

1950

THE M. M. DAFFINGER ISSUE, 25 JANUARY 1950.



The stamp issues of 1950 started with a 60gr red-brown stamp to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the birth of the painter; Moritz Michael Daffinger. This portrait stamp was designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer using two self portraits of the artist. The face was taken from a portrait of 1821 whilst the clothing comes from another produced in 1825. The M.M. Daffinger stamp was engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and recess printed by the State Printing Works; comb perforated 14½:13½. The impression was 600,000 stamps; no plate errors are recorded.

Moritz Michael Daffinger was born on 25 January 1790 at Liechtenthal. He was the son of Johann Leopold Daffinger (1748-1796), a painter at the Rossauer Porcelain Works, and of the latter's wife Katherine Metzger (1764-1813). He became a celebrated portrait painter and specialised in miniature painting on ivory. He eloped with Marie Smolenitz von Smolk (1808-1880) and they had a daughter, Mathilde (1826-1841), to whom he was devoted. He died in Vienna on 22 August 1849, a victim of the cholera epidemic of that year.

THE ANDREAS HOFER ISSUE, 20 FEBRUARY 1950.



The 140th anniversary of the death of the Austrian patriot, Andreas Hofer, was commemorated with a special 60gr deep violet stamp which was issued on 20 February 1950. The portrait chosen for the stamp design was that painted by Placidus Altmulter in 1809 with storm clouds and the mountains of Tirol in the background. As with the previous issue, the stamp was designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and recess printed by the Austrian State Printing Works (comb perforation 14½:13¾) in an impression of 500,000. No plate errors are recorded.

Andreas Hofer was born on 22 November 1767 at St. Leonhard in the Passeiertal. He was the son of Josef Hofer, who kept the inn "am Sand" there, and of the latter's wife Maria Aigentler who died when Andreas was a child. He was brought up by his stepmother and inherited the inn upon his father's death. During the wars with the French he rose to head of the militia, but when Tirol was ceded to Bavaria in 1804 he led the provincial resistance which in 1809 resulted in the expulsion of the French and Bavarians. However he was betrayed to the French who took him to Mantua and executed him there on 20 February 1810.

THE AUSTRIAN STAMP CENTENARY ISSUE, 20 MAY 1950.



Austria issued its first stamps on 1 June 1850. These had been designed by Dr Johann Jakob Herz, engraved by Hermann Tautenhayn and printed by typography at the State Printing Works in Vienna. To celebrate their centenary, the 2 Kreuzer black value was selected, probably because the 1 Kreuzer orange or yellow would have been too weak a colour, and this was incorporated within an ornate frame, with the dates 1850 and 1950 at the top, to a design by Professor Ernst Schrom (1902-1969). This beautiful design was then engraved by Herbert Toni Schimek and recess printed by the State Printing Works on heavy yellow Japanese "document" paper; line perforated 14½.

It was issued, in an impression of one million pieces, on 20 May 1950. A special cancellation was provided for the Centenary Exhibition held in the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts from 20 May to 11 June 1950. The Austria Philatelic Society of New York also held a Centenary Stamp Exhibition in the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia from 18 March to 13 April 1950. By special arrangement, the first air letter sheet of Austria (released 16.3.50) was flown to the exhibition and provided with a commemorative cancellation, in English and German, in Wien 1 as well as a backstrike in Philadelphia.

THE JOSEF MADERSPERGER ISSUE, 2 OCTOBER 1950.



The centenary of the death of the inventor Josef Madersperger was commemorated with a special 60gr violet stamp issued on 2 October 1950. The portrait of the inventor is shown in front of his principal invention; a sewing machine, which is now an exhibit at the Technical Museum in Vienna. As with the Hofer issue, the stamp was designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber, and recess printed by the Austrian State Printing Works (comb perforation 14½:13½) in an impression of 600,000 pieces. The Blackprint impression showed the dates erroneously as "1767-1850". This error was corrected to "1768-1850" (and the original stamp order destroyed) on the printing plates but the only retouch visible on the "7" is on the 23rd stamp on a sheet of 50.

Josef Madersperger was born in Kufstein on 6 October 1768. He was the son of George Madersperger, a master tailor, and of the latter's wife Gertrude Rieder. He became a tailor himself in Vienna and married Klara Hahn from Darmstadt. Although he did invent a sewing machine in 1814, he allowed the patents to lapse and died in poverty in Vienna on 2 October 1850.

THE "30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARINTHIAN PLEBISCITE" ISSUE, 10 OCTOBER 1950.

After WWI in 1918, the Habsburg Monarchy collapsed and Carinthia's borders were the subject of dispute. Therefore, at the peace negotiations at St. Germain, it was decided to hold a plebiscite. For this purpose, the disputed territory was divided into two zones - Zone 1: the southern; Zone 2: the northern part. The plebiscite was to be held first in Zone 1 and three weeks later in Zone 2, but in the latter only if Zone 1 voted to join Jugoslavia. Until the balloting, Zone 1 was to be administered by Jugoslavia, and Zone 2 was to be administered by Austria.

An Allied Plebiscite Commission, presided over by the British, scrupulously prepared and supervised the balloting. On 10 October 1920, 95% of the qualified voters went to the polls and cast 20,025 (or 59.04%) votes for Austria and 15,279 (or 40.96%) for Jugoslavia. The significance of this plebiscite rests on the fact that the self-determination and sovereignty of a small nation were recognised and respected. The successful outcome for Austria also proved the love for the homeland of the population of Carinthia.

At the time of the plebiscite, in 1920, Austria issued a series of nineteen stamps and Jugoslavia followed suit with a series of six stamps produced by surcharging newspaper stamps. Each had a different surcharge but all included the letters "K.G.C.A." (Carinthian Governmental Commission Zone A). A series of twenty-two "unofficial" labels; showing an outstretched hand, coat-of-arms and views, also appeared at this time. There was, therefore, a good philatelic precedent for the Austrian Post Office to issue a set of three surcharged stamps on 10 October 1950 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of this plebiscite. This set was designed by Alfred Chmielowski (1896-1967) and was printed in photogravure by the Austrian State Printing Works (comb perforation 14½:13½).



60gr+15gr emerald and brown. The arms of both Austria and Carinthia. Above both, the inscription in German: "30th anniversary of the Plebiscite in Carinthia".

1S+25g red-orange and orange. A man in Carinthian national costume waving the Austrian flag and standing in front of the Carinthian coat-of-arms.

1S70+40g blue and greenish blue. A hand casting a ballot form on which are the arms of Carinthia. The ballot box has on one side the arms of Austria and on the other the inscription in German "10.10.1920 Plebiscite in Carinthia". The impression was 290,000 sets.

THE STAMP DAY ISSUE, 2 DECEMBER 1950.

The special stamp for the “1950 Day of the Postage Stamp” was issued on 2 December. It was designed by Professor Josef Seger, engraved by Professor Hubert Woyty-Wimmer, and recess printed by the Austrian State Printing Works in an impression of 480,000 stamps.

This 60gr+15gr emerald-green stamp (p.14½:13½) depicted a philatelist standing to examine a cover with a magnifying glass. Behind him is shown an open stamp album on a table with a map of Europe on the wall. An error with this stamp is found occasionally; which is illustrated and described as “damaged stamp” in the ANK catalogue.



A special cancellation was in use in Vienna from 2 to 10 December 1950. It made particular reference to the “Century of Austrian Stamps” by “copying” a classical cancellation: reading Wien 1 at the top and 1950 at the bottom of a double circle in the centre of which was the date “2 DEC”. The rest of the annulus had two floral decorations whilst below stood “Ein Jahrhundert österr. Briefmarke” (Wurth. 1950. No. 52).

However, according to the 1961 Müller Handbook this type of cancellation (rDo-Ry) was not used in Vienna!

THE ALEXANDER GIRARDI ISSUE, 5 DECEMBER 1950.



For the final issue of 1950, the Austrian Post Office chose a 30gr deep blue portrait stamp of the actor Alexander Girardi (1850-1918) to commemorate the centenary of his birth. It was engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber from the design of Professor Wilhelm Dachauer and was printed in recess by the State Printing Works; comb perforation 14½:13½. 800,000 were printed. The portrait of the actor is shown against a dark, lightly toned background. The partly visible laurel wreath points in symbolism to the immortal fame of Girardi. Alexander Girardi was born at Graz on 5 December 1850, the son of Andreas Girardi and Maria Spindler, and first went on to the stage in 1868. After touring in the provinces, he arrived in Vienna in 1871 and gradually made a name for himself as an actor and as a character comedian. Particularly in the Viennese operettas of Lehar, Millöcker, Strauss and Suppé, he came to personify the spirit of Vienna:

“*Mei Bluat is so lüftig, so leicht wie der Wind / I bin halt a echt's Weanerkind*”.

Alexander Girardi died in Vienna on 20 April 1913.