

JOY OF DISCOVERY

1k "Envelope" on death notice entire, Koloszvár Mar 9 1890 (year written), concessionary-foreign printed matter to Wien ("Hungary Street"), no receiver. Note the speed of events: Mr Ruzitska died on the 8th; the notice, having had to be printed, was mailed next day; a ceremony on the 10th and the funeral was on the 11th!

Looks ordinary enough – but exactly which 1k is it? Test your skill, identify it exactly!

Diagnosis: (1) Perforation? 11½.

(2) Electro or stereo? Dot 3rd bead TR, thickened lines below S.
6th bead BL obscured by postmark, but dot visible under a good lens.

Notch in 5th bead TL absent (but not always found)
– Indicate electro.

(3) The crucial question, single- or two-plate?
(a) No evidence at all of thickened lines above K.
(b) No space at R of numeral; under a lens, envelope line appears to continue under it from R and emerge L.
(c) Numeral not exactly central, slightly high and to R
– Indicate two-plate.

(4) Date? MBK has just "1890" for issue of the single-plate, but March 9th, fairly early in the year, may well precede it (Question: Earliest known single-plate use?).

Conclusion: The rare one (MBK 27EB, SG 39 (cat. £150 as used single); This is tied on entire, nicely-centered too.

And the joy? (a) Lucky buy at HPSGB auction 19.10.02; (b) Evidently postal historians can forget their philately: Looks like the vendor did not appreciate what he had (nor did I till I studied it) as I got it at reserve ... just £2!

Albert Ruzitska
geb. am 8. März 1890
in Klagenfurt, Sohn
des Anton Ruzitska,
geb. Fuchs

Wohlg.

Herrn. Leopold Flindler
Professor

in

Wien.
III Ungargasse 19.

