

## TYROL

The Land Tyrol or its provincial Government was especially prolific in issuing semi-official stamps. The first series, issued between 12 December 1918 and 20 January 1919, consisted of the last issue of imperial Austria overprinted by hand with the "Tyrolian Eagle" in blue-black.





## Tyrol continued

Similar to the action of the provincial Government in Salzburg-Salzkammergut (see above) the Tyrolian Government issued two sets of stamps to commemorate the plebiscite for or against amalgamation with Germany. Again, the majority of the population voted in favour of such a link but this was disallowed by the Allies.

Ten values of the 1920 series of Deutsch Österreich were overprinted with the Tyrolian Eagle and "24. April 1921". One can distinguish two different issues. On Type one the tail-feathers of the eagle are rounded and there is no hyphen between "April and 1921" on the "Parliament" stamps, in Type two the tail-feathers are pointed and April and 1921 are linked by a hyphen.





Tyrol, contd.

Type two



### Tyrol continued

During the Austrian postal strike of 10. to 13. December 1923 the Government of Tyrol entrusted the Tiroler Gewerbebund or T.G.B. (Tyrolian Chamber of Commerce) with establishing emergency postal services within Innsbruck, the provincial capital, and the province. Four labels with face values of 3,000, 5,000, 8,000 and 10,000 Kronen were produced locally. Only 3,680 sets were printed.





## Tyrol continued

In early 1919 the provincial Government of Tyrol introduced the compulsory inspection of all parcels and packages transported by railway or postal services. Inspected parcels or packages received a "Postkontrollmarke" (Postal Control Label). Initially the price of these labels was 20 Heller (100 Heller= 1 Krone), later the price was increased to 50 Heller with the labels being overprinted by hand with the new value. The labels were printed on white and yellow paper. The first set consisted of two different designs; the second set of three labels with different paper and overprinted either horizontally or diagonally with "50 Heller".





## OSTTIROL

In the aftermath of the World War, in the year 1920, the Eastern Part of the Tyrol temporarily broke away from the rest of the Land Tirol. The new entity issued a set of stamps by overprinting in either black or gold, then current Austrian stamps with the slogan "Deutscher/Gau/Osttirol" (German County East Tyrol). The issue appeared on 16. October 1920. Postal usage of the stamps has not been confirmed.

Perforated and un-perforated stamps exist





## B) CARINTHIA

The following stamps were prepared, but never issued, for the plebiscite in Southern Carinthia. The plebiscite was held in October 1920 and the population was asked whether they wanted to join the new Kingdom of Yugoslavia or remain within Austria. The overwhelming majority voted to stay with Austria.





## Salzburg

The Provincial Government of the Salzkammergut, capital Salzburg, approved the issuance of a set of postal stamps to commemorate the plebiscite of 29 May 1921. In the plebiscite the population was asked to vote for or against the attachment of "Deutsch Österreich", the official name of what was left as Austria after the break-up of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, to Germany. Although the vast majority of the voters were in favour of the attachment, the Allied Powers did not allow this move as it would have strengthened Germany.

The issue which appeared on 29 May 1921, consists of the then current stamps of Deutsch Österreich overprinted "Salzburger / Volksabstimmung", (Salzburg Plebiscite).





### SALZBURG (contd)

A second set of three stamps of the same current Deutsch Österreich issue was overprinted with "Abstimmung / in Salzburg / 29. Mai 1921" (Plebiscite in Salzburg 29 May 1921) and also issued on the 29 May 1921.





## Spielfeld

The town of Spielfeld in southern Carinthia was temporarily occupied by Yugoslav-Serb troops during the border wars of 1919. After the expulsion of these troops by Austrian irregular units and the liberation of Spielfeld, commemorative stamps were issued locally and without the official sanction of the central Austrian Postal Authority. However, in the end these stamps were accepted for internal Austrian mail.

The stamps used were those of the regular 1920 series of Deutsch Österreich overprinted "Befreiung / Spielfeld / 29. Juli 1920" (Liberation Spielfeld 29 July 1920).





### Spielfeld (contd.)

High values from the "Parliament" set of 1919/21.



Some values from the "Arms" set of 1921





## Spielfeld (contd.)

Same stamps and overprint as before but on grey, thick paper



Same stamps and overprint as before but imperforated





## Linz

During a national railway strike in November 1924, a private institution organized an emergency postal service between Linz and Vienna. The Institution used overprinted commemorative labels issued by a Roman Catholic Relief Organization, so called Domweihmarken (Cathedral Consecration labels) which in their initial form had no postal value whatsoever. These labels were overprinted with "Notpost Linz-Wien" (emergency postal service Linz-Vienna. The service although not officially approved by the Postal Authority was tolerated by that Authority and the labels were sold at their nominal charity value of 500, 1,000 and 5,000 Kronen.





## Knittelfeld

Knittelfeld is a town to the north-west of Graz, the capital of the province of Styria. In December 1918 the local post office run out of the then current Austrian postage stamps. To overcome this problem a remaining stock of ten different values of imperial Austrian postage stamps of the series of September 1916 and May 1917 were overprinted "Republik Deutsch-Oesterreich" (Republic German Austria) and issued on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1918. The Central Directorate for Postal Services in Vienna was informed but no formal permission was obtained. The Central Directorate tolerated ex-post the issue.

The stamps shown below are all tied with the cancellation "Kriegsgefangenenlager Knittelfeld" (prisoner of war camp Knittelfeld) either 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> December 1918. The stamps are thus most likely cancelled to order.





### Private Carriers

Private agencies were entrusted by the Austrian Postal Services for delivery of mail to three alpine areas: Katschberg, Kesselfall-Alpenhaus, and Moserboden.

The private agencies charged extra fees for these deliveries. In the case of Katschberg, a village in the Tyrol 1641 m above sea-level, the extra charges were 3 Groschen for Postcards, 6 Groschen for letters and 1 Schilling for parcels.





War had no jurisdiction over the Legion. From the beginning, the maximum strength of the LVF was fixed by the Germans at 15,000 men. There were enough volunteers to meet that target but a strict selection system based on health and character criteria meant that a large number of volunteers was turned down and, de facto, the LVF never at any one stage in its existence reached that number.

Small wonder that the LVF had organizationally a rather difficult life. On 8 August 1942 a new unit, the "Legion Tricolore" was created by the French Vichy Government and it was announced that the LVF cadre would be transferred to that new unit. The plan was that the "Legion Tricolore" would fight on the side of Germany under French command and in French uniforms with French equipment thus forming part of the French armistice forces that had been allowed under the armistice agreement of 1940. Also, the Legion was to be used not only in Russia but anywhere French national interests were at stake. Small wonder that the German High Command could not accept this. However, had it been implemented, it would have implied belligerent status for France initially against the USSR and later against the other Allies!! So, in December 1942 the "Legion Tricolore" was quietly disbanded and the LVF recreated, only to be transferred to the Waffen SS in September 1944 at which time the remaining cadre of the LVF were combined with the already existing 7<sup>th</sup> SS Assault-brigade "Frankreich" to form the SS Division "Charlemagne" which had an initial strength of 8,000 men. This unit fought right up to May 1945, some last elements actually defending Hitler's bunker in Berlin.

Shortly after the establishment of the LVF, its managers decided to issue postage stamps or vignettes to raise funds for the social welfare of the Legion's members and their families. Thus on 21 October 1941 the first stamp or rather mini-sheet appeared, the 'Polar-bear' issue.

BLOC DE FRANCHISE  
DU CORPS EXPÉDITIONNAIRE



DE LA LÉGION DES VOLONTAIRES FRANÇAIS  
CONTRE LE BOLCHEVISME

However, the stamp had no postal value and was not even needed, as mail from Legionnaires home or from home to the Legionnaires was carried free of charge. But the stamp did carry a "Surcharge" of 100 francs! It carries in red the slogan "BLOC DE FRANCHISE DU CORPS EXPÉDITIONNAIRE DE LA LÉGION DES VOLONTAIRES FRANÇAIS CONTRE LE BOLCHEVISME".

A total of 30,000 copies were apparently printed of which 5,000 were sold initially. What happened to the others? The mastermind behind the issue was a M. Badeler, reserve infantry officer and member of the LVF, philatelist and stamp



So, we have the situation where the mini-sheet and subsequent issues were to be used as surcharges for field-post letters. Still, the issue arises whether these stamps are proper postal issues or just labels. The highest Vichy authorities approved the series, the Minister for Postal Affairs in the Vichy Government was at least aware of the pending issue and did nothing to prevent it. The French Federation of Philatelic Societies was satisfied that the mini-sheet and subsequent issues were proper postal items. The UPU was apparently not consulted. Yet the mini-sheet and subsequent issues were meant for mail from the Legion to France only and not for mail from France to the Legion. However, whilst the Legion was on active service in Russia it was under the jurisdiction of the German Wehrmacht and this jurisdiction included all aspects of postal services provided to Legionnaires. Thus it is probably more important that the issuing of the mini-sheet and other items was approved by the German authorities rather than tacitly approved by Vichy and the German occupying authorities in France. The minisheet and subsequent issues should thus be considered German occupation issues rather than French postal issues.

Still, there are additional problems in identifying the character of these "stamps". The original proofs of the mini-sheet as submitted to the French postal authorities, showed "FM" in the design, that is "Franchise Militaire" or Military Exemption. Indeed French volunteers in the Legion were granted exemption for postal charges. In addition the French postal authorities carried all normal mail addressed to them free of charge. At the same time the German Feldpost carried mail from the legionnaires addressed to France free of charge. In any case, the request to insert FM on the mini-sheet and other issues was finally denied but a later request to include the letter F (Franchise) was approved and so all the issues are inscribed F. with some value.

But what was the meaning of all that? The issues were not postal stamps, they were not labels showing exemption from postal charges, it would appear that they were just a clever means to collect money through taxing an otherwise free postal service.

But back to the other issues of the LVF. The second set of "stamps" issued has very much its own peculiarities. It consists of two stamps one with the inscription: "Courrier officiel par Avion" and the other one with: "Courrier Special par Avion". Both also bear the Text: "CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE de la LEGION des VOLONTAIRES FRANCAIS CONTRE le BOLSHEVIME". Both stamps carry a surcharge of Ff10. Like the Polar Bear issue, they are perforated 12,5 and were printed by a private company; Degorce.





One stamp shows a two-engined plane over a map of the USSR and a red star, the other one shows a monoplane over the Eiffel tower in the left lower corner and the Kremlin in the right lower corner. The stamps went on sale in Paris in early December 1941 and sold at Ff20 a pair: a total of 147,277 sets were printed. A large portion of the stamps were later, in early 1942, overprinted with the slogan: "FRONT DE L'EST/OSTFRONT", the total number of these overprints was supposedly around 137,000 sets. Thus one might assume that around 10,000 sets of the original stamps were sold.



However, the issuance of these air service stamps is more than a bit odd! There was no special or regular airmail service for the LVF! So why special air vignettes? Soldiers of the LVF on active service in Russia had access to the same airmail service as had soldiers of the Wehrmacht. For this purpose they were provided with four Luftfeldpost stamps per month, between April 1942 and April 1943 in those areas where Lufthansa services existed (the Luftwaffe did not transport private correspondence). Half of these were to be used for mail from the front to home, the other half for mail from home to the front. One label was required for each letter or postcard. Parcels were not carried by airmail. As of May 1943 two stamps were required for each letter or postcard but the monthly ration of labels was increased to eight. Why? And why produce vignettes for something that doesn't exist?



*Luftfeldpost Marke*

These air service vignettes are subject to a considerable range of printing errors some of which are shown below.



Missing accent over e of aérienne



missing dot over i in aérienne





Bottom of F next to value pointed



Missing accent over e in spécial

The last issue of LVF vignettes was the so-called "Borodino" set. On 7 September 1812 Napoleon's army and the Russian forces clashed at the village of Borodino west of Moscow. Both sides suffered severe losses. The Russians retired from the field, but the battle was not decisive. The Borodino set of five labels shows war scenes including one with Napoleonic soldiers and Legionnaires of the LVF. They all bear the inscription "La Legion des Volontaires Français contre le Bolshevisme" and F+1f. The total issue was around 1 million sets. The set appeared on 20 April 1942, in other words on Hitler's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Many of the stamps are attached to a decorative coat of arms label, some of these labels bearing the date 2-4-42. Again an intriguing question: why that date if the first day of issue of these stamps was the 20 April?



As is the case with all the LVF issues, vignettes on envelopes are rather rare, but mint labels are plentiful. Theoretically the vignettes were not to be tied or cancelled but many of them are. The attached registered cover bears a complete set of the five Borodino stamps. The decorative labels are attached to the stamps and they show the date of 2 4 42. The cover is addressed to Paris and is dated 30 5 42. The stamps are tied with a Feldpost cancellation. The cover also bears a seal "Dienstpoststelle F.P. Nr 03865 H, that is the



fieldpost number of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion of the LVF. The reverse is stamped in black "Geöffnet Oberkommando der Wehrmacht" –Opened, High Command of the Armed Forces- and in red "Geprüft Oberkommando der Wehrmacht –Censured High Command of the Armed Forces-.

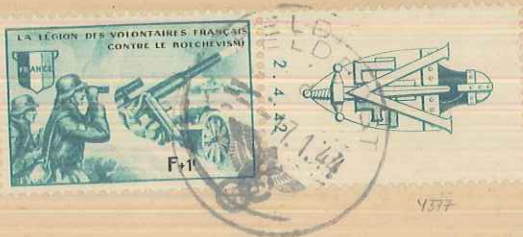
The second cover is rather simpler with just one stamp plus attached label of the Borodino set tied by a Feldpost cancellation dated 17 1 1944 but without a Feldpost number, thus most likely one of the numerous fakes produced after the war with original Feldpost rubber stamps.

All in all an extraordinary lot these vignettes of the LVF, a part of recent history.

Sources; A. Apaire et B. Sinais: L'histoire secrete des Timbres de la LVF. Timbre Magazin Mai 2002  
 Dallay: Catalogue de cotations de Timbres de France 2002-2003  
 David Littlejohn: The Patriotic Traitors. 1972  
 Michel: Deutschland Spezial Katalog 1994  
 M. A. Saint-Loup: Legion der Aufrechten 1984







Monsieur

Jean Gilbert

Bourges/Cher

Rue Narvise 9

J. Saborde  
400-950-2-LVF-5.46

Mademoiselle

Yvonne Otacé

8 - Rue du Pocheur Jullieres

BIARRITZ

(Basses Pyrenées)

= Frankreich =





COLOUR ESSAYS OF THE 40 CENTIMES STAMP



THE STANDING HELVETIA STAMP ON A LETTER



Cover from Villars sur Ollon (Canton Lausanne) to England. Cancellation "30. VI. 83". On reverse backstamps of Cient and Stourbridge dated "Au 1 83".



### Examples of the "White Helvetia"

(see page 1)



### Examples of minor Plate Errors

(The result of re-engraved plates or plate abraision)



### color spots



light colour lines in various parts of the stamp



# "STANDING HELVETIA" STAMPS WITH RAILWAY CANCELLATIONS

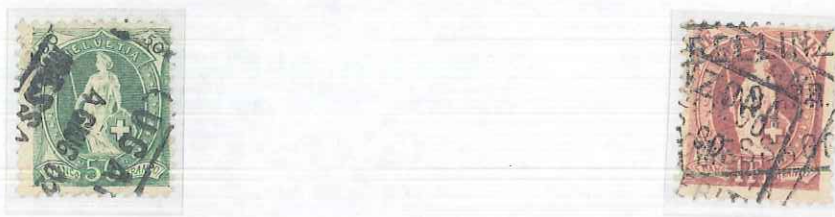
Issue of 1882/1907, Control Sign Type 1



Issue of 1882/1907 Control Sign Type 2



Issue of 1899/1904



Issue of 1905/1907



Issue of 1906/1907





50 Centimes



dark green  
1905



yellowish green



dark grey-green

1 Franc



light carmine pink  
1907



carmine-pink



carmine  
1905

3 Francs



light brown  
1905

yellowish brown

Perforation  $11 \frac{3}{4}$  :  $11 \frac{3}{4}$

40 Centimes



light grey  
1906

dark grey



Perforation 11 1/2 : 12

20 Centimes



reddish orange  
1907



yellowish orange

50 Centimes



green  
1907



yellowish green

1 Franc

light carmine-pink  
1907

carmine-pink

3 Francs



light brown  
1907



yellowish brown



### 1906 marginally changed design of the 25 Centimes

The stamps are printed from steel plates by Müllhaupt & Sons, the word "Helvetia" is somewhat fatter and the numbers "25" in the upper corners smaller. The stars in the frame are wider and the background shows horizontal lines.

The stamps are printed on white paper with watermark crosses as in the 1905/07 issue.



blue  
Perforation 11 3/4 : 11 3/4



blue  
Perforation 11 1/2 : 11

### The Issue of 1906/1907

The issue is printed by lithography on granite paper in sheets of 100 stamps. Like in the earlier issue the watermark of 80 crosses is distributed over the sheet.

Perforation 11 1/2 : 12

#### 20 Centimes



orange



red-orange



orange-yellow



pink-orange

#### 25 Centimes



blue



30 Centimes



light brown

orange-brown

yellow-brown

40 Centimes



grey



light grey

50 Centimes



green



bright green

1 Franc



carmine



dark carmine



red-carmine



3 Francs

light brown

Perforation 11 1/2 : 11

25 Centimes



blue  
1906



light blue



bright blue

30 Centimes



orange-brown



40 Centimes

grey

1 Franc



carmine

3 Francs



brown



reddish yellow-brown

dull brown



## The Issue of 1882/1907

This issue was printed from copper plates on hand printing presses. From 1882 to 1886 the printer was Muellhaupt & Sohn, Berne, later Max Girandet, also from Berne.

The stamps are printed on plain woven paper embossed with a control sign: Cross in Oval.

This sign was marginally altered in design in 1893 characterized by a somewhat smaller, finer cross and, in particular a much closer distance between the oval surrounding frame lines.

### Control Sign Type 1

#### A) Perforation 11 3/4 : 11 3/4

##### 20 centimes



orange  
1.4.82-91<sup>2</sup>



yellow orange  
1886



rose orange  
1888



orange-red  
1890

##### 25 Centimes



green  
1.4.1882



blue green  
1885



bright blue green  
1886



dark green  
1886



green-yellow  
1886/89



olive green  
1887

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<sup>2</sup> Denotes date of issue where known



40 Centimes



dark grey  
1.4.1882



light grey  
1882



blueish grey  
1889

50 Centimes



blue  
1883



light blue  
1.4.1882



bright blue  
1884

1 Franc



lilac  
1888



bright lilac  
1.4.1882



brownish lilac  
1886



light lilac brown  
1888

3 Francs



olive-brown  
March 1891



light olive-brown



yellow-brown



B) Perforation  $9 \frac{3}{4}$  :  $9 \frac{1}{4}$

20 Centimes

yellow-orange



orange  
March 1889

25 Centimes

yellowish-green

yellow-green

olive-green



40 Centimes

grey

dark-grey



50 Centimes

light blue



darkish-blue  
March 1889



1 Franc



light brownish-lilac



brownish-lilac

3) Perforation 11 1/2 : 11

20 Centimes



light-orange  
1891



reddish-orange  
1893

25 Centimes



yellow-green  
1893



yellowish-green  
1891



dark green

30 Centimes



light reddish-brown  
1. 7. 1892



orange-brown  
1893



XC

40 Centimes



grey  
1891



dark grey  
1891

50 Centimes



blue  
1894



bright blue  
1891



dark blue

1 Franc



lilac  
1891



light lilac



brownish lilac



Control Sign Type 2  
A) Perforation 11 1/2 : 11

20 Centimes



light orange  
1894



yellow-orange



reddish orange  
1896

brownish orange  
1894

25 Centimes



green  
1894



yellowish green



bright green

bluish green  
1897

30 Centimes



light orange-brown  
1894



dark orange-brown  
1896



light brown



yellowish brown  
1898



dull brown  
1900

brown



red-brown  
1904



40 Centimes



grey



light grey  
1894



dark grey

dull grey

50 Centimes



blue  
1894



dark blue



bright blue  
1898

1 Franc



reddish-lilac  
1902



red-lilac  
1900



lilac  
1894



dark lilac  
1897

3 Francs



light brown  
1904



yellow olive brown  
1901



47

B) Perforation 11 1/2 : 12

20 Centimes



orange  
1901/04



red-orange  
1901/03



yellow-orange  
1903

brown-orange  
1905

30 Centimes



light orange-brown  
1901



light brown



reddish brown  
1904



lilac-brown



dark orange-brown  
1901

40 Centimes



light grey  
1903

grey  
1903



1 Franc



lilac  
1901

reddish lilac  
1901

3 Francs



light brown  
1903



yellowish olive-brown  
1901



yellowish brown  
1902

## The Issue of 1899/1904

The issue was printed from the same copper plates as the earlier one. The printer was Max Girardet of Berne.

The stamps are printed on white paper (some of the 25 Centimes and the one Franc values also on coloured paper) embossed with the control sign type 2 as used in the previous issue.

The issue differs from the previous one in colour and in the case of the 40 Centimes stamp in design.

Perforation 11 1/2 : 11

### 25 Centimes



blue  
1899



bright blue  
1899



black-blue  
1900

### 50 Centimes



yellowish-green  
1901



green  
1900



dark green

### 1 Franc



carmine  
white paper  
1899



dark carmine  
white paper  
1902



bright carmine  
tinted paper  
1904



Perforation 11 1/2 : 12

25 Centimes



blue  
white paper  
1901



blue  
tinted paper  
1902



dark blue  
white paper  
1901



bright blue  
white paper  
1904

50 Centimes



green  
1901



bluish green  
1901



yellowish green

1 Franc



carmine



dark carmine

Perforation 11 3/4 : 11 3/4

40 Centimes



grey  
1904



dark grey  
1904

### The Issue of 1905/1907

The issue was again printed by Max Girardet of Berne. The stamps are printed on white paper in sheets to 100 stamps. The key difference to the earlier issues is the replacement of the embossed control sign by a watermark. The watermark is a cross without frame with 80 such crosses distributed over the sheet of 100 stamps.

#### 1) Perforation 11 1/2 : 11

##### 20 Centimes



orange  
1905



light orange  
1907



yellowish orange



red-orange

##### 25 Centimes



blue  
1905

##### 30 Centimes



orange-brown



light brown  
1905



reddish brown





## Lombardy Venetia

Entire franked with stamps of the 1850 series, 15 Centes.  
Handpaper, Type III.

Stamps tied to entire by two cogwheel strikes "Bergamo 27 8".  
(1855).

Letter is addressed to Verona.

On front distribution post mark "1".

On back arrival post mark "Verona 28 8".





det är med alla der — ~~den~~ du makt  
 om klaf. (Bojman) tillbringa väl jula  
 hos ~~der~~ — ~~der~~ dea — ~~der~~ dea  
 alla för minnas väl! —

Vill du taga enst ett lastant brev  
 om detta? Hopstodst du det al-  
 och fullt ordan! i en helhet det dock  
 mången ordning (tanke), och kan du  
 taga reda på den, så har brevet  
 väl sitt lilla värde och blir välkom-  
 met hos dig - (Kronan) så njuter  
 du det och jag lovar att snart gå  
 förbi att vara utvinnare något or-  
 dentligare - (Kronan) En god och  
 glad jul! Gud med dig.

Alfred

Stadelin den 22. December 1855

Handaanda har du nu dröjt öfver  
om jag så hade länge dröjt med till  
deras förnötte karaktärer. Men det hade  
då. — Du, så är, vill jag nämna till  
nu. — att jag ant sedan slutet af  
Oktob. haft så mycket att göra till följande  
af ett förordade jag en Registrator i de  
prediktorer, att jag så länge dagar och  
och har varit i ett stort antal ställen  
att de som är öfver för mitt eget, och sedan  
det varit mycket i det som med mig  
då som du vet. Den som mig följande  
och att mig kommer väl att följande  
nuu en till bortat. — med jag vill dock  
och låta julköpen gå in i stället att jag  
då en helomgång. Och i detta samband  
följande jag nu att jag så också en till  
jag vill att det har varit i Registrat.



ANK!

FRANCO.

Herrn Lenn af Rätmanne

2

Herr Adolf Högström

Kasko?



Finland



Waktmästaren

Herr A. E. Malmström

Söderköping





Commisfarien  
Högäde Herr Adolph Fyllberg

Nyköping  
Länsmans postställe  
i Bogsta socken



Stadschefdingen  
Högäde Herr L. W. Henschen

Stockholm  
Lilla Badstugatan N:o 2





Acad. Adunkten  
Hr Hrn Doktor Edv. Claason  
Uppsala



Löjtnanten  
Välborne Herr Gustaf Nordenskjöld  
Wimmerby  
Sjögebo.





FRANCO.

Madame la Baronne Helène de Mecklenburg  
née Baronne de Mecklenburg.

Berlin  
Behreustrasse N° 60.

12 ore Vapen STAMPLAT GEFLE 23 - 8 - 1863

REF8