

The Flood Relief Issue of 1921

The catastrophic floods of September 1920 which devastated large areas of Austria were very little noticed outside the Federal Republic. Nevertheless, the damage which they inflicted was of such magnitude that federal relief had to be provided and it was decided to raise funds by issuing a special set of 20 overprinted stamps on 1 March 1921.

The designs of the two previous definitive sets of 1919 and 1921 were again selected, and printed in new colours. Unlike the Carinthian Plebiscite overprinted set, the 'Parliament Building' stamps were not issued imperforate but were line perforated 12½, whilst all the other values were comb perforated 12.5. Two sizes of overprint were employed: the smaller Type I on the low values (up to 2Kr) on ordinary wove paper, except for the 1Kr and 1½Kr values which were on a shiny-surfaced paper; and the larger Type II overprint on the high values 2½Kr to 20Kr which are printed on granite paper. Some catalogues show some of the low values as printed on coloured papers; the list below is based on visual inspection of actual stamps! The 1Kr stamp has the usual 'H' variety in the eagle's wing, the 2Kr stamp is known with the "1920" of the overprint omitted and also as a vertical pair with imperf between, whilst the 4Kr value may be found with the name of the designer J.F. Renner missing from the bottom margin of the stamp. Once again, the bi-coloured values were printed in two operations. As for the Plebiscite issue, alignment marks were provided for the dual-colour printings. A total of 400,000 complete sets was printed; some values had larger printings eg 530,000 of the 1K. These stamps were sold at three times face value, the extra sums raised being spent on the flood relief. The issue was valid until 31 March 1921 - ie, only for one month.



ANK	Face	Colour	Number
321	5h	grey on off-white paper	324,000

322	10h	scarlet on pale rose paper	324,000
323	15h	khaki on slightly yellow (ochre?) paper	324,000
324	20h	dark bluish green on blue paper	396,000
325	25h	violet on off-white paper	324,000
326	30h	brown on buff paper	300,000
327	40h	red on slightly yellow paper	324,000
328	50h	dark greenish blue on blue paper	420,000
329	60h	olive on blue paper	300,000
330	80h	red	495,000
331	1Kr	light brown	410,000
332	2Kr	pale blue	430,000
The 2½Kr upwards are in the "Parliament" design			
333	2½Kr	brownish red on granite paper	302,000
334	3Kr	blue frame, green centre on granite paper	302,000
335	4Kr	red frame, violet centre on granite paper	302,000
336	5Kr	blue on granite paper	302,000
337	7½Kr	green on granite paper	302,000
338	10Kr	green frame, brownish-red centre on granite paper	302,000
339	20Kr	pale violet frame, light brown centre on granite paper	302,000

- There is a "high r in Wasser" plate fault in some values. Most of the low values can be found imperf.
- "Bedarfsbrief" usage (ie correct franking on a contemporary item) is possible for many values; it is relatively rare and priced accordingly.
- Some values are found in "wrong" colours. Overprint errors are found, especially '1020' instead of '1920'.