

Correspondenz-Karte/Listnica 1871–1875

Varieties of the four types of the first postcard
with Slovenian text

INTRODUCTION

The first postal card in the world, issued in 1869 by the Austrian Postal Authority was followed by bilingual issues with one of the eight languages of the monarchy from 1871 till 1875. Out of 24 language types also four with Slovenian name and text **Correspondenz-Karte / Listnica**. Value imprint 2 Kr. Regular set Emperor Franz Joseph to the right in a circle, 1867.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the exhibit is to show all basic characteristics of each of the four bilingual Slovene types and as well as all the variations in print caused by mass printing of that new communication media.

PLAN OF THE EXHIBIT

- 1 Characteristics of the four German-Slovenian types
- 2 Pattern sequences in the inner ornamental frame
- 3 Positioning of the value imprint
- 4 Colour of the print and of the paper

THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXHIBIT

Four bilingual types are following the generally accepted classification named as P 7, P12, P 17 and P 22. In the exhibit varieties in the text at the front side including language version indication and date line on the rear side are shown. Special attention is paid to the subtypes of each of the four German-Slovenian types according to the characteristic sequences of patterns (dots and rhombs) and the inner ornamental frame. Treated and shown are also different positions of the imprint with the respect to the inner ornamental frame due to the sequential printing process. Same for the variations in the colour of the yellow imprint and colour, thickness and the types of the cardboard. A postal-history view (postmarks and destinations) adds some flavour to the presentation.

HIGHLIGHTS

Listnica types with the first date seen (description in red). Rare is also use of Listnica for foreign destination.

REFERENCES:

- Jorissen Frans, Nilsson Lars-Olof: The first Austrian postcard (3), FIP PS Commission (first-austrian-cards-part-3.pdf (f-i-p.ch))
Ferchenbauer, Ulrich: 2008, Österreich, Ganzsachen, Besondere Dienst, Handbuch und Spezialkatalog, Wien
Tschernatsch, Heimo: 2015, Die ersten österreichischen Postkarten, Teil 1, 2, Vindobona
Breitwieser, Franz, 2019, Gelblinge, die Klassifikation der Österreichischen Korespondenzkarten P 1-P 24, Schwaneberger Verlag
Pirc, Igor: Austrian Postcards with Slovenian Heading LISTNICA, FIP Postal Stationery Commission Newsletter, August 2019

1 Characteristics of four German-Slovenian Types

1. 1. »October 1871« issue

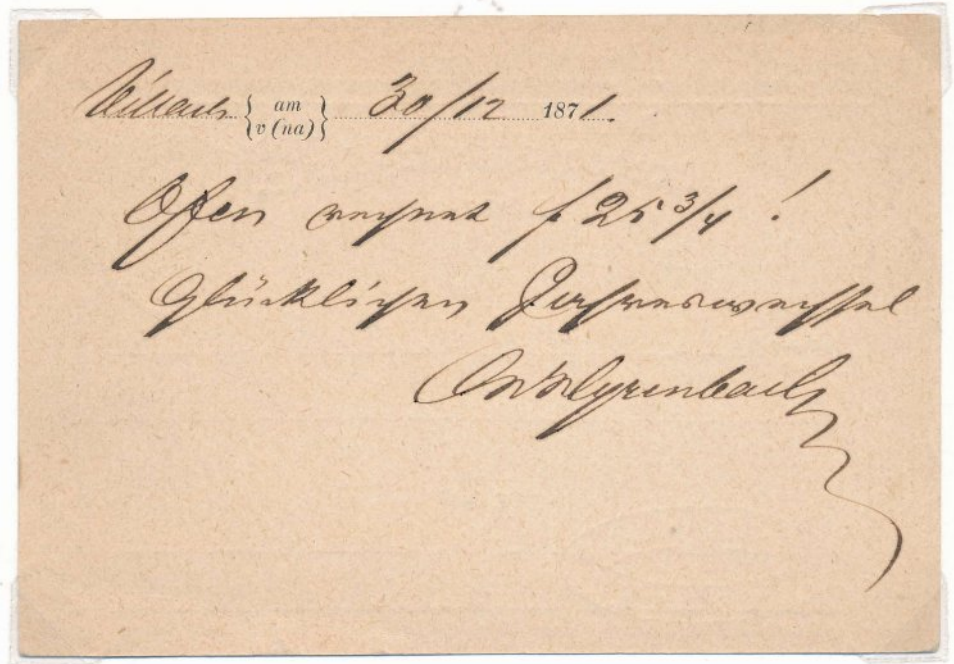
The first bilingual German-Slovenian postal card was issued mid of October 1871. Printed in three different stages – yellow value imprint and black ornamental frame with address lines on the front side and the date line on the rear. Standard card dimension: 122 x 85 mm.



Bilingual address instructions

A relatively early use with the thimble-sized (Fingerhut) postmark Pettau 23.12.71
Company sticker – indicates a commercial use

Bilingual date line printed on the rear, on the upper left side



Dotted date line 9 mm from the left edge (varies up to 14 mm)

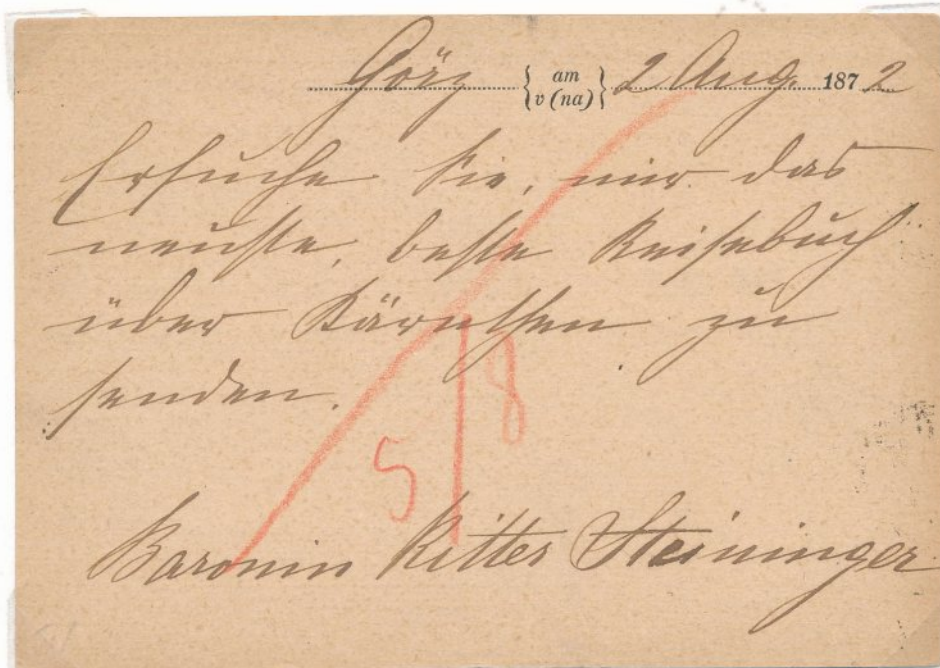
1. 2. »November 1871« issue

Because of the low postal rate, the use of stationery grew rapidly, and reprinting followed. The new issue (named P 12) with the same text on the front side and a reallocated address line to the right (rear) appeared in the beginning of 1872.

Value imprint
dark yellow



Two-circle postmark w/o year, Rochitsch 4.7.1873



Bilingual date line printed on the rear, now on the upper right side

Dotted date line 5 mm from the right edge (varies 4-8 mm)

1. 3. »Oktober 1872« issue

New issues of bilingual postcards followed in October 1872 Type P 17 appeared in use in March 1873. The front side of this issue remained the same; only two printing processes, no date line on the rear.



St. LEONHARDT, 7.3. (1873), Earliest recorded use of the subtype P 17/1.



No date line printed on the rear.

Early use of a privately printed commercial form.
Message of the Coal mine Tüffer and Römerbad 1874.

1. 4. The last issue »after October 1872«

One of the six bilingual cards in this issue was Slovenian, named Type P 22. Language annotation in brackets on the front side: **(Slov)**. No date line on the rear.

From July 1, 1875 the UPU tariff of 5 kr for all foreign destinations. In the early years of Listnica postcards **foreign destinations were very rare.**



Krainburg 15. 5. (1876) to Ancona, Italy



Gotschee 27.5. 1875 to Leipzig, Germany

2. Pattern sequences in the inner ornamental frame

Types and subtypes are characterized by the number of dots around the corner rhomb in the inner ornamental frame. Type P 7 and P12 have the same pattern sequence of the corner rhomb and dots.

2. 1. Type P 7



Type 7 with a unique pattern sequence. Embossed company logo, forerunner of perfins

2. 2. Type P 12



Type 12 with a unique pattern sequence. The earliest known use of this type (11. 1. 1872)

2. 3. Third bilingual postcard Type P 17 with two subtypes.

Postcard Type P 17 with the position of the corner dots unchanged. However, subtypes are determined also with specific errors throughout the inner frame – double or missing dots; here are examples of two subtypes of P 17.



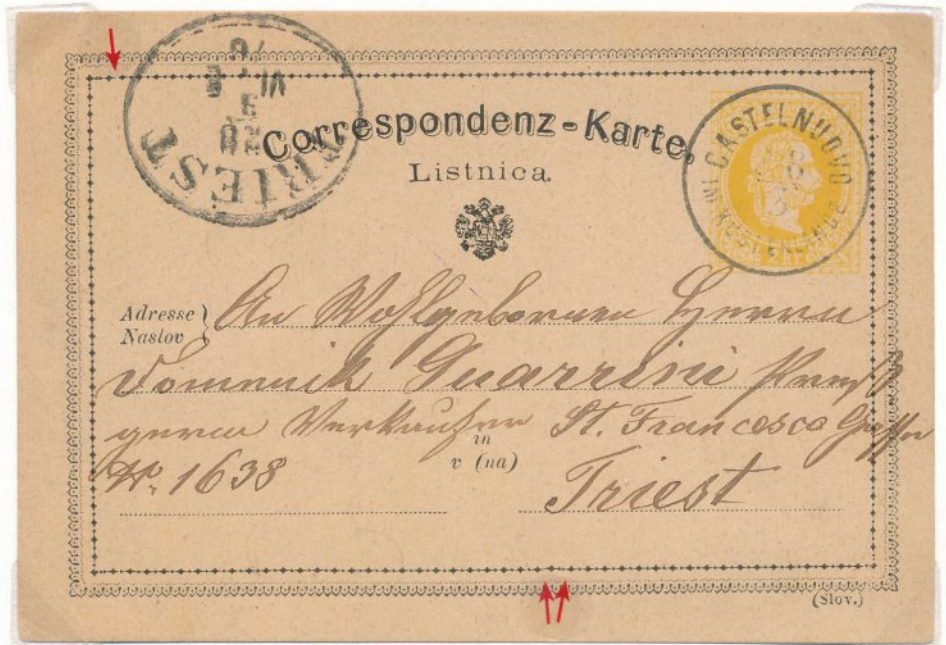
P 17, subtype I. Dot at position 48 below at partial edition broken



P 17, subtype II, Missing dots upper line position 10, lower line 18 and 44; double dots upper line 11, lower line 2 & 28.

2. 4. Forth bilingual postcard Type P 22 with seven subtypes.

Printing accessories were obviously very worn out, hence seven subtypes (varieties of the inner ornamental frame).



Subtype I, missing and double dots (inner ornamental frame broken on 3 positions)



Subtype II (the only one subtype w/o errors in the inner ornamental frame!)

Subtypes III and V

The reason for the missing and double dots in the inner ornamental frame are the repositioning of the printing block for new issues and bilingual types, as well as intermediate replacements due to the wear of clichés.



Subtype III.

Subtype V



Subtype V. Missing dot upper pos. 24, lower pos. 24.

Subtype IV with variety of printing coincidences, lack of print and missing dots



Subtype IV, Atypical errors: Missing 2nd vertical dot upper right corner. Printing deficiencies make the 2nd point above to look like a bridge



Unusual combination of printing coincidences: Missing second vertical dot in the upper left corner and penultimate dot in upper left corner.

Subtypes VI and VII

They differ only in one additional missing dot!



Subtype VI. Missing dot upper line 9 & 23, lower 13, 18, 24, 44,
double dots upper line position 10, lower 2, 14, 28.
LAIBACH BAHNHOF 24.7.75, **earliest known date of use.**



Subtype VII. Differs from the subtype VI only in one additional missing dot below, position 5, *Clear sequence in printing: first yellow, imprint, second black - writing and ornamental frame*

3. Positioning of the yellow value imprint

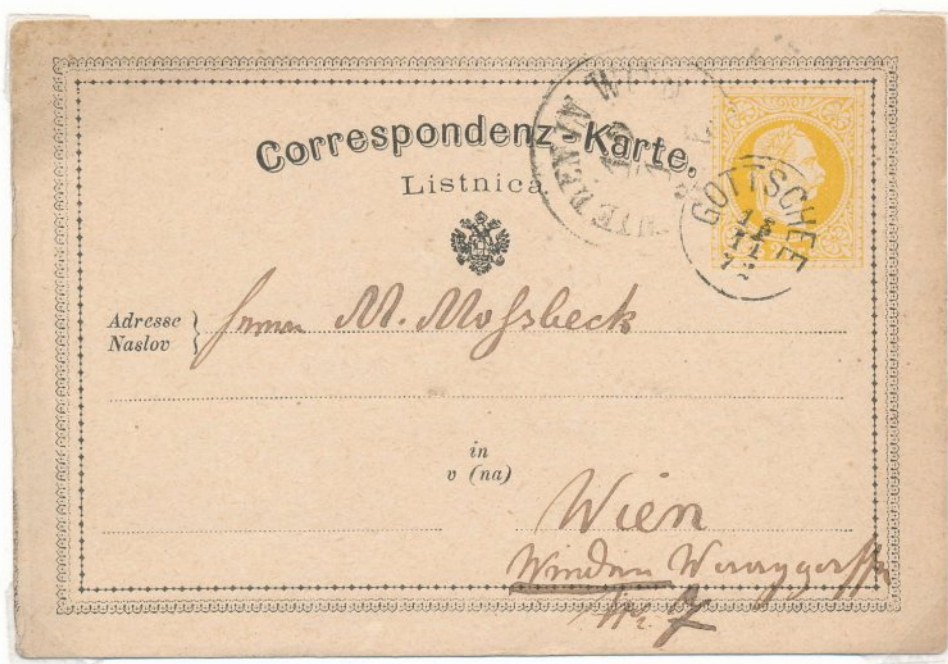
The yellow value imprint – Emperor Franz Joseph to the right in the circle, ornamental frame and inscriptions had to be put together sequentially, which caused different positions of the value imprint with respect to the inner ornamental frame.

3. 1. Ideal central position



Ideal central position of the value imprint cca 2 mm from both the upper and right line of the ornamental frame

3. 2. Value imprint in the corner



Value imprint positioned in the inner upper right corner of the ornamental frame

3. 3. Value imprint close or away from the ornamental frame



4. Colour of the print and of the paper

Value imprints vary from orange over yellow to dark yellow (also colour intensity from pale to strong). The cardboard can be white, chamois to brown, smooth, rough, thin, thick.



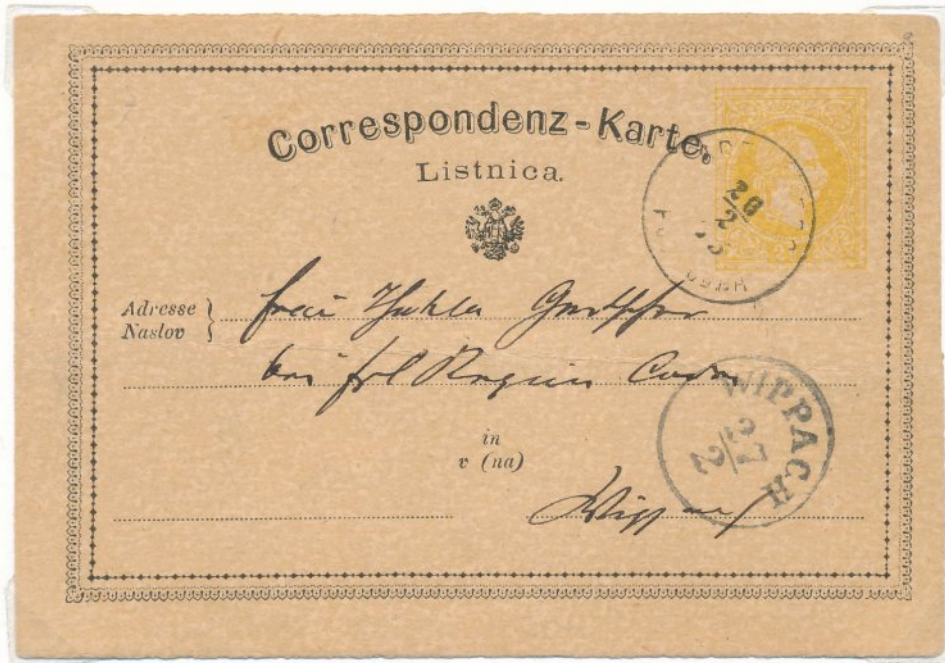
white smooth thin cardboard
yellow value imprint

light chamois smooth,
thin cardboard, yellow
value imprint



The thickness of the ink application of the value imprint varies from almost indistinguishable to heavily overcolored.

chamois smooth
thick cardboard dark
yellow value imprint



chamois thin cardboard
dark yellow imprint

The printing sheet

The printing sheet comprised 64 postcards (8 x 8 cards, standard dimension of 122 x 85 mm, with deviations in size). Fixing holes on four edges of the sheet served for fixing sheets before cutting out individual cards.

Two examples of the corner postal cards of the P 12 type with fixing holes in the upper left and right corner



Hole in the upper left corner

Standard size of the postcard 122 x 85 mm

Hole in the upper right corner



Larger size of the postcard 123 x 88 mm

Since 1876 size of the postcards was adapted to the UPU format (larger) and the Slovenian name changed from Listnica to Dopisnica