

Dating of papers published in the “*Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien*”, Austria, vols. 33/1919 – vol. 83/1979

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ABSTRACT: We show that the *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien* were at least sometimes issued as dated preprints and that the evidence available to establish the correct date of publication must be examined carefully. Examples are provided from the 1930s. No full study of the problem is known.

KEYWORDS: preprints, dates of publication, *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien*, lepidoptera, aves.

The date of publication for the taxon *Celeus grammicus latifasciatus* Seilern (Aves: Picidae), published in “*Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien*”, vol. 47, has been cited either with the date 1934 (e.g. Hellmayr & Conover, 1942: 276) or 1936 (e.g. Peters, 1948: 125; Dickinson, 2003: 325).

Examination of complete original copies of the *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien* (bound and unbound, with original covers) as well as of separates (in original wrappers) housed in the Museum of Natural History, Vienna (Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, NHM) revealed the frequent practice of delivering preprints carrying their own dates which differed from the date of publication of the respective volume.

Unfortunately whether preprints were issued or not is not obvious, and it is only rarely – and in some cases even incorrectly – mentioned either in the “content page(s)” of the individual volume or in the printed paper itself (where the volume number and year of publication usually appear in small print at the bottom of the printed sheet ... often on the first, third or last page). The relevant preliminary pages are frequently lost before or during the process of binding.

In exploring the question put to us we have carefully examined vols. 46 and 47.

Volume 46, dated “Wien 1932/33” on the volume title page (figure 1), may serve as an example. The date of publication of the volume is provided at the end of the “Inhalt” [Contents] and says “Erschienen Juli 1933” [Published July 1933]. This is followed by the remark that “Sonderabdrücke” [separates] of 12 papers – which are listed with their titles and date of publication [month, year] (see figure 2) – had been issued earlier (i.e. from April 1931 to July 1932). Below this list follows a statement that the year marked on the printed sheets should be altogether ignored [... “der Jahreszahl auf den Bogenvermerken ist keine Bedeutung beizumessen.”]. In fact, the first paper by Rebel (1931) on Lepidoptera from the vicinity of Ankara (containing descriptions of several new taxa) has an [obviously wrong] inscription on the sheet of “Bd. 46, 1930”. Rebel actually finished the manuscript on

December 23rd, 1930 (see p. 2). As a result several of the taxa described in this paper have been cited from 1930, 1932 and even 1933.

Volume 47 is dated "Wien 1936" on the original cover and on the title page (see figure 3). The dates of publication ["Erscheinungszeit"] are again provided at the end of the "Inhalt" [Contents]: "S. 1-32 im Jahre 1934. S. 32 bis Schluß Anfang März 1936." [Pages 1- 32 in the year 1934. Pages 32 to the end in the beginning of March 1936].

Count Seilern's paper "Ornithologische Miszellen. I. Bemerkungen über Vögel aus Südostperu" comprises pages 34-40. Page 34 bears the remark "Bd 47, 1936" [sic]; the date is somewhat elevated and in a slightly smaller font (see figure 4). However, the wrapper of the original preprint bears the remark: "Ausgegeben am 24. Juli 1934". [Distributed July 24th, 1934] (see figure 5) and in agreement with this the first page of the separate [page 33, page number missing on the first page of a paper] the bottom line runs "Bd. 47, 1934." (see figure 6). Wrong dates on the wrapper have usually been corrected (see figure 7) and it is therefore most likely that in this case the entry on the content page is incorrect and the preprint actually appeared in July 1934.

For the taxon in question the citation *Celeus grammicus latifasciatus* Seilern, 1934; *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien*, vol. 47, 1936 [1934-1936]: 36 (preprint ICZN Art. 21.8.) is recommended.

On present evidence papers published in the "*Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien*" require careful dating. We summarise as follows:

In doubtful cases the date of publication must be checked to the individual paper taking account of all available information

At least in some instances true preprints (bearing their own date of publication) have been distributed prior to the publication of the respective volume

Distribution of preprints is usually mentioned at the end of the Contents page (however, in some instances these are probably incorrect)

Dates (of the year) on the printed sheets should not be relied upon

In the absence of better evidence the date on the wrapper of separates is considered to represent the correct date of publication (however at least in some instances an incorrect date on the wrapper appears to have been corrected before the separate was distributed) unless a preprint can be found and its date checked

The complete series of "*Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien*" is available in electronic form (www.landesmuseum.at/biophp/de/annalen.php). The digitized version, however, includes neither the title pages nor the contents pages and the publication dates provided there for the various volumes should not be used without checking further.

Detailed information on the various series published by the Museum of Natural History Vienna has been provided by Gaal & Vitek (1998).

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www.landesmuseum.at/biophp/de/annalen.php (accessed 19.3.2013)

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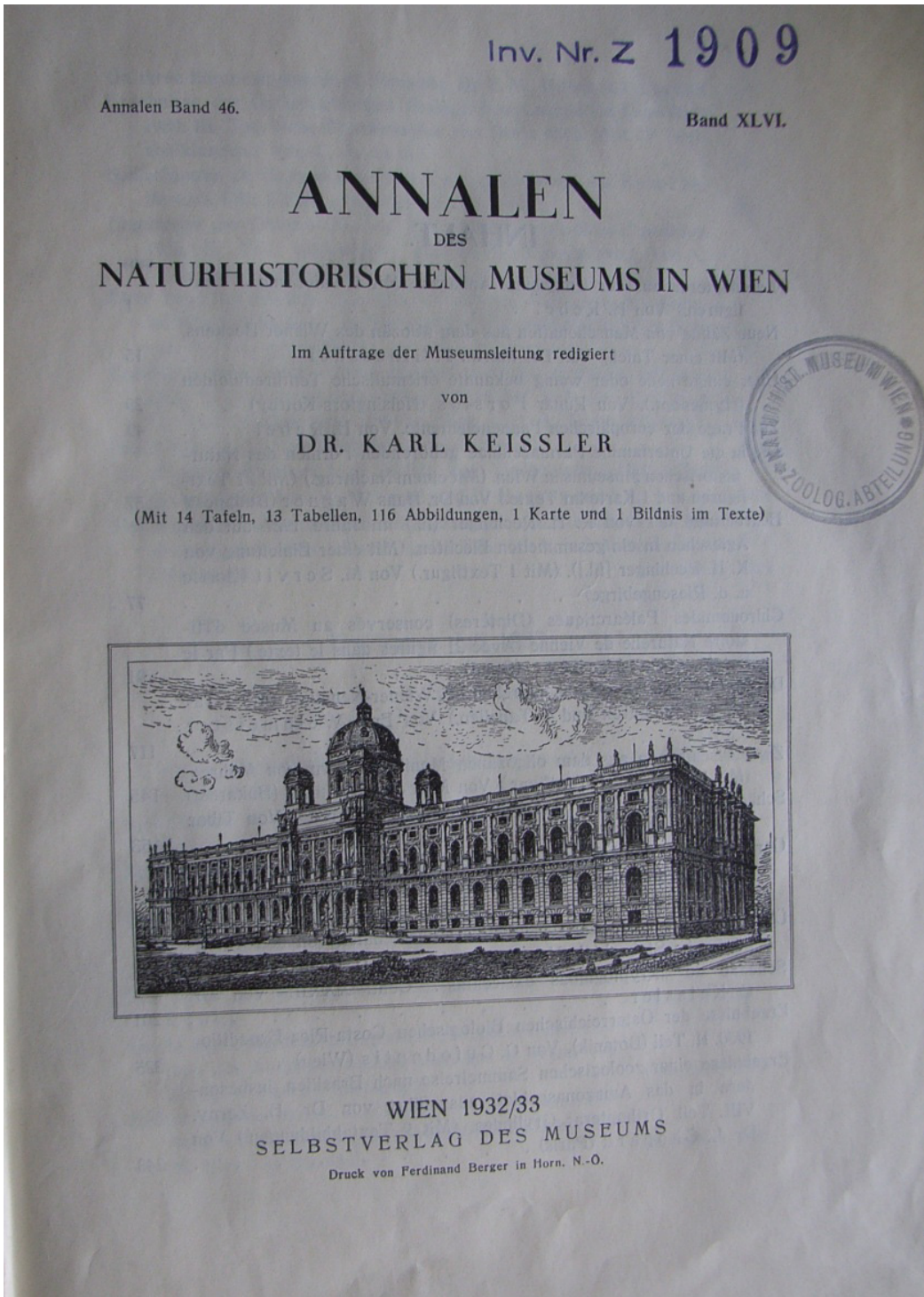


Figure 1. Cover of volume 46, 1932 / 1933 [published July 1933].

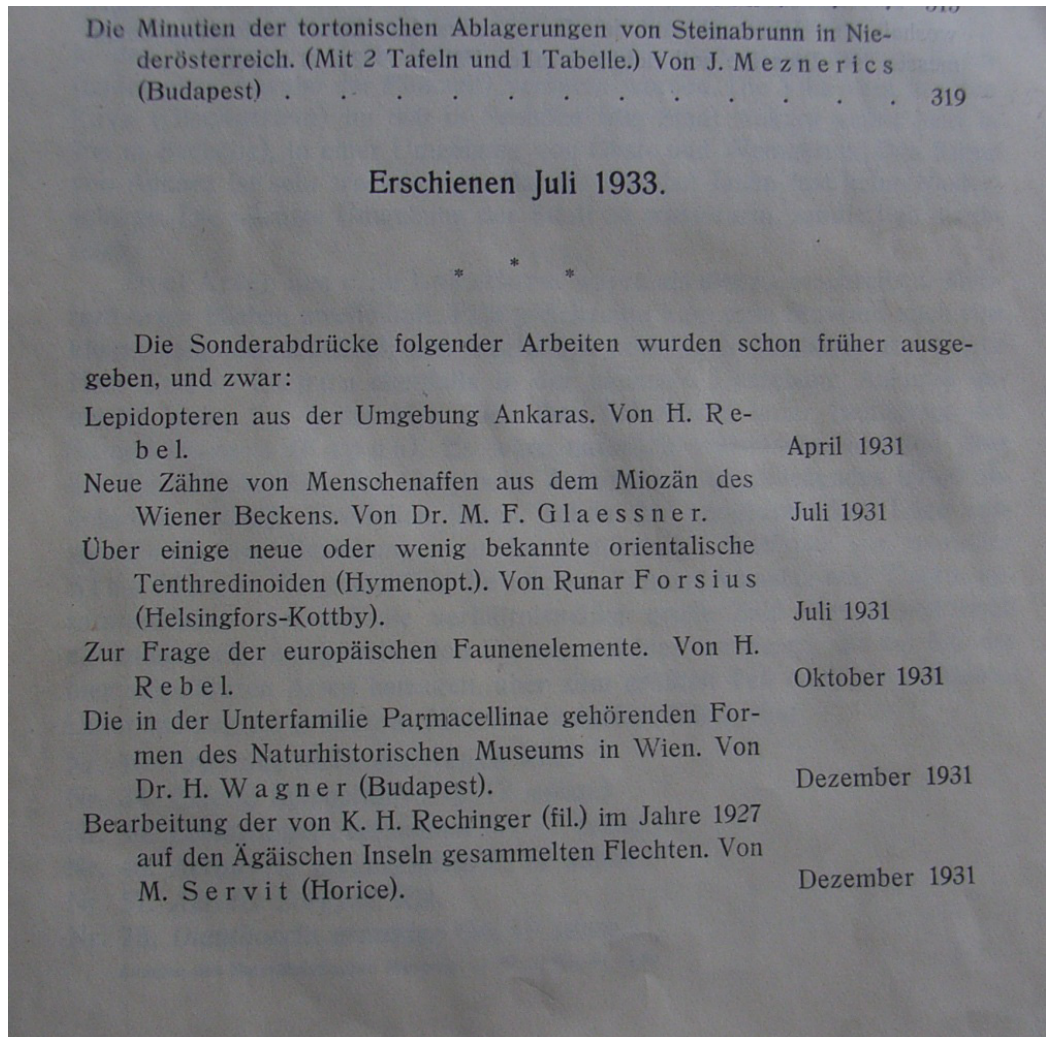


Figure 2. Remark "Erschienen Juli 1933" appended to the list of contents of Vol. 46, 1932/1933 and list of preprints with their respective dates of distribution ("... wurden schon früher ausgegeben, und zwar:").

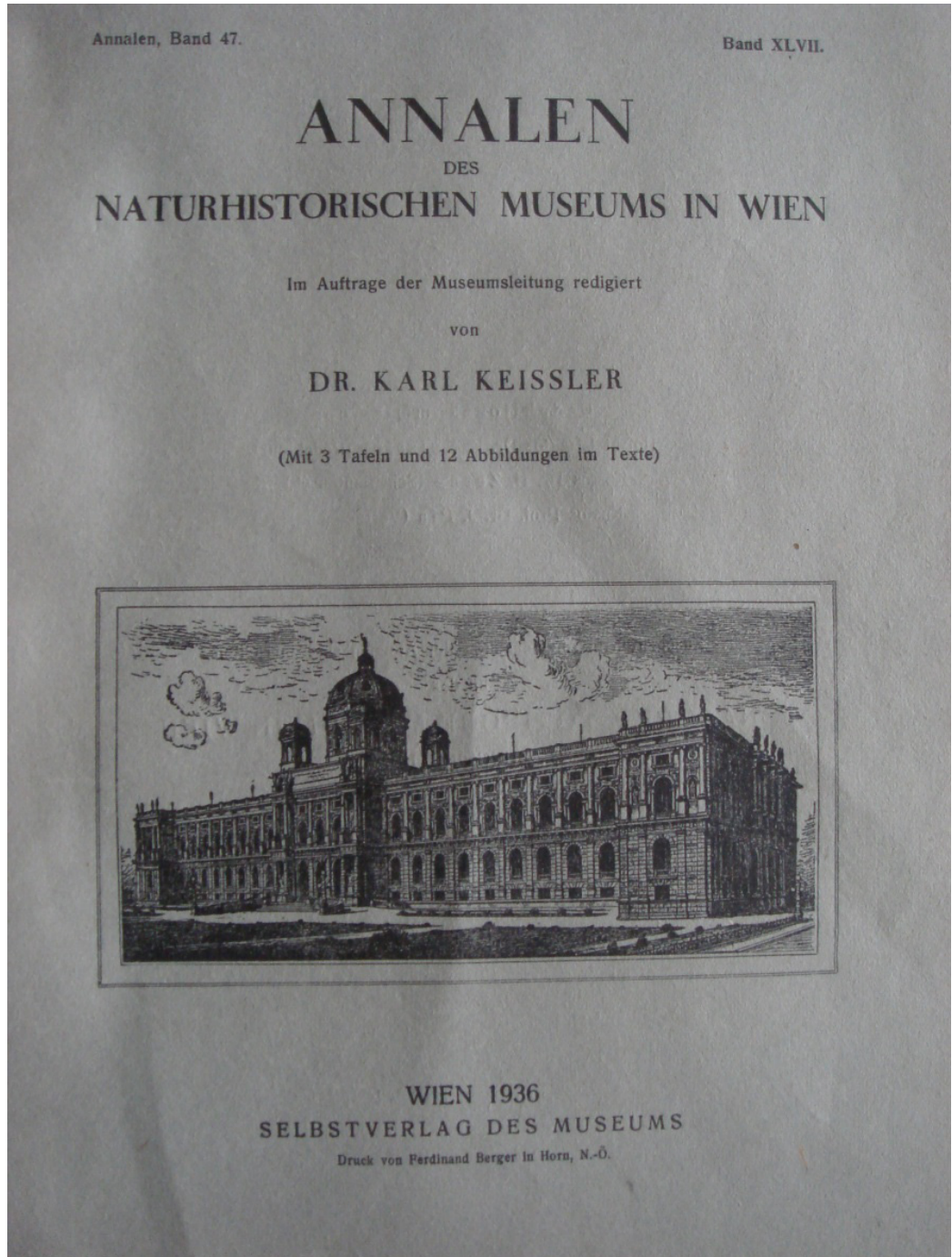


Figure 3. Cover (identical with title page) of volume 47, 1936

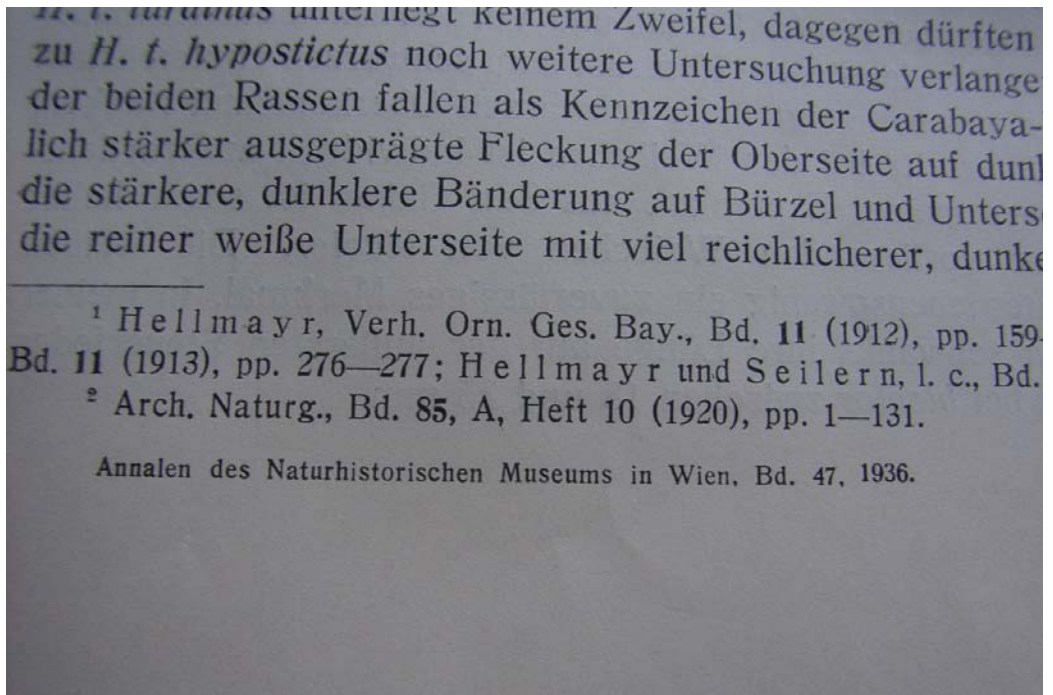


Figure 4. Footer from p. 33 in vol. 47 showing date inserted; note alignment implying later addition.



Figure 5. Exact date shown on preprint cover of article forming part of vol. 47 (1936).

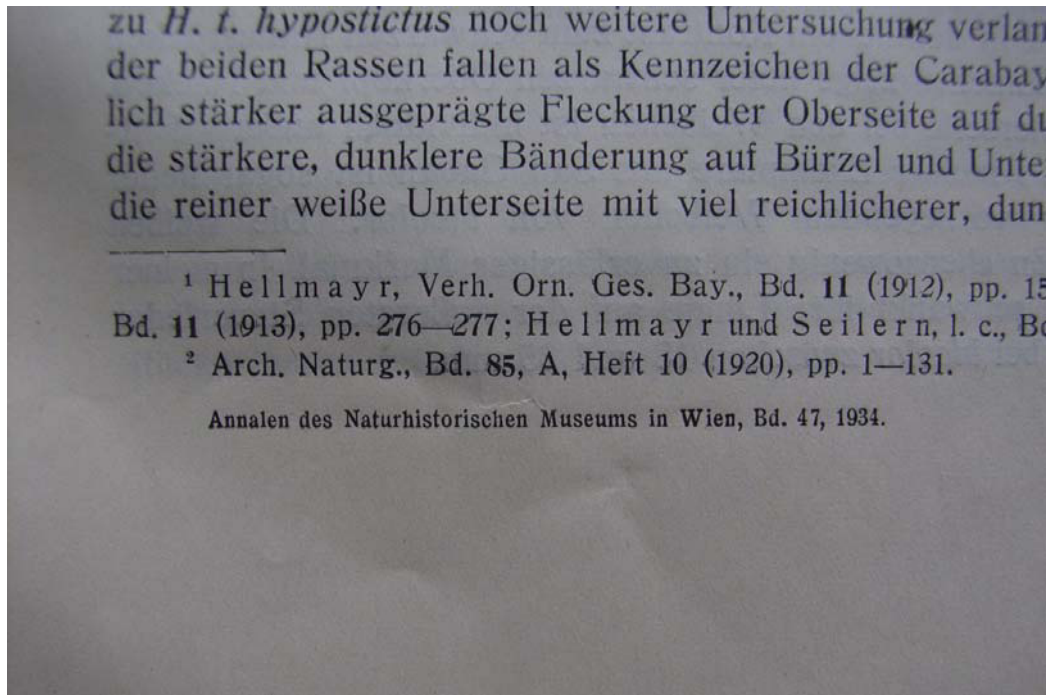


Figure 6. Footer (print sheet) from preprint (for vol. 47, 1936, p. 33); note the date (1934).

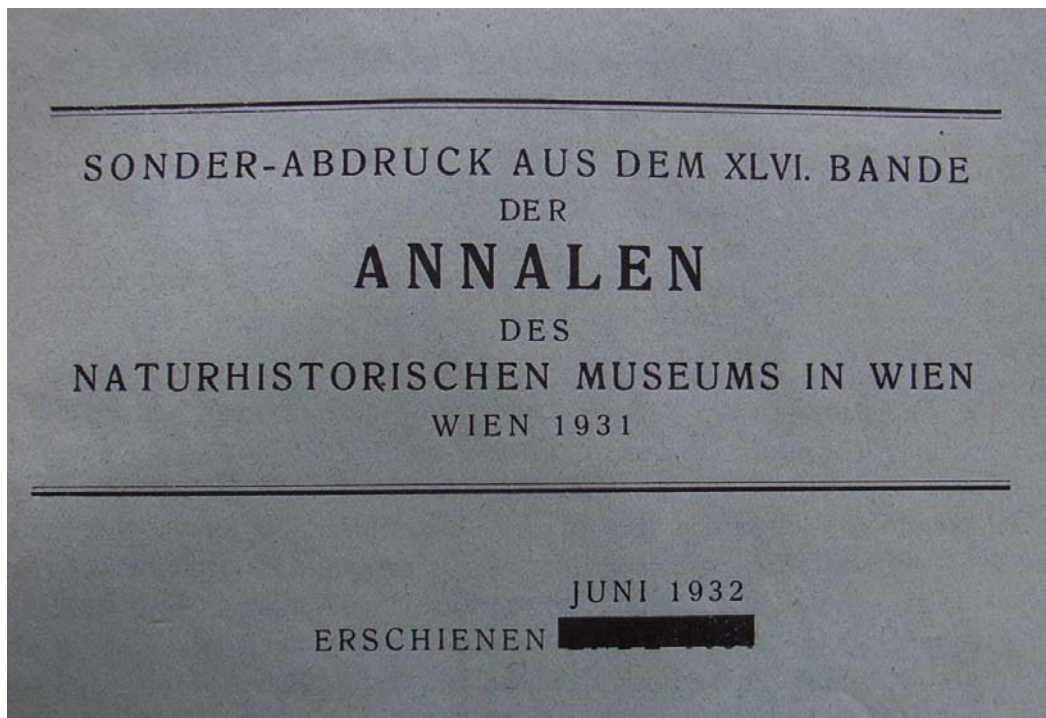


Figure 7. Date revision, superimposed above cancelled “ENDE 1931” (applied on preprint cover for Vol. 46, pp. 185-199).