

Postcard from Dr. John R. Brinkley to Mrs. Amanda Jackson

June 28, 1937

MS HL_SM_24-01-Postcard1937-BrinkleyJ-Vienna



Transcribed by Gail Parker

English 618: Research Methods in English

Dr. Brian Gastle

10 December 2025

Intro to Document

This postcard was sent by Dr. John R. Brinkley in 1937 from the Schöbrunn Palace in Vienna to Mrs. Amanda Jackson in East LaPorte, North Carolina. It depicts the birth-room of Emperor Francis-Joseph I, and Brinkley notes that it is a “nice” room, but compares that luxury of the palace to where he and Amanda were from, in the rural mountains of North Carolina.

Amanda Jackson was a family friend of Brinkley’s from his youth in North Carolina. She was an aunt to his first wife, Sallie Margaret Wike. He referred to her commonly as “Aunt” Amanda, and she remained a figure in Brinkley’s life well after his first marriage ended. Many postcards from this 1937 trip through Europe were sent to Aunt Amanda.

Brinkley’s trip across Europe occurred at a volatile time, as the Nazi Party in Germany gained power. A year later, in 1938, the Chancellor of Austria stepped down and the country was taken over by the Nazi party. In November that same year, Hitler was rumored to have stayed at Schöbrunn Palace.

Editorial Statement

The card measures 6” wide x 4.5” high. The front side features a print of a painting depicting the birth-room of Emperor Francis-Joseph I, from the Schobrunn Palace. The artist of the painting, Ernst Muller, has a signature on the bottom left hand corner of the front of the card. Painting credit is also printed on the back side. The date beside the artists’ name appears to be 1930. The backside of the card has the painting in three languages: English, German, and French. The rest of the printed text on the postcard is in German. Credits for the printing is given to C. Angerer and Guschel, as well as Christoph Reisser's Söhne. Both were printing companies in Vienna at the time.

A small line of vertical text separates the message and address sections of the postcard and translates roughly to “Social aid organization for the upgrades of the Schobrunn Zoo.” There are three ink stamps on the card, showing that the card was postmarked by Vienna for mail air on June 28th 1937. The month is represented in Roman numerals. The postcard was stamped by US postal service as received in East Laport on July 6th, 1937, in the afternoon mail.

As a diplomatic edition, the transcription maintains all original spellings, sentence breaks, and page breaks. The address and message are presented here vertically, rather than side by side as they are on the postcard. Brinkley also chose to write his message across the short-hand length of the card on the original.

Translations of German text were assisted by Langenscheidt Dictionary Online, Google Translate, and personal interview. However, there may be inaccuracies.

Transcription

[MS page 1]

Mrs. Amanda Jackson¹
East LaPort, NC, USA²

Nice room in which
to be born, but not
where we were born
but what we do

¹ A family friend for much of Brinkley's life, and also the aunt of his first wife, Sallie Margaret Wike.

² An incorporated community, then part of the River Township in Jackson County, NC. Today it is designated as part of Cullowhee. In both his handwriting and on the post office’s stamp, LaPort is spelled with way, without an “e” a the end. At other times, Brinkley spelled it as “East LaPorte”. Both spellings were frequently used by Brinkley and by residents of Jackson County, and is still not standardized to this day.

counts in life.³

-Jno. R. Brinkley M.D.

Wein, Austria, June 28-37

³ Brinkley was born in Beta, another rural community in Jackson County, NC. Much of his public image highlighted the story of a humble, poverty-stricken Appalachian child rising to fame and success.

Annotated Works Cited

Ancestry Library Edition. [Ancestrylibrary.com](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com)

I used this site to search for census, birth, marriage, and death records to determine the relationship between Brinkley and Amanda Jackson.

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“C. Angerer & Göschl.” *Wikipedia (German)*. Wikimedia Foundation. no.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._Angerer_%26_G%C3%B6schl. Accessed 8 Dec. 2025.

Claire Kidney. Personal interview. 8 Dec 2025.

This source gave me suggestions to refine the translations that I started with from Google Translate and Langenscheidt.

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Used this service to begin with translating German text from the manuscript as well as Wikipedia entries on the two Vienna printing companies.

Langenscheidt. en.langenscheidt.com

Used this website to begin with translating German.