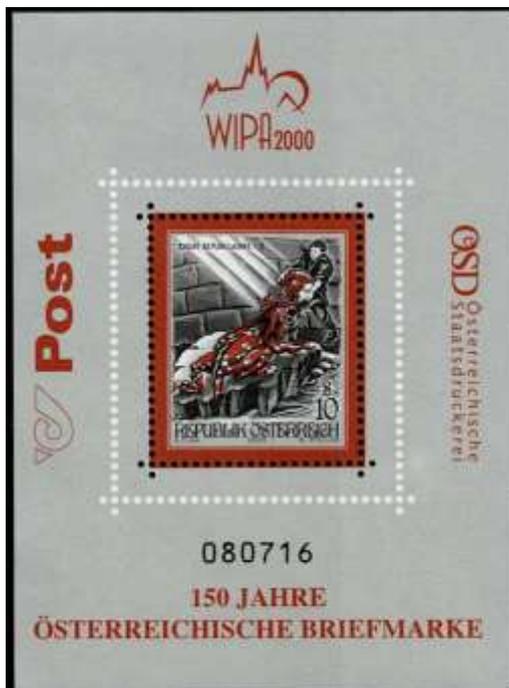


2000

Tales and Legends of Austria: House of the Basilisk in Vienna



Issued 21.1.2000. ANK 2333: 10Sch. Colours: Photogravure light-grey & red; Intaglio chamois; Perf 13³/₄x14; Issue unlimited; Design Adolf Tuma; Engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler; Printing ÖSD. [Also used on the miniature sheet sold along with the WIPA entrance ticket, as illustrated here/] The legendary House of the Basilisk situated in Vienna's first district can be found on Schönlaterngasse 7, unmistakably labelled by the sign that reads "Zum Basilisken". The cellar walls of this house date back partly to the 13th century. In front of the house a somewhat peculiar bird in stone can be seen in a niche in the wall between the windows of the second floor. It is actually a sandstone carving of a rooster wearing a little golden crown and with a cast-iron beak and tail. According to legend, this peculiar creature, whose image appears on the house's façade, lived in a deep well in the courtyard. An old rooster laid an egg, a toad incubated it to maturity, and a basilisk was hatched. This terrifying legendary reptile had the body and legs of a giant toad, misshapen claw-like talons covered with warts, its tail was long and scaly, and the gaze from its eyes killed all on whom it fell. The basilisk is said to have been discovered on the morning of June 12, 1212. It was killed by a brave apprentice who showed it its reflection in a mirror: thereby winning the hand of his master's daughter. The well was

sealed with large boulders, thereby ridding the entire city of this terrible apparition.

National Customs and Folklore Treasures: Kirchleintragen in Carinthia



Issued 21.1.2000. ANK 2334: 7Sch. Colours: Photogravure grey-black, purple-red-lilac, ultramarine, yellow; Intaglio black; Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄; Issue 4,000,000; Design Auguste Böcskör Engraving Maria Laurent; Printing ÖSD. The "Kirchleintragen" is the carrying of miniature churches in Eisenkappel, Austria's southernmost health resort. During the days leading up to February 1st, the children of Bad Eisenkappel's elementary school fashion miniature churches out of white and coloured paper. On the eve of the Virgin Mary's Candle Mass (February 2), the little paper churches are fastened to poles and carried to the bridge near Hagenegg Castle. Once at the bridge, the children carefully set their little churches in the flowing currents of the sometimes snow-covered

and icy waters of the Vellach River. The illuminated churches dance nimbly on the river's waves until they slowly turn over and eventually lose their light. This tradition may date back to a vow made in response to flooding in the 12th century when the Town Square, houses, and parish church were completely submerged in the raging waters of the Vellach, and only the pilgrimage church of Maria Dorn withstood the flooding. The citizens of Eisenkappel who had sought refuge in the church made a vow of gratitude for their rescue.

Vienna Welcomes the World to WIPA 2000

Issued 21.1.2000. ANK 2335: 40 (27+13) Sch; ANK 2336: 45 (32+13) Sch; ANK 2337: 48 (32+16) Sch plus WIPA logo all in a block. Colours: Photogravure grey-black, ultramarine, brown-ochre, yellow, pink-crimson, violet-blue, black-brown, orange; Intaglio black, dark-green; Letterpress light-cobalt-blue; Perf 14x13¾; Issue 850,000 blocks; Design Adolf Tuma, Hannes Margreiter; Engraving Prof Wolfgang Seidel; Printing ÖSD.



WIPA 2000 was dedicated to the issue of Austria's first postage stamp 150 years ago on June 1, 1850. The exposition took place from May 30 to June 4, 2000 in Vienna's Austria Center. The special issue block entitled "Vienna Welcomes the World to WIPA 2000" comprises three surcharged stamps from the years 1997, 1998, and 1999 brought together in a decorative framework; the 4th field is occupied by the WIPA logo. The block's stamps, however, all bear the year 2000 (in very small print at the bottom) instead of the previous years 1997, 1998, and 1999. Thus, identical stamps but of different years are available for the first time in Austria. The decorative border around the block shows the WIPA 2000 logo (St. Stephen's Cathedral and Vienna's famous Ferris Wheel) and the text refers to the anniversary of the stamps.

National Customs and Folklore Treasures: Schleicherlaufen in Telfs



Issued 11.2.2000. ANK 2338: 6½Sch. Colour: Photogravure grey-black, ultramarine, yellow, purple-red-lilac, ultramarine-grey; Intaglio black; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 2,500,000; Design Auguste Böcskör Engraving Maria Laurent; Printing ÖSD. On the one hand, the market municipality of Telfs in Tyrol, nestled at the foot of the 2,661 meter-high Hohe Munde, is modern and forward-looking. On the other hand, it maintains strong ties to its eventful history and customs. Lively festivities of similar type and size, involving between 400 and 500 men and even larger numbers of industrious helpers active in the background, are few and far between nowadays. The difference between the "Telfer" and other large Tirol carnivals lies mostly in the

"Schleicher" (swindlers) and "Wilden" (savages), two groups which form the core of this regional custom. The former gave the spectacular ritual its name. There are conflicting speculations as to the origin of the "Telfer Schleicherlaufen", which is held every five years. Perhaps festivities such as these are rooted in ancient pre-Christian fertility rituals, springtime cult rituals intended to drive away winter, or in rituals to exorcise spirits of the dead. It is also thought that these festivities tend more towards the myth of a mask as a way of bridging social and moral barriers. Rural dwellers trying to imitate and parody courtly festivals would place the origin of the carnival tradition in the Late Middle Ages

International Gardening Exhibition



Issued 3.3.2000. ANK 2339: 7Sch. The design shows a *Zantedeschia aethiopica*! Colour: Photogravure olive-green, yellow, crimson, cornflower-blue, blue-black, dark-blue-grey; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$; issue 3,100,000 in minisheets of 8; Design Maria Schulz; Printing ÖSD. The International Gardening Exhibition was held in the grounds of the Schwarzl Recreation Center south of Graz from April 13 to October 15, 2000. The beauty, diversity, and artistry of landscaping were displayed under the motto "the magic of gardens". The exhibition presented four outstanding gardening models: agricultural, alpine, flower, and peasant. Preparations began in October 1997. It was especially important to the organisers to leave behind an attractive landscape for visitors to enjoy. The fascination and magic of arranged landscapes formed one aspect of the gardening exhibition, while enhancing the awareness for nature and environmental conservation and presenting farming-related products and services was the other.

Hunting and the Environment: Reintroducing the Ibex



Issued 3.3.2000 ANK 2340: 7Sch. Colour: Photogravure turquoise-blue, straw-yellow, pale-purple-red, black; Perf 14x14; issue 2,900,000; Design Mag Valentin Wurnitsch; Printing ÖSD. Originally, the ibex was native to Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy, and Austria. However, as early as the 16th century, this species no longer occurred in many of its former habitats, and at the beginning of the 18th century the ibex was totally extinct from the Austrian Alps. The animals survived a little longer in France and Switzerland; however the ibex disappeared entirely from alpine regions at the beginning of the 19th century. Only between 50 and 100 animals survived under strict protection in a region of the Gran Paradiso Massif in northwestern Italy. The cause of eradication can be attributed to folklore and superstition, since almost every part of the ibex was thought to possess special powers. Between 24,000 and 28,000 ibexes inhabit the Alps today. Austria made early first attempts at repopulation: Salzburg made its first successful attempt in Blühnbachtal in 1924. After WWII, other successes followed in Tirol, Carinthia, and Vorarlberg. Today, Austria has a population of at least 3,000 of these animals.

Austrian Soccer Champions: FC Tirol



Issued 3.3.2000. ANK 2341: 7Sch. Colour: Photogravure turquoise-blue, yellow, purple-red-lilac, black, crimson, dark-blue-green; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$; issue 2,800,000; Design Hannes Margreiter; Printing ÖSD. In 1913 around 15 enthusiastic and active sportsmen founded the Wacker Soccer Club, which won its first championship game on October 9, 1920. The Wacker Club participated unsuccessfully in Tirol's championship games in 1938. The post-war devastation after 1945 was so widespread throughout the provincial capital that practically all clubs had to restart from the beginning. The undying Wacker spirit was put to the test of making possible the seemingly impossible. This was very successful and was

proven by their sensational rise from the lowest to the highest division in the years that followed. In addition to international cup championships, "FC Tirol Milch Innsbruck" (as it's now known) boast seven titles as Austrian champions and the same as Austrian cup winners.

200th Anniversary of the First Ascent of the Grossglockner



Issued 28.4.2000 ANK 2342: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: ultramarine, yellow, purple-red-lilac, orange-brown, dark blue-grey, crimson, gold; Intaglio: black. Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,800,800. Design Marianne Siegl, engraved Gerhart Schmirl. Printing ÖSD. Scientist Hacquet de la Motte first prompted interest in conquering the Grossglockner in 1779. He scouted the entire region of the Eastern Alps and his publications on this theme sparked heightened interest in this mountain range. De la Motte travelled to Heiligenblut, where his plan to reach the summit from the south in two stages via the Leitertal Valley was hindered by bad weather. He was also a member of a group of scientists and artists under Prince-Bishop Salm, who together with his highly-skilled colleagues pressed on with the exploration of Carinthia. This involved maintaining

precise maps, geological field studies, and drawings of the botanical features. Vicar-General Sigmund Graf Hohenwart belonged to this circle, and in August 1799 he and his mountain-climbing comrades reached the summit of the Kleinglockner, which appears higher than the main peak when observed from the valley. They were deterred by icy cliffs before reaching the dizzying wind-gap. Even though the whole world celebrated this undertaking, Salm was not satisfied. He began his successful Grossglockner expedition to the Salm Hut in the Leitertal Valley on July 27, 1800. The mad race to the top followed the next day, when four carpenters and Pastor Horasch from Döllach reached the summit

Europe 2000



Issued 9.5.2000. ANK 2344: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: turquoise-blue, yellow, purple-red-lilac, black. Perf $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{4}$. Issue 2,800,800. Design Jean-Paul Cousin. Printing ÖSD. Europa stamps in a design conceived by Jean-Paul Cousin of France were issued in all participating European countries. The stamps are intended to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, which formed a crucial element of post-1945 European integration. As French Foreign Minister from 1948 to 1953, Schuman was particularly involved in promoting French-German relations. In addition to promoting commerce, the goal of this Plan was to encourage European unification. The plan was integrated into a formal agreement implemented in 1952 that brought to life the European Coal and Steel Community (which constituted a first step towards the European Union). The Europa

Building appears in the centre of the stamp. The stars symbolise the countries of the European Union, and the column of stars reaches out into a blue sky reminiscent of Europe's flag. Children of different nationalities bring even more stars from different origins in an effort to form a larger Europe.

Austria's Natural Beauty: Weißsee in Salzburg



Issued 9.5.2000. ANK2345: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: turquoise-blue, yellow, pale-purple-red, grey-violet; Intaglio black. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,800,000. Design Peter Sinawel, engraved Gerhart Schmirl. Printing ÖSD.

The stamp shows the Sonnblick Glacier with the Granatspitze (3,086 meters), the Sonnblick in Stubach (3,088 meters), and the Rudolfshütte near Lake Weißsee. Glaciers form the most significant contribution to the alpine landscape of the Hohe Tauern region, the most beautiful parts of which now comprise a national park. In general, alpine glaciers have been gradually diminishing since the mid 19th century.

In 1850 the glacier extended as far as Lake Weißsee, whose water levels were lower than those of today. Since then, Lake Weißsee has been dammed up (in 1953) and its water level artificially raised. The Sonnblick Glacier has been studied for many years. The Rudolfshütte serves not only as a base for research, but is also a world-renowned training facility for alpine sports. In spite of ambitious nature conservation projects, the battle raging in the Stubachtal Valley between protection and consumption was decided in favor of projects to develop hydropower and tourism. Only a part of the Tauern Park founded in 1921, which includes the Wiegenwald Forest, was incorporated into the Hohe Tauern National Park in 1984. The Rudolfshütte and the Weißsee illustrate man's exploitation of this nature reserve. [Note the up-to-date spelling of "WEISSSEE"!]

150th Anniversary of the Protection of Historical Monuments in Austria



Issued 19.5.2000. ANK2346: 8Sch. The stamp shows the Madonna of Altenmarkt and the glass roof of the palm house of the Burggarten in Vienna. Colour: Photo: ultramarine, yellow, lilac, green, grey-brown, grey-black, grey, red; Intaglio black. Perf $14 \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,200,000. Design Marianne Siegl, engraved Gerhart Schmirl. Printing ÖSD.

In 1850 Interior Minister Bruck suggested that Emperor Franz Joseph I should place the preservation of historical monuments in the hands of the state, as several other European countries had done already. On December 31, 1850 the Emperor granted his approval for the establishment of the Royal and Imperial Central Commission for the Study and Preservation of Historical Monuments. In 1856 the Commission issued two periodicals still cited today by the Federal Monuments Agency. They are known as the "Austrian Journal for Art and the Preservation of

Monuments" and the "Viennese Yearbook of Art History". The Monument Protection Law was enacted in 1923, whereby custody and preservation became a matter governed by the federal legislature. The law assumed the definition still valid today: monuments are stationary and mobile objects created by people which are of historical, artistic, or other cultural significance, and whose preservation is in the public interest. In addition to deciding whether such an interest exists, Austria's Federal Monuments Agency is also responsible for the designation and care of historical landmarks. In fact, the grounds of Schönbrunn Palace, Salzburg's Old City, the cultural landscapes at Hallstatt - Dachstein - Salzkammergut, and the Semmering Railway have even been included on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

75th Anniversary of Klagenfurt Airport



Issued 19.5.2000. ANK2347: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: turquoise-blue, yellow, purple-red-lilac, grey, blue-black, black. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,700,000. Design Mag. Radostina Blecha. Printing ÖSD.

In 1914 a military airfield was laid out in Klagenfurt, and military air traffic continued here until the end of the First World War. This laid the groundwork for the creation of a civil airport. Austria's first domestic route Klagenfurt-Graz-Vienna was inaugurated on May 17, 1925, the six-seater Junkers-Hahn F13 providing air transport. When civil air travel resumed after a period of interruption brought on by the Second World War, Dutch carrier KLM reopened the first scheduled connection on the route Amsterdam-Düsseldorf-Klagenfurt in May 1953. From 1958 the airport was gradually expanded into a regional landing strip for medium-haul aircraft. Today it boasts a runway of 2,720 meters which accommodates nearly all types of aircraft currently in use in civil aviation.

Antique Handicrafts: The Life of Saint Malachy and Zwettl



Issued 19.5.2000. ANK2348: 9Sch. Colour: Photo: blue, green-blue, brown, brown-ochre. Intaglio black. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,200,000. Design & engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler. Printing ÖSD.

This stamp was issued on the 800th anniversary of the city of Zwettl, which has kept in close contact with the Cistercian Monastery over many centuries. The famous Cistercian Bernhard von Clairvaux compiled the *Vita Sancti Malachiae Episcopi* (The Life of Bishop Malachy) in Latin around the year 1149. Records containing an illustration of the bishop, chosen as the stamp's motif, can be found in the medieval manuscripts of Zwettl's monastic library. Malachy, born the son of a lector at the monastic school at Armagh in 1094/1095, was consecrated Bishop of Connor in 1123/1124. He practiced his office in a strictly ascetic manner and with great modesty, simplicity, and compassion. On his way to Rome in 1140 he met Bernhard von Clairvaux, who recognized Malachy's unique and mystical ability. The *Vita* goes on to recount the many miracles which Malachy performed in Ireland. The remains of Bishop Malachy, who died in November 1148 in Clairvaux, rest in the Church of Troyes

150th Anniversary of Austrian Postage Stamps



Issued 30.5.2000. ANK 2349: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: red-lilac, light-red, yellow-orange, dark blue-green, blue, violet, grey-black, brown-ochre, silver, gold. Intaglio black. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,900,0800. Design & engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler. Printing ÖSD.

Issued on June 1, 1850, Austria's first stamps consisted of denominations of 1, 2, 3, 6, and 9 Kreuzer, along with stamps in denominations of 5, 10, 15, 30, and 45 Centes for the Austrian-controlled region of Lombardy-Venetia. Apart from the value overprint and colour patterns, the stamps were completely uniform. The stamps carried the national symbol of the double-headed eagle in a decorative shield with the imperial crown above. Over this was a twig of laurel and an oak branch with the inscription "K.K. Post-Stempel". The value and currency information was given below. Although "K.K. Post-Stempel" appeared on these stamps, senior postal authorities introduced the little gummed label under the name "Briefmarke" - a brilliantly simple name which later established itself throughout the entire German-speaking region.

Day of the Stamp 2000



Issued 30.5.2000. ANK 2350: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: red-lilac, light-red, yellow-orange, blue, dark-green, violet, silver, gold; Intaglio black. Perf 13½x13½. Issue 3,100,000. Design & engraving Prof Otto Stefferl. Printing ÖSD.

The final issue in the ten-part series from 1999 to 2000 created by Professor Otto Stefferl to commemorate the "Day of the Stamp" has an abstract design which offers food for thought on the topic of renewable energy. The entwined letters are not the only subjects of interpretation, as the artist himself places much more value on the symbolism of the various colours. According to Stefferl's interpretation, the universally understood yet not always clearly defined word "energy" can be commonly defined even without a physics book: an "elemental force", an "accumulated potential", or simply a medium that unleashes power, thereby affecting change. There are neither one-sided ideologies nor commercial

interests behind the message this stamp seeks to convey. It is through the stamp that Otto Stefferl emphasizes those aspects of energy supply that will secure a genuinely promising future.

Confetti



Issued 31.5.2000. ANK 2351: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: yellow-orange, red, dark yellow-green; Intaglio black. Perf 13¾x13¾. Issue 2,800,000. Design Elisabeth Pirker. Printing ÖSD.

The puppeteers Britta Hellmann and Stefan Gaugusch created the character "Confetti" and his friend "Rolf Rüdiger" and breathed life into them. Confetti first saw the light of television on the ORF Children's Program in September 1993. He quickly captured the hearts of young viewers in his very own "Confetti-Show" during which prominent figures from all facets of public life were invited to participate. The character of Confetti has been the symbol of ORF's children's programming since April 1994, and his lively personality even carries over into those children's television shows which don't feature

Confetti and Rolf Rüdiger. "Confetti TiVi" is trying to cater to the local and regional needs of children. In doing so, promoting constructive leisure-time behaviour outside of programme-watching continues to remain a priority. One of the most important objectives of "Confetti TiVi" is to promote cultural and leisure-time viewing throughout Austria and to ensure that these meet the real needs of children. The ultimate goal remains: "From monologue to dialog - learning with one another!"

Hundertwasser

Issued 2.6.2000: ANK 2352-2355: Block of 4 x 7Sch. The design is Hundertwasser's "Blue Blues" in four colourways. Colour: Photo: turquoise-blue, blue, greenish-yellow, pale-purple-red, black, silver, grey; Intaglio dark-brown-crimson, black-violet. Perf 13¾x13¾. Issue 1,100,000. Design Friedensreich Hundertwasser, engraved Prof Wolfgang Seidel. Printing ÖSD. All four stamps have the same design but each has different colourings. There was also a Memorial Sheet with the same design in grey.



Born Friedrich Stowasser on December 15th 1928 in Vienna, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, who died on February 19th 2000, was condemned by his rivals, scorned above all by professional architects, ridiculed as a "scavenger" by self-proclaimed art critics, and for the most part experienced admiration, rejection, and devotion like almost no other.

Untruths, maliciousness, and misconceptions were circulated about him like no other artist, even as extremely successful exhibits were enthusiastically received by thousands of visitors around the world. To be sure, he did not make things easy for many, and yet behind this lay constructive energy, an undying conviction in his purpose

and an almost religious devotion to his goals. The question "What was Hundertwasser trying to achieve?" was answered by the artist himself thus: *"I want to set an example, to set an example for all people; to paint a paradise. Paradise exists right here, yet it is we who ruin it - and everything that religion and doctrines and the various political movements promise is all nonsense. So naturally I come into conflict with society, which completely misunderstands this."* Most notable is his work on behalf of the Austrian postage stamp, where he found a congenial lithographer in Professor Wolfgang Seidel. Postage stamps from his handiwork have appeared around the world as brilliant works of art. The commemorative block shows a Hundertwasser composition in four colour variations entitled "Blue Blues".

100th Anniversary of the Discovery of Human Blood Types



Issued 16.6.2000. ANK 2356: 8Sch. Colour: Photo: crimson, black, silver. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,100,000. Design Prof Otto Stefferl. Printing ÖSD.

On March 23, 1901 Karl Landsteiner published his paper entitled "Agglutination Properties of Normal Human Blood". Landsteiner had studied the chemistry between red blood cells and blood serum and discovered that antibodies are usually present in human serum which agglutinate the blood cells of other humans. Landsteiner had thereby discovered the major human blood types. With his discovery he laid the foundation for modern-day blood transfusions. In 1930 he received the Nobel Prize for his discovery of the major human blood types and their role in blood transfusions. Together with Alexander Wiener he discovered the Rhesus factor in 1940. Today, more than 75 blood type classifications and over 500 factors have been identified.

100th Anniversary of the Inauguration of Austria's First Public Motor Transport



Issued 16.6.2000. ANK 2357: 9Sch. The stamp shows a Cannstatter Daimler bus. Colour: Photo: ultramarine- grey, light violet-blue; Intaglio dark-blue-grey. Perf $14 \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,100,000. Design & engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler. Printing ÖSD.

Licences for passenger transportation by motorized vehicles were introduced in 1895, although vehicles suited for scheduled service became available only in 1900. The first operational route was from Imst to Reutte in the summer of 1900; a consortium had been granted concessions in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy as early as 1897 but was unable to acquire the appropriate vehicles necessary to begin scheduled operation. The Cannstatt Daimler Omnibus which serves as this stamp's motif boasted an eight horsepower twin-head engine with rear wheel drive. Each of the wooden wheels has six-inch wide iron hooping. This particular bus began operating on the route from Purkersdorf to Gablitz on June 16, 1900.

National Customs and Folklore Treasures: International Raft Meet



Issued 25.8.2000. ANK 2359: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: ultramarine, turquoise-blue, grey-black, dark blue-green, purple-red-lilac, orange-brown; Intaglio black. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,900,000. Design Auguste Böcskőr, engraved Maria Laurent. Printing ÖSD.

The origins of rafting are closely associated with those of the timber trade. The earliest documented evidence of trade on the Drava dates back to the year 1209. Rafting on the Drava traditionally began at Easter and lasted until November. Rafts were assembled on the Drava's natural tributaries. The first step involved constructing the floor of the raft, which consisted of three or four panels. One panel consisted of 10 to 15 logs bound together, each approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ m in length. Midway through each panel a rod extended from one to the next and back again, thereby preventing individual parts of the raft from shifting sideways into each other. A rudder, one located at the front and one at the rear, allowed the raft to be steered. The front helmsman was responsible for changes in direction, while the rear steersman was charged with straightening the raft's position. This required much skill, concentration, and above all in-depth understanding of the patterns of the Drava. This year marked the twelfth International Raft Meet, and rafts from many European countries took part.

100th Anniversary of the Vienna Philharmonic

Issued 15.9.2000. ANK 2360: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: turquoise-blue, yellow, pale-purple-red, silver; Intaglio dark-blue. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,900,000. Design Prof Otto Stefferl, engraved Prof Werner Pfeiler. Printing ÖSD. The Vienna Philharmonic performed its first concert on October 30, 1900 under the name Wiener Concert Verein under which it was founded. The Wiener Concert Verein joined together with the Wiener Tonkünstler Orchester founded in 1907 and then in 1933 merged with the Wiener Sinfonie Orchester to form the Vienna Philharmonic. Subsequent funding was provided by the city of Vienna supplemented by subsidies from the Federal Government. The politico-cultural function of the Vienna Philharmonic and of its forerunners was clearly established from the beginning: making art new and accessible to always-expanding circles of interest. A commitment to all things modern shaped the program planning as well. Approximately one thousand world premieres have been performed, from Bruckner's 9th Symphony to a brilliant "Lulu" by Alban Berg. The Vienna Philharmonic's realm of responsibility has widened many times since 1900, yet the goal has always remained the same: conveying art to humanity



UNESCO World Heritage List: Hallstatt - Dachstein in the Salzkammergut



Issued 15.9.2000. ANK 2361: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: light cobalt-blue, greenish-yellow, lilac-crimson, brown-ochre, green-grey; Intaglio: dark green-blue. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,900,000. Design Auguste Böcskör, engraved Maria Laurent. Printing ÖSD

The habitat of the Salzkammergut, an alpine and foothill territory situated within the catchment area of the upper Traun, owes its name and cultural landscape to documented records of salt mining in ancient times. In addition to mountains, the Salzkammergut abounds with forests, meadows, pastures, and even lakes. In many ways the beauty of the lakes in this abundance of contrasting landscapes that spans three provinces is witnessed in the reflections of steep cliffs on the water's surface and in the green, blue, often nearly "black" water. Originally associated only with the "Ischl Land", this overall impression extends throughout the Traun and Atter regions. The "Hallstatt-Dachstein" part of the Salzkammergut has been included on the UNESCO World Heritage List since December 1997, as "an extraordinary example of a natural landscape of unique beauty and scientific significance, which gives testimony to past and future human, scientific, and cultural pursuits".

2000 Summer Olympics



Issued 15.9.2000. ANK 2362: 9Sch. Colour: Photo: cornflower-blue, dark violet-blue, orange-yellow, green, scarlet, orange-brown, black, gold; Intaglio brown-violet. Perf $14 \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,200,000. Design Prof Gottfried Kumpf, engraved Prof Wolfgang Seidel. Printing ÖSD

The 2000 Summer Olympic Games took place from September 15 to October 1 in Sydney, Australia. Twenty-eight athletic disciplines with a total of 300 competitions were scheduled: 168 for men, 120 for women, and twelve mixed competitions; roughly 10,400 athletes from 199 National Olympic

Committees around the world were expected to participate. Two disciplines - taekwondo and triathlon - were represented at the Olympic level for the first time.

Print and Paper



Issued 13.10.2000. ANK 2363: 6.50Sch. Colour: Photo: ultramarine, scarlet, grey-black, chamois, gold; Intaglio black. Perf $14 \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,000,000. Design Stephanie Guberner, engraved Gerhart Schmirnl. Printing ÖSD.

From its inception the labour movement did not restrict itself to securing material growth and advancement. In addition to a shorter workday, improved economic and social conditions, and liberation from the authoritarian bonds of capitalism, workers strove for higher education standards. The Trade Union

for Printing and Paper was founded in Vienna in 1842 as a support organisation for letterpress printers who had fallen ill and for type-founders in general. It was therefore the next logical step to expand technical education beyond the framework of each individual's own occupation, and in 1897 some colleagues felt the need to create a union to achieve this. More so than other professions, the graphic profession is subject to ever-changing tastes and preferences and relies heavily on large-scale continuing education.

Modern Art in Austria: 26th Value



Issued 13.10.2000. ANK 2364: 7Sch. The stamp shows Ida Szigethy's work entitled "Turf Turkey". Colour: Photo: ultramarine, chrome-yellow, lilac, green-emerald, dark-violet, silver; Intaglio dark-brown. Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,900,000. Design Ida Szigethy, engraved Prof Wolfgang Seidel. Printing ÖSD

Ida Szigethy on herself: "I gleaned my first artistic impressions during my youth in the so-called 'Strohkoffer' (straw bag) Art Club. The Art Club was my destination almost every day, even throughout high school, and it was the most fascinating place to meet in Vienna. Since my father was a writer and my mother a concert pianist, I was never a stranger to the arts. The large Klee exhibit in the Secession impressed me the most, followed by paintings by Rudolf Hausner and the Surrealists and the first Hundertwasser exhibit of paintings and objects in the Art Club in 1952. In those days my friends were

the as yet unknown poets Konrad Bayer, H.C. Artmann, Gerhard Rühm, and Oswald Wiener. It was during these years that I first began to paint."

Antique Handicrafts: Codex of 965 (in the National Library)



Issued 13.10.2000. ANK 2365: 8Sch. Colour: Photo: cobalt, blue-green, greenish-yellow, red, yellow-brown; Intaglio black. Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,200,000. Design & engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler. Printing ÖSD.

The illustration displayed on the stamp originates from a late thirteenth century manuscript and depicts the 12th century author Hugo de Folieto dressed as a monk from the High Middle Ages, donning a tonsure and a wide hooded cloak. He is bending over a desk, holding an eraser knife in his left hand, which serves to make corrections and which prevent the pages from folding over, and a diagonally cut quill in his right hand. Written in Vienna, the Codex of 965 contains several texts of a theological nature, by authors such as Hugo de Folieto, Hugo de S. Victore and Anselmus Cantuariensis. The

script is adorned with opaque lettering and numerous Lombard fleurons. Originally discovered in Vienna's Scottish Monastery, evidence of the Codex dates back to the Middle Ages. From there the parchment (consisting of 135 pages of script, each measuring about 28 x 19 cm) found its way into the Royal Vienna Library in the 16th century.

200th Anniversary of Vaccinations in Austria



Issued 24.11.2000. ANK 2366: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: grey-brown; Intaglio dark black-brown. Perf 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x14 $\frac{1}{4}$. Issue 2,800,000. Design Peter Sinaweil, engraved Prof Wolfgang Seidel. Printing ÖSD

The history of man is characterised not only by wars, but also by the progression of diseases such as the plague and smallpox. On December 10th 1800 Jean de Carro carried out the first public immunisation campaign in Brunn am Gebirge. Historically, the smallpox vaccine can be regarded as a model: it achieved great importance to society by having been the first vaccine ever invented and ultimately led to the world-wide eradication of the disease. Other vaccines known to us today are linked to the discovery of bacteria by Robert Koch and

Louis Pasteur. This spawned dramatic accomplishments in the field of immunology, particularly in serum development (diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis).

50th Anniversary of the Association of Austrian Adult Education Centers



Issued 24.11.2000. ANK 2367: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: light grey, gold; Intaglio brown-crimson. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,800,000. Design Peter Sinaweil, engraved Kurt Leitgeb. Printing ÖSD.

In December 1950 Austria's Association of Adult Education Centers was formed in Vienna's Urania Observatory. The association was established to oversee adult education centres and their regional bodies. At present, 293 adult education centres offer nearly 45,000 courses and seminars each year, with one half million enrollees.

This is complimented by a multitude of unique one-time events: lectures, field trips, films, etc. In addition, selected adult education centers and regional organizations offer continuing education programs, many of which last over a period of years and are in many cases financed at least in part by the European Union's education fund. The broadness of their scope makes adult education centers the largest mechanism within Austria's system of continuing adult education. The centers consider themselves committed to the pursuit of democracy, human rights, and political independence. In line with this, they seek to prohibit and actively resist all discriminatory tendencies and activities which are anti-democratic, racist, anti-Semitic, or anti-women.

Christmas 2000



Issued 1.12.2000. ANK 2368: 7Sch. Colour: Photo: light cobalt-blue, yellow, dark pink-lilac, light-rose, emerald-green, gold; Intaglio dark-red-brown. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 13,000,000. Design Prof Sepp Buchner, engraved Prof Wolfgang Seidel. Printing ÖSD

The late Gothic wood relief in the side-wing of the altar of St. Martin's Church in Ludesch in the Walser Valley in Vorarlberg forms the motif of this year's Christmas stamp. The carved interior of the altar wings depicts four scenes from the birth of Christ. The High Altar created in the year 1629 is the eye-catcher of the entire Sacristy. Indeed individual sections of the altar probably date back to the 16th century. In the center stands Mary with the Christ Child on her right arm. On her right stand St. Lucius, Patron Saint of the Bishopric of Chur, and St. Martin, Patron of the church. The first

documented evidence of the church's existence dates back to the year 842. Archaeological excavations have revealed that the ground plan and brickwork of the original construction go as far back as the 8th century. The church of St. Martin is considered the symbol of Ludesch.

2001 World Championships in Alpine Skiing - St. Anton am Arlberg



Issued 15.12.2000. ANK 2369: 7Sch. [The issue of this '2001' stamp in 2000 caused considerable irritation amongst philatelists and dealers!] Colour: Photo: ultramarine, cobalt, crimson, yellow; Intaglio blue. Perf $14 \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Issue 2,900,000. Design Elmar Peintner, engraved Robert Trsek. Printing ÖSD

The 2001 World Championships in Alpine Skiing in St. Anton am Arlberg marks the centennial of what is perhaps the most famous ski club in the world, the Arlberg Ski Club which founded alpine racing. On January 3rd 1901, alpine ski enthusiasts formed the Arlberg Ski Club in the Hospice of St. Christopher.

The international significance of this club first became clear in 1928 with the first race in Arlberg-Kandahar. The club's legendary member Hannes Schneider together with Englishman Sir Arnold Lunn conceived the idea behind this event one year earlier. The Arlberg Ski Club has produced many famous male and female downhill racers. Two of them have achieved eternal fame: Hannes Schneider and Karl Schranz. The issue of this stamp not only serves to propagate and document the significance of the world championships and their venue, but also to continue a philatelic "ski tradition".