

JOSS & LOWENSTEIN PERFIN

ON EGYPTIAN POSTAL STATIONERY CARD

Vahe Varjabedian

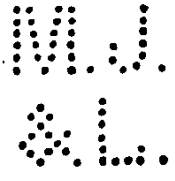
It is most unusual, and perhaps for the first time, that we see a perfin on an Egyptian Postal Stationery Card. This rare item is on 5 Mills Postal Stationery Card belonging to the famous textile agent Joss & Lowenstein (formerly Prague-Bubna) who was at that time working in Ismailia to promote new business. They were active in several towns in Egypt and continuous correspondence was forwarded to Prague (Austria at that time). It would seem that the company bought some Egyptian P.S. Cards in advance and before giving them to their agent, they were perfined so as not to be used privately.

The card is sent from Ismailia on the 21-12-1889 to Prague with arrival CDS of 31-12-1889.

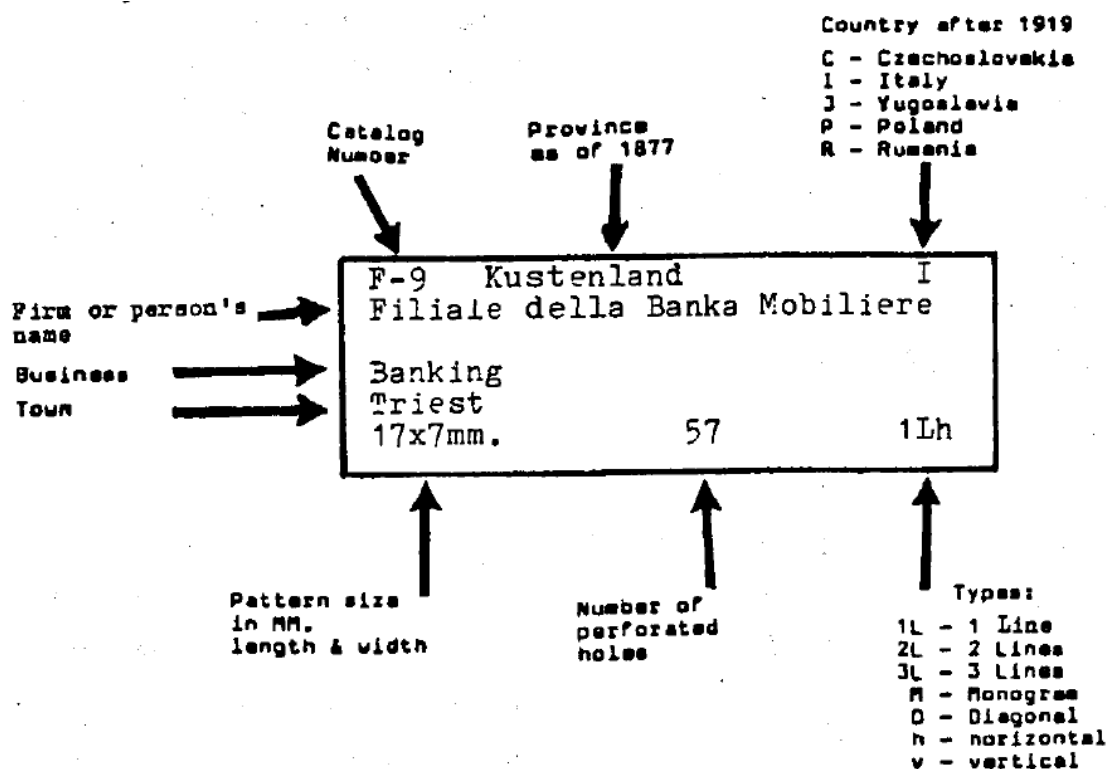


Ed:- After receiving the article from Vahe I made enquiries from our librarian. Alastair Walter, about a possible identical perfin in the Austrian Perfin Catalogue.

In the library is a copy of Austria Perfins by John J Nussbickel (Perfins Club 1991). The following is the copy of the relevant entry for Joss & Lowenstein. Unfortunately the catalogue does not give the dates of use.

	M-81 Böhmen M. Joss & Löwenstein Inderwear Prag 14x15.5mm. 59 2Lh	C
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The following shows the Legend for each entry in the catalogue.



So it is seen that the perfin was used in Prague which at that time was in the province of Bohemia. The firm dealt in underwear and so Vahe's assumption about how the Egyptian P.S. Cards came to be perfined with an Austrian perfin die is quite possible.