

2001

Hunting and Environment: Protection of wet biotopes



Issued 16.2.2001. ANK 2370: 7 Sch. Colours: photo: turquoise-blue, lemon-yellow, crimson, grey-black, yellow-brown, black. Perf 14x14 Issue 4,000,000. Design Mag. Valentin Wurnitsch.

In the past, wet biotopes were drained for use by agriculture. Nowadays hunters and some interested landowners try very hard, not only to ensure conservation of those wet biotopes which still exist and to enhance their quality by creating ponds and planting appropriate woods, but also to create new wet biotopes in the interest of many animals like frogs, all kinds of ducks, and rare aquatic birds such as night-herons, cormorants etc. Hunting associations spend considerable sums on conservation of areas important for aquatic game. An example is the Grabensee project near Marchegg, where we find the biggest duck, stork, and heron colonies in Austria including the most important central European natural breeding colony of storks which still build their nests in trees.

100th Anniversary of Zillertal Railway



Issued 30.3.2001. ANK 2371: 7 Sch. Colours: photo: turquoise-blue, lemon-yellow, crimson, grey, blue-black, brown-red, pale-brown; intaglio: black. Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 2,700,000. Design Marianne Siegl. Engraving Gerhart Schmir.

The stamp shows steam engine number 3. This single-track 760 mm narrow-gauge railway runs 32km from Jenbach to Mayrhofen in the Tirol, only a 97m difference in altitude. It was planned for tourism also, connects villages, and is heavily used even in this motorised era. A hundred years ago the railway had 118,000 passengers, last year some two million. Short distance regular traffic is provided by railcars (and buses: shh!), excursion traffic mostly by one of the six steam locomotives, pulling nostalgic passenger coaches. Regular traffic runs at 50 km/h; tourist trains with up to 26 coaches run at 35km/h to let the passengers have a good look at the beautiful countryside. Hobby drivers can hire a special steam locomotive: top speed 25km/h. Parties can hire a social coach decorated with 62,000 Swarovski crystals, a buffet coach, an open sight-seeing car, a beer wagon, and even a “Wild West” train. This small railway has a considerable freight traffic: 450,000 tons last year (2000), of which 300,000 tons was wood forwarded to two processing plants. This was the largest freight volume ever transported on this railroad. A special postmark showing a small steam locomotive was used on the first day of validity of the stamp.

Austrian Soccer Champions: Sports Club Wüstenrot Salzburg



Issued 30.3.2001. ANK 2372: 7 Sch. Colours: photo: turquoise-blue, lemon-yellow, pale-purple-red, violet, black. Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 2,600,000 Design Hannes Margreiter.

The former soccer clubs “FC Hertha” and “FC Rapid” merged in 1933 to become “SV Austria Salzburg” bearing purple-white colours. The name was changed into “SV Casino Salzburg” in 1978, and finally in 1997, “SV Wüstenrot Salzburg” after its major sponsor (Wüstenrot is a financial organisation similar to a building society). Salzburg first came to the national division A in 1953, and after a very difficult period re-entered the first national division in 1989. In 1992 the club was second in the Austrian championship, and in 1993, 1994, and 1997 Austrian champion. In 1993 and 1994 the Salzburg soccer club also won

the Austrian super-cup. In 1994 the team was the first Austrian representative in the Champions League in which it also participated in 1995 and 1997. In 1997 the club took part in the UEFA cup. [See 'Austria' 135 for an article illustrated in colour on the design process of this stamp.]

National Customs and Folklore Treasures: The Boat Mill at Mureck



Issued 30.3.2001. ANK 2373: 8 Sch. Colours: photo: turquoise-blue, yellow, crimson, ochre-yellow, grey-black; intaglio: dark-violet-brown. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 2,000,000. Design Maria Schulz. Engraving Prof Wolfgang Seidel.

A description of a water mill resembling those still in use in the Austrian countryside was written in 25BC. Some five hundred years later, when the water supply to Rome had been destroyed by the Ostrogoths, Romans used wheeled boats stationed in the Tiber to scoop up water. Boat mills were later common on the Danube, the Rhine, the Drau and other rivers. 150 years ago there were still 43 such boat mills on the Mur in the Radkersburg region, but they all fell into decay. Societies developed in many places to restore old mills or to build new ones based on ancient plans, like the one in Mureck. Today this mill treats and sells organically grown wheat, common spelt, and rye. Customers may even taste Styrian specialities in the adjacent farmhouse.

75th Anniversary of Salzburg Airport



Issued 20.4.2001. ANK 2374: 14 Sch. Colours: photo: blue, scarlet, sepia; intaglio: dark-red-brown. Perf $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ Issue 1,600,000. Design Peter Konkolits. Engraving Robert Trsek.

Salzburg airpost was first opened on 22 May 1926, and the traffic steadily increased until WWII. In 1944 the USAF bombed it (but missed); they took it over in 1945. After the war, traffic was slowly re-established, and following long discussions an expansion plan was started in 1959, involving new runways, rebuilt autobahns etc. to take larger aeroplanes bringing the rapidly-expanding tourist traffic. Further expansion followed of runway and buildings; in 2000 the "Salzburg Airport W A Mozart" handled 1,265,000. The stamp shows the first airport building.

Rolf Rüdiger

Issued 20.4.2001. ANK 2375: 7 Sch. Colours: photo: yellow-orange, red, turquoise-blue, dark-blue-grey, black. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 2,700,000. Design Elisabeth Pirker, Peter Widmann. The stamp shows Rolf Rüdiger, a character from the children's TV series Confetti-TiVi. Extract from script: *Rolf, what do you think of your stamp?* Very tasty! *Yes... apart from that?* Well, I can send my love letters with my own stamp on them, which is more than the President of Austria can!



Natural Beauties in Austria: Bärenschützklamm in Styria



Issued 4.5.2001. ANK 2376: 7 Sch. Colours: photo: turquoise-blue, lemon-yellow, purple-red-lilac, blue-green; intaglio violet-black. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 2,700,000. Design Peter Sinawehl. Engraving Kurt Leitgeb.

A water-carrying gorge is one of the most beautiful things nature has to offer. The stamp shows the exceptional impression made by such a natural monument, 1300 metres long and made accessible by 164 bridges and 51 ladders. Because one becomes tired and hungry when climbing 2500 steps in 2 hours, an inn with the name "The Good Shepherd" offers refreshments at the end of the hike. Nature offers everything that can be expected: a

50 meter high roaring waterfall, numerous cascades, bizarre rock formations, niches, grooves, a rock cathedral called in the vernacular “Gigeritzkirchen”, a genuine bear cave in the neighbourhood, and views of 400 million years of nature. In former times the gorge was accessible only to experienced climbers, but since 1901, when the Graz Alpine Club built a path, it can be hiked through with normal equipment. Today, the Austrian Alpine Association is responsible for the maintenance of this path, which proves very costly as its repeated destruction by floods is practically unavoidable.

Popular Customs and Folklore Treasures: Lent Cloth from Eastern Tirol



Issued 4.5.2001. ANK 2377: 7 Sch. Colours: photo: grey-black, lemon-yellow, crimson, brown-ochre, reddish-ochre, turquoise-blue; intaglio dark-violet-brown. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 2,700,000 Design Maria Schulz. Engraving Prof Wolfgang Seidel.

So-called Lent Cloths are to veil the altar during Lent, as according to medieval belief the penitent human is not worthy to look at God. The custom started in the 10th century, was further spread in the late middle ages, then cut back by the Reformation and by Joseph II's policies, and has nowadays been revived. While the cloths were originally plain, they were later embroidered or painted. A particularly beautifully painted, 32 square meters large cloth from 1640, restored only recently by the federal department for monuments, can be found in the folklore museum at Laudongasse, 1080 Vienna. In a 'picture bible' of 36 fields, it shows the whole Salvation History including Ascension Day and the Coronation of Maria. Naturally it is not possible to illustrate the whole cloth on one postage stamp. Maria Schulz, the stamp designer, has chosen the Annunciation with the archangel Gabriel and Maria in the centre and surrounded them with other 18 smaller pictures from the creation of mankind to the entombment of Christ.

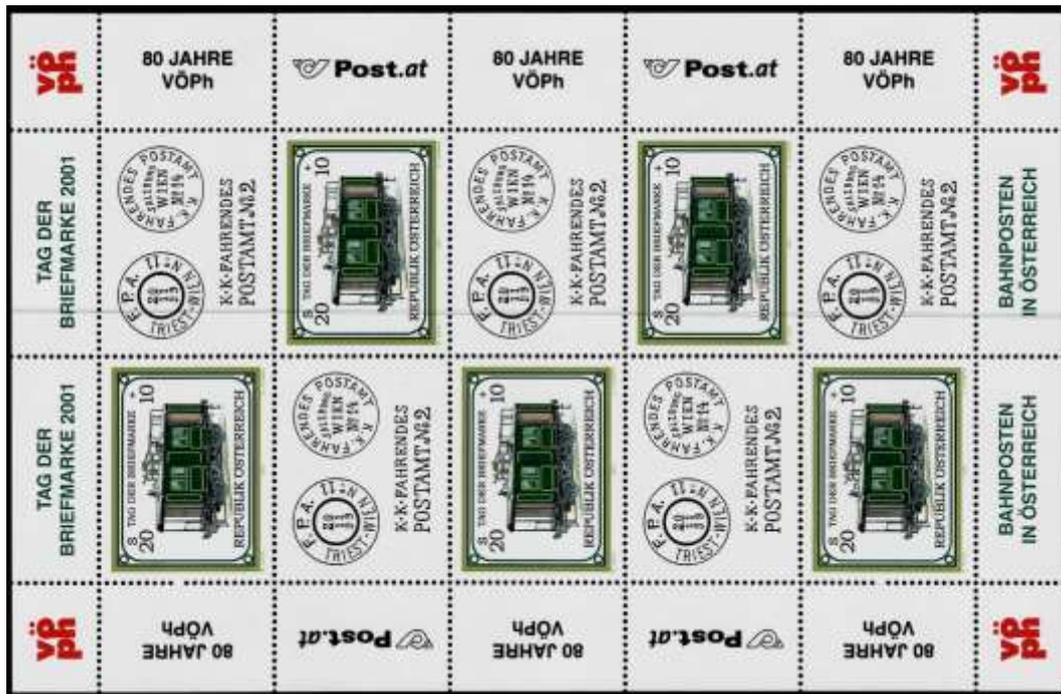
Europe 2001



Issued 18.5.2001. ANK 2378: 15 Sch. Colours: photo: blue, turquoise-blue, yellow, light-violet-blue, blue-black, silver. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 1,500,000. Design Mag Otmar Grisseemann.

The specific topic of Posteurop for 2001 was “Water”. Only 3% of the water available on earth is fresh water of which only 10% is usable. The annual water requirement of Austria is approximately 2.6 billion m³, with the supply being 84 billion m³. With a need of 3% of the total water resource, Austria is a country rich in water. The European Parliament and the Council has been dealing with the problem of a common water policy for 3 years. In 2000, an agreement regarding “water overall guidelines” was reached, with sustainable water utilisation having highest priority. A high level in water management is to be achieved with new quality and monitoring standards. The principal objectives are among other things (a) extension of water protection on all waters including coastal (b) reaching and preservation of a high quality (c) a strong integration of the population in planning and decision-making processes (d) a gradual reduction of discharges of dangerous materials. Although in Austria many of these aims are already common practice, due to the federal structure and the fact that property owners are also the owner of the underlying groundwater, much improvement remains to be accomplished.

Day of the postage stamp



Issued 18.5.2001. ANK 2379: 20 + 10 Sch. Colours: photo: yellow-green, dark-blue-green, green-blue, brown-orange, ochre-yellow, olive-green; intaglio: black. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 1,100,000 Design Marianne Siegl. Engraving Gerhart Schmir. l.

After 10 years of combining two letters of the two words “Philatelie” and “Briefmarke” on a postage stamp, it was generally desired to bring the topic of the “Day of the Postage Stamp” issue closer to the subject of philately. Therefore Erich Bober, President of the VOePh, had the agreement of all other members when he suggested the use of TPOs (post office railway cars) from various times. Similar to the “On the way to WIPA” mini-sheets, TPOs from the monarchy and the first & second republics will be presented on three new postage stamps. TPOs will in any case soon cease to exist, as the time a train now stops in a station is too short for the interchange of mail, and as large stationary sorting machines generally replace the hand sorting of letter post. The artist Marianne Siegl created the postage stamp following a model from the Viennese Technical Museum. The first Austrian TPO operated between Vienna and Oderberg in 1843. As it needed more space than the usual four-wheel cars, two were coupled together, the adjacent walls removed and the sides connected with leather bellows. The postage stamp is printed in small sheets with 10 fields with every second field (left and right alternately) being an ornamental field displaying old TPO cancels. The blackprint has a 3-page essay by C Kainz on the history of the TPO.

100 years of Austrian Aero Club



Issued 8.6.2001. ANK 2380: 7 Sch. Colours: photo: turquoise-blue, scarlet, blue, light-violet, ultramarine-grey, sienna, gold; intaglio: black. Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x14. Issue 2,700,000. Design Auguste Böcskör Engraving Maria Laurent.

The two free balloons “Jupiter” and “Saturn” marked the beginning of the 100-year old history of the Club. In 1901 approximately 50 members made 20 balloon flights. In 1903 one balloon flew 6,810 meters high and in 1906 the Club participated in a sporting balloon competition in Berlin. Between 1910 and 1914 “motor-flying” developed rapidly. After WWI the association lost both its aircraft and its fortune. After WWII, flying was generally forbidden; only in 1949 was “glider sport” approved by the Allies. Today the Aero Club is a federation with 550 Associations and 17,000 members. It is active in the sports of amateur built aircraft, ballooning, parachuting, hang-glider, aeromodelling, power flying, paragliding, gliding, microlight, and in the organisation of the civil airfields. The Austrian Aero Club is a non-profit organisation within the Worldwide “Federation Aeronautique International” and regards it as its function to promote general aviation as well as the sport of flying, and to ensure a free air space. It organizes technical and aeronautic training courses as well as aviation meetings and events up to world championship.

50 years UN High Commissioner for Refugees



Issued 8.6.2001. ANK 2381: 21 Sch. Colours: photo: violet-blue, dark-pink-lilac, silver; intaglio: black. Perf 14x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 1,500,000. Design Prof Otto Stefferl. Engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler.

The office of the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR for short) has existed since 1951 and has its seat in Geneva. Forerunners of the UNHCR were a refugee organisation of the “League of Nations”, and an international UN refugees organisation which existed from 1946 to 1951. The role of the UNHCR is to guarantee that states adhere to conventions on which they have agreed, that the rights of refugees are respected, and that refugees are not sent back to countries where they are exposed to danger. The organisation has about 5000 employees, & supplies the refugees with basic necessities and medical care. In 1954 and 1981 the UNHCR received the Nobel Peace Prize for its activities. The magnitude of the problem is enormous: worldwide 50 million humans are affected with 1.8 millions being Kurds, 3.5 millions Yugoslavs, 2.7 millions Afghans, 1 million from the Kosovo, 2 millions from Rwanda, etc. Austria's refugee problem is modest in comparison, with about 3,000 to 10,000 “general” refugees per year. Moreover it cares for 280,000 ethnic German, 200,000 Hungarians (from the rebellion in 1956) 162,000 Czechs and Slovaks (at the end of the “Prague spring”), 33,000 Poles (imposition of martial law in 1981). The numbers change constantly but during the last conflict in the Balkans, Austria had to take in at least 60,000.

Semmering Railway



Issued 8.6.2001. ANK 2382: 35 Sch. Colours: photo: ultramarine, lemon-yellow, cream, rose, ultramarine-grey; intaglio: dark-black-brown. Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 1,500,000. Design Peter Sinaweil. Engraving Prof Wolfgang Seidel.

The stamp shows the “Kalte Rinne” viaduct. The route of the railway over the Semmering pass is so outstanding that even today it still earns admiration. Rarely have nature and technique been linked in such a perfect way. While Carl Ritter von Ghenga used all the technical possibilities available at that time to build the first mountain railway, he also achieved an integration of

the railway into the landscape. The often-changing views make the traveller regret that the travel time has been reduced from 2 hours to only 43 minutes since the railway operation started in 1854. Today the 41km mountainous route covers a height difference of 460 meters and crosses 16 viaducts and 15 tunnels at a speed of 58 kilometres per hour, instead of the 23kph achieved in 1854. The Semmering railway line provides ideal test conditions for all new rolling stock: people living near the railway are able to admire the newest designs a long time before their official use.

7th IVV Hiking Olympics



Issued 22.6.2001. ANK 2383: 7 Sch. Colours: photo: dark-yellow-green, green, yellow, crimson, ultra-marine, black. Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄ Issue 2,500,000. Design Michelle Schneeweiß.

Public running competitions with untrained runners attempting winning times can result in heart attacks and even death. This led to the conviction that hiking without any time pressure would be much healthier than competitive running. In 1968 associations from Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Austria founded the “International folk-sport-association” (IVV in German: short for Internationaler Volkssport-Verband). As they failed to link with other sports associations, a separate organisation was built up, now including associations from twenty countries. The idea was very successful of taking part in hiking, biking and skiing competitions following the Olympic thought “it’s taking part that counts” without any pressure to win. In the year 2000, 5,200 member associations brought more than 15 million people to hiking in 7,850 competitions following I.V.V. guidelines. There are no time limits and no time checks; only control points to be passed. In June 20-24 2001 the public Olympics in Seefeld offered 10, 20 and 42km hiking routes, one children's hiking route, one mountainous route, 25 and 50 km biking routes and 500 and 1000 metres swimming routes. The postage stamp “Seppl, the hiking marmot” was designed by the then 7 year old Michelle Schneeweiß. The special cancel shows the mark of an old hiking boot.

Field-post service in foreign countries



Issued 22.6.2001. ANK 2384: 7 Sch. Colours: photo: blue, turquoise-blue, lemon-yellow, crimson, black. Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄ Issue 2,500,000. Design Marianne Siegl.

The stamp shows the old Field Post Office at Famagusta. One can confidently agree with the statement that a military unit is as reliable as its postal service home. The charter of the United Nations states among other things: “We, the members of the United Nations, determined to protect the next generation from the scourge of war, have decided to unite our efforts to achieve these intentions.” Austria, a member of the UN since December 14, 1955, has fulfilled several obligations including the taking of measures in cases of threats to peace. Compared to its size, Austria has taken part in a disproportionately large number of peace-keeping operations.

Popular traditions and folklore: Preberschiessen, Salzburg



Issued 24.8.2001. ANK 2385: 7Sch. Colours: photo: grey-black, lemon-yellow, turquoise-blue, crimson; intaglio: dark-crimson-brown. Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄ Issue 2,000,000. Design Maria Schulz. Engraving Prof Wolfgang Seidel.

The Preber is a 2741m high mountain near Tamsweg in the Lungau, with a small lake, the Prebersee, at its base which is popular in summer for bathing. Several times in the year there is a special activity: shooting at water disks. The shooters aim at the reflection of 6 targets on the water surface. The

projectiles touch the surface, change direction and meet, if everything goes well, the actual disks, set up at a distance of 120 m. At the shooting range, the result of the shots is shown on six elevated disks between three disks at the water's edge on the left and three on the right. The origin of the unique tradition of "water disk shooting" is not well-known, the only authentic knowledge being that it has been operated since 1832. The postage stamp is designed by Maria Schulz, and engraved by Professor Wolfgang Seidl.

Four-tracking of the railway line from Vienna westwards



Issued 31.8.2001. ANK2386: 7Sch. Colours: photo: chamois, cobalt, grey-black, red, silver, brown, yellow; intaglio: black. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 1,500,000. Design Peter Sinawebl. Engraving Kurt Leitgeb.

The renewal of the railway system is highly necessary after more than one century of neglect and the ever more successful competition from road traffic. Due to topographic conditions and population density, not high-speed lines but high-capacity railways are constructed, which allow not only long-distance traffic with a speed of 200km/h and more, but regional traffic as well. During construction and operation, a main consideration is the disturbance to those living nearby, as well as to nature: so, many kilometres of noise abatement walls and in certain cases noise abatement windows and ventilators are planned. The postage stamp will be issued at the same time as the opening of the line between St. Peter - Seitenstetten and Haag - St. Valentin. 43km of new construction between St. Pölten and Ybbs are already in operation. A total of 80km of high capacity network are already finished. By the end of 2010 the four-tracking of the railway line between Vienna and Linz should be completed. The postal stamp showing a new section of the line as well as a "Taurus" engine was designed by Peter Sinawebl, engraved by Kurt Leitgeb.

Modern Art in Austria - Leherb



Issued 14.9.2001. ANK 2387: 7Sch. Colours: photo: ultramarine, yellow-brown, ochre-yellow, chamois, crimson; intaglio: dark-red-brown. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 1,500,000. Design Helmut Leherb. Engraving Prof Wolfgang Seidel.

The stamp shows the symbolic figure of modern Australia, a part of the cycle "The Continents". The surrealist artist Helmut Leherb (born Leherbauer on 14 March 1933, died 28 June 1997) created this gigantic, 380sqm work of art in faience technique in the Great Hall of the Viennese University of Economics. The incredible work of art consists of 3500 ceramic tiles, in the faience technique further developed by Leherb; at the same time the artist brought the almost-forgotten technique of multi-layered glazes once again to life. In order to achieve the desired effects, the artist had to overcome many difficulties of a very complicated production, including illness and a 2 year interruption caused by the dust from the materials he used.

200th Birthday of Johann Nestroy



Issued 14.9.2001. ANK2388: 7Sch. Colours: photo: turquoise-blue, yellow; lilac-pink, dark-blue-grey, brownish-red, cobalt, gold; intaglio: black-brown. Perf $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{4}$ Issue 2,000,000. Design Prof Otto Stefferl. Engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler.

20 year old Johann Nepomuk Eduard Ambrosius Nestroy, born in Vienna December 7, 1801, came to the theatre after studying law, first as an opera singer, then as actor and singer. He wrote 80 stage plays with effective songs, which are still performed now. His break-through to success came in 1832 at the Theater an der Wien with the farce "The bad spirit Lumpazivagabundus

(Der böse Geist Lumpazivagabundus)” written in a style reminiscent of Ferdinand Raimund. Between 1838 and 1844 he inspired with many contemporary plays such as “The Talisman (Der Talisman)” and “The girl from the suburb (Das Mädchen aus der Vorstadt)”. In 1854 he became director of the Leopoldstädter Theater. In 1860 he withdrew to Graz, where he died on May 25, 1862. He perfected the type of the “Viennese folks theatre”, was a master of dialect and high-level language, enjoyably using malicious satire with earthy comedy to denounce the weaknesses of the society of his time - but he did not forget conciliatory humour. The critic Karl Krauss (1874-1936), a recognized moralist of his time, stated that Nestroy's plays, although written for the popular theatre, had much higher quality than required - leading to a rediscovery of Nestroy's plays in the 20th Century.

125th Death Anniversary of the painter and draughtsman Joseph Ritter von Führich



Issued 14.9.2001. ANK 2389: 8Sch. Colours: photo: light-greenish-blue; intaglio: blue-green. Perf 14x13³/₄ Issue 1,900,000. Design Mag Michael Fuchs. Engraving Prof Wolfgang Seidel.

Joseph Ritter von Führich, born in Kratzau in 1800 (today Chrastava in Northern Bohemia) inherited the talent from his father, also a painter. Two of Führich's own paintings met with such approval that he was admitted to the Prague Academy in 1819. Finally his works were recognized by a group of aristocrats, including Prince Metternich. This enabled Führich to start further training in Italy in 1826; in this time of classicism a stay in Rome was an uppermost interest for a young artist. There he met prominent German romantics such as Koch, Schnorr von Carolsfeld and Overbeck; the latter arranged for Führich to decorate a room designed by Overbeck in the Massimi mansion. The fresco cycle developed there is one of the highlights of romantic painting. In 1829 Führich returned to Prague, in 1834 he became curator of the academic picture gallery in Vienna, and in 1840 he started teaching as professor for history painting at the Viennese academy of arts. Three of his most well-known works are the Stations of the Cross frescoes in the Johann Nepomuk church in Vienna, a cycle from the “First Day of Creation” up to “Judgement Day” in the new building of the Altlerchenfelderkerche, and finally the cycle “the lost son”, a detail of which served as the model for the new postage stamp.

Old arts and crafts - Pluviale

Issued 14.9.2001. ANK 2390: 10Sch. Colours: photo: sulphur-yellow, crimson, turquoise-blue, dark-blue-grey; intaglio: black. Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄ Issue 1,500,000. Design and engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler.



Pluvialis, the latin word for rain, refers to a coat, which, like all other Catholic liturgical garb has its origin in the Roman Mediterranean area. Originally the Pluviale was used as a customary article of clothing, but later on it became a floor length attire for festivities. The Pluviale was made of a semicircular piece of cloth mostly of silk, which was put over the shoulders and held together on the chest with a clasp. On the back the cloth originally formed a hood, which later became a decoration adorned with tassels. The liturgical garment illustrated on the postal stamp is in the cathedral of Feldkirch. A Pluviale is also called a Vesper- or Smoke-coat, because it is worn by priests at processions and religious celebrations using incense. Generally, the Pluviale is worn over an Alb, a floor length, white underdress, or sometimes over a Rochett, a white shirt. Both are usually plentifully adorned at the sleeves and at the hems. Church clothes, as all other clothes, are subject to fashion with the art of the time being expressed in the style. Therefore, Pluviales are found in roman, gothic, baroque and modern styles and cuts, most of the time decorated with embroideries or in recent time coloured in batik technique.

Turkish Vestment



Issued 5.10.2001. ANK 2391: 7Sch. Colours: photo: yellow, brown-orange, blue-grey, cornflower-blue, red; intaglio: black. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 1,500,000. Design and engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler.

At the Carmelite monastery in the Silbergasse in Vienna can be found this Dalmatik (the liturgical garb of a deacon); it is mentioned in the chronicles of the district of Döbling and is said to be made from the material of the tent of the Turkish Grand Vizier Kara Mustafa, captured at the relief of Vienna in 1683. This story is only partially true because the tent had been brought to Poland by the Polish king Sobieski. On the other hand, several more tents of the Turkish supreme command existed. It is said that the Carmelites had received the vestment from a member of the house of Liechtenstein. There, the tent material, a material with an eastern floral embroidery, had been adorned with baroque decor and the coat of arms of the house of Liechtenstein. A Dalmatik originates (as the name implies) from Dalmatia; it refers to a tunic worn by men and women in the Roman empire. Nowadays it refers to a deacon's outer garment.

200th Birthday of the Magician Leopold Ludwig Döbler



Issued 5.10.2001. ANK 2392: 7Sch. Colours: photo: purple-red-lilac, crimson-pink, cornflower-blue, yellow, dark-blue-grey, gold; intaglio: black. Perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 14$ Issue 2,000,000. Design and engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler.

Exactly 200 years before the stamp's day of issue, Döbler was born as the son of a goldsmith from Gmünd and a Viennese woman, in the Viennese suburb of Schottenfeld. He became an engraver, but soon earned his living as a magician in secondary restaurants in the Jägerzeile. At the age of 25 the emperor Franz acknowledged his large talent and unusual technical skill. From 1831 he demonstrated his arts in Germany and later all over Europe. Wherever he came, the theatres were sold out for weeks. Döbler used his knowledge also for lectures in experimental physics, and worked as an inventor. His moving images made a special impression; they can be viewed as forerunners of films, without electrical light. In 1840 he held 61 magic performances within 10 weeks in the Viennese Josefstadt theatre, which were all sold out. His main attraction was small bouquets wrapped in white lace paper, which he conjured from a battered top hat and then threw in large numbers with a flattering verse to his audience. From 1850 he was mayor of Eschenau, later buying a castle and entertaining European aristocracy. He died on 17 April 1864

150 years of the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics

Issued 5.10.2001. ANK 2393: 12Sch. Colours: photo: ultramarine, lemon-yellow, crimson, gold; intaglio: red-brown. Perf $14 \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ Issue 1,200,000. Design and engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler.



Since the beginning of the 16th century the weather has been regularly monitored in Austria. From 1654 onwards, regular instrumental meteorological observations have been made in Innsbruck; in 1763 the Benedictine monastery in Kremsmünster started an uninterrupted series of meteorological observations; and in 1848 the Imperial Academy of Sciences began to set up a network of meteorological stations. Since their establishment in 1851 the field of activities of the "Hohe Warte" have enormously extended to the following departments: Weather: Short-and-medium-range forecasts, storm and smog warnings, satellite meteorology, analysis and interpretation of numerical weather forecast products. Climatology: Development and application of models, climate variability, bio-climatology, climatological survey of Austria, agro-, hydro-climatology and glaciology.

Environment: Pollutant spreading, precautions against and counselling in crises. Geophysics: Earthquakes, magnetism and ground examinations, seismology, earth magnetism, geophysical survey of Austria, engineering and environmental geophysics. They also give consultant and advisory assistance in diverse areas, eg for the energy sector, the building trade, law and insurance issues etc - the economic return from the modern weather station is many times higher than its budget.

Domestic animal: cat



Issued 5.10.2001. ANK 2394: 19Sch. Colours: photo: crimson, chamois, grey-black, gold; intaglio: violet-black. Perf 13¾x13¾ Issue 1,200,000. Design Manfred Deix. Engraving Robert Trsek.

Our domestic cat probably originates from Egypt, from where it spread due to the trade in the Mediterranean area. Throughout the centuries it has lived with humans to mutual benefit, as the cat was able to protect against the ever-increasing number of rats and mice. In the Middle Ages the cat was regarded as a creature of the devil, and therefore tortured and brutally killed. Today cats live not only on farms in the countryside and follow their “traditional occupation” of mouse-catching, but also live in cities, where they are welcomed because of their cleanliness and their fondness

for playing. The “cat king” stamp was designed by the caricaturist Manfred Deix, who was born in St. Pölten on 22 Feb 1949 and moved to Vienna in 1970. In 1986 he wrote in the book “My Diary” about his 39 cats; today about 100 condescend to live with him. [See also the FDC (First Day Cat?) on the last page.]

The Austrian world of work: Public Service



Issued 16.10.2001. ANK 2395: 7Sch. Colours: photo: turquoise-blue, sulphur-yellow, crimson, sepia, scarlet, gold; intaglio: black. Perf 14x13¾ Issue 1,500,000. Design Stephanie Guberner. Engraving Gerhart Schmirl.

The expression “public service” includes all persons employed to guarantee the citizens security, education, social and health services. Austria's administration is often characterised as ever more complicated, and the need for reforms reiterated - but when

compared with other countries it scores highly in the areas of security, law, health infrastructure, and quality of life. The stamp design shows various public servants, with in the background a representation of an old school class.

Christmas 2001



Issued 30.11.2001. ANK 2396: 7Sch. Colours: photo: chamois, yellow, crimson, turquoise-blue, gold; intaglio: dark-violet-brown. Perf 14x14 Issue 10,000,000. Design Christine Buchner. Engraving Prof Wolfgang Seidel.

Filzmoos is situated to the east of Bischofshofen in a small valley. Once a very poor small village, it nowadays has about 1200 inhabitants and welcomes half a million visitors each year. In the small Gothic church dating from 1474 are interesting frescoes (from about 1515), and a newly designed high altar was installed in 1960. In front of a stained-glass window with a modern depiction of the Holy Ghost is a hanging glass shrine, which contains a clothed figurine

more than 90cm high that represents the infant Jesus. It dates from the 14th century and has a small bell in its right hand and a globe in its left hand, surrounded by a nimbus. According to legend this figurine stood on a tree trunk “where it attracted devout shepherds with the lovely sound of the small bell”.

They brought the figure to the local parson who in those days lived in Altenmarkt; but the next day it was again found on the tree trunk at Filzmoos, whereupon it was taken to the Saints Peter and Paul church there, where it is to be found to this day. Karl Neuhofer from Salzburg drew the special first-day cover postmark of Filzmoos, namely the “Filzmooser Kindl”, the infant Jesus figurine, which is also integrated into the local coat of arms with the church and the characteristic “bishop's mitre” mountain as a background. [This is shown on ANK1587, the 3S value of the Landscapes series, issued on 22 Mar 1974.]

