

1949

THE "HAPPY CHILDHOOD" ISSUE OF 13 APRIL 1949.

It was a happy thought to picture on charity stamps, devoted to the raising of funds for children's charities and welfare work, the four occasions during the year when children are particularly happy; Easter, St. Nicholas' Day, a birthday and Christmas. Thus it was that the first set of Austrian stamps to be issued in 1949 (SG 1162-1165) was inscribed "GLÜCKLICHE KINDHEIT" ("Happy Childhood) and the delightful portraits of children have made this one of the most popular of post-war Austrian issues.

Very appropriately, the set was designed by Edith Ranzoni (nee Riedel) who was born in Vienna on 10 January 1909 and studied at the Graphical Teaching and Research Institute in Vienna. In 1940 she married the famous designer and engraver Hans Ranzoni the Younger who engraved this set. It appears to be the only set of stamps designed by Edith Ranzoni, and she insisted that only her husband should be allowed to engrave it. The following set was therefore printed in recess with an impression of 290,000 of each value, perforated 14½:13½ and issued on 13 April 1949.



40gr+10gr purple. Easter is symbolised by an Easter rabbit on a basket of Easter eggs held by a solemn chubby faced boy. In the background is a spring pussy-willow.

60gr+20gr brown lake. The Feast of St. Nicholas (Nikolo), on 6 December, is symbolised by the boot filled with fruit, nuts and sweets. Two pretty girls look anxiously forward to "Nikolo". In the background is the crozier of St. Nicholas, Bishop and Confessor.

1S+25gr blue. A one-year old baby, with a spoon grasped firmly in his right hand, waits to start eating his chocolate birthday cake which is surmounted by a solitary candle.

1S40gr+35gr green. The top value depicts a young girl, Gloria Waleska, at prayer at Christmas time. The period is symbolised by a branch of the Christmas tree on which stands the Christmas candle. Of all the "happy children" depicted on this set, it is only the child on this top value whose name is known.

THE U.N.I.C.E.F. STAMP OF 14 MAY 1949.



The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (U.N.I.C.E.F.) did invaluable work, in co-operation with the Swedish Committee for International Relief acting through the Red Cross and the "Save the Children" Fund, in providing essential food and medical supplies in the period after the liberation. It was therefore decided to issue a special stamp on 14 May 1949 to honour all this work.

The 1S greenish-blue stamp was designed by Professor Josef Seger and printed in photogravure by the Austrian State Printing Works. The attractive design consisted of an Austrian schoolboy, with his satchel on his back, greeting with outstretched arms the dove of peace which brings the aid in its beak. In the background may just be seen the symbol of the United Nations; the map of the world surrounded by a wreath. During its first year of operation the fund had supplied Austria with 8,600 tonnes of food with a total value of over 3m. U.S. dollars.

A plate error, consisting of a white spot in the boy's shorts under the K of "Republik", may be found on the 31st and 41st stamp of each sheet. The total impression of this issue was a million stamps.

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

THE JOHANN STRAUSS JNR. STAMP OF 3 JUNE 1949.



So great a chasm, of two World Wars, divides the world of Johann Strauss from that of today that it is salutary to recall that he died on 3 June 1899, and it was only fifty years afterwards that the Austrian Post Office issued a 1S deep blue stamp on 3rd June May 1949 to commemorate the half century of his death.

This impressive portrait stamp was engraved by F. Lorber from the design by Wilhelm Dachauer and printed by the recess process in an impression of a million pieces. The stamps were perforated 14½:13½.

THE ESPERANTO CONGRESS STAMP OF 25 JUNE 1949.

The Austrian Esperanto Congress was held in Graz from 16 to 20 July 1949 and really marked the reconstruction of the movement after it had been banned by the Nazis during the Anschluss period. The Austrian Post Office decided to mark this occasion by issuing a 20gr stamp. It was designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer to depict the large green star, which is the international symbol of Esperanto, together with olive branches on both sides of the star to symbolise peace.

This 20gr emerald green stamp was printed by the photogravure process in an impression of one million pieces, was issued on 25 June 1949. An error, of a white spot between the 2 and 0 of the numeral of value, may be found on the 23rd stamp of each sheet.



Esperanto was the child of Dr. Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof, a Russian-Polish Jew. In its final form the project appeared in 1887 under the pseudonym "Linguo Internacia de la Doktoro Esperanto" (International Language by Dr. Hopeful) From Russia it spread to the Scandinavian countries, to Central Europe, thence to France. After a brief eclipse during the Great War of 1914-1918, the wave of pacifist sentiment which subsequently swept over the world gave it new momentum - momentum which it has never lost since.

THE ST. GEBHARD BIRTH MILLENNARY STAMP, 9 AUGUST 1949.



On 9 August 1949 the Austrian Post Office issued a stamp on the occasion of the 1,000th anniversary of the birth of St. Gebhard, Bishop and Patron of the Land of the Vorarlberg. This stamp depicting St. Gebhard, wearing his episcopal mitre and carrying a crozier and a skull bearing the papal tiara, was designed by Professor Josef Seger, engraved by Professor Hubert Woyty-Wimmer, and printed in an impression of one million pieces (p 14½:13½) by the State Printing Works by the recess process.

St. Gebhard was born on 7th August 949 at Bregenz. He was the son of Ulrich VI, Count of Alt Bregenz, and of the latter's wife, Dietburga von Jähringen. Gebhard attended the Cathedral School in Constance and was appointed as Bishop of Constance in 980. His most important work was the foundation in 983 of the Benedictine Abbey of Peterhausen near Constance. He died on 27th August 995 and was canonised in 1134. "Heil'ger Gebhard, dich zu ehren; Schirmherr, deinen Ruhm zu mehren, Hier, wo deine Wiege stand, Sind vereinigt wir in Treue, Tausend Jahre, stets aufs neue, sagt dir Dank dein Heimatland." [Heil'ger Gebhard, to honour you; Patron, to increase your fame, Here, where your cradle stood, We are united in loyalty, A thousand years, always anew, Your homeland gives you thanks.]

A special cancellation, in either black or red, was used from 6 to 28 August in Bregenz. It shows a cherub carrying the skull, with its papal tiara, on a cushion.

THE P-O-W RELIEF FUND SET OF 17 AUGUST 1949.

The return of prisoners-of-war necessitated the expenditure of large sums of money on their rehabilitation. To aid the fundraising, a set of charity stamps was issued, with surcharges to be donated to a P.O.W. relief fund. The four stamps were designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer and engraved by Professor Hubert Woyty-Wimmer. They were recess-printed in an impression of 340,000 sets but the seal on the bottom value and the coats-of-arms on the others were printed in typography. They were perforated 14½:13½ and issued on 17 August 1949.



40gr+10gr yellow and yellow-brown. The obverse of the Duke Friedrich II's document seal (from 1230).

60gr+15gr pink and maroon. Coat-of-arms of the Emperor Friedrich III (V of Austria), about 1450, as ruler of Austria.

1S+25gr: red and blue. Coat-of-arms of the Emperor Rudolf II, about 1600, as ruler of Austria.

1S60gr+40gr pink and green. The Arms of the Second Austrian Republic after 1945.

It will be observed that, in all cases, the original red-white-red shield is depicted; the origin of which was the blood-stained surcoat of Leopold V in the Third Crusade; with the centre kept white by his sword strap.

FAMOUS AUSTRIANS, 3 SEPTEMBER 1949



The 125th birthday of the composer Anton Bruckner was marked by a 40gr portrait stamp designed and engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber, recess-printed in green (1,000,000 copies), and issued on 3 September.



THE JOHANN STRAUSS SNR. STAMP OF 24 SEPTEMBER 1949.

It is, of course, a truism verging on cliché to think of Austria as the land of music and of Vienna as the city of music. In the year in which it was possible to commemorate the half century of the death of Johann Strauss the Son, one could also commemorate the centenary of the death of his father, Johann Strauss Senior (1804-1849) who died at the early age of 45 on 25 September 1849.

A typical portrait stamp was designed for this occasion by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and recess-printed by the State Printing Office in an impression of 600,000 pieces. This 30 groschen brown-purple stamp was perforated 14½:13½ and was issued on 24 September 1949.

Johann Strauss the Elder was born in Vienna on 14 March 1804; the son of an innkeeper Franz Strauss who died in 1805. His mother, Barbara Tollmann, remarried another innkeeper, Herr Goldiner, soon afterwards and this step-father later apprenticed the boy to a book-binder. However, young Johann ran away and when he was 15 started to play in orchestras belonging first to Michael Pamer ("the grandfather of the Viennese Walz") and then to Joseph Lanner. In 1825 he formed his own orchestra and started on the musical career which was to make him famous.

THE "75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.P.U." SET OF 8 OCTOBER 1949

It was an American, Montgomery Blair, who first proposed a postal organisation to cover the entire world and chaired a Postal Conference in Paris during 1863 to advance this idea; but it was actually the Prussian General Postmaster, Ernst Heinrich Wilhelm von Stephan who in Berne on 15 September 1874 persuaded twenty-two states to form a General Postal Union.

In 1879 its name was changed to the "Universal Postal Union" (U.P.U.) but the 75th anniversary of its foundation was still dated from 1874 to fall in 1949. To celebrate this important postal anniversary, the Austrian Post Office decided to issue on 8 October 1949 (FDC 8th) a set of three stamps with symbolic designs.



40gr green: to symbolise the growth of the U.P.U. between 1874 and 1949, the envelope and posthorn are posed with a bunch of roses.

60gr brown-lake: to symbolise the world-wide character of the U.P.U., a star and wreath with the numerals 75 are held by two putti.

1S deep blue: to symbolise the genius of the organization, a female head crowned with an olive wreath, the dates 1874-1949 and the winged symbol of the "U.P.U." with a P (= post) in the centre. It should be noted that all these central designs are contained in a circle bearing letters to indicate the points of the compass. Above these circles run the words "WELTPOSTVEREIN" (= U.P.U.).

The set was designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and recess printed in an impression of 600,000 sets and perforated 13½:14½.

THE "STAMP DAY" ISSUE OF 3 DECEMBER 1949.

"The Day of the Postage Stamp is meant to be more than a festive event for philatelists. It invites us to review the achievements of the past and envisages the task which still lies before us in the field of philately". With these words the Austrian Philatelic Organisations try to explain the purposes of "Postage Stamp Day"; the first special stamp for which was issued by the Austrian Post Office on 3 December 1949. The design was produced by Professor W. Dachauer and the stamp was engraved by Professor Hubert Woyty-Wimmer; being recess printed at the Austrian State Printing Works. P.14½:13½. Shown on the stamp are three covers franked with the 1933 Wipa stamps; each with one of the three special Wipa cancellations. A magnifying glass enlarges the stamp on the first cover whilst a sprig of laurels is placed on the other two covers. An impression of 680,000 of this stamp was produced. The posting value of the stamp was 60gr whilst the 15gr surcharge was devoted to the foundation of a national philatelic museum.



THE KARL MILLÖCKER ISSUE OF 31 DECEMBER 1949.

Karl Millöcker, a prolific composer of Viennese operettas such as "Countess Dubarry" (1879) and "The Beggar Student" (1882) was born on 29 April 1842 in Vienna. He was the son of Karl Franz Millöcker, a goldsmith, and of the latter's wife Annemaria Laaber. He died at Baden bei Wien on 31 December 1899. The Austrian Post Office, therefore, decided to issue a commemorative portrait stamp on the 50th anniversary of his death.



This stamp was designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and recess printed in deep blue; comb perforated 14½:13½. The impression of 600,000 pieces of this 1 schilling stamp was issued on 31 December 1949. A plate error is known on the 50th stamp of each sheet: the "B" of "REPUBLIK" has a coloured stroke through it.