

1. Introductory letter

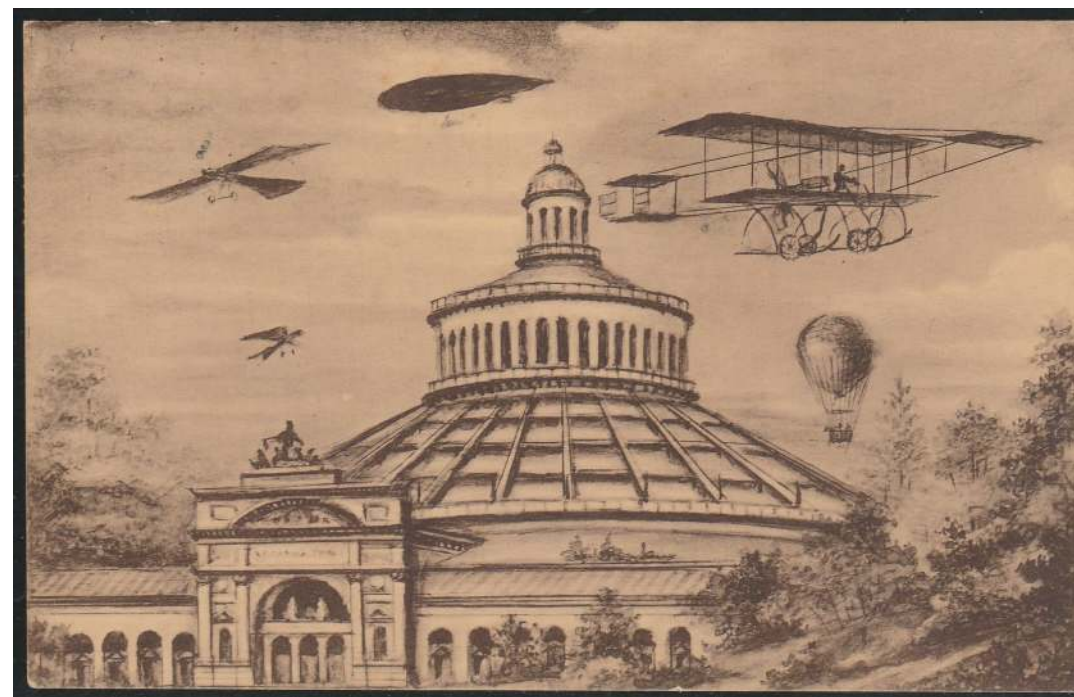
The pioneer Period of Austro-Hungarian Airmail

Birds and their flights have fascinated man for centuries. Floating and flying in the air was the objective of many pioneers of aviation. It was not different in Austro-Hungarian Empire. Technical progress in the second half of the 19th century brought those dreams of flying true. Balloons, airplanes and airships progressively began to float in the atmosphere. It didn't take long till they started to serve for mail transport. Strategic advantages of flying were also realized by the army commanders before and during the World War I when a huge development of flying began.

The exhibit chronologically documents the first balloon flights from besieged Paris in 1870 sent to the territory of Austria-Hungary. It further includes the pre-war flights, a huge expansion of flying during the World War I, documentation of Naval Aviation up to the flights during the last days of the monarchy. And of course the first regular airline in the world VIENNA-CRACOW-LEMBERG and VIENNA-BUDAPEST.

The content of the exhibit:

1. Introductory letter
2. Balloon Monte 1870
3. Pre-war balloon flights
4. Military Aviation
 - 4.1. Military balloon flights
 - 4.2. Siege of Przemysl
 - 4.3. Headquarter cachets
 - 4.4. Army's Air Corps
5. Naval Aviation
6. Courier flights
7. Airmail Service 1918
 - 7.1. Airmail stamps issued 1918, essays and proofs
 - 7.2. Courier flights, Vienna-Cracow-Lemberg-Kiev
 - 7.3. Civil flights of Vienna-Cracow-Lemberg airline
 - 7.4. Airline Vienna-Budapest
 - 7.5. Issue of Hungarian stamps
 - 7.6. Airline Budapest-Vienna
 - 7.7. Curiosities



The designation of rarities:

R-rare

RR-very rare

RRR-extremely rare

UNIQUE

The designation of attestation:

A - attestation attached

(*) - new findings by me and our team

References:

1. author: Gerard Lheritier –
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2. author: Roland F. Kohl –
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Airmail – edition 1996
4. author: Alföldi L./S. Talas –
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5. author: Fritz Fuchs –
Die K.U.K. Luftstreitkräfte 1914-1918
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6. author: Keith Tranmer – Austro-
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7. author: Radomir Kveton. Peter
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