

1979

YEAR OF THE CHILD, JANUARY 16 1979

This year was declared by U.N.I.C.E.F. to be the “International Year of the Child”. To mark this fact, a 2.50S multi-coloured stamp was issued on January 16, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl to depict an adult's hand on the shoulder of a child as a symbol of protection. It was engraved by Alfred Fischer and printed, by both recess (blue) and photogravure (cobalt blue, black, brownish olive), in an impression of 3.5 million, comb perforated 14. Resolution No. 1386 of the U.N.O. General Assembly, on November 26, 1959, called the “Magna Charta of the Child” declared that a happy childhood was a basic right of every child.



RADIO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, JANUARY 16 1979



The Golden Jubilee of the foundation of the “International Radio Consultative Committee” was commemorated by issuing a 6S multi-coloured stamp on January 16, 1979. This stamp was designed by Valentin Wurnitsch, to depict the initials C.C.I.R. (Comite Consultatif International des Radio-communications) 1929-1979 under “50 Jahre”. It was printed by the photogravure process (grey, dark reddish lilac, wine-red and gold) in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

The first international Conference on Radio Telegraphy was held in Berlin in 1906 and this was followed by a Radio Conference in London in 1912. Then, on November 15, 1927 in Washington, the treaty constituting the C.C.I.P. was signed and this came into effect in January 1929.

AUSTRIAN SHOOTING CLUB, MARCH 7 1979

The centenary of the foundation of the Austrian Shooting Club, and the staging of the European Air Rifle and Air Pistol Championships at Graz from 6 to 11 March 1979, were celebrated by issuing a 6S multi-coloured stamp on March 7, 1979. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Filch, to depict an air rifle, an air pistol and a target, engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed by both recess (dark violet brown) and photogravure (grey, cinnabar, brownish grey and black) in an impression of 3.05 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾.



The European Championships were founded in 1971 at Mezebori in Czechoslovakia. They had been held in 1973 in Linz and Austria was the first country to stage them twice.

D.D.S.G. 150th ANNIVERSARY, MARCH 13 1979



The 150th anniversary of the Foundation of the Danube Steam Navigation Company was commemorated by issuing a set of three stamps on March 13, 1979. This set was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict various ships of the Company, engraved by Werner Pfeiler and recess printed (1.50S deep ultramarine, 2.50S bistre-brown and 3S brown lake) in an impression of 3.15million sets; comb perforated 13½:13¾.

The Danube Steamship Company (D.D.S.G.) was founded in 1829 when its first steamer, the Franzl, was built in a makeshift dock at Floridsdorf, near Vienna (1.50S). It was a wooden-hulled paddler, but in 1841 the hull was replaced by an iron one and the vessel was sold in 1848 to become a gunboat, then returned to the D.D.S.G. in 1866. By 1875 the fleet had increased to 200 steamboats and more than 750 barges, and at that time the

D.D.S.G. was the world's largest inland shipping line. However, it suffered severe losses and economic difficulties during and between the two world wars, and it was not until the 1960s that the necessary conversion to diesel operation was carried out, and completed in 1968. The company now owns about 30 motor cargo vessels, six large (and one small) passenger vessels, five tugs and numerous lighters and 'trailers', transporting nearly three million tons of cargo-ore, coal, ironware, petroleum products and heavy goods-and around 400,000 passengers each year; an essential element of the tourist trade. The other two stamps, in the 150th anniversary set show the "Linz", built (at Linz) for the D.D.S.G. in 1969 with six barges, used as a 'pusher' (2.50S) and Austria's then largest passenger craft, the 'Theodor Korner', put into service in 1965 and used as a ferry and for excursions (3S).

ICE SKATING AND DANCING, MARCH 13 1979

For the eleventh time, in March 1979, Vienna acted as host for the World Ice Skating and Dancing Championships. To honour this event a 4S multi-coloured stamp was issued on March 13, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, to depict a girl skater, and printed by photogravure (yellow ochre, dark orange, grey, Turkish blue and brown-black) in an impression of 3.15 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.



The first Ice Skating Championship was held in 1896 in St. Petersburg when the gold medal was won by a German, Gilbert Fuchs, and a Viennese, Gustav Hügl, was second. However, the latter won the gold medal at the Championship in 1897 (Stockholm), 1899 and 1900 (both in Davos). Women entered the Championships for the first time in 1906 (also in Davos). An Austrian woman, Herma Szabo, later won the World Championship five times (1922 in Stockholm, 1923 in Vienna, 1924 in Oslo, 1925 in Davos and 1926 in Stockholm).

The most famous Austrian ice dancer was Karli Schäfer (1909-1976) who, from 1930 to 1936 was World Champion in an unbroken series of seven championships. In the doubles championships, Austria has held seven titles; the most famous pair being perhaps Sissy Schwarz and Kurt Oppelt who started their career in 1956.

LADIES' FASHION WEEK, MARCH 26 1979

The 50th Viennese International Ladies' Fashion Week was held at the end of March 1979 in the Vienna Messepalast. To mark this occasion a 2.50S multi-coloured stamp was issued on March 26, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl to depict a 1900 fashion drawing by Theo Zasche (1862-1922), a fashion designer of the circle of the Vienna Werkstätte. The stamp was engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (yellow ochre, lilac rose, green olive and black olive) in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 13½:12¾.



In the 18th century both Maria Theresia and Joseph II encouraged the silk industry in Austria so that by 1818 Vienna was as an important a centre as Lyons with 10,000 people employed in the trade. The "Vienna Fashion Magazine" first appeared in 1816. Josef Madersperger invented the first sewing machine in 1807 and this was placed on exhibition in Vienna in 1835. The first "K.u.K. Court Clothes Factory" was founded in 1864; in 1888 a magazine "Vienna Fashion" appeared; and by 1900 Vienna had "Haute Couture" Houses of world renown. The Vienna Werkstätte (Workshop) was founded in 1903 to ensure a high quality in both material and design and from this grew, in 1946, the "Fashion School of the City of Vienna" which was founded by Alfred Kunz. The Vienna Ladies Fashion Week was initiated in April 1954 to promote the designs of the Vienna Fashion Houses. From 84 exhibitors in 1955 the show had grown to 350 exhibitors in 1978. In the same period the value of the fashions had grown from 200M. schillings to 4,420M. schillings.

WIENER NEUSTADT CATHEDRAL, MARCH 27 1979

The 700th anniversary of the foundation of the cathedral at Wiener Neustadt was commemorated by issuing a 4S deep violet-blue and bluish-grey stamp on March 27, 1979. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict the cathedral, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel, and printed by both recess (deep violet-blue) and photogravure (bluish-grey), in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 13 $\frac{3}{4}$.



On the feast of St. Ruprecht, March 27 1279, the Parish Church of Wiener Neustadt was completed in its construction and was consecrated. Its dedication was to Our Lady and St. Ruprecht. On that day, Johannes von Ennstal, previously Bishop of Chiemsee and now Bishop of Gurk, accepted the building to be his cathedral from his superior, Fredrich II von Walchen, Archbishop of Salzburg.

It was built in the late-Romanesque style by the Babenberg Duke Leopold V of Austria, who started to build in 1194 using the ransom of Richard I of England. It was thus in the style of the church of the Cistercian Abbey of Lilienfeld, founded by Duke Leopold VI, although the western aspect resembles the Cathedral of Bamberg which was reconstructed in 1192 after a fire. It stands on the site of a large Roman pillared basilica with three semi-circular apses and two high (60m) towers on the west side. Inside the Cathedral it is apparent that the Gothic style has taken over from the Romanesque. The vaulting over the central aisle and the transepts is the earliest Gothic cross-ribbed vaulting to be found in Austria.

DEAF EDUCATION, MARCH 30 1979

The 200th anniversary of Education for the Deaf in Austria was commemorated by issuing a 2.50S turquoise-green, black and gold stamp on March 30 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict the bronze relief on the monument to the Emperor Josef II in the Josefplatz in Vienna. It was engraved by Alfred Nefe and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (turquoise and gold) in an impression of 3.05 million; comb perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$:13 $\frac{1}{2}$. When Josef II was in Paris he visited the school for the deaf, conducted by the Abbe de l'Epée. He sent Dr. F. Stork and Josef May to study at this school so that a similar one could be opened in Vienna in 1779.



STATISTICAL OFFICE, APRIL 6 1979



The 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Austrian General Statistical Office on April 6 1829 by the Emperor Franz I was commemorated by issuing a 2.50S multi-coloured stamp on April 6, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict a population graph, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (dark-violet-brown) and photogravure (grey-brown, blue, lilac red and sea-green) in an impression of 3.05 million; comb perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$:13 $\frac{1}{2}$. The stamp design shows a population pyramid with divisions into sex and age. The putto with the measuring instrument refers to the origination of statistics in the Baroque period. At the Anschluss, Austria lost its own statistical office, but on July 20 1945 it was re-created as a division of the Office of the Federal Chancellor.

COMBUSTION ENGINE COUNCIL, MAY 4 1979

The 13th Congress of the International Combustion Engine Council (C.I.M.A.C.) took place in Vienna from 7 to 10 May 1979. To honour this, a 4S stamp was issued on May 4, 1979, designed by Valentin Wurnitsch to depict a section of a diesel engine, and was printed in photogravure (yellow-orange, light blue, purple and greenish-black) in an impression of 3.05 million; comb perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$:13 $\frac{1}{2}$.



The International Council for the Internal Combustion Engine was founded in Paris in 1950. It comprises manufacturers of motors and gas turbines and has established working groups for the various problems involved with combustion motors and gas turbine construction. Its congresses take place at two-year intervals when intensive discussions and exchange of information occur. Most European and many overseas countries are members of C.I.M.A.C. whilst Austria has always played an important part in its deliberations; as would be expected of a country where the construction of diesel motors started in 1899.

EUROPA, MAY 4 1979

The 11th annual Europa CEPT issue was a 6S purple-brown and ochre stamp issued on May 4, 1979. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch to portray Laurenz Koschier, a postal reformer, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in both recess (purple-brown) and photogravure (ochre) in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.



Koschier was born at Selzach in Oberkrain on July 29, 1804 and died in Vienna on August 7, 1879. He was the son of a farmer in Slovenia, attended the secondary school in Ljubljana, and joined the civil service as a book-keeper. Work took him to Klagenfurt, Villach and as far afield as Milan, but his main ambition was to work for the postal administration in Vienna and this he finally achieved. He conceived numerous inventions to ease the complicated system of handling the mail and, in 1835, proposed several reforms to the Minister of Finance; among them the introduction of “letter tax stamps” and, in 1839, an idea to facilitate the sale of his proposed stamps, in books or booklets.

Sadly, Koschier’s revolutionary ideas were rejected as “unwelcome irritations” - he became such a nuisance that, in 1851, he was ignominiously transferred to Agram (now Zagreb) where both his enthusiasm and his work declined. He would have been completely forgotten had he not committed his ideas to paper - applications, petitions and even newspaper articles. Even after stamps had been officially issued (by Great Britain in 1840, Austria in 1850) he designed stamps in the form of transfer pictures to prevent abuse and re-use. Forced to retire (for political reasons) in 1872, Koschier suffered the loss of his wife (Amalie) and both his children (Anna and Theodor) and moved to Vienna where he died a lonely death.

WATER POLLUTION, JUNE 1 1979



The problems involved in the prevention of water pollution were stressed by issuing a 2.50S deep green and violet-grey stamp on June 1, 1979. This stamp was designed by Ferdinand Dorner to depict the problems by placing a chemical works against a river, engraved by Alfred Nefe, and printed in both recess (deep green) and photogravure (violet grey) in an impression of 3.05 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The government of Austria has taken special legal precautions to ensure that the national rivers and streams are protected from chemical and industrial pollution.

INNVIERTEL DISTRICT, JUNE 1 1979

The bicentenary of the adhesion of the Innviertel District to Austria was celebrated with a 3S multi-coloured stamp issued on June 1, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict the coat-of-arms of the three main towns there, Ried im Innkreis, Braunau am Inn, and Schärding. It was engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (Samian-red, cornflower blue, May-green, silver, gold and lilac-brown) in an impression of 3.15 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.



As a result of the Peace of Teschen on May 13 1779, which ended the War of the Bavarian Succession, the Innviertel became part of the Hapsburg dominions. Although it returned to Bavaria in 1810, the Treaty of Munich of April 14 1816, gave it back to Austria where it has remained ever since.

FOUNDATION OF ROTTENMANN, JUNE 22 1979



The 700th anniversary of the foundation of the town of Rottenmann in Upper Styria was celebrated with a 3S multi-coloured stamp issued on June 22, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict the town's coat-of-arms, engraved by Alfred Nefe and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (gold, silver, vermilion and ultramarine-grey) in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The place was first named in a document of May 23, 927 by Archbishop Adalbert of Salzburg as “prediolum Rottenmann”, and a further manuscript of 1048 from the Monastery of Bamberg called it “Rottenmannun”. It was raised from a village to a town by King Rudolf of Habsburg in 1279. On May 27 1320, Friedrich the Handsome gave it the same civic rights as then possessed by Graz, Bruck and Judenburg.

JODOK FINK, JUNE 29 1979

The 50th anniversary of the death of the Austrian politician Jodok Fink (1853-1929) was commemorated with a 3S purple-brown portrait stamp issued on June 29, 1979. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch using a portrait in the Austrian National Library, engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and recess printed in an impression of 3 million; comb perforated 14.



RETURNED SOLDIERS, JULY 6 1979

The 5th European meeting of the Returned Soldiers Associations was held in Wels from 6 to 8 July 1979. To honour this meeting a 4S apple green and black stamp was issued on July 6, 1979. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict the arms both of the town of Wels and of the Returned Soldiers, League as well as the “Europa Seal” to symbolise the unity of Europe. It was printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.



The previous meetings had been held in Searbrucken (D.B.R.), Meran (Italy), Nancy (France) and Brussels (Belgium). Between 1945 and 1958, a total of 494,577 soldiers returned to Austria from imprisonment abroad. Most of these came from the U.S.A. (140,750), U.K. (134,500) and the U.S.S.R. (142,893). Many of these joined the H.V.O. (Heimkehrer-verband Österreichs); a constituent member of the C.I.A.P.G.

(Confederation internationale des Anciens Prisonniers de Guerre).

Wels is the second largest town in Upper Austria. It was originally the Roman settlement of Ovilova: the chief town of the province of Noricum about 300 A.D.

U.N.O. SCIENCE CONFERENCE, AUGUST 20 1979

A UNO Conference on “Science and Technology in the service of Development” was held in Vienna from 20 to 31 August 1979. In its honour a 4S light Turkish blue stamp was issued on August 20, 1979. This stamp was designed by Wolfgang Privitzer to depict a symbolic flower with the U.N.O. symbol in the centre, and was printed by offset-litho in an impression of 3.45million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The General Assembly of UNO decided on 21 December 1976 to hold such a conference and on 19 December 1977 accepted the invitation from the Austrian Government to hold it in Vienna.



UNO VIENNA CENTRE, AUGUST 24 1979



On 23 August 1979 the completed “International Centre, Vienna” was handed over by the Austrian Government to U.N.O. for use by the U.N. Organisations I.A.E.A. and U.N.I.D.O. To mark this occasion a 6S greenish slate stamp was issued on August 24, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict the actual building, engraved by Rudolf Toth, and recess printed in an impression of 3.7 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The building was designed by the architect Dipl. Ing. Johann Staber, and the cost was met 65% by the Austrian Republic, 35% by the City of Vienna. It is situated only 4km from the centre of Vienna on the site where

the International Garden Exhibition was held in 1964.

DIABETES FEDERATION, SEPTEMBER 10 1979

The 10th World Congress of the International Diabetes Federation was held in Vienna from 9 to 14 September 1979. In its honour, a 2.50S multi-coloured stamp was issued on September 10, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl to depict symbolically the eye of an advanced diabetic with the blood vessels at the back of the eye. It was printed in photogravure in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14.



Diabetes is a disease marked with abnormal blood sugar levels, insatiable thirst and great emaciation. The first International symposium on Diabetes was held in Brussels in 1949. The “Austrian Diabetes Society” was founded in 1969 and was the basis of the Federation of the International Danube Symposia on Diabetes mellitus which was the host in Vienna in 1979.

WORLD ROAD CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 14 1979



The 16th World Road Congress was held in Vienna from 16 to 21 September 1979. In its honour, a 4S multi-coloured stamp was issued on September 14, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl to depict the view into the Stanzer valley out of the eastern end of the Arlberg. It was engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (scarlet, light blue, grey brown and greyish violet) in an impression of 3.25million; comb perforated 14.

The World Road Congress was formed on April 29 1909 in Paris, as an international forum for civil engineers engaged in the construction of roads. The two conference topics in Vienna were roads and the environment; and maintenance of roadway attachments.

STATE PRINTING WORKS, SEPTEMBER 18 1979

The 175th anniversary of the foundation of the State Printing Works in Vienna, by Emperor Franz I on 15 December 1804, was commemorated by issuing a 3S black and stone stamp on September 18, 1979. This stamp was designed by Karl Gessner to depict a typographical rapid press with steam drive, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel, and printed by both recess (black or dark violet brown) and photogravure (stone or light samian), in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 13½.



In December 1804, Emperor Francis I established in Vienna “*the Imperial Royal Court and Government Printing Office to produce all court and government printing work.*” The office was set up by a Viennese printer and bookseller, Joseph Degen, the enterprise's first director, at the Viennese Franciscan monastery in Singerstrasse. Later, Aloys Auer von Welsbach became director. He installed modern machinery and built up a stock of 110 alphabets with around 3,000 characters and under his management the Printing Office began to print postage stamps in 1850. During its 175 years, the Government Printing Office has survived the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and two world wars, and is famous for the high quality of its postage stamps, printed for more than thirty states. In 1979, the State Printing Works employed about 2,000 persons.

DR. ZSIGMONDY, SEPTEMBER 21 1979



The 50th anniversary of the death of the Nobel Prize Winner for Chemistry, Dr. Richard Zsigmondy (1865-1929) was commemorated with a 6S sepia portrait stamp issued on September 21, 1979. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Alfred Fischer and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Zsigmondy was born on April 1 1865 in Vienna, the son of Adolf Zsigmondy the chief physician of the General Hospital there. Richard studied chemistry at the Technical University and emerged in 1889 with a Ph.D. He interested himself in glass and colloids (non-diffusing substances; sols, gels, emulsions etc), and in 1893 he became a lecturer at the College of Technology in Graz. In 1897, he joined the technical staff of the Schott glassworks in Jena and along with H. Siedentopf of the Zeiss works there developed an “ultra-microscope” with which it was possible to examine the extremely fine and minute colloid particles. In 1907, he was appointed associate professor of inorganic chemistry - and professor from 1917 - at the University of Gottingen’s chemistry department. He won the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1925, and died four years later on September 23 1929 in Gottingen as the result of advanced arterioscleroses.

SAVE ENERGY, OCTOBER 1 1979

A campaign to save energy was underlined by issuing a 2.50S multicoloured stamp on October 1, 1979. This stamp was also designed by Otto Stefferl, using a symbolic concept of a burning match and was printed in photogravure (cornflower blue, light blue, yellow, carmine-lilac, black and blue-grey) in an impression limited only by demand; comb perforated 13½:13¼.



The stamp bears the exhortation “Spart Energie” (the German verb “sparen” implies to economise or to save) and is to be interpreted as telling the population of the importance of making significant economies in the use of energy; especially in the two fields of the home and of the automobile.

BREGENZ FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 1 1979



The completion of the Bregenz Festival and Congress House was commemorated with a 2.50S deep reddish lilac stamp that was issued on October 1, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl to depict a model of the building, engraved by Werner Pfeiler, and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 13½:13½.

The Bregenz Festival was inaugurated in 1946 and within a decade was visited by 60,000 to 85,000 people. On May 18, 1976 the State approved the construction of a new complex to house the festival. The foundation stone was laid by President R. Kirschlager in 1976 and the plans were drawn up by Baurat Dipl.Ing. Willi Braun.

LIONS FORUM, OCTOBER 11 1979

The 25th European Lions Forum was held in Vienna from 11 to 13 October 1979. To honour this event a 4S orange-yellow, gold and deep lilac stamp was issued on October 11, 1979. This stamp was designed by Auguste Bockor, to depict the emblem of Lions Clubs International, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed, in both recess (deep lilac) and photogravure (orange-yellow and gold), in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.



The letters of LIONS are taken from “Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation’s Safety”. The first Lions Club was founded in 1917 in Chicago by an insurance salesman called Melvin Jones. Although he belonged to other clubs for business people, he felt the need for one which would be politically and religiously neutral yet a helping organisation in the service of mankind.

As secretary of the “Circle of Friends of Chicago Businessmen”, he summoned on June 7 1917 representatives of 27 different men's clubs, and this meeting decided to form a union of such clubs under the name of “Lions

Clubs". On 8 October 1917 an "Association of the Lions Clubs" met in Dallas, Texas and by August 1918 there were 48 clubs with about 5,000 members.

The first Lions Club in Austria was founded in Graz on December 6 1952 and by 1979 there were 108 Lions Clubs with about 3,000 members. In Europe there were more than 5,000 clubs with about 170,000 members. In the world there were 32,700 Lions Clubs in 151 countries with a total of about 1,260,000 members. The first European Lions Forum in Austria was held in Salzburg in 1961, and this was the second held there.

TGM CENTENARY, OCTOBER 19 1979



The centenary of the foundation on October 26 1979 of the "Technologisches Gewerbemuseum" (T.G.M.), the Industrial Museum and Technical School in Vienna, was marked by issuing a 2S50 blackish-purple and brownish-purple portrait stamp on October 19, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to portray William Exner, the founder and first director of the T.G.M. It was engraved by Alfred Fischer and printed in both recess (blackish purple) and photogravure (brownish purple), in an impression of 3.2million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The Archduke Karl Ludwig, as the patron of the Lower Austrian Industrial Society, performed the opening ceremony in the T.G.M. building in the Eschenbachgasse.

AUSTRIAN MODERN ART, OCTOBER 23 1979

The fifth value in the series "Austrian Modern Art" was issued as a 4S black and stone stamp on October 23, 1979. This stamp was a reproduction of an engraving by Professor Hans Fronius entitled "The Suffering Christ" (Ecce Homo). It was printed by lithography in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾

Hans Fronius was born on September 12 1903 in Sarajevo. His father was a doctor and his mother came from the Vienna artistic Passini family. He attended school in Graz and then entered the Academy of Pictorial Art in Vienna. In 1930 he became a Professor in Graz and became famous for his religious engravings.



RAAB-OEDENBURG RAILWAY, OCTOBER 24 1979

The centenary of the opening of the Raab (Gyor) to Odenburg (Sopron) Railway on October 24, 1879 was marked by a stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict the front of a Series 52 Goods Locomotive, and printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾. The colours used were grey, darkish grey-blue, chrome yellow, red, black and green.



One aspect of the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary which survived the separation of the two countries after World War I was the operation of the Raab (Gyor) - Odenburg (Sopron) - Ebenfurth railway which was completed in 1879 and is still licensed by the Austrian and Hungarian governments. The original licence was granted to a Frankfurt banker, Viktor Erlanger, in 1872. In 1875 he established his headquarters in Budapest, and in the same year the construction of the first stage of the railway between Gyor and Sopron (Hungary), a distance of about 85km, began; it opened to traffic in the following year. The remaining part of the line, crossing the border to Ebenfurth (Austria) and establishing direct links to Vienna, was completed in 1879 and provided regular transport, not only for passengers, but also for sugar beet and grain. The first direct train left Sopron for Budapest on May 1 1907 (on an extension begun on November 28 1896 and completed on December 19 1897). The Austrian stamp for this centenary event shows an Austrian-built steam locomotive, Series 52, of which 6,000 were constructed during World War II.

AUGUST MUSGER, OCTOBER 30 1979



The 50th anniversary of the death of August Musger (1868-1929), a pioneer of slow-motion photography, was commemorated by issuing a 2S50 black and pale grey portrait stamp on October 30, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, engraved by Alfred Hefe and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (pale grey), in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

August Musger was born in Eisenerz (Styria), the son of a teacher. He spent his childhood in the market town of Kindberg, and afterwards moved to Graz where he attended the Episcopal Junior Seminary. Later he studied theology at the University of Graz, and in 1890 was ordained as a priest. He worked for his teacher's diploma, and on the completion of his studies returned to the Seminary in Graz as professor, a post he held until his death. The advent of the cinematograph aroused Musger's interest and he concerned himself with the poor quality of film projection, characterised by the constant flickering between frames. He devised a solution by using the so-called optical mirror adjustment; the essential part of the equipment being a mirror drum with 24 mirrors. The picture was projected through the optical system on to a film moving in synchronization in such a way that the flickering was eliminated. Musger applied for a patent in 1904, but failed to exploit his invention commercially and the patents were permitted to lapse. In 1914, the well-known German firm of Ernemann built a camera in line with Musger's ideas and employed it successfully as a slow-motion camera - Dr. Lehmann the designer acknowledged Musger's contribution to the design.

WIPA 1981, NOVEMBER 30 1979

To publicise the great philatelic exhibition which was to be held in Vienna in 1981, a 16+8S multicoloured stamp inscribed "Vienna invites to WIPA 1981" was issued on November 30, 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict the New Hofburg palace in Vienna, engraved by Werner Pfeiler, and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (ochre, bright cobalt, dark brown and gold) in an impression of 1.8 million; comb perforated 13¾.



This stamp was produced as the first production phase of printing a postage stamp; the second phase appeared on 21 November 1980 with the same design, and the third phase appeared on 20 February 1981 as the finished state in a miniature sheet. The New Hofburg, in the Heroes Square, housed as in 1965 the Court of Honour, as well as the classic collections, to constitute the most valuable part of the exhibition.

CHRISTMAS, NOVEMBER 30 1979



The annual Christmas issue was a 4S multi-coloured stamp that was issued on November 30 1979. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, to depict a Christmas icon, of 1775 by Moses Subotic, in the church of St. Barbara in Vienne. It was engraved by Maria Laurent and printed, in both recess (black) and photogravure (straw-yellow, ultramarine, scarlet, red-brown and gold), in an impression of 5.2 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

In 1775 Joseph II and Maria Theresia gave the church of St. Barbara to the Uniate Ruthenian Church, Ruthenia having come under Austrian rule in 1772. This church was in union with Rome but preserved its own rites. Moses Subotic was commissioned by the Emperor to create a series of icons for the various feast days of the church, and these were placed in the Seminar Chapel.

This Christmas icon shows the scene in the stable at Bethlehem. In the centre is the crib with the infant Jesus. From this, the light shines that illuminates the face of Mary who is holding the child. All the others are in darkness. These include two shepherds, with their simple gifts, in the foreground. To the right are two women with an old and a young shepherd. To the left in the background are St. Joseph and an ox.

Although not shown on the stamp, the icon has above it a putto carrying a scroll bearing the words "Praise to God in the Heights" in church Slavonic. To the right and left of this cherub the words "The Birth of Christ" are also written in Cyrillic letters. The Church of St. Barbara is still dedicated to the Uniate rite.