

The Airmail Set of 1925-1930.



The first tranche of a new airmail set appeared on 1 August 1925. There were two designs, produced by Prof. Karl Sterrer, the designer of the 1924 Charity Set. The typographed values show the head of a pilot with part of an aeroplane (a Hansa Brandenburg C-1) in the background; the photogravure values show a crane of indeterminate species flying to the left below an aeroplane (a De Haviland DH-34) heading right. The catalogues all list these stamps by increasing face value. However, the issue is much easier to understand if first grouped by issue date.

The printed sheet was 100 stamps arranged 10x10 except for the 10Sch value where owing to the larger format of the stamp (25mm x 31mm) the sheet was 5x10. All the sheets were issued without sheet edging, although perforated "printing pieces" of all values with sheet edging are known. In addition, imperforate printing pieces exist of all the stamps issued on 7 September 1926. The set was valid until 31 October 1938.

The perforation was 12½ comb; varieties are recorded including horizontal pieces with imperforate gutters of the 5g and 10g values; vertical pieces with imperforate gutters of the 5g, 15g and 23g values, and a coarsely perforated piece of the 25g value.

Trial printings of the crane'n'plane design were produced in various colours in the old currency: 20,000Kr (in 1 colour); 25,000Kr (in 3 colours and 3 different intensities); 50,000Kr (21 colours). Trials were also produced in the new currency: 5g (15 colours); 3 Sch (9 colours); 5 Sch (9 colours) and 10Sch (9 colours). Unused designs by Karl Offner showing the god Mercury exist in the archives.

The first mails franked with these stamps were flown on the respective days of issue. Mixed frankings with the previous airmail issue on flown covers (valid only during August 1925) are worth significantly more than normal. Several plate errors are catalogued. From 6th May 1926, airmail stamps could be used to pay all the charges on airmail; but were not permitted on surface mail.

PTVOB Nr 50 144 of July 1925 states that "new air mail stamps will be issued on 1 August 1925; the Kronen ones will become invalid on 1 September; during September the public may exchange new stamps for old; as before these stamps may only be used to pay the air surcharge (which may also be paid in cash or with surface mail stamps)".

ANK	Face	Colour	Issued	Typo/Photo	Number
468	2g	grey-brown	1.8.1925	Typo	329,400
469	5g	rose-scarlet	1.8.1925	Typo	381,600
470	6g	steel blue	1.8.1925	Typo	192,100
471	8g	yellow-green	1.8.1925	Typo	194,700
479	10g	vermilion	1.8.1925	Typo	186,500
480	15g	lake	1.8.1925	Photo	191,800
481	30g	deep purple	1.8.1925	Photo	190,400
482	50g	slate	1.8.1925	Photo	187,800
483	1Sch	blue	1.8.1925	Photo	192,500
484	2Sch	green	1.8.1925	Photo	190,500

PTVOB Nr 50 131 of 28 August 1926 states that "additional air mail stamps of 3S, 5S & 10S will be issued, in the crane&plane design. The 10g, 15g, 30g & 50g will be changed to the "pilot" design; the existing ones remain valid until used up. The stamps were issued on 7 September.

ANK	Face	Colour	Issued	Typo/Photo	Number
472	10g	orange	7.9.1926	Typo	257,000
473	15g	magenta	7.9.1926	Typo	238,100
476	30g	bistre	7.9.1926	Typo	189,400
477	50g	grey-blue	7.9.1926	Typo	188,000
485	3Sch	red-brown	7.9.1926	Photo	92,500
486	5Sch	indigo	7.9.1926	Photo	90,000
487	10Sch	deep brown on grey paper	7.9.1926	Photo	95,000

PTVOB Nr 36 89 dated 5 June 1930 announced the final three of the issue; they were in the 'pilot' design and appeared on 18 June. The 2g, 6g & 8g were withdrawn, although existing copies remained valid.

ANK	Face	Colour	Issued	Typo/Photo	Number
474	20g	brown	18.6.1930	Typo	236, 200
475	25g	violet	18.6.1930	Typo	136,800
478	80g	green	18.6.1930	Typo	190,000



A cover with the 1922 Kronen air issue and the 1925 groschen definitives, cancelled 12 June 1925.



A rather dark printed matter cover from Innsbruck to Frankfurt a/M, correctly franked with a 1922 300Kr = 3gро plus a 1925 2gро making 5gро, the printed matter surcharge; and a 1 gро defin for the surface component.



A very overfranked cover from Vienna to Holland, cancelled on 31 August 1925, the last day of validity of the Kronen airmails. (Checking the rate shows that they are purely decorative anyway!)



The 10S genuinely used, in a late mixed franking with the 1936-issue 30g from Vienna to Brazil