

1958

THE BAD GASTEIN SKI CHAMPIONSHIP ISSUE, 1 FEBRUARY 1958



The first stamp of 1958 was issued on 1 February. From 1 to 9 February 1958 the Alpine Skiing World Competitive Championships took place at Bad Gastein in the province of Salzburg. This village at 1000m above sea-level is picturesquely situated on both sides of the Ache, which in the middle of the village is precipitated through narrow gorges, forming two magnificent waterfalls. This was the first time that the skiing championships had been held in Austria since 1936.

The 1S50gr stamp was designed by Professor Robert Fuchs to show the whole alpine area above Bad Gastein where the championships would take place with the Graukogel (2492m) in the background. It was engraved by Georg Wimmer, and printed in blue by the recess process in an impression of three million pieces; comb perforated 14½:13¾ in sheets of 50. Numerous (8+) printing varieties are known with this value, eg:

- 21st stamp of sheet: 2 dots to left of central vertical ridge on Graukogel
- 28th stamp of sheet: 1 dot to left of top of tallest tree
- 42nd stamp of sheet: extra vertical ravine to right of peak of Graukogel
- 45th stamp of sheet: two spots as 11 in exact centre of stamp.

On 2nd February the Austrian J. Rieder won the Ordinary Slalom whilst on the 5th the Austrian Olympic Champion T. Sailer won the Giant Slalom title again.

THE AUSTRIAN AIRLINES INAUGURAL FLIGHT ISSUE, 27 MARCH 1958

Amidst great rejoicing for a symbol of Austrian growth in the modern world, the newly-created "Austrian Airlines" (AUA) opened its activities with a flight from Vienna to London. This was planned for 27 March but actually flew on 31 March 1958. To mark this historic occasion, the Austrian Post Office issued on 27 March a 4 Schilling red stamp depicting a Vickers "Viscount" aircraft over Austria. This stamp was designed by Alfred Chmielowski, engraved by Herbert Toni Schimek, and recess printed in an impression of three million pieces (comb perforated 13¾:14½).



During the remainder of 1958 other initial flights were flown from Vienna to Frankfurt am Main (5.5.1958); Zürich (10.5.1958); Stuttgart - (Paris) (26.5.1958); (Stuttgart) - Paris (26.5.1958); Rome (28.6.1958); and Warsaw (17.10.1958). All these flights returned to Vienna on the same day except the first London - Vienna which returned on 1 April 1958. A special side-line collection of such "opening flights" covers may be made: the 2018/19 ANK lists 540 of them by the end of 2014!

THE MOTHERS' DAY ISSUE, 8 MAY 1958



It was Marianne Hainische (1839-1936), the mother of President Michael Hainisch, who founded "Mothers' Day" in 1926, on the U.S.A. model, to be held on the second Sunday in May each year in Austria. Stamps were issued during the First Austrian Republic to honour this day, but it was not until 8 May 1958 that a "Mothers' Day" stamp was issued by the Second Austrian Republic. This 1S50g indigo stamp featured a "Mother and Child" by Academic Painter Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Georg Wimmer, and was printed in recess by the Austrian State Printing Works in sheets of 50 comb perforated 14½:13¾ in an impression limited only by demand (ANK gives 3,000,000 as the eventual total).

THE 3RD AUSTRIAN CHOIR FESTIVAL ISSUE, 17 JULY 1958



In 1928, the 10th German Choir Festival was held in Vienna on the centenary of the death of Franz Schubert. Over 130,000 singers congregated in Vienna for that event which was counted as the First Austrian Choir Festival. The third such festival was held in Vienna between 17 and 20 July 1958, and over a thousand choirs of the “Austrian League of Choral Societies”, both male voice and mixed, participated.

To celebrate this occasion, a splendid 1S50 stamp was designed by Franz Mynni, based upon the miniature of Walther von der Vogelweide (1170-1230) in the famous 12th century Manessian Manuscript. This design was then engraved by Maria Olinowetz and multi-colour printed in recess with the background in lithography. The stamps were printed in sheets of 50, comb perforated 14½:13¾, and issued in the normal impression of 5 million pieces on 17 July 1958.

Walther von der Vogelweide was the most famous of the poets and troubadours known as Minnesinger. The Manessian Manuscript was a pot-pourri of 140 lyrics and songs compiled by the Zurich councillor, Rüdiger Manesse (1253-1304) and his son Johannes. This manuscript is now in the library at Heidelberg.

THE DR OSWALD REDLICH ISSUE, 17 SEPTEMBER 1958

The centenary of the birth of Oswald Redlich, the famous Austrian historian, was commemorated by the issue of a 2S40gr ultramarine stamp on 17 September 1958. This stamp was designed by Professor Robert Fuchs, engraved by Georg Wimmer, and printed by the recess process in an impression of three million pieces; comb perforated 14½:13¾.

Dr Oswald Redlich was born on 17 September 1858, the son of Karl Friedrich Redlich (1823-1897), a lithographer, and of the latter's wife Anna Posch (1821-1888). The boy studied at both the elementary school and the grammar school in Innsbruck, the town of his birth, before going to the University of Innsbruck in 1876. After graduation he spent the years from 1879 to 1881 as a member of the Institute of Historical Research. He was then appointed to the Provincial Archive Office in Innsbruck and whilst there, in 1887, married Wilhelmine Walde. This marriage was blessed with two sons and three daughters. In 1892 he moved to Vienna to enter the Institute for Historical Research, and in 1897 became a full Professor in the University of Vienna where he remained until his retirement in 1929. He died in Vienna on 20 January 1944.



THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC ISSUE, 12 NOVEMBER 1958



This stamp was issued on 12 November 1958 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the First Austrian Republic, which was proclaimed on 12th November 1918. Dr Karl Renner (1870-1951) became the first Chancellor of the First Republic so it was appropriate to issue a stamp with his portrait on this occasion. The design used was identical to that used for the 30th anniversary of the Republic on 12 November 1948 with “40 JAHRE” inserted instead of “30 JAHRE”. Apart from altering the colour from blue to deep green, the stamps were then identical. Thus it may be recorded as having been designed and engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber even though he had been dead for a decade, and printed in recess by the Austrian State Printing Works. The stamps had a face value of 1S50gr and were comb perforated 14½:13¾ and issued in an impression of 1.5 million pieces. A plate error is known where the “flag” of the numeral 5 is shortened. This stamp occurs imperforate on the bottom edge.

THE 9TH STAMP DAY ISSUE, 6 DECEMBER 1958.

The last issue of 1958 was a 2S40gr+60gr deep blue stamp issued as one of the annual "Day of the Postage Stamp" emissions. The stamp for 1958 was designed by Stephan Koller to depict the post office of Kitzbühel in Tirol, engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess printed by the Austrian State Printing Works in an impression of 980,000 copies (line perforated 13½). It was issued on 6 December 1958.

The village of Kitzbühel (2420 ft. above sea level) is a charmingly situated resort which is much frequented in the summer. About a mile to the south is the Utzbühler Bad with its chalybeate spring. It is justly famous for its peasant houses, its comfortable pensions and modern villas, the old streets and its Gothic churches, the Pfarrkirche and the church of St. Katharina. It is also one of the most important winter sports centres in the Eastern Alps.

The stamp depicts the post office building, which had been newly built between 1954 and 1956, in a winter setting. The original name of the village was "Kitzbichl" and it was under this title that Müller lists its pre-stamp and early strikes, giving the office's date of foundation as 1 May 1840.