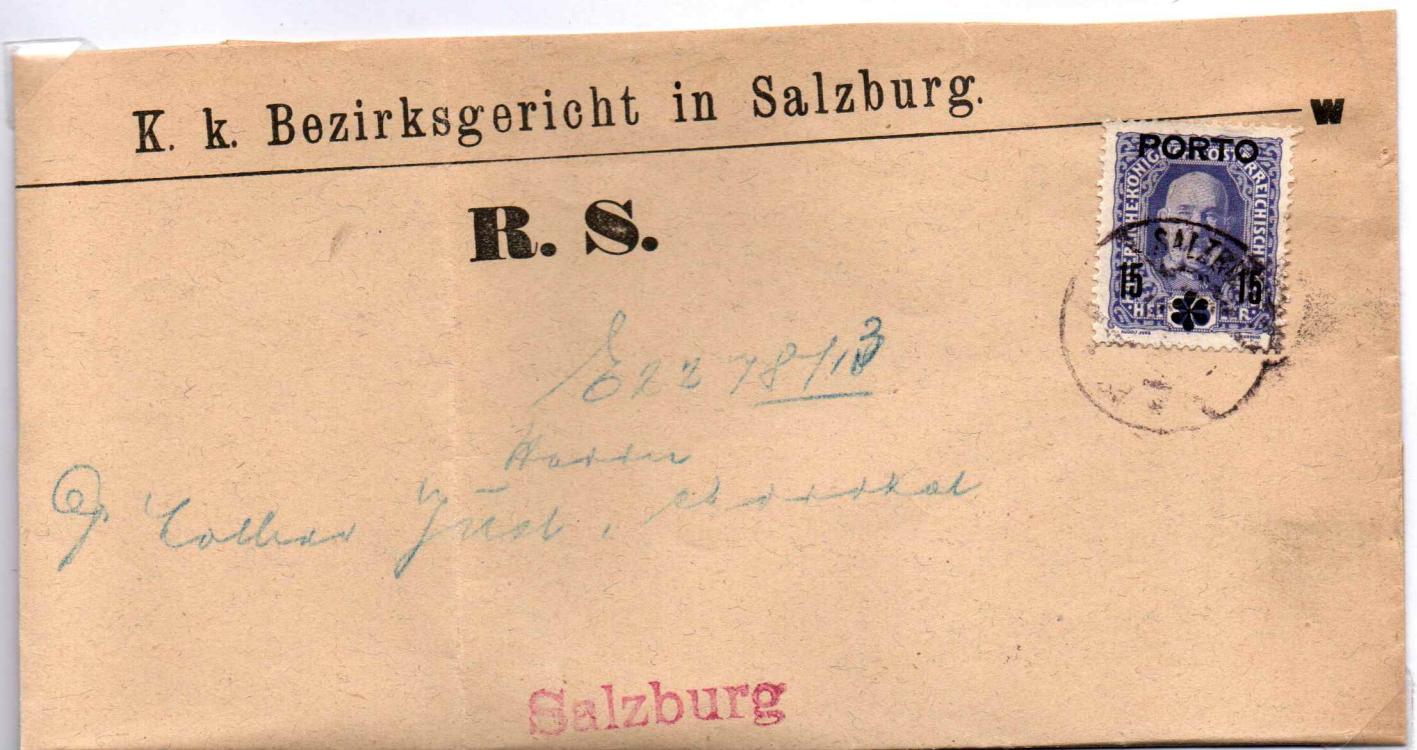


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Overprint on stamp on the right moved downwards as well as a 1mm further to the right.



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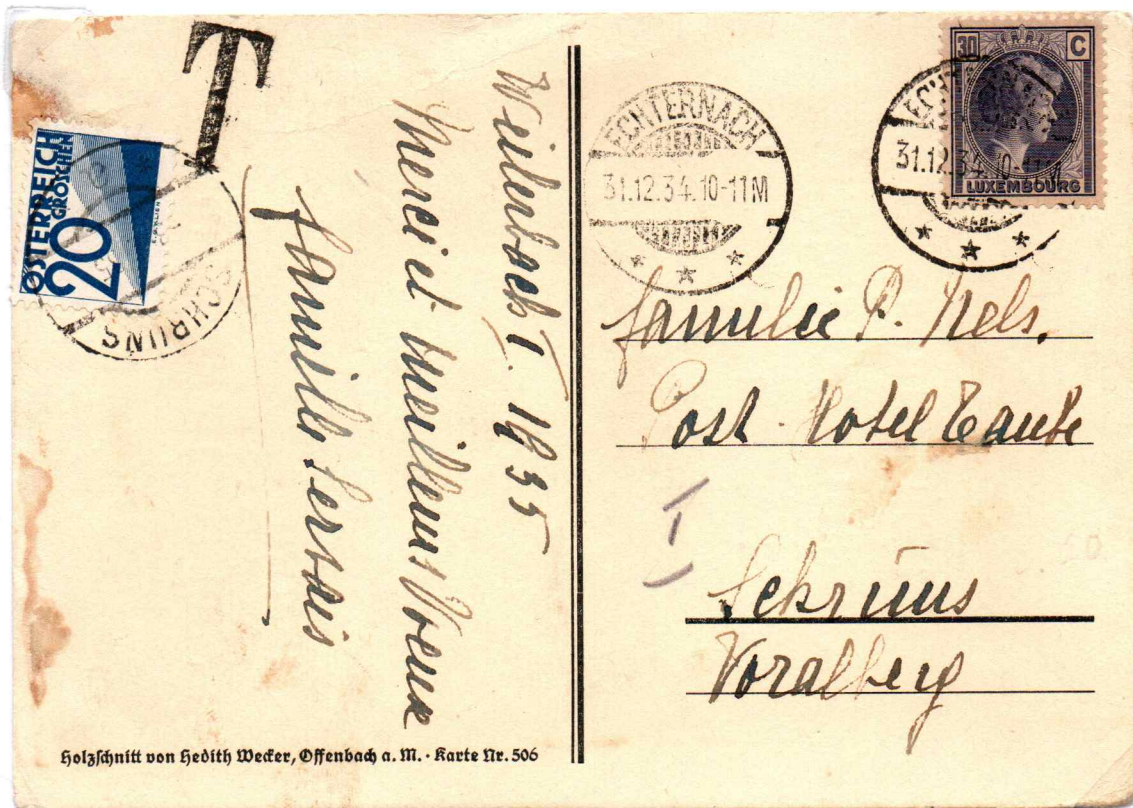


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Holzchnitt von Hedith Wecker, Offenbach a. M. - Karte Nr. 506

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