

1948

THE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES STAMP OF 16 JANUARY 1948.



The 5th Winter Olympic Games were held at St. Moritz in Switzerland from 30 January to 8 February 1948 prior to the main Olympic Games which were held at Wembley, London from 30 July to 14 August 1948. In order to raise funds for the expenses of the Austrian Olympic team, it was decided to issue a 1S+50gr deep ultramarine stamp, with a surcharge devoted to these funds. The stamp was designed by Alfred Chmielowski (1896-1967) to show the olympic fire burning in a sacrificial bowl placed on an altar. On the latter are engraved the five olympic rings and this altar itself stands on a base in which are incised the words "REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH". This design was then engraved by Georg Wimmer and printed in recess by the State Printing Works in Vienna; being perforated 14½:13½. There are four varieties known with this stamp:

1. Height of the design 34.5mm instead of 34mm (on the 24th and 29th stamps of the sheet). This is a most strange variety with no obvious reason why it should occur.
2. Deformed second E in ÖSTERREICH (7th stamp in the sheet),
3. The "5" of the value figures with a coloured stroke through it (34th and 59th stamps in the sheet).
4. A line separating the bowl and its base is missing.

FAMOUS AUSTRIANS, 26 JANUARY 1948



On 26 January, two more portrait stamps appeared in the Famous Austrians series. Both were designed and engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber, and 3,000,000 copies of each were recess-printed.

The 25th anniversary of the death of the composer Carl Michael Ziehrer was marked by a 20gr stamp in green.

The 60th anniversary of the death of the painter Friedrich Amerling was marked by a 60gr stamp in brownish-red.



THE RECONSTRUCTION FUND SET OF 18 FEBRUARY 1948.

The aftermath of WWII left a huge amount of reconstruction work needed in Austria. A special surcharged set of stamps was issued on 18 February 1948 to raise funds for this laudable object. This set was designed by Heinrich Blechner, who had designed both the Vienna Fair and Airmail sets of 1947, and this was to be the last set of Austrian stamps that he did design. The individual stamps were then engraved.

The set was then printed by the recess process at the State Printing Works on unwatermarked paper; perforated 14:13½. A total of 800,000 sets was printed. A plate error is found on the 29th stamp of each sheet of the top value, consisting of a coloured spot in the wall of the ramp leading up to the Parliament building.



10gr+5gr slate grey: Bridge Reconstruction. Austrian workers are shown reconstructing the Laabenbach viaduct, near Neulengbach in Lower Austria, which had been partly destroyed in the war. Engraved by G. Wimmer

20gr+10gr violet: Dam Reconstruction. Here the reconstruction of the hydro-electric dam at Vermunt-Stausee in the Vorarlberg is shown. Engraved by H.T. Schimek



30gr+10gr green: Docks Reconstruction. The large warehouses, the cranes for unloading and the dockside train depict here the dock installations on the Danube at Vienna. Engraved by R. Zenziger

40gr+20gr brown olive: Mine Reconstruction. The great iron ore mountain of the Erzberg in Styria, with its terraced open cast mining complete with small train, is shown on this stamp to symbolise the return of the mines to full production. Engraved by H.T. Schimek



45g+20gr blue: Railway Reconstruction. The construction of major railway works for the Vienna Southern Railway Station is depicted here. A train stands beneath an automatic signal in the vicinity of this station. Engraved by R. Zenziger

60g+30gr lake: Building Reconstruction. On this value the reconstruction is depicted of municipal flats in Vienna; flats presumably partly destroyed during the fighting in the city in 1945. Engraved by R. Toth



75gr+50gr brown purple: Industrial Reconstruction. Work is shown here in progress in the Vienna gas works; also partly destroyed during the period at the end of the Second World War. Engraved by G Wimmer.

80gr+40gr purple: Oil Well Reconstruction. A refining plant for shale oil is shown on this stamp. In the foreground may be seen the oil tankers ready to take away the refined product. Engraved by R Toth.



1S+50gr blue: Road Reconstruction. Here are shown workmen repairing the embankment to the Alpine Gesäusestrasse in Styria. Engraved by G. Wimmer

1S40gr+70gr rose red. The top value of the set depicts the Parliament Buildings in Vienna where the reconstruction legislation was debated and passed. Engraved by R Franke.



THE ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS “FLOWER” SET OF 14 MAY 1948.

Possibly the most beautiful set of stamps issued by Austria in the post-war period, that set which certainly caught the imagination of the philatelic public of the period, was the set of ten stamps depicting native flowers which appeared on 14 May 1948 to raise funds for an anti-tuberculosis fund. This set was designed by Hans Strohofer, the 10gr and 1S values being engraved by Hans Ranzoni and all the other values by Hubert Woyty-Wimmer. The stamps were printed by a mixture of recess printing for the frames and multi-colour typography at the State Printing Works and were comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4}$: $13\frac{1}{2}$. Each stamp has, in the upper left and right corners, a stylised miniature of the leaf or plant in question.



10gr+5gr: violet, mauve and green. Violets (German: Veilchen, Latin: Viola odorata). The leaves are broad and heart-shaped and the blossoms purple or white. A common perennial of low growth. [1.5 Million printed]

20gr+10gr: blue, green, yellow green and yellow. Bushy Anemone (German: Buschwindröschen, Latin: *Anemone vernalis*). This perennial flowering plant is found in many species in the temperate regions of Europe. [1.4M]



30gr+10gr: red brown, yellow and green. Crocus (German: Krokus, Latin: *Crocus vernus*). A hardy perennial plant yielding white, purple and striped garden varieties; the yellow blooms are Dutch developments from *C. aureus*. [1.2M]

40gr+20gr: green, yellow and orange. Primrose (German: Primel, Latin: *Primula vulgaris*). A herbaceous perennial of the genus "Primula", of which there are 250 species. The wild flower is usually yellow. [1.2M]



45g+20gr: purple, mauve and yellow. Anemone (German: Küchenschelle, Latin: *Anemone pulsatilla*). The Pasque flower which is very common in Southern Germany and Austria being known there as the Cowbell flower (Kuhglocke). [1.3M]

60gr+30gr: brown lake, magenta and green. Alpine Rose (German: Alpenrose, Latin: *Rhododendron hirsutum*). This is not a true rose but of the rhododendron genus of ornamental flowering shrubs of the family Ericaceae. [1.3M]



75gr+35gr: green, pink and yellow. Dog Rose (German: Heckenrose, Latin: *Rosa canina*). From the wild rose or dog rose, numerous strains of the family Rosaceae have been developed. It is common throughout Europe. [1.3M]

80gr+40gr: blue, pink and green. Cyclamen (German: Zyk lame, Latin: *Centaurea alpina*). A genus of early blooming plants with a coiled flower-stalk and a bulbous root. A handsome relative of the primrose. [1.2M]



1S+50gr: indigo, ultramarine and green. Gentian (German: Enzian, Latin: *Gentiana acaulis*). A genus of annual or perennial herbs whose funnel-shaped corollas, usually blue, are adapted for various types of insects. [1.3M]

1S40gr+70gr: olive, pale blue and yellow. Edelweiss (German: Edelweiss, Latin: *Leontopodium alpinum*). A perennial plant found in Alpine regions. The hairy leaves have a whitish appearance, the flowers are greyish-white. [1.0M]



Two very rare varieties are known with this set. On the 20gr+10gr stamp a white pollenated bud may be seen whilst on the 1S+50gr a white gentian occurs.

[For the costumes series, whose earliest members were issued on 1 June 1948, see "Definitives".]

THE KÜNSTLERHAUS SET OF 15 JUNE 1948.

On 15 June 1948 a charity set of stamps was issued for the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Vienna Academy of Art. This is the first set of stamps to bear the special "Ersttag" strike introduced on 1 June 1948. The stamps were designed by Professor Ernst Schrom and engraved as below.

The first value of this set depicts the Künstlerhaus building on the north side of Karlsplatz in Vienna. It was constructed in the Italian Renaissance style by A. Weber in 1865-1868 and was officially opened by the Emperor Franz Josef I on 1 September 1868 as the home of the Association of Austrian Artists. The other values of the set portray, in ornamental frames, six of the famous artists who have been associated with this building.



20gr+10gr green. Künstlerhaus. Engraved by H.T. Schimek.

30gr+15gr brown. H. Makart. Engraved by H. Woyty.

40gr+20gr indigo. K. Kundmann. Engraved by H. Ranzoni.



50gr+25gr violet. A. von Siccardsburg. Engraved by F. Lorber.

60gr+30gr rose-red. H. Canon. Engraved by H. Woyty.

1S+50gr blue. W. Unger. Engraved by F. Lorber.

1S40gr+70gr purple-brown. F. Schmidt. Engraved by H. Ranzoni.

The stamps were all recess printed by the Austrian State Printing Works and were comb perforated 14¼:13½. The only plate error is on the top value of the set where on the 5th stamp of each sheet the compasses and finger of Friedrich Schmidt are shaded. 480,000 stamps were printed.

THE SALZBURG CATHEDRAL SET OF 6 AUGUST 1948.

On 6 August 1948 a special charity set of stamps was issued to raise funds for the reconstruction of the great cathedral at Salzburg. The cupola had been damaged by bombing in 1944 and was to remain in scaffolding until 1959 when the reconstruction was complete. Just as Vienna is the creation of the Habsburgs, so was Salzburg made by its archbishops: 150 of whom ruled between St. Rupert in 582 and Archbishop Colloredo, deposed in 1803. Salzburg was never the residence of a temporal ruler.

The stamps were designed by Sepp Jahn who had previously designed the 1947 Prisoners-of-War set. The individual stamps were engraved as follows and 500,000 copies printed in recess by the Austrian State Printing Works p. 14¼:13½.



20gr+10gr green. This stamp depicts the statue of St. Rupert, sculpted by Franz Hitzl in 1788. He is shown in bishop's robes carrying a crozier in his right hand and a vessel of salt in his left, to represent the salt trade of the district. Engraved by R. Franke.

30gr+15gr lake-brown. On this value the cathedral is seen across the “Residenz-Platz”, in which rises the Hof-Brunnen of Untersberg marble. This used to be the largest fountain in Northern Europe and was erected under Archbishop Thun by the Italian sculptor Tommaso Garona between 1658 and 1661. Engraved by F. Teubel.





40gr+20gr slate-green. The cathedral is seen from the front, flood-lit from the Dom-Platz. In this square, to which an air of seclusion is imparted by the arcades adjoining the Residenz and the Abbey, is a leaden column or monument of the Virgin Mary by Wolfgang and Johann Hagenauer of 1771. Engraved by R. Zenziger.

50gr+25gr chocolate. A view of the Cathedral from the Kapitalplatz on the south side. This square contains a marble horse pond in the style of a Roman baroque fountain. In the background can be seen the colonnade leading to the monastery of St. Peter, and the tower of the Franciscan Church. Engraved by R. Toth.



60gr+30gr rose-red. On this stamp is depicted the Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter which dates from the 12th century although the tower is of the 18th century. Other church towers fill in the background. The only plate error of the set occurs with this value on the 16th stamp in the sheet. A coloured fleck produces a "cloud between the two towers". Engraved by H.T. Schimek.

80gr+40gr dull purple. This value shows the interior of the cathedral which was originally constructed in 774, added to in the 12th century, destroyed by fire in 1598, and immediately rebuilt to designs by Vincent Scamozzi and Santino Solaris. It was this cupola which was destroyed by a bomb on 16 October 1944. Engraved by F. Teubel.



1S+50g blue. Here the cathedral is depicted as viewed from the Kapuzinerberg, dominated by the great archepiscopal fortress of the Hohensalzburg. The latter was founded in 1077 by Archbishop Gebhard but owes the essential features of its present-day form to Archbishop Leonhard (c.1500). Engraved by G. Wimmer.

1S40gr+70gr deep green. The last value of the set depicts the Madonna which was carved by Michael Pacher (1465-1498) between 1495 and 1498. This stands above the High Altar of the Franciscan Church and the stamp shows also the statue of the Christ Child which is a 19th century addition. Engraved by R. Franke.



FAMOUS AUSTRIANS, 6 SEPTEMBER 1948



The 80th anniversary of the death of the poet Adalbert Stifter was marked by a 40gr portrait stamp designed and engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber, recess-printed in chocolate (1,000,000 copies), and issued on 6 September.

THE “30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC” STAMP OF 12 NOVEMBER 1948.



The “Democratic Republic of German-Austria” was proclaimed on 12 November 1918 and Karl Renner became the first Chancellor of this First Republic until July 1920. As Dr Renner also later became the First President of the Second Austrian Republic, from 20 December 1945 until his death on 4 January 1951, it was considered apposite that his portrait should appear on this 1S commemorative stamp which was issued on 12 November 1948 to honour the 30th anniversary of the First Republic. The stamp was designed and engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber, who had engraved so many beautiful Austrian stamps, and 600,000 copies were recess-printed in blue by the Austrian State Printing Works p 13¾:14¼.

The same design was reprinted in black on lemon paper and re-issued on 3 May 1951 to commemorate the death of President Renner; and re-re-issued in deep green on 12 November 1953 with the numeral altered from “30 JAHRE” to “40 JAHRE” to honour the 40th anniversary of the First Republic.

THE “SILENT NIGHT” STAMP OF 18 DECEMBER 1948.



The famous carol “Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht” was composed by Fr. Josef Mohr and set to music by Franz Xaver Gruber at Oberndorf near Salzburg at Christmas 1818. To commemorate the sesqui-centenary of this most important musical event, the Austrian Post Office issued a stamp on 18 December 1948. This 60 groschen red-brown stamp, depicting both Fr. Josef Mohr the curate of Oberndorf and Franz Xaver Gruber the village school-master and organist of Arndorf was designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and 500,000 copies recess-printed by the Austrian State Printing Works p. 13¾:14¼.