

1984

GREGOR MENDEL, JANUARY 5 1984



The centenary of the death of Prelate Johann Gregor Mendel (1822-1884), the discoverer of the laws of genetic inheritance, was commemorated by issuing a 4S brown-ochre and blackish-brown portrait stamp on January 5, 1984. This stamp, which also includes a genetic chain for hybrid plants of the *Pisum sativum*, was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in both recess (blackish-brown) and photogravure (brown-ochre) in an impression of 3.5 million; comb perforated 13¾.

Austria - and a few other countries - have honoured Gregor Johann Mendel (1822-1884), the biologist, cleric and founder of scientific genetics, who was born at Heinzendorf, the only son of Anton and Rosina Mendel. Young Mendel was admitted to an Augustinian monastery at Brunn, and he was ordained priest in 1847, when he adopted the name "Gregor". He evinced a special aptitude for natural sciences and mathematics, and pursued his studies on genetics - the investigation of heredity and variation in animals and plants - at the University of Vienna from 1851-1853. After his return to Brunn he conducted a long series of experiments on plant hybrids - notably peas - and delivered two lectures which formed the basis of what became known as Mendelism or Mendel's Law in 1865. His theories concerned the mathematical probabilities of the inheritance of genetic characters, based on observations in his own garden, and were first published in 1866. Sadly, although he received numerous honours during his lifetime, the value of his work was not recognised until several years after his death.

ANTON HANAK, JANUARY 5 1984.

The 50th anniversary of the death of the Austrian sculptor, Professor Anton Hanak (1875-1934), was commemorated with a 3S lake-brown and black portrait stamp issued on January 5, 1984. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict the artist at work, engraved by Werner Pfeiler, and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (lake-brown) in an impression of 3.5 million; comb perforated 13¾.



Anton Hanak was born on March 22 1875 in Brunn and died on January 7 1934 in Vienna. After studying in the School of Sculpture of the Vienna Academy of Pictorial Arts, he opened his own workshop in Vienna in 1906. After 1911 he became a member of the Vienna Secession and was a close friend of Gustav Klimt and Josef Hoffmann. Then in 1913 he was appointed as Professor of Monumental Sculpture at the Vienna School of Arts and Crafts, holding this position until 1932 when he became a Professor at his old academy. Amongst his works were such figures as "Titan" (1910), "Burning Man" (1922) and "Vanquisher" (1930); portrait busts of M. Primavesi (1905), J. Tandler (1929), Viktor Adler (1929) and Ferdinand Hanusch (1930). At the time of his death he was working on the Emnyet Memorial in Ankara.

WINTER GAMES FOR DISABLED, JANUARY 5 1984.



The 3rd World Winter Games for the disabled were held in Innsbruck from 14 to 20 January 1984. To mark this occasion a 4S + 2S surcharge multi-coloured stamp was issued on January 5, 1984. The 2S surcharge was devoted to subsidising the participants. This stamp was designed by Valentin Wurnisch to depict the descent of a disabled skier together with the emblem of the games: five broken Olympic rings. It was printed by photogravure in an impression of 2.6 million; comb perforated 12¼:13½.

The first World Winter Games for the Disabled had been held in Sweden in 1976 and the second at Geilo in Norway in 1980. Innsbruck was chosen for the third series because it had already hosted the Olympic Winter Games in 1964 and 1976. It is estimated that there are 500 million disabled people in the world, and as the Olympic ideal is that sport should be at the service of everyone, it was only logical to organise games for the disabled.

1934 INSURRECTIONS, FEBRUARY 10 1984.



On February 12 1934, the police entered the Linz headquarters of the Upper Austrian Social Democratic Party to look for weapons. The news of this event was soon sent to Vienna where the tenants of the vast tenement blocks, such as the Sandleiten buildings and the Karl Marx Hof, resisted similar raids using rifles and machine guns. These insurrections, or revolts, were not quelled until the Dolfuss government brought up field guns and howitzers. Like the general strike of 1927 and the seizure of power by the Dolfuss government in 1933, the tragic events of February 1934 were yet another step in the way in which the First Austrian Republic tore itself apart.

When the Nazis took over Austria in 1938, they threw both the Social Democrats and the Christian Democrats impartially into their concentration camps. There, the politicians of both parties vowed together that “Never again would there be a citizens' war in Austria”.

This is the title given to this issue of a 4S50 orange-vermilion and black stamp that appeared on February 10, 1984. It was designed by Werner Pfeiler to depict the memorial erected at Wöllersdorf in Lower Austria where, between 1933 and 1938, a detention camp for Social Democrats was conducted by the Dolfuss or Schuschnigg governments. This stamp was printed by photogravure in an impression of 4 million; comb perforated 14. In addition to the symbolic representation of the memorial the stamp bears the date, “**12 Februar 1934**” and the resolution previously mentioned, “**Nie Wieder Bürgerkrieg**”.

REICHERSBERG MONASTERY, APRIL 25 1984.

The 900th anniversary of the foundation of the monastery of Reichersberg in Upper Austria was commemorated by issuing a 3S50 stone, sepia and blue stamp on April 25, 1984. This stamp was designed by Martin Stachl, to depict the “Founders' stone” of the monastery which has engraved on it the family of the founder Wernher von Reichersberg (d. 5.10.1086). The stamp was engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in both recess (sepia) and photogravure (stone and blue) in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Reichersberg is situated half-way between Braunau and Passau on the right-hand side of the river Inn. Werner von Reichersberg had married Dietburga, the sister of St. Gebhard of Salzburg, and, after his early death, their son Gebhard gave their possessions to the Order of Augustinian Canons. The monastery was completed under Gerhoh von Reichersberg (d. 27.6.1169) but was burned down and then rebuilt, between 1629 and 1644, in the Baroque style. In the 18th century it was modified in the Rococo manner.



KÖSTENDORF ANNIVERSARY, MAY 4 1984.



The 1200th anniversary of the foundation of the town of Kostendorf, in the province of Salzburg, was commemorated by issuing a 4S50 multicoloured stamp on May 4, 1984. It was designed by Otto Zeiller, and shows a view of the town together with its coat-of-arms, engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and printed in both recess (blue-grey) and photogravure (gold, silver, blood-red and sea green) in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 13½.

The first mention of the name as “Cessindorf” was in 784 A.D.; in 790 A.D. a nobleman Adelfrit and his son gave it to the Diocese of Salzburg to be the seat of its bishop. The name changed through “Chessindorf”, “Chezzodorf”, “Kezzibdorf” to “Kostendorf”. It is situated on the border with Upper Austria, at a height of 560m above sea level, and is now a popular holiday resort.

TOBACCO MONOPOLY, MAY 4 1984.



The bi-centenary of the imposition of a State Monopoly on the sale of tobacco was commemorated by issuing a 4S50 multi-coloured stamp on May 4, 1984. This stamp was designed by Gerhard Baresch, to depict a cigar band showing a tobacco plant and the dates 1784-1984. It was engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (red, yellow, ultramarine and gold) in an impression of 3.55 million; comb perforated 13½. The monopoly undertaking “AUSTRIA TABAK” was constituted, on May 8 1784, by the Tobacco Patent of the Emperor Josef II.

FISITA CONGRESS, MAY 4 1984.

The 20th International Federation of Automobile Engineers' Association (F.I.S.I.T.A.) World Congress was held from 6 to 11 May 1984 in the Vienna Hofburg. To mark this event a 5S multi-coloured stamp was issued on May 4, 1984. This stamp was designed by Johannes Kral to depict a section of a wheel bearing together with the F.I.S.I.T.A. emblem. It was printed in photogravure (silver, light cobalt, cornflower blue, orange and black) in an impression of 3.55 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. F.I.S.I.T.A. was founded in Paris in 1948, and by 1984 its membership was about 80,000 engineers from 22 countries.



EUROPA-CEPT, MAY 4 1984.



The 16th issue of a Europa stamp by Austria coincided with the 25th anniversary of the foundation of C.E.P.T. (European Conference of Post and Telegraph Administrations) in 1959. The Silver Jubilee Meeting was held in Montreux, where it had been originally founded, from 23 to 24 May 1984. This Austrian issue was designed by Auguste Bocskor (Böcskör?) to depict the abstract concept of a bridge over water, and was printed in photogravure (light ultramarine, dark violet blue and indigo) in an impression of 3.85 million; comb perforated 13½. The original foundation document of C.E.P.T. had been drawn up in St. Moritz in January 1959, and accepted by the 19 foundation members (including Austria) at a further meeting

in Montreux on June 26 1959.

ARCHDUKE JOHANN, MAY 11 1984.

The 125th anniversary of the death of the Archduke Johann (1782-1859) was commemorated by issuing a 4S50 portrait stamp on May 11, 1984. This stamp was based on a painting made in 1827 by Ludwig Schnorr von Carolsfeld. This stamp was designed by Friedrich Mayr, engraved by Alfred Nefe and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (silver, brownish-red, yellow-brown and dark blue-green in an impression of 3.7 million; comb perforated 14.

Archduke Johann had a strong connection with Styria, because in 1811 between commanding armies against the French he founded in Graz the “Joanneum” Academy to foster historical and scientific studies of that crown land. A leading hotel in Graz is still called the Erzherzog Johann.

He married Anna Ploschel, morganatically - her father was a peasant, a postmaster in the Tirolean village of Brandhoffen. When the Archduke asked for horses and a postillion, in order to continue his journey, Anna dressed in the postillion's uniform and drove the carriage herself as no-one else was available. The Archduke fell in love with her, arranged for a suitable education, then married her.

Ludwig Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1788-1853), a native of Königsberg in East Prussia, came to Vienna in 1804, became a member of the Vienna Academy in 1835, and was appointed as custodian of the Belvedere Gallery in 1841.



EISENERZ EXHIBITION, MAY 11 1984.



A provincial exhibition; “Ore and Iron in the Green Mark” was held at Eisenerz in Styria during May and June 1984. To mark this exhibition a 3S50 multi-coloured stamp was issued on May 11, 1984. This stamp was designed by Anna Kammerer-Rogler, to depict the mineral 'Aragonite' consisting of calcium carbonate, dimorphous with calcite, found at Eisenerz. Because of its similarity to the form of a flower it was at first called Eisenblume and then Eisenblute. The stamp was engraved by Maria Laurent and printed, in both recess (black) and photogravure (Turkish blue, matt yellow, purple and dark green) in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 13½. The Styrian Erzberg, consisting of pure iron oxide, rises 2,400 ft. high in a series of gigantic terraces and has been mined since 712 A.D.

FRANZ JOSEPH ERA EXHIBITION, MAY 18 1984.

Another provincial exhibition, this time in Lower Austria: “Era of Franz Joseph (from 1848-1880)” was held in Grafenegg Castle in the summer of 1984. To mark this exhibition a 3S50 scarlet and gold stamp was issued on May 18, 1984. This stamp was designed and engraved by Werner Pfeiler to depict the binding of the book entitled “Viribus Unitis, Das Buch vom Kaiser” published by Max Herzig in 1898. The stamp was printed in both recess (scarlet) and photogravure (gold) in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 13¾. The exhibition theme was the development of the monarchy, after the storms of the 1848 revolution had subsided, upon the arts and upon commerce. The growth of the cities and the political changes were also illustrated.



VOCKLABRUCK ANNIVERSARY, MAY 30 1984



The 850th anniversary of the foundation of the town of Vocklabruck was commemorated by issuing a 4S50 multi-coloured stamp on May 30, 1984. This stamp was designed by Georg Pucalka, to depict the Lower Town Tower and the town's coat-of-arms, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (black-brown) and photogravure (yellow, cinnabar, Turkish-blue, green, gold and reddish ochre) in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. In a document of 1134, Wenga and Wetzilo von Schondorf gave a bridge over the river Vockla in Upper Austria for the benefit of pilgrims to the Archbishopric of Salzburg. The tower on the stamp dominates the main square of the town, which is now a centre of modern industries.

CARINTHIAN MUSEUM, JUNE 1 1984.

The centenary of the Provincial Museum for Carinthia, founded in Klagenfurt on April 24 1879 with the final stone laid by the Crown Prince Rudolf on July 10 1884, was commemorated by issuing a 3S50 stone, reddish-brown and slate stamp on June 1, 1984. This stamp was designed by Friedrich Mayr to depict a part of the Dionysus mosaic from Virunum (c.276 A.D.), engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (stone) and photogravure (reddish-brown and slate) in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 13½. The museum itself was built in the classical Barock style to the plans of Gustav Gugitz and also houses a “Carinthian Homeland” collection. The mosaic (5.36m x 5.58m) was found in 1898 in a room of a bath house in Virunum and the part on the stamp is merely the small central section.



FLOOD CONTROL, JUNE 5 1984.



The centenary-of-the first construction of flood control systems in Austria was marked by issuing a 4S50 slate-green stamp on June 5 1984. This stamp was designed by Ferdinand Dörner to depict a stone barrier on a torrential stream, where it drops deeply, in order to effect a flood control. Above this barrier may be seen a typical mountain village scene with chalets scattered on the hillside. The stamp was engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and recess printed in an impression of 3.65 million; comb perforated 13¾. Although flood barriers in the Austrian monarchy can be traced back to one constructed in 1277 by Count Meinhard II of Tirol, a formal state organisation of flood control only came into existence by a June 5 1884 decree of the Min of Ag.

RALPH BENATZKY, JUNE 5 1984.

The centenary of the birth of the Austrian composer Ralph Benatzky (1884-1957) was commemorated by issuing a 4S purple brown portrait stamp on June 5, 1984. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Alfred Nefe and recess printed in an impression of 13 .65 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. Ralph Benatzky was born on June 5 1884 in Mahrisch-Budwitz and died on October 16 1957 in Zurich. He was buried in St. Wolfgang on the Wolfgangsee: highly appropriate for the composer of “Im Weissen Ross” (1930). At the base of this stamp this operetta is listed along with “Bezauberndes Fraulein” (1933) and “Axel an der Himmelstür” (1936). At the top of the stamp is a musical quotation: “Ich muss wieder einmal in Grinzing sein.” (1915)



PROVINCE OF TIROL EXHIBITION, JUNE 5 1984.



The 175th anniversary of the Tirolese rising in 1809 against the occupying Bavarian Army was celebrated by holding a provincial exhibition “The Tirolese Nation 1790-1820” in the Ferdinandeum Museum in Innsbruck. A 3S50 multi-coloured stamp was issued on June 5, 1984 in connection with this exhibition. This stamp was designed by Oswald Haller using a portion of the oil painting, “*The meeting of the Imperial Troops with the South Tirolean Levy under Andreas Hofer at Sterzing in April 1809*” by Ludwig Schnorr von Carofeld (1880). It was engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and was printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (Turkish blue, lemon-yellow and dark rose-lilac) in an impression of 3.65 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

CHRISTIAN VON EHRENFELS, JUNE 22 1984.

The 125th anniversary of the birth of the Austrian philosopher Christian Freiherr von Ehrenfels was commemorated by a 3S50 multi-coloured portrait stamp on June 22, 1984. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller and printed by photogravure (gold, ultramarine-grey, dark blue-grey, olive-brown and black) in an impression of 3.55 million; comb perforated 13¾. Born on June 20 1859, at Rodaun bei Wien, Von Ehrenfels died on September 7 1932 in the family castle of Lichtenau. He studied philosophy at the University of Vienna becoming a lecturer there before serving as professor of philosophy at the University of Prague from 1896 to 1929. His major works were “A System of Value Theory”, “Cosmogony” and “The law of prime numbers”.



MODEL WORLD, JUNE 22 1984.



The 25th anniversary of the foundation of the 1:25 scale model world - Minimundus - on the Wörthersee was commemorated by a 4S orange-yellow and black stamp on June 22, 1984. This stamp was designed by Valentin Wurnitsch, to depict four of the model buildings, and printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.65 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. First opened as “Minieurop” by private individuals in 1957, when it was formally opened to the public on July 3 1959 as “Minimundus” it became a fund raiser for “Save the Children” fund”. On the stamp may be seen models of the Eiffel Tower, the Tower of Pisa, Santa Sophia and the Prater Wheel.

FIRST NATURAL BEAUTY SPOTS, JUNE 29 1984.



The nature park “Blockheide Eibenstein” near Gmund was celebrated as an “Austrian Natural Beauty Spot”, by issuing a 4S pink and bronze green stamp on June 29, 1984. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict a characteristic landscape of this heath strewn with boulders (Blockheide), engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in both recess (bronze green) and photogravure (pink) in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 13¾. This area of about 140 hectares near Gmund was declared as a region of nature protection, by a decree of the government of Lower Austria on January 3 1978, and then, as a nature park, by decree of April 27 1979. It has been provided with nature walks and an information centre.

FIRST MANNED BALLOON FLIGHT, JULY 6 1984

The bicentenary of the first manned balloon flight in Austria was commemorated by issuing a 6S multicoloured stamp on July 6, 1984. This stamp was designed by Valentin Wurnitsch to depict the ornamented balloon of Johann Georg Stuver (1732-1802) making a first manned flight on July 6 1784 in front of 15,000 people in Vienna. This stamp was printed in photogravure (blue, Turkish blue, orange-yellow, wine-red and Russian green) in an impression of 4 million; comb perforated 14.



RAILWAY ANNIVERSARIES, JULY 6 1984

Two railway anniversaries were celebrated with two stamps issued on July 6, 1984: the centenary of the Arlbergbahn and the semisesquicentennial of the Tauernbahn. Both stamps were designed by Auguste Bocskor, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed, by both recess and photogravure in an impression of 3.7 million sets; comb perforated 14.



The first was a 3S50 stamp (recess: brown lilac; photogravure: gold and red) depicting a Series 4010 electric train on the Schanatobel bridge on the Arlberg railway which connects inner Austria with the Vorarlberg and which was opened by Franz Josef I on September 20 1884. The second was a 4S50 stamp (recess: indigo; photogravure: silver and red) depicting a series 4010 electric train on the Falkenstein bridge on the Tauern railway, which



was built as the second line to connect Vienna with Trieste and was opened by Franz Josef I on July 5 1909.

NATURAL BEAUTY SPOTS, AUGUST 13 1984.



The Neusiedlersee in the Burgenland was celebrated as the second “Austrian Natural Beauty Spot” by issuing a 7S multi- coloured stamp on August 13, 1984. Designer Adalbert Pilch depicted three swans flying over a typical reeded area of the lake, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in both recess (dark reddish-lilac) and photogravure (light greenish blue) in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 13¾.

Lake Neusiedl lies about 50km south east of Vienna with a surface area of 300 square km but a depth of only 1.5m, a maximum width of 4.5km, and a length of nearly 30km. The south west and southern shores are in Hungary with the frontier dividing off the south west corner. When taking a boat on the lake in the Mörbisch area it was necessary to carry your passport and avoid transgressing Hungarian territorial water which would incur both a fine and an overnight stop in Hungary! About once a century the lake disappears completely; the last occasion was in 1868. (*As at 5 July 2022, it's almost dry again!*) It is a haven for birds in the sea-sparwort and feathered grasses that grow in the pools.

BAR ASSOCIATION CONGRESS, AUGUST 31 1984

The 20th Congress of the International Bar Associations was held in Vienna from 2 to 7 September. A 7S large format (31.8x50 mm) stamp was issued on August 31, 1984 in honour of this event. This stamp was designed and engraved by Werner Pfeiler, to depict the statue of “Justice” at the head of the grand staircase in the Vienna Palace of Justice, and the emblem of the I.B.A. It was printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (yellow-ochre, brownish-red and green-of 3.55 million; comb perforated 13¾:14. The I.B.A. was constituted in 1947 as an association of the national justice organisations and U.N.O. consultative status.



ANATOMISTS' CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 3 1984



The 7th Congress of European Anatomists was held in Innsbruck from 3 to 7 September 1984. A 6S multi-coloured stamp was issued on September 3, 1984 in honour of this event. The stamp was designed by Sepp Buchner after the stained-glass window by J. Widmoser, in the Innsbruck Anatomy Institute, which depicts an idealised representation of Joseph Hyrtl, one of the most important of the Austrian anatomists of the 19th century. The stamp was printed in photogravure (ultramarine, matt yellow, reddish-lilac and black) in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾.

The idea of a European Anatomists' congress arose in 1958 at a meeting in Ghent. The three original participating societies were the “Anatomische Gesellschaft” (founded in 1886); the “Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland” (founded in 1889) and the “Association des Anatomistes” (founded in 1899). The first congress was held in Strasbourg in 1960 and since then they had been held in Brussels (1963), Manchester (1973), Basel (1977), Prague (1979) and Hamburg (1981).

Joseph Hyrtl (1810-1894) was a Professor of Anatomy first at Prague (1837-1845) and then at Vienna. His research work was mainly concerned with the anatomy of the ear, with finer angiology and with piscatory anatomy. He was a brother of Jakob Hyrtl, the famous copper engraver.

MODERN ART, OCTOBER 12 1984

The 10th value in the sequence entitled “Modern Art in Austria” was issued on October 12, 1984. This 4S multi-coloured stamp was designed by Karl Korab, to depict his work “Fenster” (= window), engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (ultramarine, yellow, cinnabar and greyish-lilac) in an impression of 3.85 million; comb perforated 13¼.

Karl Korab was born in 1937, the son of a senior forester working on an aristocratic estate in the Waldviertal in Lower Austria. He started to draw and paint at an early age and was much influenced by the works of Kubin and Kokoschka. He studied at the Vienna Academy and then travelled in Italy, France and the Netherlands to extend his artistic education.



JOHANNES VON GMUNDEN, OCTOBER 18 1984



The 600th anniversary of the birth of the astronomer and mathematician, Johannes von Gmunden (1380-1442) was commemorated by issuing a 3S50 multi-coloured stamp on October 18, 1984. It was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict the astrolabe “Imsser Uhr” of 1555 (in the Technological Museum of the City of Vienna), engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (gold, straw-yellow, grey, brownish-orange, Samian and lilac purple) in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 14. Johannes von Gmunden was educated in theology at the University of Vienna and was ordained priest in 1417. He was a canon at St. Stephen's but became renowned as the founder of the Vienna mathematical school.

CONCORDIA PRESS CLUB, NOVEMBER 9 1984



The 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Concordia Press Club, on November 7, 1859 as an association of Austrian Writers and Journalists, was commemorated by issuing a 4S50 black, gold and vermilion stamp on November 9, 1984. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict the feathered quill symbol of the Press Club Concordia, and was printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 13½. In 1984, in addition to celebrating its 125th anniversary, Concordia also celebrated the 25th “Concordia Ball” during the period of the Second Republic. Another feature of the year was a matinee in the Academic Theatre on 25th November with important guests from the worlds of politics, culture and science.

FANNY ELSSLER, NOVEMBER 23 1984

The centenary of the death of the Austrian dancer Fanny Elssler (1810-1884) was commemorated by issuing a 4S full length portrait stamp on November 23, 1984. This stamp was designed by Auguste Bockor, to show the dancer in the performance of her most famous dance, the Spanish cachucha; engraved by Maria Laurent; and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (ochre, lilac-rose, yellow- orange and emerald) in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾.



The Elssler family served Josef Haydn over three generations; Elssler himself was Haydn's handyman and copyist, and who accompanied the composer on his two visits to England, in 1791 and 1794. Three of Elssler's children - Anna (born 1804), Therese (born 1808) and Fanny (Franziska, born 1810) joined the children's ballet at the 'Theater an der Wien', and when that closed the talented little dancers were admitted to the Imperial and Royal Kammer theater, where they performed for the ballet master, Aumer.

Therese and Fanny won their first triumph in Berlin in 1830 - Fanny, in particular, by her art and personal charm, captivated the hearts of all Europe and America. She combined the classical ballet - Giselle etc. - with Spanish folk dances, and presented both types with “animation and vivacious expression”. She toured the United States for more than two years, visited Havana, Cuba and then returned to Europe for another eight years of travel and acclaimed performances. After entertaining the Viennese audiences with her final performance in the ballet “Faust”, Fanny retired on her forty-first birthday, and eventually died aged 74 in Vienna on 27th. November 1884.

31st STAMP DAY, NOVEMBER 30 1984.

The 31st value in the series of “Day of the stamp” was issued as a 6S + 3S multicoloured value on November 30, 1984. It was designed and engraved by Werner Pfeiler and shows two scribes, one holding a roll of papyrus and the other behind him writing on a tablet. It was printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (gold, brownish red, ochre, green and Turkish blue) in an impression of 1.65 million; comb perforated 13¾. The design itself is a detail from the extensive wall paintings in the burial chamber of Seschemnofer III which was constructed about 2420 B.C. in the vicinity of the Cheops pyramid of Giza. It is probably one of the earliest representations in the world of letter writing.



CHRISTMAS, NOVEMBER 30 1984



The 20th value in the series of Austrian Christmas stamps was issued as a 4S50 multi-coloured value on November 30, 1984. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict the Christmas scene on the Old Aggsbach High Altar in the art collection of the Monastery of the Herzogenburg. It was engraved by Maria Laurent and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (ultramarine, yellow, matt purple and gold) in an impression of 6 million; comb perforated 13¾. The High Altar was created in 1422, possibly by Hans von Tubingen, for the Carthusian Monastery of Aggsbach on the Danube.