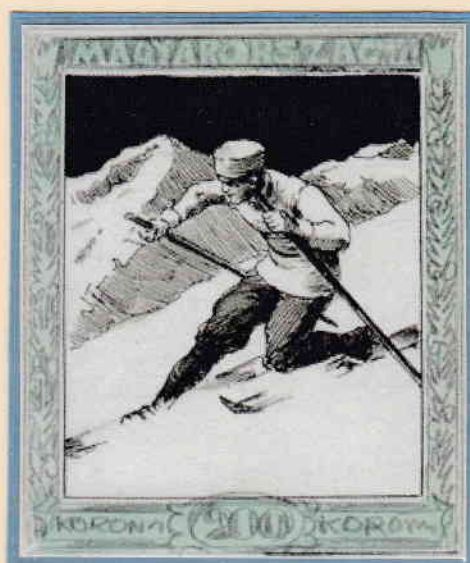


ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR WINTER SPORTS ALPINE SKIING

What does the alpine skiing mean for today's people?
 A healthy passion?
 A spectacular and hard struggling sport?
 Spectacle of the wonderful surroundings?
 An expensive but much giving back sport?
 Yes, these can be told about this marvellous sport.



A copy of Ferenc Helbing's stamp design that the artist created as the first ski stamp of the world (1925)

This exhibit presents the beginnings, development, equipments, connections and results of the alpine skiing using postal issues and services belonging to philately.

A few rare documents marked R

When Mathias Zdarsky managed the first downhill in 1896 on a slope in Lilienfeld with his own ski-technique and self-developed equipment he did not even know that he opened a new chapter in the four thousand years-old skiing, called **alpine skiing**.



When dispatching this letter, we couldn't know yet that Lilienfeld, Lower Austria would become the cradle of alpine skiing

Ex officio letter with „Lilienfeld” line postal mark in oval frame (1838)

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR WINTER SPORTS

ALPINE SKIING

	Sheets
TITLE	1
0. PLAN	2
1. HEROIC AGES OF SKIING AND THE BIRTH OF ALPINE SKIING	3-9
1.1. When, why and where was skiing invented?	
1.2. The first significant ski club and expedition	
1.3. The story of the first ski-postman	
1.4. The pioneer of alpine skiing	
1.5. An earlier organized form of ski education	
1.6. An example of the central support of skiing	
2. EQUIPMENTS AND RESORTS OF ALPINE SKIING	10-44
2.1. Alpine skis and bindings	
2.2. Alpine ski boots	
2.3. The role of ski poles	
2.4. Clothing and safety equipments	
2.5. Ski lifts	
2.6. Marked ski tracks	
2.7. Famous ski resorts	
2.8. Ski accidents, methods and equipments of rescue	
3. WHY IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR WINTER SPORTS?	45-57
3.1. Mass sport character of alpine skiing	
3.2. It provides a determinative experience already in childhood	
3.3. The spectacular view of ski tracks	
3.4. Skiing is not only an individual but also a social sport	
3.5. Disabled people can also enjoy alpine skiing	
3.6. Test of courage, the extreme skiing	
4. ALPINE SKIING AS AN ORGANIZED RACING SPORT	58-84
4.1. Foundation of the International Ski Association	
4.2. The tasks and roles of the F.I.S.	
4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines	
4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing	
4.5. Great talented alpine skiers	

Total 84

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.



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



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

S.W. Iwanov, Russian painter (1864-1910) „Muscovites’ campaign in the XVI. century” Soldiers skiing on the picture can be seen with equipment at the same time



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



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

Booklet of ten stamps



Telemark technique

1.2. The first significant ski club and expedition

The Norwegian **Kristiania** Ski Club, founded in 1877, is the world's first ski club. It was named after what the capital Oslo was called until 1924.



A first club-founder, Fridtjof **Nansen**, the Nobel-prized zoologist, made an exploratory-scientific route across Greenland **by ski** together with his team in 1888, winning international fame by this.



The organizer and guide of the first world famous ski endeavour in his old age



This kind of clothing, appliances and ski technique were used for crossing Greenland in 1888 by Nansen and his team

1.3. 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.



Snowshoe Thompson is pictured around 1870



Probably one part of the San Francisco-Wheatland route was passable with ski-mail only in early March (1873 date is from the letter)
There is a private-but semi-official-ski-post mark on the cover



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

What was Snowshoe Thompson's ski equipment?



Thompson's skis and the ski pole are similar to the ones in the picture, the **old-time skis** and the **ski pole**
On the private postal stationery card are mountain going equipments of military mountain troops (1911)

1.4. The pioneer of alpine skiing

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.



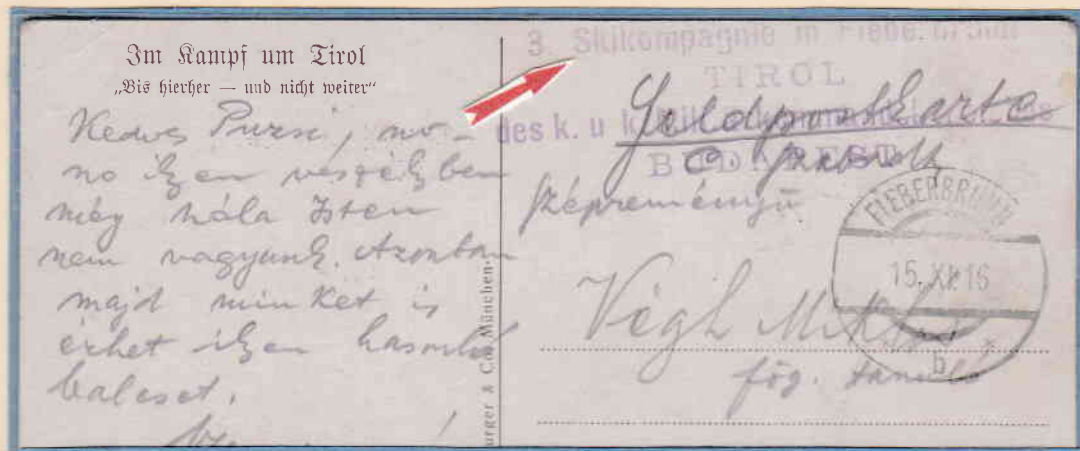
Zdarsky's memory is honoured up to now, first of all in Lilienfeld, Lower Austria



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 1.600 selected Hungarian soldiers, on the request of the Ministry of Defence. After the beginning of World War I, gained even more importance, especially in the mountain troops, serving at the borders.



Hungarian soldiers took part in a **ski education**, organized by the Austro-Hungarian Army, on the northern slope of Wildseeloder, belonging to Fieberbrunn, near Kitzbühel
Field postcards, one of the two is censored by the local command (1915-1916)

1.5. An earlier organized form of ski education

The greatest centre of military ski education in the years of WW I was in Zillertal, Austria



Berlinerhütte, built in 1879, at the height of 2042 metres, was the home of organized ski education for the soldiers from the Monarchy *Field postcard (1915)*

Adaptation to high altitude conditions, including teaching and learning skiing, has played an important role in the fights of the WW I.



The military ski education was of paramount importance in the years of WW I. Many **private ski instructors** were also commissioned by the Monarchy's command. *Field postcard (1916)*



Soldiers were trained in **high mountain conditions** in Zillertal, Tirol, Austria *Field postcard (1916)*

1.5. An earlier organized form of ski education

Well trained military skier teams



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)*

All these would not have been realized without the knowledge and experiences of Mathias Zdarsky.



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.

1.6. An example of the central support of skiing

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.

Skiing is among the branches of sport getting support, 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) ©



R Special utilization of the 200 K value on an official document. Szár, 29 October 1925

2. EQUIPMENTS AND RESORTS OF ALPINE SKIING

2.1. Alpine skis and bindings

Until 20s were used shortened and very bended **wooden Norwegian skis**
R Printed-to-private-order advertisement postal stationery band (Vienna, 1907)



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

Hochwohlgeboren

Herrn *F^{re}hrd. L. Pillinger*

Frau

Fräulein

D r e s d e n

Blauenitzgasse 26

Sachsen



Completion and
75% copy-detail
of the back side

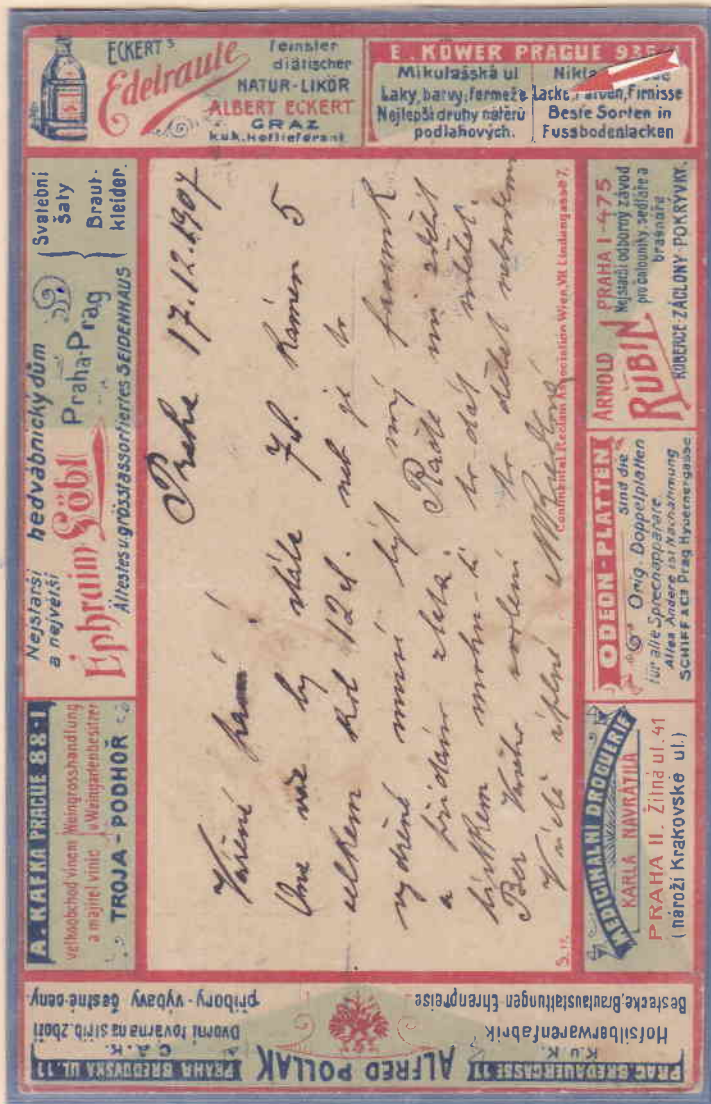
2.1. Alpine skis and bindings

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



The most of the bended wooden skis made of **ash**

Early ashwood skis were coated with **good quality lacquer** because the water protection was needed these constructions



R Printed-to-private-order advertising postal stationery card, Prague 1907 (Original and 50% photocopy of the address side)



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



In the 90s, **wooden/plastic** skis of traditional geometry were still in use, but already together with fully safe, standardized bindings

Today's skis, taking turns very well, are made with small radius, these are the "**carving**" skis

2.1. Alpine skis and bindings

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...


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

BON D'EXAMEN GRATUIT

Veillez 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 : _____

Marseille 11.05.90



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

The geometrical shaping of a downhill ski can be well observed at a skier, returning to the snow
Official French postal service cover



Franz Kneissl
KNEISSL
Älteste Skifabrik Österreichs
Kufstein/Tirol Austria



Auf **KNEISSL**
Kufstein/Tirol

Olympiasieger
Weltmeister
Kandaharsieger

Grand Prix Brüssel 58



The star of the 50s and 60s was the **KNEISSL** ski from Kufstein

Older type
„Kandahar“
binding



Modern, rear
binding with
ski-brake



W+P
Winkelmann + Posaehoff GmbH
Stahlblechverformung
Postfach 26 55 • 59213 Ahlen





German industrial partners for manufacturing of the alpine ski steel edges and the bindings

2.2. Alpine ski boots

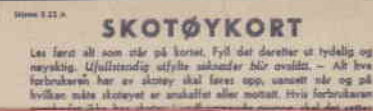


Design of ski boot soles always followed the development of ski bindings

Until the 60s, only small-leg, leather ski boots with strings were used.
Postal stationery card

During and after WW II, the available products were in shortage. If someone wanted to buy such ski boots, he could do this for example at this Norwegian company:

(See below) Original and 50% copy-detail of the address side. The extra charge was not for a profit organisation, only formular.



Forbrukerens etternavn: Fornavn: Fødselsår og datum:

Nøye angivelse av yrke: Arbeidssted eller skole:

Nøyaktig boligadresse:

Der søkes om anvisning på ialt **ett** par gruppe størrelse nr.
(Hva slag skotøy, se nedenfor)

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	Arbeidsstøvler av lær	H	Tøfler, alle slag	Annat 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 gummiføttøy som ikke kan repareres (hva slag?)
B	Arbeidsføttøy av gummi	K	Slagstøvler av gummi (dam og barn)		Annat utslitt skotøy som ikke kan repareres (hva slag?)
B	Sportsføttøy av gummi	M	Idrettsskotøy (Hva slag?)		Skotøy (og gummiføttøy) som ikke kan nyttes av forbrukeren (hva slag?)
C	Grove arbeidssko (lave) av lær	N	Trebunn skaffestøvler		Hvis en annen i husstanden kan nytte dette skotøy, oppgi dennes navn og alder
C	Sportssko (lave) av lær	O	Trebunn snørestøvler (fottlær el. gum. overd.)		Skotøy som forbrukeren har lånt (av hvem?)
D	Skinnsko (av bokskalf, sjøvrå o. l.)	P	Ortopedisk skotøy sydd eller mål		Skotøy som forbrukeren har lånt bort (til hvem?)
D	Skinnstøvler (av bokskalf, sjøvrå o. l.)	R	Trebunnsko (fottlær el. gum. overd.)		
E	Selskapsko, hva slag (beskrivelse)	S	Trebunnstøfler (lær el. skinn overd.)		
F	Utpregede sommersko m. lærsåle		Skinnsko kjøpt med trehalvsåle		
F	Sandaler og sandaletter		Skinnsko med stiv tresåle		
G	Sommersko av stoff m. gummissåle		Trebunnskinnstøvler		
G	Turnsko, tennissko og lignende		Trebunnssandaler 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** _____

Signatur _____ Dato / 194 _____ Søkerens underskrift.

2.2. Alpine ski boots

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.



Racers with modern ski boots



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



The special cancellation shows a three-clip plastic ski boot



Such edge-led skiing is possible only with **modern ski boots**
Postal stationery cover with special cancellation

2.3. The role of ski poles



Ski poles are important appliances in alpine skiing.

The four phases of its use must be applied well by the 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 tasks of the alpine ski poles:



Taking rhythm for turning



Taking impulse at start



Fast elimination of the layable gates as barriers at slalom special



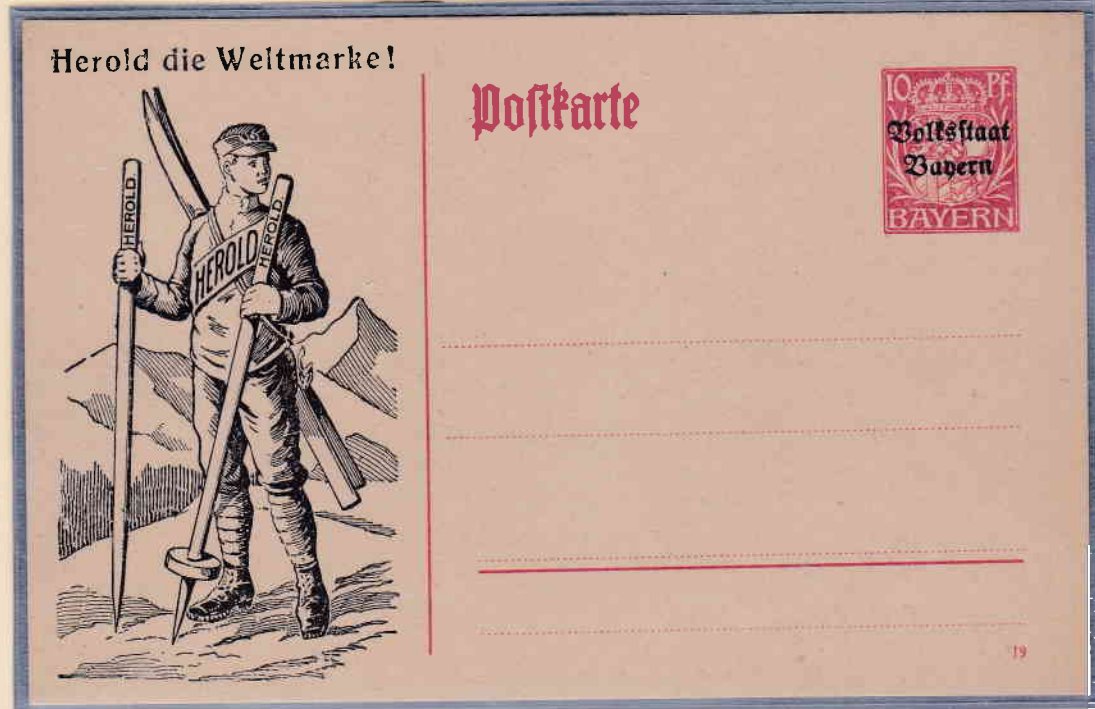
Balancing at extremely high speeds

2.3. The role of ski poles

Design and development of ski poles



M. Zdarsky, the great pioneer of alpine skiing, used a **single wooden pole** as a relief to help turning



Where can people buy two such **monstrous ski poles** after WWI ?

Of course, at Herold Co., founded in 1867

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



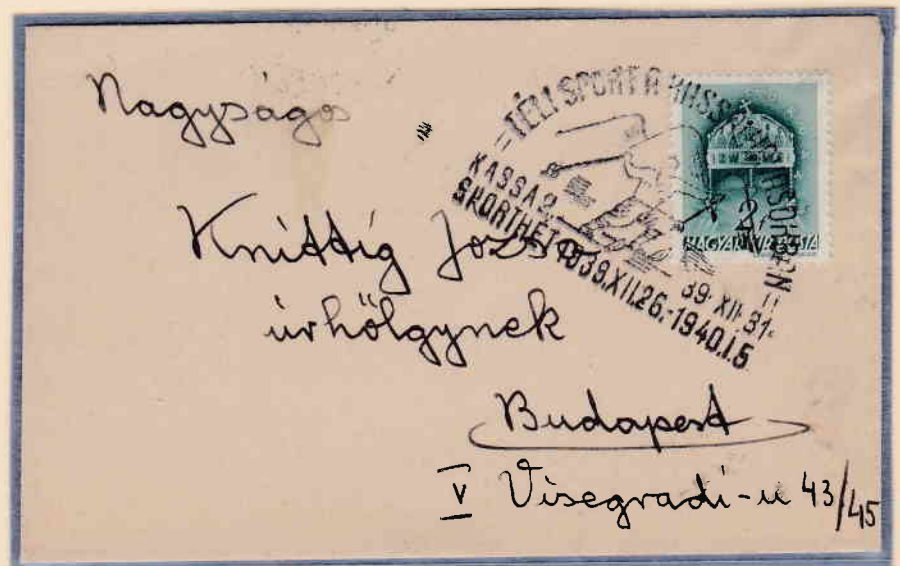
In the 20s already **two ski poles** were used with big snow discs, suitable even for deep snow



The alpine ski poles used after the twenties are still much **longer** than we are using now



Excellent ski poles are made of bamboo by the 30s

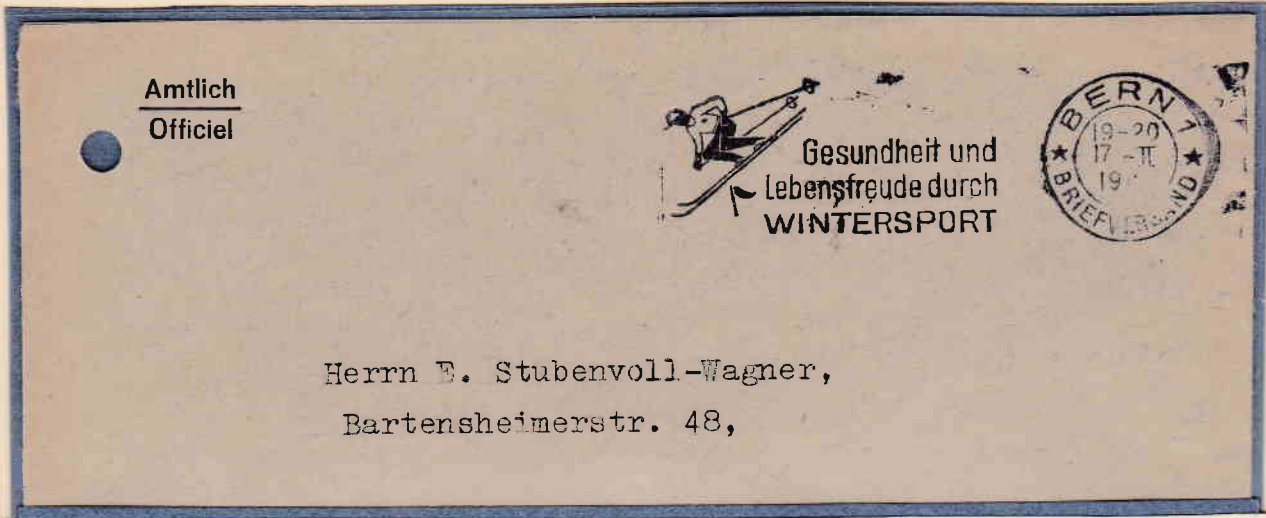


By the 30s, together with the technique of alpine skiing, ski poles were developed, they were made of **bamboo**

A cover with special cancellation

2.3. The role of ski poles

Design and development of ski poles



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

50% reduction copy from the first „fold” of this aerogramme



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

This American free-time skier is also using thin ski poles. *Air mail aerogramme from U.S.A.*



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

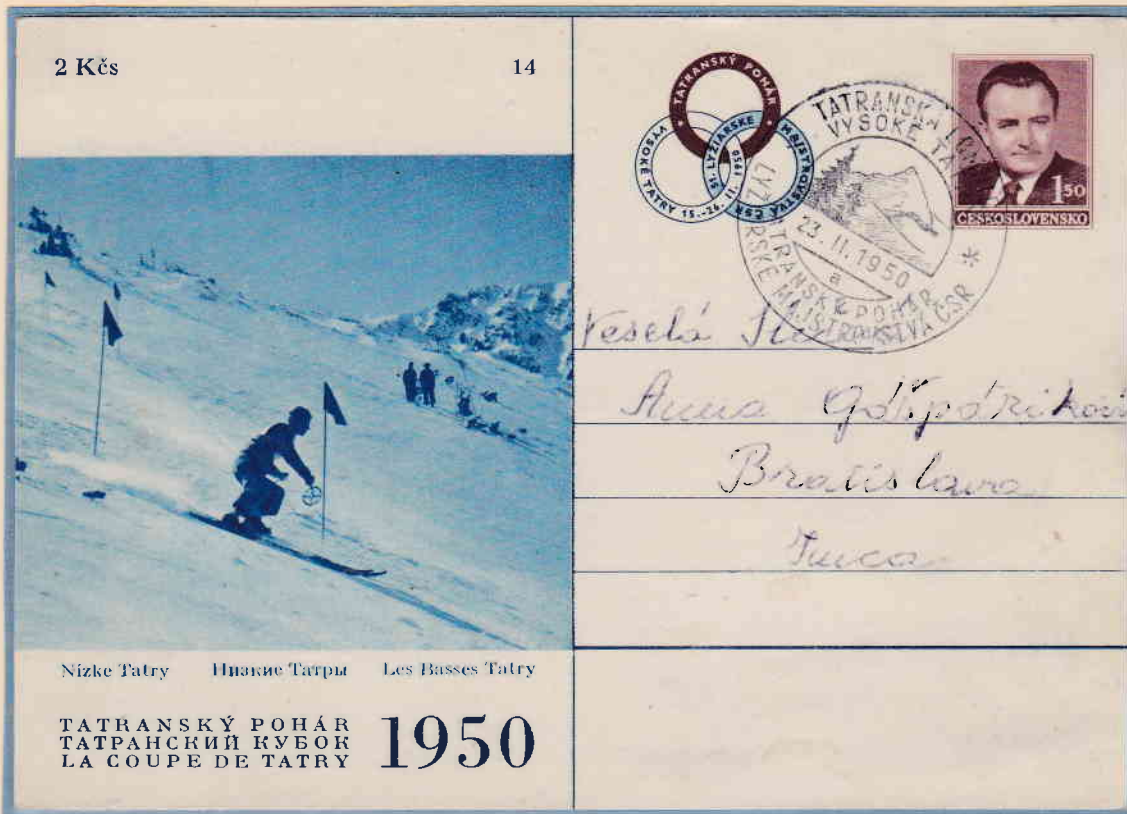
2.4. Clothing and safety equipments



Female skier in
breeches

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. There is no special protecting equipment yet.

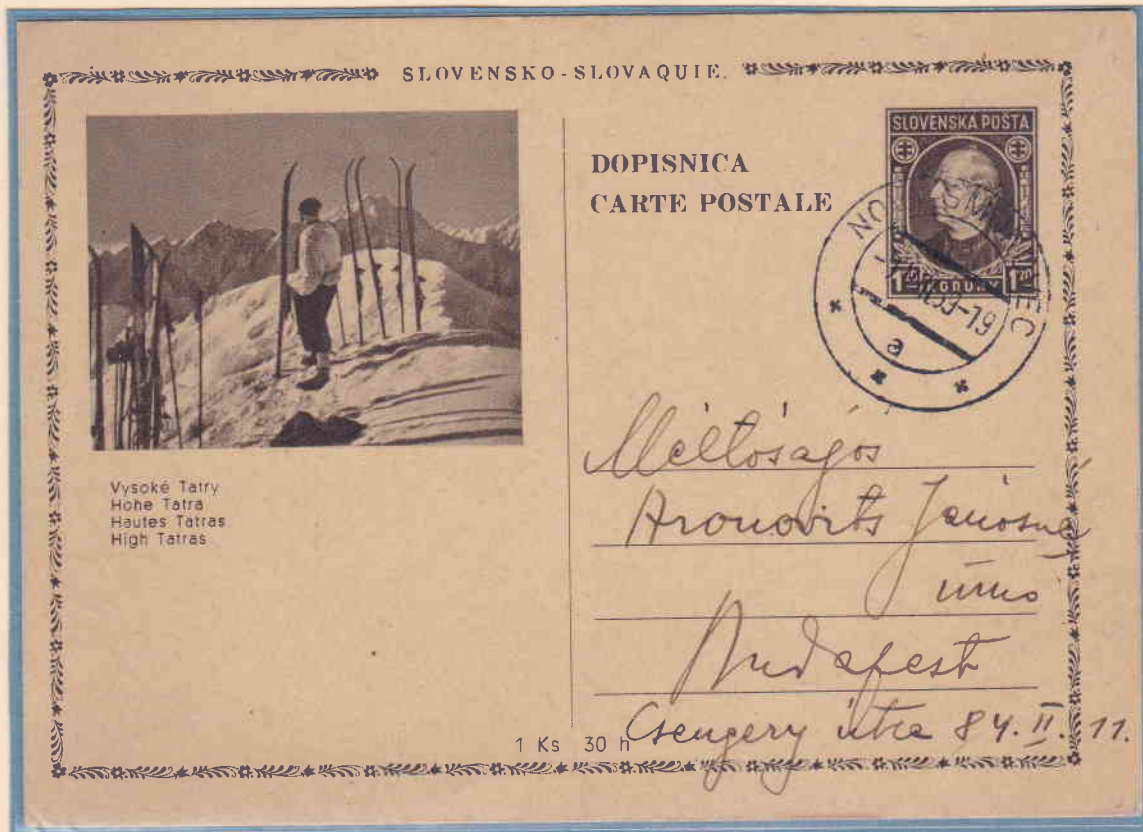
The skier on the special cancellation for the Kassa skiing week is also wearing breeches



A skier in the
general clothing
of the 30s, with
ear-flaps

A skier in **breeches**

2.4. Clothing and safety equipments



There is not too much difference in the **clothing** of the free-time (above) and the competitor skiers (below) in the 1930s. *Postal stationery card (above)*

Sparkasse der Stadt Klosterneuburg

Herrn

H. v. Hamenheim,

Bankbeamter

Sibiu - Hermannstadt,

Paulwienerg. 8

Rumänien

Einschreiben



2.4. Clothing and safety equipments



Mainly men's ski clothing of the late 30s. Breeches are replaced by **long trousers** reaching the ski boots
New York-Helsinki first flight, 1947. Special cancellation by Post



Fashionable women's **ski suit** from the 40s on a New Zealand poster

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

R Monaco CM from 1948



In the seventies and eighties the **jet pants** was fashion



Today's **recreational** ski clothings



Today's **racing** ski clothing

2.4. Clothing and safety equipments



Vapour-free **ski glasses** are used by both professionals and amateurs



The slalom skier is using **hand and leg protector** for laying the gates



High quality **ski gloves** are indispensable, **brake-proof helmets** are compulsory for alpine racing



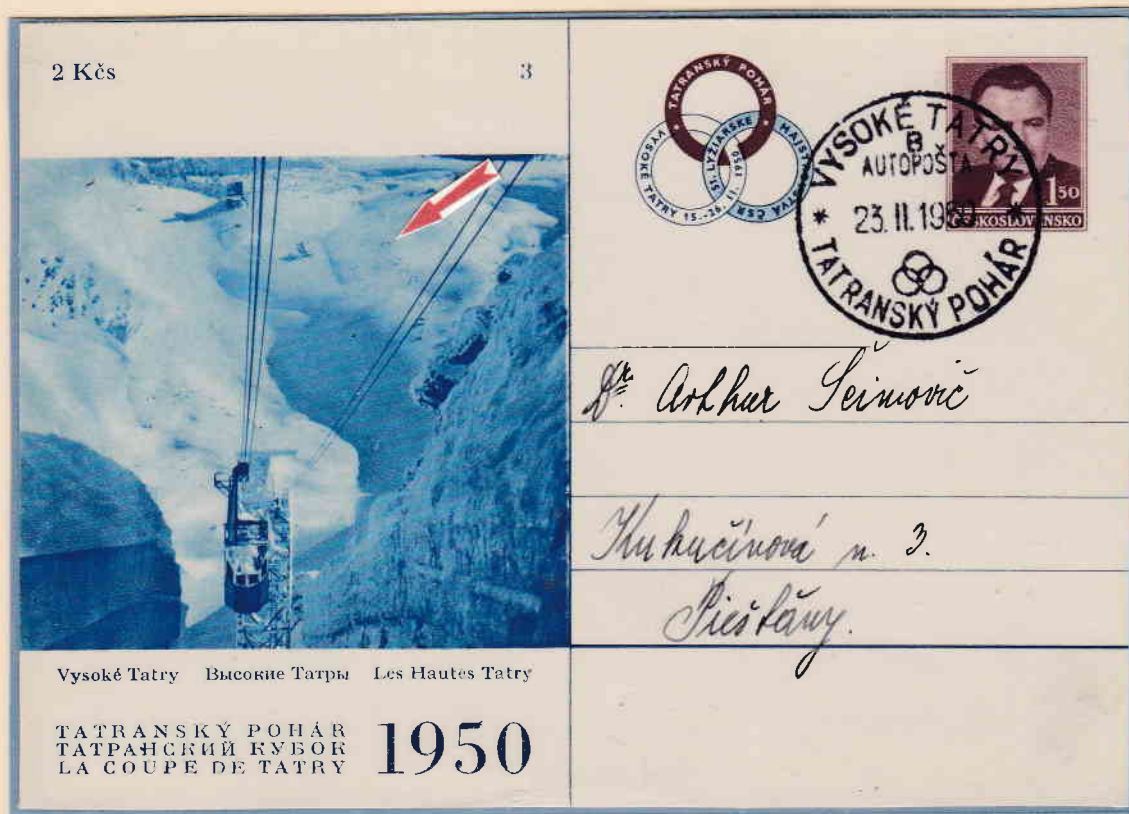
Specific meaning of the place name
This stamp sent from **SISAK, 1871**
(*sisak=helmet in Hungarian*)



As soon as the skis have been accelerated and skiing technique has developed, the use of helmets to avoid accidents has become necessary

2.5. Ski lifts

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



Poles of the surface, so-called **T-bar** lift (see the part marked by the arrow) beside the **aerial ropeway** lift on the 1950 postal stationery card, issued for the 21st Tatra Cup

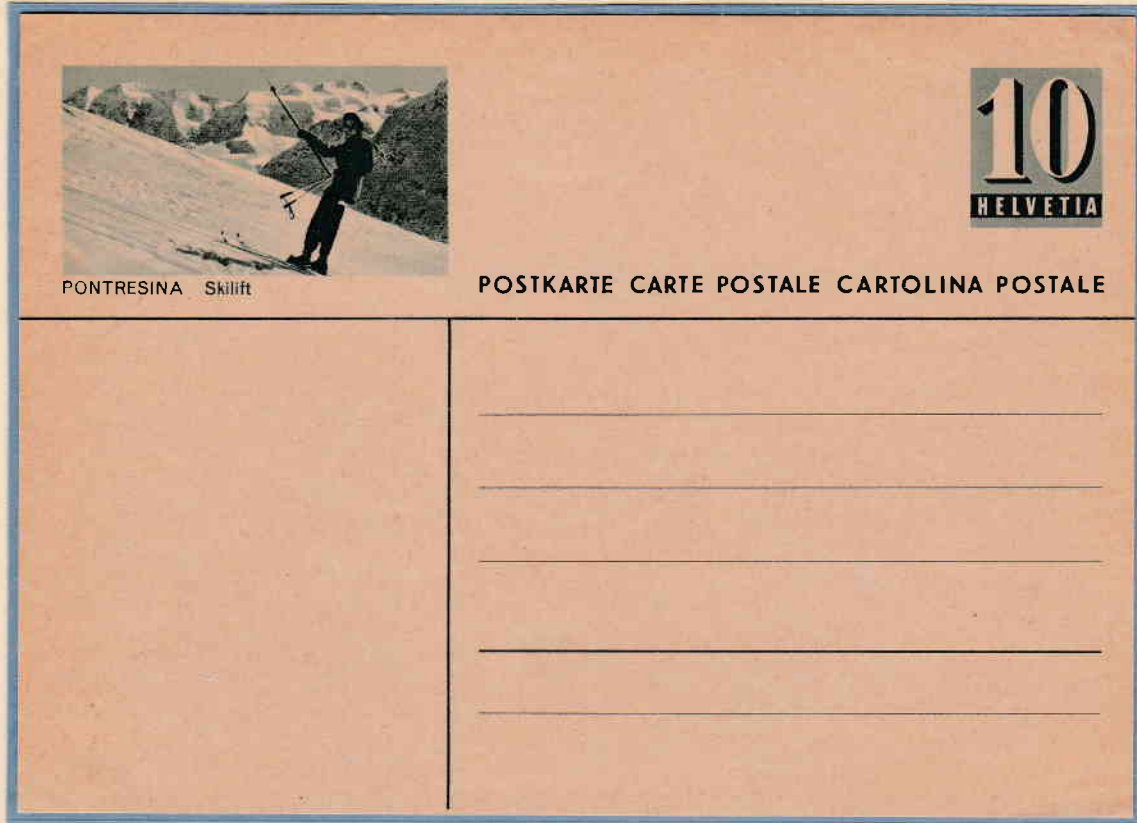


Trial colour proof



Aerial ropeway ski lift
R Colour proof with 1420 as colour number

2.5. Ski lifts



On the tracks of Pontresina, near St. Moritz, a **T-bar** lift was in operation already in the 30s

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



Gondola



T-bar



Where the cable has no more role. Attention, **heliskiing** is not cheap!

2.5. Ski lifts

Advertisings of ski lifts



A personal one chairlift in Schwaz (Austria, Tirol)



Garmisch-Partenkirchen's ski lift (Germany)



An interesting chairlift in Poiana-Brasov (Romania)



The Ötscher ski resort was popularized with six ski lifts on the spectacular advertising special cancellation (Lackenhof, 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 postal stationery card

2.5. Ski lifts

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 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

(Message Form 5/174) (598/105.) Tel. Address:—"SIGNALLY, AVE," LONDON. Telephone: 3332 LONDON WALL (4 Lines).
TELEGRAM
 ISSUED FROM ~~CABLE STATION~~ ~~HOUSE~~, FINSBURY PAVEMENT.
REPLIES SHOULD BE ORDERED
Via Eastern
 Doubtful words should be OFFICIALLY repeated. See Rule Book.
 No inquiry respecting this Telegram can be attended to without production of this Copy.
 See back of form for list of Company's Stations in London and Telephone Numbers.

ORIGINAL TIME IN LETTERS OF THE GLOBE
 L Y M A B
 K X O P C
 I V W R Q D
 H T S R E
 G F
 Outer Circle A.M.
 Inner Circle P.M.

Examples, PW=3.45 p.m., HL=3.55 a.m.

No.	Clerk's Name and Date.	Time Received.	Remarks.	No.
	Conj. C	1 ^a		

XGA 2307 SALONICA 22 6 0 SG PML =
 DE BELGRADE LEGATION SERBE LN =
 POCHTO JE USTANOVTJENA REDOVNA POCHTANSKA

The marked words—**cable station**—mean the building of the cabin-system ski lifts in interpretation of our days
This telegram is a type of the famous telegraph company (19.02.1919.)

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.



10 frimerker à kr 3.50 Kr 35.-

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



On the high-altitude ski slopes **marked the edges** of the tracks as early as the early thirties.
So, for example, in Andermatt, Switzerland *Postal stationery card (1931)*

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

Marking of a „real” racetrack and a normal ski slope



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 completion on the back side of the cover

2.6. Marked ski tracks



Designated alpine ski tracks generally run under the chairlifts



Route of the Badgastein alpine world championship tracks in 1958



Ski instruction is allowed only on the designated ski tracks



The ski tracks are prepared daily by Sno-Cats

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



Route of the olympic alpine races on the stamp, and the signature of Bétemps, the designer, on the die proof

R Die proof with control seal signed by G. Bétemps, designer and engraver (1968)

2.7. Famous ski resorts

2.7.1. Most popular European ski resorts

Though Norway is the original homeland of skiing, by fast spreading of alpine skiing, snow-proof skiing resorts with excellent tracks and infrastructure were founded one after another.

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, the
snowy peaks of Uri-
Rotstock



Swiss jubilee postal stationery card
from 1893. Posted over validity, in 1900.
(Original and 50% copy of the address side)



View of the
Kitzbühel tracks
today

Kitzbühel, the 1st rank Austrian ski resort 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.

2.7.1. Most popular European ski resorts



Heiligenblut, near Grossglockner, the highest peak of Austria, is also a popular ski resort, where international ski racings were held already in 1946 and 1948



One of the popular ski resort of Austria is the track system of the **Kitzsteinhorn** glacier (marked by an arrow). It has an important role in the so called „summer training” of professional skiers, and is usually named simply „**Kaprun**” Completed postal stationery card sent by air mail (1929)

2.7.1. Most popular European ski resorts

Again, the amazing view of the **winter-summer ski paradise** above Kaprun, the glacier **Kitzsteinhorn**



Distant view of the Austrian ski paradise (marked)

Zeppelin post cover delivered through the maiden voyage of the airship LZ-130 to the Sudetenland



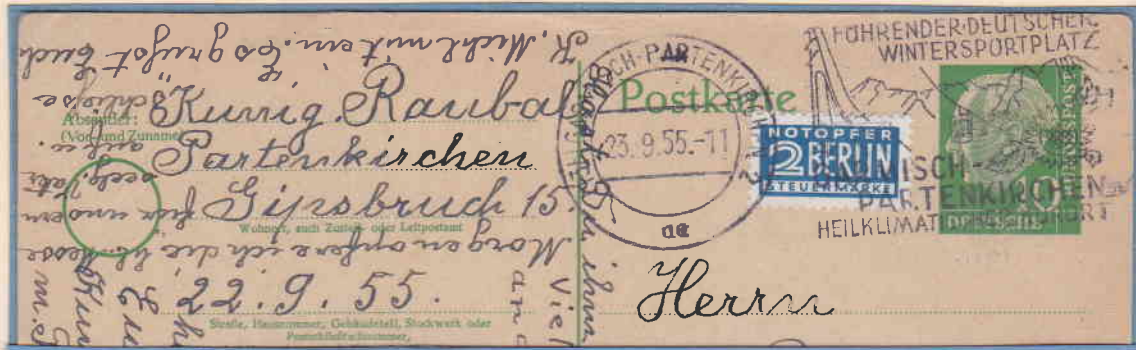
The **High Tatras** with their snow-proof tracks are also regarded as excellent alpine ski resort long ago. The skiing track of the outstanding ski resort, **Solisko** on a postal stationery card, from the time of the 1935 FIS racings

2.7.1. Most popular European ski resorts

Germany also has a world famous alpine ski resort.



Garmisch-Partenkirchen was the home of the alpine ski races of the 4th winter olympics



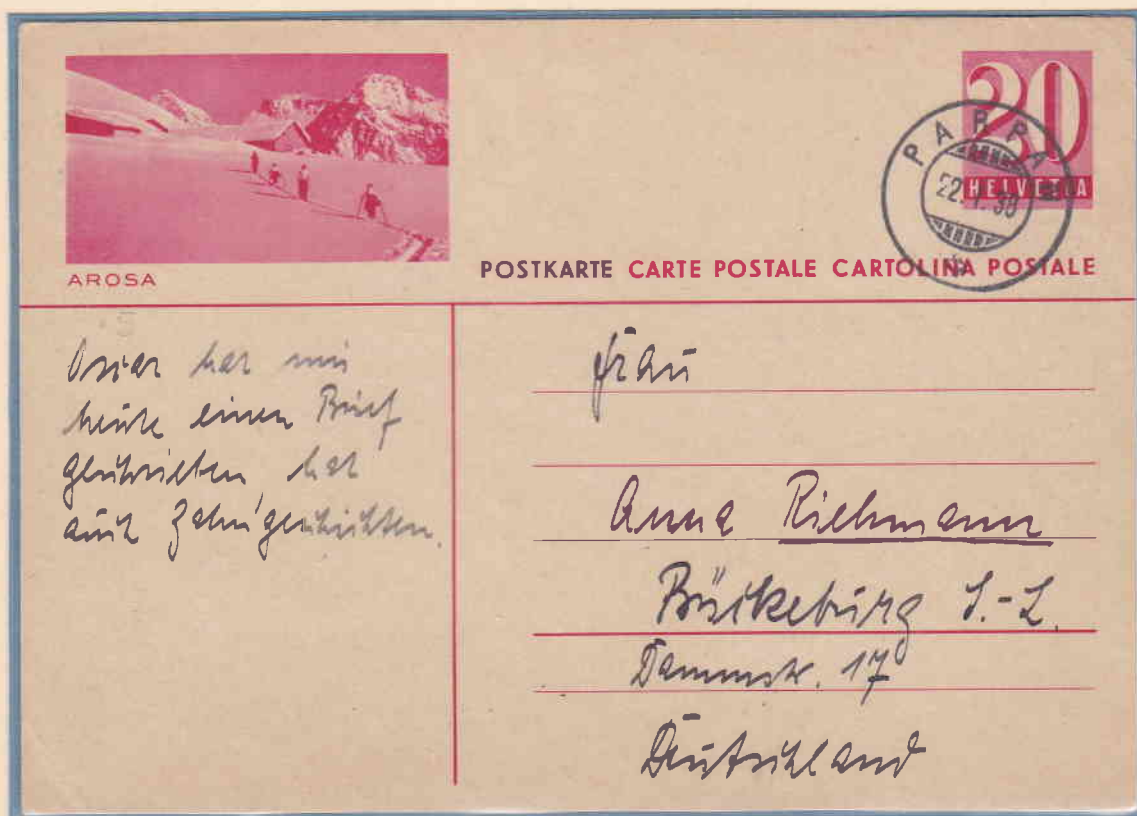
Garmisch-Partenkirchen later became the home of the Alpine World Cup, downhill and slalom races known as Kandahar



Above visible cancellations focus the attention from time to time on alpine skiers from Chamonix, the centre of the first winter olympics, with a skiing resort operating around a year

2.7.1. Most popular European ski resorts

Switzerland abundant with better and better ski resorts



Arosa, Switzerland, 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**, Switzerland, which cannot be confused with any other peak, on the green cancellation. At its foot, a more than 100 km **track system** was developed with 107 ski lifts.

2.7.1. Most popular European ski resorts

Two excellent ski resorts which for a while belonged to Germany: Spindelmühle and Bad Hofgastein



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



Bad Hofgastein town is located in the Gastein Valley in Austria, his surroundings are large ski resorts belonging to the Ski Amadé network. *R Specimen postal stationery card*

2.7.2. Popular European ski resorts

Now, here is a small but very interesting ski area.



Mixed perforation
1212:914:1212:1212



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 famous ski resorts where alpine ski world championships have been organized



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

2.7.2. Popular European ski resorts

Now, here is a special ski resort in the small Alpine principality, Liechtenstein.



Malbun is a famous ski resort today. We can see **ski traces** near an alpin hotel or tourist hostel

R A cover forwarded by Zeppelin air mail with the „ski trace” stamp (1931)



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

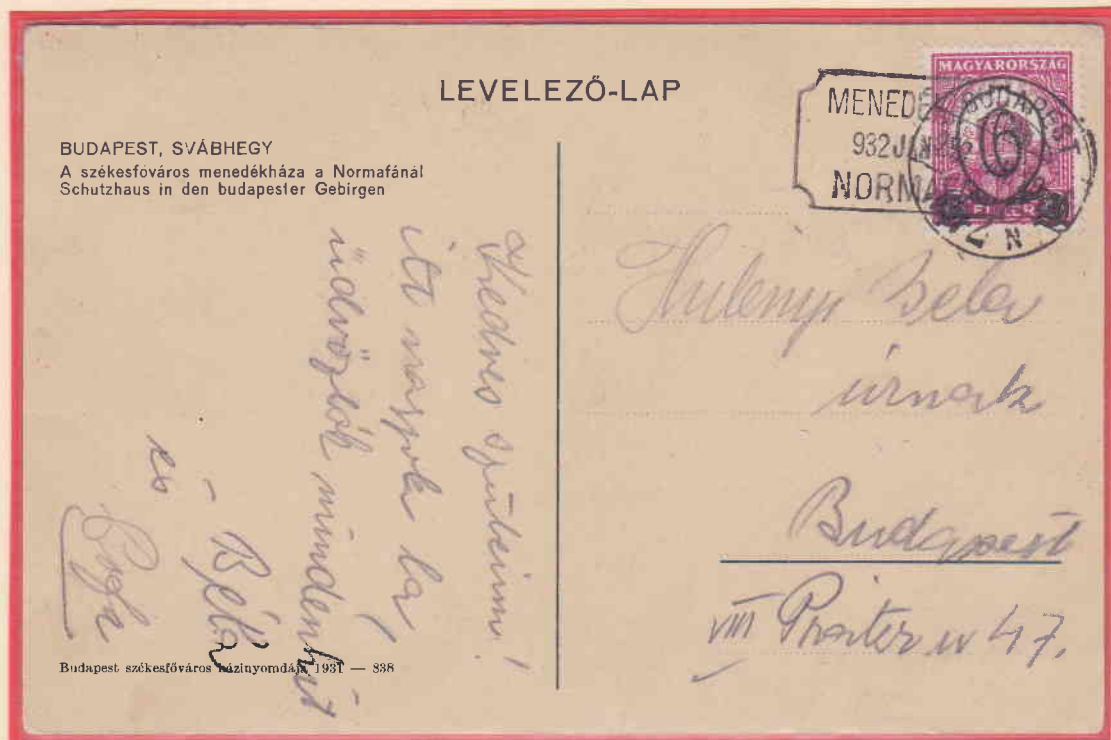
Most skiers here rent accommodation and participate in the „après ski” programs. Letter back to the sender

2.7.2. Popular European ski resorts



The famous ski resort is **Zakopane**, Poland, the home of many recreational and racer skiers

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



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

R An advertising completion cancellation used by the occasional post office operating at the new Ski House

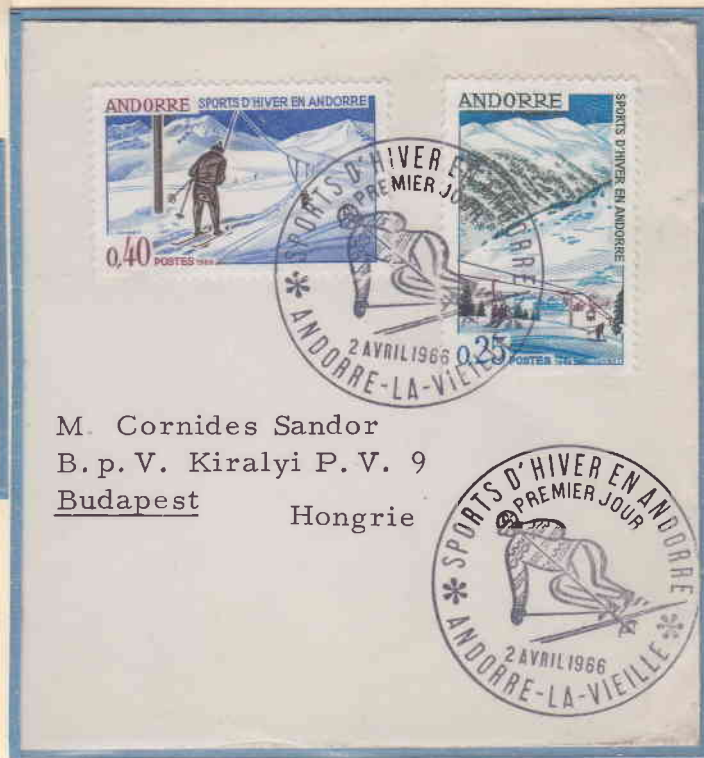
2.7.2. Popular European ski resorts

What about alpine skiing in the Iberian Peninsula?



Valdezcaray, see the *advertising cancellation*, with its ski resort, is in Spain, in the Iberian Cordilleras

Pal-Arinsal and many excellent ski resorts operate in Andorra. These are mainly locales for youth ski meetings



M. Cornides Sandor
B. p. V. Kiralyi P. V. 9
Budapest Hongrie

...and again the alpine skiing and Switzerland!

The repeated mention of Swiss skiing is not a coincidence. 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.)



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.

2.7.3. Famous ski resorts overseas

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 year old cedars.



Cedars ski resort
around 1936



R Straight standing machine
set-off on the sticking side



Magnified copy on the
other side

In South America, the famous ski resorts of Chile and Argentina often receive leading skiers from Europe as well.



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



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



Beside the excellent ski tracks of Chile and Argentina, **Chacaltaya**, Bolivia, is another good ski resort, where the 4th South American Ski Championship was held in 1948

2.7.3. Famous ski resorts overseas

Lake Placid ski resort 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

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

2.7.4. Interesting ski resorts overseas

The distant **New Zealand** also has outstanding ski resorts.



R Misprint



Wrong script

The resorts on these stamps, in this order:
Mt. Hutt, Coronet Peak, Turoa, Whakapapa

And what about the alpine skiing in **Antarctica**? There are 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



2.8. Ski accidents, methods and equipments of rescue

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

Let us look at the two possible precedents from the area of ski racing :



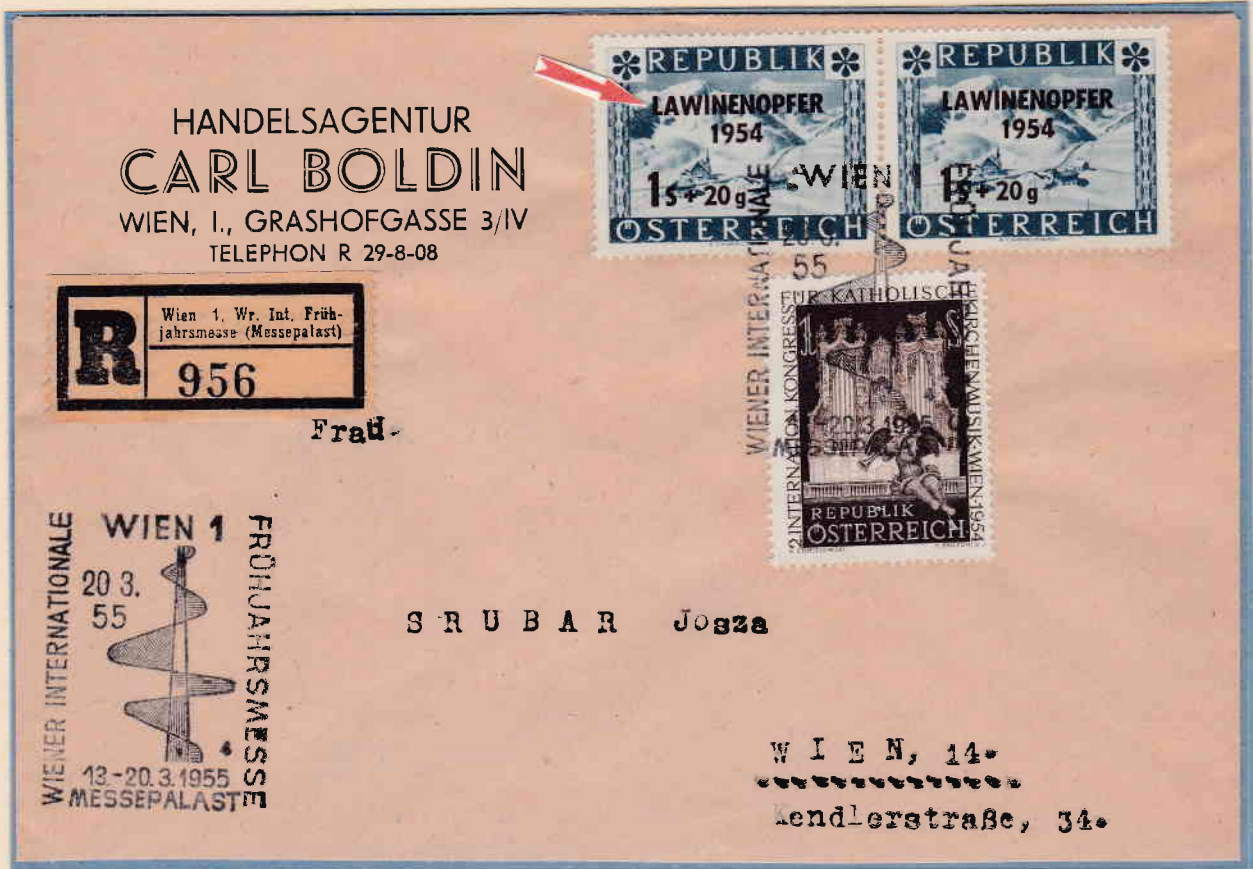
Incorrect landing after the jump. The skier's centre of gravity got behind



Downhill skier has missed the gate. The body twists



After the fall, the skier gets into the **defending net**



Severe, tragic **accidents** may be caused by natural catastrophes (avalanche, glacier rift). In many cases the skiers themselves cause avalanche
 Charity stamp issue for the 1954 Vorarlberg avalanche catastrophe, affecting skiers as well (marked)

2.8. Ski accidents, methods and equipments of rescue

Ski lift accidents

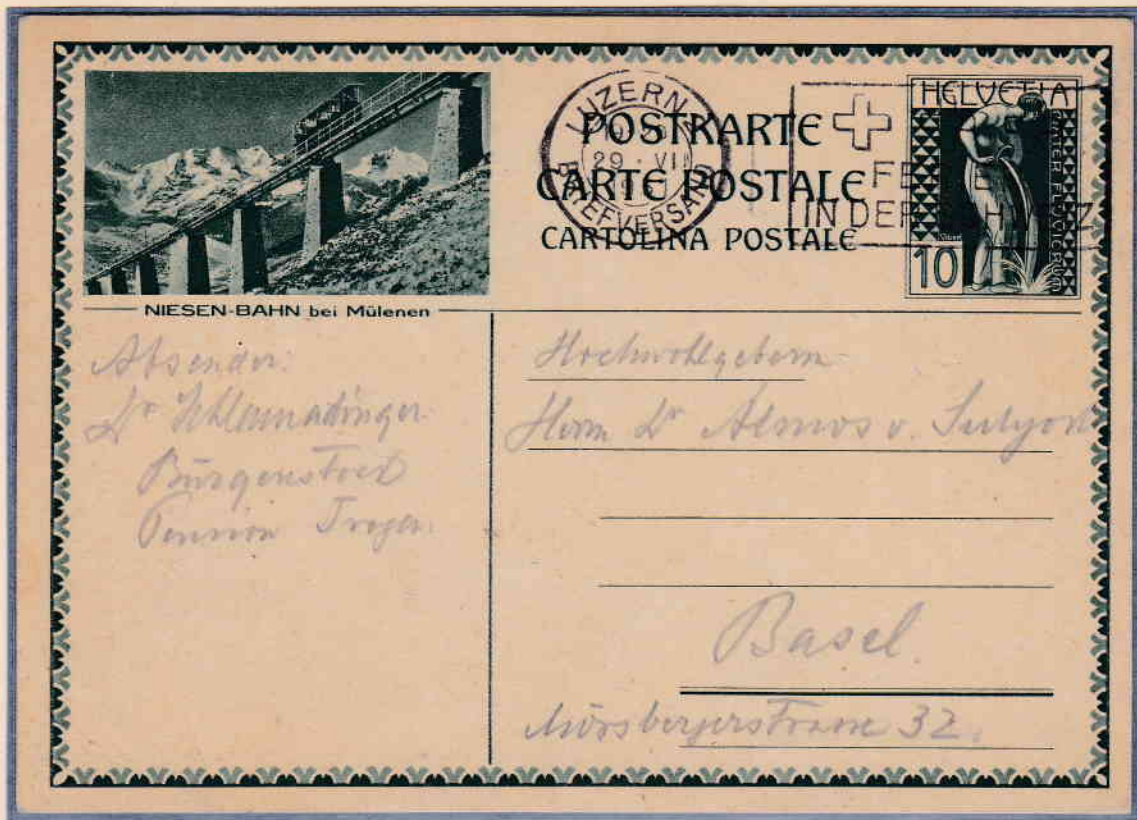
Although the modern ski lifts are equipped with safety equipments and are provided with multiple safety system, accidents are rare but they can happen. Here are two examples from the world of ski lifts:

Chairlift accident: Nassfeld, Austria. The cable jumped of the guide wheels. 4 dead, 9 injured (1992)



Chairlift (like the Nassfeld) in Poiana ski resort near the town Brasov (Romania)

Funicular accident: Kaprun, Austria. 155 people lost their lives as a result of a fire in the funicular-tunnel (2000)



Funicular ski lift (like the Kaprun) in Niesen ski resort (Switzerland)

2.8. Ski accidents, methods and equipments of rescue



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**

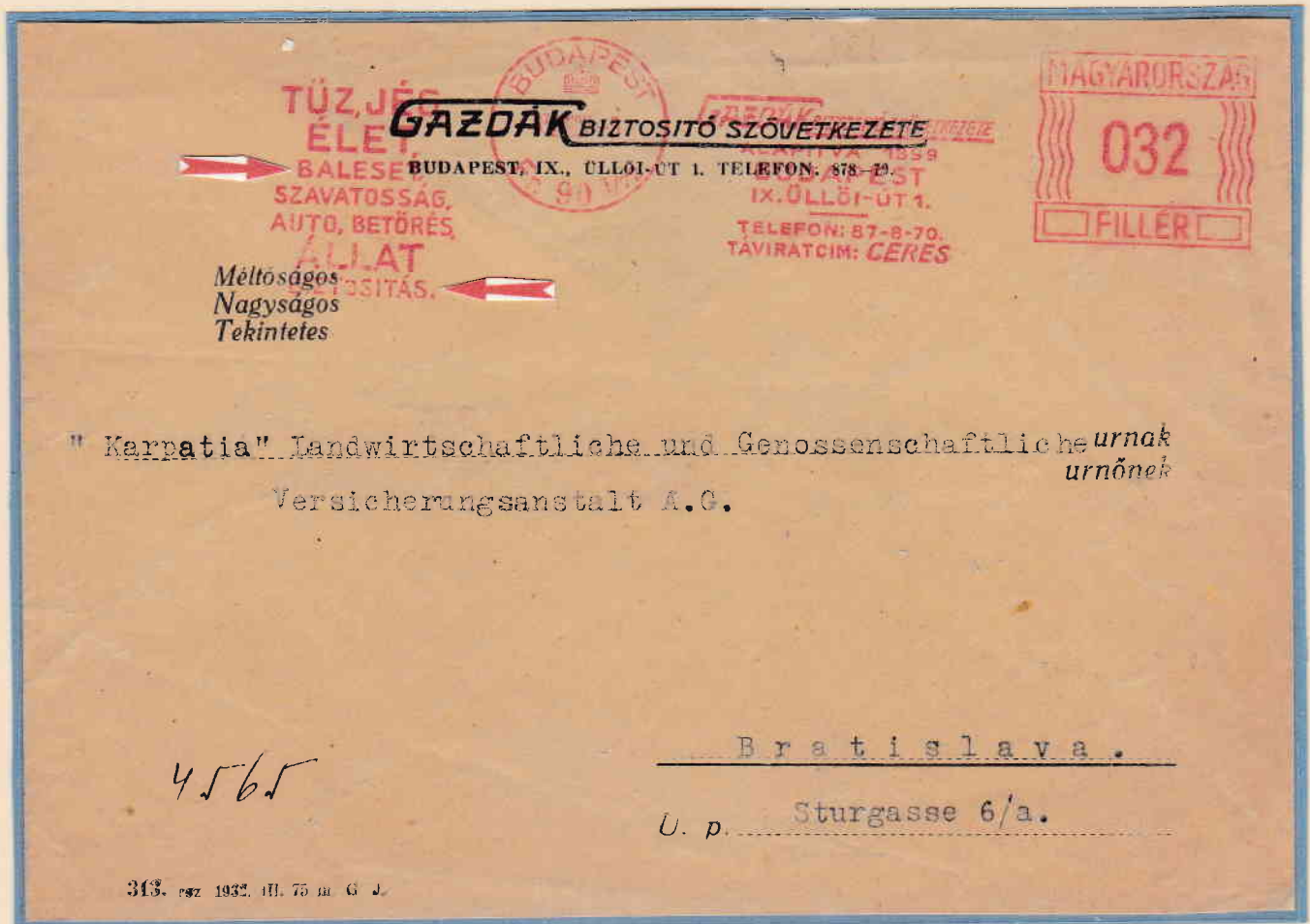
**Korzystaj
z rady
i pomocy
ratowników
GOPR**

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



4-04-1981
CZESTOCHOWA 1
INAUGURACJA DNI OLIMPIJSKIE
Jerzy Poszewiecki

93-001 KODZ 58 Skr. 29



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

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

3.1. 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)

3.1. 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. For the **scouts**, an international team racing was organized in Kandersteg, Switzerland in 1929. After successful preparations, Hungarian scouts returned home as winners.



The meeting of alpine skiing and scouting



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



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



The 26th international ski championship of **bank employees**, Lienz, 1986



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

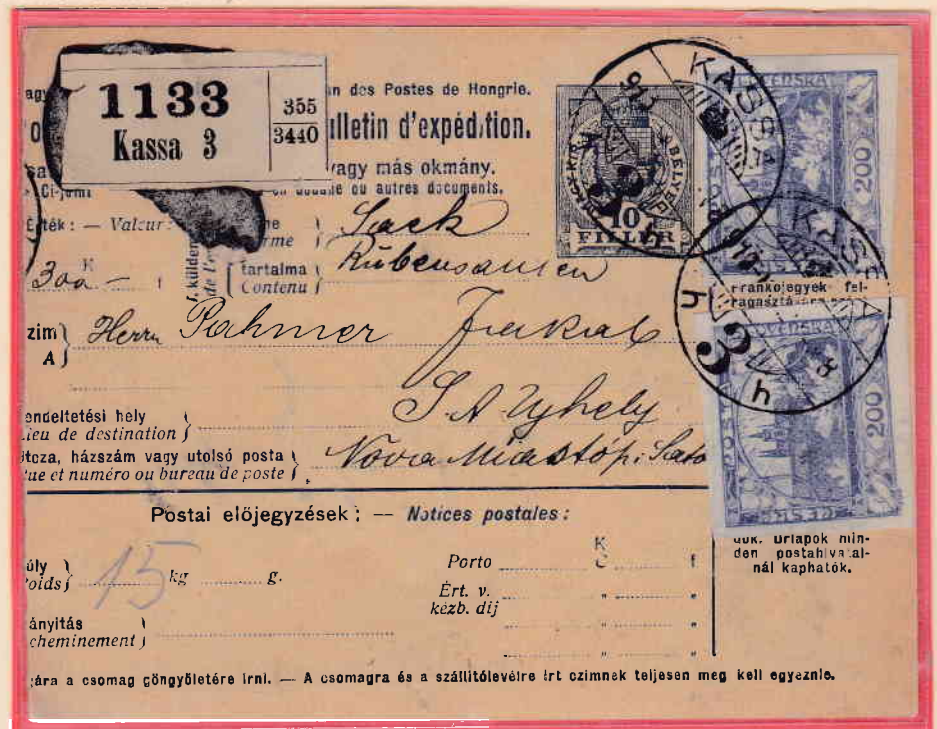
3.1. Mass sport character of alpine skiing

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** (Košice)
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 postal stationery card

3.2. 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

チヨガタイ一三五

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

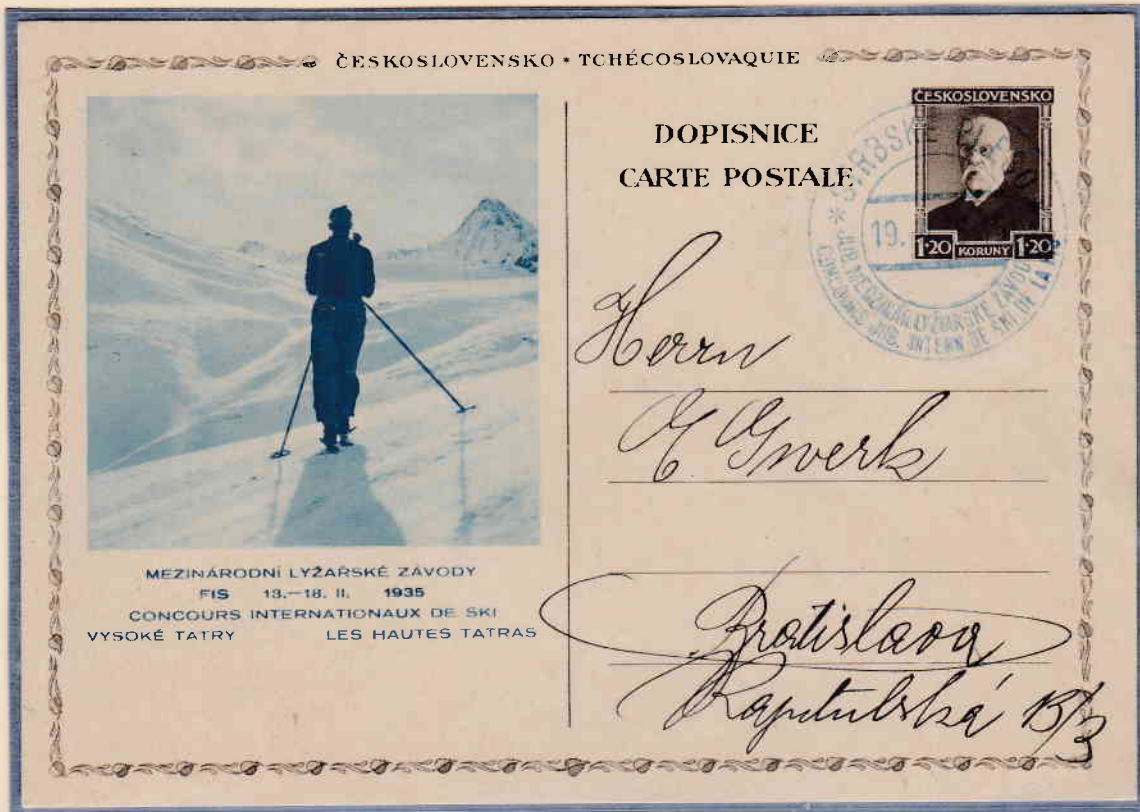
日本電信電話公社



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

3.3. 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.



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, at the time of the ski congress coordinated by FIS (1935)

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

3.3. The spectacular view of ski tracks



This young amateur 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 **landscape is very nice**



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 landscape**
Postal stationery card with added fee

3.3. The spectacular view of ski tracks



The Swiss skiers can enjoy the view of **sunshiny peaks** even during downhill



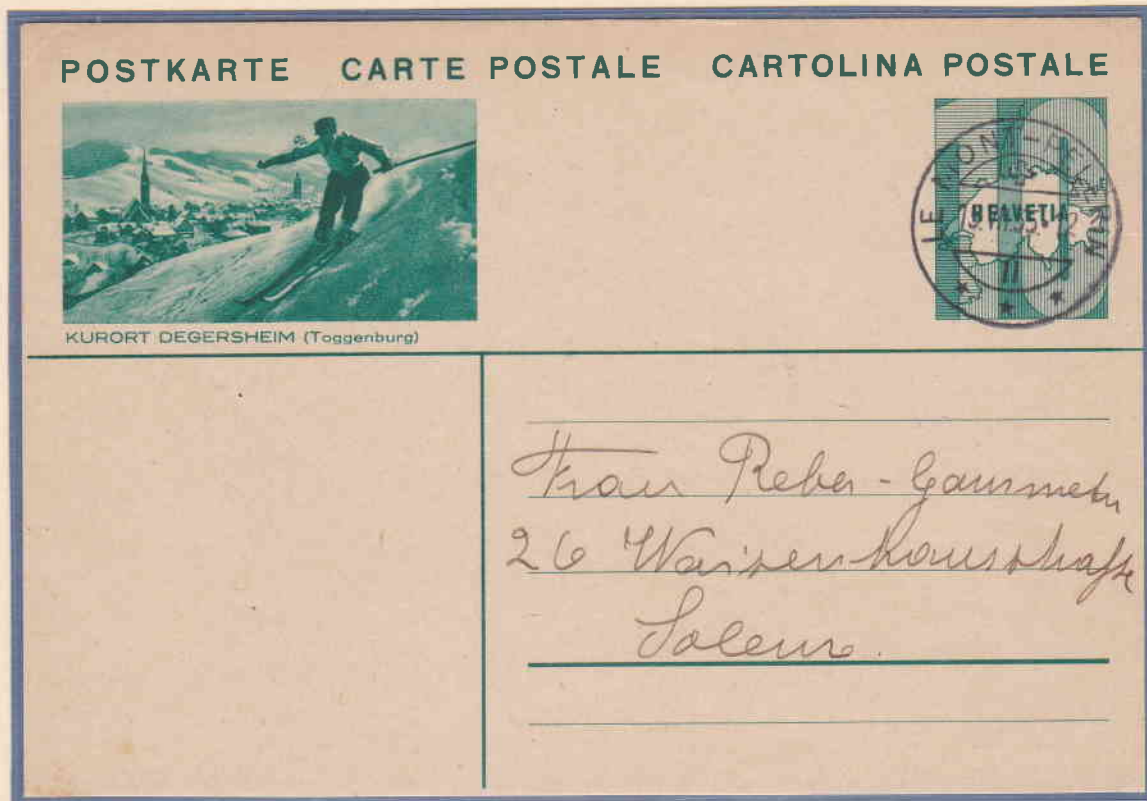
This is not about ski glasses, but the beautiful **panorama**, watched by the skier.
The Polish range of the High Tatras



In the springtime skiing, the **gentian is often seen** near the track
Embroided self-adhesive stamp



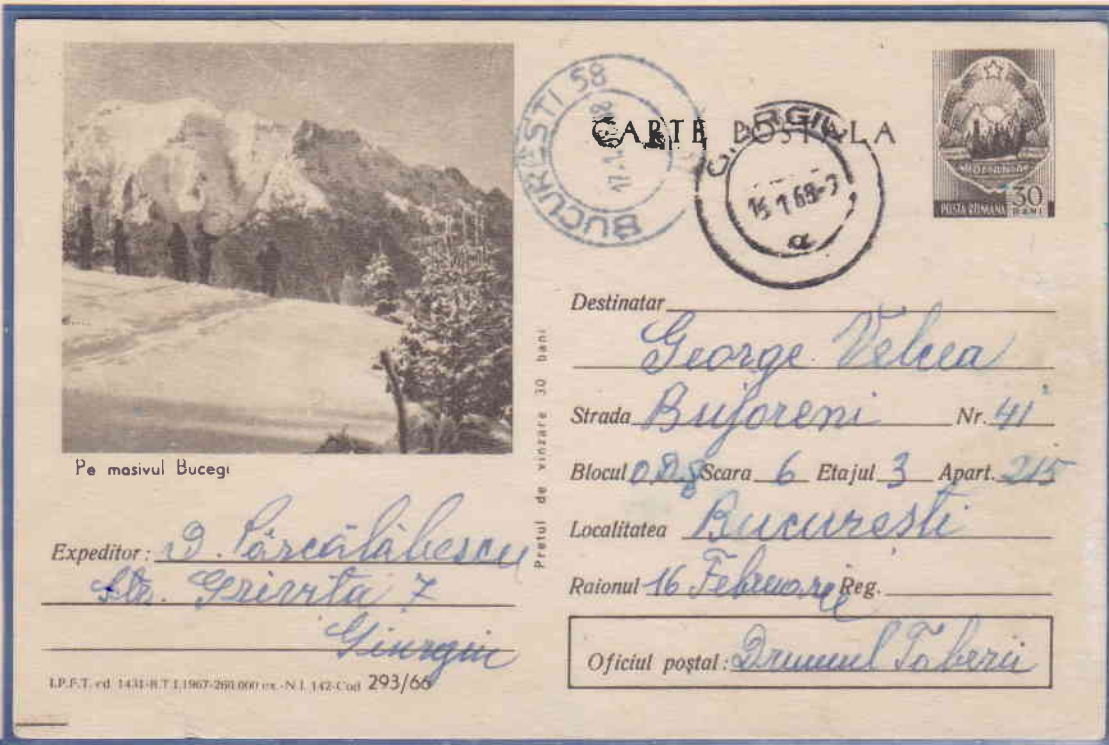
The New Zealand skier is **watching** the Tasman Glacier and the surrounding peaks
Change of currency can be observed on the stamp value



View of the surroundings of Degersheim, Switzerland, from the ski track (1935)
Postal stationery card

3.4. 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
Postal stationery card



Alpine skiers in a **team** from Georgia

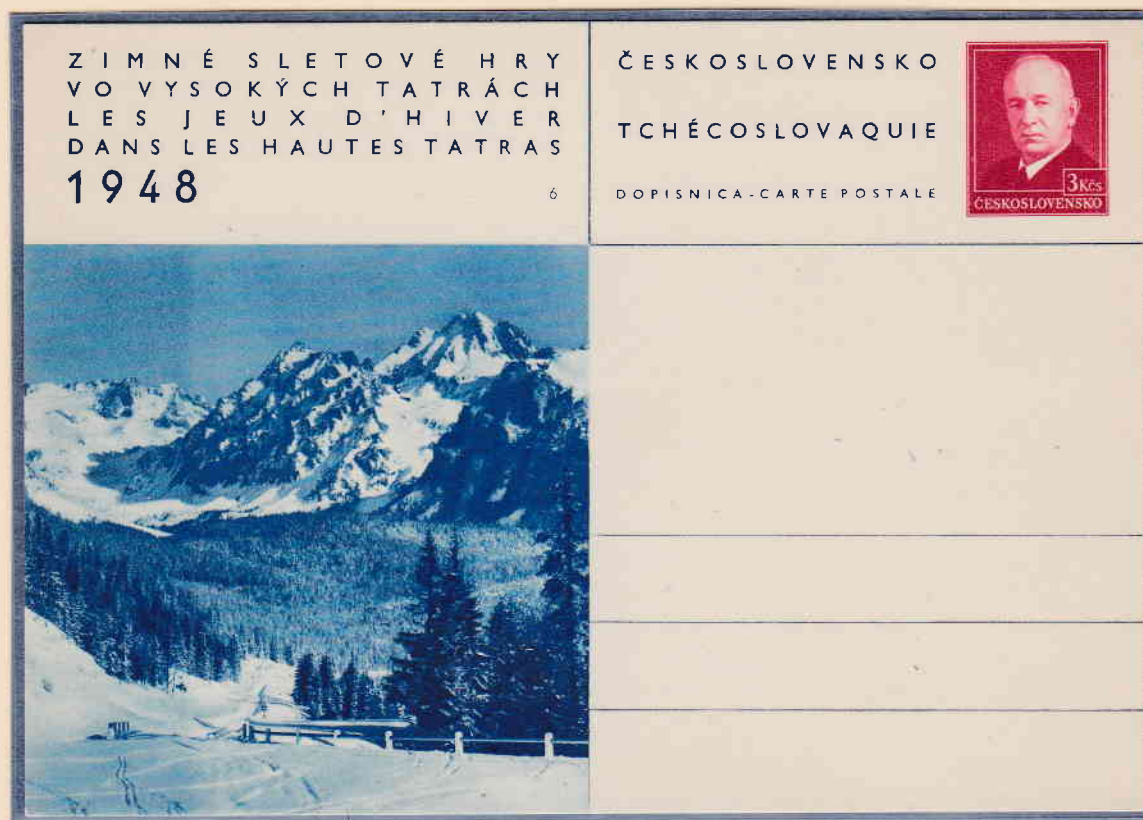


On the marked stamp illustration, Austrian alpine skiers climbing upwards can be seen. Their aim is to make sport **together in a team**

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



The photo-picture was made of a **team of skiers** in the thirties. Crans-sur-Sierre is located near Crans-Montana, which is a famous alpine world cup ski resort in Valais, Switzerland
 Completed postal stationery card, 1938



We see one of the slopes of the High Tatras. Although there is no skier in the picture, there are some **ski-traces of a team of skiers**
 Postal stationery card issued for the 1948 Winter Games in High Tatras

3.5. Disabled people can also enjoy alpine skiing

Skiing is very popular among disabled people who are otherwise healthy, and able to do sports, and, moreover, to participate in world competitions. Paralympic alpine ski racings are organized at the place of winter olympics, at the time it ends.



Skiers with one leg and one ski.
They use special ski poles with mounted short skis



Skier with one hand



Olympic circles are broken...
Separate world races were organized for the disabled



Paralympic Winter Games Vancouver 2010



KLAUS FINK

349 West Georgia St.
PO Box 3025
Vancouver BC V6B 3X5 Canada

A skier without one leg

Paralympic special cancellation

3.6. Test of courage, the extreme skiing

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



An early, brave **extreme skier** starts on the slope between the spectacular, snowy cliffs of the High Tatras. Sokol-Meeting, Winter Games, 1938
Postal stationery card with added 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
Postal stationery card, 1957

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!



Ski mountaineering was developed and exercised previously during WWI in alpine conditions at military forces.
Field postcard detail from an alpine course in Zillertal, Austria (1916)



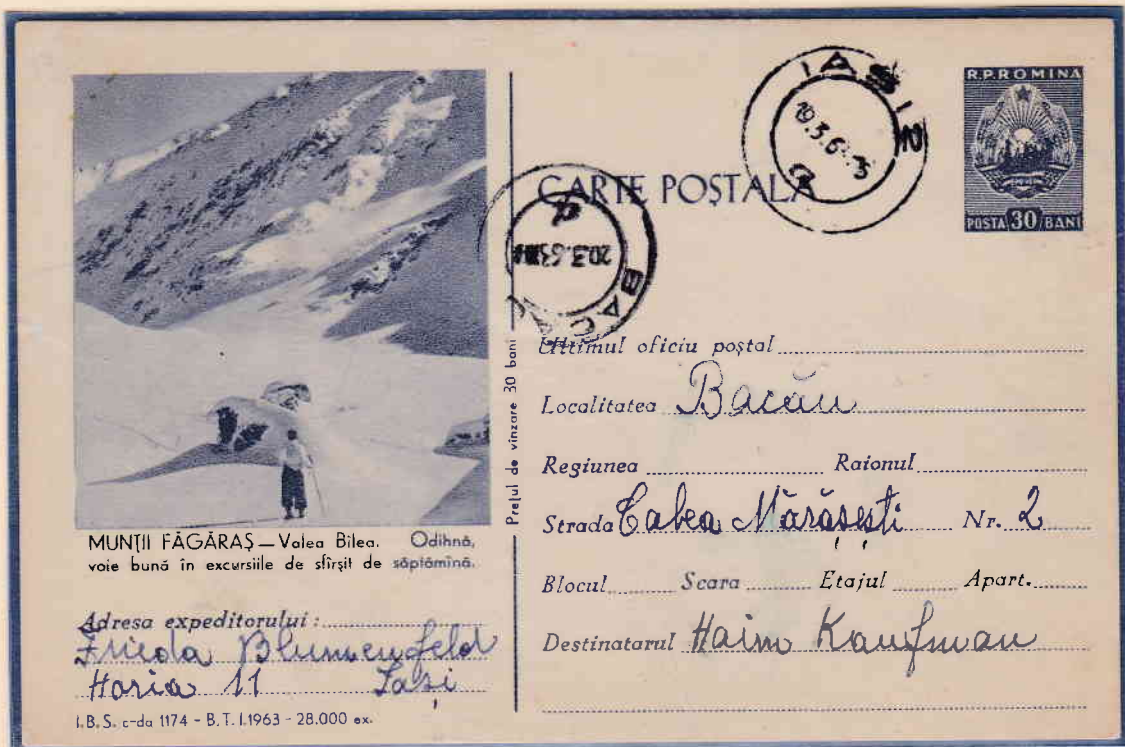
A mountaineering skier from New Zealand



Swiss mountaineering skiers in a team



The seal fur prevents skidding backwards

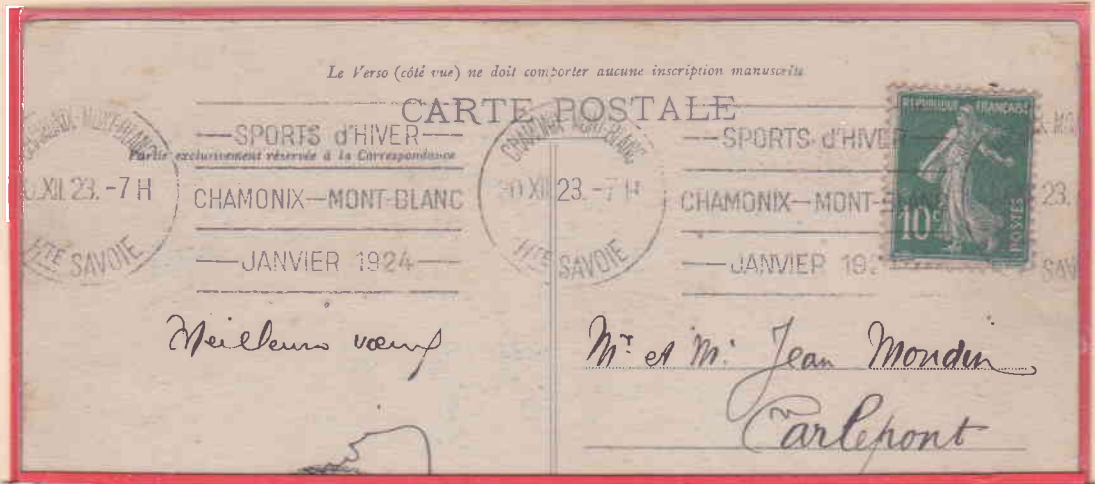


Lonely **mountaineering skier** in the snowy Făgăraș.
 The Făgăraș Mountain are a very popular skiing destination in The Southern Carpathians, Romania.
 Many choose the ski mountaineering here. *Postal stationery card (1963)*

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 (FIS). 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 cancellation for the sport events now known as the first winter olympics commemorates the foundation of FIS as well



The 1925 Prague International Olympic Congress decided about winter olympics to be organized each 4 years. By this, **skiing** became an **olympic sport**
With occasional stamps completed special postal stationery card with special cancellation moreover a special machine cancellation

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, FIS issued the 10-point regulation for traffic on ski tracks. FIS organizes regular courses and trainings.

The mentioned illustrated by a few examples:

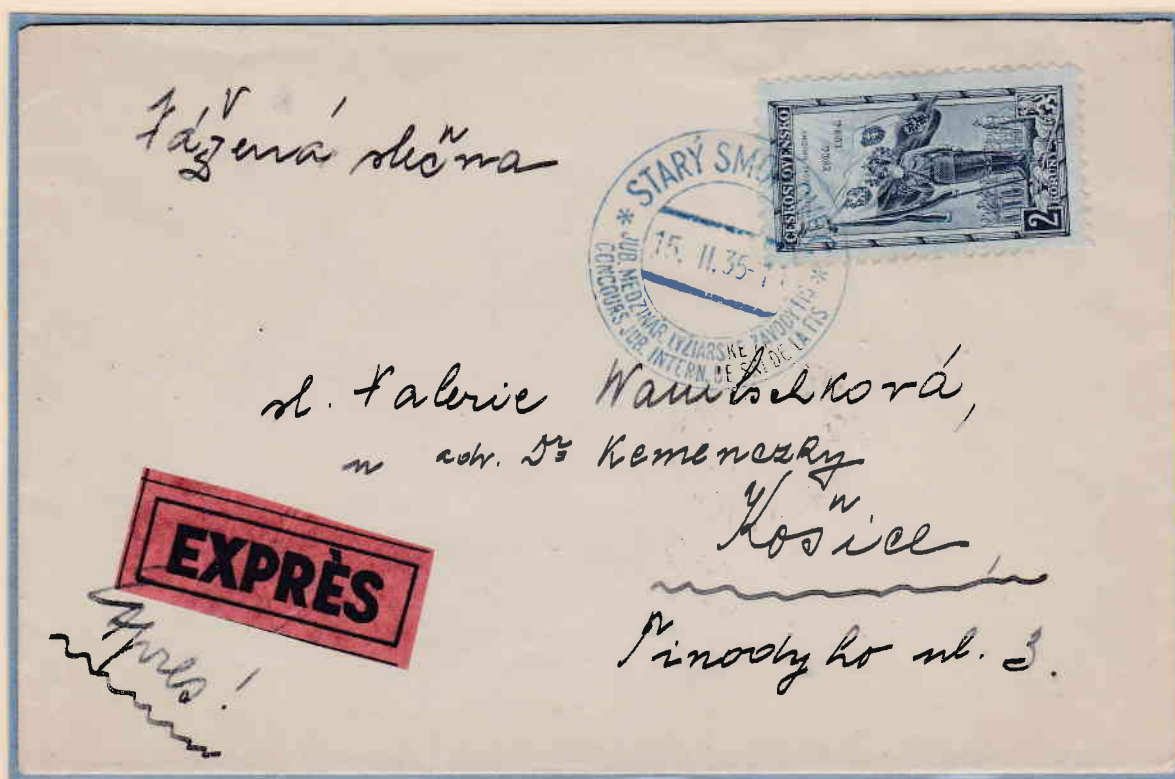


FIS further education course at the time of the 4th Alpine Ski Championship, St. Moritz, 1934

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

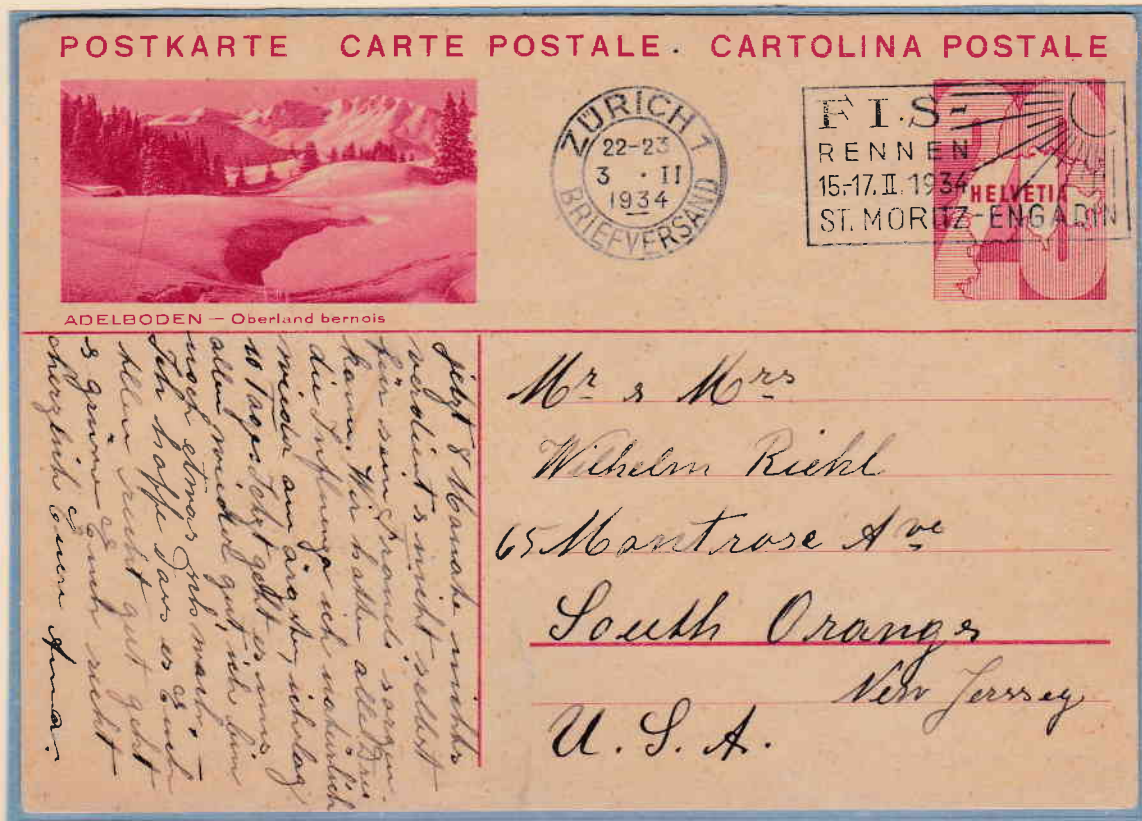


In 1935, the ski congress organized by **FIS** took place in the High Tatras
Preliminary advertising special machine cancellation



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

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



The 1934 world championship in St. Moritz was held under the auspices of FIS
Preliminary advertising special cancellation of the world championship



Spectacular preliminary FIS special machine cancellation for the world championship in Finland (1938)



FIS congresses are held not only in the countries of the Alps

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

- Track: ~2.8 km length, 750 m level difference, bigger arc in curves, two or three bigger waves, double (or triple) defender net, hard snow quality
- Gates: Two flexible plastic rods with red flag
- Ski: Length min. 2 m, min. 40 m radius, overall hard
- Speed: Can reach 130-140 km/h
- Obligatory: Helmet, backbone defender



Downhill style of the 30s on the photo

Postal stationery card (with a Matterhorn label)

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

Official issue

(The „Office des Postes d'Haïti” is the member of UPU since 1881)



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

Track: ~850 m length in average, 250 m level difference, hard

Gates: One rod, red and blue flags alternating, 60-65 gates made of non-brittle plastic, flexible at ground level

Ski: 1.55-1.65 m length, 12-14 m radius, hard in the front, soft behind the bindings

Obligatory: Backbone, hand, and leg protector, helmet



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 Slalom skier on the imperforated phase print

4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines

4.3.2. Slalom special

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 gates with his left **shoulder**



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



R Misprint
„LIECHTENSTEIN“



More advanced versions of the earlier 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**"

4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines

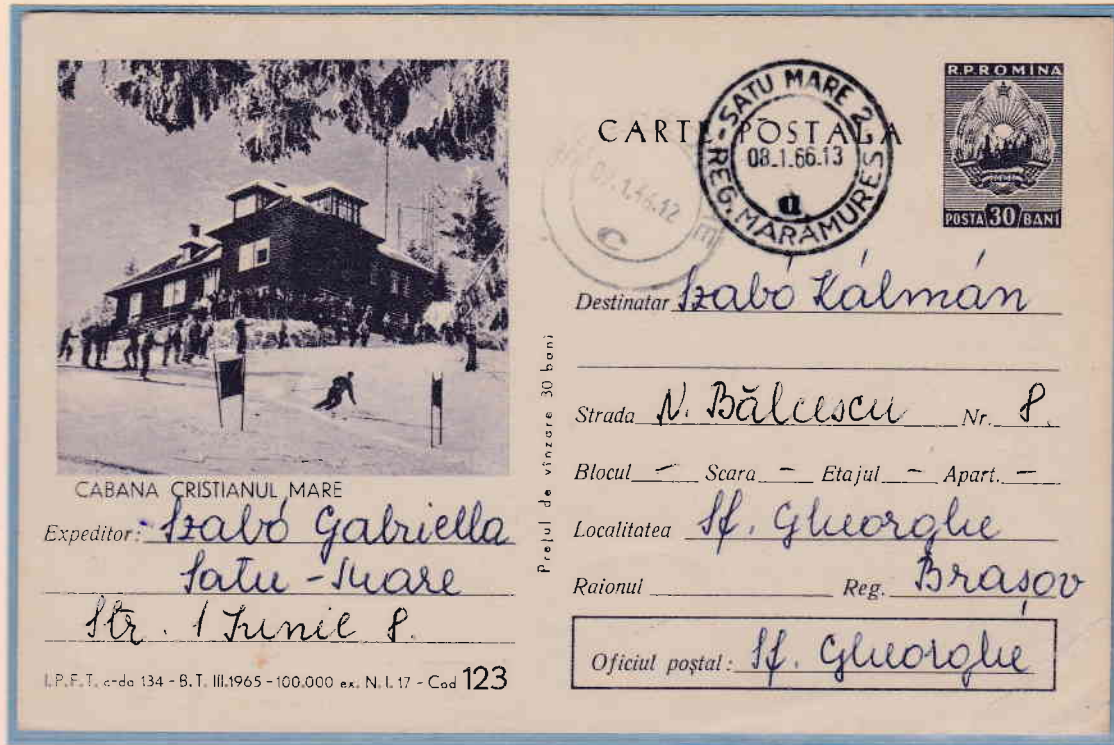
4.3.3. Giant slalom

Track: ~1.3 km length in average, 350 m level difference, one or two waves, continuous curves with big radii

Gates: Double gates with flexible rods, red and blue alternating flags, 45-50 gates

Ski: 1.8-1.95 m length, 27-35 m radius, soft in the front, hard behind the bindings

Obligatory: Backbone protector, helmet



The giant slalom good technique is fundamental to alpine skiing!



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

Previously with the "straight" skis farther away from the gates were less used the edges

Super giant slalom, SG

The main differences compared to the giant slalom: longer racing track, higher level difference, one run, higher speed, longer skis with bigger radius.



SG
racer

Perfin with specific meaning, „S.G.”
(Super G)
Given with general post license
(July 1886)
perfin postal stationery card included the sender's monogram
(1909)



4.3. Alpine ski racing disciplines

4.3.4. Freestyle skiing

Racing disciplines: acrobatic jumps (aerials), skiing on waved mound-track with jumps (mogul), ski-cross
 Main characteristics are various skills, courage, struggle
 Ski: special length, special width and hardness



Spectacular **acrobatic jumps** are popular (aerials)



Field jump at **mogul**



Mogul, skiing on very mounded track
 Booklet of ten self-adhesive stamps
 and copy-detail from this booklet



Acrobatic jump



„Iron cross” figure



Chasing race of four skiers on a special track
 (**ski-cross**)

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 till 1987.

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

Die proof with control seal signed by C. Jumelet, designer and engraver

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



On the **1925** international downhill racing in **Jungfrauoch**, Switzerland, the Hungarian Anikó Eleőd won. The history of this competition also includes the organization of a British ski club, not the Swiss. D.H.O. (Downhill Only Ski Club) was formed also here. *Postal stationery card (1925)*



In **1929**, **Klingenthal-Aschberg**, Germany, was the home of the international **German ski championship**, where the best Austrian and Swiss competitors took part as well *Special cancellation of the German Post on the final day of the championship*

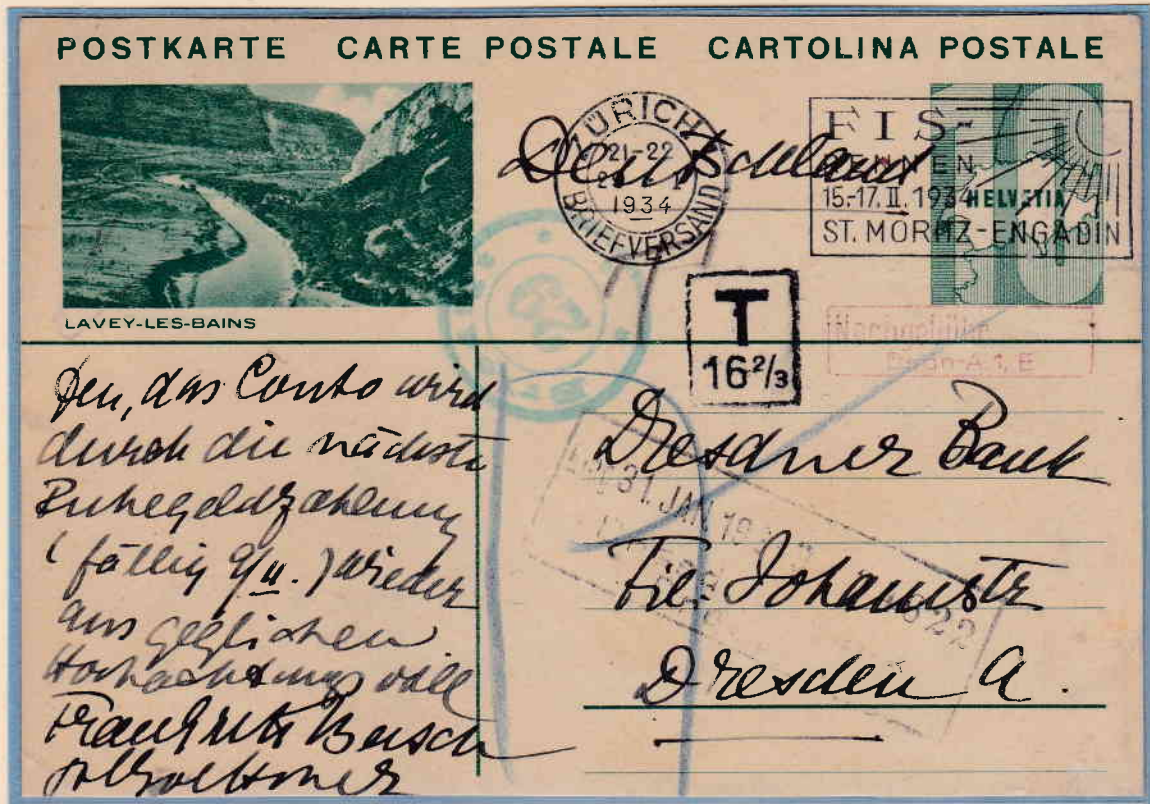
4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing

4.4.1. Racing of early times (1924-1941)

Thanks to the successful introduction of alpine skiing, according to the decision of FIS, a skiing 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
Special FIS cancellations on the registered express cover



1934. 4th Alpine Ski Championship St. Moritz. The Swiss Zogg and the German Cranz were the stars.
Preliminary advertising special cancellation on the postal stationery card with port payment stampings

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

In 1936, skiers competed on two world races at the same time, the olympics and the world championship.



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

Winter Olympic postal stationery card sent by Zeppelin Post



1936. 6th Alpine Ski Championship, **Innsbruck**. New names among the winners, the Swiss Rominger and the Austrian Kneissl
Special FIS cancellations

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 Czechoslovak Winter Games in **High Tatras**. It was also an olympic sorting racing. (The 1940 Olympic Games were not held)



1939. Winter Sport Week in the **Košice Mountains**
 The number of ski racers was high in all disciplines



1938. The Austrian Alpine Ski Championship was held on the popular slope of Bürgeralm, near **Aflenzen** Aflenzen-Kurort, special cancellation

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. *Postal stationery card with special cancellation*



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 Craz was the winner *Special cancellation on the post card*

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.



1948. Winter Olympic Games and Alpine Ski World Championship, **St. Moritz**. The races were called "games of renewal". German and Japanese skiers were excluded



1950. Tatra Cup, High Tatras

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

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



German Ski Championship in Altenberg, 1937
 The Cranz brother and sister (Rudolf and Christl) won in alpine combination
Nice special cancellations on the cover



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

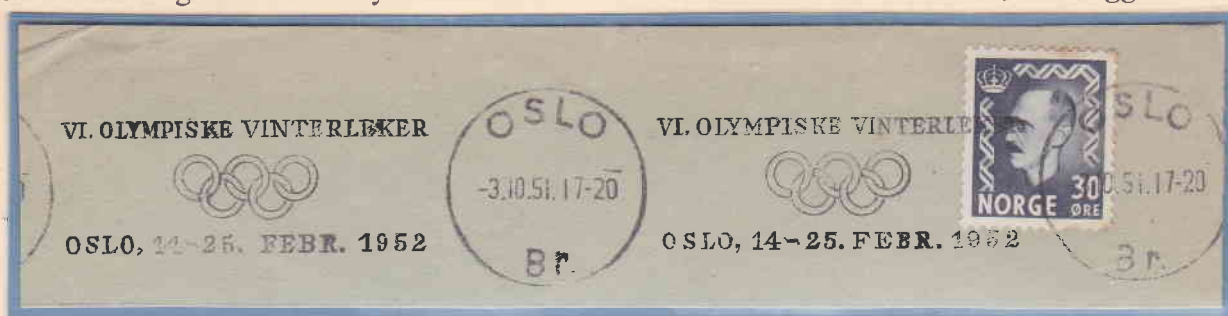
4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing
 4.4.2. The second impulse of racing (1948-1980)



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



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
Machine special advertising machine cancellation



1952. Oslo *On the special issues of the Norwegian post, ski-sport was represented by ski jumping*

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 Braşov, Romania
 Registered postal stationery cover



An extreme alpine ski race in the Fifties. In Sicily, with 25 km up-down ski mountaineering race on the slope of the Etna volcano.
 Registered cover with special cancellations (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 (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 two first places.
 Their giant slalom racers won both
 male and female races.



German Alpine Ski Championship
Garmisch-Partenkirchen, 1961



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



World champion of downhill in 1962,
 the new star, **K. Schranz**



Alpine Ski World Championship,
Portillo (Chile), 1966.
 The French J. C. Killy and G. Perillat
 demonstrated their excellence



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 Die proof with control seal.
 Signed by
 G. Bétemps,
 engraver (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
 of the Monaco Post*



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

4.4. Racing history of alpine skiing

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

The 13th Winter Olympics in 1980 was the last racing event since 1948 when olympic champions of alpine skiing became alpine skiing champions as well, without another racing.



Winter Olympics and Alpine Ski World Championship, **Lake Placid, 1980.**

From the eighties with advanced equipments, the speed of skiing is increasing.

Downhill skier on the special cancellation



The twofold olympic and world champion, the Swedish **I. Stenmark**, winner in slalom special and giant slalom on the 1980 olympics. Since then Stenmark's perfect style became the norm.



Stenmark on the overprint



R Stenmark on the inverted overprint

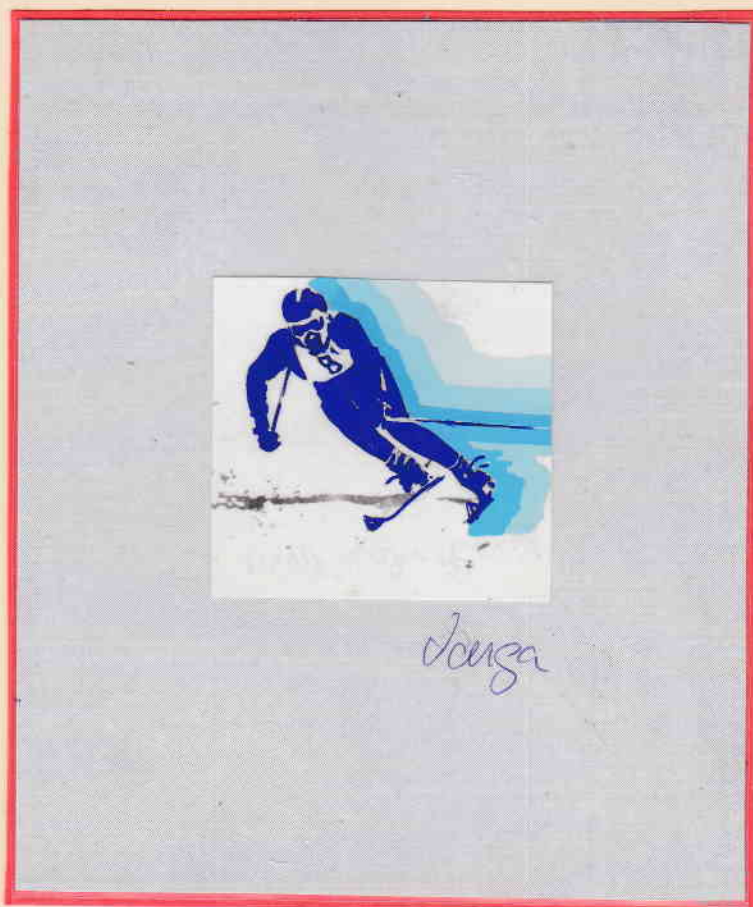


In the year of the 13th Winter Olympics the racing events of the **Alpine World Cup** were continued. Women's downhill and slalom special racing were held on the tracks of Altenmarkt and Zauchensee

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, the most successful alpine skier of the 30s, olympic and twelfold world champion of Germany



T. Sailer, the great winner of the Kitzbühel Hahnenkamm races, triple champion of the alpine racings on the 1956 winter olympics



J. C. Killy, triple winner of the 1968 Grenoble winter olympics



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



The "Unequaled" Swedish **I. Stenmark** has an astonishing series of olympic and world championship successes, 86 world cup victories



"Herminator", **H. Maier**, the pride of Flachau was, despite his restarted career, one of the best ever with his 54 world cup victories

4.5. Great talented alpine skiers



Another giant, the Italian **Alberto Tomba**. His unique practice in slalom technique brought him many olympic and world championships. Tomba has 50 world cup victories



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



„I'm in the footsteps of Ingemar"- said after the victory of 77th World Cup, the Austrian **Marcel Hirscher** who was born in Annaberg. Eightfold Overall World Cup winner, olympic champion, the „Best Alpine Skier of All Time" title holder



A talented Hungarian downhiller who stopped her racing among the best because of injury, **Edit Miklós**

The special cancellation commemorating the conference of the Hungarian Olympic Academy (2014)

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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 Walchofer** *Official cover printed by post with previously postage paid*



And finally another question: what can be the object for which both professional and beginner skiers can be happy? This is nothing but the SNOW! *Booklet of twenty self-adhesive stamps*