

# 2003

## Supplementary stamp for Kleinwalsertal



This was issued on 22 January so that people in the Customs Enclaves could frank items at the lower German rate. It's catalogued as ANK2436.

## Graz - World Culture Capital

Issue date: 14.3.2003; €0.58 Perf 13½x14¼; ANK2437; Photogravure: yellow, yellow-green, ultramarine, black. Issue 880,000. Design Vito Acconti & Robert Punkenhofer.

The famous singer and former Minister of Education Melina Mercouri constantly tried to bring together the different peoples of the EU to improve cultural co-operation and to promote cultural aspects alongside economic and political unification. And so in 1985 Athens became the first Cultural Capital of Europe. Graz has today a multicultural tradition and innovation even in the fields of science and economics, and is the best choice as Cultural Capital 2003. Wolfgang Lorenz wants to prove that art and culture are necessary for a liberal and democratic society. The program is chosen under the guiding principle that culture is the most important output civilisation can produce. The reorganisation of public space and infrastructure will change Graz permanently. The island in the river Mur with amphitheatre, cafe and children's playground has since January 2003 been a floating platform for arts and communication.



## Billy Wilder

Issue date: 21.3.2003; €0.58 Perf 13½x14¼; ANK2438; Photogravure: grey-black, black. Issue 500,000. Design Peter Konkolits.



The famous script-writer and director was born in 1906 in Sucha near Krakau in Poland, which that time was part of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. His mother named him Billy after Buffalo Bill! In the beginning Wilder worked as a reporter and journalist in Vienna, and after 1927 as a script-writer in Berlin, where he received attention because of "Emil and the Detectives". But soon Billy Wilder understood that he as a Jew would have no future within the German Reich. In 1933 he travelled to Paris, and in 1934 went to his brother in New York and then on to Hollywood. Employment as a script-writer was made possible with the help of the Austrian Joe May, who was working for Columbia. The later partnership with Manny Wolf led to "Ninotchka" with Greta Garbo. Billy Wilder made his debut as a director with the comedy "The Major and the Minor". Then "Double Indemnity" followed, which is considered as one of the best films ever. In 1945 "The Lost Weekend" won 5 Oscars. Later Wilder co-operated with the denazification in Germany, which became a bitter time for him. He couldn't find his father's grave in the bombed-out Berlin and discovered that his family was murdered in Auschwitz. Back in America he worked on "Witness for the Prosecution", "Some like it hot" with Marilyn Monroe, "The Apartment" (3 Oscars), "The Front Page" and many more unforgettable films. Billy Wilder died in 2002 in Beverly Hills, aged 96.

## Hochzeit

Issue date: 21.3.2003; €0.58 Perf 13½x14¼; ANK2439; Photogravure: straw-yellow, purple red-lilac, ultramarine, black. Issue 2,000,000. Design Peter Konkolits.



Originally the word “Hoch-zeit” (“high-time”) in the German language meant any religious or profane celebration. Today it's the word for the act of marriage only. At the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary people celebrate their silver wedding, at the 50<sup>th</sup> the golden wedding. After 60 years they celebrate the diamond wedding and after 65 or sometimes 75 years follows the iron wedding. World-wide there are very interesting different wedding-traditions, for instance the Jewish, Chinese and the Red Indian customs. In Austria we celebrate with stopping of the bridal procession, bride-stealing, a midnight dance to lift the veil and many more specific customs. The new stamp is meant for wedding announcements and any wedding-related correspondence.

## Confetti: Kasperl

Issue date: 11.4.2003; €0.51 Perf 13¾x13¾; ANK2440; Photogravure: yellow, purple red-lilac, ultramarine, black. Issue 1,000,000. Design Elisabeth Pirker & Peter Widmann.

“Are we all here?!” When the red curtain rose for the first time on Austrian television and Kasperl and his friends greeted the children, no-one knew that this program would develop into a real classic. Still modern and childlike, it is today years later the longest-running program of ORF and part of Austrian culture. Five different puppet-groups perform in turn: Kasperl & Pezi; Kasperl & Strolchi; Kasperl & Buffi (formerly Kasperl & Habakuk); Kasperl & Hopsi; and Kasperl & Co. Nowadays Kasperl runs at the weekend: on Saturday 7:30 a.m., repetitions on Sunday 6:50 a.m. The program is broadcast within CONFETTI TIVI, the children's program of ORF. Grandparents and parents remind their kids of clumsy Dragon Dagobert, scary magician Tintifax, and Strolchi, the faithful little dog. And the kids tell them about the “younger” characters: tricky robber Schlauklau or the silly but loveable witch-sisters Urma and Irma.



## 10 years of ARA

Issue date: 11.4.2003; €0.55 Perf 13¾x13¾; ANK2441; Photogravure: light greenish-blue, light cobalt-blue, yellow, crimson. Issue 1,000,000. Design Till Dellisch.



ARA stands for Altstoff-Recycling-Austria AG, a waste management enterprise. The “Regulation on the avoidance and recycling of packaging waste and particular product residues and the establishment of collection and recycling systems (Packaging Regulation, 1996)” was adopted on the basis of the “Waste Management Act 1990”, and is addressed to manufacturers, importers, packers, packaging distributors and end users. In order to avoid waste, packaging made of paper, cardboard, glass, wood, metal, synthetics, and other materials, in particular organic materials, are to be collected separately.

In order to implement the Regulation, industry set up the ARA company ten years ago with the aim of organising the collection and recycling of packaging waste throughout Austria together with its partners. These partners are largely smaller industrial enterprises, but also include major companies and local government departments responsible for waste collection, together forming a comprehensive network of regional waste disposal partners. By concluding a release and license contract with ARA and by reporting and paying for packaging put into circulation, an enterprise can obtain exemption from the obligations imposed by the Packaging Regulation. Packaging licensed under ARA can be handed over at collection points free of charge if it has been separated into the materials referred to above. [*Visitors to Austrian airports will be familiar with the 3 or 4 separate waste bins and the uncertainty over where to put your empty yoghurt pot!*]

## Design Austria: Glasses by Adolf Loos

Issue date: 11.4.2003; €1,38 Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; ANK2442; Photogravure: green-blue, red, black. Issue 500,000. Design Mag. Robert Sabolovic.



This issue shows a bottle and three glasses from “Bar service No. 248” designed by the designer, architect and critic Adolf Loos. As he himself described it, it is “a simple series with a matt-ground base” made of hand-blown crystal glass, produced in 1931 by J & L Lobmeyer, a company famous for exclusive glassware that still exists in Vienna's Kärtnerstrasse. Alternatively, this set is also referred to as a “Vienna Service”. Loos, born in Brünn in 1870, studied building and architecture in Reichenberg and Dresden, and spent several years in the United States of America. He then became involved in Vienna in the contemporary artistic movement of reducing everything to the essential. His views were strictly against anything ornamental, including Jugendstil, the Vienna Secession and the Wiener Werkstätten, and did not always result in such elegant solutions as the service

presented here. He expressed his views in radical form in his publication “Ornament and Crime”. The building he designed on Vienna's Michaelerplatz in 1909-11 exactly opposite the Imperial palace, and today generally referred to as the Loos house, was hotly contested at the time. It was depicted on the special issue that was released on January 13, 1995 on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Loos' birth. Such was the uproar that completion of the building was only allowed once Loos had agreed to permit window-boxes to be fitted. Rumour had it that Crown Prince Rudolph caused the Hofburg curtains to be kept drawn so that he did not have to look upon “the abomination”!

## Panda research at Schoenbrunn (Block of 2 stamps)

Issue date: 14.4.2003; €0.75 & €1.00 Perf 14x14; ANK2443 & 44; Photogravure: straw-yellow, purple red-lilac, ultramarine, black. Issue 1,500,000 blocks-of-two. Design Adolf Tuma. The circular stamp is 38mm dia.



Zoo director Helmut Pechlaner: “The charismatic pandas are ideal ambassadors for China. They are coming to Austria as a gesture of friendship and will both arouse interest in the vast and mysterious country and advertise for the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature). The enthusiasm that these animals will generate amongst visitors and friends of our zoo will be a powerful reminder of how many fascinating creatures are facing extinction.”

In September 2002, a treaty was signed between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Austria providing for a young panda pair born in Chinese zoos to be brought to Schönbrunn Zoo as part of an international research and breeding programme. The former elephant enclosure was adapted to house them. The main reason for the research project is the serious threat to the species faced with extinction. Relentless deforestation of the bamboo forests has increasingly reduced their habitat and their opportunities to find food, while at the same time the pandas endanger themselves through their unbalanced way of life. 90 % of their diet consists of bamboo, although their digestive system is not really designed for plant food. They are solitary creatures, and in zoos can practically only be reproduced by means of artificial fertilisation. For 20 years, scientists have been studying the reproductive behaviour of the animals with little success.



With the experience acquired, Schönbrunn Zoo is hoping to obtain more detailed information about the social and sexual life, the language, the eating, sleeping and inquisitiveness behaviour of the Pandas by means of round-the-clock observation and the use of infra-red technology. The aim of the ten-year project is to breed a population that can maintain itself.



Marcel Prawy (Block)



Issue date: 24.4.2003; €1.75 Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; ANK2445; Photogravure: straw-yellow, purple red-lilac, ultramarine, black, dark violet-grey. Issue 800,000. Design Christian Scheidl.

Marcel Prawy once said: "I think that as one gets older, one should make life more difficult from day to day. One should always look to see if there is still a hurdle that one can overcome." It was according to this principle that he worked until his death. Until the very end, his diary was filled with appointments, and a number of new projects were planned with the ORF. Umberto Giordano's opera "André Chénier" was to be the subject of the next programme, an undertaking that unfortunately can no longer be completed. Prof. Prawy was one of the most important champions and communicators of culture in Austria. In his unique way, the legendary "Opera guide of the nation" introduced millions to the world of opera, operetta and musicals in countless television programmes, proving to be a "public educator" in the best sense of the word. Whether through his function as head dramaturge at the Volksoper and the Vienna State Opera House, as creator of television and radio programmes or as author, his love - indeed his passion - for music was irresistible. Austria's culture and the ORF will always owe Marcel Prawy a huge debt of thanks. And the "Marcel Prawy commemorative stamp" will help ensure that his memory will always be held in honour. It commemorates a man who, like no other, rendered great services to the popularisation of so-called serious music. The original photo used for the block was by Alexander Zeininger. A special packaging of the block was produced, including a CD of Prawy's favourite music - the block is the size of a CD "jewel" case.



## 1000 years of St Georgen am Längsee convent

Issue date: 25.4.2003; €0.87 Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; ANK2446; Photogravure: turquoise-blue, pale purple-red, greenish-yellow, ultramarine-blue, grey-black. Issue 500,000. Design Maria Schulz.



Between 1002 and 1008, Gräfin Wichpurch founded the first religious institution in Carinthia, a Benedictine convent to replace a small church dedicated to St. George. Probably, the Gräfin was moved to found a convent for aristocratic young women by three circumstances: Her husband, Graf Ottwin von Sonnenburg, had left on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and had gone missing by this time. Her oldest daughter, Hiltiburg, had entered a convent on the Nonnberg. Finally her brother Hartwig had been the Metropolitan of Salzburg since 991. It was he who consecrated the convent and the new church to St. George, providing them with all the usual spiritual and worldly powers of the time. Hiltiburg was the first Abbess; after her death she was succeeded by her sister

Perchkunt.

The convent was rebuilt, in different forms, after each of the many destructions by the Hungarians, by the Turks, and by fire. The rectangular inner courtyard divided by the convent church gives a particularly attractive character to the Renaissance arcade. The two-storey Baroque wing with an arcade of pillars on the courtyard side and along the south side of the church was constructed by P. F. Carlone in 1654-58. A hundred years later, another storey was added to this wing, and rich Baroque decoration was added to the former Gothic convent church with its Romanesque stepped portal.

## Europa 2003: Poster Art

Issue date: 9.5.2003; €1.02 Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; ANK2447; Photogravure: straw-yellow, purple red-lilac, ultramarine, black, silver. Issue 500,000. Design Cordula Alessandri.



It was soon after 1450 that the first posters developed from handbills, but they were mainly used by showmen until the 18th century. The rise of industry, mass production, and the emergence of competition gave increasing importance to advertising and, alongside it, advertising media. To begin with, products were simply presented and their qualities extolled. Senefelder's invention of lithography had a direct effect on posters, which also acquired a particular status as a result of eye-catching advertising for the theatrical world, particularly in Paris around 1890, with Toulouse-Lautrec's posters from that age still being used in modern calendars. Art Nouveau made very frequent use of posters, and indeed artists generally at the

beginning of the 20th century made considerable use of posters for their own self-promotion. After World War II, a very distinctive poster art developed in Europe and Japan. For the Europa special issue, a motif has been selected that was created by Alessandri-Design for the “100 posters from Vienna” exhibition in the Ginza Graphic Gallery, Tokyo, one of the most famous graphic design galleries in the world.

## Day of the Stamp 2003 (sheetlet)

Issue date: 23.5.2003; €2.54+1.26 Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; ANK2448; Photogravure: dark blue-green, yellow-green, black, pale purple-red, yellow, ultramarine. Letterpress: black. Issue 850,000. Design Maria Siegl.



For over a century most mail was transported by passenger trains in special postal carriages. To save time, the mail was sorted during the journey. After WWII separate postal trains were used. Only three of these are still operating today: the “250” between Vienna and Villach, the “300” between Vienna and Innsbruck and the “306” from Vienna to Wolfurt and back. Modern cars which can drive on motorways directly to the addressee, as well as substantial price reductions for air transport, forced the rail companies to decrease journey times. Ideally this is achieved by minimising the time taken for loading and unloading at the stops.

Large fluctuations in the amounts of transported goods pose a problem because loading times cannot be standardised in accordance with the train timetables. Transportation by road, however, is not an environmentally-sound alternative.

Following the idea of Erich Bober, President of VOePh, postal trains are documented on the Day of the Stamp. This year the last of the stamps in this series features the modern Siemens M 320 wagon, which has been operated by the post and telecommunications administration since its inception in 1987. The 10 wagons are designed for a maximum velocity of 160 km/h.

## OeBB Series 5045 Locomotive

Issue date: 6.6.2003; €0.75 Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; ANK2459; Photogravure: ultramarine, yellow, pale purple-red, black. Letterpress: black. Issue 700,000. Design Peter Sinaweil.



During the period following the Second World War the Austrian rail company was finally able to make some crucial investments. Routes where the tracks had either not yet been electrified or where this process was just being implemented required diesel-powered locomotives to establish fast inter-city connections. An initial design by the Simmering-Graz-Pauker Corporation proposed an ambitious concept which was eventually rejected due to anticipated difficulties with restricted railway loading gauges and substantial increases of axle loading.

Instead, a close-coupled double 8-wheeled (in UK, 4-axled) railcar set was introduced, which was referred to as the 5045. The prominent ventilation system was one of the main distinguishing elements of this machine and acted as a reminder of the original design for years to come. Ultimately it was removed because of the restricted railway loading gauge issue mentioned earlier.

The 500 HP engine reached high speeds of around 115 km/h yet it could not really live up to the nickname “Blue Flash” promoted by heavy advertisement campaigns, mainly because ascending slopes lowered the maximum velocity to around 33 km/h. This is substantially slower than steam-powered locomotives. Cross-border services were supplemented by an additional carriage to accommodate First Class seating as well as buffet and restaurant facilities

## 100 years of the bridge between Oberndorf & Laufen



Issue date: 12.6.2003; €0.55 Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x14; ANK2460; Photogravure: cornflower-blue, yellow, pale purple-red, black, greenish. Letterpress: black. Issue 1,900,000. **Prizewinning design by Hannes Margreiter.**

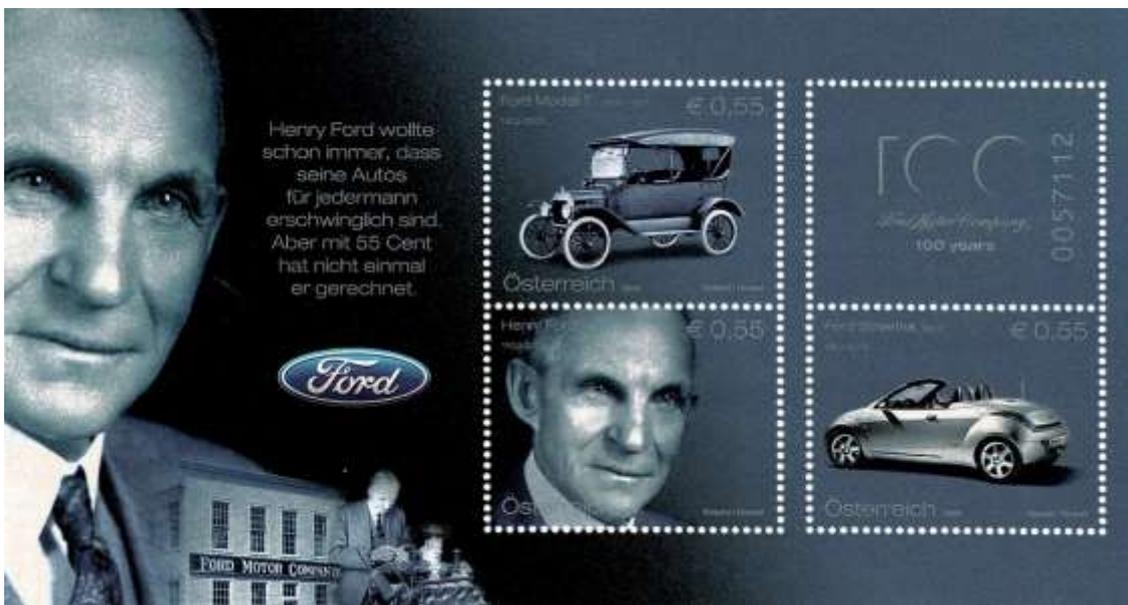
Oberndorf has witnessed a large number of devastating floods during the last centuries. The first record of a bridge being washed away dates back to 1316. The damage was often caused by flotsam which stuck between the wooden bridge

pylons and dammed the water so that the bridge was washed away. During the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century four floods caused great damage, and a decision was made to relocate the town to a more elevated plateau. The Bavarian Laufen and Austrian Oberndorf developed the plan to construct a bridge made of stone and iron incorporating a greater span. As the bridge was in close proximity to both the old town square of Laufen and the new centre of Oberndorf, an aesthetic design was implemented.

The two-pylon construction had three apertures, the largest of which was on the Austrian side to allow for shipping needs. The construction required 648 tonnes of “Martinflußeisen” (*which is wrought iron made by the Siemens-Martin-process*), with a chain-like curved upper cable and a straight lower cable. The facing of the pillars and decorative elements required an additional 67 tonnes of material to ensure a pleasing design. Eagles with spread wings were placed upon the bridge portals, adding to the elegant impression of the construction. The bridge was inaugurated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1903 with a festival of inhabitants from Laufen and Oberndorf.

## 100 years of Ford - Block of 3 stamps

Issue date: 16.6.2003; €0.55 x3 Perf 12x12; ANK2461, 2, 3. Photogravure: ultramarine, purple red-lilac, grey-black, silver. Issue 1,000,000 blocks-of-3. Design Kobald-Nikerl.



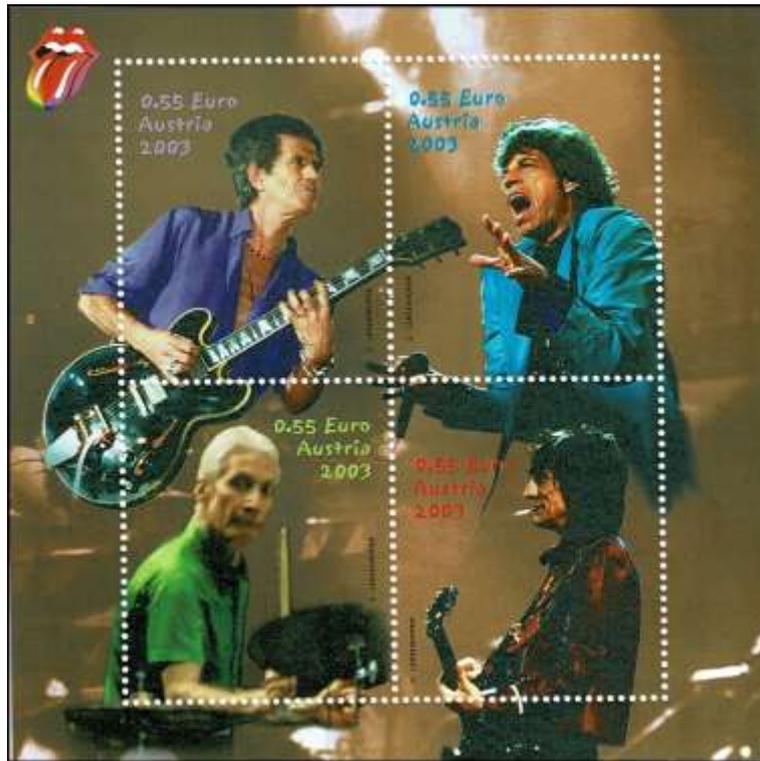
Henry Ford's visions and ideas formed the basis of modern private transport. He spent a lifetime trying to make cars affordable for everyone and not just a luxury item for a small segment of society. On June 16, 2003 the Ford Motor Company celebrates its 100th anniversary. Two innovations successfully implemented this social commitment in particular. Firstly, his choice of black, which was used for the first time on the legendary Model T. The reason for his choice was both simple and a stroke of genius: black dried more quickly than other colours, thus permitting faster and, more importantly, cheaper production. The result was entirely in line with Henry Ford's aim of producing a car for people of limited financial resources.

His second innovation not only significantly reduced production costs, but also revolutionised the entire industry. Henry Ford was, in 1908, the first to use a production line for the manufacture of cars, thereby signalling the start of the age of industrial mass production. From then on, there was no holding back his company. The legendary black Model T was followed in 1928 by the faster Model A. In 1948, Ford launched the Taunus, the leisure car of the post-war generation. At the end of the 1960s and in the 1970s, Ford was even able to win over the anti-industry flower power generation with the Ford Capri.

The last 100 years have thus passed for the Ford Motor Company just as Henry Ford intended when he founded the company on June 16, 1903. He always wanted more than “just” to make cars, his ambition being to use his inventions and innovations to make quality cars available to really everyone. And as our roads today show, he more than succeeded.

## Rolling Stones

Issue date: 18.6.2003; €0.55 x4 Perf 14x13¾; ANK2464, 5, 6, 7. Photogravure: pale purple-red, ultramarine, yellow, black. Issue 1,000,000 blocks-of-4. Design C Lenzenhofer.



It was on September 17, 1965 that the Rolling Stones gave their first Austrian concert before an audience of 12,500 fans and 600 policemen - with "Satisfaction" already on the programme. On April 2, 1967, they gave two concerts in the Vienna Stadthalle. For the band, these were the last concerts in Austria with Brian Jones, who later left the Stones before he died on July 4, 1969. The band found themselves only three years later, on September 26, 1970, back in the Vienna Stadthalle, playing in a new formation before 12,000 enthusiastic fans. With Mick Taylor on rhythm guitar, the Stones and their music were given a great welcome.

On September 1, 1973, the Rolling Stones began their European tour in the Vienna Stadthalle, attracting an audience of 15,700, the largest concert that the hall had ever seen. A few days later, on September 23, 1973, the Rolling Stones played to an almost capacity crowd of 8000 at the Innsbruck Olympiahalle. Three years later the Rolling Stones, before an audience of 12,000 on June 23, 1976, conquered both the Vienna Stadthalle stage and the hearts of the critics. The album "Black and Blue" was No. 1 in Austria for weeks, Ron Wood having replaced Mick Taylor on rhythm guitar. On Saturday, July 3, 1982, 60,000 fans welcomed the Rolling Stones in the Vienna Prater Stadium. Technical innovations, in part commissioned by the band, meant that the music could be heard well everywhere in the stadium, and gave the musicians freedom of movement on an 80 metre wide stage.

On July 31, 1990, the Vienna Prater Stadium again rocked to the mighty performance of the "Urban Jungle Tour" and a capacity crowd of 54,051. This was the last Rolling Stones concert in Austria with Bill Wyman. On August 1, 1995, Zeltweg in Styria experienced one of the largest concerts ever in Austria with almost 90,000 spectators. "Voodoo Lounge" was now overlaid with multimedia elements, the 73m-wide futuristic stage framed by a 28m high metal cobra, spitting fire at the highlights. "Bridges to Babylon" was the tour event that came to Wiener Neustadt on July 11, 1998. An audience of 68,000 experienced the Stones for the first time on two stages, the second stage in the middle of the public being reached by a 52m long bridge. Over 49,000 fans welcomed the Stones on May 31, 1999 to Imst in Tyrol, the audience again acclaiming an arrangement of the "Bridges to Babylon" show. On June 18, 2003, the Rolling Stones performed before a capacity audience in the Ernst Happel Stadium in Vienna's Prater as part of their "Forty Licks Tour 2003".

## Year of the Bible

Issue date: 20.6.2003; €0.55 Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; ANK2468. Photogravure: lilac-green, violet-marin, gold, ultramarine, purple red-lilac, yellow, crimson, black. Issue 700,000. Design Maria Schulz.



All the Christian churches of the German-speaking countries have agreed to make 2003 the “Year of the Bible”, a collaboration truly in the spirit of the “Charta Oecumenica”. For all Christians of whatever confession, the Bible is the basis of their common belief, and the Year of the Bible is intended to be a classical example of ecumenical collaboration aimed at deliberately documenting the Bible as the binding element for all Christians. Radio, television, newspapers and magazines, the Internet and every other media are to be used to draw the Bible to the public's attention and generally make it a topic of discussion. Our culture having been decisively determined by the message of the Bible, the “Year of the Bible” aims at activating co-operation with all cultural and artistic institutions. An experience-focused approach to the Bible is to be presented, at the same time evoking the rich treasures of our western Christian culture combined with

a focus on creative and innovative ideas. In Austria, the Year of the Bible is being organised by the Österreichische Bibelwerk, the Österreichische Bibelgesellschaft and the monasteries at Klosterneuburg, Göttweig, Melk, Altenburg, Zwettl, St. Paul and St. Florian, each presenting remarkable exhibitions based in particular on the rich treasures of their libraries throughout the summer

## Airport Fire Engine “Panther 8x8”

Issue date: 20.6.2003; €0.55 Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x14; Photogravure: dark olive-grey, black, blue, crimson-red. Issue 500,000. Design Maria Siegl.

The type of fire engine shown on the stamp is to be found at many major airports around the world, including 8 machines in Athens, 6 in Oslo, 3 in Dubai, and others at Altenburg and Dortmund, in Japan, China etc. This fire-fighting giant (11.7 m long, 3 m wide and 3.32 m high) with its 1000 hp engine, a top speed of 140 km/h and a weight of 40 tonnes can transport 12,000 l water, 1,500 l extinguishing foam and 2 x 250 kg dry powder to the site of the action. Its 229 kW pumping engines at full power can spray 14,000 l extinguishant up to 90 m within 100 seconds. The Panther is manufactured by the world's leading fire brigade supplier Rosenbauer International AG with headquarters in Leonding, Upper Austria, 12 additional production facilities, 14 subsidiaries and agencies in 100 countries. The company is a listed joint stock corporation, the majority of shares being held by the Rosenbauer family, and is a quality-aware business certified to ISO 9001



## Modern Art in Austria, 29<sup>th</sup> value: Kiki Kogelnik: “Prenez le temps d'aimer”

Issue date: 3.7.2003; €0.55; Perf 14x14; Issue 700,000; ANK2470. Design Kiki Kogelnik; Engraving Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Photogravure turquoise-blue, purple red-lilac, greenish yellow, lilac-pink; Intaglio dark crimson-brown.



Kiki Kogelnik (1935-1997) is among the most important Austrian artists of the post-war period. Her artistic career began in 1954 when she began studying graphic and sculpture design at the Viennese College for Applied Arts. The following year Kogelnik moved to the Academy of Fine Arts where she took painting classes with Albert Paris-Gütersloh. Thanks to her early involvement among the galleries near St. Stevens, Otto Mauer granted her the first ever single exhibition of abstract works in Vienna (1961). From the early 1960s Kiki Kogelnik worked and lived in New York, Vienna and her hometown, Bleiburg.

Her first artistic creations reflect the abstract forms of Pop-Art which she adopted early on but are characterised by her own distinctive picture language. In 1962 she developed the first series of wrapping paper collages, portraying friends and colleagues. These silhouettes became a principal foundation of her artistic work, which included tableau paintings and graphics as well as sculptures and creative installations. In 1998 the prestigious Austrian Belvedere Gallery dedicated a large retrospective to her.

## World Cultural Heritage UNESCO: Neusiedlersee

Issue date: 11.7.2003; €1.00; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; Issue 500,000; ANK2471. Design Peter Sinawebl; Engraving Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black; Intaglio dark orange-brown.



In 1972, the Unesco General Conference adopted a Convention on the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage. The objective was to select cultural and natural monuments with particular international significance for the whole of mankind and secure their survival for the future. Following Hallstatt, Salzburg, Schönbrunn and others, Neusiedlersee has been declared part of World Heritage, the result of a joint application by Austria and Hungary. The protection covers the entire shore area, the lakeside villages from Mörbisch to Illmitz, the listed old town of Rust surrounded by its town walls and parts of the Seewinkel National Park, as well as the Fertő-Haság National Park and Fertőd Castle in Hungary.

Neusiedlersee, the most westerly of Europe's steppe lakes with an unusual flora and fauna, is unique in many respects. It is 33.5 km long, 12 km wide but only 1.8 m deep and, together with the areas of reeds, occupies an area of 285km<sup>2</sup>, almost 80% of which is in Austria and the rest in Hungary. The reed belt on the Austrian side alone occupies roughly 100km<sup>2</sup>, and together with 45 ponds provides the ideal breeding grounds for 300 species of bird, including rarities such as avocets, spoonbills and black-winged stilts. The lake's water level fluctuates considerably, and it is home to over 30 species of fish, mainly eel, zander (pike-perch), carp and pike. There are also exotic creatures on land such as the south Russian tarantula and the horned dung beetle.

## Holidays in Austria: Wörthersee, Carinthia

Issue date 18.7.2003; €0.20; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x14; ANK2472; Design Adolf Tuma. Photogravure pale purple red, ultramarine, yellow, black.

Hardly any other stamp in this series comes closer to the topic of holidays than this one, since a freak of nature guarantees Lake Wörthersee clean water and a wonderful temperature of between 25° and 28° C, making it an ideal bathing lake attracting thousands of holidaymakers. The River Drau, which appears to be heading straight for the lake, changes direction two kilometres before what would be its point of entry into the lake, without any apparent cause in the terrain (naturally caused by geomorphological factors). It flows in three meanders south-east and only then returns to its easterly course. This means that the lake is not cooled by cold mountain water.



Maria Wörth, the village located on the south shore and the source of the lake's name, is the most rewarding of all the villages around the lake in terms of cultural history, if one ignores Klagenfurt, whose town centre is not on the lake anyway. Maria Wörth's church is one of the oldest in Carinthia, and was the base for missionary activity originating from Freising. Until the 18th century, the church was on an island, which also protected it against destruction and plundering by the Turks. Today, the region around the 19.3 km long and 1.7 km wide lake, the product of an ice age glacier basin, can satisfy practically every holidaymaker's wishes in the form of accommodation of all categories and a wide range of facilities for all types of leisure activities

## Holidays in Austria: Mondsee, Upper Austria

Issue date: 18.7.2003; €0.25, Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x14; ANK2473; Design Adolf Tuma. Photogravure pale purple red, ultramarine, yellow, black.



A rock rising out of the waters of the lake bears two crucifixes, for which no clear reason has yet been found. The lake, 11km long by 2km wide, is fed by the Wangauer Ache and the rivers which drain Fuschlsee and Irrsee. Mondsee itself drains into Attersee. During the bathing period, the temperature is between 20C and 24C, making it by far the warmest of the lakes in the Salzkammergut. In 1864, the remainders of a lake dwelling village were found by the outlet from the lake, along with dug-out canoes and incrustated ceramics (ornamentation is engraved in vessels before firing, and then filled with chalk) from the Neolithic Age (the Mondsee Culture). Until 1950, fishermen on Mondsee continued to use dug-out canoes cut out of long tree trunks. Milestones and

the foundations of villas from the Roman age are a further testimony to the past of this ancient settlement region.

Mondsee Monastery was founded by Duke Odilon of Bavaria in 748 and settled by monks from the island of Reichenau in Lake Constance, who adopted the Benedictine rule of “pray and work” around 800. They flourished until the monastery was abolished in 1791. Many trades and businesses were founded in the surrounding area; this continues today and has been further consolidated by the tourism business that developed after 1930. Devotees of “The Sound of Music” will recognise the interior of Mondsee church!

## Samurai and Geisha

Issue date: 19.7.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; Issue 700,000; ANK2474; Design Peter Sinawehl. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



After five successful exhibitions in the field of art and history, the Leoben Kunsthalle, in collaboration with the Museum for Fine Arts in Vienna, presented the culture of Japan of the time of the Shoguns in an exhibition from April 12 to November 2, 2003. The opposing extremes of Samurai and Geisha, symbols of death and love, reflected the refined way of life of Japan in centuries past. The exhibition focused on two contradictory worlds: the warrior caste of the Samurai and the rich urban merchant class. These two societies were displayed in all their facets and aspects through valuable exhibits from renowned international museums. Impressive Samurai armour, swords, helmets, lances and firearms showed Japan's past from the warrior

point of view. Brilliant woodcuts, sumptuous clothing and musical instruments documented the “floating world” of the Ukiyo. Alongside the remarkable exhibits from Japan's past, a reproduction Japanese teahouse and a rock garden made the exhibition a special event.

## Turandot

Issue date: 24.7.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; Issue 700,000; ANK2475; Design Renate Gruber. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



The Roman Quarry at St. Margarethen was, as the name suggests, in use as early as the Roman period. It was the quarry that supplied the materials for St. Steven's cathedral and the buildings of the Ringstrasse in Vienna, as well as for the viaducts and support walls of the Semmering Railway. For the first time in 1926, and every five years since 1961, the quarry has been the venue for passion plays, attracting an audience of 72,000 in 2001. It was therefore a logical step to use the magnificent natural stage created by the quarrying of the rocks, with its 40 metre high steep walls, for an opera festival.

Following Nabucco, Carmen and Otello, the programme for 2003 presented Puccini's opera Turandot from July 24 to August 24. Stage designer Manfred Waba used the enchanting atmosphere of the quarry in order to recreate ancient Peking before an audience of 100,000 opera fans. Guanfranco de Bosio, the former director of the Arena di Verona, planned a monumental event with 400 performers and an international ensemble from 11 countries, using many commedia dell'arte effects, impressive acrobatic and ballet interludes, daredevil stunts and a wide range of stage effects.

In a smaller quarry nearby, Humperdinck's “Hansel and Gretel” was once again performed for children. And from July 14 to August 22, 2004, Giuseppe Verdi's Aida featured on the programme.

## Children's Stamp

Issue date: 12.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>; Issue 700,000; ANK2476; Design Eva Wallner. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



For 90 years, the Youth Welfare Offices in Austria have been concerned with the well-being of young people. The proposal was to commemorate the anniversary with a stamp, but there was doubt whether the topic of “Young people's welfare” would encounter much interest amongst the public. It was therefore resolved instead to issue a “Children's Stamp”.

The Austrian Post Office held a drawing competition for children in Austria under the age of 14 on the topic of “Child and family” or “Young people and family”. No limits were set to style, technique and choice of colours, although the DIN A5 format was prescribed. Although the final date for submissions, March 31, 2003, gave the children very little time, over 5,000 drawings were received. A preliminary selection of 30 drawings was made by an internal jury, and an extended jury selected the final prize-winner, a drawing

by Eva Wallner, an eight-year old girl from Salzburg. It was planned to display the drawings in a travelling exhibition, which would include the presentation of the Children's Stamp in the Vienna City Hall.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Austrian Local Government Conference

Issue date: 18.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; Issue 700,000; ANK2477; Design Maria Siegl. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black, blue-grey, dark pink-lilac.

The stamp shows one of Wiener Neustadt's landmarks, the water tower, constructed in 1909-10 according to plans by the Viennese architects Theiss and Jaksch, and, alongside the cathedral and the Reck Tower, without doubt one of the most important buildings of the conference venue. Possibly inspired by the famous “Cup of Matthias Corvinus”, a treasure in the possession of the town of Wiener Neustadt, the architects gave the water tower the shape of a stylised chalice with lid.



The Local Government Conference is the voice of local government authorities in a larger Europe. The Austrian Local Government Conference is the largest local government event in Austria, with local government officials gathering each year in order to underline the political demands of the nation-wide body that represents their interests, the Austrian Federation of Local Government Authorities. The 50th Austrian Local Government Conference was held on September 18th and 19th, 2003, and was dominated by the expansion of the EU. Local government representatives from Austria's neighbouring countries about to join the Community were invited, enabling the Conference to serve as a common voice for the European interests of the local government authorities. Under the motto “Peace, Freedom, Citizen Proximity - for a Europe of Local Government Authorities”, this major event on the eve of the EU expansion took place in Wiener Neustadt, a traditional interface between east and west.

## Thank you

Issue date: 19.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x14; ANK2478; Design Thomas Kostron. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



For some time now, the Austrian Post Office, alongside the usual commemoratives issued on the occasion of anniversaries, has been producing stamps known as “Message Stamps”, relating to periods or situations in human life, such as marriage, Christmas, love, sadness or joy. Despite the modern communication media, messages on such occasions are still always sent by post. It is now possible to make such a message visible from the outside by means of a Message Stamp.

Last year, a Message Stamp showing a “Bouquet of flowers” was issued, to be used for general kinds of congratulations. This year, the “Token of thanks” stamp allows the sender to express gratitude and to show it by means of the stamp. The stamp is in this way a genuine Message Stamp. The bouquet of flowers expressing thanks is delivered by TomTom, the friendly and equable little man in a hat and bow tie. The charming drawings by Thomas Kostron are well known from post cards and cartoons. In this way, the stamp is intended to help improve relationships with our fellow human beings.

## Mail-Order Trade

Issue date: 24.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; Issue 700,000; ANK2479; Design Thomas Kostron. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



With over 500,000 employees in 20 different sectors, the Austrian retail trade is continuously growing as an important factor of the economy, and is becoming a major factor in the creation of wealth in the economy as a whole, a result of the change from an industrial to a service society. While the creation of wealth used to be regarded as only the production of goods, we are aware today that trade with its innovative ideas makes products more valuable, creating substantial wealth.

The Austrian retail trade, accounting for roughly 14% of the creation of wealth in the country, is well above the European average. While small retail businesses, due to the need for large investments, can only contribute little to the creation of wealth, the large retail chains account for over 20% of turnover. A major factor is mail-order trade, of which roughly 45% of adults above the age of 15 (3.5 million individuals) are customers. There is a huge difference between male and female customers, with 53% of all Austrian women

but only 37% of men buying from mail-order companies.

## Werner Schlager, Table Tennis World Champion 2003

Issue date: 25.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x14; Issue 700,000; ANK2480; Design Renate Gruber. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.

For the first time, the world table tennis champion is an Austrian! It is true that Richard Bergmann won gold in the men's singles in 1937, but in that competition the Asian nations were conspicuous by their absence. Werner Schlager is also the first non-Asian to win gold since the Swede Jan-Ove Waldner won the World Championships in 1997.



Werner Schlager has been the Austrian table tennis champion nine times, a record in the Austrian Table Tennis Federation's history. He had already won bronze in the 1999 World Championships and the 2002 European Championships. In the European Top 12 competition, he won in 2000 and reached the semi-finals in 2003.

In the Olympic Games in Sidney, he reached the quarter finals in both the singles and the doubles. In the mixed doubles, Schlager was European champion in 2003 together with Krisztina Toth from Hungary. In total, Werner Schlager has won nine World Championship and European Championship medals. He was born in Wiener Neustadt on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1972, and today lives in Sollenau. A volunteer soldier, his hobbies are computers and music. The commemorative stamp appeared on the occasion of the Lower Austrian's 31<sup>st</sup> birthday. Schlager is the first living sportsman to appear on an Austrian stamp.

## Jugend-Phila Graz '03

Issue date: 26.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>; ANK2481; Design Cornelia Zell. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



"Jugend-Phila Graz '03" is the largest stamp exhibition for young people in Europe this year. It is being held from September 25 to 28, 2003, organised by the Philatelic Society of Graz in collaboration with the stamp collector clubs in Graz and surroundings and with the Youth Department of the Austrian Association of Philatelist Clubs (VÖPH). The venue is the Raiffeisenhof Training Centre at the Styrian Provincial Chamber for Agriculture and Forestry. The aim is to encourage philately amongst young people. The Category II exhibition with international participation is accompanied by the congress of the Federation of European Philatelic

Associations, the FEPA, as well as a symposium for young FEPA officials and an international young philatelists meeting.

The stamp, like the Children's Stamp already released, is the result of a drawing competition for Austrian children up to the age of 14 on the topic of "Child and Family". Out of over 5000 drawings, an internal Post Office jury made a pre-selection of 30 drawings, from which an extended jury selected the present design by Cornelia Zell, a 13-year old girl from Niederabsdorf.

## Elisabeth - The Musical

Issue date: 1.10.2003; €0.55; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x14; Issue 700,000; ANK2482; Design Constanze Nečas. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



The most successful German-language musical, attracting an audience of more than 4 million in seven productions in Europe and Japan since its first performance in 1992, returned to the Theater an der Wien on October 1, 2003. The play, in the spectacular production by Harry Kupfer and Hans Schavernoeh, is just as much a part of Vienna as the Vienna Boy's choir or the Spanish Riding School, based as it is on the "Lady Di" of the 19th century, "Sisi". However, the author Michael Kunze here presents a much more modern image stripped of all kitsch. He shows Elisabeth's life at and in conflict with the Viennese court from the point of view of her assassin, Luigi Lucheni. The latter, in turn, is only a tool of death (who appears in the musical as an attractive young man), who has been in a passionate love relationship with Elisabeth since her earliest youth. The historical facts of Elisabeth's biography are presented truthfully, but are expanded into an unforgettable musical and theatrical experience through the emotionality of Sylvester Levay's music and the dramatic fiction.

## Famous Paintings of Austrian Collections: 1<sup>st</sup> value: Klimt



Issue date: 10.10.2003; €2.10; Block; Perf 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; Issue 500,000; ANK2483; Design & Engraving Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, orange-brown, gold; Intaglio ochre-brown.

The painter Gustav Klimt was born on July 14, 1862, the son of a gold engraver. He was one of the founder members of the Secession, and from 1897 to 1899 was its first President. However, differences arose at the beginning of 1905, and the "Klimt Group" withdrew from the Secession.

Klimt is the main representative of the Viennese Jugendstil (art nouveau). His influence extended not only to the Secession and the Vienna School of Applied Arts, but also to the Wiener Werkstätte, and Austrian painting at the turn of the century was decisively influenced by his art. His personal style is marked by patterns and an abundance of gold; the subjects were usually women and his representation often greatly offended the Viennese! Klimt was an honorary member of the Academies of Fine Arts in Vienna and Munich. One of his most famous paintings is "The Kiss", already shown on a stamp in 1964 [ANK1184]. Gustav Klimt died on February 6, 1918 in Vienna, and is buried in Hietzing cemetery.

Klimt's "Judith and Holoferne" is based on a story from the Deutero-canonical Book of Judith. The

Jewish widow Judith saved her home town of Bethulia during a siege by beguiling Nebuchadnezzar's general Holofernes with her beauty. Having made him drunk, she cut off his head with his own sword; the severed head is just visible at the bottom right. The painting hangs in the Austrian Gallery in the Belvedere Palace. "Judith II"

is an almost-identical version, now in Ostrava; both were painted in 1901. The model was Adele Bloch-Bauer, wife of a wealthy banker. The stamp was issued as a block, 3.3" wide by 4" high, with a Jugendstil special cancel; the top and bottom inscriptions are in gold ink, printed here in black for visibility. The stamp was also issued as a special sheet, was featured on the cover of the 2003 yearbook; and was voted "best of 2003" in the "Die Briefmarke" poll.

## Licht ins Dunkel (Bringing Light into the Darkness)

Issue date: 11(14?).11.2003; €0.55; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; Issue 1,500,000; ANK2484; Design ORF Design. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



"Licht ins Dunkel" (Bringing Light into the Darkness) has existed since 1973, and is today the largest and most popular fund-raising campaign in Austria. It originated in a half-hour radio programme broadcast by the ORF local station for Lower Austria. The breakthrough was achieved in 1978, when the good cause was adopted by television. Since then, it has become the largest fund-raising campaign for handicapped persons and persons in need in Austria.

The money raised on Christmas Eve 1973 amounted to €2500, while the 30th campaign in 2002 proved to be the most successful in the history of "Licht ins Dunkel", raising a grand total of €12.5 million. All in all, over €100 million has been donated to date. The founder of the campaign, Kurt Bergmann, led operations for 30 years, but has now handed over the reins to Jörg Ruminak. The campaign has even become a Christmas tradition. A major contribution has also been made by the "Light of Peace from Bethlehem". The "Licht ins Dunkel" campaign is active not only at Christmas time; the emergency fund provides rapid and unbureaucratic assistance to people who have run into need through no fault of their own. Last year alone, 3,523 families with a total of 8,856 children were given assistance.

## Bösendorfer's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Issue date: 19.11.2003; €0.75; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; Issue 700,000; ANK2485; Design Peter Sinaweil; Engraving Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Photogravure grey, yellow, lilac-brown; Intaglio olive-brown.

This stamp celebrates a company that carries Austria's reputation out into the whole world. On July 25, 1828, Ignaz Bösendorfer was given a trade licence as master piano-maker. His aim was to make pianos of the very highest quality. When he died in 1859, his son Ludwig Bösendorfer took over the business and became one of the greatest patrons of Viennese musical life. In 1970, the business was transferred to the premises at Graf-Starhemberg-Gasse 14, still in use today. In 1872, at Herrengasse 6, where today stands a high-rise building, Bösendorfer had the Prince of Liechtenstein's riding school converted into what was to become the most famous concert hall in Vienna in the years up to 1913.



Since Ludwig Bösendorfer had no direct descendents, he transferred the business in 1909 to his friend, the pianist and composer Carl Hutterstrasser. The wood store and the factory suffered serious damage during the Second World War. In 1966, the business was sold to Arnold Habig of Jasper, USA. Production was transferred to Wiener Neustadt, although the administration remained at Starhemberg-gasse. On 7 Jan 2002, Bösendorfer was acquired by BAWAG-PSK, thereby returning the Bösendorfer piano factory to Austrian hands again after 35 years. However, in 2008 Bösendorfer became a wholly owned subsidiary of Yamaha Corporation. Bösendorfer is unusual in that it produces 97- and 92-key models in addition to instruments with standard 88-key keyboards.

## Oscar Peterson - Bösendorfer

Issue date: 19.11.2003; €1.25; Perf 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>; Issue 700,000; ANK2486; Design Renate Gruber. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



Oscar Emmanuel Peterson is regarded as the most brilliant jazz pianist alive today. He was born in Montreal (Canada) in 1925, and began taking trumpet and piano lessons at the early age of five. He founded his first trio in 1947, performing in a weekly radio programme in the Alberta Lounge in Montreal. It was there that Peterson met the impresario Norman Granz in 1949, who ultimately became his manager. In 1953, Peterson founded a new trio with the bassist Ray Brown and the guitarist Herb Ellis. The trio made a number of records that were successful with both the public and the critics. Between 1967 and 1972, Peterson produced

a series of 15 albums, including a number of solo piano recordings that are regarded as amongst his best. Starting in the mid 1950s, Peterson frequently performed with the singer Ella Fitzgerald. He made countless records with all the jazz scene greats. His phenomenal technical skills combined the influences of all the great pianists of early jazz to create an unmistakable style. Peterson won seven Grammys, in 1974, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1990 (twice) and 1991. The photo of Oscar Peterson used for the stamp was taken by Edward Gajdel, Toronto, Canada. Peterson died on December 23, 2007.

## Christmas 2003

Issue date: 28.11.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x14; Issue 10M; ANK2487; Design & Engraving Prof. Werner Pfeiler. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, chamois; Intaglio black.

The 2003 Christmas stamp shows the "The Birth of Christ" glass window created by Fritz Krcal in the Hohenems Parish Church in 1951. The baby Jesus is lying in the crib, a sheep at each side. Mary and Joseph are praying behind the crib, and a donkey is looking out from between them. Above them are three angels hovering beneath the star, two of them bearing a banner.



The town parish church of St. Charles Borromeus is an attractive parish church with a carved altar. Built in 1796-7, it is dedicated to St. Charles Borromeus, a relative of the local noble family. The carved high altar is the most important Renaissance work in Vorarlberg, and was probably created by the Feldkirch sculptor Heinrich Dieffolt around 1580. The historic town of Hohenems with a population of roughly 14,000 is in the heart of the Rhine Valley in Vorarlberg, in close proximity to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. The development of Hohenems is closely connected with the history of the aristocratic lords of Hohenems. The town first stepped into the limelight of history at the end of the 12th century, and later became famous as the place where manuscripts A and C of the Nibelungenlied were found.

## My Stamp (personalised stamp)



Issue date: 5.12.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; Issue 500,000; Design ÖSD. Photogravure black, irodon, yellow.

Technical progress will soon mean that every post customer will be able to have his or her own personal stamp. This stamp is the prototype. For some time now, various countries have been producing stamps in which an adjoining empty space can be designed individually. Photos, portraits, drawings, texts and the like can be provided by the customer and are printed into the space. The resulting stamp together with the ornamental field then constitutes a single unit.



In the Austrian stamps, the space for individual design is integrated in the stamp. The Austrian stamps only have a graphic design frame stating the denomination of the stamp. The inner part of the stamp is empty, and can be designed individually by the customer. They are available in portrait or landscape format. The frame contains a number of security features as are currently standard on Austrian stamps. The basic stamp alone, with the inner area left empty, is still a fully valid stamp. This stamp fulfils the wishes of the Post Office's customers who have long been wanting appropriate stamps for specific personal occasions. Thus, for instance, invitations to a wedding party can be sent with a portrait of the happy couple on the stamp.