

1956

THE MOZART BICENTENARY ISSUE, 21 JANUARY 1956.



The first stamp of 1956 was issued on 21 January to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791); one of the greatest composers that the world has ever known. This stamp portrays a study of the head of Mozart which is part of an unfinished oil painting by his brother-in-law Josef Lange in the winter of 1782-3. The 2S40gr indigo value was designed by Alfred Chmielowsky. The head was engraved by Rudolf Toth whilst the ornamental frame, of harps and flowers, was engraved by Maria Olinowetz. The stamp was printed by the recess process at the State Printing Works in sheets of 50; two million stamps were produced, comb perforated 14½:13¾.

The history of the portrait is of special interest. Mozart had married Constanze Weber on 4 August 1782 and his brother-in-law Josef Lange, who had married her sister Aloisia in 1780, decided to paint "Mozart at the Piano". This picture was never finished but the head is regarded as the best likeness of Mozart ever painted. It pleased Mozart so much that he had a miniature made from it in the spring of 1783 which he sent to his father in Salzburg. The miniature has vanished but the painting hangs in the house where Mozart was born in Salzburg on 27 January 1756.

THE "ADMISSION INTO U.N.O." ISSUE, 20 FEBRUARY 1956.

On 14 December 1955, over a decade after the end of the Second World War, Austria was admitted as a member of the United Nations Organisation. To commemorate this important event, a 2S40gr deep brown stamp was issued on 20 February 1956. The design depicted three building blocks, each bearing one of the initial letters "U", "N" and "O" together with a pair of hands holding a fourth building block, bearing the Austrian Coat-of-Arms, prior to inserting this block into the space behind it. This stamp was designed by Professor Robert Schober, engraved by Herbert Toni Schimek and recess printed in an impression of three million pieces; comb perforated 14½:13½.



Austria had appealed to the United Nations Organisation in 1952 to gather support for Austrian independence, stating that "in no other country did that organisation enjoy higher moral authority than in Austria." When that independence was attained it was only natural to apply for membership of U.N.O.; it was a cause for rejoicing when Austria was finally admitted to membership amongst the nations of the world. The symbolic representation of the stamp depicts the idea that Austria had left behind the memories of the Anschluss and the Four Power occupation.

THE WORLD POWER CONFERENCE ISSUE, 8 MAY 1956.



The World Power Conference was originated in 1924 by a British citizen, D. N. Dunlop. Its aim was to co-ordinate the different branches of fuel and power technology, bring together the world's experts in the field of engineering, science and administration, and consider the resources of heat and power. Delegates of fifty-two nations attended the fifth conference at Vienna from June 17 to 23, 1956, for which Austria has issued this ultra-modern stamp symbolizing world membership and atomic power. The then chairman of the International Executive Council of the World Power Conference was Sir Vincent de Ferranti (Great Britain).

This 2S40gr blue stamp was designed by Elisabeth Fritz, engraved by Georg Wimmer, and recess printed by the State Printing Works in an impression of two million pieces (comb perforated 13½:14½). It was issued on 8 May 1956. The theme is the world's sources of energy and their significance in relation to scientific and technical development; the design shows a globe with stretched bow from which radiate arrows of different lengths symbolic of unequal distribution of energy, all enclosed in a circle composed of the words "5. WELT KRAFT KONFERENZ WIEN 1956".

THE INTERNATIONAL TOWN PLANNING CONGRESS ISSUE, 8 JUNE 1956.



The 23rd International Town Planning Congress was held in Vienna from 22 to 28 July 1956. It was decided to publicise this Congress by issuing on 8 June a 1S45gr red, black and green stamp with the inscription "**XXIIIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING**" in English at the top of the stamp and in French and German at the bottom of the stamp. The stamp was designed by Professor Josef Seger and printed, in a combination of photogravure and typography, in an impression of 4 million pieces; comb perforated 14½:13½. On some stamps the red colour is partly missing.

The interesting design depicts a map of Europe, with Vienna in the middle encircled by five of the most modern prototypes of satellite towns on the European continent.

Starting at top right and proceeding clockwise, the first town is Vällingby, near Stockholm in Sweden. Next comes the new town of Sennestadt, near Bielefeld in Germany. In Italy, the municipality of Milan was progressing with its residential project known as the "T8 Quarter" while Harlow, which will provide housing for 80,000 people, was one of fourteen new towns being built in the vicinity of London. Last on the map is "PAP"; the colloquial abbreviation for the Dutch project; the Prince Alexander Polder at Rotterdam in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

THE FISCHER VON ERLACH ISSUE, 20 JULY 1956.

Johann Bernard von Erlach was born on 20 July 1656 in Graz and died on 5 April 1723 in Vienna. A 1S50gr deep brown portrait stamp was issued on 20 July 1956 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of his birth. This stamp was designed by Professor Robert Fuchs, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed by the recess process in an impression of 900,000 (comb perforated 14½:13½).



Johann Bernard Fischer was the son of the sculptor Johann Baptist Fischer and of the latter's wife Anna Maria Khrätschmayr. After studying under his father, the boy went to Prague and Rome for further studies. Upon returning to Vienna in 1687, he was appointed a tutor to the Archduke Joseph, being raised to the rank of Ritter von Erlach in 1691. Between 1693 and 1709 he built four churches in Salzburg, and also in 1696 started the construction of Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna. His son, Joseph Emanuel, completed Schönbrunn, the Karlskirche, the Imperial Stables, and the Court Library to his father's designs after the latter's death following a long illness.

THE STAMP DAY ISSUE, 1 DECEMBER 1956.



The seventh stamp in the continuing series for "The Day of the Postage Stamp" was issued on 1 December 1956. This design was originally produced by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer for the stamp that did not appear in December 1951. It was engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess printed in an impression of 640,000 pieces. This 1S+25gr red stamp was comb perforated 14½:13¾. The symbolic design depicts a stylised post horn within a cluster of beautiful flowers set on an ornamental shield. Below this, but still on the shield, is an envelope bearing the same "stamp" cancelled with the bridged double circle postmark "1/1 WIEN 1/1.XII.56/16". On the face of this envelope is illustrated the single headed eagle of Republican Austria and the words: "TAG DER BRIEFMARKE 1956".

The Verband staged a postage stamp exhibition from 1 to 3 December 1956, in the "Chamber for Workers and Employees In Lower Austria" at 35 Wipplingerstrasse, Vienna 1, at which a special cancellation incorporating a post horn was used. Most of the constituent societies of the Verband, which benefit from the surcharge raised with the Stamp Day issues, also staged their own provincial exhibitions. The opinion was expressed that this particular design would find favour with philatelists both inside and outside Austria.

THE HUNGARIAN RELIEF FUND ISSUE, 21 DECEMBER 1956.



The last stamp of 1956 was a surcharged one issued on 21 December 1956 to raise funds to support the many refugees who fled into Austria from Hungary after the failure of the Hungarian uprising during the autumn of 1956. For this purpose, the 1S60gr+60gr value of the 1949 Prisoners-of-War Relief Fund, which had originally been a "pink and green" colour, was reprinted in "red and grey" and surcharged in red "1956/1S50+50/Ungarnhilfe". The stamp was designed by Professor W. Dachauer, engraved by Professor H. Woyty-Wimmer, and recess printed in an impression of 1.75 million pieces; comb perforated 14½:13¾.