

Victor Suppantschitsch
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VICTOR SUPPANTSCHITSCH

On Sunday the 2nd of March 1919, the old Master of philately, retired Senate President of the Higher Court of Justice, and Knight of the order of Leopold, died in Graz at the age of 80 years, 5 months, and was laid to his final rest in St. Peter's cemetery on the 5th of March.

As well as his children and grandchildren he is mourned by the world of philately which he had nurtured since the mid - sixties of the previous century and to which he devoted his affectionate attention up to his death. His philatelic-literary productions are listed in the biography for Suppantschitsch's 80th birthday in the concluding issue of the previous year. As was stated there, Suppantschitsch was not only a stamp collector, but above all a philatelic bibliophile and in over 50 years with persevering zeal he built up his major philatelic library, a collection containing many rarities missing from the great Crawford collection. This life's work of Suppantschitsch is now at an end! Who will take over this magnificent inheritance and continue to care for it? The conscientiousness he always showed enables us to presume that he will have left testamentary dispositions to prevent this valuable library from being broken up and transferred abroad. If there is any question of a sale, surely German philately will undertake the honourable duty of ensuring that this first-class collection is retained and made available to German philatelic researchers. This could be done best if it is administered by the German Library in Leipzig.

This would provide a worthy and permanent memorial to this outstanding, meritorious teacher and be a font of intellectual knowledge for German philately as it could probably be never obtained again. Taken into the German Library, the collection could always be kept up to date by the regular cost-free addition of at least all the relevant German literature. Above all, there would be otherwise unobtainable financial support for the necessary care and preservation of the collection.

In Suppantschitsch we have lost a methodical and zealous pioneer, a giant of the philatelic Old Guard whose early work has been the solid basis for more recent research and for the administration of collections and will continue to be so for a long time to come. However, Suppantschitsch was also a high-minded, kindly person always willing to help with information, who had moreover many admirers abroad. Anyone who has corresponded with him and admired his learned answers as an inexhaustible source will always remember his

blameless character, his friendly openness and lively conversation. The editor of the DBZ mourns in him a valued patron who honoured him with his friendship in the earlier years.

‘May he rest in god’s eternal peace.’

END