

1977

WOLKENSTEIN, FEBRUARY 16 1977



The 600th anniversary of the poet Oswald von Wolkenstein's birth was commemorated by issuing a 3S multi-coloured portrait stamp on February 16, 1977. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, based upon a coloured contemporary portrait in Manuscript B of the Library of the University of Innsbruck. It was engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and printed in both recess (black brown) and photogravure (straw yellow, red, Turkish blue, black and Russian green) in an impression of 3.15 million; comb perforated 13¾. The blackprint impression was 2600 items. Oswald von Wolkenstein (1377-1445) was famous as a German poet of the Late Middle Ages, at the turning point with the Renaissance.

VON JACQUIN, FEBRUARY 16 1977

The 250th anniversary of the birth of the Austrian botanist, Nikolaus Joseph, Freiherr von Jacquin (1727-1817) was commemorated by issuing a 4S purple-brown stamp on February 16, 1977. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, using a portrait in the Austrian National Library as his model, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 3.15 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The black print was 2600.



Von Jacquin was born in Leiden of French parents, and studied medicine in Vienna following the death of his father. He became interested in botany and obtained work in the Imperial Gardens of Schönbrunn, where he classified all the plants there according to the Linnaeus (Carl von Linne) system of classification. He was befriended by the Emperor Francis I who put him in charge of an expedition to the West Indies whence, after five years, new exotic plants and animals were brought back for the Schönbrunn parks. On his return, Jacquin embarked on a lifetime botanical work which finally comprised 36 volumes.

In 1763 he became the first professor of the newly established University of Mining in Banská Štiavnica (now Czechoslovakia), then after five years he was recalled by the Empress Maria Theresa and was made Professor of Botany and Director of the Botanical Gardens at the University of Vienna. He was made a member of the nobility in 1774 and was awarded the Holy Order of St. Stephen and given the rank of Baron by the Emperor Francis II in 1806.

Jacquin's house became the intellectual centre of Vienna, a meeting place for his friends who included Alexander von Humboldt and Mozart. He was the founder of the golden age of botany in Austria, and his work has survived at the Vienna University's Institute of Botany and Botanical Gardens.”

HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, FEBRUARY 25 1977



The World Indoor Handball Championships, Group B, were held between 25th February and 6th March 1977 in Austria. To mark these championships a 1S50 multi-coloured stamp was issued on February 25, 1977. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl to depict a typical Handball player throwing a ball, and was printed in photogravure (moss green, black brown, grey brown and gold) in an impression of 3.15 million; comb perforated 14¼: 13½. The blackprint impression was 2600 items.

ALFRED KUBIN, APRIL 12 1977



The centenary of the birth of the Austrian writer and illustrator Alfred Kubin (1877-1959) was commemorated by a 6S deep violet blue portrait stamp that was issued on April 12, 1977. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14¼:13¼. The blackprint impression was 2600.

Alfred Kubin was born in Litomerice, Bohemia, in 1877. He studied drawing in Munich and in particular the works of Goya, Klinger, Munch, and other "Symbolistic" painters, developing his own style and concentrating on the world of dreams: fairy tales, legends and myths, gradually embracing all aspects of human life from the bizarre to the humorous. His short stories, essays and poems were all related to the same theme, and his epic novel "The Other Side" was published in 1909. Kubin lived most of his life in Salzburg and in Zell am See; latterly in the castle Zwickledt, near Wernstein am Inn, where he died in 1959.

ST. STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL, APRIL 22 1977

The 25th anniversary of the re-opening of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, after its damage caused by the Second World War had been repaired, was commemorated by issuing a set of three stamps (2S50 chocolate; 3S deep blue; 4S deep claret) on April 22, 1977. They were designed by Otto Zeiller and engraved by Wolfgang Seidel (2S50), Alfred Fischer (3S) and Adolf Toth (4S). They were recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 13¾. The blackprint impression was 2600.



These large and beautifully engraved stamps designed by O. Zeiller mark Austria's commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the re-opening of St. Stephen's Cathedral - it was set on fire during the last year of World War Two (1945), the roof collapsed and half of the great building was destroyed, part of the enormous damage done in Vienna during fighting between German and Russian troops. The Romanesque cathedral, with its magnificently decorated "Giant Gate" was built about the middle of the 13th century, and the foundation-stone of the great spire was laid by Rudolf IV and his wife in 1359. It was made an episcopal church under Emperor Friedrich III in 1469. The 3S stamp features the cathedral's west front - Heathens' towers and Friedrich's gable. The two towers dominate the west side - their pointed stone helmets were originally topped by a cross and a crown. The so-called Friedrich's gable, named after Friedrich III, was the only true stone tracery gable until the 19th century; all the others were merely painted on the walls. The 4S stamp shows the cathedral's lofty interior viewed from the nave towards the Albertinian choir.

HERZMANOVSKY-ORLANDO, APRIL 29 1977

The centenary of the birth of the Austrian writer Fritz Herzmanovsky-Orlando (1877-1954) was commemorated with a 6 Schilling slate-green and gold portrait stamp that was issued on April 29, 1977. It was designed by Otto Zeiller, who based the portrait on one in the possession of Prof. Kosmas Ziegler, engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed in both recess (slate-green) and photogravure (gold) in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600 items.



Fritz von Herzmanovsky-Orlando was born on 30th April 1877 in Vienna and died on 27th May 1954 in Meran. He first came to the attention of the Viennese by his drawings of an idealised Austria full of its Habsburg past but also containing a fairy-tale world. These concepts were also encapsulated in his literary works such as “Der Kommandant von Kalymos” (1926); “Der Gaulschreck in Rosennetz” (1928); “Maskenspiel der Genien” and “Rout an Fliegen den Holländer”. Of this literary output, his discoverer, Oskar A.H. Schmitz, wrote: “the author mixes together an antique mythological dream and fairy-tale world with the vulgar Austrian reality in which the abnormal appears as normal.” In addition he wrote plays, such as “Kaiser Joseph und die Bahnwärtstoch” and “Zerbinetta's Befreiung”, as well as a large number of highly amusing stories and anecdotes. His complex name arose because in 1916 an Imperial decree granted him permission to hyphenate his parental surnames.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, MAY 2 1977



The 20th anniversary of the foundation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (I.A.E.A.) was celebrated by issuing a 3S new-blue, gold and blue stamp on 2 May, 1977. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl to depict the emblem of the I.A.E.A. consisting of electrons circulating around a nucleus, and was printed by the photogravure process in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14. The blackprint impression was 2600 items. The I.A.E.A. was founded on 29th July 1957 in Vienna as an autonomous organisation, associated with U.N.C., to promote the peaceful use of atomic energy throughout the world.

SCHWANENSTADT, JUNE 10 1977

The 350th anniversary of the granting of a charter to Schwanenstadt in Upper Austria was celebrated by issuing a 3S multi-coloured stamp on June 10, 1977. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict the coat-of-arms of the town (two swans floating on a river in front of the town gates) and was printed by the photogravure process in an impression of 3.15 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600 items.

On 26th June, 1627, after the end of the peasants' war, Count Herberstorff acquired from Weikart von Polheim the Lordship of Puchheim, and with it the Market of Schwans, for 125,000 fl. At his request, on 27th August 1627, the Emperor Ferdinand II granted a charter to raise the Market of Schwans to the rank of a town: “Schwanenstadt”.



EUROPA, JUNE 10 1977



The special Europa theme chosen for 1977 was that of “Landscape”. To meet that theme Austria chose the landscape of Attersee in Upper Austria for a 6S brown-olive stamp that was issued on June 10, 1977. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, engraved by Alfred Nefe, and recess printed in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perf 14:13¾. The blackprint impression was 2600. Attersee lies on the north -western shore of a lake of the same name, to the south east of which is the mighty mountain range of the Höllengebirg with its peak in the Höllkogel (1862m).

CORONELLI FEDERATION, JUNE 29 1977

The 5th International Symposium (and the 25th anniversary) of the Coronelli World Federation of Globe Friends was held, from 29th June to 3rd July 1977, in Vienna, Kremsmünster and Klosterneuburg. To commemorate this event a 3S black and stone stamp was issued on June 29, 1977. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl to depict a globe made by Vincenzo Coronelli (1650-1718), engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed by both recess (black) and photogravure (stone) in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 13¾. The blackprint impression was 2600. The Federation was founded in Vienna on 11th June 1952, and by 1977 had members in 14 countries.



CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS, JULY 15 1977



The “Canoe-Slalom-Wild-Water-Regatta” World Championships were held in Austria in July 1977. To commemorate this event, a 5S orange, red, greenish blue, dark grey blue and gold stamp was issued on July 15, 1977. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, to depict a canoeist with a paddle on the crest of a great wave, and was printed in photogravure in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.

The Austrian Canoe Federation was founded on 24th October 1923 on the old Danube and the Vienna Club was founded on 22nd February 1924. Four locations were used for the competitions: The Lower Danube Circle with headquarters in Vienna; The Upper Danube Circle with headquarters in Linz; The Enns Wild Water Circle; and The Mur-Drau-Inn Circle. (*Lacking the original text, I cannot say if ‘circle’ is a section of the Federation, or is the local government unit.*) By 1927 over 300 boats could be counted on the Danube alone and the activity continued until the Second World War. On 14th June 1945 the Federation was re-founded and by 1948 Austrians were participating in the Olympic Games in London.

SAMARITAN FEDERATION, SEPTEMBER 16 1977

The 50th anniversary of the foundation on 12th May 1927 of the Austrian Workers' Samaritan Federation was commemorated by issuing a 1S50 reddish brown and vermilion stamp on September 16, 1977. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict a part of the painting “The Good Samaritan” by Francesco Bassano (1549-1592) which hangs in the Art History Museum in Vienna. It was engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed in both recess (reddish brown) and photogravure (vermilion) in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.



The Samaritan Federations were founded to provide social benefits for their members. They can trace their origins to 1888 when a self-help organisation “Worker-Samaritans” was founded in Berlin. Denmark followed in 1907, France and Switzerland after the First World War, Sweden in 1931 and Norway in 1932. The Austrian Federation was suppressed on 26th September 1936 by the Austrian Chancellor but it was recreated on 9th June 1947 as The Worker-Samaritan Union of Austria.

17TH ECPPT CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 10 1977



The 17th Conference of the European Committee of Pulp and Paper Technology was held in Vienna in October 1977. To commemorate this momentous event a 3S multi-coloured stamp was issued on October 10, 1977. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl, to depict the Papermakers' Arms, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (gold, silver, red, blue and grey brown) in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.

The conference, which is held in one of its member countries every second year, was mainly concerned with the eventual shortage of raw materials and the possibility of recycling waste, the energy crisis and the pollution of the environment. For hundreds of years the papermakers have identified their products by using watermarks. The Austrian conference stamp depicts the coat-of-arms adapted from an old watermark by the Association of Austro-Hungarian Papermakers in Vienna in 1890. At present about 160 million tons of paper and cardboard are produced annually all over the world, including 55 million tons by Europe.

FREEDOM MARTYRS, NOVEMBER 3 1977



Those Austrians who died at the hands of the Nazis during the Anschluss period were commemorated by issuing a 2S50 indigo and vermilion stamp on November 3, 1977. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl, to depict an Austrian stripped to the waist, in front of the crosses of a graveyard, holding the Austrian flag in his right hand and the barbed wire of a concentration camp open in his left hand. This symbolical design was engraved by Alfred Nefe and printed, in both recess (indigo) and photogravure (vermilion) in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 134. The blackprint impression was 2600.

During the Anschluss period, 2700 Austrians in the active Resistance Movement were condemned to death and executed. In addition, 16,400 Austrian Resistance Workers were murdered in concentration camps and 16,100 Austrians were imprisoned in Gestapo prisons and penal colonies. It was ironic that these victims of Hitler came from both sides of the civil war of February 1934 and from their common experience came a resolve to build a united Austria after the Second World War.

In 1946, the Austrian Federal Government documented these events in its "Red-White-Red Book!" to provide a permanent documentation of these "Victims for the Freedom of Austria". Of particular note is the fact that over 65,000 Jewish Austrian citizens were put to death in the ghettos and concentration camps. Also in 1946, an "Association of the Victims of the Fight for Freedom" was founded to preserve and record the proud record of those Austrians who resisted the might of Nazi Germany.

140TH RAILWAY ANNIVERSARY, NOVEMBER 17 1977

The 140th anniversary of the Austrian railways was celebrated by issuing three stamps on November 17, 1977. They were designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict locomotives of 1836, 1928 and 1974, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed by both recess (black) and photogravure (other colours) in an impression of 3.25 million sets; comb perforated 13½:13¾. The blackprint impression was 2600.



The 1S50 value (in straw yellow, red, yellowish green and light grey) depicts the steam locomotive AUSTRIA of 1836 which was originally depicted on the 10g sepia value of the 1937 set. This had been constructed by R. Stephenson of Newcastle and had a steam pressure of 3.5 bar. Its weight was 11 tonnes and its maximum height was 3.8m. (30 HP).

The 2S50 value (in red, light grey, blue grey) depicts Locomotive 214.10 of 1928, constructed by Lokfabrik of Floridsdorf. This had a steam pressure of 15 bar with a weight of 164 tonnes and a maximum height of 4.65m. (1770 HP).

The 3S value (in samian, red and bright grey) depicts an electric locomotive 1044 of 1974. Its mechanical parts were produced by S.G.P. (of Vienna and Graz) whilst its electrical parts were manufactured by Elin (Siemens). Its weight was 84 tonnes and its maximum height was 4.5m. (7100 HP). The line voltage was 15 KV (at 16Hz).

Their relative prices (in 1977 values) were 1.65MS, 7.7MS and 27MS respectively.

CHRISTMAS, NOVEMBER 25 1977



The annual Christmas stamp was issued on November 25, 1977. This 3 multi-coloured stamp was designed by Adalbert Filch, to depict a wood carving of the “Madonna and Child”, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed, in both recess (dark carmine brown) and photogravure (yellow, blue, red, brown lilac) in an impression of 5 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.

The stamp depicts the wood engraving “The Enthroned Madonna with Child” of around 1470 from the Pilgrim Chapel at Mariastein in Tirol. The castle, originally called “Stein” was constructed by the Lords of Friendsberg about 1350 on a rock towering above the river Inn. The tall five-cornered “residente tower” contains, in the uppermost storey, two chapels, one above the other. The lower chapel has a ceiling dating from 1550 and a Rococo altar whilst the upper chapel has the carved image of the “Madonna Enthroned with Child”. Since this Gnadenkapelle was built in 1587, the castle has been the goal of the Mariastein pilgrimage. This takes place on 8th September each year and is attended by approximately 100,000 pilgrims who come from North and South Tirol as well as the whole of Bavaria.

STAMP DAY, DECEMBER 2 1977

The annual “Day of the Stamp” value was issued on December 2, 1977. This 6S + 2S portrait stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl to show the inventor of the correspondence card, Dr. Emanuel Herrmann, engraved by Werner Pfeiler, and printed in both recess (purple brown) and photogravure (pale cinnamon) in an impression of 1.9 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.



Dr. Emanuel Herrmann (1839-1902) began his education at the grammar school in Klagenfurt, then studied law at the Universities of Vienna, Prague and Graz; obtaining his doctorate in 1862. He then entered the service of the financial procurator in Klagenfurt, going to Graz in 1863 to the provincial headquarters of that service. In the following year he was given the Chair of Economics at the High School and Commercial Academy in Graz, whilst in 1868 he moved to a similar position in the Military Academy at Wiener Neustadt. It was while he held this teaching position that he wrote a letter to the newspaper “Neue Freie Presse” of Vienna, published on 26th January 1869 (p.4). This letter advocated the use of postcards to be sent for 2 Kreuzer only, provided that the address and signature did not exceed twenty words. This idea of Dr. Herrmann was accepted by the Post Office and, within eight months, the first postcards were on sale; the restriction to a maximum of twenty words not however being imposed. The Austrians are naturally very proud of being the first to introduce postcards.

MODERN ART, DECEMBER 2 1977



The third value in the series “Modern Art in Austria” was issued as a 6S stamp on December 2, 1977. It was designed by Wolfgang Mutter, to depict his painting “The Danube Maiden”, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (black-grey) and photogravure (orange-brown, lilac purple, cornflower-blue and Turkish blue) in an impression of 3.7 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾. The blackprint impression was 2600.

Mutter was born in Vienna in 1928, and was a founder-member of a post-war group of artists, the so-called “Vienna School of Fantastic Realism”, who wanted to combat abstract art and surrealism with “the reality of dreamlike situations, fantasies and visions”. Letting the imagination run riot is not an original or uncommon motivation in modern art, but Mutter aims first to portray beauty - the beauty of shapely women and of flowers and plants. “The Danube Maiden” is intended as a symbol of Austria; its life and beauty, particularly the charm of Austrian women. Since 1966, Wolfgang Mutter has been Professor at the Academy of Applied Arts in Vienna, while his works have been exhibited in international shows regularly since 1950.