

1951

THE PRESIDENT RENNER DEATH ISSUE, 3 MARCH 1951



The first issue of 1951 was a mourning stamp for President Karl Renner who had died, as first President of the Second Austrian Republic, on 31 December 1950 in Vienna. The 1 schilling black stamp was both designed and engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber who used the portrait he had previously employed in 1948 for the "30th Anniversary of the Republic". Only the wording was now altered, to read "REPUBLIK. Dr. KARL RENNER 1870-1950 ÖSTERREICH". The stamp was printed by the recess process on yellow Japan document paper and perforated 14:13¼. The impression was 2 million pieces; it was issued on 3 March 1951. A plate error exists in the form of a minute tuft of hair under the B of REPUBLIK; its exact position in the plate is not recorded. President Renner has previously been portrayed on many different Austrian stamps.

THE RECONSTRUCTION FUND SET, 10 MARCH 1951.

The Austrian Post and Telegraph Administration had issued in 1946 a special postage stamp set with a surcharge for the reconstruction of St. Stephen's Cathedral; in 1948 a similar set for the reconstruction of Salzburg Cathedral and also in 1948 a general reconstruction set was released. Since the end of the Second World War, great and visible results in the reconstruction of Austria had been achieved. However, it was realised in 1951 that many years would have to elapse, and the corresponding financial means raised, before Austria was completely reconstructed. In an attempt to expedite this process, a further set of stamps was issued on 10 March 1951 with surcharges to raise funds to help in the reconstruction work in Austria.

The set was designed by Professor Ernst Schrom; each stamp was inscribed at the top "WIEDER/AUFBAU" (i.e. "Reconstruction") and the individual stamps were engraved respectively by Rupert Franke, Friedrich Teubel, Hans Ranzoni and Hubert Woyty-Wimmer. The set was printed in recess in an impression of 290,000 sets (comb perforation 14¼:13¼).



40gr+10gr brown-purple. Inscribed "Bergbau", it depicts a miner of metalliferous ores wearing his protective helmet and carrying a pick and a miner's lamp. In the background the shaft supports of the mine in which he works are visible.

60gr+15gr blue-green. Inscribed "Wohnbau", it depicts a bricklayer in a cloth cap putting mortar with a trowel on to a brick which he holds in his left hand. In the background is the partly completed house which he is building.

1S+25gr red-brown. Inscribed "Brückenbau", it depicts a steel erector in a tightly fitting skull cap holding a structural steel member. In the background is shown one of the many bridges, destroyed during the Second World War, which he is reconstructing.

1S70+40gr blue. Inscribed "Telegraphenbau", it depicts a P.T.T. linesman wearing the typical peaked cap of his trade. He is shown working at the top of a telegraph pole where he is replacing an insulator on a cross bar. This is a reference to the need in Austria to repair and replace much of the internal communications system in the period after the Second World War.

THE JOSEPH LANNER ISSUE, 12 APRIL 1951.

As part of its continuing commemorative series "Famous Austrians" the Austrian Post Office issued on 12 April 1951 a portrait stamp depicting the conductor Joseph Lanner. It was designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and recess printed in an impression of 800,000 (comb perforated 14¼:13½). The 60gr blue-green stamp, showing a portrait of the composer in an oval frame with his name and dates below, was one of the last designs created by Dachauer, who died on 26 February 1951 aged 70.



Joseph Lanner was born on 11 April 1801 at Oberdöbling bei Wien. He was the son of Martin Lanner, a glove maker, and of the latter's wife Maria Anna Scherhauff. Joseph taught himself to play the violin and learned to compose, by reading books of musical theory, to such effect that when he was twelve years old he joined the orchestra of a Michael Pamer, who was a well known musician of the day. In 1819 he started his own orchestral quartet in which he played the violin and also conducted. Joseph Lanner at first composed waltzes and Ländler for a small orchestra, but when he adapted them for a full orchestra and played them in public, his rise to fame was immediate. His most famous waltz is the "Schönbrunnerwalzer". It was whilst he was at the height of his popularity that he died of typhus at Oberdöbling bei Wien on 14 April 1843.

He had two sons who showed promise but died young; and a daughter Katharina who became a well-known international ballet dancer, settling in London where she became an influential choreographer and teacher.

THE MARTIN JOHANN SCHMIDT ISSUE, 28 JUNE 1951.



The next issue of Austria was also designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and recess printed to honour the 150th anniversary of the death of the painter and etcher Martin Johann Schmidt. It was comb perforated 14½:13½ and issued on 28 June 1951 in an impression of 800,000. The 1S brown-red stamp depicts a self-portrait by Schmidt in a frame of the period which rests on a pedestal with floral ornaments on both sides. The artist was born at Gräfenwörth on 25 September 1718, but spent most of his life in the small town of Krems in Lower Austria and came to be known as Kremser-Schmidt. He was greatly influenced by the art of Rembrandt and created many religious paintings, frescoes and engravings. He died at Stein an der Donau on 28 June 1801.



THE FIRST SCOUT ISSUE, 3 AUGUST 1951.

The 1S vermilion, yellow and deep green stamp was issued on 3 August 1951 in an impression of 1 million pieces for the 7th Scout World Jamboree at Bad Ischl. Perf 14½:13½.

THE WILHELM KIENZL ISSUE, 3 OCTOBER 1951.



The last Austrian issue of 1951 was a portrait stamp depicting the composer Dr. Wilhelm Kienzl upon the tenth anniversary of his death. The 1S50gr indigo stamp was designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and recess printed by the Austrian State Printing Works in an impression of 800,000 pieces which were comb perforated 14¼:13½ and issued on 3 October 1951.

Wilhelm Kienzl was born at Waizenkirchen in Upper Austria on 17 January 1857. He studied musical composition at Graz, Prague and Munich, being appointed Director of the Styrian Musical Society in 1877. He composed his first opera "Urvasi" in 1886 and his most famous one "Der Evangelimann" in 1895. Some bars of music from this opera are reproduced on this commemorative stamp; together with a laurel wreath to symbolise the fame of the composer. Between 1893 and 1917 he travelled considerably; but in that year settled in Vienna to continue writing operas until 1925 when he wrote "Hassan the Dreamer" and "Santissima". His last orchestral work "Septuaginta" was composed in 1927. Wilhelm Kienzl lived in retirement in Vienna for many years until his death there on 3 October 1941.