Stamped Documents in Hapsburg Empire and Hungary /1686-1858/

The stamp control of the certified documents as "stamping of papers" began with Imperial Decree on April 20 1686 for the Austrian Crown Lands. The payment of the fee was confirmed with a value stamp, so-called "Sigil" or "Signet". In addition beside the signets, a folded sheet of paper was introduced from the beginning of the 18th century with similar but printed images. Additionally, the initial letters of the tax offices were added to the stamped signets. See an example below.

Hungary, as an exception, has remained tax free, because the nobility on the basis of the constitution of Hungarian Crown Lands could resist for one and a half century. After the fall of the Hungarian freedom fight of 1848/49 the introduced cancellations by Emperor Franz Joseph with the letters of Hungarian stamp offices are **actually the first Hungarian stamps**. The signets remained parallel in use until 1858, so the end of their consumption because of a money reform followed only on 31 October 1858. The aim of the exhibitor is to show this history by philatelic aspects with special attention to Hungarian relationships until the birth of the first separate Hungarian (non-adhesive) stamps.

Content:

1. German-language Lands of the Empire
   - 1686 -1693: Introduction of stamping papers /Leopold II/
   - 1705-1762: Lease of stampings /Karl VI./
   - 1762-1767:United Signets /Maria Theresa und Joseph II/
   - 1767-1808: Napoleonic wars and Inflation /Franz II/
   - 1815-1864: Lombardy - Venice
   - 1826-1840: Signets of Ferdinand II
2. 1850-54: Austria-Hungary
   - Printed Signets (Vorratsstempel)
   - Stamped Signets in Austria (Erfüllungsstempel)
   - Stamped Signets for Hungary

Letters "WO" of office

Stamped Signet for Hungary, **6 gn** (6 kreuz) Office Vrbovsko, a part of Serbia today

Specialties shown

1816/40: Original circulars with pattern of signets
1836/40: Unused papers with printed signets (3 Xr + 15)
1852: Signets and postal stamps used together (at 3 Xr)
1854-58: Mixed usage of signets with the first adhesive revenues (3, 6, 15 Xr)

Key pieces are in red borders:

- The first Signets of Leopold II
- 1835. 6 Kreuzer stamped signet of Hungary with 4 block of adhesive revenues
- 1851. First month use of 10 Gulden signet in Hungary

Literature:

Károly Szücs: Pénzügyi filatélia I. Fiscal philately I. Budapest, 2017
Dr. Fluderer István - Pohanka Ivánc, 1867-ből 1874-ig Magyarországon is használatban volt Vorratsstempel-szignettek összehasonlító típusai" Manuscript. In: OX-MANJPTLYTU 2016/3 p.20.
Special acknowledgment for Carsten Mintert (Salingen), for permission to use the Kaiser portraits from his book: Das Gebühren- und Stempelwesen in Kärnten, 2011

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1. Austria — *First introduction of the certificate cancellation (1686 -1693)*

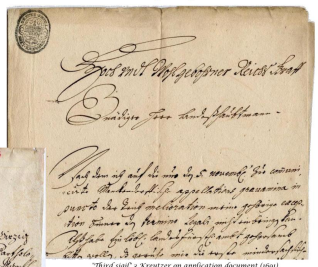
The introduction of stamping of papers was in 20.04.1686 by order of the emperor.

Documents without a sigil of an appropriate class **became invalid, and the death penalty** was introduced by the order **as punishment for the faking of sigils.**

The first class with a fee of 60 Xreutzer has to be applied for money transaction papers above 500 Gulden. The fee for the second class was 15 Xreutzer applied above 100 Gulden. The third class with a fee of 3 Xreutzer has to be applied for any transaction worth below 100 Gulden. Several other types of certificates were also decreed into one of the classes and thus obliged to pay the fixed fees by stamping.



Leopold I.
*1640, 1658 – †1705



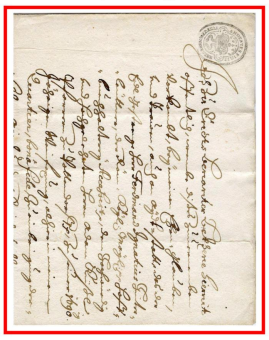
"Third sigil" 3 Xreutzer on application document (1691)
(the sigils was stamped by metal seal)



"First Sigil" 60 Xreutzer on receipt over 666 (Rhenish) Gulden and 40 Xreutzer in Bavaria

Note: By the thoughts in the time the the sigil of 60 Xreutzer for the most costly transactions was ordered to the "first class" denomination.

The intermediate class of 15 Xreutzer. Very few examples known.



"Second sigil" 15 Xreutzer on certificate (Vienna, 1691)

Because of the high administrative costs of the stamping offices the regulation of stamping was withdrawn in 1693.

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1. Austria — *Occupation of Bavaria and lease of stamping by Karl VI (1705-1762)*

Reintroduction of signets in occupied Bavaria (1704/5).



Karl VI.
*1685, 1711 – †1740

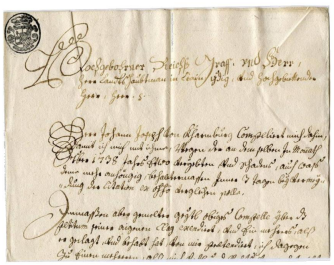
In the first year the Bavarian seals were used, but they are exchanged in 1705 to Austrian seals.



1 Kreutzer signet of Austria (1705-1715)

Two provinces of Austria, the "Innviertel" and "Inner-Austria" also had to cancel deeds under their reign.

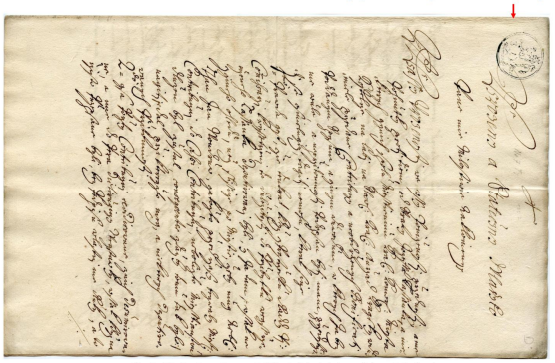
After the death of Charles VI, the right of the monarch for stamp duty was leased to more and more regions (1742-1762).



Lease signet of Anton Ronner for Inner-Austria on application document (1743).
No value number in the signet because of the uniform 3 Xreuzer fee for all leases.

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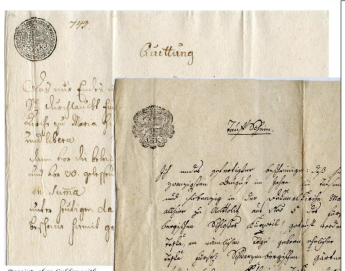
1. Austria — *Sigil of the State Chamber for Bohemia (1748-1762) on certificate*



Signet with 3 Xreutzer value as part of the set of signets by tax-scale from 2 to 60 (1752)

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1. Austria — *Unified Signets by Maria Theresa und Joseph II (1762-97)*



Receipt of 53 Gulden with 3 Xreutzer signet (1788)

Baptism certificate with 15 Xreutzer signet



The 3-items-set from 3 Xreutzer to 2 Gulden
(1 Rhenish Gulden = 60 Xreutzer)



Maria Theresa
*1717, 1740- †1780

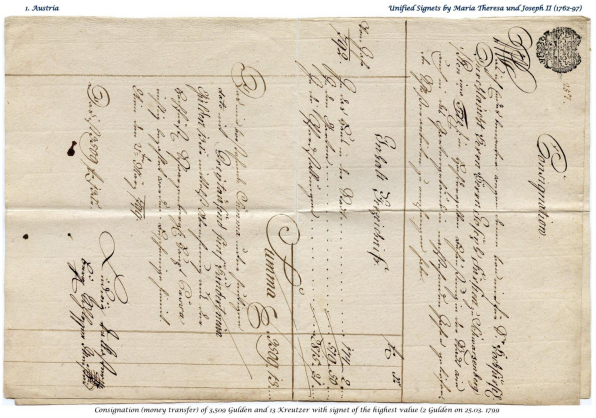


Nearly all crown lands of the Habsburg Empire were burdened with the stamps of Maria Theresa.

Only Hungary, as an exception, remained stamp-free, because the nobility could resist on the basis of the constitution of the Hungarian state. It was one of the earliest written constitutional contracts of Europe, the Golden Bull in 1222 by Hungarian King Andreas II

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1. Austria — *Unified Signets by Maria Theresa und Joseph II (1762-97)*

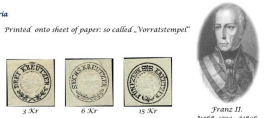


Consignation (money transfer) of 3,109 Gulden and 13 Xreutzer with signet of the highest value (2 Gulden on 25.03. 1799

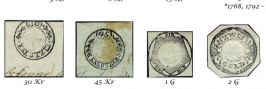
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1. Austria — *Napoleonic wars and inflation under reign of Franz II*

1803: "Printed" onto sheet of paper: so called „Vorratstempel"



3 Xr 6 Xr 15 Xr



30 Xr 45 Xr 1 G 2 G

Franz II.
*1768, 1792 - †1806

Stamped signets onto written documents „Erfüllungsstempel"



Brno, 3 Xr Graz, 6 Xr Brno, 15 Xr Brno, 30 Xr

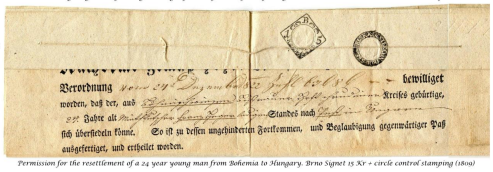


Wien, 45 Xr Prague, 1 G + Kontrolzstempel Brno, 2 G

The maximum value of the set became 100 Gulden!!), against 2 before, because of the war-inflation.

Interesting usage corresponding to Hungary. A completion of stamped signet with twine as addition to a resettlement form.

Twine here



Permission for the resettlement of a 24 year young man from Bohemia to Hungary. Brno Signet 15 Xr + circle control stamping (1809)

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1. Austria — *Napoleonic wars and inflation under reign of Franz II*



Vienna receipt for 30 Gulden. Stamped 6 Xreutzer + control stamping (25.5.1812)

Baptism certificate in Brno with stamped 6 Xreutzer + control stamping (9.9.1811)

1. Austria — 15 Kreutzer signet with different letter of offices — Napoleonic wars and inflation under reign of Franz II

Linz

Brno

Wien

1. Austria — Occupied parts of Austria (1796-1813) — Napoleonic wars and inflation under reign of Franz II

New design of the Austrian signets (1807)

3 Xr 6 Xr 15 Xr 30 Xr

At the end, its own state was organized from the occupations of Napoleon named "Provinces Illyriennes". These areas were Carinthia, Xraine(?), Gorizia, Triest, Istria, Fiume. (1809-1813) Today's Croatia and Dalmatia.

Bonaparte Napoleon

A USZTRIA

TÖRÖKORSZÁG

Promissory note

25 cent(imes) signet for French occupation (1797).

The design was same as the French signets this time, but the inscription became "ILLIRIA". The square stamped signets are always on the upper left corner, against the printed signets. (They were positioned on the other side.)

1. Austria — Occupied parts of Italy (1796-1813) — Napoleonic wars and inflation under reign of Franz II

Vicenza (Italia) two-page certificate: 26 Soldi French signet on record (with another 26 Soldi on the next page) (28.07.1809)

1. Austria — Consolidation after the war — Inflation under the reign of Franz II

5.12.1817. Circular on the new drawings, which are put into circulation by Jan. 1. 1818 (see right.)

Circulare

der k. k. Landesregierung im Erzherzogthume Oesterreich unter der Enns.

The original supplement over the set of 3 to 100 Gulden in 14 degrees of values, with the letter "W" of stamp office (Vienna)

1. Austria — Inflation under reign of Franz II

The full set of the new design with different letters of tax offices (1818).

3Xr Wien 6Xr Prague 15Xr Laibach 30Xr Brno

45Xr Prague 1G Prague 1G Innsbruck 2G Wien

7G Wien 10 G Wien 20 G Wien 40 G Wien

80 G Zara 100 G Zara

(Samples on blue paper)

3 on certificates (1822) with letters of tax offices Brno and Laibach

Brno certificate (21.10.1821)

Brno certificate (21.10.1821)

Laibach certificate with 6 plus control stamping both double 6 (8. 5.1827)

Brno baptism certificate (8.4.1831)

1. Austria — Transition — Lombardy-Veneto under Austrian rule (1815-1854)

Auxiliary signet of Franz II, 17 cent. (1816/17)

Engraved French signet, 50 cent (1821)

REGNO LOMBARDO-VENETO.

N. 5391.

NOTA.

All' I. R. Tribunale Provinciale in Vicenza

In evasione della Requisitoria 19 giugno p. N. 5092 si accompagna il foglio Cursoriale facente fede, che l' Atto occluso venne intimato a Luca Bapaglia perchè dimorante da a Venezia, ivi nessuno pulla l'atto stesso.

Dall' I.R. Tribunale Provinciale in Treviso, li 30 Luglio 1829.

1820. Treviso Note with 85 cent stamped Signet.

1. Austria — Parallell issues with Austrian signets — Lombardy-Venetia under Austrian rule (1815-1854)

Austrian fees in Italian currency (1816)

15 cen. 25 cen. 50 cen. 75 cen.

1825. Redesign

60 cent. stamped signet

DEMANIO

PROVINCIA di Friuli

Control stamping with 85 cent. stamped signet

Vicenza. „Delegatione" with 30 cent. stamped signet (1823.)

1. Austria — Signets of Ferdinand II

Printed signets with new design for stock (1836)

3 Xr 6 Xr 15 Xr 30 Xr 1 G 2 G 4 G 7 G 10 G 20 G

Ferdinand I. *1704, 1845 –1848, †1705

1 Gulden complete unused sheet

....burg Baptism certificate 6 Xr signet (10.1.1839)

1. Austria — Signets of Ferdinand II in Lombardy-Venetia

Printed signet 75 centesimi (1836)

Printed signet 2.25 Lire (1836)

1. Austria — Signets of Ferdinand II in Lombardy-Veneto

Late application of stamped signets in Lombardy-Veneto parallel in the time of first adhesive stamps in Centesimi-Lire issue.

50 centesimi "Erfüllungsstempel" signet with control stamping (1856)

1. Austria — Redesigned issue of signets (1840)

The drawings of were modified and re-engraved in 1840. They were used after the reign of Ferdinand II.

Second page of circular with sample of the full set of redesigned signets on dark blue paper

Abdruck der k. k. Stempel-Zeichen.

Circulare der k. k. Landesregierung im Erzherzogthume Oesterreich unter der Enns.

First page of the circular

2. Austria - Hungary — Printed Signets of Franz Joseph (1850-1858)

Extended set under reign of Franz Joseph (1850)

Franz Joseph * 1830; 1848 – †1916

After the defeat of the Hungarian Independence War the Tax Order by Emperor Franz Joseph on Aug.2, 1850 (valid from 1st November) extended the taxes for documents and other papers into Hungary. Hungary became not a state but an incorporated region of the Austrian Empire. The same Austrian set of printed signet was used also in Hungary.

Complete unused sheet with printed signet 3

2. Austria - Hungary — Unised (??) sheets with signets — Printed Signets of Franz Joseph (1850-1858)

6 Xreutzer

30

10

2. Austria - Hungary — Stamped Signets of Franz Joseph (1850-1854)

Austrian Tax Offices for stamping

B Brünn (Brno)
I Innsbruck
G Grätz
KR Krakau (Kraków)
LA Laibach
LE Lemberg
LI Linz
T Triest (1853)
P Prague (Prag)
W, WI Wien (Vienna)
Z Zara

1 Xr Wien (1850) 10 Xr Linz 15 Xr Wien 30 Xr Prague 2 G Trieste (1853) 5 G – Wien (1850) 10 G Trieste (1853) 20 G Wien

Hungarian Tax Offices for stamping

U-I Ofen = Pesth (today part of Budapest
U-II Debreczin (Debrecen)
U3 Kaschau (Kassa)
U4 Preßburg (Pozsony)
U5 Ödenburg (Sopron)
C Kroatien (Croatia)
WO Wewodin (Vojvodina)
S Siebenbürgen (Transsylvanien)

3 Xr – Pesth 6 Xr – Wojwodin 10 Xr – Pesth 15 Xr – Pesth 30 Xr – Pesth 45 Xr – Pesth 1 Fl – Pesth 2 Fl – Pesth 3 Fl – Pesth 6 Fl – Pesth 8 4o – Wojwodin

2. Austria - Hungary — Mixed use of 3 Xreutzer signet with adhesive postal and revenue stamps — Signets used parallel in Hungary and Austria

Document with signet sent as postal letter

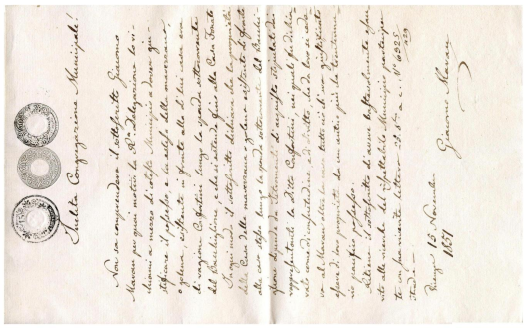
Regular addition of signet

Tax of the invoice 3 Xreutzer paid by printed signet. On backside it was adressed as letter from Linz to St. Florian, with 1. Zone postal fee 3 Xreutzer. (2.11.1852)
Two postal date stampings show on the backside: the start and arrival of letter.

Receipt for 21 forints and 4 Xreutzer. (10.7.1855). By 2nd scale of Tax Order in 1850 of Franz Joseph 6 Xreutzer were payable over 20 forints. (Forint is abbreviated as "Ft" and meas Gulden in Hungarian

2. Austria-Hungary — Newly engraved, last edition of signets in the Lombardy Veneto

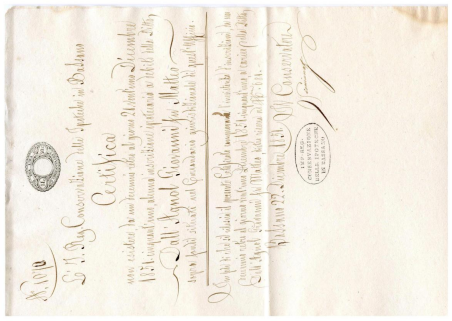
Mixed usage of stamped and printed signets



Inquiry to local authority of Vicenza in province Veneto. (15.11.1851) Fixed fee 75 centesimi was payable that equivalent to 15 Kreutzer. This is the general fee for documents when no other special fee item exist in the tax order according to the case. Payment was fulfilled with 15 + 30 centesimi stamped signets (office letters: "VV") added to a sheet with a pre-printed 30 centesimi signet.

2. Austria-Hungary — Newly engraved, last edition of signets in the Lombardy Veneto

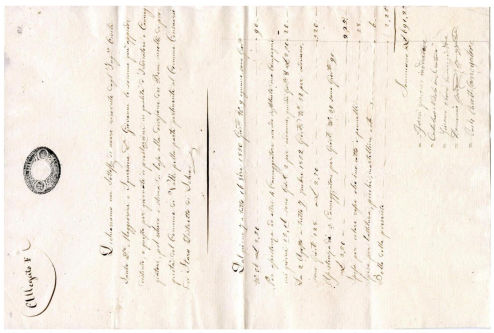
Solo usage of printed signet



Certificate for mortgage preservation in Balsano (Bolsanio today) in the province Veneto. (15.11.1851) The value of the mortgage had to be between 100 and 200 Gulden because of 50 Kreutzer tax-amount by the second scale is equal to the paid 1 lire and 50 centesimi pre-printed signet on the sheet.

2. Austria-Hungary — Newly engraved, last edition of signets in the Lombardy Veneto

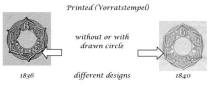
Solo usage of stamped signet



Inheritance inventory of amount 621.25 Lire . Tax 2.25 Lire = 45 Kreutzer can be payed of course only after the end of the process of taking the protocol. 1 Lire value were equal to 1 Gulden also the amount is 250 Gulden and 25 Kreutzer. Fee was payable between 200 and 300 Gulden by the 2nd scale exactly 45 Kreutzer, so the payment is correct.

2. Austria - Hungary — Some variants of the 6 Kreutzer signet — Signets in Hungary

Printed (Vorratstempel) — Stamped (Erfüllungsstempel)

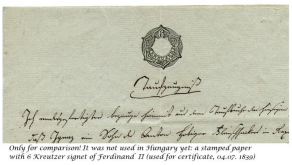


1836 — without or with drawn circle — different designs — 1840



date in black disks and different letters under the "KREUZER" by the stamp offices

U-I — WO



Only for comparison! It was not used in Hungary yet: a stamped paper with 6 Kreutzer signet of Ferdinand II (used for certificate, 04.07. 1839)



Tót-Megyer (Upper Hungary). Baptism certificate (20.01. 1850) Sheet with 6 Kreutzer printed signet was completed to 15 Kreutzer with 3 Kr and 6 Kr stamped signets (with letters U I = Pesth)



Cutout from sheet with 30 Kreutzer printed signet. It was completed to 13 Gulden and 42 Kreutzer with 10 + 3 Gulden and doubled 6 Kreutzer stamped signets. Letters of the stamp office in the stamped signets: WO (Woivodina).

2. Austria - Hungary — Some variants of the 6 Kreutzer signet — Signets in Hungary

Solo usage of stamped signet



Wandering book with 6 Kreutzer stamped signet with letters U I. (Ofen = Pesth in German language)

Stamped in 06.09. 1854 in Pesth for a 26 year old blond man named Simon Dax.

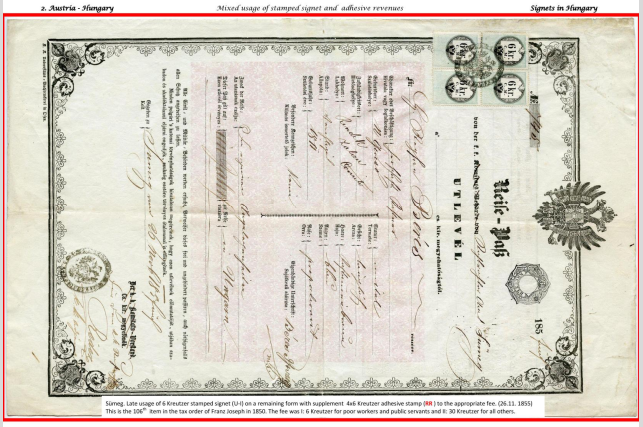
He was allowed wandering in the countries six years long for getting practice in his profession. After the wandering years he became applicant for member of the guild.

The book officially registered with locality seals the places where he worked in these years.

1854: started from St. Gotthard (where he was born) to Sissek
1857: left Sissek
1859: left St. Gotthard and went to Varadin and Bellovar
1861: he settled in Varasdin at the end.



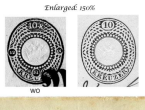
2. Austria - Hungary — Mixed usage of stamped signet and adhesive revenues — Signets in Hungary

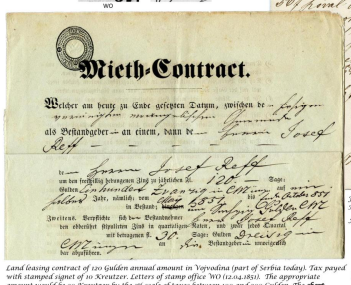


Sárreg. Late usage of 6 Kreutzer stamped signet (U-I) on a remaining form with supplement 4x6 Kreutzer adhesive stamp (RR) to the appropriate fee. (26.11. 1855) This is the 106th item in the tax order of Franz Joseph in 1850. The fee was I. 6 Kreutzer for poor workers and public servants and II. 30 Kreutzer for all others.

2. Austria - Hungary — Usage of 10 Kreuer stamped and printed signets — Signets in Hungary

Enlarged: 150%





Land leasing contract of 100 Gulden annual amount in Vojvodina (part of Serbia today). Tax payed with stamped signet of 10 Kreutzer. Letters of stamp office WO (12.04.1851). The appropriate amount would be 30 Kreutzer by the 2nd scale of taxes between 100 and 200 Gulden. The short payment of 20 Kreutzer had not been discovered at the time!



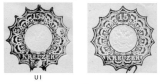
Fehértó, Hungary. Promissory note of 56 forints (it means Gulden in Hungarian) on a sheet with pre-printed 10 Kreutzer. (10.11.1854)

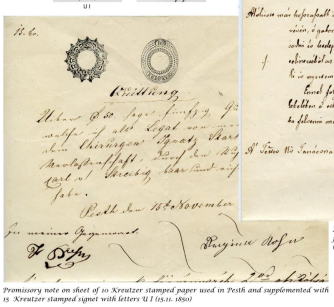
Appropriate payment by the appropriate 2nd tax scale:

OVER AMOUNT	TO AMOUNT	TAX
	20 GULDERS	3 KREUTZER
20 GULDERS	40 GULDERS	6 KREUTZER
40 GULDERS	70 GULDERS	10 KREUTZER
70 GULDERS	100 GULDERS	15 KREUTZER
100 GULDERS	800 GULDERS	30 KREUTZER
...	...	...
7,800 GULDERS	8,000 GULDERS	80 GULDERS

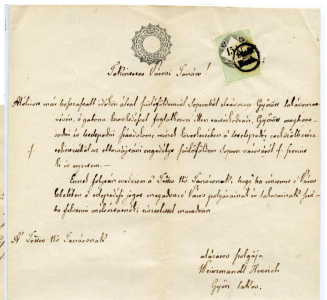
2. Austria - Hungary — Usage of 15 Kreutzer stamped and printed signets — Signets in Hungary

Enlarged: 150%



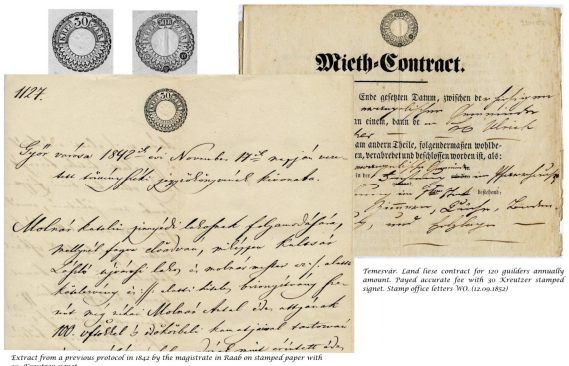


Promissory note on sheet of 10 Kreutzer stamped paper used in Pesth and supplemented with 15 Kreutzer stamped signet with letters U I (15.11. 1850)



Inquiry to the local authority in Raab on sheet with 15 Kreutzer printed signet supplemented with 15 Kreutzer adhesive stamp (dated 14.11.1854 on the backside).

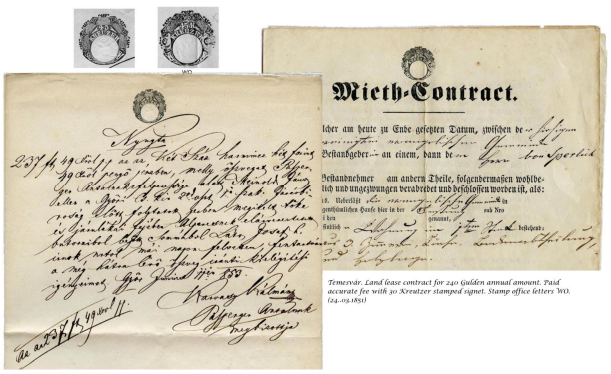
2. Austria - Hungary — Usage of 30 Kreutzer stamped and printed signets — Signets in Hungary



Extract from a previous protocol in 1842 by the magistrate in Raab on stamped paper with 30 Kreutzer signet.

Temesvár. Land liese contract for 120 guilders annually amount. Payed accurate fee with 30 Kreutzer stamped signet. Stamp office letters WO. (12.09.1852)

2. Austria - Hungary — Usage of 45 Kreutzer stamped and printed signets — Signets in Hungary



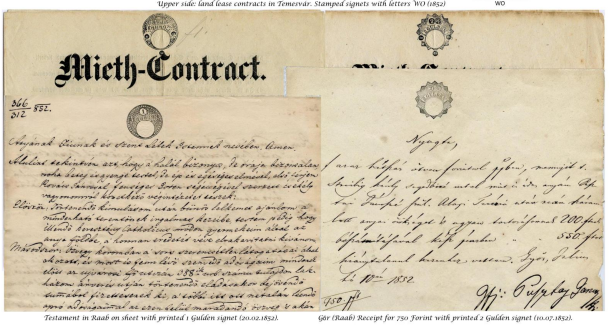
Raab. Receipt for 257 Forint and 40 Kreutzer on stamped paper with 45 Kreutzer signet (11.06.1853).

Temesvár. Land lease contract for 240 Gulden annual amount. Paid accurate fee with 30 Kreutzer stamped signet. Stamp office letters WO. (24.09.1851)

2. Austria - Hungary — Usage of 1 and 2 Gulden stamped and printed signets — Signets in Hungary



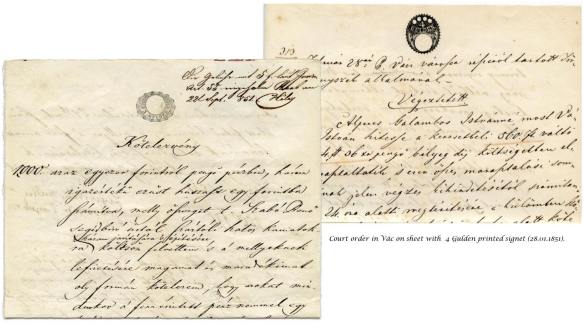
Upper side: land lease contracts in Temesvár. Stamped signets with letters WO (1852)



Testament in Raab on sheet with printed 1 Gulden signet (20.02.1852).

Gör (Raab) Receipt for 750 Forint with printed 2 Gulden signet (10.07.1852).

2. Austria - Hungary — Usage of 3 and 4 Gulden printed signets — Signets in Hungary



Court order in Vác on sheet with 4 Gulden printed signet (28.01.1851).

(Gör (Raab) Promissory note for 1,000 Gulden in Raab on sheet with 3 Gulden printed signet 21.09. 1851).

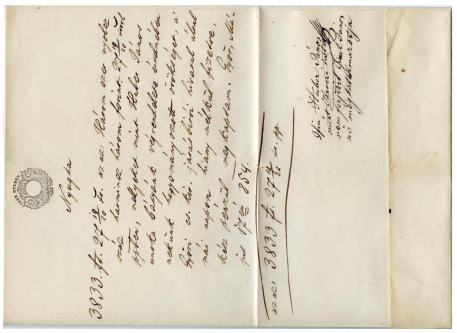
2. Austria - Hungary — Usage of 5 Gulden stamped and printed signets — Signets in Hungary



Receipt for 2,000 Gulden in Raab on a sheet with printed 5 Gulden signet. (24.06. 1855)

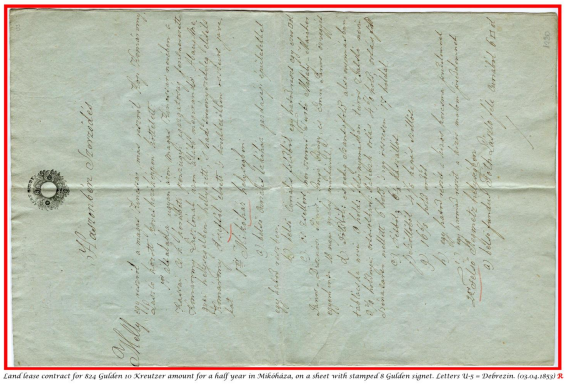
Lease contract in Pesth. To a sheet with 15 Kreutzer printed signet were added 5 Gulden stamped signet. Letters U-J of tax office Pesth on the stamped signet. (10.04.1854)

2. Austria - Hungary — Usage of 10 Gulden printed signets — Signets in Hungary



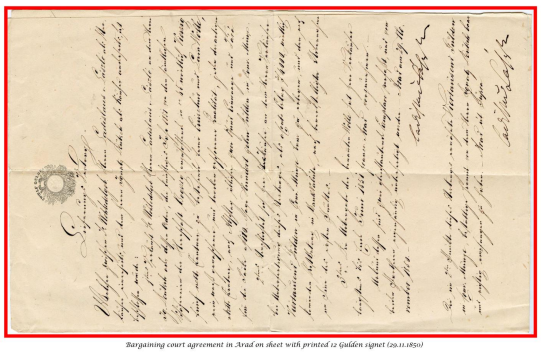
Receipt for 3,833 Gulden and 28 Kreutzer in Gyõr (means Raab, but in Hungarian language), on a sheet with 10 Gulden printed signet. (17.05.1854)

2. Austria - Hungary — Usage of 8 Gulden stamped signet — Signets in Hungary



Land lease contract for 824 Gulden 10 Kreutzer amount for a half year in Mikováza, on a sheet with stamped 8 Gulden signet. Letters U-5 = Debrezin. (03.04.1853) R

2. Austria - Hungary — First month usage in Hungary on one of the rarest printed signet of the set — Signets in Hungary



Bargaining court agreement in Arad on sheet with printed 12 Gulden signet (29.11.1850)