

Imperial Issues

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ANK	When?	What?	What?
1-5	1850	First Issue. Hand then machine paper.	Currency was 60 kreuzer = 1 Gulden CM (Conventions Money). Issued 1 June 1850 with face values 1 kr yellow, 2 kr black, 3 kr light red, 6 kr red-brown, and 9 kr blue. Printed on handmade-paper of variable thickness. Sheet watermark KKHM in ornate script. Typographed; imperf. Various shades and plate faults. Design is the 'small Coat of Arms'. A parallel issue was made for Lombardy-Venetia in the same colours with face values 5, 10, 15, 30 and 45 centesimi. From 1854, the same stamps were printed on machine-made paper, without watermark.
10-15	1858	New currency from 1 November 1858	In 1858, the Austrian currency changed to 100 kreuzer = 1 Gulden Ö.W. - Österreichische Währung. (Officially, the currency was neukreuzer, but the 'neu' was very soon dropped.) A new stamp issue appeared, on 1 November, with face values 2 kr yellow, 3 kr black, 5 kr light red, 10 kr red-brown, and 15 kr blue. In March 1859 the 3 kr was changed to green. The design was "embossed Kaiser-head looking left" surrounded by ornate twiddles; and the stamps were perforated 14½-15. Machine-made paper, without watermark; typographed; perf 14.
18-22	1860-1861	Kaiser looking right	In 1860-61, the third issue appeared with face values 2 kr yellow, 3 kr green, 5 kr light red, 10 kr red-brown, and 15 kr blue. The design was "embossed Kaiser-head looking right" in an oval. Machine-made paper, without watermark; typographed; perf 14.
24-28	1863	New design of eagle-in-oval. P14	The fourth issue in 1863 featured an embossed double-headed eagle, and swapped the colours of the 10 and 15 kr as required by the German-Austrian Postal Union. The issue comprised 2 kr yellow, 3 kr green, 5 kr rose-red, 10 kr blue, and 15 kr light brown. Machine-made paper, without watermark; typographed; perf 14.
30-34	1863-1864	Ditto but p.9½	In 1863-64, the fifth issue appeared, with an embossed double-headed eagle. It comprised 2 kr yellow, 3 kr green, 5 kr rose-red, 10 kr blue, and 15 kr light brown. Machine-made paper, without watermark; typographed; perf 9½.
35-41	1867	Major rethink. More values. Coarse then fine printing	The sixth issue first appeared on 1 June 1867, remaining valid until 31 October 1884 in Austria and 1 August 1871 in Hungary. Its design reflected the politics of the time: in 1867 the Austrian Empire split into Austria, ruled by Kaiser Franz Josef; and Hungary, ruled by King Franz Josef - separate entities but dual monarchy. The separate postal administrations naturally wanted their own stamps, or as a stop-gap a stamp not containing references to the other entity. There was no time to design two new sets of stamps, neither were there adequate printing facilities in Budapest. Hence, a mutually inoffensive design was urgently required, to be printed in Vienna.
44-49	1883	Eagle with value tablet on chest	The seventh issue of 15 August 1883 has 6 face values (2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50 kr) and a design of a large faint double-headed eagle with the value in black on a large white breast shield. Perforations can be 6, 9½, 10, 10x2, 11½, 12½, and combinations of these, sometimes compound. Sheet watermark.

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50-68	1890-1896	Kaiser head	The eighth issue of 1890 comprised 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 15, 20, 24, 30, 50 kr & 1, 2 Gulden. No watermark. Typographed. Perfs 9, 10, 10½, 11, 11½, 12, 12x2, 13, 13½ and combinations. Value figures black on stamp-coloured design. "Granite" paper (the effect is as if the paper had embedded fine hairs). In 1891, the 20, 24, 30 and 50 kr were issued in a slightly changed design (value numbers in white octagons in all four corners; and in 1896 the two high values were reissued in changed colours.
69-83	1899	New currency, 100 heller = 1 Kronen. No Varnish bars	The nineth issue appeared on 1 December 1899, when the Austrian currency changed: 100 heller = 1 Krone (Based on the gold standard, but concealing a 50% devaluation! For example, cheapest letter postage had been 3 kreuzer and was now 6 heller) Values issued: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 heller, 1 Krone (shades), 2 Kr, 4 Kr. Typography; Granite paper. Perfs 10½, 12½, 13, 13½ & combinations. No varnish bars.
84-96	1901	Ditto but bars	In 1901, 13 of the values were reissued with the value numbers on a white background and with varnish bars.
105-118	1904	Kaiser's head	In 1904, 14 values were issued with various corner number designs: colour on white, black on white, white on colour. With varnish bars.
119-132	1905	Ditto with v bars	In 1905 they were reissued without varnish bars, bringing an unsuccessful experiment to an end.
133-138	1906-1907	Supplementary values	In 1906, the 5, 10, 12, 20, 25 and 30 heller were reissued in simplified (hence cheaper) mono-colouring: number in body colour on white.
139-156	1908	Jubilee issues	1908: Kaiser Franz Joseph's Jubilee (60 years on the throne) issue. Lower (1 h - 35 h) values in Typography on chalk-surfaced paper, higher (50 h - 10 Kr) engraved). 1913: the lower values issued on plain paper.
161-177	1910	KFJ's 80 th birthday	1910: Jubilee designs elongated to include "1910" at the top and bottom. Lower values on Kreidepapier, higher StTdr. Perf 12½
178-179	1914	War charity	1914: 5+2 and 10+2 h, the surcharge for the war-widows and orphans fund.
180-184	1915	War charity	1915: 3+1, 5+2, 10+2, 20+3, 35+3 heller; the surcharge for the war-widows and orphans fund.
185-199	1916	New series for a major rates change	1916: new series of 15 values (3 h to 1 Kr) to match a general rates rise in September. Also 4 high-value large-format stamps, 2 Kr to 10 Kr, issued on normal paper then in lighter colours then on granite paper.
200-211	1916	Ditto, the high values, with variations	
221-224	1917	Kaiser Karl issues, to replace KFJ 1916 stamps	1917: Kaiser Franz Joseph died on 21 November 1916 and Kaiser Karl inherited. This issue of 5 stamps replaced the corresponding ones showing Franz Joseph's head.
225-227	1918	Airmail to Lemberg	1918: The 2, 3 and 4 Kr of the 1916 issue were reprinted in altered colours and overprinted FLUGPOST

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		etc	for the Vienna-Krakau-Lemberg-Kiev air mail service.