



The editor is looking for information and copies of 'private issued stamps' for an 2008 issue of *WP*.



The Austrian Sea-Mail Service

Sending mail by sea had a 100-year long tradition in Austria, which only came to an end at the end of the First World War.

It began in 1797 with the usurpation of state administration in Dalmatia. At the same time, the postal system was also being developed. Initially, private coastal shipping - the only rapid connection along the coast - and the Austrian Navy were used for transporting the mail. Later the Post Office used its own ships (packet boats).

The foundation of the Österreichischer Lloyd Steam Shipping Company in 1836 in Trieste was also the start of the age of sea mail. The Lloyd ships were in operation in the Adriatic and the eastern Mediterranean, and one of the first regular mail voyages with was on the Trieste-routen.

After the Suez Canal opened, the Lloyd steamers also served the major ports in the Middle East and the Far East.

Österreichischer Lloyd was obliged to handle the account of the postal business for relevant regional administrations.

A contract dated June 13, 1837 regulated the transportation of mail by ships of Österreichischer Lloyd, but the Imperial and Royal Post Offices in the ports, and the ships were allowed to fly the Imperial and Royal flag.

From 1845, Lloyd's ships carrying the mail were granted the status of Imperial and Royal Post Offices, leading to separate ships postmarks.

The postmarks bore (replaceable) place names in Italian only and the text V.I.A. (Vapore Lloyd Austriaco).

From 1869, Ship Post Offices were established on the Lloyds ships in the Adriatic, such as Ship Post Office No 1 on the Trieste-Corfu section.

Lloyd operated its own agencies in the port of the eastern Mediterranean, where Lloyd Post Offices were also established.

The stamp shows the express steamer **WIEN** (Vienna), based on a 1912 painting by the German marine painter Heinrich (Harry) Heusser (1886 -1943). Between 1912-20, he was working in Austria. It was Lloyd's custom to have all her new ships portrayed by famous painters.

Source: <http://app.post.at/shop/detail.php?prod=207170>; Austria Post.

(*WIEN*, continued on page 34 – see *Traveling Near and Far*)



Lloyd steamers Constantinople

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