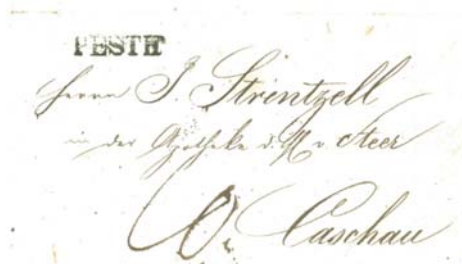


Letter to John Strentzel



Pest¹
27/6 [1]840²



"Pesth": Jan T. Strentzell (variant spelling of Strentzel). In the pharmacy of Herr Von Steer. V. Caschau -- noble stamp, mobile postoffice. See note below.

In the name of the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Ghost

+ + +

Charming friend. Although I could save you the postage etc., given that, as my former roommate Wormastini³ said to me yesterday, you had no choice here, as he has already written to you about -- I am still compelled by your friendliness to send you a suitable reply. -- The summer season is without money, but does have the advantage that one can go to sleep without pulling a winter cap, woolen cloak, coat, bed cover and so on over one's sinful corpse. -- Your charming brother has not yet shown up in Pest, and when he does, I will send him farther along; yesterday I took [one dose?] of Aqua Lax Viennensis,⁴ and half an hour later another dose, but until today haven't been able to relieve myself properly. If you

INFUSUM SENNAE COMPOSITUM. Papiertränkchen.

Synon. Aqua laxativa viennensis. Infusum laxativum viennense. Wiener Tränkchen.

are together with Kontagh,⁵ so tell him he should bring himself to have a few provincial

dispatches sent my way. What kind of resistance is there in Kaschau⁶ to the

¹ Pest is the eastern, mostly flat part of Budapest, Hungary, comprising about two thirds of the city's territory. It is separated from Buda, the other part of Budapest, by the Danube River

² June 27, 1840

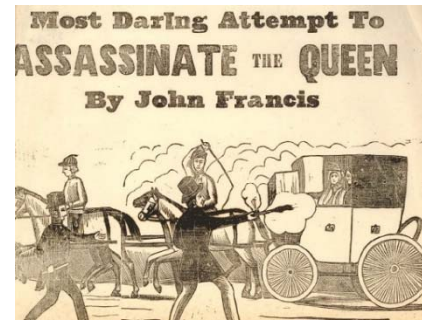
³ Perhaps E. Wormastini, taxidermist

⁴ Aqua laxativa Viennensis; a purgative

⁵ A Hungarian name

⁶ Caschau or Kaschau, now Košice, Slovakia; see map below

statutory quartering of Jews?⁷ How did the wool exhibition go?⁸ The attempted assassination of the Queen of England⁹ has caused a great sensation here, and in the hotel they are serving on black tablecloths. You are tied to the Pudl,¹⁰ I to Kövy.¹¹ — Oh yes, the 24th was your name day.¹² May Heaven help you sire children.



<http://shootingvictoria.com/page/2>

NOTE: V. Caschau or Von Caschau (from Caschau). This is the stamp of a traveling post office. Collectors know these stamps as "adelige Stempel" or "noble stamps" because they all begin with "von". Source: *Die Abstempelungen der Marken von Oesterreich-Ungarn und Lombardei-Venetien*. Vol. 1. [H. Kropf](#). Verlag des "Austria-Philatelist" Weinberge (F. Duschek), 1899 (online book). Caschau, more often spelled Kaschau, was the German name for Košice, Slovakia.

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⁷ The writer is referring to Jews being allowed by law to live in cities such as Pest and Kaschau, and humorously equating this to quartering soldiers in one's house. The writer is asking "OK, now that the Jews are being allowed to live in cities, how do folks feel about this in Kaschau?"

⁸ The Hungarian wool trade was conducted almost entirely by Jews

⁹ A reference to the attempted assassination of Queen Victoria on 10 June 1840

¹⁰ Surnames or nicknames of people known to the correspondents; likely an "in joke"

¹¹ Likely a Hungarian Professor; perhaps the commentator on hereditary rights of the nobility

¹² June 24 is the name day of John the Baptist in most European countries. The writer uses a play on words, referring to his friend's Namensfeuer, "name fire," instead of the sound-alike *Namensfeier*, "name day." This letter has many such plays on words, often underlined; most of them are virtually impossible to translate.



- - Kingdom of Hungary within Austrian Empire in 1850, divided into five military districts
 - - other Austrian territories
 - - other countries
- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| MF - Military Frontier | KB - Kingdom of Bohemia |
| DST - Duchy of Styria | DB - Duchy of Bukovina |
| DSI - Duchy of Upper and Lower Silesia | PM - Principality of Moldavia |

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_District_of_Pest-Ofen