

1960

THE WORLD REFUGEE YEAR ISSUE OF 7TH APRIL 1960



The year 1960 was designated in the West as “World Refugee Year” and it was thus apposite that the first stamp issued by Austria that year should be dedicated to that theme. A 3S dark blue green stamp, depicting a refugee couple and their child, was therefore designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed at the Austrian State Printing Works; comb perforated 13³/₄x14¹/₄. The stamp was issued in an impression of 3 million pieces (sheets of 50). A political row was engendered by this stamp since Austria stated quite specifically that the design depicted Hungarians struggling to reach the safety of the Austrian border. The

Hungarian Government instructed its postal authorities to refuse all post franked with this stamp and to return it to Vienna.

THE PRESIDENTIAL BIRTHDAY ISSUE OF 20TH APRIL 1960



Dr. Adolf Schärf, the third President of the Second Austrian Republic, was born at Nikolsburg in Moravia on 20th April 1890. He had been officially installed as President on 22nd May 1957 and it was decided to commemorate his 70th birthday by issuing a 1S50 bronze-green stamp. This conventional portrait design, with the Austrian Republican Arms behind the presidential head, was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess printed by the Austrian State Printing Works in an impression of three million pieces (comb perforated 14¹/₄x13³/₄).

Dr. Schärf was the son of Josef Schärf, a glass blower, and of the latter's wife Magdalena Sitek. The family moved to Vienna when he was a boy and there he went to school whilst his parents made artificial pearls as a livelihood. In 1915 he married Hilda Hammer (who died in 1956) and they had two children, Martha (born in 1917) and Reinhold (1919-1941). Dr. Adolf Schärf died in Vienna on 27th February 1965. He was succeeded as President by Franz Jonas (1900-1974).

THE YOUTH HOSTELS MOVEMENT ISSUE OF 20TH MAY 1960



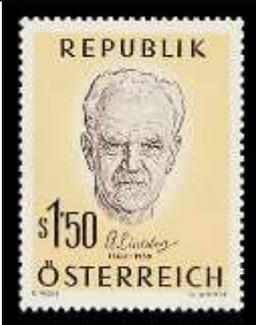
At the beginning of the annual period when youth starts to turn its back upon civilisation in favour of nature, the Austrian Postal and Telephonic Administration issued a special 1S carmine stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess-printed at the Austrian State Printing Works in an impression of three million pieces in sheets of 50 stamps; comb perforated 14¹/₄x13³/₄. A plate error is known where a spot exists between the A and N of “Jugendwandern” (Youth Wanderers); the word that runs vertically to the left of the stamp.

The design itself depicts two youth hostellers, a boy and a girl, against a mountainous background in which may be seen a youth hostel, with its Austrian flag floating in the breeze. In 1960 there were 149 Youth Hostels in Austria with 7408 beds. During the summer of 1960 a total of 204,281 hikers stayed in the hostels with 524,891 overnight stays (of which 102,839 were foreigners with 254,229 overnight stays). In the winter of 1960 to 1961, 44,668 hikers stayed at the hostels with 196,890 overnight stays (of which 16,694 were foreigners with 63,627 overnight stays). There are two organisations in Austria, the Ö. Jugendherbergsverband and the Ö. Jugendherbergswerk which together form the Ö. Jugendherbergsring.

THREE PORTRAIT ISSUES OF JUNE AND JULY 1960

Rather unusually, the Austrian Post Office now issued three of its celebrated portrait stamps in a sequence to commemorate respectively the surgeon Professor Anton Eiselsberg (1860-1939), the composer Gustav Mahler (1860-1911) and the architect Jacob Prandtauer (1660-1726). The centenaries of the births of the two former men and the tercentenary of the birth of the latter were being honoured.

The Eiselsberg and Mahler stamps were both designed by Robert Fuchs and engraved by Georg Winner. However, the former was printed in offset lithography with only the inscriptions in recess whilst the latter, like the Prandtauer stamp, was recess printed. The Prandtauer stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch and engraved by Rudolf Toth. All three stamps were comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ and printed in impressions of 3 million stamps. The Eiselsberg stamp shows his signature, the Mahler stamp a palm frond and the Prandtauer the Abbey of Melk.

		
<p>Professor Anton Eiselsberg 20/6/1960</p>	<p>Gustav Mahler 7/7/1960</p>	<p>Jacob Prandtauer 16/7/1960</p>

THE GROSSGLOCKNER HIGHWAY ISSUE OF 3RD AUGUST 1960



The Austrian Post Office issued a 1.80S deep blue stamp to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Grossglockner Alpine Highway in 1935. The stamp, depicting part of this highway, was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess printed in an impression of 3 million; comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Already shown on an Austrian stamp in 1935, the highway was planned and constructed by Franz Wallack and is a modern road running north to south from Bruck in Salzburg, across the Hohe Tauern mountains to Heiligenblut in the Mölltal, via Fusch, Ferleiten, the Hochtort Tunnel (at an altitude of 8,222 feet; its highest point) and the Grossglockner Pass. It is about 30 miles in length and there are two branch highways; one from the Fuschertörl to the Edelweiss Spitze, and the other, the glacier route from the Guttal to Franz Josef's

Hohe. The highway is an important link in road communications between Germany and Italy, although it is impassable in winter because of heavy snowfalls.

THE SECOND EUROPA ISSUE OF 29TH AUGUST 1960



The second Europa issue was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict a classical Ionic column above which was placed the word EUROPA. This was presumably intended to symbolise the concept that European civilisation is based upon the ideals of Greece and Rome. The 3S black stamp was engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in recess by the Austrian State Printing Works, in an impression of three million (comb perforated 14¼:13¾).

THE CARINTHIAN PLEBISCITE ISSUE OF 10TH OCTOBER 1960



A 1.50S blackish-green stamp was issued to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Carinthian Plebiscite of 1920. Depicting Griffen in Carinthia, the stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in recess in an impression of 3 million; line perforated 13¾x13¾. The town of Griffen had 3031 inhabitants in 1951 of which 34% were Slovene. It lies between the Drau- and Lavanttal.

THE 11TH STAMP DAY ISSUE OF 2ND DECEMBER 1960



The last issue of the year was the annual "Day of the Stamp" item. It was a 30S + 70 groschen chocolate-coloured stamp, designed by A. Pilch, engraved by R. Toth and recess printed. The design depicts the examination of a proof of the 3S 50g stamp of the "International Hunting Congress" set (ANK1125) under the magnifying glass. The clarity of this engraved stamp is stressed by the appearance of the antlers of the stag under the glass.