

1976

BURGTHEATER, APRIL 8 1976

The bicentenary of the foundation of the Burgtheater (Town Theatre) in Vienna in 1776 was commemorated by issuing a miniature sheet on April 8, 1976. This "Gedenkblock", measuring 13 x 6 cm., was designed by Otto Zeiller, engraved by Alfred Fischer and recess printed in an impression of 3.45 million sheets, with 5 sheets to the counter sheet. The blackprint was 2600. The miniature sheet was headed "200 JAHRE BURGTHEATER" and has in its middle the head of a faun.



1525 On the left of the sheet was a 3S deep-violet-blue stamp depicting the old Burgtheater. This design is based upon the watercolour by Karl Fabro: "Michaeler Platz with old Burgtheater and new Hofburg".

1526 On the right of the sheet was a 3S chocolate stamp depicting the northern ceremonial flight of stairs in the new Burgtheater. The outer edges of each miniature sheet are perforated 14; the stamps and faun are 14¼:13½

The original Burgtheater was founded in the Hofburg by the Emperor Josef II, on February 17, 1776, as a development of theatre in the Ballhaus founded by his mother, Maria Theresa, on March 4, 1741. The Emperor took a personal interest in the plays performed at the Burgtheater which was open to the public. The theatre became famous for its excellent acting during the 19th century but finally became too small for its purpose.

A new Burgtheater was constructed on the inner side of the Ring, in an elaborate late-Renaissance style by Gottfried Semper (1803-1879) and Karl, Freiherr von Hasenauer (1833-1894) in the period from 1880 to 1886. The lofty central building contains the foyer, the auditorium and the stage. The two staircases, which are in the wings, have ceiling paintings by E. Matsch and the brothers Georg and Gustav Klimt, and contain statues and busts of actors. The superb foyer has three ceiling-paintings by E. Charlement and portraits of famous actors of the original Burgtheater. The auditorium is in the Louis XVI style and the front of the boxes is adorned with marble busts of actors.

R. BÀRÀNY, APRIL 22 1976



1527 The centenary of the birth of the Nobel Prize Winner, Dr. Robert Bâràny (1876-1936), was commemorated by issuing a 3S light brown and ultramarine portrait stamp on April 22, 1976. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, using a portrait in the Austrian National Library, engraved by Alfred Nefe and recess printed in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 14 $\frac{1}{2}$:13. The blackprint was 2600.

Robert Bâràny was born in Vienna, graduated as Doctor of Medicine in 1900 and continued his studies in Frankfurt-am-Main, Heidelberg and Freiburg, before returning to Vienna to train in surgery in the General Hospital there under Professor Karl Gussenbauer. From 1903, Bâràny worked with Professor Adam Politzer, one of the world's leading otologists (ear specialists), at the Medical School of the University of Vienna, where a Department of Otology was founded in 1872. He was the first to devise a practicable method of examination of the vestibular apparatus - the system of canals containing fluid within the ear - and he discovered the relationship between the ear and the human brain, which laid the foundation for a new medical science - otoneurology. During World War I, while held prisoner by the Russians in 1915, he heard that he had been awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine, and in 1917, after his release from captivity, he was appointed Head of the Otolaryngological Department of the University of Uppsala, Sweden, where he worked for the remainder of his life. Bâràny, the only otologist to win a Nobel Prize, won many honours and had numerous works published; a Bâràny Society was founded in Padua in 1960.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, APRIL 30 1976



1528 A Centenary Exhibition in honour of the Vienna Natural History Museum opened in Vienna on April 30 1976. In its honour, a 3S multi-coloured stamp was issued on that date. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl, to depict an Ammonite Fossil (*Berriasella eudichotoma* from Ernstbrunn in Lower Austria), and was printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$:13 $\frac{1}{2}$. The blackprint was 2600. The Museum is in eight divisions, (1) minerology-petrology, (2) botany, (3) geology-palaeontology, (4) zoology (vertebrates), (5) zoology (insects), (6) zoology (invertebrates), (7) prehistory and (8) anthropology.

CARINTHIAN MILLENARY, MAY 6 1976

1529 The millenary of the foundation of the province of Carinthia was celebrated by issuing a 3S black and orange-yellow stamp on May 6, 1976. This stamp was designed by Alexander Exax, to depict the "Herzogstuhl" on the Zollfeld, engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed, by both the recess and photogravure processes, in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$:13 $\frac{1}{2}$. The blackprint was 2600. From 740, Carinthia had been associated with Bavaria in the German Empire, but in 976 the Emperor Otto II erected it, plus Styria, into an independent duchy under Duke Heinrich who was enthroned on a stone "throne" of great antiquity even then.



BABENBERG EXHIBITION, MAY 14 1976



1530 On 21st July 976, the Emperor Otto II signed a document in Regensburg in which "Marchio Liutpold" of the House of Babenberg was given the March of the Ostmark. To mark the millenary of this event, a Babenberg Exhibition was held in Lilienfeld in 1976. A 3S multi-coloured stamp was issued on May 14, 1976; it portrays a stained-glass triple window in the St. Leopold Chapel at Klosterneuburg which shows Duke Heinrich II. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and printed in both recess and photogravure, in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 14. The blackprint was 2600.

The name of this dynasty was derived from the Franconian castle of Babenberg which later became known as Bamberg. In the reign of the Emperor Otto I, Berthold of Babenberg (d.980) was ruler of the north-eastern part of Franconia, whilst it was his younger brother, Leopold or Liupold, who was made Markgraf of Austria in 976. The first recorded use of the word “Österreich” occurred in 996 during the reign of Heinrich I, the son of Leopold I.

Duke Heinrich II Jasomirgott (1110-1177) was the first Duke of Austria (from 1156). On the stamp he is shown with a sword in his right hand and the model of a church in his left. The inscription round the head reads “HAINRICUS SCOTOR(uns) FUN(dator)” and refers to his foundation of the Scottish Church in Vienna.

SKITTLES, MAY 14 1976

1531 The 11th World Skittles Championship was held in Vienna in May 1976. This was commemorated by issuing on May 14, 1976 a 4 Schilling black and yellow-orange stamp. It was designed by Otto Stefferl, to depict a bowler delivering a ball, engraved by Alfred Nefe and printed, in both recess and photogravure, in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint was 2600.



To the uninitiated who imagined that the game of skittles originated in Victorian pubs, it comes as a surprise to learn that it was played at the time of the Pharaohs- 3000 B.C. - and that its development can be traced through the centuries since then. Formerly an outdoor pastime, the 18th century saw the introduction of the first permanent indoor skittle alleys, the tracks being covered with laths, wood or asphalt; sometimes even marble! Skittle associations and clubs began to be formed, and in 1933, the World Skittles Association was founded; a series of world championships was started with the first international event at Belgrade in 1953.

PEASANTS' WAR, MAY 14 1976

1532 The 350th anniversary of the Peasants' War in Upper Austria was commemorated with a 4S black and pale grey-green stamp which was issued on May 14, 1976. It was designed by Otto Zeiller, to depict part of a contemporary copper engraving of “The Siege of Linz”, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed by both recess and photogravure in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint was 2600. The Peasants' War, between the peasants and a Bavarian Army then stationed in Upper Austria, started on May 17 1626 in an inn at Lembach as a result of resentment against the occupying forces. By 21st May, under their leaders Stefan Fadinger and Christoph Zeller, the peasant army had defeated the Bavarian Governor, Count Adam Herberstorff, and in a few weeks had most of Upper Austria under their control apart from the cities of Linz and Enns. On 21st July,



Linz was besieged and then taken.

Then the Imperial Army came into Upper Austria from both the east and the north to aid the peasants to such an effect that by September 10 1626 the fighting had come to an end. The peasants then laid down their arms and returned home but the truce was broken by Bavaria who invaded from the west into Upper Austria on 18-19 September. The peasants rose again and almost 9000 Bavarian soldiers were captured by them. Many thousands of peasants were killed in the ensuing battles which continued until a second peace treaty was signed at Gmunden on November 15 1626, between the Imperial forces and Bavaria, by which the latter relinquished Upper Austria.



INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION, ST WOLFGANG. MAY 26, 1976.

1533. Photogravure, "p'violet" 6S, perf 13¾. The stamp image shows a detail from the famous painting "Saint Wolfgang builds the Church of St. Wolfgang", which forms part of Michael Pacher's altarpiece in the pilgrimage church of St. Wolfgang. The painter was probably Friedrich Pacher, a relative of Michael, but the design of the picture certainly goes back to the great master himself. The work was created around 1481 in Bruneck in South Tyrol. In the year 976 Saint Wolfgang is said to have left his episcopal seat in Regensburg, where a wild civil war was raging, and settled as a hermit on Abersee, today's Wolfgangsee. Here he lived at the Falkenstein, a rough rocky gorge near today's St. Gilgen. But since the devil was bothering him too much there, he threw his ax down from the mountain and vowed to build a church where it would hit. He found her three days later on the lake shore and built a cell there as a dwelling and a small church for his devotion. According to legend, this is the origin of the town of St. Wolfgang. In 1976, exactly 1000 years had passed since then, and on this occasion an international art exhibition was held in St. Wolfgang with the theme "Saint Wolfgang in history and art".

EUROPA, AUGUST 13 1976

1534 The special Europa theme for 1976 was "Hand created works of art" and Austria chose the famous "Tassilo Cup" from the Abbey of Kremsmünster in Upper Austria. This 4S multi-coloured stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl to depict this cup, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and recess printed in an impression of 3.5 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. It was issued on August 13, 1976. The black print impression 2600.



The Abbey of Kremsmünster was founded in 777 by Duke Tassilo III of Bavaria (741-796) and in that year he presented the Benedictine monks there with this magnificent cup or chalice which is 158mm in diameter and 255mm high. There are nine illustrations on the cup and base of this chalice. The five on the cup itself display the "Majesty of the Enthroned Christ" surrounded by the symbols of the four evangelists. The four illustrations on the base of the chalice are of Our Lady, St. John the Evangelist, St. Theodore and St. Theolinde. The inscription, translated as "Tassilo a powerful duke + Luitpirc a royal scion", refers to the marriage of Tassilo and Princess Luitpirc in 769 A.D.

TIMBER FAIR, AUGUST 13 1976



1535 The 25th Austrian Timber Fair was held in Klagenfurt during August 1976. In its honour a 3S multi-coloured stamp was issued on August 13, 1976. It was designed by Alexander Exax, to depict the Fair Emblem as a solid three-dimensional H (= Holz: the German for wood) against a background of four outlined symbols (an eagle, a triangle, a wheel and an acorn on a leaf). It was printed in offset lithography (using the four colours of orange yellow, red, bluish-green and Russian green) in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.

Trade fairs had been held in Klagenfurt since the Spring of 1838 and these developed by 1885 into a "Carinthian Provincial Exhibition" which was visited by 100,000 people. In 1911 there was a "Provincial Hand-worker Exhibition" and in 1931 a "Carinthian Fair" at which above 500 firms exhibited. As a result an annual fair was inaugurated which was stopped only by the Second World War. After that war a Carinthian Exhibition was held in 1946, which was attended by 136,000 visitors. Then in 1951 the exhibition received the title of the "Carinthian Provincial Exhibition" and it was then decided to specialise as a "Timber Fair". It is this exhibition which now celebrated its Silver Jubilee, although the first "Timber Fair" was actually held in 1952. The second such fair in 1953 was officially recognised by the Government and was attended by 700 exhibitors, of which a hundred came from

outside Austria. Thus, in 1954, it was given the title of the “Austrian Timber Fair” and the latter has continued to be the case ever since.

C. ECONOMO, AUGUST 23 1976



1536 The centenary of the birth of the brain specialist, Constantin Economo (1876-1931), was marked by issuing a 3S chocolate portrait stamp on 2nd August 23, 1976. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, using a portrait in the Austrian National Library, engraved by Alfred Nefe and recess printed in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint was 2600.

Constantin Economo (1876-1931) was a pioneer in a field of research founded by Theodor Meynert (1833-1892) in Vienna - the study of the human brain. He studied under Julius Wagner-Jauregg the Nobel Prize winner, the physiologist Sigmund Exner, and others, and began his researches in Munich where his work was greatly helped and influenced by the histologists, Alois Alzheimer and Emil Kraepelin. In particular, Constantin studied cerebral nerve disorders and first published a paper on an infectious disease of the brain, which he named “encephalitis lethargica” (sleepy sickness) in 1917. Sleep, as such, he considered to be a complex process. Later he founded his own cerebral research centre at the Medical School of the University of Vienna, and found time also to become an aviation pioneer and “the life and soul” of Austrian civil and military aviation. He died in 1931 from a heart disease.

ADMINISTRATIVE COURT, OCTOBER 25 1976

1537 The centenary of the foundation of the Austrian Administrative Court in 1876 was commemorated by a 6S chocolate stamp on October 25, 1976. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, engraved by Maria Laurent and recess printed in an impression of 3.35 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint was 2600. The stamp design reproduces an engraving by Saloman Klein depicting Royal - Bohemian Court Chancellery in the Wipplingerstrasse”, the site of the present Administrative Court.



MILLENNARY OF AUSTRIA, OCTOBER 25 1976

Austria, the Mark and the later Duchy, which was first ruled by the Babenbergs, dates its foundation from the year 976 when the Emperor Otto II invested Leopold I of Babenberg with the Mark. To commemorate a thousand years of its existence, Austria issued on October 25, 1976 a special miniature sheet consisting of nine 2S multi-coloured stamps with the coats-of-arms of the Austrian provinces. This sheet was designed by Karl Gessner, engraved by Alfred Fischer (Vienna, Lower and Upper Austria, Burgenland and Salzburg) and Wolfgang Seidel (Styria, Tirol, Carinthia and the Vorarlberg), and printed by both the recess (black colours) and photogravure (other colours) processes in an impression of 3.6 million sheets. The stamps were comb perforated 14. At the head of the sheet is the “single-headed eagle” coat-of-arms of Republican Austria, with the dates 976-1976. At its base the words “Tausend Jahre Österreich”. The coats-of-arms, starting at the top left are:

1538 Lower Austria: five golden eaglets on a blue ground.

1539 Upper Austria: on black a golden eagle impaled on four vertical bands alternately silver and red.

1540 Styria: a silver panther rampant breathing red fire on a green ground.

1541 Carinthia: three black lions rampant on a gold ground impaled with a white fesse on red.

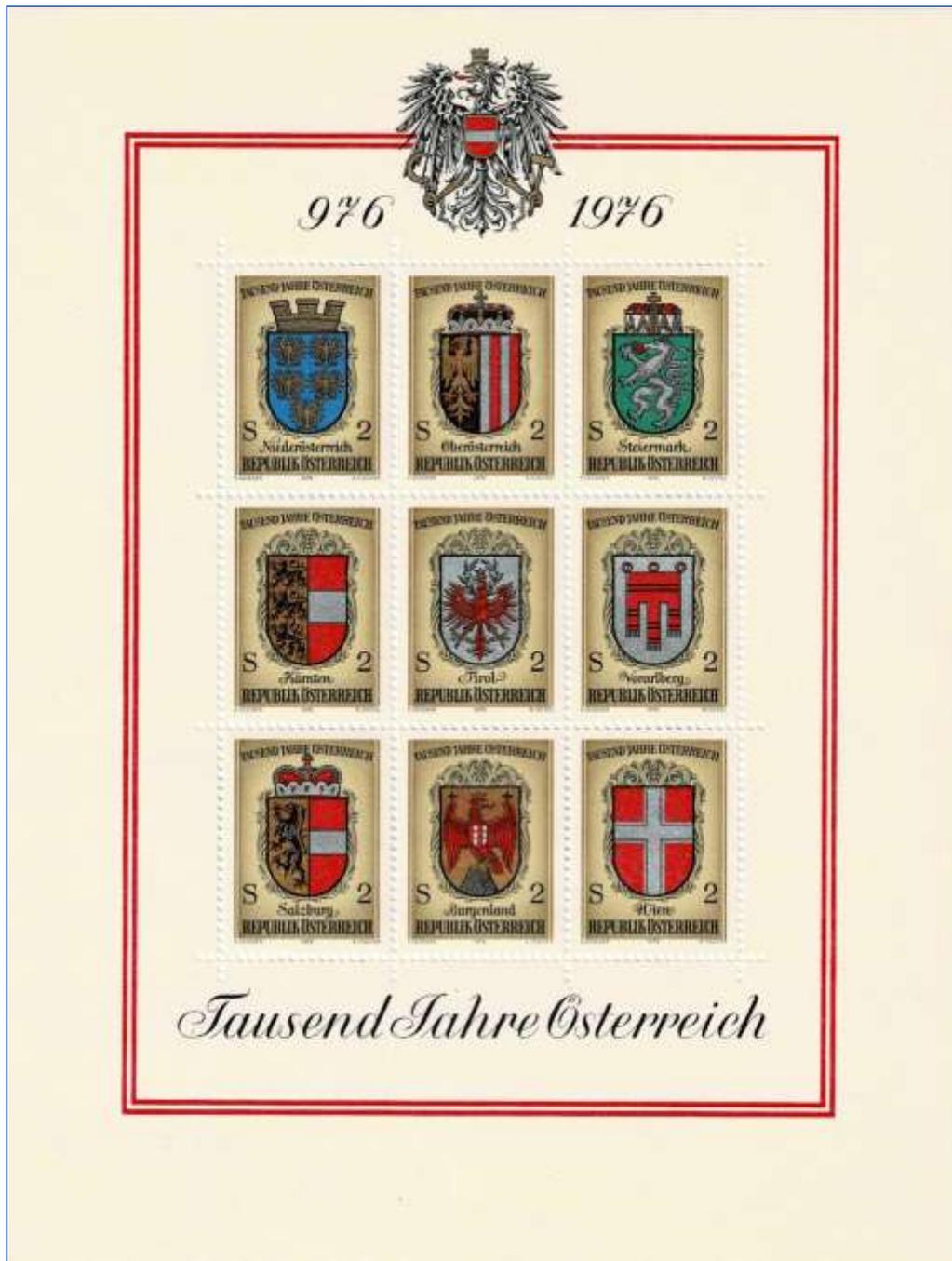
1542 Tirol: a crowned red eagle with a laurel crown on a silver ground.

1543 Vorarlberg: a red church banner on a silver ground.

1544 Salzburg: a black lion rampant on a gold ground impaled with a white fesse on red.

1545 Burgenland: a red eagle on a mountain on a gold ground with two crosses in the background.

1546 Vienna: a silver cross on a red ground. (the usual arms of Vienna consist of a double-headed eagle).



FIGHT AGAINST CANCER, NOVEMBER 17 1976



1547 As part of a national campaign to recognise early the initiation of cancer, a 2S50 multi-coloured stamp was issued on November 17, 1976. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl, to depict the head of a crab holding a man's face in its claws, and was printed by photogravure in an impression limited only by demand; comb perforated 13½:13¾. The blackprint was 2600.

The word “cancer” (German: Krebs) is derived from the Latin word meaning a “crab” in view of the slowly moving nature of the disease.

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (U.N.I.D.O.)
NOVEMBER 17 1976



1548 The tenth anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (U.N.I.D.O.) was commemorated by issuing a 3S azure blue, cobalt and gold stamp on November 17, 1976. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, to depict the U.N.O. emblem over a modern suspension bridge, and was printed in photogravure in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint was 2700. U.N.I.D.O. was constituted on November 17 1966, by Resolution 2152(XXI) of the General Assembly, and in March 1975 at a meeting in Lima it was made a special body with its seat in Vienna.

AUSTRIAN PRESS AGENCY, NOVEMBER 17 1976

1549 The 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Austrian Press Agency was commemorated by issuing a 1S50 multi-coloured stamp on November 17, 1976. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict ticker tapes above a map of Europe, and was printed in photogravure in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 13¾. The blackprint was 2700.

The AUSTRIA PRESSE AGENTUR (A.P.A.) was founded on 1st September 1, 1946 to consist of the Austrian daily paper and the Austrian Radio. It is (was then) located in the press quarter, 1119 Vienna, Gunoldstrasse 14 in a building called the International Press Centre.



KAPLAN, NOVEMBER 26 1976



1550 The centenary of the birth of the Austrian turbine engineer, Viktor Kaplan (1876-1934) was commemorated by issuing a 2.50 Schilling multi-coloured stamp on November 26, 1976. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl, using a portrait in the Vienna Technical Museum as basis, engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed in both recess (black-brown) and photogravure (olive green and rich pale gold) in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14¾:13½. The blackprint was 2600.

Viktor Kaplan (1876-1934) was born in Mürzzuschlag, Styria, the son of an Austrian railway official, and after attending the local primary school he was educated in Vienna, where his father was the station master at Vienna-Hetzendorf. In 1895, Viktor began studying mechanical engineering at the Vienna University of Technology, and emerged as a qualified engineer. In 1903 he became a design engineer at the German University in Brünn and began his researches on turbines. In particular he sought to improve the Francis water-turbine; but found that this was not possible and so designed his own machine with adjustable wheel-blades which ensured a constant performance. After a long battle to obtain the necessary patents, the first Kaplan turbine began operation in Velm, Lower Austria in 1919. Teething problems affected Kaplan's health and he suffered a nervous breakdown in 1922. Despite the ultimate success of his turbine he never completely recovered and eventually retired in 1931, dying from a stroke on 23rd August 23, 1934.

CHRISTMAS STAMP, NOVEMBER 26 1976



1551 The 1976 Christmas stamp issue appeared on November 26, 1976. It was a 3S multi-coloured value designed by Karl Gessner to depict the painting “The Birth of Christ” on an altar wing painted in 1450 by Konrad von Freisach for the Abbey of St. Lambrecht in Styria. The stamp was engraved by Alfred Fischer and printed in both recess (brown-black) and photogravure (sulphur yellow, Turkish blue, dark rose-lilac and silver) in an impression of 5 million; comb perforated 13½. The blackprint was 2600.

26TH STAMP DAY, DECEMBER 3 1976

1552 The 1976 Stamp Day issue was a 6 + 2S black and pale lavender value that was designed by Otto Stefferl to depict a postilion's gala tricorne hat and a post-horn “of honour” of the 19th century. It was engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (lavender or light violet blue) in an impression of 1.95 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint was 2600. According to the 1838 regulations, gala dress was to be worn on postal journeys when conducting members of the Imperial Family, High Postal Officials, High Civil Servants, Ambassadors, Ministers and Foreign Royal Families. *A bit like all orders on naval ships having to be given in German if a High Person should be on board, even if none of the crew spoke it.*



MODERN ART, DECEMBER 29 1976



1553 The second stamp to depict “Modern Art in Austria” shows the “Der liebe Augustin” by Arik Bauer (born January 4, 1929 in Vienna). The 6S multi-coloured stamp was engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (violet-brown) and photogravure (yellow, ultramarine, carmine and olive) in an impression of 3.7 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾ and issued on December 29, 1976. The blackprint was 2600. Augustin the Piper, the son of a Viennese tavern keeper, is reputed during the plague of 1679 to have woken with his pipes any who had in error been put into the communal graves, and then taken them to hospital. Other legends also exist.

VIENNA SYNAGOGUE, DECEMBER 29 1976

1554 The 150th anniversary of the opening of the Vienna City Synagogue in 1826 was celebrated with a 1S50 multi-coloured stamp that was issued on December 29, 1976. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict the interior of the synagogue, and was printed in photogravure in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾. The blackprint was 2600.

The patent of Jewish toleration of Josef II was issued on November 16, 1781; although Jews had lived in Vienna for centuries previously. On November 18, 1819 a decision was made to erect a German-speaking synagogue in Vienna and the architect Josef Kornhäusel (1780-1860) was invited to submit plans for it. These plans were accepted in 1823; in 1824 the old Dampferhof was demolished and building commenced.



The Vienna “Stadtempel” was the centre of spiritual life for Viennese Jews. The famous cantor Salomon Sulzer (1804-1890), a friend of Franz Schubert, sang in this temple. The Rabbi Isaak Noah Mannheimer (1793-1865) was called to Vienna. He could only operate there as a preacher, since no Rabbinate could be given here. Yet these sermons were so well-known that they were collected and finally issued as a book.

From 1848 to 1938 the Jews lived in relative freedom and played an important part in the cultural life of Austria. The “Glass-Night” (Reichskristallnacht) of 9-10 November 1938 brutally ended this epoch. All synagogues and houses of prayer in Austria were destroyed except for the Vienna City Temple. It remained standing, since blowing it up would have involved the destruction of the whole quarter; but it was misused for warehousing and the passage of troops. After the ending of the war and the assumption of power by the Austrian State, the Synagogue could be visited on Friday evenings as a House of Prayer. On April 2 1946 a memorial service took place for the 120th anniversary of its dedication. Among the guests were Dr. Theodore Körner and Dr. Karl Seitz. In 1963 the temple was renovated by Professor Otto Niedermoser and re-dedicated in the same year.

R. M. RILKE, DECEMBER 29 1976

1555 The 50th anniversary of the death of the Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926) was commemorated by issuing a 3S bluish-violet stamp on December 29, 1976. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, who based it upon a portrait of the poet in the Austrian National Library, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 3 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint was 2600.



Rilke was born in Prague on December 4, 1875. In 1882 he was sent to the Piarist Monastery School in Prague, and then from September 1886 to June 1891 he was educated at the military academies of St. Pölten and Mährisch-Weiskirchen. Thence he went to the Commercial Academy in Linz for a year before going to the University of Prague in 1892 to read Law. From 1896 to 1897 he studied at the University of Munich and, in October 1897, he went to the University of Berlin for further studies but by now he had been writing much prose and poetry. In 1898 he wrote “The Book of Hours” and “The Book of the Monastic Life”. In 1901 he married Clara Westhoff, a sculptress. He wrote “The Book of Pilgrimage” in 1901 and then went to Paris where he was to stay until 1914. During, these years he wrote “The Book of Poverty and Death” (1903); “New Poems” (1907/8) and the “Duino Elegies” (1911/12). During the War he served in the infantry and as a clerk in the Vienna War Ministry. In 1919 he settled in Switzerland where he wrote his “Sonnets to Orpheus” (1922) before dying of acute leukemia on December 29 1926 at the Castle of Ruzet.