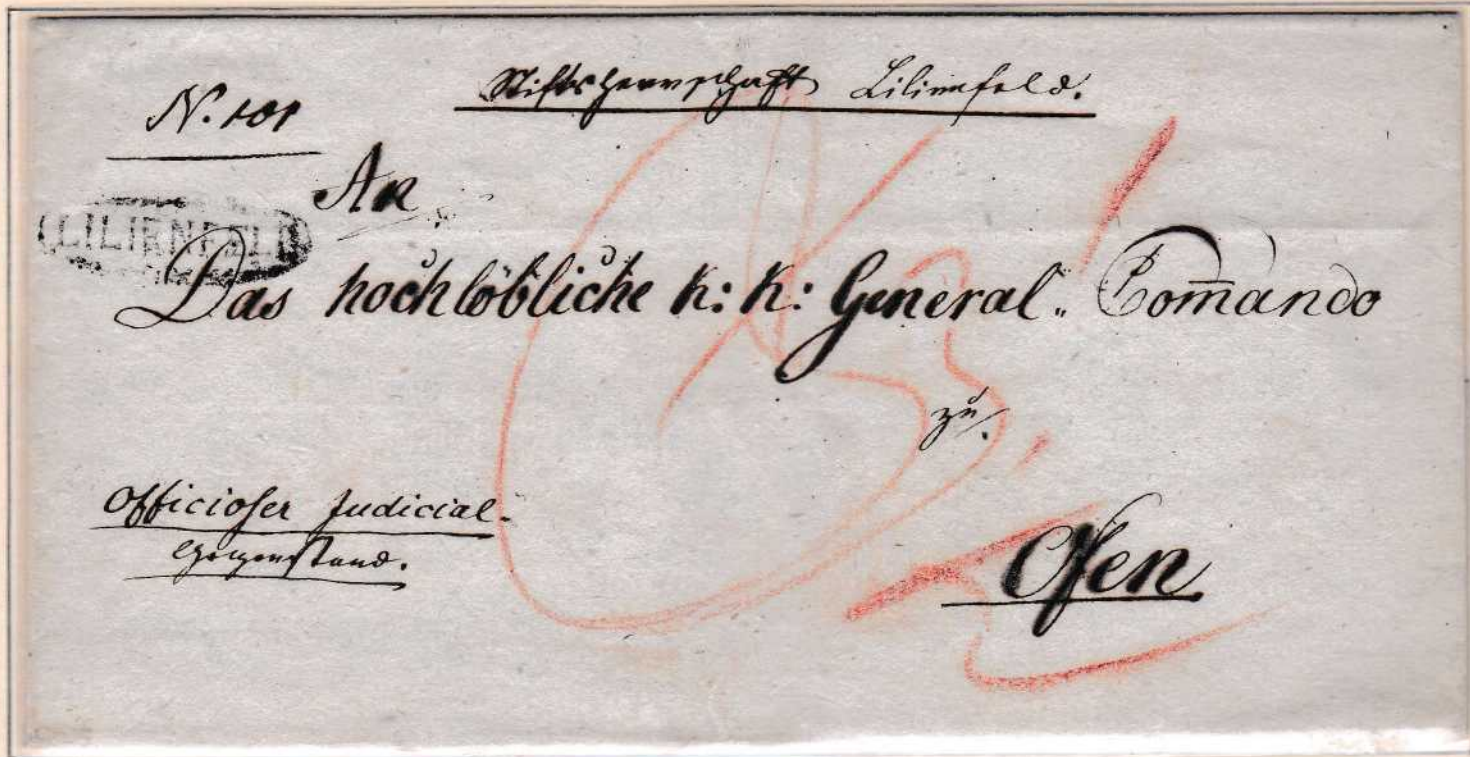


ALPINE SKIING - ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR WINTER SPORTS

What does the alpine skiing mean for people today? A healthy passion? A spectacular sport requiring hard struggling?
Spectacular events in the mid of wonderful mountains? An expensive but very rewarding sport?
Yes, all this can be said about this marvellous sport.

This exhibit presents a brief history of alpine skiing, from its beginnings, its development, the related equipment, its connections and competitions. When in 1896 Mathias Zdarsky ran his first downhill on a slope in Lilienfeld with his own ski-technique and self-developed equipment, he did not even imagine that he has just added a new chapter in the four thousand years old skiing adventure, called **alpine skiing**.



At the time this letter was sent, one could not know yet that Lilienfeld, Lower Austria, will be known as the cradle of alpine skiing Ex offio judicial letter with the linear „LILIENFELD” postmark in oval frame (1838)



Italian military alpine ski section in the early 1900s

ALPINE SKIING – ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR WINTER SPORTS

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4.4.3. Modern racing with advanced technical background (1980-)	
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EPILOGUE	Total 112

Notes: 1. Rare documents are marked R

2. Special literatures used:

thematic: - ICR International Ski Competition Rules; Rules of F.I.S.

- Alpine Skiing Sport Rules

- Alpine Documents – International Ski Federation

philatelic: - Sieger: Zeppelinpost Spezial Katalog

PROLOGUE—Thoughts about snow

Alpine skiing is a sport that requires a natural kind of precipitation, **snow**, that covers hills and mountains.

This happens only in winter, so alpine ski lovers crave for it, reflecting poem:

„...soon the mighty winter will prevail,
Snow is already on the mountain senn?”

excerpt from the Petőfi-poem:

„At the End of September”

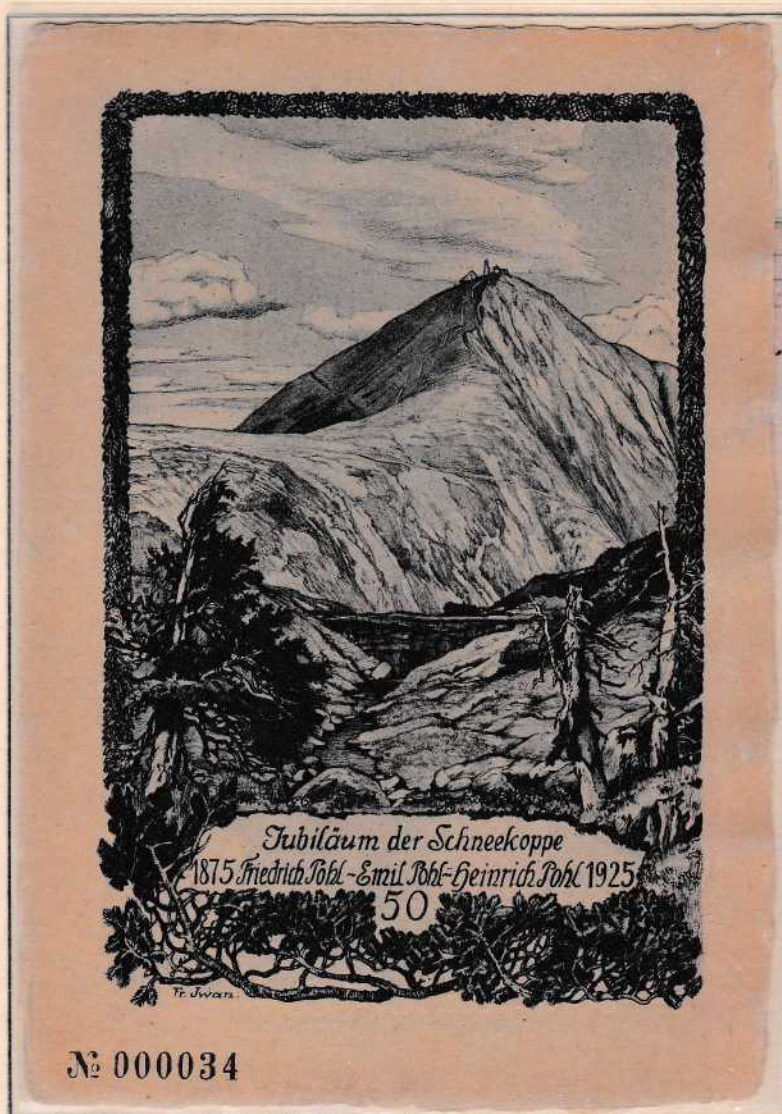


Sándor Petőfi, Hungarian poet
Decentralized pieces



A town got its name from the snow
in the state of Kentucky in the U.S.A.

It is often the case that mountains covered with a lot of snow are also named after the snow.



The **Schneekoppe** got its name from the
huge quantity of snow that falls there



Postal stationery card, 1926

The 1602 meter high Schneekoppe
is a mountain on the border
Czech Republic and Poland



Picture of a snow crystal. Let's make
friends with it because it will play
an important role in the following!

1. HEROIC AGES OF SKIING AND THE BIRTH OF ALPINE SKIING

1.1. When, why and where was skiing invented?

According to archeological research, cave drawings found in Norway, skiing is estimated several thousand years old. It was used for fast transport, hunting, and in some cases, in warfare. **Norway** is the original homeland of skiing. Finally, skiing has evolved into a great cross-border sport.



A skier's portrait on a 4000 year old Norwegian cave drawing



Skiing soldiers, the „Muscovites” from the 16th century were painted by Russian artist S.W.Ivanov (1864-1910)



In the late 1900s, when only Norwegian skis were used on flat terrain and slopes, they also tried to jump. The length of the jumps was around 25 m.



Two skiing warriors of the 1206 Norwegian civil war, fighting to seize the throne *on the special cancellation*

Formerly the skiing technique originating from **Telemark**, Norway, was applied on the slopes, but because of the long skis, it proved to be tiring.



The so-called Telemark technique helped to learn to turn on skis



A **child skiing downhill** on a 1846 painting of the Norwegian painter A.Tidemand (Oslo, National Gallery)

Boolet of ten stamps

1.2. The story of the first ski-postman

The legendary John Thompson, nicknamed **Snowshoe** Thompson, was the ski pioneer of USA. At the age of 10, he came to California with his family from Norway. He was the first semi-official postman who crossed Sierra Nevada with his long skis in winter. From 1856 he worked on various roads in snowy seasons for more than twenty years around California and in the western part of Nevada. About his person in the „Death Valley Days” movie series S2E13 episode also authentically commemorates.



Back side of this cover
in 80% copy-detail

Snow Shoe is a little town in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. The origin of the name refers to snowshoes often used by the population during the winter, snowy period. *This cover was sent from Snow Shoe to London in 1883.*



Snowshoe Thompson can be seen in the picture with his huge backpack of at least 20 kgs, Norwegian skis and ski pole in his hand



The picture shows Carson Valley, **Genoa** settlement where John Thompson worked for decades. The tomb of Thompson can be seen in the cemetery of Genoa town which was the first settlement in Nevada



Probably one part of the San Francisco-Wheatland route was passable by ski only in early March (1873 date is from the letter). 1873 was still an active year for Thompson. Although he did not accept money for deliveries, he marked the items as a ski postman.

R There is a private-but semi-official-ski-post mark on the cover, max 20 similar exist

1.3. The first significant ski club and expedition

In 1877, Fridtjof **Nansen**, the Nobel-prized zoologist and explorer was one of the founders of the world's first ski club, **Christiania**, in Norway. It was named after the old name of the capital Oslo.



Postal stationery card sent from Christiania to Copenhagen, 1889



In 1888 Nansen and his team made a month and a half exploratory-scientific crossing of the lower third of Greenland **by ski**, winning international fame by this.



As shown in the picture, Nansen and his team used very **simple kind of clothing, appliances and ski technique**

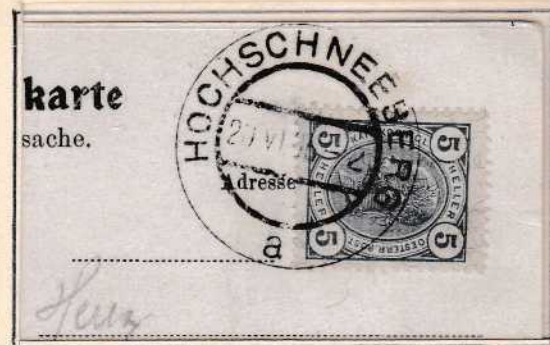
1.4. The pioneer of alpine skiing

Before talking about the protagonist of our story, we must mention the creator of German alpine and military mountaineering skiing. It is about Wilhelm Paulcke, who was the founder of several Central European ski associations and the author of „Der Skilauf“ published in 1899.



The father of the „first modern“ alpine ski technique was **Mathias Zdarsky** from Lilienfeld, after many experiments, came to the idea of shortening the "Norwegian" skis, and providing it with novel, partly well fixable bindings. With the equipment created in this way, he learned to ski well on the slopes of Muckenkogel, a mountain near his home. Later he also taught his disciples to ski well on steep slopes.

The new "Lilienfeld"- technique triumphed on the steepest slopes of Schneeberg, on a **HIGH SNOW HILL**, in 1905. This was the first competition to prove the superiority of the new skiing technique.



1.5. An earlier organized form of ski education

In the 1910s, Mathias Zdarsky and his trainees taught the basics of skiing to thousands selected soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian Army, on the requests of the Ministry of Defences. After the beginning of World War I, gained even more importance, especially in the mountain troops, serving at the borders.

The greatest centre of military ski education in the years of WW1 was in Zillertal, Tyrol, Austria. Soldiers were in excellent high mountain condition where they were placed in groups in a huge building called **Berlinerhütte**.



Berlinerhütte, built in 1879, at the height of 2042 metres, was the home of organized ski education for the soldiers from the Monarchy
Censored field postcard with field post office headquarters cancellation (1915)

1.5. An earlier organized form of ski education

After completing the Berlinerhütte courses, the best performing soldiers were sent by the military headquarters for additional special ski courses. Their centers were the Fieberbrunn in Tyrol and the Kitzsteinhorn glacier in High Tauern.



The high-level technical knowledge of alpine skiing was acquired by the soldiers on the northern slope of Wildseeloder, belonging to **Fieberbrunn**
Field postcard, is censored by the local command (1915)

The other site was the constantly snowy trough of the Kitzsteinhorn glacier rising above the town of Kaprun where the Imperial Hunter, Hauptmann Viktor Machek led the training of special skiing for military purposes on the dangerous glacier with icy gaps.



Kitzsteinhorn, 3203 m, glacier, near Kaprun

From the autumn of 1915 to the spring of 1916, a glacier ski corps was formed under **Hauptmann Machek's** command to protect Austria's highest mountain borders in the WW1
Field postcard, 1916

1.5. An earlier organized form of ski education

As can be seen from the above, the technique and equipment of alpine skiing developed enormously during the WW1, thanks to the experience gained during large-scale military training.



After the selected soldiers were physically fit, they also learned to ski, famous teams have been created, the **ski companies** of Monarchy. *Field post cover with full content letter (1915)*

A repeated tribute and recognition to the Father of Alpine Skiing, Mathias Zdarsky, because these results would not have been possible without his knowledge and experiences.



From Zdarsky's „one-pole Lilienfeld” ski technique, today's ski technique was developed in several stages.

Later on, his main aim became elaboration of racing, training and coaching methods
Overpaid philatelic cover

1.6. Initial development of skiing from central support

Support of modern physical education, essential for successful competitive sport, was helped by central efforts.

The 1925 sport set issued by Hungarian Post also had this purpose, their price doubling the nominal value. The 100% extra charge favored the development of the sport depicted.

Skiing was one of the supported sports, represented by a downhill skier using Telemark technique.

(This is the first ski stamp of the world)



100% extra charge



Decentralized piece

This is a representative of the final 200 K stamp design which is an Indian ink sketch by Ferenc Helbing (1925) ©



2. EQUIPMENTS OF ALPINE SKIING
2.1. Alpine skis and bindings as basic devices

Until 20s were used shortened and very bended **wooden Norwegian skis**
R Wrapper with private advertisement (Vienna, 1907)



Hochwohlgeboren



Herrn *Herrn J^{hr} mrd. L. Pilliny*

Frau

Fräulein

Dresden

Blauenitzstr. 26

Sachsen

Aus „Der Skilaut“ von Dr. Henry Hoek & Richardson

It was a mature technology for making Norwegian skis. It had to be suitable both for driving on flat terrain and for turning and jumping on sloping terrain.

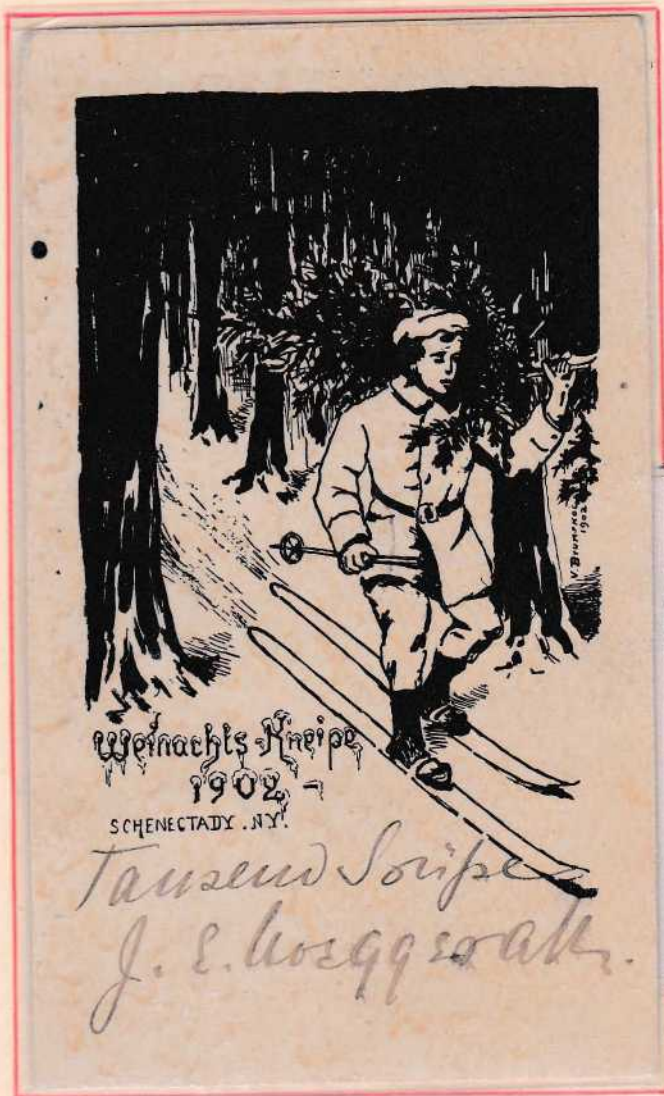
75% copy-detail of the back side



2.1. Alpine skis and bindings as basic devices

Norwegian old-time skis

Until the end of the century and in the next 25 years only the Norwegian **ski** type was used



1892. Cancellation of the **Ski** town in Viken county, Norway



The skiers used Norwegian-type of skis with **bindings**
 R Private print on a one-cent McKinley postal card
 (U.S.A.; 1902)



Before and during WW1 skiers of mountain troops were also using this type of skis
 Semi-official postal stationery card made for military purpose (Austria, 1911)

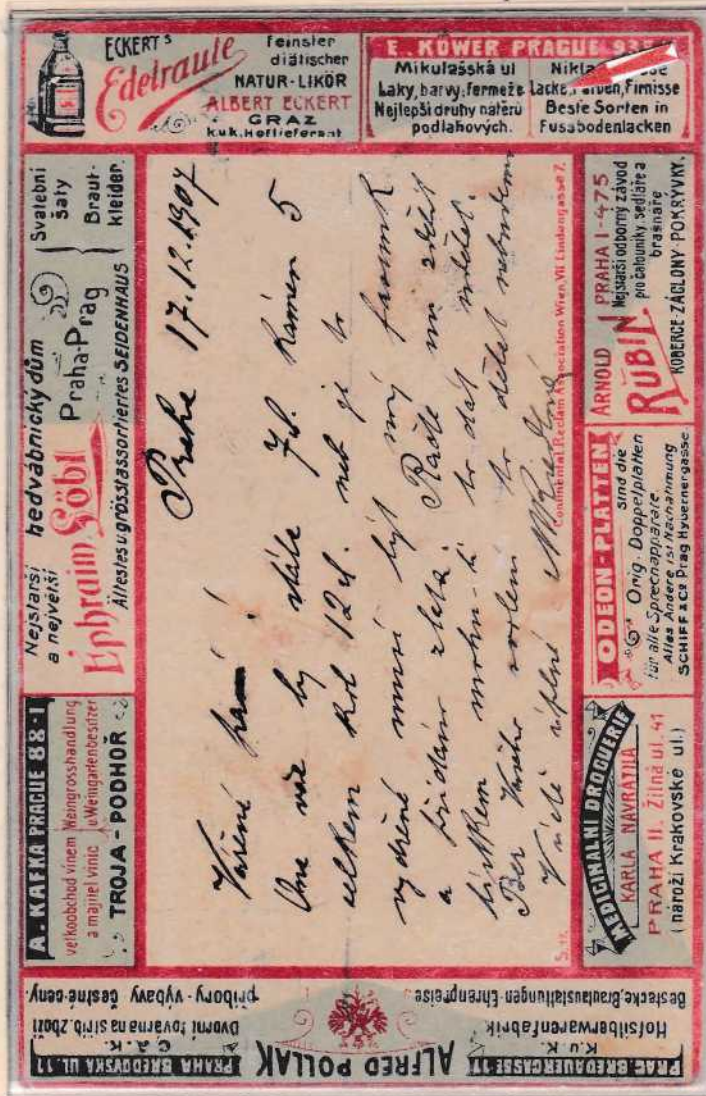
2.1. Alpine skis and bindings

Until the late 30s, **bended wooden skis** and spring bindings, fixable in various ways at the heel as well, were used



Most of the bended skis were made of **ash wood**

Early ashwood skis were coated with **good quality lacquer** because the protection from water was a necessity



R Printed-to-private-order advertising postal stationery card, Prague 1907



Multi-layered wooden skis are typical of the technology of the 50s. With them the racer could get closer to the gates

The star of the 50s and 60s were the **Kneissl** skis



2.1. Alpine skis and bindings as basic devices

Skis are improved by manufacturers almost each year.

LES TIMBRES-POSTE DES XVI^e JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER D'ALBERTVILLE ET DE LA SAVOIE

La collection
complète des timbres
français et étrangers des
Jeux Olympiques de Savoie

Réunissez dans une superbe collection tous les timbres-poste français et étrangers qui vont paraître pour commémorer les Jeux Olympiques d'Hiver de Savoie qui vont se dérouler à Albertville en 1992. Premier envoi 95 F à l'examen gratuit pendant 10 jours + un très bel album en cadeau en cours de collection. Faites vite ! Les premiers timbres sont déjà parus...



RENVOYEZ VOTRE
BON D'EXAMEN A :
CECODI PHILATÉLIE - BP 49
91942 LES ULIS CEDEX

BON D'EXAMEN GRATUIT

Veuillez m'envoyer le 1^{er} lot de timbres des Jeux Olympiques de Savoie à l'examen pendant 10 jours. Tous les timbres suivants me seront proposés à l'examen sans engagement de ma part. Arrêt des envois sur simple demande.
EN MAJUSCULES S.V.P.

Nom : _____
Prénom : _____
N° : _____ Rue : _____
Code postal : _____
Ville : _____

Membre de la Chambre Syndicale des Négociants et Experts en Philatélie.
Marseille 11.05.90

The curved shape of a downhill ski is well seen in the air during a skier jump
Official French postal service cover

Virgabelfempel

Abfender:
(Name, Wohnort, Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stadtviertel)

Hofbauer & Kopp
Skifabrik
Murnau/Obb.

Anbei.....Palet.....

Bitte in das Paket
oben auf ein Doppel
der Aufschrift zu legen!

N/1386

128 Murnau (Oberbay) **2611**

Abfender: Hofbauer & Kopp, Murnau

Besondere Bemerkte des Absenders (f. Rückseite):

Zustellung
21. Feb. 1948

An Firma **Emil Köster A.-G.**
Einkaufsbüro München

Freigebühr (M) _____
Postgewicht (kg) _____

in **H a a r b. München**
wasserburgerstr. 43

Wohnung _____
(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stadtviertel)



Old type
„Kandahar”
binding



Today's skis (with
ski-brake bindings)
taking turns very
well, are made
with small radius,
these are the
„carving” skis

The town of Murnau is close to the famous ski resort
of Garmisch-Partenkirchen.
We can see the advertisement of a ski factory operating here in 1940s.
1948. Parcel card with private advertisement

2.2. Good quality alpine ski boots are important

Old models

The design of the ski boot always followed the development of ski bindings

A hundred years ago it was possible to buy such **ski boots** in the sport department of a famous department store

R Printed-to-private-order advertising postal stationery card (Bavaria, 1919)



Copy-detail of the address side

Forbrukerens etternavn: Fornavn: Fødselsår og datum:
 Nøyte angivelse av yrke: Arbeidssted eller skole:
 Nøyaktig boligadresse:
 Der søkes om anvisning på ialt **ett** par gruppe størrelse nr.
 (Hva slag skotøy, se nedenfor)

Se først omstående side!

Beholdningsoppgave — Alle linjer må fylles ut.

Alt hva forbrukeren har av skotøy føres opp uansett når og på hvilken måte skotøyet er mottatt eller anskaffet.

A	Arbeidstøvler av lær	H	Tøfler, alle slag	Annent skotøy (også urasjonert) hva slag?
A	Skistøvler, alle slag	I	Kalosjer, (lave)	L Husstandens beholdning av materialer til skotøy
	Turstøvler og lignende	J	Snøsokker, russerstøvler av gummi	Utslitt gummi-fottøy som ikke kan repareres (hva slag?)
B	Arbeidsfottøy av gummi		Slagstøvler av gummi (damer og barn)	Annent utslitt skotøy som ikke kan repareres (hva slag?)
	Sportsfottøy av gummi	K	Idrettsskotøy (Hva slag?)	Skotøy (og gummi-fottøy) som ikke kan nyttes av forbrukeren (hva slag?)
C	Grove arbeidssko (lave) av lær	M	Trebunn skaftestøvler	Hvis en annen i husstanden kan nytte dette skotøy, oppgi dennes navn og alder
	Sportssko (lave) av lær		(fottlær el. gum. overd.)	Skotøy som forbrukeren har lånt (av hvem?)
D	Skinnsko (av bokskålv, sjevra o. l.)	N	Trebunn snørestøvler	Skotøy som forbrukeren har lånt bort (til hvem?)
	Skinnstøvler (av bokskålv, sjevra o. l.)	O	Ortopedisk skotøy sydd etter mål	
E	Selskapssko, hva slag (beskrivelse)	P	Trebunnsko (fottlær el. gum. overd.)	
	Utpregede sommersko m. lærsåle	R	Trebunntøfler (lær el. skinn overd.)	
F	Sandaler og sandaletter		Skinnsko kjøpt med trehalvsåle	
	Sommersko av stoff m. gummisåle	S	Trebunnskinnstøvler	
G	Turnsko, tennissko og lignende		Trebunnsandaler og -sandaletter	

Jeg erklærer at **alt** hva forbrukeren har av skotøy er ført opp på skjemaet i samsvar med reglene på omstående side. Jeg kjenner til at det er straffbart å gi uriktige eller ufullstendige oppgaver. Jeg er villig til å la kontrollører som viser fram legitimasjon fra rasjoneringsmyndighetene, nå og senere undersøke hva jeg (forbrukeren) har av skotøy.

Fylles ut av Forsyningsnemnda: **Anvisning** sendt / 194 **Avslag** Dato / 194
 Signatur Søkerens underskrift.

During and after WW II, the available products were in shortage. But there were helping opportunities. For example, if you were interested in a pair of ski boots, you had to fill out this form.

R Printed-to-private-order advertising postal stationery card from Norway, 1943

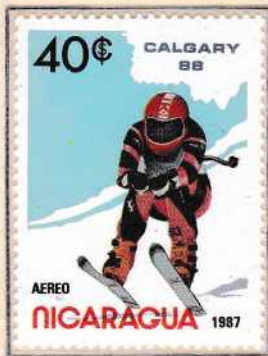
2.2. Good quality alpine ski boots are important

More modern and latest models



Until the 60s, only short-stemmed, leather ski boots with strings were used

Modern, mostly three- and four-clipped, plastic ski boots became general from the 80s in both racing and mass sport. Geometrical shaping of bottom parts, fitting to bindings, were standardized.



Racer with modern ski boots



The cable binding boots used by this skier, as seen from the top, represented other, less popular method in the 80s.



The special cancellation shows a three-clip plastic ski boot

2.3. The role of ski poles



Ski poles are important appliances in alpine skiing.

The ski poles serve several purposes for the alpine skier.

Specific meaning of the place name

Cover sent from **Sibot**, (Sibot = ski pole in Hungarian) Fehér county, today Romania with a stamp issued by the Hungarian Post in the early weeks of its independence - 19 June 1867

The four tasks of the alpine ski poles are:



Taking rhythm for turning



Taking impulse at start



Fast **elimination** of the layable gates as **barriers** at slalom special



Balancing at extremely high speeds

2.3. The role of ski poles

What kind of ski poles did alpine skiers use in the 1930s? The poles are usually made of bamboo, the handle is made of leather, the snow plate is made of bamboo + leather strap. Its characteristic feature is the relatively large diameter snow plate, because at that time they often skied in deep snow, the tracks were not yet hardened and smoothed. This type of ski pole construction is widespread and has been used in North America, the Scandinavian and the Alpine countries.



Alpine skier holding contemporary ski poles while jumps on the ski track
Olympic F.D.C. sent by air mail post from Lake Placid, U.S.A. to Ontario, Canada, with 4 x 2 C air mail franked (1932)



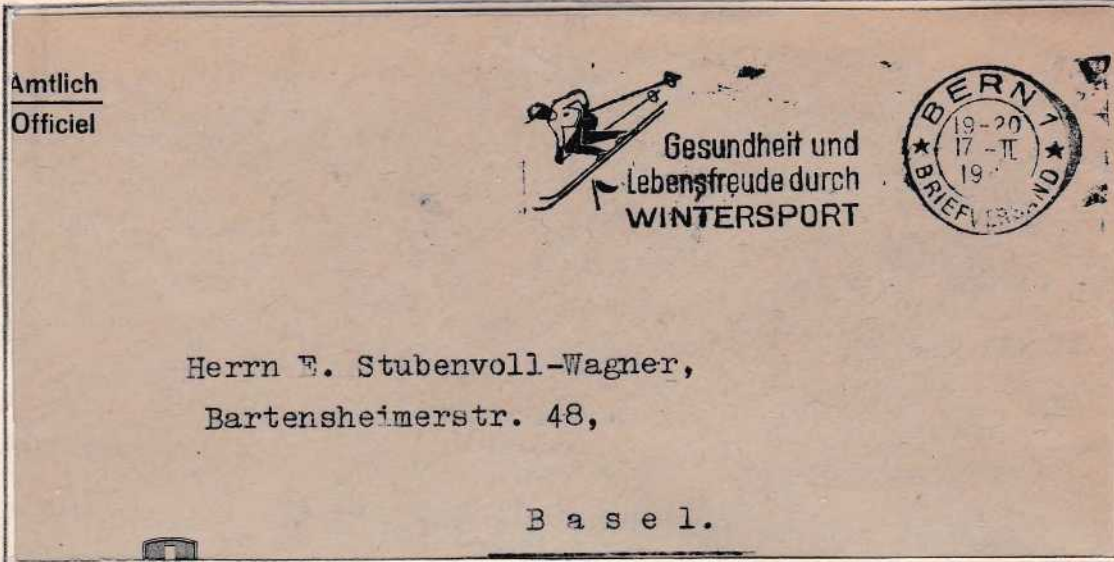
Remarkable large diameter snow plates can be seen on ski poles of the alpine skier
Domestic official first flight cover sent from Pickle Crow-Collins to Stratford, Ontario, Canada with franked 6 C (1935)

2.3. The role of ski poles

Design and development of ski poles



Until the twenties, a wooden ski pole was used, which was replaced by **bamboo** ski poles in 1930s



Thinner ski poles, made of metal, especially **steel**, were used already before the 70s. *Official cover-detail in the 40s*



This American free-time skier is also using thin ski poles. *Second fold of an aerogramme from U.S.A.*



These days the slalom skiers are using **straight** poles, made of **aluminium alloy**



In order to minimize air resistance, the downhill skier is using **curved** poles with small discs nowadays

2.4. Clothing and safety equipment

...about ski suits and the fashion

Ski clothing is still a mix of practicality and fashion



A Canadian skier in light **ski suit** gets a momentum with his ski pole on a bright winter day
Old T.C.V (precursor of CM) card from Canada, 1907

Look! A Highly Specialized Line

SKI SUITS

... made of 24 ounce wool snowcloth ...



SIZES 12 to 18
 at one master price

\$4.50 2 pc.
 suit

Designed to meet the special requirements of this season. Eight beautiful (you can believeus) styles, at one dominating price.

STYLE 1405, sketched, is a smart looking suit. The Jacket is lined and is an effective combination of plain colored snowcloth and bright colored striped wool. Ski pants are well tailored and full cut.

Colors: brown, navy, wine, green.

Price: \$4.50, 2 pc. suit

Terms: 8/10 E. O. M.

WESTERN NOVELTIES, Inc.
 1350 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY
 Room 1612 — Phone: CHickering 4-0370



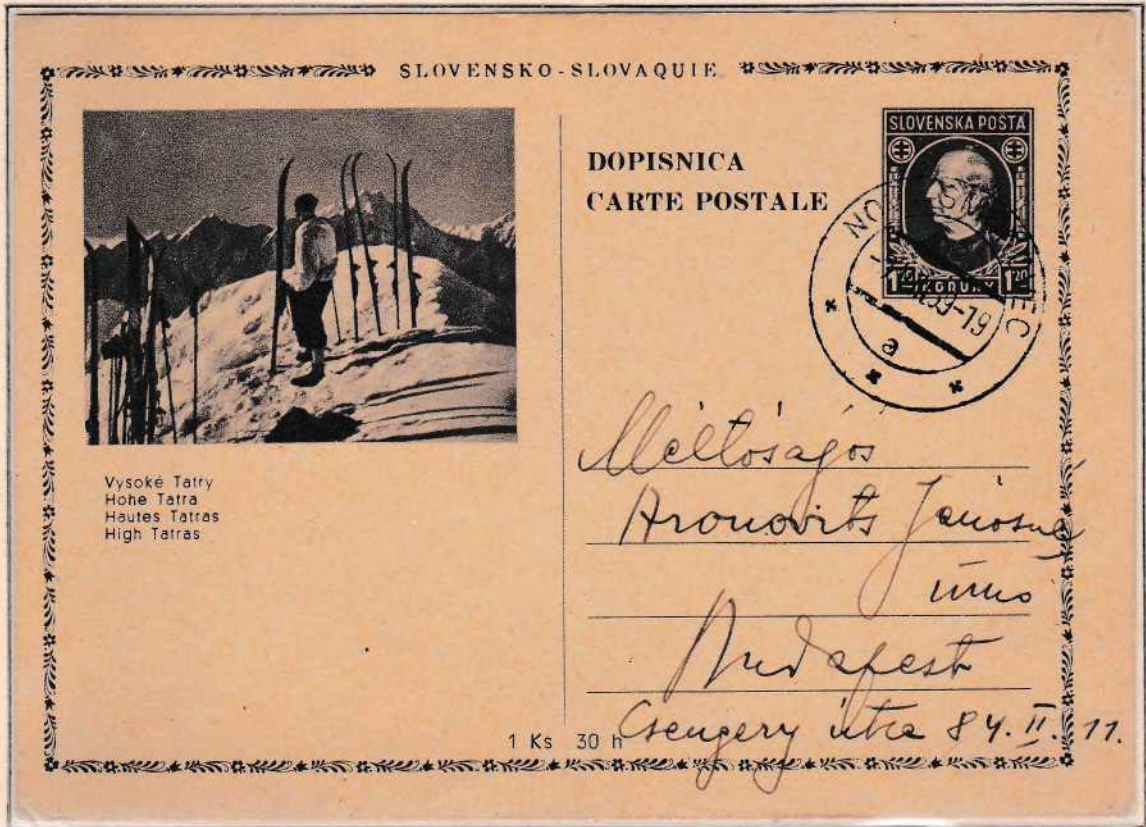
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

1350 Broadway,
 5th Floor,
 New York, N.Y.

This women's **ski clothes** of the thirties is more about fashion than sports. In four different colors, eight women's ski suit can be purchased at one of Broadway's stores
R Printed-to-private-order advertising postal stationery card from U.S.A. (1937)

Fashionable women's **ski suit** from the 40s





There is not too much difference in the **clothing** of the recreational (above) and the competitor skiers (below) in the 1930s

Sparkasse der Stadt Klosterneuburg

Herrn

H.v. Hannenheim,

Bankbeamter

Sibiu - Hermannstadt,

Paulwienerg. 8

Rumänien

Einschreiben



Registered official cover sent to Sibiu, Romania, from Klosterneuburg, Austria, franked 1S 10 Gr

2.4. Clothing and safety equipments

...about development of ski suits

Between 1930 and 1950, the clothing of alpine skiers is simple and easy to describe. Both female and male skiers wore thick **woolen pullovers**, tight **breeches**, tight woolen socks, a woven cap, sometimes with an ear-flap, and leather gloves.

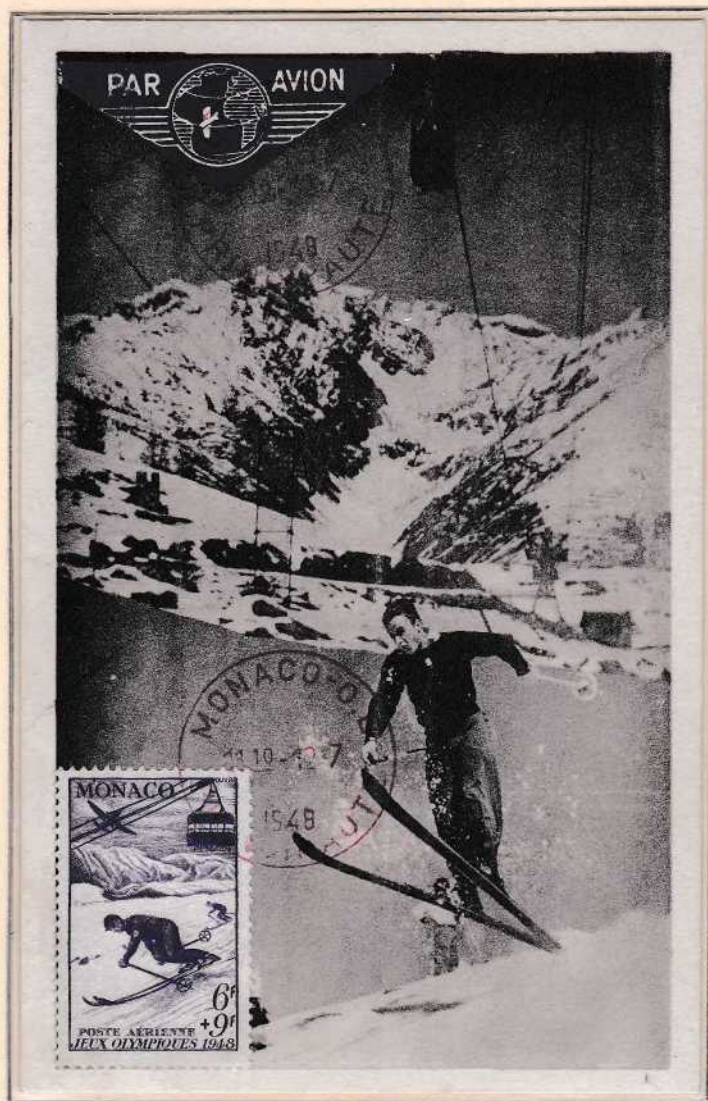


Female and male skiers
in breech-type of trousers



Men's ski
clothing at
the time of
the 1948
Winter
Olympics

Monaco CM
from 1948



Even in the 1950s Tatra Cup, the racers used breeches



In the seventies
and eighties the
jet pants was fashion



Today's racing ski clothing

2.4. Clothing and safety equipments

Ski helmets, glasses, gloves, protectors

The speed of skiing increased over time, and the means of defense also improved in proportion to this. Special devices were manufactured to protect the head, eyes, hands and feet. Of these, of course, head protection is the most important.



As soon as the skis have been accelerated and skiing technique has developed, the use of **helmets** to avoid accidents has become necessary. Registered cover, sent within the GDR, mixed mailing (GDR and Deutsche Post stamps). Sent from Kamenz. The addressee moved, so sending it to a new address to Fürstentwalde. The additional fee was paid by the new addressee (1950)



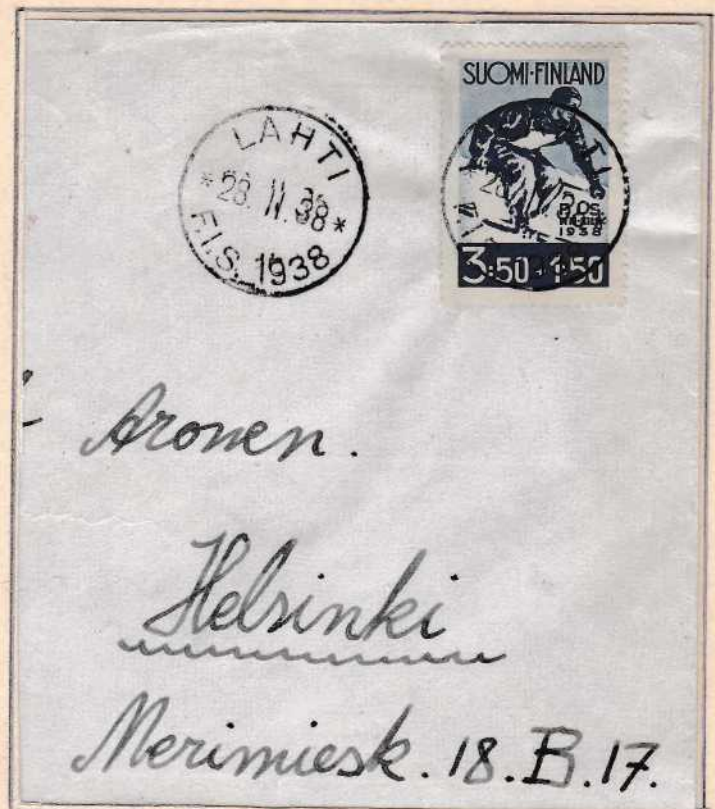
The slalom skier is using **hand** and **leg protectors** to hit the gates



Today, good quality **brake-off helmets** and **gloves** are essential. Vapor-free **ski glasses** are used by both professionals and amateurs



A ski downhill racer in the general clothing of the 30s, with **ear-flaps**. Special F.I.S. cancellation



2.5. Ski lifts to reach the ski tracks

Ski lift is a mechanism for transporting skiers up a hill or a mountain peak. Ski lifts are typically a paid service at ski resorts. We know many types of ski lifts.



The supporting pillars of the T-bar lift are clearly visible in the enlarged detail

There are two well-known ski lifts in the picture, an **aerial cable car** and a **T-bar** lift. (At the latter the support poles are difficult to see due to the distance). The earliest, mainly in the 1930s, were the aerial cable car lifts with cabins for transporting 20-40 people, which were also used by skiers in the winter. *Tatra Cup* ski race cancellation on the domestic PS card.



Trial colour proof



Two cabins are towed along the driven ropeway at the same time, one going up and the other going down. *R Colour proof with 1420 as colour number. A total of 3 pieces could be offered for sale*

2.5. Ski lifts to reach the ski tracks



The pictured aerial cable car starts near Ehrwald and heads towards the Zugspitze. This is the „Tiroler Zugspitzbahn”
 This cover sent by airmail supplemented with airport departure and arrival cancellations

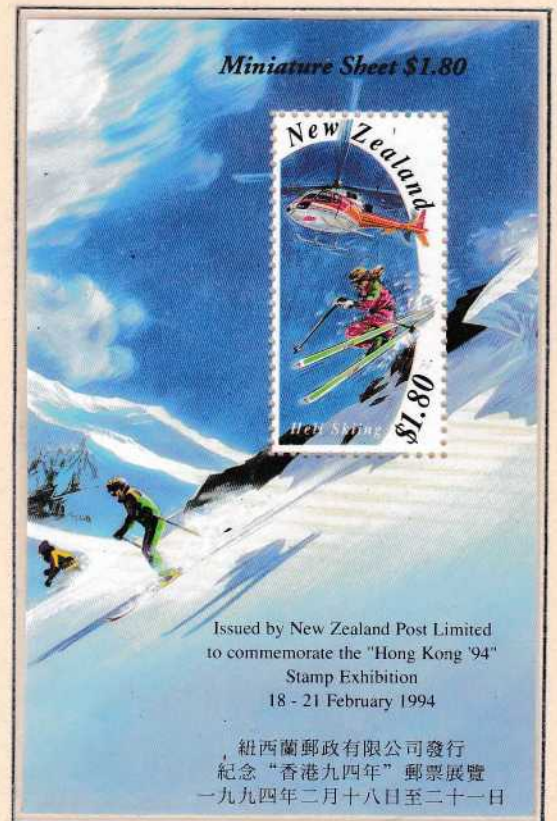
The most widespread type of ski lifts is the **chairlift**. It is used for touristic purposes and not only in winter.



The **gondola** lift usually carries 6-8 people. Several gondolas operate simultaneously up and down



Is it possible to slide upwards? Yes, the **disk bar** is suitable for this



Where the cable has no more role. It is usually used by wealthy skiers who ski down from inaccessible peaks and ridges. Attention, **heliskiing** is not cheap!

2.5. Ski lifts to reach the ski tracks

Train in the role of ski lift

If you want to reach a ski resort **by train** in ski clothes, ski boots and with ski equipment, there are no obstacles in Switzerland.



This skier is now boarding a Swiss **train** with its full equipment. His goal is to reach a ski resort. Postal stationery card sent from Bern, Switzerland, to Komárom, Hungary with franking added up to 25 Rp. (1948)



Here is another option. This **cogwheel railway** takes you to one of the famous ski resort in the Bernese Alps. You have to get off at the Kleine Scheidegg stop, then you can attach the skis, then head downhill! Postal stationery card with advertising cancellation sent from Zürich to Budapest, franking added up to 20 Rp. (1940)

2.5. Ski lifts to reach the ski tracks

Sankt Anton am Arlberg is a village and a ski resort center in the Austrian state of Tyrol. Skiing has a long history in St. Anton, the popular ski tracks with associated ski lifts built from the 1930s.



As you can read, a cable railway and more than ten ski lifts were already in operation in Sankt Anton in 1964.

Advertising postal stationery card sent from Vienna to Budapest (1964)



In the description, instead up funicular, the name gondola would have been more correct.

Advertising postal stationery card sent from Vienna to Budapest (1954)

2.5. Ski lifts to reach the ski tracks

Advertisings of ski lifts

The most popular ski lifts received different postal ads
The ads appeared on stamps, on postal stationeries and special cancellations



A personal one chairlift in Fieberbrunn near Kitzbühel (Austria, Tyrol)



Advertising of ski lift to Schmittenhöhe peak (Austria, Salzburgerland, 1937)



An interesting chairlift in Poiana-Brasov (Romania)



The Ötscher ski resort was popularized with six ski lifts on the spectacular advertising special cancellation (Lackenhof, Lower Austria, 1982)



There are very popular and great ski tracks near Zell am See.
 This ski resort had a cable railway and three other ski lifts in 1958
Express mail with additional franking

2.5. Ski lifts to reach the ski tracks



An interesting trip to the top of the ski track.

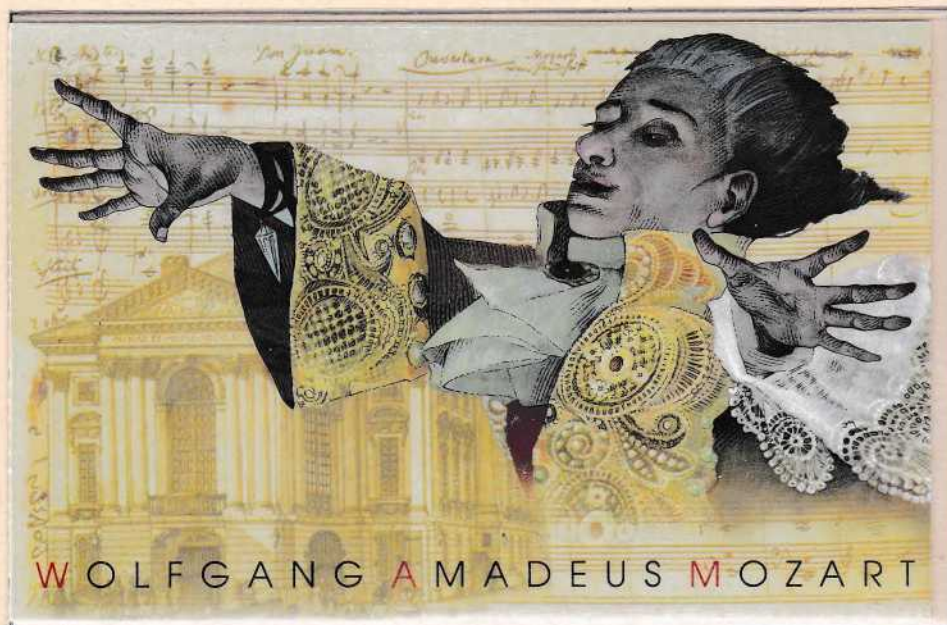
This toboggan with skiers serves as a ski lift on this Swiss ski track

The most popular ski lifts are named in Austria. For example, one of the ski lifts connecting the ski resorts of Flachau and Wagrain is called „Flying Mozart”.

This 10-person ski lift takes skiers in two stages from 917 meters to 1814 meters



Flachau-Wagrain ski lift connection on the special cancellation



The world-famous Viennese classicist musician, W. A. Mozart is almost flying on the wings of music
Booklet of six self-adhesive stamps

2.6. Marked ski tracks

The development, safeguarding and management of alpine ski tracks, their preparation for use requires expertise. Tracks accredited for racing are taken in public use after the racing, therefore the appropriate infrastructure is important.



When even skiers and sledgers could use a common track. This was in the past.
 Today: complete separation! *Booklet of ten stamps*



As early as 1908, they could only hold an alpine ski race on a designated course.
 Old T.C.V (precursor of CM) card. from Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, 1908

Innsbruck mountain wreath with famous **marked** ski tracks



Venues for the Alpine World Championships and the Winter Olympic Alpine Ski Events



Alpine olympic tracks near Grenoble



Downhill tracks

Slalom special and giant slalom tracks

Olympic tracks near Bjelasnica and Jahorina Mountains, Sarajevo

2.6. Marked ski tracks

The alpine ski tracks are numbered and colored sign.
Black is difficult, red is moderately difficult, blue is easy track marking.



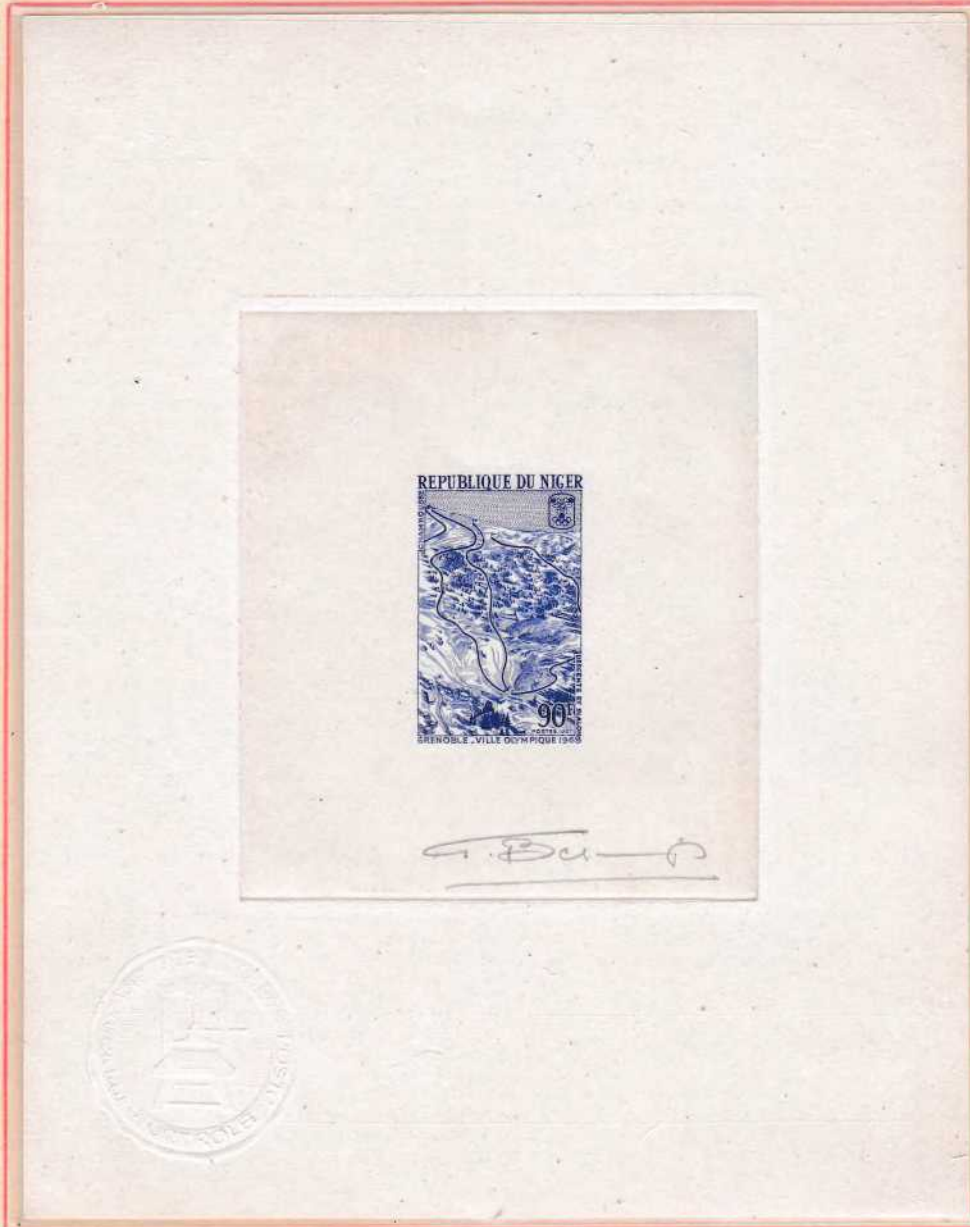
The **downhill track** of Patscherkofel, near Innsbruck, was modernized for the 12th Winter Olympics.
The 1964 and 1976 men's downhill racing was held here



Amateurs also train on the tracks **assigned for skiing**
A further 1,5 RUB additional franking on the back side of the cover

2.6. Marked ski tracks

As we can see from the above, the planning of alpine ski slopes, the selection of the ideal track, the construction and classification (marking) of the tracks were a serious, full of responsibility technical task both in the past and today.



Downhill and slalom events of the 10th Winter Olympics were held in Chamrousse, near Grenoble (1968)

R Artist's proof with embossed seal, signed by G. Bétemps, designer and engraver. A total of 9 pieces could be offered for sale



Route of the olympic alpine races



Marked alpine ski tracks generally run under the chairlifts



Ski instruction is allowed only on the marked ski tracks



The marked ski tracks are prepared daily by snow-cats



Norwegian alpine skiing has developed rapidly since the 1950s. At the time, many marked downhill tracks were built, which were maintained using modern equipment. *Spectacular francotype cancellation (1953)*

2.7. Rescue equipment and methods in the event of a ski accident

Unexpected **accidents** occur both at professional events and amateur skiing. Like any accident, these also have causes (fall, hit, natural catastrophe etc.)

We can now see a technical error that could have damaging consequences.



Incorrect landing after the terrain jump.
The skier's centre of gravity got behind



After the fall, the skier gets into the
defending net. Yes, safety first!



The mountaineer skier should always know if he is skiing dangerous terrain



Severe, tragic accidents may be caused by natural catastrophes (avalanche, glacier rift). In many cases the skiers themselves cause avalanche.

The **avalanche detector** has claimed lives many times, they should be used by mountaineer extreme skiers.

Charity stamp issue for the 1954 Vorarlberg avalanche catastrophe, affecting skiers as well

2.7. Rescue equipment and methods in the event of a ski accident



Rescuing of an injured skier. One of the ambulance men holds the ambulance sleigh using his ski edges

Training of the mountain rescue service on the ski track

W górach
zawsze
zachowaj
ostrożność

Korzystaj
z rady
i pomocy
ratowników
GOPR

kartka pocztowa
P.P.T. i T. IX. 79. 150.000



Jerzy Poszewiecki

93-001 ŁÓDŹ 58 skr. 29.



The precautionous majority of skiers begin their route with a **ski insurance**.
(Baleset biztosítás = [ski] accident insurance) R Meter cancellation, 1932



Which body parts are most likely to be injured while skiing?
Rupture of the knee ligament and injury to the hands and fingers are the most common. In more severe cases, such as head or spine injuries, helicopter rescue is now more common.

3. WHY IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR WINTER SPORTS?

3.1. Alpine skiers' favourites are the ski resorts

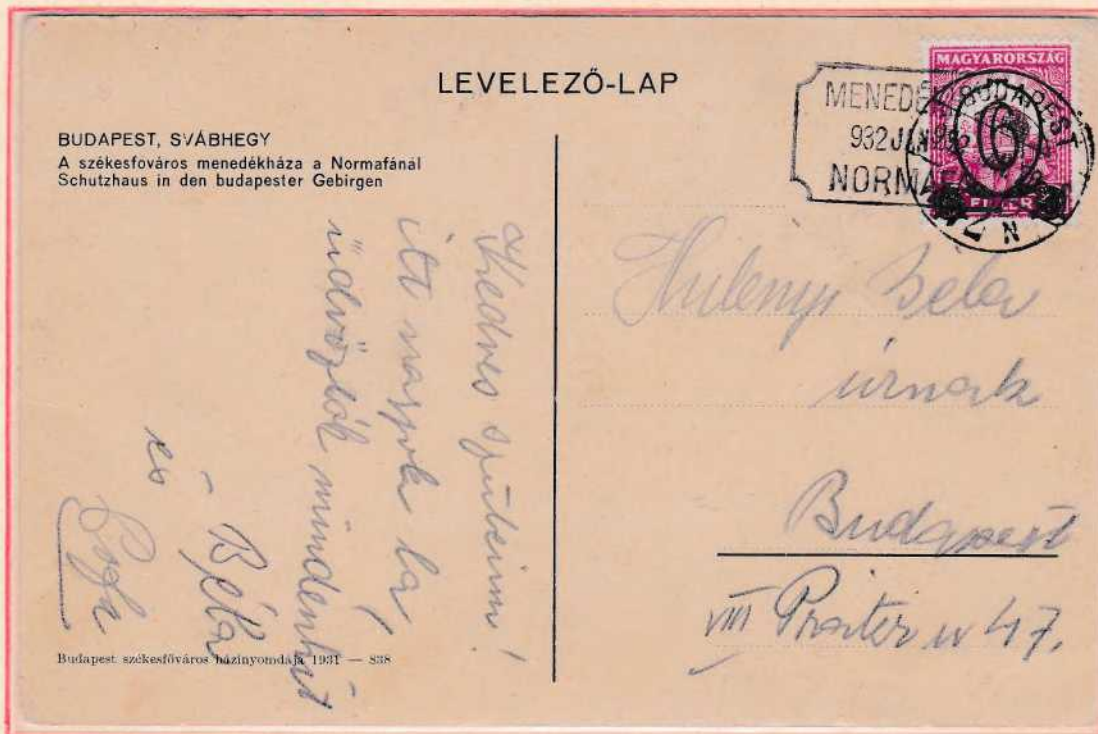
Though Norway is the original homeland of skiing, by fast spreading of alpine skiing, snowproof ski resorts with excellent tracks and infrastructure were founded one after another. The heights of the ski resorts range from low mountains to high-altitude glaciers.

3.1.1. Alpine ski resorts on lower hills



Spindelmühle, today **Špindlerův Mlýn**, with 20 tracks is a frequented ski resorts in the Krkonoše mountains in Czech Republic *Specimen postal stationery card*

From the 20s, the Hungarian skiers founded some ski resorts. One of them was near the capital at **Normafa**



After its completion, Normafa Menedékház got the name „Normafa Ski House”, where ski deposit, lending service, resting place and tea house awaited the skiers.

R An advertising stamping used only in January 1932 by the on-site post office at the new Ski House

3.1.1. Alpine ski resort on the lower hills

The lower tracks are also very popular, especially for families, ski schools and mass sport activists.



Titisee ski resort is located in the High Black Forest, Germany, Baden-Württemberg. 1060 m high with 2,5 km long ski tracks and three ski lifts. Small, but still popular place among skiers

Schierke ski resort is located in Harz Mountain, Germany, in the territory of the former GDR. 870 m high with 12 km ski tracks and seven ski lifts. Very popular among beginners.

Postal stationery card with special cancellation sent from Berlin to Hamburg (1950)



Flumserberge is the popular ski resort in the Canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland. Constantly developing ski resort, the advantage is that it is close to Zurich and you can ski on lighted tracks every Friday during the winter season. Franking added up to 20 Rp postal stationery card sent from Bern to Dresden (1935)

3.1.1. Alpine ski resorts on lower hills



Close to the Austrian capital, the **Semmering** winter sport center began to be built in the late 19th century. Today, the slopes of the 1360-meter-high Hirschenkogel offer great skiing not only during the day but also at night due to the track lighting.

Earlier, a winter sport center was built near Sankt Johann im Pongau in Austria. Today, the ski lifts depart from Alpendorf near Liechtensteinklamm. *Closed postal stationery card with advertising cancellation (1932)*



In Austria, Salzburg state, the slopes near **Krimml** were discovered early by skiers. *Domestic pictured cover with advertising cancellation sent from Krimml to Vienna, Austria, franked 24 Gr (1934)*

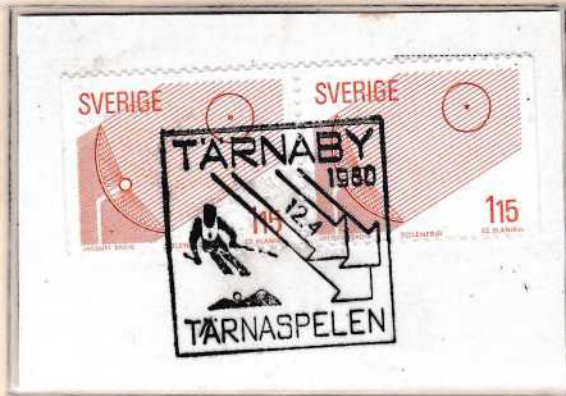
3.1.1. Alpine ski resorts on lower hills



The old ski resorts, **St. Johann in Tirol** is located in the Kitzbühel Alps. The Harschbichl is the highest and starting point for many of the slopes.



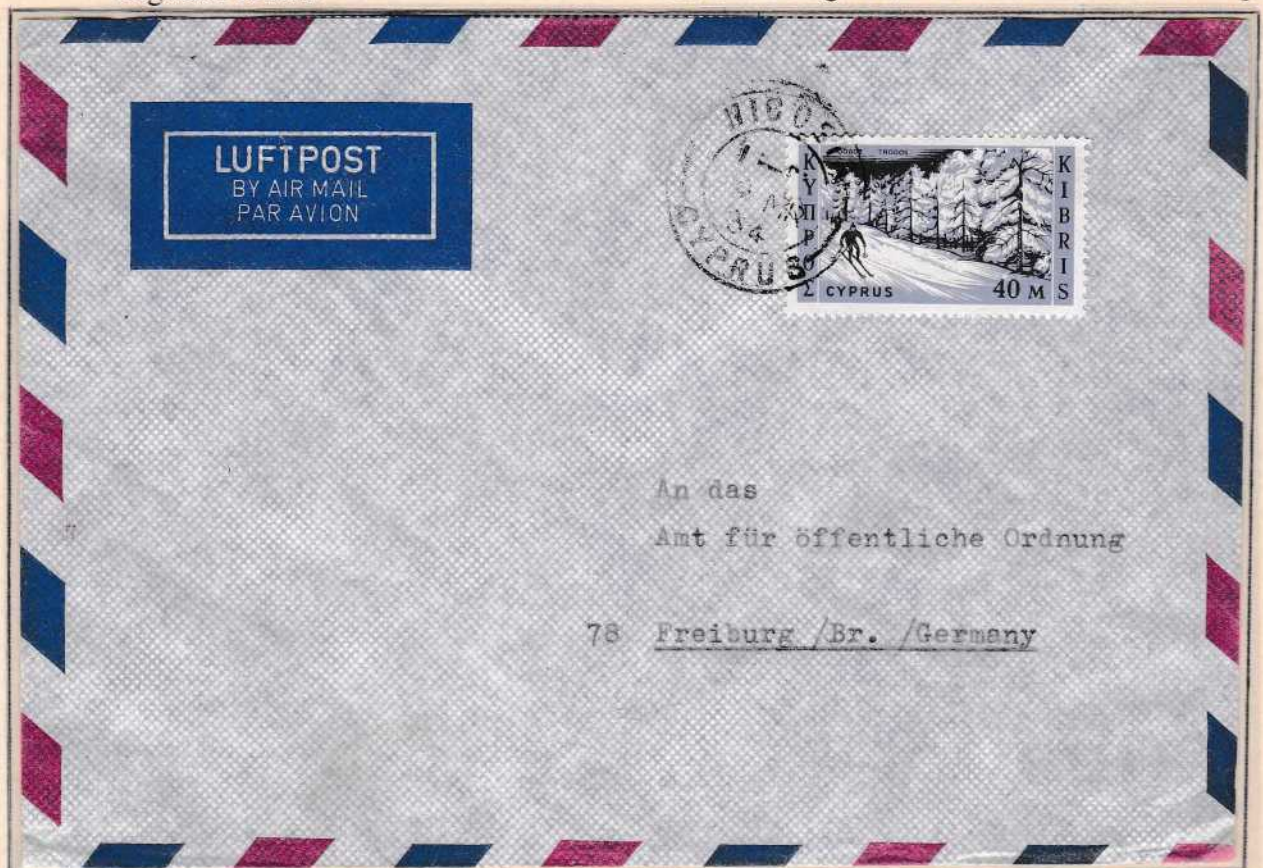
The ski resort near the town of **Kufstein** can be reached from the Kaisertal.
Field postcard with skisport special cancellation (1940)



The Swedish ski resort of **Tärnaby** is at an altitude of 540 m. It has 17 marked tracks and 5 ski lifts. Recommended for intermediate and beginner skiers.



Less well known, there is the existence of a lower but popular ski resort in Scotland near the town of **Pitlochry**. The 841 m high Ben Vrackie has some ski slopes.



At the top of the Troodos Mountains one can also find the only ski resort in **Cyprus**. Here, one can take advantage of the pleasures of winter sports under the beautiful mediterranean blue sky.

3.1.1. Alpine ski resorts on lower hills

In Transylvania (today Romania), in the mountains of Nagyszeben (Hermannstadt, today Sibiu), at an altitude of 1452 meters, a resort called **Hohe Rinne** (or Hohen Rinne) was established at the end of the 1800s. In 1913, a great **ski track was built** on the slope of the Paltinis hill belonging to the holiday resort, which was handed over to winter holiday guests in the winter season of 1914. Hohe Rinne was approached via a forest road from Nagyszeben, 32 km away. This road was modernized several times until 1910. Horse-drawn carriages were driving the route, transporting resort guests, food and mail. People and mail had to be paid for.

The Royal Hungarian Post did not operate a post office on the Hohe Rinne, but it allowed the office of the resort center (SKV) to charge a fee for the delivery of postal items on the Hohe Rinne–Nagyszeben route and to issue private local stamps as receipts.



192 were printed

Private, hotel-postal stamps issues from 1900 made with official postal license.

The Hohe Rinne private local stamps and their cancellations only confirmed the price of the already mentioned 32 km route, so even the official postage stamps had to be affixed to the postcards and covers.

(The used literature: different works dealing with Transylvania's hotel post.

The authors: M. Williams, J.L.N.Best and L.S.Etre)



Copy-detail of the address side



Directly above Hohe Rinne, belonging to it a ski track was built in the summer of 1913 and was already used in the next winter season. At the same time, ski education was also organized.

Today, nine ski tracks with five ski lifts await skiers in the same place, in **Paltinis ski resort**. This postcard features the spectacular 1910 Hohe Rinne private local (hotel) stamp and cancellation on the picture side, dated July 25, 1913. It sent from Hohe Rinne to Nagyszeben (Hermannstadt) with 3 H private local stamp and cancellation furthermore 5 fillér postage stamp with Nagyszeben cancellation, same dates.

3.1.2. Serious ski resorts in higher mountains

Austria, the birthplace of alpine skiing, is rich in ski resorts where the tracks start at an altitude of almost 2000 meters and end on the outskirts of a nearby town.



View of the Kitzbühel tracks today

Kitzbühel, the 1st rank Austrian ski resorts is the Mecca of alpine skiing. It is traditionally the favourite place of richer skiers, an exclusive sport and recreation centre, and the home of the alpine ski world cup, the Hahnenkammrennen. The most famous downhill track is the Streif, which starts at 1665 meters, ends at 805 meters and has 860 meters vertical drops.



6. Internationales
Großglockner Skirennen
6. Juni 1946

Herrn
Heiss August,
Kanzleirat i.R.

G r a z /Steiermark.

Th, Körnerstr. 39/II

Helga Feiber

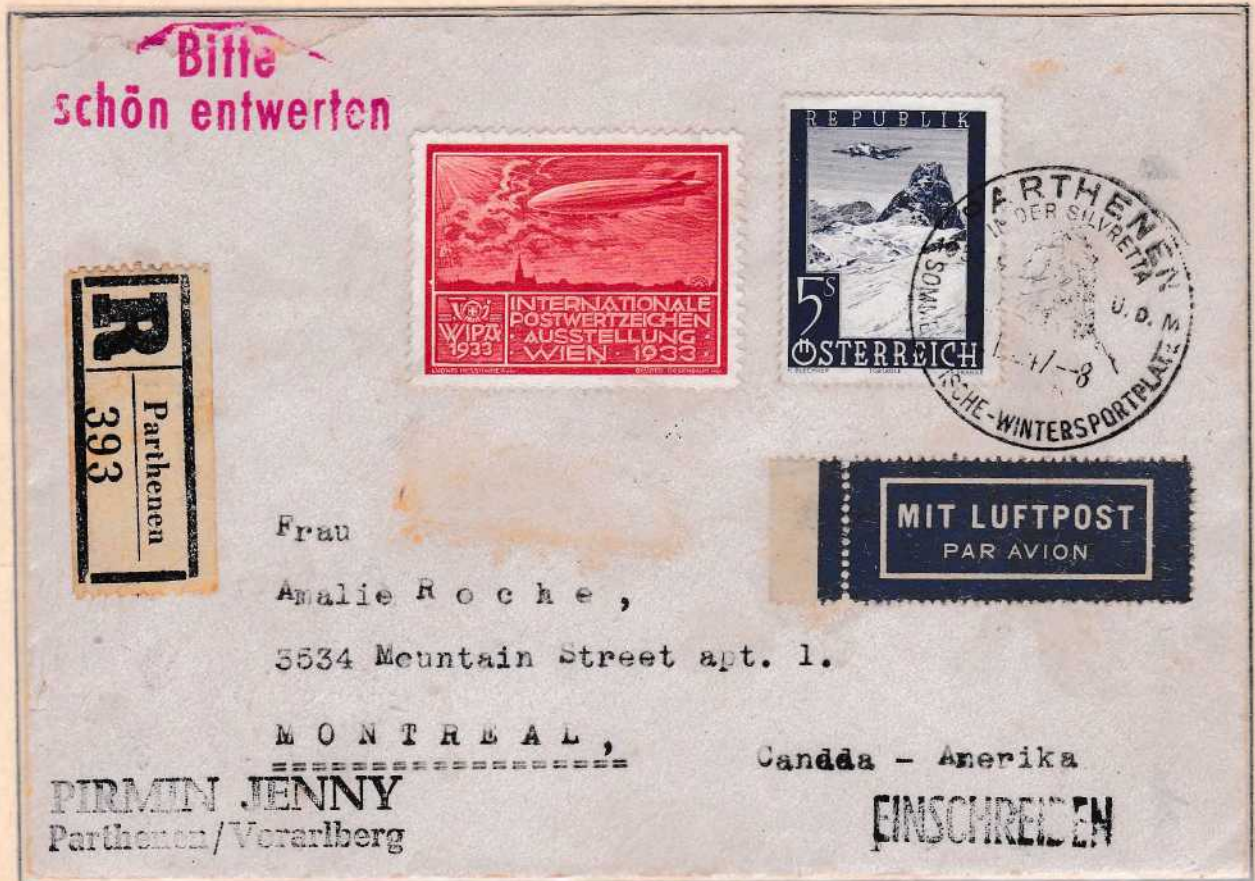
GRAZ

Nachstrasse 39.

Heiligenblut is a picturesque town near the highest peak in Austria, the Grossglockner. Most ski lifts take skiers above 2000 meters, who can see more than ten mountain peaks above 3000 meters before heading downhill. In the 1940s, especially between 1946 and 1948, the town hosted quality alpine ski racing. Today recreational skiers enjoy the great opportunities offered by tens of kilometers of tracks and related infrastructure.

3.1.2. Serious ski resorts in higher mountains

The **Silvretta** Mountains are located on the border of Austria and Switzerland. These areas of the Alps also have excellent potential for the rapid development of ski resorts.



Partenen (Parthenen) is a high-altitude town on the Austrian side of Silvretta, a popular ski resort. Registered air mail cover with special cancellation from Parthenen, Austria, to Montreal, Canada, 5 S franked (1947)



The young British heir to the throne, who is now **King Charles III**, visited the ski slopes of Davos-Klosters for many years

In the vicinity of the Swiss side of the Silvretta, popular ski resorts were established early on, the best known region being the classic **Parsenn Davos-Klosters**. Parsenn is the birthplace of skiing in Switzerland, but is still one of the most popular ski resorts.

Registered, franking added up to 50 Rp PS card from Chur to Budapest (1933)

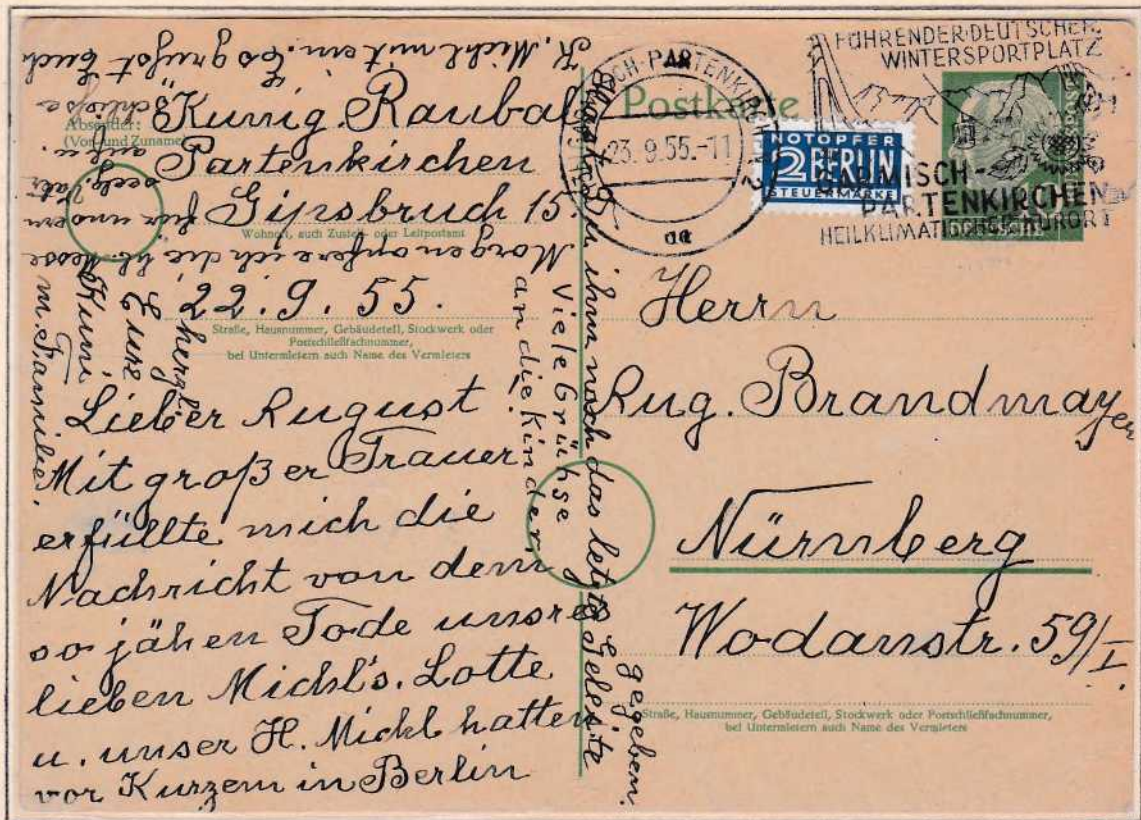
3.1.2. Serious ski resorts in higher mountains

One of the most famous ski resorts in Europe is the city of **Chamonix** in France. In 1924, it was the center of the first Winter Olympics. The popularity of the resort is unbroken, a real paradise for skiers.



The ski tracks are located above Chamonix at the foot of Mont Blanc, some of which can be skied also in summer

Another classic European ski resort is located in **Garmisch-Partenkirchen**, Germany.



Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a key winter sport region with his healthy climate.

Due to its excellent facilities, it became the focus of attention as early as the 1930s, and it is no coincidence that in 1936 the olympic ski races were held on tracks close to the city. Its best-known downhill run is the Kandahar.

Additional franking with „Notopfer Berlin“ postal tax stamp intended for the benefit of the people of West Berlin after the blockade of 1948.

3.1.2. Serious ski resorts in higher mountains

With its snow-proof slopes of the **High Tatras** was already an alpine ski region recognized in the 1930s. Two main regions have been developed, the area around Zakopane in Poland to the north, and the area around Poprad and Strbské Pleso (Chipped Lake) in Slovakia. Both areas have in common smaller but high quality ski tracks and excellent infrastructure with many hotels and restaurants.



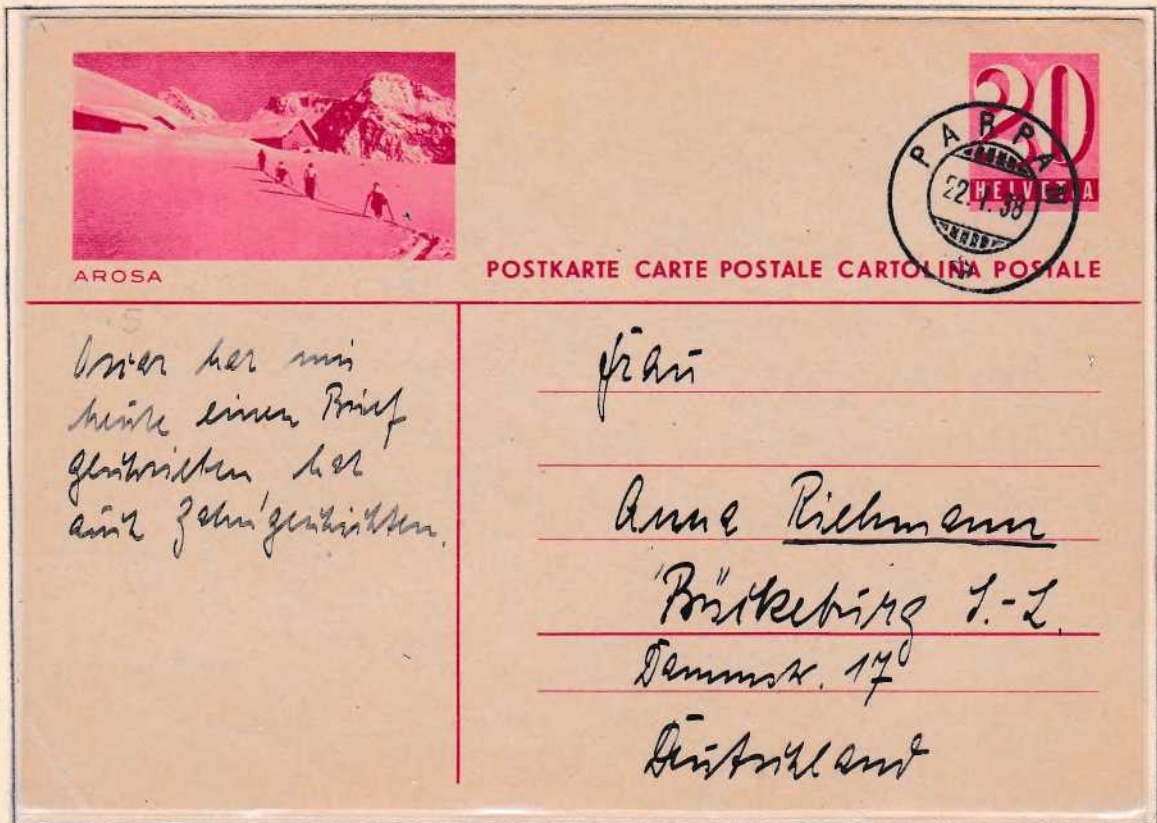
The old and famous ski resort is **Zakopane**, Poland, the home of many recreational and racer skiers Registered, express postcard with special cancellation, sent from Zakopane to Vilnius, in that time Poland (1939)



One of the great tracks of the **Solisko** ski resort next to Strbské Pleso awaits the beginner and the advanced skiers. It is worth mentioning the beautiful panorama that skiers can enjoy. The reason for the popularity of this resort are the favourable prices. Postal stationery card sent to abroad, from Piastany, Czechoslovakia, to Pforzheim, Germany (1935)

3.1.2. Serious ski resorts in higher mountains

We haven't talked about ski resorts in Switzerland yet, although the statistics are staggering. As early as 1944 there were hundreds of ski tracks and ski lifts awaited the skiers. (Today there are 335 ski resorts, 7073 km ski tracks and 1822 ski lifts in Switzerland. No other country has these possibilities)



Arosa, with its almost 3000 m high peaks, and ski tracks making up together 100 km, is one of the favourite alpine ski resort today

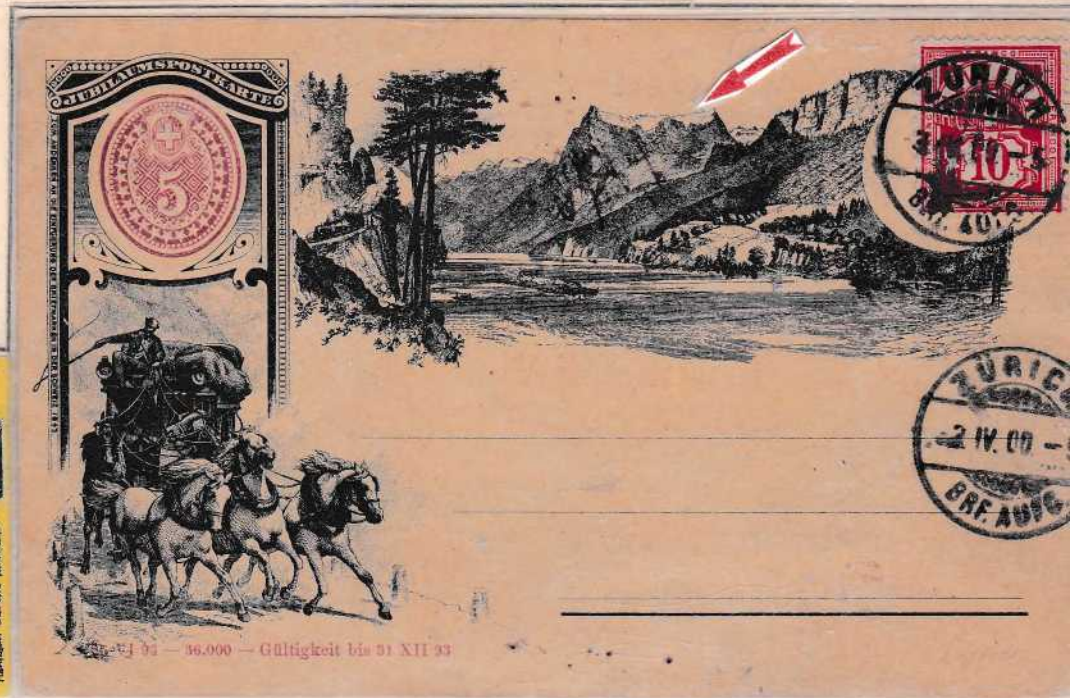


The 4478 m high **Matterhorn**, which cannot be confused with any other peak, on the green.
At its foot, a more than 100 km track system was developed with 107 ski lifts.
1933. Zeppelin cover to Bern by Swiss Flight – board cancellation,
Rm postal rate, 487 letters were delivered.

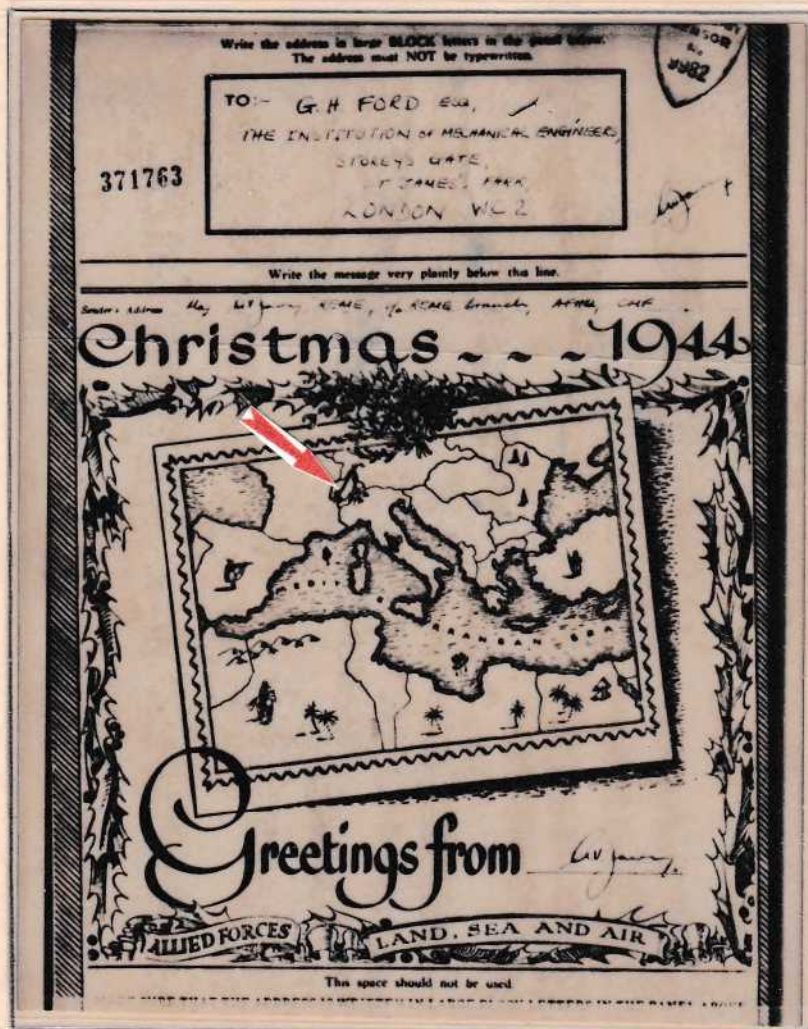
3.1.2. Serious ski resorts in higher mountains

Switzerland and the skiing! Really!

On the snowy slopes of Uri Canton there was an intensive ski life at the end of the 1800s. In the middle, there are snowy peaks of Uri-Rotstock



Swiss jubilee postal stationery card from 1893. Posted over validity, in 1900.



Finally a thought, it was possible for people in Switzerland to live their passion in difficult times...

They're shooting on the Iberian Peninsula, there is warfare everywhere, but Switzerland is a calm island where people are skiing mainly during the 1944 Christmas season.

This is a pictorial airgraph, not an individually drawn. (1944)

Microfilmed original letter in WW II which was reproduced on 1/4 size of photo paper and delivered to the addressee.

The airgraph service between 1941 and 1945 is the result of partnership of British Forces Post Office and Kodak Co.

3.1.2. Serious ski resorts in higher mountains



Here is a special ski resort in the Alpine principality. **Malbun** is a famous ski resort today in Liechtenstein.

We can see **ski traces** near an alpin hotel or tourist hostel.

R Zeppelin cover delivered from Friedrichshafen to Agram (today Zagreb), 2,70 franking 20 Rp basic+2,50 air mail fee



The Malbun ski resort can be approached from the nearby village of **Steg**.

Most skiers here rent accommodation and participate in the „après ski” programs.

Registered cover sent from Vaduz, Liechtenstein, to Louviers, France. The cover sent back to the sender (1934)

3.1.2. Serious ski resorts in higher mountains

Now, here is a small but very interesting ski area from Bosnia-Herzegovina



Mixed perforation
 121/2:91/4:121/2:121/2



Prenj on S.H.S. issue

On the stamp, the highest peak of the mountain **Prenj**, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Zelena Glava (2155 m), which is an appreciated starting point of extreme skiers for a several km long downhill with a great level difference

Two ski resorts popular for recreational skiers and racers



Gastein Valley
 with four different resorts
 is a winter paradise for skiers
Bad Gastein, Bad Hofgastein,
special cancellations
 (1948, 1958)



Bormio, Sondrio, ski traces in the street



There are four French ski resorts near **Annecy**, High Savoy (La Clusaz, Le Grand Bornand, Manigod, St. Jean de Sixt). The **F.F.S.** works in Annecy

3.1.2. Serious ski resorts in higher mountains

Lake Placid in U.S.A.

(Ski Resort Whiteface, NY' Premier Ski Resort)

Whiteface Mountain Ski Area is located a short drive from the town, that is Lake Placid, which is a famous and excellent ski resort up to now. In 1932 the 3rd Winter Olympic Games were held here.



This surroundings has a great number of constructed tracks



In 1932 the American Post issued the world's second ski stamp (Normal issue and a pre-cancelled piece)



Jubilee special cancellation of the 1932 stamp

This resort is known for its beautiful panoramic mountain scenery with fantastic ski tracks. Well-known, the snow cannons were used here for the first time in 1980, when Lake Placid organized a Winter Olympic Games again.



lettering all BLACK 28.4mm x 42mm

LAKE PLACID 1980 0.50

25% REDUCTION

3.1.3. High mountain and glacier ski resorts

If you want to ski on a glacier in excellent conditions, the 3203 m high **Kitzsteinhorn** Glacier above the Austrian city of **Kaprun** is the recommended ski resort. The visitor can come across quality ski tracks and excellent infrastructure



Distant view of the Austrian ski paradise (marked)

First flight Zeppelin cover of LZ 130 to Sudetenland, („Sudeta flight“) 1 Rm air mail fee, sent on 01.12.1938, arrived on the next day to Reichenberg (today Liberec)



The Kitzsteinhorn Glacier with Zell am See town and the Lake Zeller 1929. Postal stationery card with additional franking sent by air mail

3.1.3. High mountain and glacier ski resorts

Kaprun and the ski slopes of the glacier above it enrich the visitors with unforgettable sights and beautiful experiences. We have already read in the chapter 1.5. that they were skiing on the Kitzsteinhorn glacier very early, in the 1910s.



The Austrian post office also commemorated the popular sight with the Kitzsteinhorn glacier with a postal stationery card issued later. Overfranked philatelic delivery



Another pride of Austria is the Dachstein Mountains and the associated glacier at an altitude 3000 meters, where you can also enjoy the pleasures of skiing until the beginning of summer

3.1.3. High mountain and glacier ski resorts

What about alpine skiing in the Iberian Peninsula?



Valdezcaray ski resort, Spain, Iberian Cordilleras.
The quality tracks start from an altitude of over 2000 m



Pal-Arinsal and many excellent ski resorts operate in Andorra, in the eastern Pyrenees. The tracks start from an altitude of 2600 m. A popular venue for youth alpine ski racing.

If you want to combine a great summer skiing with a fantastic cultural experience, choose the Andalusian city of Spain, Granada (with Alhambra) and the **Sierra Nevada** above it.



CONJUNTOS URBANOS PATRIMONIO DE LA HUMANIDAD. GRANADA

Sierra Nevada is the great ski resorts in the southernmost part of Europe. The marked peak is **Veleta**, from where the tracks start at an altitude of 3306 m and end at an altitude of 2100 m. The realm of eternal snow.

3.1.3. High mountain and glacier ski resorts



Portillo, in Chile with its 60-year experience, is the oldest ski resort of South America, the home of an alpine ski championship in 1966

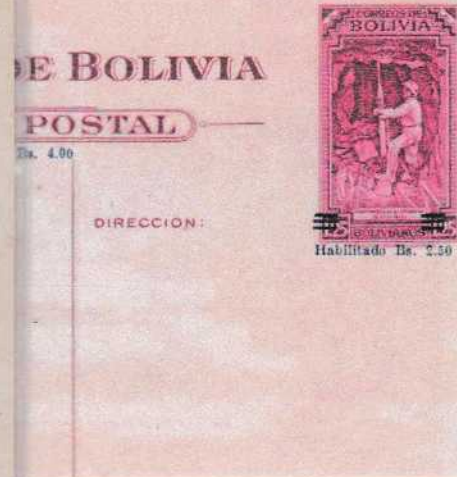


Las Lenas, the Argentinian ski resort, one of the most popular ski resorts in South America where everything from education for children to heliskiing is possible



LA PAZ

Ventisquero del Chacaltaya. Cabaña y Campo de Ski. Altura 5.200 mts. s. el nivel del mar. Foto: Francisco Tauchmann



The highest ski resort in the world was the 5200 meter **Chacaltaya** in Bolivian Andes which has been in operation since 1939

CORREOS DE BOLIVIA

1548



1948



V CAMPEONATO SUDAMERICANO DE ATLETISMO LA PAZ - OCTUBRE 1948.

In 1948, the 4th South American Ski Championship were held here. By 2009, the Chacaltaya glacier had melted and the skiers had disappeared. When new snow falls, people come to ski still from the nearby capital, La Paz

3.1.3. High mountain and glacier ski resorts

Lebanon, with its mountains reaching above 3000 m, 6 track systems, 46 ski lifts, has the most excellent ski resorts. Even among these, **Cedars** ski resort is the number one, where one can enjoy alpine skiing among several thousand old cedars.



Cedars ski resort
around 1936



R Straight standing machine
set-off on the sticking side



Magnified copy on the
other side



Mt. Cook is the highest
ski resort in N.Z.

New Zealand also has outstanding ski resorts



Whakapapa ski resort



R Misprint
Printing error



Slope near the Tasman Glacier
New currency (1967)

And what about the alpine skiing in **Antarctica**? There are glaciers, loads of snow and slopes but ski lifts are not yet. Still you can see two really alpine skiers on the 2d stamp. We are looking for this place?



Signed pencil sketch on tracing paper with recommended color before engraving (Ex Goaman archive)



The final issue stamp
of the British Post



Overprinted issue
with currency exchange

3.2. The spectacular view of ski tracks

Alpine skiing is a branch of sport in which nature is always close to us. At a downhill from the peak into the valley, the beautiful panorama changes in each second. We can watch the amazing mountains or the pine trees glistening from the snow.



A resting skier watches snowy peaks of the High Tatras
Postal stationery card from the ski congress (1935)



View of the High Tatra ranges, "taken" from a ski track

R Postal stationery card sent by air mail from Lucenec to Chorzow with a Prague "fancy" cancellation

3.2. The spectacular view of the ski tracks

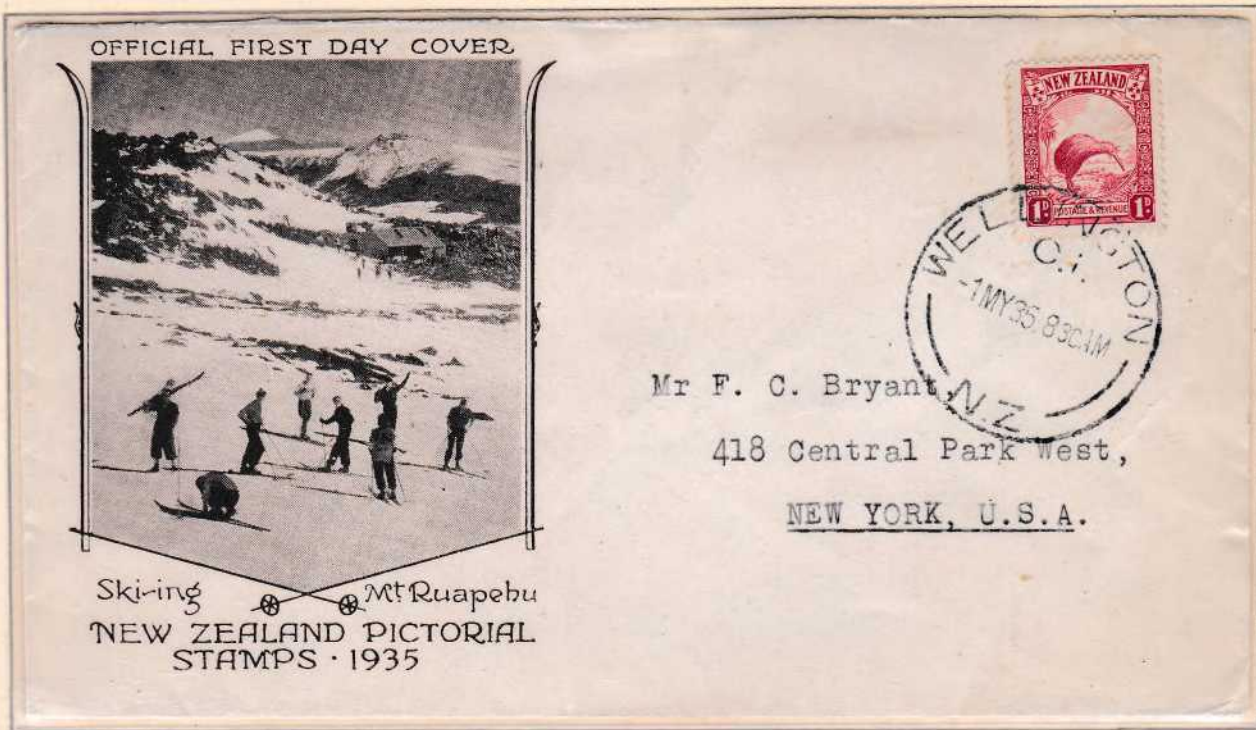


The young recreational skier is rejoicing in the San Marino winter landscape. Probably such a big snow is rare in San Marino, but if it is, then the **land-scape is very nice** Low quantity, because after issuing, many blocks were disassembled for the closing stamp of a sport set



The skier shown in the picture immediately reaches the top of the slope from where he starts his downhill while watching the beauty of the surrounding **winter land-scape** Pictured postal stationery card, franking added up to 2 Kč, sent from Topolčianky, Czechoslovakia, to Debrecen, Hungary (1935)

3.2. The spectacular view of ski tracks



This skiers who seem belong to a group can admire the panorama on a peak before going to downhill

Official postal cover by New Zealander Post Office (1935)



Resting skiers admire the view on one of the slopes of the Parsenn ski resort near Davos

Versoix, Switzerland (1926)



The New Zealand skier is **watching** the Tasman Glacier and the surrounding peaks. *Old currency (1960)*



This is not about ski glasses, but the beautiful **panorama**, watched by the skier from the Polish side of the High Tatra

3.3. Mass sport character of alpine skiing

After alpine skiing have become widespread, and the masses have learned its technical elements, it is quite understandable that more and more people want to ski, in organized forms or individually. Among workers, soldiers and scouts, amateur racing soon emerged and took organized forms.

In 1924, namely before the year of the first winter Olympic games, the ski races, national ski championships were absolutely amateur mass sport events. The German ski championship in 1922, what was organized in Krummhübel, today Poland, was an amateur mass ski racing, too.

Special cancellation on a special thematic cover, 14-15 January 1922



Winter Olympics in 1931 in Mürzzuschlag? According to the cancellation, yes, but this international meeting was organized for **workers**, and included high level skiing events. *Preliminary advertising special cancellation*



There were organized ski competitions for **young pioneers** in Schierke, 1953 (East Germany)

3.3. Mass sport character of alpine skiing

It is widely known that branches of sport involving masses are always popular. Of course it is so with alpine skiing the most popular branch of ski sport. It is important that not only the professionals have a say, but also the amateur athletes of different professions, who can thus be lucky participants in great competitions and racing.



Skiing was always close to **scouting**. International meeting in Murau, Austria, 1956



Schmiedefeld's popular ski resort is still one of the centers of mass skiing in Thuringia, Germany. Cover from 1937



The 4th international ski championship of **military corps**, Saalfelden, Austria, 1960



Multitude of mass sport equipments can be seen. There is a ski equipment on the young man's shoulder as well



The 2nd ski championship of **post employees**, Mauthen, Austria, 1970



The mass sport character of the II. **Maccabi World Winter Games**, held in February 1936 in Banská Bystrica, Czechoslovakia, is shown the fact that 270 competitors from 15 countries took part in it. This was a **real ski mass sport event**.

3.3. Mass sport character of alpine skiing

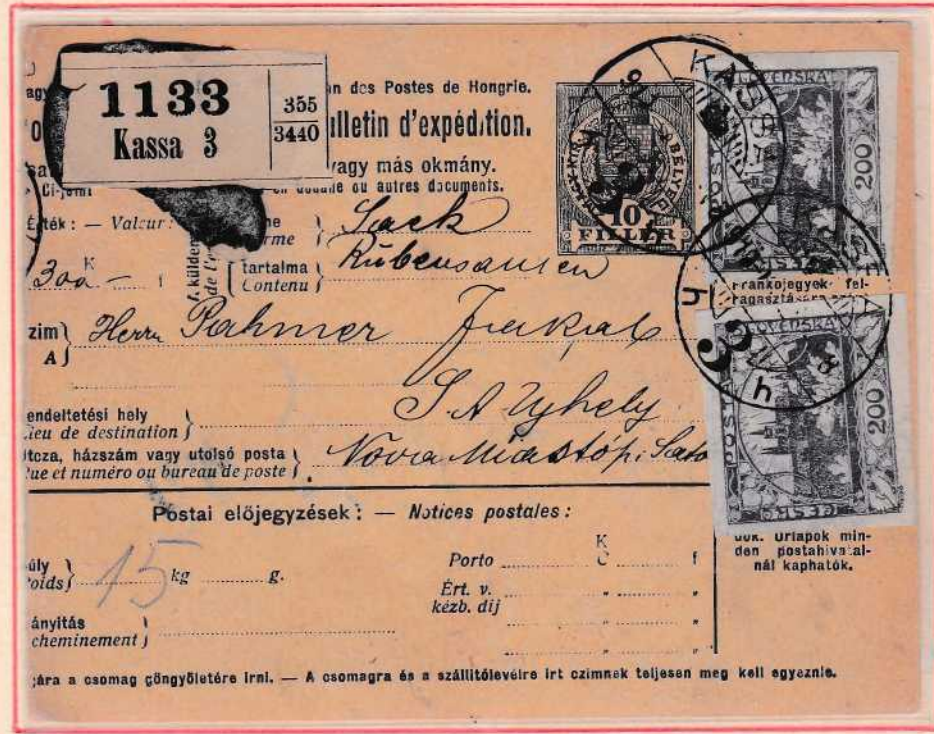
Support of ski sport gave an impulse to racing as well, especially from the end of 1938, when due to the territories returned to Hungary, the circumstances were given. The Hungarian Ski Association organized alpine ski races in the framework of the Winter Sport Week in the Košice Mountains (= **Kassai havasok**). There were spectacular **mass sport** ski events.

(26.12.1939 – 05.01.1940)

However, it is known that not only competitors, but schools and other bodies have also participated.



„KASSA 1”
special cancellation
by the Royal Hungarian Post



The winter sport week was in the „Kassai Havasok” named after **Kassa**
Parcel card, posted during the short term Czech occupation (1919)
R Extraordinary postal history document



Special cancellation of „KASSA 2” with greeting the winter sport week on a cover with a postage due stamp

3.3. Mass sport character of alpine skiing

Ski competitions organized by various civil companies, associations and organizations were extremely popular and still are today. Many competitors, a fun atmosphere and valuable prizes can be seen at these events.



26-th ski meeting of European Interbank workers in the Lienz Dolomites, Austria, 1986



Ski championship of Austrian executives, St. Johann, Tyrol, 1959



Ski championship of Austrian A.S.K.Ö. (working group for sport), Bad Aussee, 1948



In the Eight World Academic Winter Games in Špindlerův Mlýn high-quality ski competitions were organized in 1949
 Ordinary cover to abroad with special machine cancellation sent from Špindlerův Mlýn, Czechoslovakia, to Helsinki, Finland, franked 5 Kč (1949)

3.3. Mass sport character of alpine skiing



Yes, this is what we call real mass sport. Two recreational skier try to join those who can be seen in the distance
 Franking added up to 1 L postal stationery card sent from Cluj, Romania, to Hévíz, Hungary (1967)



An invitation offering sleeping-car service, as can be seen, also for skiers
 Advertising meter canceled with postal permission, franked 50 C, sent from Paris



„Health and joy of life through winter sports”

Official canceled cover sent from ICRC headquarters, Geneva, obviously, in connection with the assistance provided after the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence (1957 January)

3.4. It provides a determinative experience already in childhood



Basics of alpine skiing can be learned on **ski school** courses, organized each year at many places. Instruction for **children** at ski schools is very important



電 報

アサヒガワハニハセセ〇〇
 チヨガタライ一三五
 ニシモトイツト 642
 ツツシンデ シンネンヨオイワイモウシアゲ マス
 サカモトタカ

東京電信局
 11

日本電信電話公社



賀正
 年賀電
 報

A child skier must not miss New Year's greeting telegram!
 Japanese telegram, 1 January 1954

3.4. It provides a determinative experience already in childhood

The development of alpine skiing into family and mass sports necessitated the establishment of professional and organized ski education for children.



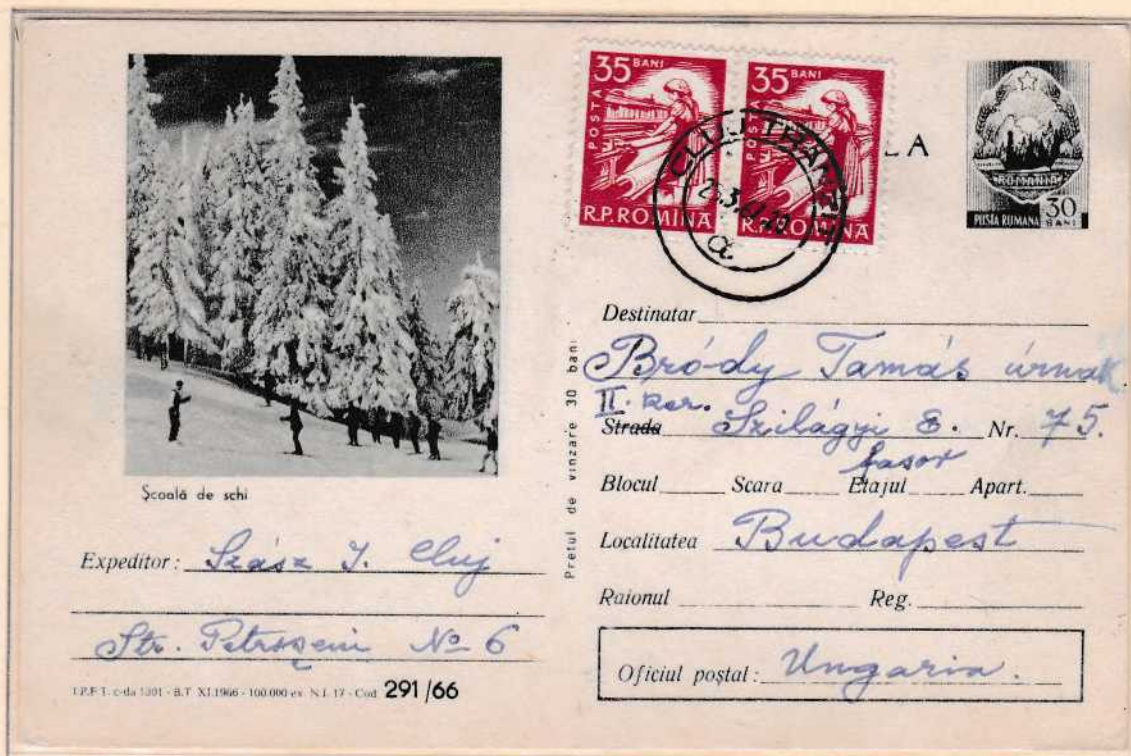
Ski resorts are mindful of improving children's skiing skills.
Children's ski lift (babylift) is also available as a facility



Children are first taught the „snow-plow” so they can slip, brake and turn



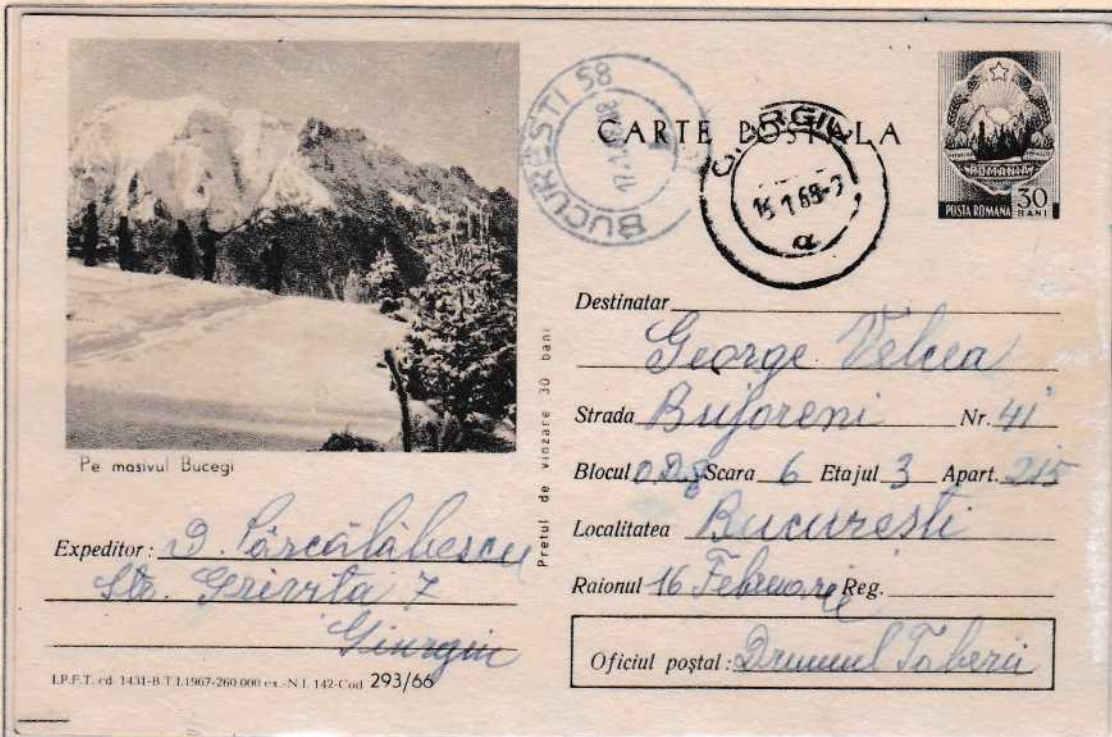
Older ones with advanced knowledge will also master the „skater” steps-ups



Organized ski courses for the school-age children are also available.
This is one of the practices of organized ski education in a high-school ski camp

3.5. Skiing is not only an individual but also a social sport

The alpine skier reaches the peak by a ski-lift or by foot, with his skis on the shoulder, to start downhill then. But first, he looks around, enjoys the beauty of the landscape in front of him, and, in most cases, consults with his guys, friends about the track and style (smaller or wider curves) for the downhill. Presence of the company, the **team** makes **sport** even more happy and memorable.



A **ski team** is facing The Bucegi Mountains, Southern Carpathians, Romania
Domestic PS card (1968)



Alpine skiers in a **team** from Georgia

Maximilian Czerny, **Sparfasse der Stadt** bei Wien.  Buchhalter der **Klosterneuburg** Rathausplatz.

Wohlgeboren Herrn
H. v. Hannenheim,
Bankbeamter



Sibiu - Hermannstadt

Paulwienergasse Nr. 8

Einschreiben

Rumänien



On the marked stamp illustration, Austrian alpine skiers climbing upwards can be seen.

Their aim is to make sport **together in a team**

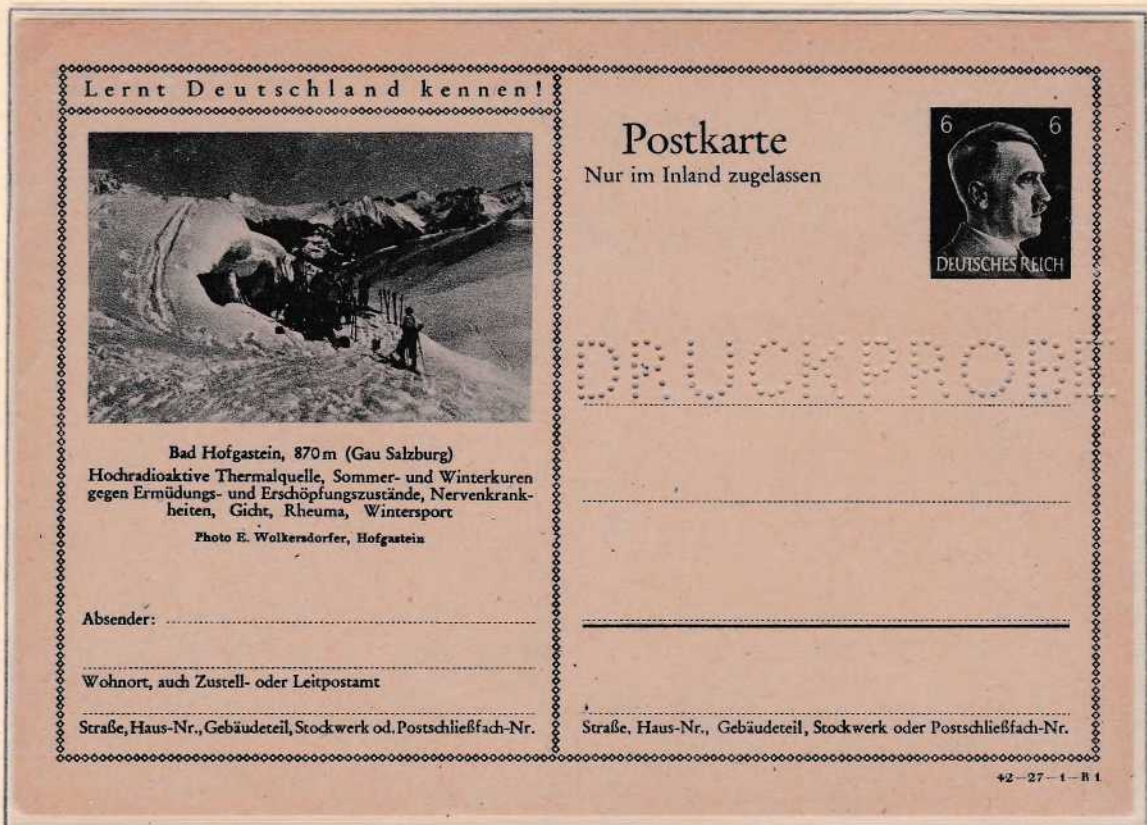
Registered official cover sent to Sibiu, Romania, from Klosterneuburg, Austria, franked 1 S 72 Gr, overpaid cover 1933)

3.5. Skiing is not only an individual but also a social sport

There are many benefits to group skiing. Cheerful conversation at short stops, quick help if needed, noticing and correcting each other's technical mistakes.



The photo-picture was made of a **group of skiers** in the thirties in Crans-sur-Sierre is located near Crans-Montana, the famous alpine world cup ski resort in Valais, Switzerland



A group of skiers resting on a hillside rising above Bad Hofgastein in Austria. This area now belongs to a large ski resort that is part of the Ski Amadé system

Specimen postal stationery card

3.6. Test of courage, the extreme skiing

Many brave and well-trained skiers are constantly looking for a challenge in the alpine ski-sport.



An early, brave **extreme skier** starts on the slope between the spectacular, snowy cliffs of the High Tatras. Sokol-Meeting, Czechoslovakia. Winter Games, 1938. *Postal stationery card with additional fee*

Three extreme skiers are getting ready to downhill in the Little Fatra near Martin town in Slovakia near the 1669 meter high Malý Kriváň



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PB. 102943
.02

The center of professional extreme skiers is in Colorado, U.S.A. There are also those who risk their lives for a successful movie or video. *Meter cancellaton, Denver, 1941*

3.6. Test of courage, the extreme skiing

Where extreme skiers start for the sometimes difficult and dangerous hikes from? Usually from high **mountain huts** or **shelters**. Here you can see three old, famous shelters.



We can see the „Pfälzerhütte” (2108 m) and the Bettlerjoch with ski traces near the alpine shelter (Liechtenstein)

Founded in 1883 and 1604 meters high, Cabana Cristianul Mare offers accommodation for many people on the Postavarul Mountain above the city of Brasov. (Romania, Southeastern Carpatians). There are exciting ski slopes nearby for experienced skiers.



Cabana Bilea Lac (Balea Lac Cottage) is a 2034-meter-high building in the Fagaras Mountains, in a picturesque location in the Southern Carpatians, Romania. It is the starting point for nearby hikes in the snowy season for the mountaineering skiers.

3.6. Test of courage, the extreme skiing

There are alpine skiers looking for extraordinary challenges. I chose an athlete with a unique performance. **Davo Karničar** is a famous Slovene extreme skier and alpinist. He was the first person who decided to visit the **highest mountain peaks of all continents** and make a **complete ski descent** from these. After getting money he started its succesful six-year program.



Obvious, the greatest venture was skiing down from the 8848 m high **Mount Everest**, October 7, 2000. The continuous, complete ski descent to the 5180 m high **Rongbuk Base Camp** took five hours (Asia, Tibet)
Postcard with privat, Rongbuk Base Camp label with postal cancellation (1924)

The other fulfillments of Davo Karničar:



Kilimanjaro (5895 m)
 ski descent
 November 2001, (Africa)



Mount Elbrus (5642 m)
 ski descent
 May 2002, (Europe)



Aconcagua (6960 m) ski descent
 January 2003, (South America)



Mount Kosciuszko (2228 m)
 ski descent
 August 2003, (Australia)



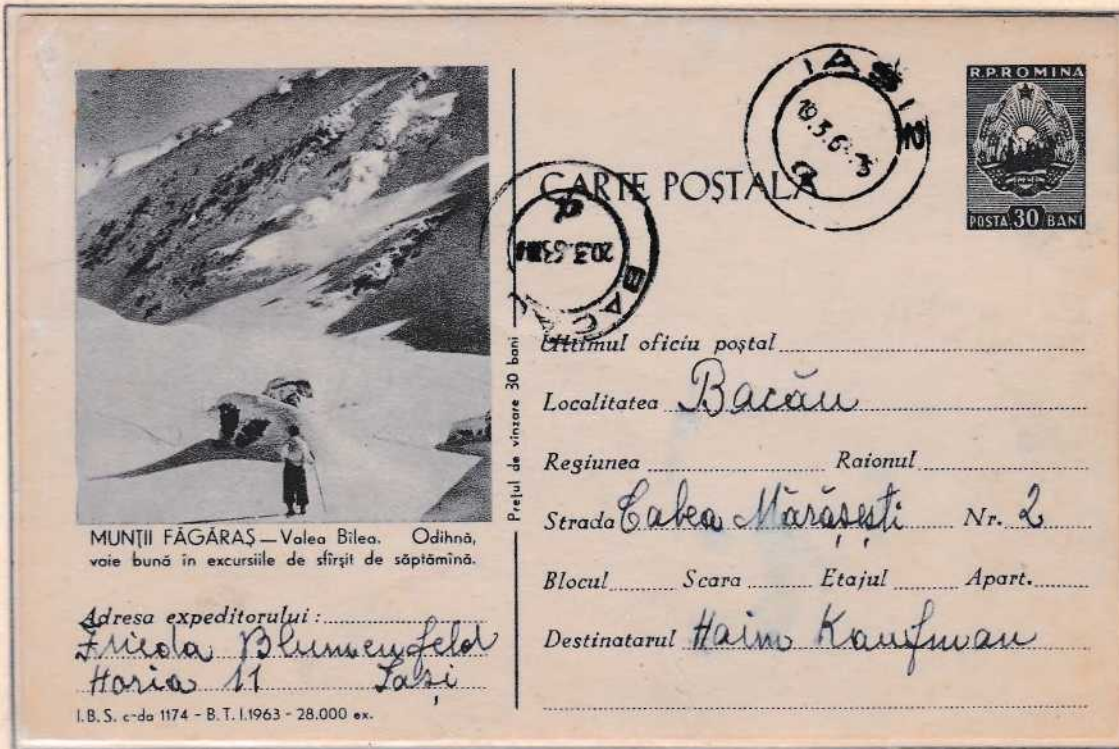
Mount McKinley (6194 m) ski descent
 June 2004, (North America)



Vinson Massif (4897 m) ski descent
 November 2006, (Antarctica)

3.6. Test of courage, the extreme skiing

Ski mountaineering is a kind of extreme skiing. The task is: climb up to the mountain destination with your raised binding alpine skis on the base side joining up seal skin (with seal fur). After reaching the top goal, the highest point, modificate the bindings, take down the seal furs from your skis and slide down. Important: have a backpack with avalanche sensor!

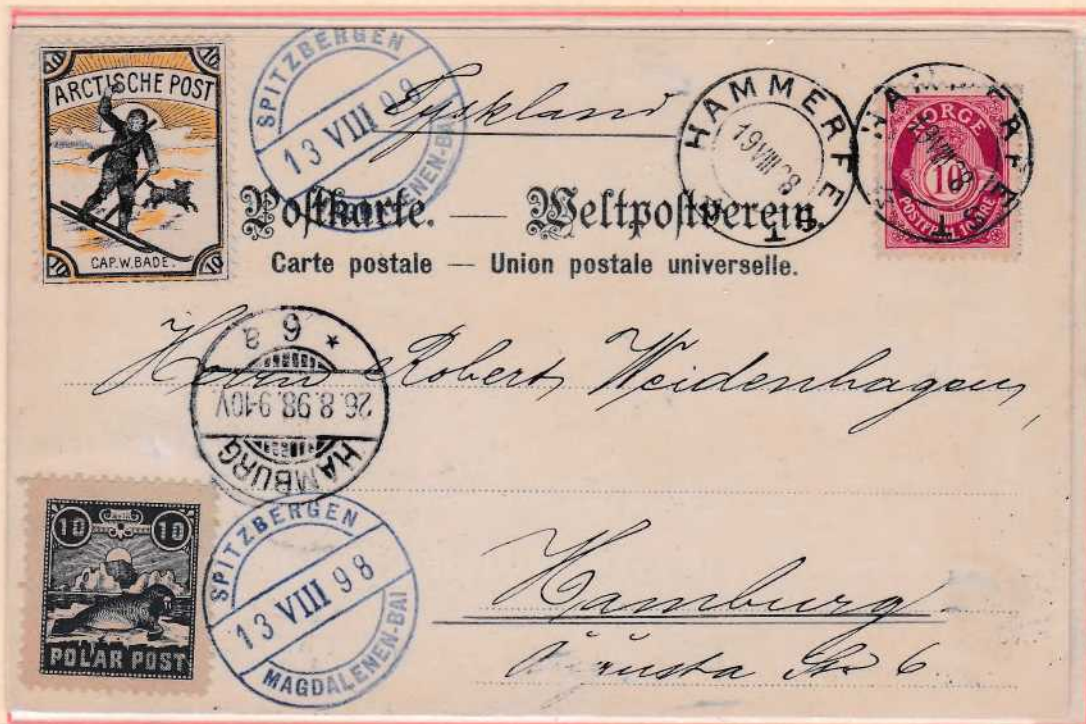


The seal fur prevents skidding backwards



Mountaineering skiers begin their exciting adventures

Lonely mountaineering skier in the snowy Fagaras. The Fagaras Mountain are a very popular skiing destination in the Southern Carpathians, Romania. Many choose the ski mountaineering here.



Here is an extremely interesting chapter on extreme skiing. A former polar explorer, the German Captain W. Bade, organized exciting boat trips to the Norwegian Spitzbergen in the months of August, in the late 1800s. On several occasions, he organized there a hunt combined with mountaineering skiing for those interested.

R Norway Spitzbergen postcard, Local Polar Post with Captain W. Bade's local stamps sent to Hamburg, 1898

3.6. Test of courage, the extreme skiing

Two days later, Captain Bade's tourist boat with its adventure-hungry passengers is already at another point in the Spitzbergen for the purpose of skiing and seal hunting.



R Norway Spitzbergen postcard, Local Polar Post with Captain W. Bade's local stamp sent to Koenigshofen in Alsace, France via Crefeld, Germany (1898)

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Kartenbrief

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An
Johann Heinrich Hettinger

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Serie VI München

Echter Tyroler Kanzler-Feigen-Kaffee ist das feinste Kaffee-
verbesserungsmittel.

According to the information obtained, Bade bought or rented the skis and other sport equipment from the marked company in Munich for his passengers

R Complete advertising letter card (Bavaria, 1908), used internally (5 Pfg rate), sold at reduced price. With full contents but taped in part for mailing

3.6. Test of courage, the extreme skiing

Due to the special nature of extreme, especially mountaineering skiing, it requires special equipment. We have already talked a lot about the necessary equipment. However, protection against the harmful effects of strong sunlight and wind should not be left out either. The solution lies in the use of **protective oils** and creams known and used by alpinists for a long time.

<p>FRANZ DURY MÜNCHEN vis-à-vis der kgl. Akademie der Bildenden Künste</p> <p>Gemälde-Ausstellung Rahmen-Fabrikation Mal- u. Zeichenutensilien Farben und Papiere MUSTER-ATELIER.</p>	<p>Verlangen Sie überall „Monachia-Senf“</p> <p>„Monachia-Senf“ ist ein wirklicher Gesundheits-Tafelsenf, wegen seines reichen ätherischen Gehaltes Magen und auch Lungen sehr zuträglich und soll daher an keinem Tische fehlen. Zu bez. in den meisten Delikatess-, Drogen- und Kolonialwaren-Geschäften.</p> <p>Allein. Fabrik. Fr. Kauffmann kgl. württemb. und grossh. bad. Hofliefl. Schellingstr. 46 * Telephon 4834</p> <p>Fabrik Ebersbach bei Göppingen, Württemberg. Erste süddeutsche Senffabrik.</p>	<p><i>Erfindungen, Patente u. Lizenzen, nur aussergewöhnliche Objekte, von wem auch, kauft u. vergibt Brief König, Großschloßstr.</i></p>		
<p>* Detektiv</p> <p>I. International. Privat-Detektiv-Institut Gegr. 1895</p> <p>Auskunftei Debet und Kredit Noll & Grosman Gegr. 1882</p> <p>München, Altheimereck 8 Telephon 11 819.</p>	<p>PATENT. BUREAU TRAUTMANN & MAYER München Karlsplatz 13 neben J. KOTER MARK</p>	<p>Fritz Knauer Uhrmachermeister München Marssstr., Ecke Dachauerstr.</p> 		
<p></p> <p>Eisschrankfabrik Boehm G. m. b. H.</p> <p>Spezial-Fabrik I. Ranges für bessere Eisschränke System „Ingenieur Wisthaler“ München, Erzgiessereistr. 4 Telephon 11616.</p>	<p>Rieschel's „Clack“</p> <p>mit Rieschel's Original-Anastigmaten.</p> <p>Auch bei trübem Licht brillante Bilder. A. Hdr. Rieschel, G. m. b. H., Optische Fabrik, München Katalog Nr. 97 gratis.</p> 	<p>Kartenbrief</p> <p>Für auswärts eine 5 Pfg.-Marke bekleben</p> <p><i>AUSSTELLUNG 18 X 10 Pf MÜNCHEN</i></p>		
<p>Joh. Gg. Frey Münchener Lodenfabrik München, Windenmacherstr. 1</p> <p>Älteste Lodenfabrik = Deutschlands. =</p> <p>Nur selbstgefertigte Loden kommen in eigener Schneiderei zur Verarbeitung.</p> <p>Preisliste und Muster gratis und franko.</p>	<p><i>An</i></p> <p>Herrn</p> <p>Heinrich Hettinger</p> <p>München</p> <p>Wohnung Adalbertstrasse 9/III Straße und Hausnummer Serie XII München</p> <p><i>* Alfred Günther, Leipzig u. Garmisch, Karlsruher 20, Telephon 804</i></p>	<p>Trinkt Apfelsaft — naturrein — von heinrich Ries. Telephon München 4682, 4683, 4684.</p>		
<p>Trinkt Apfelsaft — naturrein — von heinrich Ries. Telephon München 4682, 4683, 4684.</p>	<p>Echter Tyroler Kanzler-Feigen-Kaffee ist das feinste Kaffee-verbesserungsmittel.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="774 1859 1117 2016"> <p>Touristol bestes Leder-Oel und -Fett Von ersten Alpinist. anerkannt. Hans Gleitsmann, — k. b. Hoflieferant — München, Ickstattstrasse 19, Tel. 342.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1133 1859 1468 2016"> <p>Touristol bestes Leder-Oel und -Fett Von ersten Alpinist. anerkannt. Hans Gleitsmann, — k. b. Hoflieferant — München, Ickstattstrasse 19, Tel. 342.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Touristol bestes Leder-Oel und -Fett Von ersten Alpinist. anerkannt. Hans Gleitsmann, — k. b. Hoflieferant — München, Ickstattstrasse 19, Tel. 342.</p>	<p>Touristol bestes Leder-Oel und -Fett Von ersten Alpinist. anerkannt. Hans Gleitsmann, — k. b. Hoflieferant — München, Ickstattstrasse 19, Tel. 342.</p>	<p>Alfred Günther, Leipzig u. Garmisch, Karlsruher 20, Telephon 804</p>
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The marked company in Munich has long been known for its excellent alpinist **protective oil** product
R Complete advertising letter card (Bavaria, 1908), used internally (5 Pfg rate), sold at reduced price.
With full contents but taped in part for mailing

4. ALPINE SKIING AS AN ORGANIZED RACING SPORT

4.1. Foundation of the International Ski Association

In 1924, beside the winter sport events, an international ski congress was held in **Chamonix**. 14 countries founded the International Ski Association (F.I.S.). This organization – with 123 member countries – coordinates ski sport of the world. Based on experiences in organizing, racing and judging on international competitions, it brings congress resolutions.



R Special machine cancellation for the sport events now known as the first winter olympics commemorates the foundation of F.I.S. as well Chamonix – Mont Blanc, 30.12.1923.



Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937), the father of the modern olympic games. He was the I.O.C. president from 1896 to 1925



The 1925 Prague International Olympic Congress decided about winter olympics to be organized each 4 years. Pierre de Coubertin suggested that alpine skiing be included in the Winter Olympics in the future.

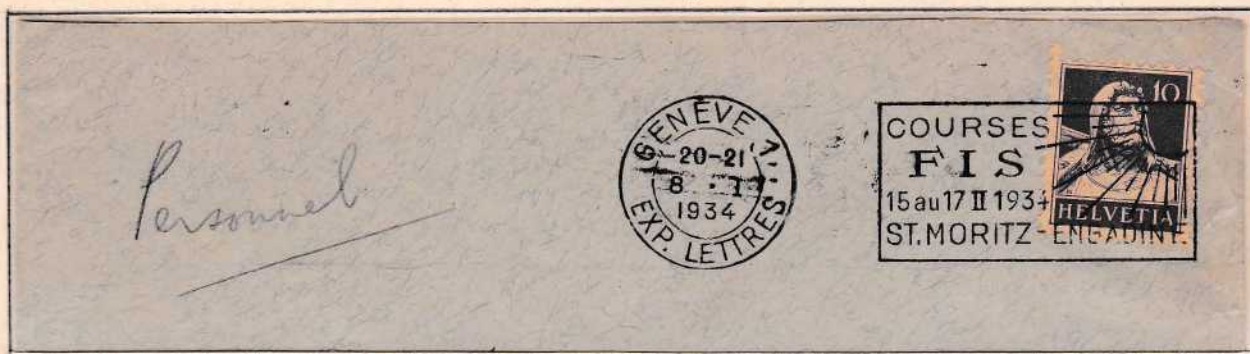
After the debate, the proposal was adopted.

Postal stationery card with occasional stamps and cancellations

4.2. The tasks and roles of the F.I.S.

Competence and task of F.I.S. is not only coordination of ski racing sport. It is also responsible for the effective special education, and its continuous modernization. At the same time, F.I.S. issued the 10-point regulation for traffic on ski tracks. F.I.S. organizes regular courses and trainings...

The mentioned illustrated by a few examples:



F.I.S. further **education course** at the time of the 4th Alpine Ski Championship, St. Moritz, 1934

The main purpose of F.I.S. is to regulate activities of skiing organizations and competitions in rules in the respective parts of the world.



In 1935, the ski congress organized by F.I.S. took place in the High Tatras
Preliminary advertising special machine cancellation



Special manual cancellation at the time of the same international ski congress

4.2. The tasks and roles of the F.I.S.

World championships held according to F.I.S. regulations and organized by F.I.S.

in Falun, Finland (1938) and...



...and Zakopane, Poland (1939)

4.2. The tasks and roles of the F.I.S.



The 1934 world championship in St. Moritz was held under the auspices of F.I.S. Preliminary advertising F.I.S. special cancellation with postage due payment stamping



Spectacular preliminary F.I.S. special machine cancellation for the world championship in Finland (1938)



F.I.S. congresses are held not only in the countries of the Alps

4.2. The task and roles of the F.I.S.



F.I.S. congress was held during the 5th Alpine Ski Championship in **Mürren**, Switzerland, in 1935. It was also decided that in the future the alpine combination medal would be counted from the sum of the downhill and slalom special results, that is, despite the controversy, they do not change the regulation adopted two years ago.
Headed cover-detail with window sent from Lausanne with advertising special cancellation (1935)



F.I.S. with his approval the World Ski Championships were held in **Chamonix**, France in February 1937. Advertising special machine cancellation on one of the competition days of the Ski World Championship



Engelberg, also in Switzerland, held an alpine world championship in March 1938, according to F.I.S. rules. The official F.I.S. stamping of the World Championship on this domestic, registered, express cover sent by automobile mail from Engelberg to Sarnen in 1938, franked 90 Rp

4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines

When motion elements, conditions for teaching, and appliances of alpine became known and the necessary infrastructure was developed, alpine racing soon started. In accordance with FIS regulations and rules for racing, the branches of racing were developed. The different types of movements have created separate disciplines for alpine skiing. The following classification is made according to the individual disciplines, such as...



... downhill (DH)



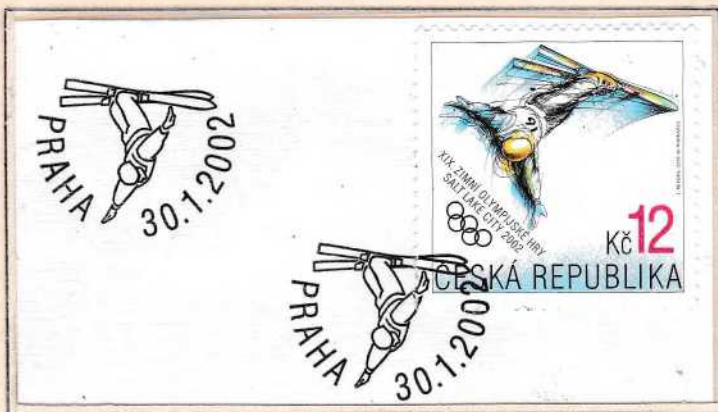
... slalom special (SL)



... giant slalom (GS)

... super giant slalom (SG)

This branch of racing is between downhill and giant slalom



... freestyle
(aerials, mogul, ski cross)



...speed skiing
(extreme speed with extreme equipments)

4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines

The goal in the branches of racing introduced on the previous page - except for freestyle skiing - is to pass the track in the shortest time. For purposes of control, electric-optical time measuring equipment is used with a hundredth second accuracy.



Since 1988, time measuring become more and more accurate, thanks to the quality of Swiss appliances

4.3.1. Downhill

The downhill racer in helmet and with backbone protector has min. 2 m length and min. 40 m radius, hard skis. His track is very hard and prepared, about 2.8 km length with 750 m level difference and bigger arc in curves, two or three bigger waves. During running he sees flexible, double plastic rods with red flags and double or triple defender net on the side of track.



Downhill style of the 30s

4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines

4.3.1. Downhill

Main characteristics of downhill:



Challenging to the beginner and expert, slalom skiing puts a premium on style and speed. It requires great skill as athletes race around flags, called gates, on a zigzag, downhill course.

In the curves, the skis must be led on their **edges** to avoid leaving the track

On the straight sections, the so-called „egg position” for reaching the highest speed



R Misprint, the red colour is displaced



Because of some downhill track waves the racer sometimes flies 40-50 m
An official issue from a country that is a member of UPU



At the wave, the skier must **return** to the snow to keep the speed in the shortest time

4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines

4.3.2. Slalom special

The slalom special racer in helmet, with backbone, hand and leg protectors has short skis, which are 1.55-1.65 m length and 12-14 m radius, hard in front, softer at the back. His hard track is about 850 m length with 250 m level difference. During running he sees 60-65 gates (made of non-brittle plastic) flexible at ground level which are red and blue alternating.



Earlier there were small flags on the gates

Specific meaning of the advertisement of meter
The gates on the track cause obstacles



Slalom skier of the 50s on different issues



Imperforate stamp four of block



Special brown print on cardboard



R Imperforated phase prints, defective products of the prepress work

4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines

4.3.2. Slalom special

The slalom skiing technique favors those skiers who are able to perform extremely fast movements and changes of direction. Explosiveness and healthy, sporty aggression are considered advantages.



Registered, express, domestic cover with extra charge Hungarian stamps. Slalom skier can be seen on the extra charge „stamp on stamp”. (The extra charge was for Hungarian Stamp Day events), 1963



The thematic drawing of this postal stationery cover depicts a slalom special racer with dynamic movement. Registered, air mail, PS cover sent from Krasnodar, Soviet Union, to Budapest, Hungary, franking added up to 52 K (1962)

4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines

4.3.2. Slalom special

Earlier motion technique

Since until the 1950s gates were less flexible, made of wood, pole and foot technique of the time was quite different from that of today.



The skier in the left curve almost sweeps the gate with his left **shoulder**



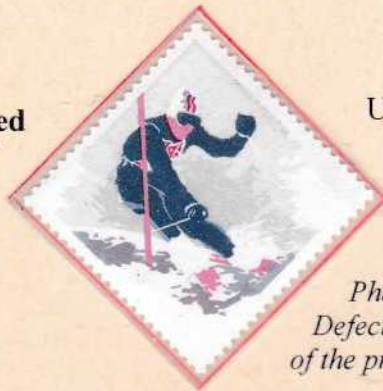
Misprint „CIECHTENSTEIN”



Until the sixties, the skier knocks the gates, (which are made of thinner wood or bamboo) with his upper arm, but the skier's route is still far from the gates



More **advanced** version of the earlier motion technique



Phase print.
Defective product of the prepress work

(Message Form 5/174.)
(EIM/165.)

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Via Eastern

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See back of form for list of Company's Stations in London and Telephone Numbers.



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DE BELGRADE LEGATION SERBE LN =

POCHTO JE USTANOVTJENA REDOVNA POCHTANSKA

The slalom special race track are hampered horizontal and vertical gates. Joining multiple vertical gates are vertical combination, also known as a **telegram** based on its appearance.

This telegram is a type of the famous telegraph company (1919)

4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines
 4.3.2. Slalom special

Today's motion technique



This is already today's slalom movement!



The skier knocks the gates with pole in opposite hand, with hand and leg protector

Winner style! This skier aggressively knocks down all the gates



This is how the slalom skier sees the track "from inside"

The special dynamic movement of slalom skiers inspired many famous stamp designers, the Frenchman Jacques Combet was no exception




R Artist's proof with embossed seal, signed by J. Combet, designer and engraver. A total of 9 pieces could be offered for sale

4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines

4.3.3. Giant slalom

The giant slalom racer in helmet and with backbone protector has 1,8–1,95 m length and 27–35 m radius skis, which are softer in front and harder at the back. His hard track is about 1,3 km length with 350 m level difference. During running he sees 45–50 flexible, double plastic rods with red and blue flags alternating.



CABANA CRISTIANUL MARE

Expedito: Szabo Gabriella
Satu-Mare
Str. 1 Iunie P.

Postmark: SATU MARE 08.1.66.13

Stamp: R.PROMINA POSTA 30 BANI

Destinatar: Szabo Kálmán

Strada: N. Bălcescu Nr. 8

Blocul - Scara - Etajul - Apart. -

Localitatea: Sf. Gheorghe

Raionul - Reg.: Brasov

Oficiul poștal: Sf. Gheorghe

Vertical text: Prețul de vânzare 30 bani

Bottom text: I.P.F.T. c-da 134 - B.T. III.1965 - 100.000 ex. N. I. 17 - Cod 123

Previously with „straight” skis, the curve was drawn farther from the gates
Domestic postal stationery card sent from Satu Mare to Sfântu. Gheorghe, Romania (1966)



The gate setting of the giant slalom race can be followed well



The giant slalom good technique is fundamental to alpine skiing!



Practicînd sporturile de iarnă, vă căliți organismul.

Postmark: SLOBOZIA 31. IANUARIE 1961

Stamp: R.PROMINA 55 BANI

Ultimul oficiu poștal: Goesti

Localitatea: Goesti

Regiunea: Argeș Raionul: Goesti

Strada - Nr. -

Blocul - Scara - Etajul - Apart. -

Destinatarul: Tor. Președinte al Jai's Pop. Goesti

Giant slalom left turn with excellent technique by a recreational skier. Domestic postal stationery registered cover with 1.20 L additional franking (on back side) sent from Slobozia, Romania (1961)

The super giant slalom (SG) has differences compared to the giant slalom: longer racing track, higher level difference, only one run, higher speed and longer skis with bigger radius at the competitor.

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing

The aim of this chapter is to give survey about the memorable races, representing a stage of development in alpine skiing, in chronological order until the nineties.

4.4.1. Racing of early times (1924-1941)

During this period, the development of the alpine ski racing was observable day by day and the enthusiasm was also enormous.



Alpine skiers
on the jubilee stamp

After the first Winter Olympics in 1924, the alpine ski competitors of FIS member countries met more and more often at professionally prepared and organized races.

The first Winter Olympics was commemorated by the post of many.



Special cancellation for the
1st Winter Olympic Game



An issue celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first Winter Olympics with a downhill skier as well
The anniversary was remembered not only by the post offices of the Alpine countries
R Artist's proof with embossed seal, signed by C. Jumelet, designer and engraver.
A total of 9 pieces could be offered for sale

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing
 4.4.1. Racing of early times (1924-1941)



International downhill racing in 1925 on Jungfrauoch, Switzerland, organized by the British DHO ski club („Downhill Only” Ski Club)



In 1929, Klingenthal-Aschberg, Germany, was the home of the international German ski championship with together the best Austrian and Swiss competitors.



At the first overseas winter olympic for the spectators were given a demonstration of the race alpine skiing with downhill and slalom special. Lake Placid, USA, 1932

The world's second ski stamp depicted a downhill issued by the U. S. Post

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing

4.4.1. Racing of early times (1924-1941)

Thanks to the successful introduction of alpine skiing, according to the decision of F.I.S., ski world championship was held annually – until the outbreak of World War II.



1933. 3rd Alpine Ski World Championship in Innsbruck. The Austrian Seelos became twofold winner Domestic overfranked registered express, philatelic cover with special F.I.S. set and cancellations sent from Innsbruck to Vienna (1933)



1936, 4th Winter Olympics, Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The combined results of downhill and slalom special was regarded on the alpine races. The most successful competitor was the German Christl Cranz

Domestic, olympic postal stationery card sent from Friedrichshafen to Görlitz, Germany, by first flight of LZ 129, 1 Pf overfranked (1936)

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing
 4.4.1. Racing of early times (1924-1941)



The fourth Winter Olympic Games of 1936 were remembered even in the later years

R Very rare free of charge official cover with olympic special cancellation



1936. 6th Alpine Ski World Championship, Innsbruck. New names among the winners, the Swiss Rominger and the Austrian Kneissl Overfranked registered philatelic cover with special F.I.S. set and cancellation sent from Innsbruck, Austria to Lausanne, Switzerland (1936)

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing
 4.4.1. Racing of early times (1924-1941)



German Ski Championship in **Altenberg**, Ore Mountains, Germany, 1937
 The Cranz brother and sister (Rudolf and Christl) won in alpine combination



9th Alpine Ski World Championship in **Zakopane**, Poland, 1939
 The alpine races were dominated by Germans, they won five in six races again under the leadership of Christl Cranz *Special FIS cancellation*

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing

4.4.1. Racing of early times (1924-1941)

In 1937, Chamonix got the right to organize the 7th Alpine Ski World Championship.



Though the stamp issued by the French Post shows a ski jumper, that was mainly an alpine ski world championship.

The prominent winners: the German Christl Cranz (2 gold medals) and the French Émile Allais (3 gold medals)

Special machine cancellation on the cover for the closing day of the world championship



1938. The Austrian Alpine Ski Championship was held on the popular slope of Bürgeralm, near Aflenz



1938.

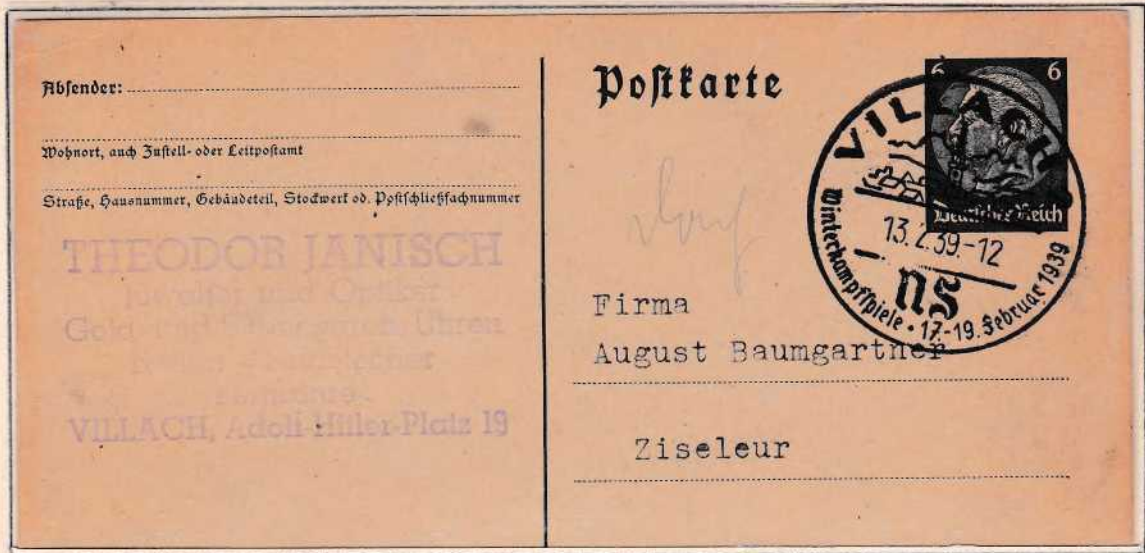
The Czechoslovak Winter Games in High Tatras.

It was also an olympic sorting racing.

(The 1940 Olympic Games were not held)

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing
 4.4.1. Racing of early times (1924-1941)

Special German ski races in occupied territories



Winter fighting games in the Austrian Villach, 1939
 Wilhelm Walch was the winner of the alpine combination.



Easter ski races in the Polish Zakopane, 1940
 Hellmut Lantschner and Josef Jennewein were the winners of the alpine races
Special cancellation on special issue



German Military Ski Championship in the Czech Spindelmühle, Sudeta territory, 1941
 There were exciting alpine ski races where Rudolf Cranz was the winner

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing

4.4.2. The second impulse of racing (1948-1980)

The winners of the nine winter olympic games organized in the years after World War II—until 1980—got at the same time the title world champion.



Ferencvarosi Torna Club
Budapest, IX, Ulloi-Ut 129,
Budapest.

FUSSBALLCLUB BASEL

1948. Winter Olympic Games and Alpine Ski World Championship, **St. Moritz**.
The races were called „Games of Renewal”. German and Japanese skiers were excluded



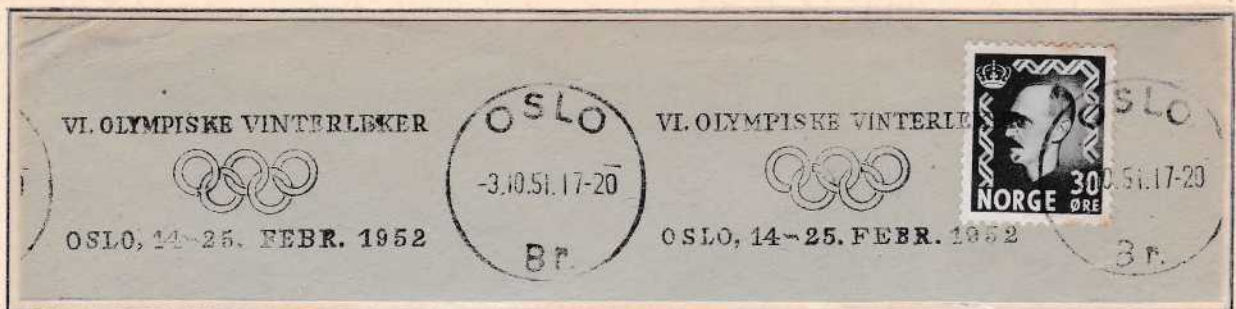
Alpine ski championship, **Schleching**,
Bavaria, 1949. The downhill track was
one of the longest in Germany in that time



One of the first GDR ski
championships in **Schierke**
in 1950



German alpine ski championship
in 1952 was held in the most popular
ski resort in Bavaria, in **Lenggries**



1952. Winter Olympic and Alpine Ski World Championship, **Oslo**
Giant slalom appeared as a particular race in the programme of ski racing events
Advertising machine special cancellation

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing

4.4.2. The second impulse of racing (1948-1980)

More interesting slalom special competitions of the fifties:



Tatra Cup, High Tatras, 1950.

There were made several educational films about the competitions
Cancellation is on the day of the slalom special race



When there were still enough snow and tracks suitable for racing on the slopes of **Mount Etna**...
 6th Catania Cup, International ski racings, **1958**. Sicily, Italy. *Interpretation error on the cancellation:
 the drawing shows slalom special gates, while the text refers to a female giant slalom competition*

1954. National Ski Championships were held in a wonderful resort in **Aspen, Colorado, U.S.A., 1954**.

There were exciting races, especially the slalom special race.

Competitors were already thinking about the 1960 Winter Olympic.



4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing
 4.4.2. The second impulse of racing (1948-1980)



Many spectators take place in front of an alpine ski race on the Kanzel/Ruia tracks, Poiana Brasov, Romania
 Domestic registered pictured postal stationery cover sent from Iasi to Focsani, Romania (1961)



An extreme alpine ski race in the fifties. In Sicily, with 25 km up-down international **ski mountaineering race** on the slope of the Etna volcano. The first prize is the „Trofeo dell' Etna”.
 Domestic registered cover with special cancellation from the local race-post to Catania, Italy (1955)

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing
 4.4.2. The second impulse of racing (1948-1980)



Special slalom skier

1954. 13th Alpine Ski World Championship, Åre, Sweden. After long time, the Norwegian S. Eriksen was the first Scandinavian competitor to become an alpine skiing world champion - moreover, a triple one.



The gold-medal-winner Eriksen

After the Åre world championship, **Garmisch-Partenkirchen** was the home of the traditional, famous alpine ski racing, the **Kandahar**.



1956. 7th Winter Olympics, and the 14th Alpine Ski World Championship at the same time, **Cortina D'Ampezzo**



Francotyp cancellation for the Olympics on the cover



Winter Olympic and Alpine Ski World Championship, **Cortina d'Ampezzo, 1956**

What, or who was common between the next two world racing event?
 An entirely new alpine skiing technique and its performer, the triple olympic winner and world champion **Toni Sailer**.



Alpine Ski World Championship, **Bad Gastein, 1958**

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing

4.4.2. The second impulse of racing (1949-1980)



The fortieth anniversary of Bulgarian skiing was celebrated with an international competition on Mount **Vithosa, 1959.**

Pair of stamps without perforation below



The first ski championship of GDR in **Schierke**, in the Harz Mountains, **1950.**



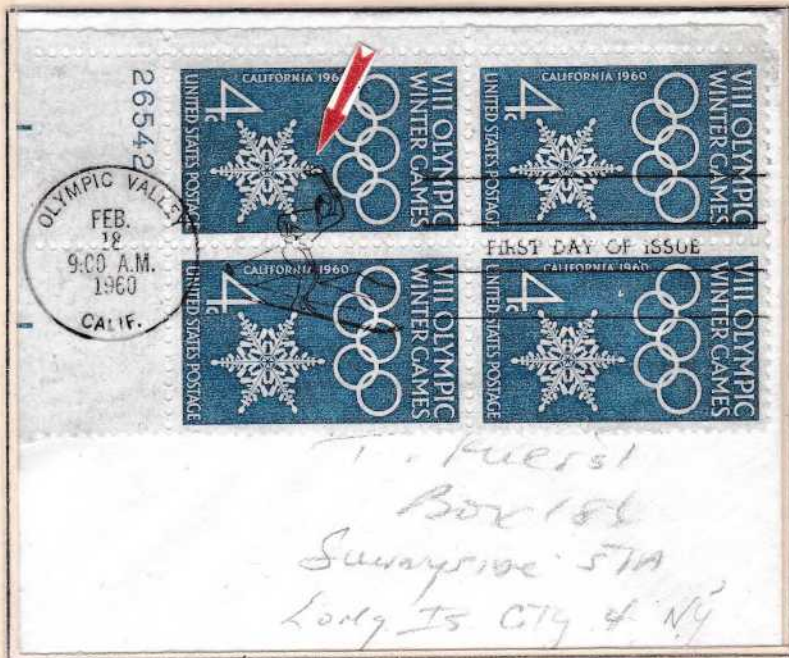
7th Winter Olympic Games, **Cortina d' Ampezzo, Italy, 1956.**
The women's special slalom winner was Renée Colliard from Switzerland.
This special cancellation used on the day of women's special slalom racing



Cortina's great alpine winner was the Austrian Toni Sailer who became the first person to win three alpine skiing golds in a single olympics. Sailer won the downhill, the giant slalom and the slalom special

This special cancellation used on the day of men's giant slalom racing

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing
4.4.2. The second impulse of racing (1948-1980)



Downhill skier holding a torch
 on the special machine cancellation for the olympics

8th Winter Olympics and 16th Alpine
 Ski World Championship,
Squaw Valley, California, 1960

At the six alpine races Switzerland was the
 winner with first places. Swiss giant slalom
 racers won both male and female races.



Slalom
 racer

Slalom winner:
 E. Hinterseer
 (Austria)

Official final
 issue of the
 Monaco Post



Trial colour proofs in stripe five. This is used by
 official printing to help choose the best colour

German Alpine Ski
 Championship
**Garmisch-
 Partenkirchen,**
 1961

Ludwig Leitner and
 Willy Bogner jr. were
 the most successful



18th Alpine Ski World Championship, **Chamonix, 1962**
 The Austrians were first with 15 medals



Thanks to significant support from well-known
 sponsors, the best alpine skiers of the world meet
 annually on a series of racing events **since 1966**.
 At the end of the season, the winners in each branch
 of racing get the **crystal globe, the World Cup**.

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing

4.4.2. The second impulse of racing (1948-1980)

10th Winter Olympics and 20th Alpine Ski World Championship, **Grenoble, 1968**

The television cameras captured all events from alpine ski competitions.



R Artist's proof with embossed seal. Signed by G. Bétemps, engraver. A total of 9 pieces could be offered for sale (1968)

11th Winter Olympics and 22nd Alpine Ski World Championship together, **Sapporo, 1972**. Downhill skier in front of the Fujiyama Special cancellation of the Japanese post



Downhill skier in egg position
Two different trial colour proofs and the final issue stamp of the Monaco Post



Slalom special skier (J. C. Killy)
Sapporo olympic issue, 1972

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing

4.4.2. The second impulse of racing (1948-1980)

12th Winter Olympics and 24th Alpine Ski Championship, **Innsbruck, 1976.**

When Franz Klammer left the start of downhill race, the whole Austria stood up and cheered for him. Successfully!



Special cancellation with the place of events



1071 WIEN, POSTFACH 25



GESCHÄFTSBRIEF

Bei Unbestellbarkeit retour erbeten

The 1976 successful participation in the olympics was partly due to the firm, providing the appliances for the Austrian National Ski Team



Alpine Ski Championship, **Garmisch-Partenkirchen, 1978.** The star of the competitions was the winner of the slalom special and giant slalom, the Swedish Ingemar Stenmark.

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing
4.4.3. Modern racing with advanced technical background (1980 -)

The **Alpine World Cup** competition series is accompanied by great interest every year to this day. Everyone is having a good time, the racers, organizers, sponsors and TV viewers worldwide.



Competitors fight for the cup made of glass crystal



The very **first sponsor** of the Alpine World Cup competitions was the French company **EVIAN**



The main sponsor in recent years is the German company **AUDI**



Chamonix-Mt. Blanc has been one of the bases of the Alpine World Cup competitions for decades. The winner of the men's downhill held in 2000 was the famous Austrian Hermann Maier.

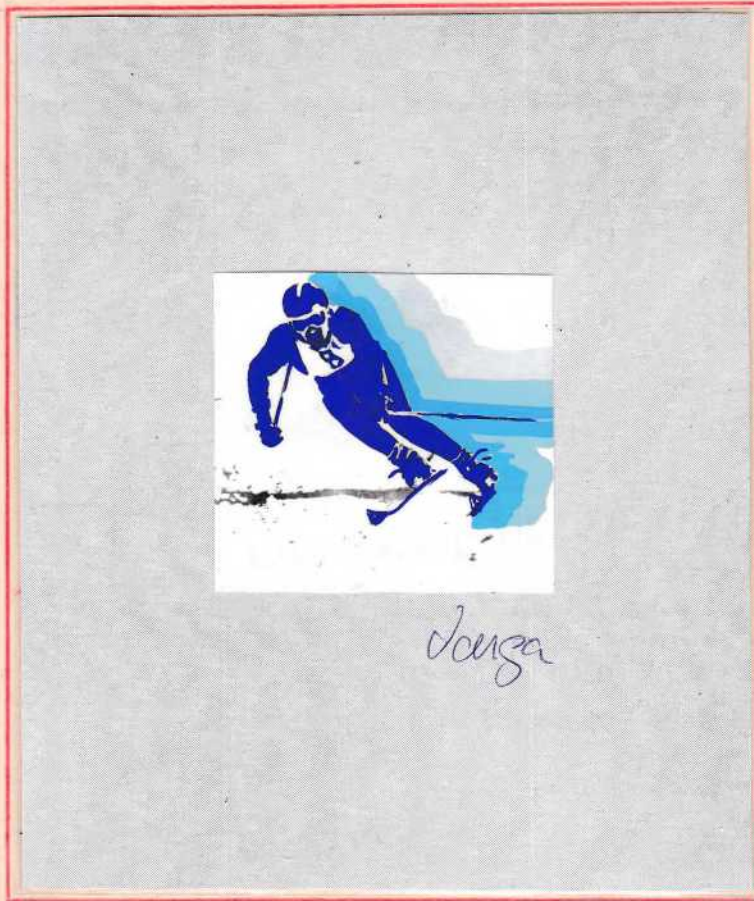


Altenmarkt-Zauchensee is the site of the Alpine World Cup competitions for women only

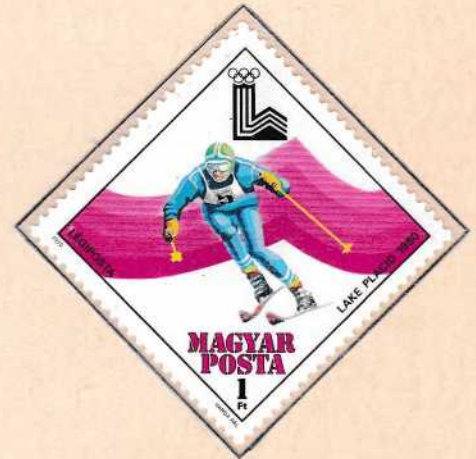
4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing

4.4.3. Modern racing with advanced technical background (1980 -)

One of the philatelic salutations to the alpine racings of the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics



R Manual sketch by the excellent Hungarian stamp designer, **Pál Varga**, for the value with the alpine skier of the Lake Placid series ©



A stamp issue implemented according to the final design by Pál Varga



1982. Schladming and Haus, alpine ski world championship in Steiermark.

Schladming (Planai) is the centre of men's, Haus im Ennstal is the one of women's races.

What's new in this competition? Great races with great racers, absolutely new race techniques and equipments.

The Swiss Erika Hess won the slalom special, giant slalom and combination.

Meter cancellation with the official insurance company of this alpine ski championship (1982)

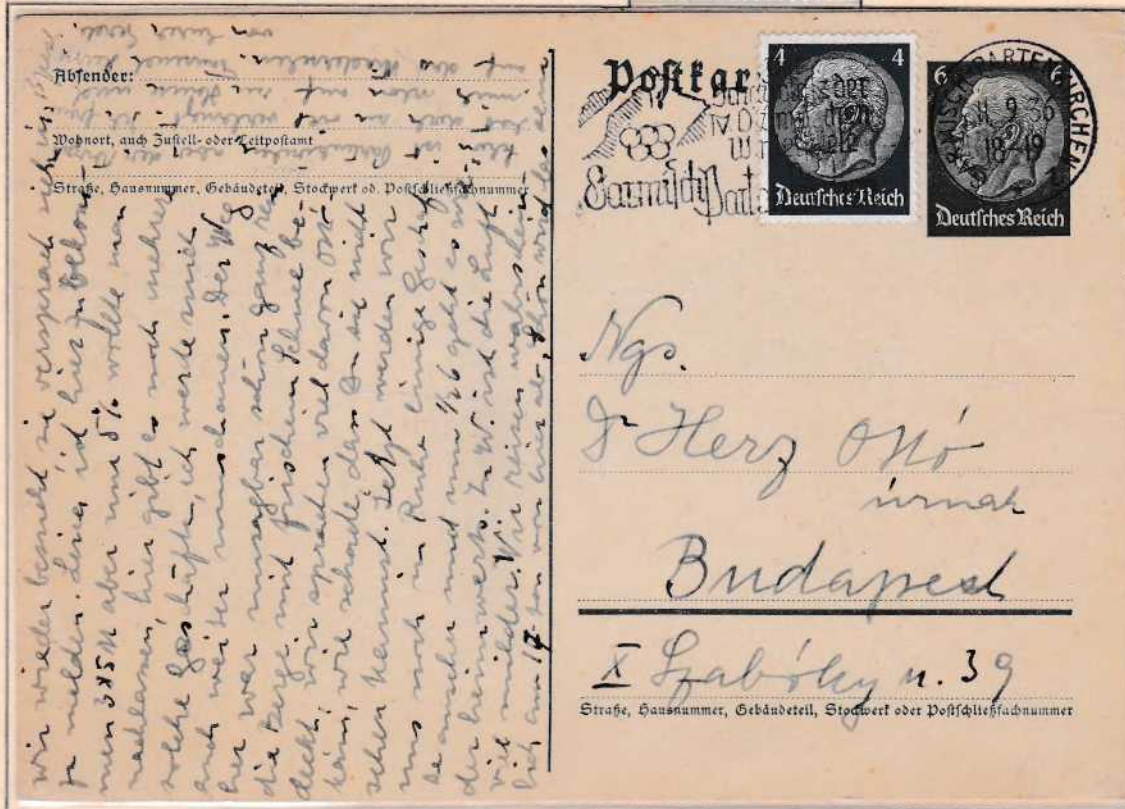
4.5. Great talented alpine skiers

Christl Cranz
(1914–2004)

German alpine ski racer



She is an outstanding alpine skier of the 1930s, Olympic and twelvefold world champion. Her racing career ended with the outbreak of the WW2



Cranz won the championship in the alpine combined at 1936 Winter Olympics in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

Franking added up to 10 Pf postal stationery card sent from Garmisch-Partenkirchen to Budapest (1936)



In 1937, at the Alpine Ski Championships in Chamonix, Cranz competed in bomb form, she won all titles (downhill, slalom special, combined)
Special machine cancellation on the stamp and the label on the closing day of the competitions.
Ordinary cover sent from Chamonix-Mt. Blanc to Cluj, Romania, franked 1F 50 C

4.5. Great talented alpine skiers

Christl Cranz, German alpine skier



Similarly, as happened in 1937, two years later, at the Alpine World Championships in Zakopane, Poland. She excelled again! She won all the titles, that is, she won three gold medals.

Two different special cancellations on Polish stamps and labels issued for the world championships

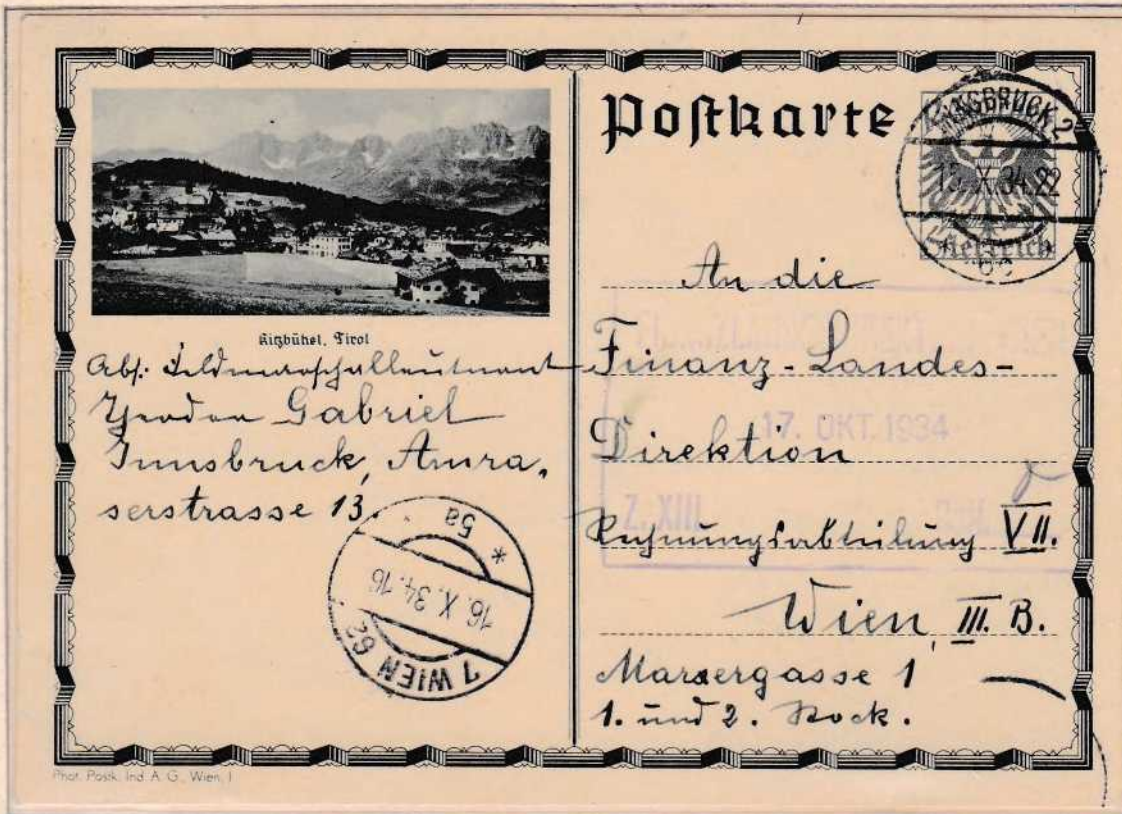


An interesting fact about Cranz's 1936 Winter Olympic ski equipment because it was provided to the competitor by the Carl Braun sporting goods company in Munich.

Order form with table on the back side of this card, sent from Munich to Memmingen. The domestic fee for the form is 3 Pf, which is cancelled with a special Carl Braun advertiser cancellation, also authorized by the German Post Office (1936)

4.5. Great talented alpine skiers

Anton Engelbert "Toni" Sailer (1935–2009)
Austrian alpine ski racer



One of the most talented alpine skiers of all time. He was born and lived in Kitzbühel, Tyrol, and was a competitor of the city's club since childhood. He was nicknamed „Blitz (flash) from Kitz“. His favourite downhill track is the famous Streif, where annual World Cup competitions are held under the name Hahnenkammrennen.

Domestic postal stationery card sent from Innsbruck to Vienna (1934)



KITZBÜHELER SKI CLUB (K.S.C.)

HINTERSTADT 4
6370 KITZBÜHEL, AUSTRIA
www.hahnenkamm.com
ZVR 112481720



Bar freigemacht/Postage paid
6370 Kitzbühel/Tirol
Österreich/Austria

Sailer on the dangerous Streif-course during the Hahnenkammrennen downhill race in 1955



Sailer's racing career is linked to the Kitzbüheler Ski Club
Official cover printed for postal order with previously postage paid



During his preparations for the 1956 Winter Olympics, he took advantage of every possibility. His club also arranged his entry to the German Alpine Ski Championship, which was held in Berchtesgaden in 1955.
Meter, with a stylized track-sketch and dates

4.5. Great talented alpine skiers

Toni Sailer, Austrian alpine skier



Sailer was barely twenty years old when in 1956 he won all the alpine races at the Winter Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. His enormous superiority was also shown in the giant slalom, in the new competition branch. Official cover sent from the Italian Athletics Federation in Roma to Schopfheim, Germany with the Olympic advertising frankotype cancellation (1955)



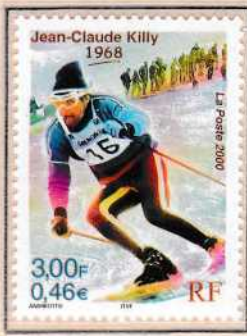
At the 1958 Bad Gastein Alpine Ski Championships, Toni Sailer was the most successful competitor with three gold medals.

He finished active racing early, at the age of 23, after which he took in film roles. Later he became a businessman, but he did not break away from skiing.

This registered F.D.C. sent to Romania from Bad Gastein with 3 S 50 Gr franked for sending printed matter

4.5. Great talented alpine skiers

Jean-Claude Killy, French alpine skier (1943–)



Killy spent his childhood in Val-d'Isere near Grenoble, where he learned to ski well at an early age. He won his first international competition at the age of 18 with start number 39. It was a giant slalom race also in Val-d'Isere. From 1966, recovering from an earlier injury, he won his competitions one after another, first he became the alpine combined world champion in Portillo, Chile. Then he excelled in the World Cup competitions.

Killy became alpine combined world champion in 1966 in Portillo, Chile



Giant slalom racer at the Grenoble Winter Olympics in 1968



Killy achieved sensational success at the 1968 Winter Olympics in Grenoble, winning gold medals in all three alpine competitions.

R Artist's proof with embossed seal, signed by Pierre Forget designer and engraver.

A total of 9 pieces could be offered for sale

4.5. Great talented alpine skiers

Annemarie Moser-Pröll, Austrian alpine ski racer (1953–)



In 1979, she also won two victories (downhill, combined) on the World Cup course in Meiringen, Switzerland.
 Franking added up to 25 Rp postal stationery card sent from Lausanne to Dresden, Germany (1923)

She was born in Kleinarl, Austria, in the state of Salzburg, in the mountains, close to great ski courses. Pröll was a competitor of the local ski club. Her heyday as an alpine skier lasted from 1969 to 1980 interestingly, despite winning more than 60 World Cup races. She has only one olympic gold medal, which she won in the final season of her racing career.



Pröll won the downhill at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid



These special cancellations on the 1976 olympic downhill stamp issue of the Austrian post commemorate the biggest crystal globe won by Pröll, sixfold overall World Cup winner

4.5. Great talented alpine skiers

Ingemar Stenmark, Swedish alpine ski racer (1956–)



He is one of the greatest alpine skiers of all time with a total of two olympic golds, three overall World Cup golds, and 86 World Cup victories in slalom special and giant slalom. During his career, he also tried the downhill, but his „riding-style“ did not suit this more fast-paced alpine discipline. His active career lasted from 1973 to 1989.



The most significant stop of his World Cup victories in giant slalom is in Adelboden, Switzerland, where he won five times between 1979 and 1984, which is one of the most difficult competitions in the World Cup series.

Postal stationery card with advertiser F.I.S. competition cancellation sent from Zurich to South Orange, New Jersey, U.S.A. (1934)

He achieved his two olympic championships both in Lake Placid in 1980



Stenmark on the overprint



R Stenmark on the inverted overprint



During Stenmark's racing career, he used Slovenian ELAN skis, and made it world famous with his excellent results

As we have seen, Stenmark triumphed in a total of 86 World Cup races.

In 2023, what seems improbable for a long time happened. The young and beautiful American slalom queen, **Mikaela Shiffrin** broke Stenmark record.

4.5. Great talented alpine skiers

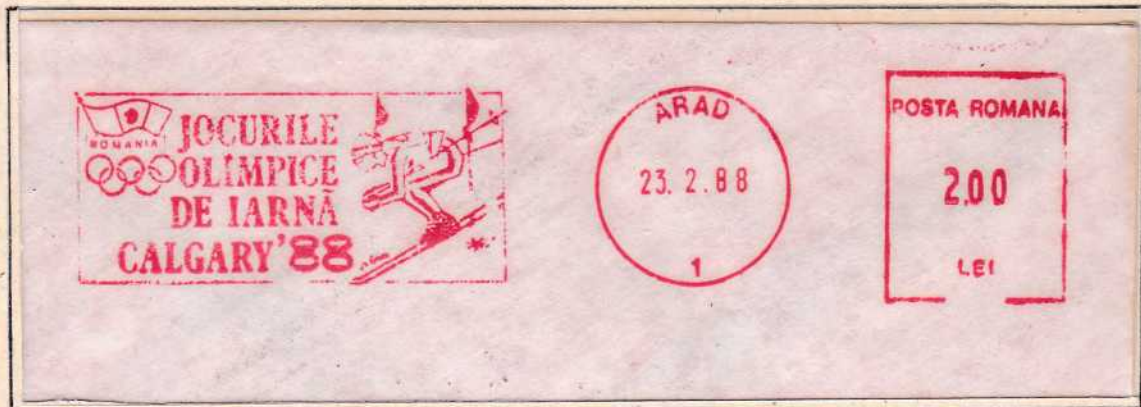
Alberto Tomba, Italian alpine ski racer (1966–)



He learned to ski at the age of three and started racing at the age of seven. He developed into a powerful, all-muscle physique, despite this, he later achieved his outstanding results not in downhill or Super G, but in slalom special and giant slalom. He was a competitor of the Centro Sportivo Carabinieri in Bologna. His racing career lasted from 1985 to 1998.



Tomba acquired his excellent technical skills in the Dolomites, mainly on the courses of the heights surroundings the city of Trento



Tomba won his three olympic championships relatively early, after bursting into the international elite. He won two gold medals (slalom special and giant slalom) at the Winter Olympics in Calgary in 1988.

Olympic meter cancellation by the Romanian Post Office.



His third olympic gold medal is from Albertville, where he won in giant slalom in 1992

His peak year was 1995, when he won the most World Cup races in one year out of his 50 career World Cup victories, thus also the overall victory.

He also earned the nickname „Tomba la Bomba” (Tomba the Bomb)



His dynamic gate-skiing technique is still taught and learned (He no longer competed in Salt Lake City, but Tomba is recognizable by his movements and yellow Rossignol slalom skis)

4.5. Great talented alpine skiers



Hermann Maier, Austrian alpine ski racer (1972–)

Nicknamed the „Herminator“

Maier ranks among the greatest alpine ski racers in history, with four overall World Cup titles, two olympic gold medals, three world championship titles. His 54 World Cup race victories rank third on the men's all-time list.

Who doesn't remember his horrifix flying-fall in the downhill race at the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympic, followed by his victory the next day in super giant slalom?



Marktplatz 5
5541 Altenmarkt
AUSTRIA

PRIORITY

41001
NP1200000095
000006585



Kovacs Gedeon Laszlo
Bethlen Gabor UTCA 17.

The nominated company was the main sponsor of Hermann Maier, the world-famous pride of Altenmarkt im Pongau, where he was born, and Flachau, where he lives and a FIS-course is named after him.

The Raiffeisen emblem can also be seen on Maier's helmet.

Official company cover canceled with postal permission. It sent from Altenmarkt im Pongau to Budapest (2018)



The Norwegian **Kjetil André Aamodt** competed among world winners for 15 years. With his 4 gold medals, he is the alpine skier king of winter olympics

Marcel Hirscher
Austrian alpine ski racer.

„I am in the footsteps of Ingemar“ – said after the victory 67th World Cup, then at the age of 30, he unexpectedly ended his active racing career. Until then, he had fantastic success, two-time olympic champion, the „Best Alpine Skier of all Time“ title holder.



MARKTGEMEINDE
ALTENMARKT



5541 Altenmarkt im Pongau
Michael-Walchhofer-Straße 6

Tel. +43 (0) 6452 / 5911-0, Fax DW 30
gemeinde@altenmarkt.at
www.altenmarkt.at

PRIORITY



Bar freigemacht/Postage paid
5541 Altenmarkt im Pongau
Österreich/Austria

Finally, a question. Who is the multiple World Cup winner, world champion downhill skier who got a street name in his youth in Austria? The answer is: **Michael Walchhofer**

Official cover-detail printed by Austrian Post Office with previously postage paid

EPILOGUE

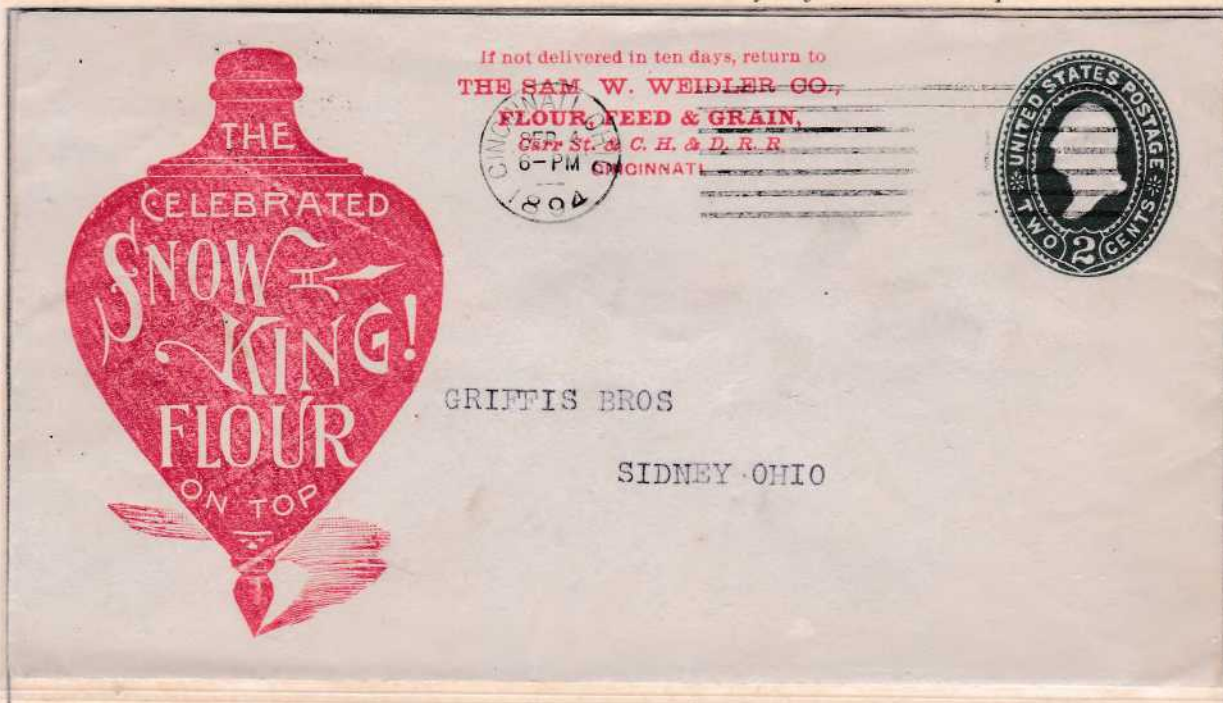
What can be the object for which both professional and beginner skiers can be happy?
This is nothing but the **SNOW!**



Numbered jubilee postal stationery card from the 1602 meter high Schneekoppe addressed to Leipzig (1927)



Several types of snow crystals! They have one thing in common: if you have a lot of them, you can already ski!
Booklet with twenty self-adhesive stamps



Snow King?
Yes, let the Snow be
our King!
Postal stationery
cover sent from
Cincinnati to
Sydney (Ohio, U.S.A.)
1894



...for your attention!