

1957

THE "DEATH OF PRESIDENT THEODOR KÖRNER" ISSUE, 11 JANUARY 1957



President Theodor Körner died in office on 4 January 1957 so the first Austrian issue in 1957 was a 1S50gr grey-black stamp produced in his memory. The design issued on 24 April 1953 in deep ultramarine for his 80th birthday, perf 14¼:13½. was re-issued in this altered colour on 11 January 1957 in an impression of 800,000 pieces, now perf 14¼:13¾. A plate error occurred on the 31st stamp of each sheet which had not been visible on the 1953 stamp: a coloured spot in the foot of the second R of ÖSTERREICH and also a coloured stroke and spot under the name of the engraver.

THE J. WAGNER VON JAUREGG ISSUE, 7 MARCH 1957.

This commemorative portrait stamp was issued on 7 March 1957 for the centenary of the birth of Prof Dr Julius Wagner von Jauregg (1857-1940); a famous Austrian psychiatrist. The 2S40gr purple-brown stamp was designed by Professor Robert Fuchs, engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess printed in an impression of 1.5 million pieces (comb perforated 14¾:13¼). Three plate errors are known with this stamp: a coloured stroke on the right point of the collar (stamp 24); a coloured stroke over the 'a' in Wagner (47); and a retouch on the CH of ÖSTERREICH (39). Julius Wagner, Ritter von Jauregg was born in Wels on 7 March 1857 and died in Vienna on 28 September 1940; he was awarded the Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine in 1927.



THE ANTON WILDGANS ISSUE, 3 MAY 1957.



The third commemorative portrait stamp of the year was issued on 3 May 1957 for the 25th anniversary of the death of the Austrian poet; Anton Wildgans (1881-1932). This 1S deep blue stamp was designed by Professor Hans Strohofer, engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber and recess printed in an impression of two million pieces (comb perforated 14¼:13¾). The stamp depicts a side view of the head and shoulders of the poet in front of a harp draped with laurel: Anton Wildgans was born in Vienna on 17 April 1881 and died at Mödling bei Wien on 3 May 1932.

THE POSTAL COACH SERVICE ISSUE, 14 JUNE 1957.

In order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Austrian Postal Coach service (1907-1957), the Austrian Post Office issued a 1S black on yellow stamp on 14 June. It was both designed and engraved by Professor Hans Ranzoni the Younger and recess printed in an impression of two million pieces (comb perforated 13¾:14¼). The use of motor vehicles for the transport of passengers and mail in Austria was first tried out by the commander of the "Royal and Imperial Military Post" in Bosnia and Herzegovina about 1900. On 6 August 1907, after several experimental runs, the first permanent motor route was inaugurated between Neumarkt and Predazzo in the southern Tyrol when two new and gaily decorated Daimler omnibuses, 17-seaters with a fixed roof, covered the distance of 24 miles, mostly uphill, in about four hours. The downhill return journey was accomplished in much faster time, about three hours, and the running time was improved over the years. In 1913, when the route was extended to Canazei, 46,580 passengers were carried, and the total



number of passengers borne by postal motor vehicles on all routes in the same year amounted to 600,000. In December 1907, another route was opened, from Linz to Eferding, and this was followed by others. By 1910 there were 24 postbus services; by 1914 this had grown to 37 services using 116 buses. Today, modern buses run through regions where railways are not possible. The new stamp shows one of these and an early coach.

THE HIMALAYA-KARAKORUM EXPEDITION ISSUE, 27 JULY 1957.



A spate of Himalayan expeditions commenced after the conquest of Everest in 1953. The Gasherbrum II peak is 26,363 feet (8035 metres) high in the Karakorum Range and was climbed by an Austrian expedition which attained the summit on 7 July 1956. The members of this Karakorum expedition were Fritz Moravec, Sepp Larch, and Hans Willenpart.

A 1S50 deep blue stamp was issued on 27 July 1957 in honour of the anniversary of that ascent. Depicting a view of Gasherbrum II (“the beautiful mountain”), it was both designed and engraved by Professor Hans Ranzoni the Younger and recess printed in an impression of two million pieces, comb perforated 13¾:14¼. At least 7 plate errors are known in this issue; two are in the 8035 height in the top margin and the rest are sundry small blotches to which philatelists give humorous names such as ‘Lager A’.

TAG DER BRIEFMARKE, 30 NOVEMBER 1957



The design for this 1S25gr stamp is the Linz 2 Post office. It was designed by Stephan Koller, and engraved by G Wimmer. 640,000 copies were recess-printed in deep bronze-green; line perf 13¾; and issued on 30 November 1957. There are two listed plate faults: a small K in BRIEFMARKE (stamps 21, 41) and a broken window-pane above the curved roof, shown in red on the right (stamp 19).

