

2004

Riccardo Muti - 2004 New Year's Concert

Issue date: 1.1.2004; €1.00; Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄; Issue 600,000; Design Renate Gruber; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple-red, yellow, black, brown-red, gold.



A commemorative stamp was issued to honour the conductor Riccardo Muti on the occasion of the 2004 New Year's Concert. Riccardo Muti was born in Naples on July 28, 1941. He studied composition with Jacopo Napoli and Nino Rota in Naples, and conducting with Antonino Votto in Milan and Franco Ferrara in Venice (1965). Having won the Guido Cantelli competition in 1967, Muti made his debut as a conductor in 1968 with the RAI Orchestra. Soon afterwards, he was appointed Principle Conductor at the Teatro Communale in Florence in 1970.

From 1968 to 1980, Muti was Music Director of the famous Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. Resounding successes with the New Philharmonia Orchestra in 1972 in London led to the orchestra appointing Muti to the post of Principle Conductor, which he held until 1982. From 1980 to 1992, he also conducted the Philadelphia Orchestra (USA). Muti was appointed Director of Music at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan in

1986, and has been Principle Conductor of the Scala orchestra since 1987. Riccardo Muti is a regular guest in Vienna, Salzburg and London, where his performances are always highly acclaimed. Muti is one of the most outstanding conductors of our age, equally at home in Italian opera and in classical and contemporary symphonic music

Seiji Ozawa

Issue date: 16.1.2004; €1.00; Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄; Issue 600,000; Design Renate Gruber; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple-red, yellow, black, gold.

Seiji Ozawa conducted the traditional New Year's Concert in the Vienna Musikverein in 2002. He was born on September 1, 1935 in China, and in 1953 he entered the Toho Gakuen School of Music in Tokyo, initially studying the piano. Having injured both hands playing rugby, he was obliged to abandon his piano studies and turned to conducting and composition. After a number of engagements as conductor in Japan, Seiji Ozawa decided to continue his studies in Europe. In 1959, he won the international conducting competition in Besançon, France. As a student under Herbert von Karajan in Berlin, Seiji Ozawa attracted the attention of Leonard Bernstein, who made him his assistant at the New York Philharmonic Orchestra in 1961/62. Seiji Ozawa also works with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre National de France and the London Philharmonia Orchestra. Seiji Ozawa made his debut at the Vienna State Opera House in May 20, 1988, with a new production of "Eugen Onegin". His first premier there was "Ernani" in 1998. Seiji Ozawa has been the Music Director at the Vienna State Opera House since the 2002/2003 season.



José Carreras

Issue date: 23.2.2004; €1.00; Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄; Issue 600,000; Design Renate Gruber; Photogravure light violet-blue, blue, cobalt, silver.



José Carreras is one of the most outstanding personalities in the global music business. He was born in Barcelona, where he also studied music and began his professional career in the city's Gran Teatre del Liceu with roles in "Nabucco" and "Lucrezia Borgia". He was soon engaged to perform at the most important opera houses in the world, including La Scala in Milan, the New York Metropolitan Opera House, the Vienna State Opera House, the Royal Opera House London, the Munich National Opera House, the Lyric Opera in Chicago and numerous music festivals. José Carreras has worked together with the most important conductors and directors of our age. His

repertoire covers over 60 operas, and he has made over 150 recordings, including 50 complete operas and oratorios. He has been awarded numerous gold and platinum records throughout the world. The countless national and international prizes and awards include his appointment as Kammersänger and life-long honorary member of the Vienna State Opera. He regards the main purpose of his life as the International José Carreras Leukaemia Foundation, which he founded in Barcelona in 1988.

100 years of the Austrian Football Federation

Block of 10 stamps; Issue date: 18.3.2004; 10@€0.55; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 500,000 blocks; Design Renate Gruber; Photogravure pale-purple-red, ultramarine, yellow, black.



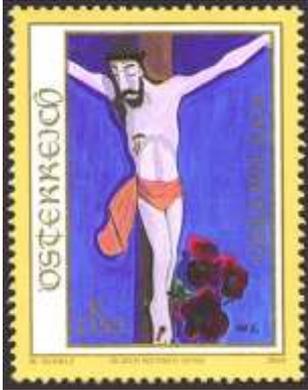
Football is not only established as the largest sports federation of the country, but alongside skiing is the Austrians' favourite sport. Over 600,000 Austrians are involved in football each week as participants, officials or spectators. Each week, 10,200 teams take part in league games involving 285,000 registered players in 2,309 clubs. The first attempts to organise football in Austria date back to 1870. The decisive impulse for Austrian football, however, came from English gardeners working for the Rothschild banking family in Vienna around 1890. In their free time, they would regularly play games and soon generated enthusiasm amongst the Viennese for this sport. The "First Vienna Football Club", popularly known as the "Vienna", and the "Cricketers" were founded in Vienna in 1894, and were the first Austrian football clubs. The Austrian Football Federation was formed on March 18, 1904. The new federation joined the FIFA International Association Football Federation in 1905, and in 1908 the 5th FIFA Congress was held in Vienna.

Highlights of Austrian football history so far are the years between 1930 and 1933 and between 1950 and 1954, as well as the years 1960, 1978, 1982, 1990 and 1998, when Austria participated in the World Cup. From 1931 to 1934, the "Wonder Team" won 21 out of 31 international games, scoring 101 goals and losing only three times. The central figure of this team was Matthias Sindelar, who is shown on one of the stamps. Ing. Gerhard Hanappi, Ernst Ocwirk and Walter Zeman were members of the national team in the early 1950s, which reached its peak in the 1954 World Cup. In 1978, after an absence of 20 years, Austria qualified once again for the final rounds of the World Cup. It was Herbert Prohaska, later team manager, who scored the vital goal to ensure Austria's participation in the World Cup for the fourth time. In Argentina, it was Hans Krankl who scored the decisive goal against Spain for the 2:1 result. Bruno Pezzey plays in the defense. In November 1989, Toni Polster scored three goals against the GDR in the qualification game for the World Cup. Andreas Herzog scored the goals against Sweden that ensured Austria's qualification for the 1998 World Cup in France. In total, the Austrian team has

reached the final round of the World Cup seven times, its best achievements being third place (1954), fourth (1934), seventh (1978) and eighth (1982).

Easter

Issue date: 26.3.2004; €0.55; Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄; Issue 600,000; Design Maria Schulz; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple-red, yellow, black, ochre-yellow, gold, red.



Easter is almost automatically associated with the idea of the Easter Bunny and Easter eggs. At the same time, we recall the religious festivity around the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, Easter is also one of the oldest celebrations of mankind, in prehistoric times probably celebrating the resurrection of nature after the long cold winter and the coming of longer lighter days and fertility. The heathen spring festivity originally got its name from the Middle Eastern goddess Astarte (Ostara or Eostre in the Nordic countries), who stood for the east, the dawn, fertility and spring, and whose sacred animals also included the rabbit. According to legend, the goddess loved children and gave them brightly coloured eggs brought to her by the Easter Bunny. In any event, eggs were probably buried, given and eaten as a sacrificial custom at Ostarun (the Old High German word for Easter). Like so many other customs, Easter was subsequently christianised, developing into the theologically most important festival of Christendom.

The stamp shows a motif by Werner Berg, one of the most important painters and graphic artists of the 20th century. He was born in Elbersfeld on April 11, 1904, and died on September 7, 1981 in Carinthia. He studied in Vienna and Munich, where he was encouraged by Emil Nolde. In 1931, the artist moved to Carinthia, to a remote farmhouse that he occupied and farmed with his family until he died in 1981. The Carinthian landscape was a decisive influence on his works, which stand out for their clear and powerful colours

Life Ball

Issue date: 29.3.2004; €0.55; Perf 12³/₄x14; Issue 600,000; Design Lucile Prache; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple-red, yellow, black.

Aids is the new scourge of mankind. Despite intensive efforts, research has so far only managed to prolong the life expectancy of those infected with HIV or Aids, without being able to defeat the disease. The struggle to overcome immune deficiency disease devours vast amounts of money each year. Those who try to raise funds for research are faced with determined attempts to ignore the problem, while those affected face marginalisation, isolation and discrimination. However, Aids is an illness that can affect anyone, not only drug addicts or homosexuals. There is no region, no social strata and no age group that is left untouched. Gery Keszler and Dr. Torgom Petrosian founded the Aids Life Association in 1992 in order to raise funds for the battle against Aids.



It was on May 29, 1993 that the Vienna City Hall was the venue for the first Life Ball, which has been organised since then each year by Gery Keszler. The net profit of what has now become a fixture in the social life of the city, supplemented by contributions from numerous sponsors, is distributed to relief organisations by the Aids Life Association. Hundreds of journalists, dozens of TV and radio programmes and other media report on this major event each year. The international fashion world assists the Aids research at every Life Ball by staging a spectacular fashion show involving top designers such as Missoni, Jean-Paul Gaultier and Paco Rabanne. Famous top models together with leading personalities from Austria and abroad present the designers' creations on the catwalk. This catwalk takes the form of the Aids ribbon and is a huge festivity for the eye and the senses for the over 4000 guests against the splendid background of the Vienna City Hall. The Life Ball, one of the largest charity events in the world, is in contrast to all the other traditional balls in Vienna a noisy, colourful and extreme event with plenty of exposed flesh. In 2004, the Austrian Post AG is supporting the cause by donating 10 Cent per commemorative stamp sold.

Cardinal Franz König

Issue date: 30.3.2004; €1.00; Perf 14x14 comb; Issue 1,000,000; Design Adolf Tuma; Engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel; Photogravure ultramarine, matt purple, yellow, dark blue-grey; Intaglio black.



The former Archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal DDr. Franz König, left his mark on an entire era. Franz König was born at Warth bei Rabenstein on the river Pielach in Lower Austria, on August 3, 1905, the oldest of nine children. Having passed his school leaving certificate with distinction at the Melk Monastery grammar school, he studied philosophy, theology and ancient Persian religion at the Gregoriana Papal University in Rome. In the course of the years, he learned 10 foreign languages. Three years after graduating as Doctor of Philosophy, Franz König was ordained on October 29, 1933. In 1936 he graduated as Doctor of Theology. From 1934 to 1937, König was chaplain at the parishes of Altpölla, Neuhofen an der Ybbs, St. Valentin and Scheibbs in the diocese of St. Pölten, and from 1938 he was Cathedral Curate and pastor for young people for the same diocese. After acquiring his qualification (known in Austria as Habilitation) as Associate Professor for Religious Science in the subject of Old Testament Studies, Franz König was appointed Professor of Religion at Krems in 1945, and Associate Professor for Moral Theology in Salzburg in 1948. On August 31, 1952, Franz König was ordained bishop in the cathedral at St. Pölten. On May 10, 1956, he was appointed Archbishop of Vienna, a post he held until 1985; and on December 15, 1958, he was made a member of the College of Cardinals by Pope John 23rd. From 1965 till 1981, Cardinal König was head of the Vatican Secretariat for Unbelievers. He died on March 13th 2004 aged 99.

[I understand he was also a philatelist – I wonder if that accounts for the comb perforation, mentioned only on the “Neues für Philatelisten”?]

150th Wedding Anniversary of Elisabeth and Franz Joseph

Block of three stamps; Issue date: 23.4.2004; €1.50, €1.75, & €1.25; Perf 14x14 & 13³/₄x13³/₄; Issue 500,000 blocks; Design & Engraving Prof. Werner Pfeiler; Photogravure pale-purple-red, ultramarine, yellow, black, orange-yellow; Intaglio black.

The stamps show scenes from the wedding of the Bavarian Princess Elisabeth von Wittelsbach, known as "Sisi": First is her arrival on the steamer "Franz Joseph" at Nussdorf on April 22nd, 1854. The Leopoldsberg was thronged with cheering crowds all the way up to the very peak. On the next day, the bride travelled by carriage drawn by 12 horses from the Favorita Palace (today the "Theresianum") to the Elisabeth Bridge, named after her and built for her at the point where today the extension of Kärntnerstrasse meets Wiedner Hauptstrasse. From there the magnificent bridal procession made its way across the river Wien to the Graben and Kohlmarkt and then into the Imperial Palace.

The wedding day was April 24, 1854. An enormous procession now wended its way to the Church of St. Augustine. Elisabeth was led by her mother to the altar, where she was awaited by Archbishop Rauscher and a large body of clergy. After the blessing, Joseph Haydn's Imperial Hymn was sung, with the new text "Gott erhalte". Archduchess Sophie, Franz Joseph's mother, wrote in her diary: "...Tea and dinner with me between 10 and 11... Louise and I led the young bride to her room. I left her alone with her mother... until she had gone to bed, whereupon I sought out my son and brought him to his wife, who, when I wished her good night, pulled her pillow over her pretty head and its rich and beautiful hair." Honeymoon in Laxenburg: During the couple's honeymoon in Laxenburg, part of the park by the palace was closed to the public to allow the young couple their privacy.



Catholics' Day

Block of six stamps; Issue date: 28.4.2004; 5@€1.25, €0.55; Perf 14x14; Issue 600,000 blocks; Design: Adolf Tuma; Engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel; Photogravure pale-purple-red, ultramarine, yellow, black, light-grey, gold, silver; Intaglio black.

In 1983, on the occasion of his first pastoral visit to Austria, Pope John Paul II, at the Vespers for Europe on Heldenplatz, reminded Christians of their "common responsibility for Europe". This topic was also one of his most important issues during his subsequent visits to Austria. In 1998, the Pope emphasised the fact that "Austria plays a role as a bridge in the heart of Europe." 20 years after the last Catholics' Day, another such Day was held, with this time the topic of Europe forming the focal point. Together with the Bishops Conferences of Bosnia, Croatia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Hungary, the "Day of Central European Catholics" 2003/2004 was planned as a process that would last around one year. The conclusion and culmination of the Day of Central European Catholics was the "Pilgrimage of the Peoples" to Mariazell on May 22 and 23, 2004.



The special feature of this block of stamps is the arrangement of the stamps in the form of a crucifix. The top stamp shows Pope John Paul II, with the stamp below showing the logo of the Catholics' Day. The other stamps are dedicated to the Pilgrimage Basilica at Mariazell. According to legend, the first wooden chapel was constructed around 1157 for the Romanesque miraculous image of the Madonna and Child shown on the left-hand stamp. The reputation of this miraculous image, the "Magna Mater Austriae" spread rapidly, and the church grew, being converted into the Baroque style between 1644 and 1683. This Romanesque statue in the Chapel of Grace is only displayed uncovered on two days of the year. The right-hand stamp shows the "Mother of God on the Column of the Blessed Virgin", almost 2 metre high dating from around 1520, and also revered as a miraculous image. The stamp beneath the Catholics' Day logo shows another miraculous image, the image of the Virgin Mary created around 1350/60, a gift of King Ludwig of Hungary, which forms the centrepiece of the Treasury altar. The bottom of the crucifix is formed by the stamp showing the crucifix on the high altar by Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach

Day of the Stamp 2004



Issue date: 7.5.2004; €2.65 + €1.30; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$; Issue 720,000 in sheets of 5 with 5 decorated spaces; Design Maria Siegl; Engraving Gerhart Schmirli; Photogravure blue-grey, pale-purple-red, yellow, ultramarine, blue, scarlet; Intaglio black.

Every since the invention of flight, this modern and rapid means of transport has continued to grow in

importance - including its use for the conveyance of mail. It was during the First World War that the army first began to use aircraft to transport field-post. Thanks to the aircraft, the Ukraine in particular (then occupied by German and Austro-Hungarian troops) was brought closer for communications purposes. The Vienna-Krakow-Lvov-Kiev route was approx. 1,200 km in total in one direction, and after a trial flight, it was initially only used for the most important military, diplomatic and service mail. The line was flown by Hansa Brandenburg C 1, Oeffag C II and Albatros aircraft.

Once these flights had proven successful, the postal administration began using the route for private letters and telegrams on March 31, 1918, although only as far as Lvov to begin with. The route to Kiev was opened to private post from the beginning of July of the same year. The flight took place in stages, the total flying time amounting to around 11 hours. In this way, air mail was invented, the first air mail stamps were issued and a new field for philatelists was borne. The stamp shows the loading of mail bags on to an Oeffag CII. This aircraft was built in Austria at the Österreichische Flugzeugfabrik AG (Oeffag) constructed in 1915 in Wiener Neustadt. The Oeffag CII biplane had a top wingspan of 12.93 m and a bottom span of 12.04 m, was 8.64 m long in total, and designed for a two-man crew.

National Customs and Folklore Treasures: Barrel Sliding

Issue date: 8.5.2004; €0.55; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$; Issue 600,000; Design Maria Schulz; Engraving Kurt Leitgeb; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple-red, yellow, blue-grey; Intaglio black.

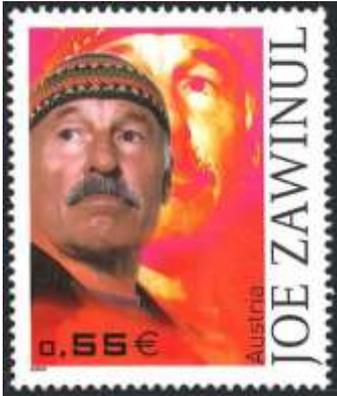


“Barrel sliding” is a custom practised in Kosterneuburg using a barrel dating from 1704. The "thousand-bucket barrel" has a capacity of 56,000 litres, and is kept in a vault of the monastery's book-bindery, the "Binderstadl". Originally, the barrel was used to collect the tithe wine, but after the French emptied it completely in 1809 it was never filled again. The visitors climb up onto the barrel on one side and slide down across the staves on the other side. The custom has its roots in the fertility rite of sliding over "Mother Earth" in the hope of being blessed with children. There are similar customs in the Wachau and in Switzerland. According to legend, the custom began when the monastery tavern landlord was outwitted by his wife. Amongst his drinking companions, it was suggested that he would even slide over the large barrel if his wife asked him. His wife was amongst those who heard him dismiss this suggestion, feeling himself to be boss in his own household.

She persuaded him to slide over the barrel at night, with nobody watching. However, in secret, she had concealed all his friends in the cellar. When they saw the landlord sliding across the barrel, they enjoyed it so much that they all copied him. The custom has existed ever since.

Joe Zawinul

Issue date: 24.5.2004; €0.55; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 700,000; Design Renate Gruber; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple-red, yellow, black



Joe Zawinul is beyond doubt the most important Austrian jazz musician. Born in Vienna on July 7, 1932, he began classical piano training at the Vienna Conservatory at the early age of 7. In 1959, he was given a scholarship by the Berklee College of Music in Boston, USA. He had only been studying for three weeks when Maynard Ferguson recruited him into his band, the start of his rise to fame in the USA. Miles Davies recognised the extraordinary talents of this Austrian musician and produced six albums with him in 1960. From 1970 on, there followed 15 hugely spectacular and successful years as keyboarder with Weather Report. It was during this time that he composed classical jazz pieces such as "Birdland". It was practically incidentally that he invented hip hop. He also created the boogie-woogie waltz, likewise hip hop but in 3/4 time. Since the middle of the 1990s, Joe Zawinul has been touring with his current band, the Zawinul Syndicate. In 2001 and 2002, he was elected Keyboarder of the Year, and he has also received many awards in Austria and Germany. The issue of a commemorative stamp by the Österreichische Post AG is without doubt a further highlight of his career

The Papal Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Issue date: 4.6.2004; €1.25; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 500,000; Design Maria Siegl; Engraving Gerhart Schmirli; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple-red, yellow, red; Intaglio brown-black.

At present, there are only three active Orders of Knights that are recognised by the Holy See as institutions under international law: the Papal Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem; the Sovereign Military Order of Malta; and the Teutonic Order of Knights. The Order of the Holy Sepulchre is made up of around 22,000 people around the world, Ladies and Knights, both clergy and laypersons. It is subject to a Grand Master appointed from amongst the cardinals by the Holy Father and resident in Rome. The Grand Prior of the Order is the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, a deliberate continuation of the original tradition. Currently there are 50 national organisations known as Lieutenancies in various countries of the world. The functions of the Order are firstly to consolidate the Christian life of its members and secondly to support Christians in the Holy Land.



Although there have been knights of the Order in Austria since the 14th century (including very prominent individuals such as the Minnesänger Oswald von Wolkenstein, Emperor Friedrich III, and Emperor Franz Joseph), it was not an active organisation for a long period of time. It was only in 1954 that the Austrian Lieutenancy was successfully established and recognised by the Republic of Austria according to the provisions of the Concordat. The Austrian branch of the Order of Knights takes particular interest in the Catholic parish of Gaza, founded during last century by the Tyrolean priest Georg Gatt. Many of the Christians living there are in extreme poverty and for this reason are assisted and supported wherever possible. The Order's symbol is the Cross of Jerusalem with smaller crosses between the arms. It symbolises the five wounds of Christ and is intended to recall the Order's duties in the Holy Land. Red is seen as the colour of love and the spirit of God.

Europe 2004 – Holidays

Issue date: 4.6.2004; €0.75; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 600,000; Design Eva Fuchs; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple-red, yellow, black.



The topic specified by PostEurope for the 2004 Europa stamps is "Holidays". The Austrian contribution, "Field of flowers" was created by the artist Eva Fuchs. In the modern stressful and hectic age, holidays have become more important than ever. However, even this period of relaxation is becoming a stress factor: more and more people are unwilling to abandon the bustle to which they have grown accustomed, and even when on holiday they search for more sport, action and adventure - the more entertainment offered, the better the holiday. Holiday regions and hotels rely on round-the-clock service for their guests if they are to remain attractive. Simply letting go and allowing your mind to drift has become an art that has to be re-learned. The new slogan

"wellness" indicates a return to the needs of one's own body and mind.

In terms of entertainment, Austria certainly offers its guests everything the heart could desire, but its varied landscape beauties, areas of unspoiled nature and contemplative quiet are an invitation to the visitor to take time for himself on holiday again. Lying on a warm summer's day in a fragrant field of wild flowers, eyes closed and simply listening to the singing of the birds and the buzzing of the insects - that, too, is holidays. The artist Eva Fuchs, granddaughter of the landscape painter Angelie Postl, lives and works in Vienna, the city of her birth. She met Ernst Fuchs in 1958 and became both his pupil and his wife. She is a very versatile artist - her work ranging from nature and nude drawings, water painting and oil painting to jewellery design. In addition she is the author of a prize-winning children's book.

Locomotive series, 3rd value: Imperial and Royal Southern State Railway - the Engerth Locomotive

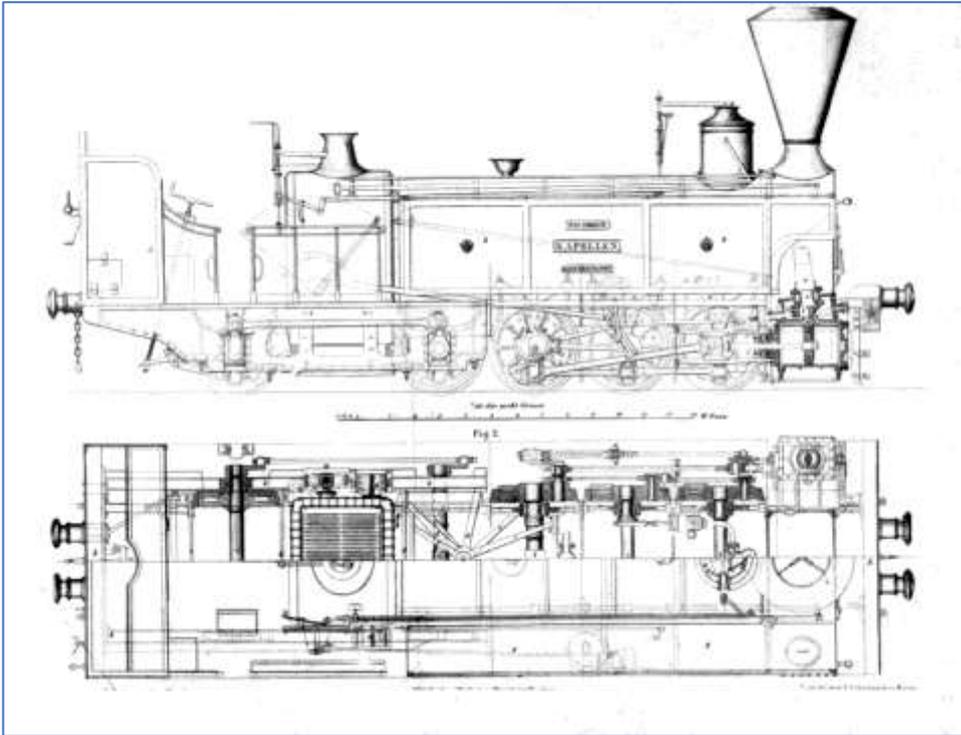
Issue date: 19.6.2004; €0.55; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 600,000; Design Peter Sinawehl; Engraving: Gerhart Schmirl; Photogravure ultramarine, yellow, pale-purple-red, green, olive-green; Intaglio black.

On July 17, it will be 150 years since regular railway operations commenced over the Semmering pass. Despite the experts conclusion that the only possibility for a railway over the Semmering was a cable-hauled system, Karl Ritter von Ghega persuaded the authorities in 1848 to construct an adhesion railway, although at that time there were no locomotives that could handle such inclines (2.5% = 1 in 40). Three years later, the first comparative trials were held with four steam locomotives specially designed for mountain operations on the Semmering. Each of the four prototypes exceeded the specification set out in the announcement, "to pull 140 tonnes at 11.38 kilometres per hour on the steepest incline", but none were convincing enough for regular operations on the Semmering.



Finally, Wilhelm Freiherr von Engerth succeeded in designing a locomotive capable of mountain duties, thereby writing the first major chapter in the history of Austrian steam locomotives. Between November 1853 and May 1854, 16 Engerth locomotives were supplied to the state railways. These locomotives had 10 coupled wheels, four on a patented articulation bogie, and managed 19 kilometres an hour uphill, rising to 23 kilometres an hour downhill. The construction and trouble-free operation of the first genuine mountain railway in the world meant that for a time Austria was at the cutting edge of technical developments in railway engineering.

Our expert adds: the “improbable funnel” is a chimney, a quite normal spark-arresting design for working in fire-risk areas - there are trees on the Semmeringbahn. It was a TANK loco; the “tender” is incorporated, not pulled. As nearly as the Whyte notation can cope, it was an 0-6+4-0T. Briefly: No leading wheels; Six coupled driving wheels; then a bogie with four coupled wheels driven from the six by an odd linkage; and finally no trailing wheels. To complicate matters, the bunker is carried on the 4-wheeled bogie & could be regarded as a sort of tender. This is Engerth's trade mark.



This is an engineering drawing of the locomotive.

Vienna Danube Island Festival

Issue date: 25.6.2004; €0.55; Perf 14³/₄x12³/₄; Issue 600,000; Design Peter Konkolits; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple-red, yellow, black.



The Vienna Danube Island Festival will take place for the 21st time from June 25 to 27, 2004. The Danube Island in Vienna is a long thin artificial island made of excavation material, constructed between the natural Danube and the New Danube, a drainage channel. The construction of the New Danube was decided upon in the 1970s as a politically controversial flood protection measure for the city of Vienna. The newly created area comprises approx. 270 hectares of water and 390 hectares of public grassland, and with its bathing beaches quickly became a new leisure and recreation area for the population of Vienna, while at the same time taking into account ecological interests with its numerous biotopes. Shortly after the first kilometres of the island were opened a Viennese politician, Harry Kopietz, had the idea of using the area for a major festival. This was the start of the first Danube Island Festival, an event that over the years has become the largest and most peaceful open-air event in the world. The last kilometres of the island were only completed in 1988.

Each year, the island attracts not only the population of Vienna: over 3 million visitors came in 2003. 2000 performers, 300 music, theatre and cabaret groups entertain the visitors on around 16 stages of the 4.5 km long festival site between the North Bridge and the Reichsbrücke. Many famous national and international stars come to the island each year to receive a warm welcome from their fans. Food and drink are available in plentiful supply. 2680 metres of barriers, 21 km of electricity cable, 400 m rubber matting, fireworks and all-pervasive sound ensure that this mega-event is a success. The Danube Island Festival has become a highlight of the European cultural year. And the best thing for all the Viennese: Admission to the event is free!

Theodor Herzl

Minisheets of nine with inscribed margins; Issue date: 6.7.2004; €0.55; Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄; Issue 1,440,000; Design Adth Vanooijen; Photogravure: ochre, brown, silver, red.

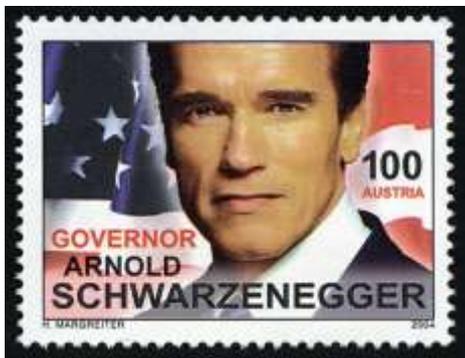


Theodor Herzl was born in Budapest (Hungary) on May 2, 1860, and was a writer, journalist and essayist. He studied law in Vienna, acquiring his doctorate in 1884, although his actual ambition was to be a writer. When the Viennese “Neue Freie Presse” offered him the post of Paris correspondent, he seized the opportunity and moved to France in 1891 to work as a journalist. In Paris, his activity involved observing the Dreyfuss affair and the resulting antisemitic riots. It was under the influence of these events that he began to write his 86-page book “The Jewish State - An Attempt at a Modern Solution to the Jewish Question”. In 1896, he was appointed editor of the famous Neue Freie Presse Review in Vienna, and in the same year published his book in an edition of 3000 copies.

This book made the journalist Herzl the most famous Zionist, and the book itself became the prelude to the state of Israel. In 1897, together with O. Marmorek and N. Nordau, he initiated the first Zionist World Congress in Basle with participants from 16 countries, at which he was elected the first President of the World Zionist Organisation. The Viennese monthly journal “Die Welt” was the central publication of the new movement. Herzl negotiated with the German Kaiser Wilhelm II, the Turkish Sultan, England and Russia, but without success. Theodor Herzl himself never saw the realisation of his dream, dying of exhaustion on July 3, 1904 in Edlach (Lower Austria). His corpse was transferred to Israel in 1949, and is now buried west of Jerusalem on a mountain named after him. The stamp is issued jointly with the Hungarian and Israeli post offices.

Austrians Living Abroad: Arnold Schwarzenegger

Issue date: 30.7.2004; €1.00; Perf 14¹/₄x13¹/₂; Issue 600,000; **Design Hannes Margreiter**; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple red, yellow, black.



Arnold Schwarzenegger was born on July 30, 1947 in Graz-Thal, the son of a gendarme. He discovered bodybuilding while he was still at school and began to train regularly at the age of 15. In 1966, he was elected “Mr. Europe” and in 1967 he was elected the youngest “Mr. Universe” in London. By 1980, he had won the title “Mr. Universe” five times and “Mr. Olympia” seven times. These successes made him one of the most important individuals in the history of bodybuilding. Schwarzenegger emigrated to the USA in 1968. In 1973, he began to study business management and economics, graduating in 1980. He acquired American citizenship in 1983, and in 1986 he married the journalist Maria Shriver, a niece of John F. Kennedy. The couple have four children. His well-trained body led him to the film industry. In his first role in 1970, in “Hercules in New York”, his voice had to be synchronised because of his very strong accent. Schwarzenegger achieved an international reputation 12 years later with the film “Conan the Barbarian” (1982). Films such as “Terminator”, “Total Recall”, “Kindergarten Cop” and “True Lies” made him one of the highest-earning Hollywood actors. In his honour, the newly renovated Graz “Liebenau” stadium in his home country was renamed the “Arnold-Schwarzenegger Stadium”. Politically, this moderate Republican was for a long time relatively inactive (apart from his function as consultant for American sport). On October 7, 2003, Arnold Schwarzenegger (nicknamed by many the “Governator”) was elected governor, and on November 17, 2003 before 7,500 invited guests he was inaugurated as the 38th Governor of the US state of California

Ernst Happel - an Austrian footballing legend

Issue date: 17.8.2004; €1.00; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$; Issue 500,000; Design Renate Gruber; Photogravure scarlet-red, black.



Ernst Happel was born on November 29, 1925, and began his footballing career in 1938 with Rapid Vienna, his regular team until 1958 with the exception of a two-year stay with Racing Paris (1954-56). Six times national champion, one Cup victory and 51 caps with the national team were proof of his unequalled skills. He was one of very few footballers to take part in two World Cups (1954 in Switzerland and 1958 in Sweden). One of the highlights of his playing career was his inclusion in the FIFA selection for a game against England. After ending his career as a player, the “World Champion” began that part of his life that was to make him a legend: he took up the profession of football coach. To begin with, he was responsible for Rapid's team for two years, but having won the

Championship and the Cup in 1959 he took the ambitious step of moving abroad. Ado Den Haag (1962-68), Feyenoord Rotterdam (1968-73) FC Sevilla (1973), FC Bruges (1975-81) and Hamburg SV (1981-87) were the stages of his unique career that was crowned by training the Dutch national team in the 1978 World Cup final round. In 1987, he returned to his home country to continue his footballing philosophy with FC Swarovski Tirol, finally taking charge of the Austrian national team in 1991. His list of successes is long and impressive - eight championship titles, six Cup victories, two European Cup successes, a European/South American Cup title, three other participations in the final round in the European Cup and second place for Holland in the World Cup meant that the grand old man was sure of a place amongst the best in the world. “A day without football is a lost day” - none of his many quotations better expresses his love of football than this. When Ernst Happel died on November 14, 1992, the whole of European football lost a great personality.

Tom Turbo® children's drawing

Issue date: 3.9.2004; €0.55; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$; Issue 600,000; Design Andreas Wolkerstorfer; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple red, yellow, black.



Tom Turbo is one of the favourite children's series on Austrian television. Popular turbo-powered bicycle Tom Turbo has appeared in many series with the author Thomas Brezina, and together they have solved the most difficult cases and brought offenders to justice. The detectives are assisted by six children, Florentine, Johanna, Yvonne, Daniel, Jeriko and Simon. Of course, children at home in front of their TV sets can also join in the search for the crooks by working out the top secret code word and, with a little luck, they can win the title of Master Detective. In 2003, a drawing competition was held by the Austrian Post together with the ORF Confetti TiVi programme. The children were invited to draw and paint on the topic of “The most exciting adventure with Tom Turbo®”. The number of entries and above all the creativity of the pictures was amazing. The jury, together with Thomas

Brezina, had a difficult job selecting the picture that would have the greatest effect on a commemorative stamp from amongst the lovingly drawn adventures of the clever bicycle with the large eyes. However, after a long discussion, the winner was chosen: one of the drawings by Andreas Wolkerstorfer (7 years old) from Garsten was selected and printed as a commemorative stamp. The corresponding special postmark was designed on the basis of a drawing by Fabian Riegler (6 years old).

Invitation

Issue date: 10.9.2004; €0.55; Perf 14x14; Issue 800,000; Design Thomas Kostron; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple red, yellow, black.



What can be more welcome in life than an invitation? Who could not be delighted to find, amongst all the humdrum post in the letter-box, amongst the invoices and the advertisements, a very personal invitation to a friendly get-together of whatever kind. An invitation is always a positive and pleasant surprise, and its value could never be replaced by an e-mail or a text-message. In order to allow invitations to a very special occasion or event to be sent in the appropriate manner to friends, acquaintances and family members, as well as to customers, business partners and companies, the Austrian Post is again issuing a special message stamp in 2004 for all kinds of invitations. The invitation is brought by the two cheerful and popular figures TomTom and Schneckodemus, creations by the famous Austrian cartoonist Thomas Kostron. These characters are famous around the world and they will spread even more on the letters and cards bearing their image, while the author's amusing books continue to populate the bookshelves of the world.

100 years of the incorporation of Floridsdorf into Vienna

Issue date: 17.9.2004; €0.55; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x14; Issue 600,000; Design Mag. Michael Fuchs; Engraving Robert Trsek; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple red, yellow, black; Intaglio black.



Today's Floridsdorf, Vienna's 21st District, with an area of 44.46 sq.km, stands on land cultivated and developed by early man. The discovery there of stone axes suggests that it was inhabited as early as the Neolithic Age (ca. 4000 to 2000 BC). Celts settled here around 500 BC and the whole settlement area to the north of the Danube, known to the Romans as "Transdanubia", was fought over first by Germanic tribes and later by other invading peoples such as the Lombards, Avars and the Slavs. The settlement was initially called "Am Spitz" (On the Peak) and belonged to the seminary of Stift Klosterneuburg. In 1786, Floridus Leeb, the prelate at

that time, gave 30 plots along the Schlosshofer road to settlers; and it is from him that the area takes its present name "Floridsdorf". What began as a predominantly agricultural area rapidly grew and developed as a result of the Nordwestbahn railway, flourishing industries and the steam tramway, which opened in 1885. In 1894 its status was elevated to that of a town.

In 1904 Floridsdorf, Jedlesee, Großjedlersdorf, Donaufeld, Leopoldau, Kagran, Hirschstetten, Stadlau and Aspern were all incorporated into the City of Vienna, followed in 1910 by Strebersdorf. In 1938 Kagran, Stadlau, Hirschstetten, Aspern and Lobau were incorporated into the newly created 22nd district of Donaustadt. Under the redrawn boundaries of 1954, however, Stammersdorf was added to Floridsdorf.

Throughout the ages Floridsdorf's survival depended on the Danube as an important trading route. At the same time the raging torrent with its countless tributaries and branches wreaked havoc each year with severe flooding. It was not until 1870-75 that measures were taken to regulate the Danube. Between 1972 and 1988 the high water defences were again reinforced so that Floridsdorf, like the other districts which border on the Danube, has since been protected from flooding.

Swarovski - Postage Stamps with Crystals



Block of two stamps; Issue date: 20.9.2004; two x €3.75; Perf 14x14; Issue 800,000; Design Renate Gruber; Photogravure pale-purple red, ultramarine, yellow, glimmer blue, blue, black, silver.



This commemorative block is an absolute novelty world-wide, the first time that crystals have been applied to a commemorative stamp. The Austrian company Swarovski enjoys a world-wide reputation, not only for its famous crystals and crystal products, but also for its small sparkling works of art for collectors. Such a work of art is also shown on this valuable stamp block, the product of a collaboration between the Austrian Post and Swarovski. In 1892, Daniel Swarovski applied for a patent for a machine that for the first time allowed crystal stones to be ground more quickly and more perfectly than by hand, an invention that revolutionised the processing of crystals. Together with his brother in law Franz Weis and Armand Kosmann, Daniel Swarovski founded today's Swarovski company in 1895, moving from his home in Bohemia to Tyrol. From 1908 on, Daniel Swarovski and his two sons sought for the ideal recipe for the production of crystals, and built special smelting furnaces. In 1932, Swarovski was finally able to start production of his own crystals.

These jewels were so brilliant and perfect that they immediately caused a stir around the world. Over the next few years, Swarovski extended his range of products by adding a number of high-quality items such as reflecting rear lights and optical precision appliances and crystal chandeliers (Strass®). In 1995, Swarovski celebrated the 100th anniversary of the company's foundation, a highlight of the celebrations being the opening of the Swarovski Crystal Worlds at Wattens in Tyrol: a 2000 m² underground labyrinth of rooms bathed in the light and colours of millions of sparkling and glittering crystals that entice the visitor into a fantasy world designed by the artist André Heller. It was also under his direction that the Crystal Worlds were rebuilt in 2003, and inspirational wonder chambers are now an addition to the Crystal Worlds.

Hermann Maier

Issue date: 25.9.2004; €0.55; Perf 13³/₄x14; Issue 600,000; Design Renate Gruber; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple red, yellow, black.



Hermann Maier was born in Altenmarkt on December 7, 1972, and was introduced to racing at an early age by his father, the head of a ski school in Flachau. Until 1996, he failed to make much of a mark on the world, but on February 3rd of that year, he finally made his debut in the giant slalom at Hinterstoder. Hermann Maier's world-wide triumphal march began in the 1997/1998 World Cup season. At the 1998 Olympic Games in Nagano (Japan), he fell so spectacularly that the photos appeared in all the media and the whole world nicknamed him the "Herminator" (by analogy with "Terminator"). Only three days after this incredible accident, he won Gold in the Super G, followed by Gold in the Giant Slalom. His victory in the overall World Cup (28 years after Karl Schranz won it for the first time for Austria), crowned his success that year. Maier also dominated the following seasons, but in a road accident on August 24, 2001, he suffered extremely serious injuries that threatened to cost him a leg and his career. Nevertheless, on January 14, 2003, he returned to the start at the classic Giant Slalom at Adelboden. To quote Maier: "Merely skiing here is a victory for me". Almost 31 months after his serious accident, the amazing comeback in 2004 was complete when he again won the overall World Cup. The sports legend Hermann Maier was reborn. His greatest successes to date, following his double victory at the Olympics have been double World Champion, 4 times overall World Cup winner and 47 times the winner of individual World Cups.

Modern Art in Austria: 30th value

Issue date: 8.10.2004; €0.55; Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄; Issue 500,000; Design: Josef Bramer; Engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple red, yellow, russian green; Intaglio black



The artist Josef Bramer was born in 1948 in Vienna and attended school in Scheibbs in Niederösterreich. From there he went on to attend the Graphic Teaching and Research Institute. He graduated from the master classes of Rudolf Hausner at Vienna's Academy of Fine Arts and in 1971 was awarded the master school prize. Since then Josef Bramer's works have been exhibited at a vast number of venues both in Austria and abroad. In 1996 he received the Cultural Prize of the town of Scheibbs in recognition of his work. His works are to be found both in public and private collections. His work has a poetic quality, characterised by an unmistakable style that never slavishly follows fashionable trends and by a deep love of the nature and beauty of his native country. His most important creation is "Kaspar", a modern version of the classic court jester of days gone by. Just as the court jester of old would hold up a mirror before the prince's eyes, this Kaspar likewise tells us the truth, however unpalatable it might be. Through

these affectionately painted delicate pictures, Josef Bramer's Kaspar makes us look at the world through new eyes in the firm belief that a better world is possible. The painting "Kaspar Winterbild" (Kaspar's winter scene) is a particularly endearing example of how Bramer imbues Kaspar with an expressiveness that goes straight to the heart. Kaspar's delicately painted trees, bereft of leaves, seem to draw the viewer into the depths of the winter landscape.

Stamp depicting a nude: 1st value: Silvia Gredenberg's "Woman waiting"

Issue date: 15.10.2004; €0.55; Perf 13³/₄x13³/₄; Issue 600,000; Design: Mag. Dr. Silvia Gredenberg; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple red, yellow, black.



Silvia Gredenberg was born in Vienna and after graduating from high school she initially studied at the University of Applied Art, Graphics and Painting. Three years later however, she turned to more pragmatic realms and began studies in business administration at the Vienna University of Economics where she completed her doctorate in 1975. She worked professionally in several sectors such as journalism, advertising, banking and insurance before becoming established as a tax consultant, a profession she has since practised with great drive and ambition. However, as often happens when creative potential is stifled by ever so sober criteria such as conformity to law and economic necessity, Gredenberg was soon searching for ways to free her imagination from what at times felt to her like a prison and she began to devote herself more and more to her artistic work. Neither animal, nor flower nor landscape would ever escape her pencil, but it is the human being that has always been her favourite subject. To her creative drive it appears as a subject wrapped in mystery, offering endless possibilities to explore, and presenting new challenges time and again. Her particular passion is watercolours, but oils too, and mixing techniques, fascinate this artist. The picture "Die Wartende" (Woman waiting) was actually a spontaneous creation. Silvia Gredenberg is a very punctual person and spends a lot of time waiting for people who are less punctual. One day, forced once again into a long wait, she expressed her feelings simply in this watercolour, the red hair symbolising her displeasure.

Famous paintings of Austrian Collections: 2nd value: Weiler

Issue date: 18.10.2004; €2.10; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 500,000 blocks; Design and Engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple red, yellow, iriodin-yellow, blue-grey; Intaglio black. The block is 80x100mm.



The second issue in the series on Austrian art collections depicts Max Weiler's painting "Junge Sonnenblume" (young sunflower) which is owned by the Tyrolean Provincial Museum in Innsbruck. The painter and graphic artist Max Weiler was born on August 27, 1910 in Absam in Tyrol. He graduated from high school at the Teacher Training Institute in Innsbruck and from 1930 studied at Vienna's Academy of Fine Arts under Professor Karl Sterrer. As early as 1936 the young artist was commissioned by Rector Clemens Holzmeister to work on the Austrian chapel project for the World Exhibition in Paris for which he created the glass window "Bond in the Blood of the Son". His work increasingly began to enjoy international acclaim: he represented Austria at the 1960 Venice Biennale Festival and was represented at the 1967 World Exhibition in Montreal with his pictures entitled "Like a landscape". His extensive range of creative work not only includes panel and canvass paintings, watercolours, drawings and print graphics, but also mosaics, glass work, frescos and ceramic wall decoration. Max Weiler was regarded as "the Doyen of Austrian

contemporary art". In 1961 he was awarded the Grand Austrian State Prize and in 1979 he received the Honorary Award for Science and Art. Our dialogue with nature and intensive observation of its diverse manifestations became the central theme of his creative work. By reducing his subjects to the abstract and by using stark, bright colours he was able, particularly in the later years of his creativity, to engender a sense of intense emotion. Max Weiler died on January 29, 2001 in Vienna.

The Donau-Auen (Danube Meadows) National Park

Issue date: 22.10.2004; €0.55; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 700,000; Design: Friedensreich Hundertwasser; Engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple red, yellow, cornflower-blue, lilac, chamois, gold, silver; Intaglio black



The National Park is 38 kilometres long and no more than 4 kilometres wide. It stretches from Vienna right up to the point where the Danube leaves Austria at the border at Hainburg and flows into Slovakia. 65% of the area is pasture land covered with forests, 20% of it comprises lakes and streams, and only 15% contains cultivated fields and meadows. The forests are home to more than 700 species of taller vegetation, 30 types of mammal and 100 varieties of breeding bird, 8 species of reptile and 13 amphibians, as well as around 60 types of fish. At the end of the 19th century man began to alter the ecological balance of the countryside along the shores of the Danube by constructing river controls and, in the 1950s, with the construction of hydro-electric power stations. Finally, in 1984, plans to construct a power station at Hainburg threatened to put an end to the last remaining free-flowing stretch of the Danube and conservationists created a furore with their now legendary call to the public to take possession of the meadows in a squat. When the authorities concluded

legal proceedings on 5 December 1984 construction work began at Stopfenreuth.

On 8 December 1984 an initiative organised by the Austrian Students' Union saw protesters march from every part of the country to the meadows. Thousands of people of all ages and walks of life then took over the meadows in a squat and resisted every effort to remove them, with the result that the felling and clearing operations had to be abandoned. In December the government decreed that the clearing operations be officially halted and ordered new scientific investigations to be carried out. The findings concluded that the area was of such great conservation value that it ought to be made a national park and that a power station should not be built there. On 27 October 1996 the Austrian national government and the governments of the states of Vienna and Lower Austria signed an agreement establishing the national park. The Hainburg meadow protesters had won a famous victory! The stamp depicts the poster by the master painter Friedensreich Hundertwasser who was himself one of the Hainburg squatters and a campaigner for the preservation of unspoilt nature.

50 years of the Austrian Federal Army

Issue date: 26.10.2004; €0.55; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 2,000,000; Design: Maria Siegl; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple red, yellow, black, scarlet, russian green.



On the 15th of May 1955 the State Treaty was signed in Belvedere Palace in Vienna, thereby restoring sovereignty to Austria after 10 years of occupation by the Allied Powers and entitling it to once again have its own armed forces. In September 1955 the Military Law was enacted, providing the basis for the army of the Second Republic, followed in October by the declaration of permanent neutrality. On July 5th 1956 Ferdinand Graf was appointed First Minister for National Defence, and on February 3rd 1956 the first Sergeants and Lieutenants were sworn in at Vienna's Fasanenkaserne barracks. The new army passed its first test

when it was deployed on the Hungarian border in October 1956. In 1957 the first Military Attachés were dispatched abroad, in 1958 the first large-scale unit manoeuvres were held, and in 1960 a medical corps was sent to the Congo on the first deployment abroad under the auspices of the UN.

The general public will be able to learn more about this and the varied history of the Federal Army in a project combining word, visuals and sound, entitled “50 Years of the Austrian Federal Army”, to be launched in 2005. A large-scale competition to design a special stamp to commemorate “50 Years of the Austrian Federal Army” drew hundreds of entrants. A jury awarded first prize to the Tyrolean Markus Kapferer, whose design uses graphic media to create a collage comprising a photograph of Sub-lieutenant Horst Konrad (Military Command, Tyrol), the national coat of arms and the national flag. His intention is to portray tradition and the patriotism of young, motivated soldiers. The stamp artist deliberately gave the soldier an androgynous face to document the fact that since 1998 there has been full equal recognition for men and women in the discharge of duties in the Austrian Army.

Nikolaus Harnoncourt 75th Anniversary

Issue date: 29.10.2004; €1.00; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 500,000; Design: Renate Gruber; Photogravure ultramarine, pale-purple red, yellow, dark brown, black, gold. [*The value and his name are in faint gold at the left*]



Count de la Fontaine-d'Harcourt-Unverzagt of Luxembourg-Lorraine married a granddaughter of Archduke Johann, and their son Nikolaus Harnoncourt was born on 6 December 1929 in Berlin but grew up in Graz. Following his training as a cellist he joined the Wiener Symphoniker with whom he played from 1952 to 1969. In 1953 he and his wife, the violinist Alice Harnoncourt, founded the ensemble “Concentus Musicus Wien”. The purpose of this specialist ensemble was, and remains, to revive and promote early music, from Medieval compositions to Renaissance and Baroque works, played wherever possible on period instruments and in the authentic style of the time. Harnoncourt collects historical instruments and alongside his work as a musician he has written papers on the philosophy of music which are regarded today as definitive works on the art of performing historical works. In 1972 he began teaching as a professor at the Salzburg Mozarteum, whilst at the same time his reputation as a respected conductor both of the symphony repertoire and the musical theatre continued to grow. In 1985 the “styriarte” was founded in Graz. Nikolaus Harnoncourt was installed as its key figure in order to re-establish closer ties between him and Graz, his childhood home, to honour him and at the same time to set his musical insight as the benchmark for the city's music festival. Nikolaus Harnoncourt, cellist, director, specialist in early music, is without doubt one of the “greats” in the contemporary world of music.

Christmas 2004

Issue date: 26.11.2004; €0.55; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$; Issue 11,000,000; Design & Engraving: Prof. Werner Pfeiler; Photogravure cornflower-blue, grey, yellow, scarlet-red, gold; Intaglio black.



The 2004 Christmas stamp depicts the Salzburg Christmas market in the old part of the city after a pen-and-ink drawing by Karl Neuhofer of 1987. The market is seen through the central railings of the cathedral, with the Franciscan church in the background. The Salzburg Christmas market goes back a very long way in history; a “flea market” is chronicled as early as 1491. The 17th century saw the first real pre-Christmas markets, or “Nicholas Markets”, where dolls, nibbles and sweetmeats, and all sorts of trinkets were sold. The market started two weeks before St. Nicholas' day and ended two weeks after it. Over the years the duration of the market became a contentious issue; in 1849 for example it was shortened to 2 weeks in total. It was not until 1903 that the city itself first determined the duration of the market: from the 11th of November to the 24th of December each year, with only citizens of Salzburg permitted to conduct business. The Salzburg Christmas market was the first which expressly granted women the right to have stalls, and it was women who kept the market alive till its closure in 1932.

In 1972 private initiative at last made it possible to relaunch the historic market and so it now takes place each year from the 20th of November to the 24th of December, situated outside the

cathedral on the Residenzplatz (Residency Square) framed by one of the world's most scenic backdrops, Mozart's Salzburg. The market's unique atmosphere now attracts over 850,000 winter visitors to Salzburg each year. They are enchanted, year in year out, not only by all the craft products, gingerbread and spices, but also by the Salzburg choirs and the pastoral and nativity plays. Not least, of course, the music of the Turmblaser wind ensembles puts visitors into the Advent mood and carries them off into a Christmas world that both glistens and yet bids us take time for thought.