

1952

THE OLYMPIC GAMES ISSUE, 26 JANUARY 1952



In order to raise funds to enable the Austrian team to take part in the Sixth Winter Olympic Games in Oslo, the Austrian Post Office issued a 2S40gr+60gr deep green stamp on 26 January 1952, the surcharge being paid into these funds. The stamp was designed by Academic Artist Alfred Chmielowski (1896-1967), engraved by Professor Hans Ranzoni and recess printed by the Austrian State Printing Works in an impression of 350,000 pieces.

The stamp depicts the five interlaced rings which are the insignia of the Olympiade. A laurel branch, as the symbol of victory, is placed over the rings whilst, to the left and right, the horizontal space is terminated by vertical lines. These are intended to represent the classical columns of ancient Greece and thus to symbolise the end of the race. The stamps were comb perforated 13½:14¼, and the only variety that has been established with them is the existence of a speck of colour in the P of REPUBLIK.

At the Games Austria won two gold medals. In the men's Slalom, Ottmar Schneider came first at exactly two minutes whilst, in the women's downhill run, Trude Jochum-Beiser won in 1.471 minutes.

THE "KARL VON GHEGA" ISSUE, 1 MARCH 1952.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Karl von Ghega, the famous' Austrian railway engineer, the Austrian Post Office issued a 1 schilling deep green portrait stamp on 1 March 1952. It was designed by Professor Walter Hörwarter (his sole design of an Austrian postage stamp) and engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber. It was then printed in recess by the Austrian Printing Works in an impression of 800,000 stamps; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

The stamp itself is inscribed in very small print "KARL RITTER V. GHEGA 1802-1860, BUILDER OF THE SEMMERING RAILWAY". Ghega was born in Venice on 10 January 1802. He attended the Military College of St. Anna in that city before going to the University of Padua. Dr. Ghega was then employed by the Building Department of the District of Venice; his first major assignment was the building of a road across the mountains towards Austria. Later he became Adjunct Director of Construction for the Tirol and the Vorarlberg, but the work for which he became famous was the construction of the railway between Vienna and Trieste. The difficult part of this route was where the railway crossed the Semmering mountain pass between Lower Austria and Styria. Franz Josef I made his first journey over the railway on 12 April 1854 although it was not open to the public until 1 August 1854. Karl von Ghega died in Vienna on 14 March 1860.



THE "JOSEF SCHRAMMEL" ISSUE, 3 MARCH 1952.



This stamp was issued on 3 March 1952 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Josef Schrammel, the Austrian composer. It was designed by Professor Vincent Gordon who was born in Vienna on 16 March 1891 and who studied with Messrs. Kenner and Löffler at the School for Commercial Art in Vienna. Thence he went as a Professor to the Graphical Teaching and Research Institute in Vienna. This was his first stamp design for the Austrian Post Office. The stamp was engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and printed by the State Printing Works in an impression of 800,000 1S50gr ultramarine stamps by the recess process, perf 14¼:13½.

Josef Schrammel was born at Neulerchenfeld near Vienna on 3 March 1852 into a musical family. After touring the Middle East in his uncle's ensemble during 1869, he returned to Vienna to play in various wine gardens. The portrait not only shows him holding a violin but displays in the four corners bunches of grapes to symbolise the "Heurigen". In 1878 he founded the "Original Schrammel Quartette" and this became a great success, taking its typically Viennese music throughout Europe and the U.S.A. He composed his first piece of music "Greek Potpourri" in 1869 and his last "Waltzer-Lied" in 1895. He died in Vienna on 24 November 1895 and was buried in Hernals cemetery near the Alsegger vineyards.

THE STAMP DAY ISSUE, 10 MARCH 1952.



The stamp, originally intended for issue on Stamp Day (8 December 1951), was delayed because the Austrian Philatelic Societies could not decide how to dispose of the surcharge accruing from previous years' issues! The dispute was decided only through the personal intervention of the Director of Posts, Dr Karl Dworschak.

The 1S50gr+35gr brown-purple stamp was designed by Professor Viktor Theodor Slama who was born on 26 October 1890 in Vienna. He studied at the Technical High schools in Vienna, Prague and Moscow. After 1927 he was engaged in the artistic formulation of exhibitions, whilst after 1945 he was the director of the Graphical Group of the Professional Association of Austrian Artists. The stamp was engraved by Friedrich Teubel, who was born on 23 February 1884 at Stuhlweissenburg in Hungary, and recess

printed in an impression of 300,000 pieces, comb perforated 14¼:13½.

It was issued on 10 March 1952 and depicts Amor (aka Cupid or Eros) running across the globe, a bag of letters hanging over his right shoulder, brandishing a letter in his left hand whilst carrying his bow and arrows in the other. A plate error occurs on the 16th stamp of each sheet: "Amor's arrow broken with a coloured patch". Amor's letter reads "AN SIE Loco" i.e. "To Her (, a) local letter".

THE SCHÖNBRUNN MENAGERIE ISSUE, 24 MAY 1952.

The first zoo in Vienna was accumulated by Prince Eugene of Savoy, who "succeeded in building up one of the biggest zoos of his time, a menagerie of fifty species of mammals." This was housed in the gardens of the Lower Belvedere. Upon Prince Eugene's death, the Emperor Karl VI bought the Belvedere in 1737 but the first record of such a collection housed at Schönbrunn is dated 30 July 1752 when the Emperor Franz I Stephan obtained some animals from the Netherlands to augment it.



This 1.50S dark green stamp was issued on 24 May 1952 to commemorate the bicentenary of this Zoo at Schönbrunn. It was designed by Professor Ernst Schrom, engraved by Friedrich Teubel and printed in recess; comb perforated 13½:14¼.

The design depicts the "Imperial Breakfast Pavilion", now used as a restaurant, as the centre of the zoological gardens, whilst the frame in the shape of palms hides no less than nine different animals from snakes to monkeys; a bird of paradise, toucan, green-furred monkey, African gazelle, cobra, lizard, flamingo, humming bird and weasel. These animals are to demonstrate that, despite damage in both World Wars, the Vienna Zoological Gardens are still able to continue the old imperial traditions.

THE IUSY CAMP ISSUE, 1 JULY 1952.



The pre-war international socialist youth organisations, destroyed by the Second World War, were re-constituted in 1945 under the title of the "International Union of Socialist Youth" (I.U.S.Y.). This body started to organise youth camps every other year: at Copenhagen in 1946, in Ebensee in 1948, in Stockholm in 1950 and then in Vienna from 1 to 10 July 1952. Although the Austrian Post Office had only permitted the use of a commemorative postmark at Ebensee from 19 to 29 July 1948, it now decided to issue a commemorative This 1S50gr indigo value was designed by Professor Viktor Theodor Slama, engraved by Maria Olinowetz and recess printed in an impression of one million stamps, comb perforated 14¼:13½. It was issued on 1 July 1952. The design uses the lower case 'i' as the symbol of "I.U.S.Y." and places a globe, with "Wien" inscribed on it, as the dot of the "i". Below this are the words "IUSY/CAMP/WIEN/1952". IUSY had over half a million members in 25 countries; and its main activities, apart from the organisation of international summer schools, comprise the encouragement of pen-pal correspondence and the exchange of young workers by either single or group travel arrangements. The IUSY organisation still exists: see <https://iusy.org/>

THE NIKOLAUS LENAU ISSUE, 13 AUGUST 1952.



The last portrait commemorative stamp of 1952 was issued on 13 August (FDC 13th) in honour of the 150th anniversary of the birth of the famous poet Nikolaus Lenau (1802-1850). This 1S deep blue-green value was designed by Professor Vinzenz Gordon, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and recess printed in an impression of 800,000 stamps; comb perforated 14¼:13½. As was usual for stamps of this format, each sheet contained 50 stamps.

Nikolaus Franz Niembsch, Edler von Strehlenau was born at Csátád (now in Romania; aka Lenauheim, Schadat) on 13 August 1802. He was the son of Franz Niembsch, Edler von Strehlenau, a local government official (and heavy gambler), and the latter's wife Theresia Maigraber. Upon the early death of his father, his mother married a Dr Vogel in

1811 and Nikolaus received his early education in Pest, going to the University of Vienna to study philosophy. Next he studied law at Pressburg and medicine at Heidelberg but in 1821 he changed his name to Nikolaus Lenau and started to write poetry, publishing his first volume in 1827. In 1831 he went to Stuttgart and published a book of "Gedichte" in 1832. Thence he went to the U.S.A., landing at Baltimore in October 1832 and buying a farm in Ohio where he lived for 8 months. He returned to Germany in 1833 to find his poems famous, and thereafter he lived either in Vienna or in Stuttgart. His "Faust" appeared in 1836, his "Savonarola" in 1837, and his "Die Albigenser" in 1842. He started to write his "Don Juan" in 1844 but then had to enter the asylum of Oberdöbling bei Wien where he died on 22nd August 1850.

Lenau has been described as "the most important German-speaking poet of world pain and pessimism".

THE "CATHOLICS' DAY" ISSUE, 6 SEPTEMBER 1952.

The last issue of 1952 was a 1S+25gr blackish olive value with a surcharge to be devoted to defraying the cost of the Austrian Catholic Congress held in Vienna from 11 to 14 September 1952. This stamp was designed by Academician Alfred Chmielowski, engraved by Professor Hans Ranzoni and recess printed in an impression of 350,000 stamps; comb perforated 13¾:14¼. The stamp was issued on 6 September 1952.



The design chosen was that of the sculptured relief "Christus Pantocrator" - "Christ as Judge of the World" - which comprises the tympanum of the "Giant's Door", the main portal of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. In the centre, Christ stands with his right hand raised in judgement, whilst to either side of the aureola kneel angels. This late-Romanesque sculpture was created during the 13th century by an unknown artist of the Ratisbon school. The special cancellation employed during this period consisted of "Christus Pantocrator" within the aureola; the border of which bore the words "ÖSTERREICHISCHER KATHOLIKENTAG 1952 WIEN 1 11.IX.1952".

THE CHILDREN'S CORRESPONDENCE STAMP, 6 SEPTEMBER 1952.



The International Red Cross and U.N.E.S.C.O. together suggested that a special stamp should be issued, by the post offices of the world, for the purposes of facilitating "International Children's Correspondence". Their idea was to promote correspondence between the children of all the different countries of the world so that international friendship would be fostered, and also that educational subjects such as geography and the study of languages would benefit. Although it was hoped that every country in the world would accede to this request, only the Austrian Post Office in fact did accept the suggestion.

The resultant 2S40gr deep violet-blue stamp was designed by Professor Hans Strohofer, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and 1,000,000 stamps recess-printed by the Austrian State Printing Works in sheets of 50; comb perforated 14¼:13½ and issued on 6 September 1952.

Unfortunately no name can be given to the little girl in pigtails who smiles at us from this delightful portrait with its border of leaves. Perhaps she is simply a figment of the artist's imagination but it is not fanciful to suppose that she did actually exist; possibly a grandchild of Professor Hans Strohofer himself.