

# 1961

## THE FREEDOM MARTYR'S ISSUE OF 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1961



In the decades up to the attainment of Austrian State independence in 1955, many Austrians lost their lives. The Austrian Postal Administration, therefore, decided to dedicate a stamp in their memory, to honour the dead and also remind the living of their great sacrifices. This stamp was designed by Friedl Weyss-Lampel to depict an “Opferschale” (literally a dish for receiving the blood of a victim), with flames pouring from it, whilst below is a chain, the central link of which is broken open. This 1.50S stamp was engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 3 7 million pieces in sheets of 50 stamps 14¼x13¾.

## THE LUPOSTA ISSUE OF 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1961



To commemorate the first Austrian Airmail service, a LUPOSTA Exhibition was held in Vienna and a special 5S violet blue stamp was issued which was both designed and engraved by Professor Hans Ranzoni d.J. and recess printed in an impression of 3 million pieces, comb perforated 14¼x13¾ (or was it 13¾x14¼?).

The design depicts the “Hansa-Brandenburg C-1” aircraft, constructed in Austria during 1916. This was the type of aeroplane used in 1918 to transport mail on the Vienna-Kracow-Lemberg-Kiev route after 31<sup>st</sup> March and also on the Vienna-Budapest route after July. At the LUPOSTA 1961 exhibition, the Austrian Postal Administration displayed the Postal Decrees that covered this postal service. The exhibition itself was organised by the Austrian Federation of Airmail Collectors which was then celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It took place in the Vienna City Hall from 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 1961. A number of special flights took place in conjunction with this exhibition, including balloon and rocket posts; all with their own commemorative strikes.

## THE EUROPEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS' MEETING ISSUE OF 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1961



A 3 Schilling deep olive and red stamp was issued in honour of the 13th Session of the Council of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport which was held in Vienna from 29th to 31st May 1961. The stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict various types of rail, road and water transport, engraved by Georg Wimmer and printed by a mixture of recess and typography in an impression of 3 million pieces (comb perforated 14¼x13¾).

This particular meeting was attended by 16 European Ministers of Transport (including Mr. Ernest Marples for the United Kingdom) and was under the presidency of the Austrian Minister; Herr Karl Waldbrunner. The main agenda item was the economic and financial difficulty of the European railway system. The conference itself was founded in Brussels on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1953 and its headquarters are in Paris. Its objects are the maximum development and use of European railways, roads and inland waterways, and the co-ordination of the activities of international transport organisations in Europe. (Its initials are C.E.M.T.- Conference Europeenne des Ministres des Transports).

## THE KÜNSTLERHAUS CENTENARY ISSUE OF 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1961

The Künstlerhaus, or House of Artists, was built in the Italian Renaissance style by A. Weber in 1865-1868 and is depicted on the 20 + 10g. green value of 15<sup>th</sup> June 1948. The actual association of artists had been founded in 1861 as the “Society of Architects, Sculptors and Painters”; some years before the building was erected on the Vienna Ringstrasse to be its headquarters, a gallery of art and a centre of culture. To celebrate this centenary, a set of four stamps was issued designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 3 million sets (comb perforated 14¼x13¾). The designs depicted works of typical artists. The printing plates were prepared at the Printing Works but printed at the Austrian National Bank.

			
1S brown-purple and brown “Alpine Mower”; by Albin Egger-Lienz	1.50S deep lilac and brown “The Kiss”; by August von Pettenkofen	3S bronze-green and brown “Portrait of a Maiden”; by Anton Romako	5S deep violet and brown “The Triumph of Ariadne”; by Hans Makart

## THE SONNBLICK OBSERVATORY ISSUE OF 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 1961



This 1.202 deep violet-blue stamp, designed and engraved by Professor Hans Ranzoni d.J. was to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Sonnblick Meteorological Observatory. It was recess printed, and comb perforated 14¼x13¾, in an impression of 3 million pieces in sheets of 50.

This observatory, situated 10,000 ft. above sea-level on the Sonnblick mountain in the Hohe Tauern range of the Central Alps in perpetual snow and ice, was first proposed by the Austrian meteorologist Julius von Hann in 1879. It was conceived with the specific object of studying atmospheric conditions and meteorological phenomena at high altitudes. This ideal site was discovered by Ignaz Rojacher, a gold miner and mine owner, who placed his mining equipment at the service of those constructing the observatory.

The latter was formally opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1886. A few years later the mine closed down so special arrangements had to be made to supply the observatory, and avalanches often broke the solitary telephone wire to the outside world. Although there were economic difficulties after the First World War, the Sonnblick is now firmly established as one of the world's leading observatories.

## THE NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES SET OF 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1961

July 26<sup>th</sup> 1961 was exactly 15 years since the First Nationalisation Law was passed by the Austrian Parliament to nationalise important parts of the industrial and commercial life of the country. This law (allegedly published in the Federal Law Sheets (No. 50) of 16th September 1946) nationalised the three great banks, the most important concerns of the iron and steel industry, the most important coal mines, a series of undertakings of the electrical industry and of machine construction firms, two commercial firms, a heavy chemical firm and the most important mines and refineries of the non-ferrous metals industry.

To commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Austrian nationalisation programme, it was decided to issue a set of five stamps which would illustrate typical examples of those industries. These stamps were designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess printed at the Austrian State Printing Works in an impression of 3 million pieces in sheets of 50; comb perforation 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ . The designs depict:

				
1S black: Lavanthaler Colliery; Wolkersdorf Shaft.	1.50S myrtle-green: Firm of Elin- Union: the rotor of a large generator	1.80S carmine red: Blast furnace at the Österreichisch Alpine Montangesellschaft	3S deep mauve: Pouring steel at the L.D.-Steelworks VÖEST, Linz.	5S blue: Large oil refinery at Schwechat called ÖMV.AG.

All the values are inscribed “15 JAHRE VERSTAATLICHTE UNTERNEHMUNGEN” (i.e. “15 Years of Nationalised Undertakings”) and the Austrian Federal Arms are placed in the top right hand corners. The names of the designer and of the engraver are placed to the left and right respectively of the bottom margin.

## THE WORLD BANK CONGRESS ISSUE OF 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1961



On 18<sup>th</sup> September 1961 at 10a.m., the Finance Ministers, Industry Ministers and Presidents of the more important Banks, from 70 countries, met in Vienna for their World Bank Congress. A 35 grey-black stamp, depicting the Greek God Hermes, was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed by the Printing Works of the Austrian National Bank. The general plate production and preparation had been undertaken by the Austrian State Printing Works. The issue, comb perforated 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ :13 $\frac{1}{2}$ , was issued in an impression of 3 million pieces in sheets of 50.

The choice of this god, with a stylised globe in the background, is because Mercury was traditionally in charge of commerce. This Congress, in the Hofburg, which lasted until 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1961, was the occasion when those attending listened to, and approved, the reports for 1960-61 from the four great world credit institutions; the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the International Finance Corporation and the International Development Association who were the four host organisations of this World Bank Congress.

## THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF BURGENLAND ISSUE OF 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1961



The anniversary of the accession of the Burgenland to the First Austrian Republic in 1921 was commemorated by issuing a 1.50S red, yellow and sepia stamp depicting the arms of that province. This stamp was designed and engraved by Hans Ranzoni the Younger and was printed by offset-lithography in the centre and recess by the Austrian State Printing Works; comb perforated 14¼x13½. The impression was of 3 million stamps.

The arms of the Burgenland consist of a golden shield in which a red eagle with wings outstretched, and wearing a crown, stands on a black mountain rock. On its breast it carries a small shield with vertical bands of red and ermine whilst behind the eagle are two small crosses in the background. (191) . Burgenland is the most eastern of the Austrian Federal Provinces and the second smallest (3965.33 square km). At the Treaty of St. Germain it was called “German West Hungary” with its capital at Oedenburg but the plebiscite was conducted by communes and Oedenburg with eight communes went to Hungary; leaving Eisenstadt as the capital of the Burgenland.

## THE FRANZ LISZT ISSUE OF 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1961



The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Ferencz Liszt, on 22nd October 1811 at Raiding near Pest in Hungary, was celebrated by issuing a 3S deep brown portrait stamp of this famous pianist and composer on 17th October 1961 (FDC 20th). It was designed by Adnlbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed at the State Printing Works, comb perforated 14¼x13½ The total impression printed was 3 million stamps but the blackprint impression amounted to only 2000 pieces.

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) had an amazing personal life but is chiefly remembered for his contribution to the music of the world.

## THE 12<sup>TH</sup> STAMP DAY ISSUE OF 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 1961



The penultimate issue of the year was the annual “Day of the Stamp” item. This year the stamp was a 3S + 70g deep bluish green item depicting the post office building at Rust in the Burgenland that had been formally opened on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1960. Comb perf 13¾x13½.

## THE “COURT OF ACCOUNTS” ISSUE OF 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 1961



The bicentenary of the Austrian “Court of Accounts” was celebrated by issuing a 1S sepia stamp as the last stamp of the year. Showing the front aspect of the Austrian Parliament Building, the stamp was designed and engraved by Hans Ranzoni the Younger, printed in recess by the State Printing Works issued in an impression of 3 million and comb perforated 14¼x13½.

Chaotic finances following the Seven Years' War with Prussia compelled the Empress Maria Theresa to introduce some drastic reforms, among them the establishment of the Imperial Chamber of Accounts, a supreme board of control of the country's financial affairs and forerunner of the present-day Court of Accounts, in December 1761. The board of control often lost its authority, and on two occasions (1792 and 1802) the Chamber of Accounts was even dissolved. But it was firmly re-established in 1805. The modern Court of Accounts exercises financial control of the national economy and all Government expenditure and revenue, including those of Government sponsored funds, foundations, institutions and enterprises, and of the Federal provinces and the larger municipalities. It is, indeed the nation's auditor.