

1963 Issues

THE PARIS POSTAL CONFERENCE ISSUE OF 7TH MAY 1963



A 3S sepia and olive-yellow stamp was issued in honour of the centenary of the Paris Postal Conference of 1863. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict two postillions, one on horseback, and a postal official in the uniform of 1863, and was printed by the photogravure process in an impression of 3 million pieces; comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. At the instigation of the United Kingdom Postal Administration, a Conference was held in Paris in May 1863 in order to attempt to devise basic regulations for international postal traffic. Although the main originator of this idea was the U.S.A. Postmaster General, Montgomery Blair, the Conference only established guide lines upon which to proceed and it took another decade before the U.P.U. was founded in October 1874; mainly at the instigation of the German Postmaster General, Heinrich von Stephan.

THE HERMANN BAHR ISSUE OF 19TH JULY 1963



The writer Hermann Bahr (1863-1934) was known as the “Vox Austriaca”, and his last novel, appearing in 1929, was called “Österreich in Ewigkeit” (1929) ie “Austria Forever”! The centenary of his birth was commemorated with a 1.50S sepia and light blue portrait stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed, by a mixture of recess and offset, in an impression of 3 million (in sheets of 50); comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$.

THE FIRE BRIGADES ISSUE OF 30TH AUGUST 1963

The centenary of the Austrian Voluntary Fire Brigades was commemorated by a 1.50S black and bright pink stamp showing in the foreground the well-known statue of St. Florian from the Vienna Kefermarkt Altar, and in the background line drawings of old and new fire engines. The stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed, in a mixture of recess (black) and lithography (red) in an impression of 3 million in sheets of 50; comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$.



A scheme of voluntary fire brigades was founded in Vienna during 1863 and that these came together into an association in 1890. By 1963 there were approximately 5,100 voluntary fire brigades comprising about 170,000 firemen who operated in close co-operation with the industrial and professional fire brigades in Vienna and elsewhere. Prior to 1863 the availability of firefighting facilities had been very inadequate, as was the technical equipment available. Now the brigades are equipped with the most modern firefighting apparatus available. St. Florian's protection is implored against dangers from fire.

THE AUSTRIAN T.U.C. ISSUE OF 23RD SEPTEMBER 1963



To the complete surprise of the Austrian philatelic establishment, in late 1963 the Austrian Postal Administration suddenly announced that it would issue four stamps additional to those originally announced for that year. The first of these was a 1.50S red, sepia and grey value s issued in honour of the 5th Congress of the Austrian Trade Union Federation. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict the Austrian flag flying above a mountain landscape in front of which is the outline of a factory. The emblem of the Congress was placed to the right of the flag. The stamp was printed by offset lithography in an impression of 3 million, in sheets of 50,

comb perforated $14\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$.

The first T.U.C. of Austria was held in Vienna in 1893, and the last before trade unions were suppressed was in September 1931. After the end of the Second World War the Ö.G.B. (Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund) was re-founded in 1945 as a federation of 16 trade unions. In 1961 it had 1,531,695 members (71.7% men, 28.3% women) and was a founder member of the International T.U.C. Thus 1963 was the 70th year of its existence.

THE TIROL ISSUE OF 27TH SEPTEMBER 1963

The second of the unexpected issues was to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the union of Tirol with Austria. This 1.50S red, yellow and drab stamp was designed by Oswald Haller to depict the coat-of-arms of Tirol, and was printed by the Rosenbaum Bros. Printing Works by offset lithography in an impression of 3 million, in sheets of 50 stamps, comb perforation 15x15.

In the 14th century, although Tirol was a very small province comprising only the Brenner and Reschen valleys, it was of great strategic importance as it dominated the route from Germany into Italy. The death of its last Count, Meinhard III (1343-1363) led his widowed mother Margarete Maultasch (1318-1369) to enter into an agreement with Duke Rudolf IV of Habsburg (1339-1365) on 29th September 1363 by which the latter effectively gained control of Tirol and united it with his Austrian possessions. By the same agreement, Rudolf IV also acquired the territories of the Bishops of Brixen and Trient and this expansion of Habsburg power was confirmed by the Emperor Karl IV at Brünn on 8th February 1364.



THE PRINCE EUGENE ISSUE OF 18TH OCTOBER 1963



The third of the unexpected issues was to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Prince Eugene of Savoy (1663-1736); the famous soldier and statesman. He had already been portrayed on an Austrian stamp; the 12g value of the 1935 Austrian Heroes set. This 1.50S violet stamp was designed and engraved by Professor Hans Ranzoni d.J. to portray the prince in a medallion with an oval frame inside which may be read "Prinz Eugen von Savoyen 1663 1736". The shield of the House of Savoy is placed between the two dates. The stamp was recess printed in an impression of 3 million pieces, in sheets of 50 stamps; comb perforated 14¾x13¾.

Prince Eugene played a large part played in the War of the Spanish Succession when he shared with the Duke of Marlborough the battle honours and glorious victories over the French at Blenheim (1704), Oudenarde (1708) and Malplaquet (1709). He is also renowned for his beautiful palace of the Belvedere in Vienna.

THE RED CROSS ISSUE OF 25TH OCTOBER 1963








The fourth and last, of the unexpected issues was to celebrate the centenary of the Red Cross. This 3S silver, red and black stamp was designed and engraved by Professor Hans Ranzoni d.J. to show the International Emblem of that organisation inside an oval around which runs the inscription in German "Hundred Years of the Red Cross 1863-1963". The stamp was printed, in a combination of recess and rotogravure, in an impression of 3 million, in sheets of 50; comb perforated 14¾x13¾.

Jean Henri Dunant (1828-1910), a native of Geneva and a prominent banker, was on 24th July 1859 at the battle of Solferino so distressed at the way the wounded Austrian, French and Sardinian soldiers were left unattended to die on the battlefield that he organised all the available village women to help him give first aid. As a result of his book "Un Souvenir de Solferino" (1862), four Geneva commissioners plus Dunant, organised a conference in February 1863 of 16 European Governments. From this, on 22nd August 1864, came the famous "Geneva Convention".



THE WINTER SPORTS ISSUE OF 11TH NOVEMBER 1963

In anticipation of the 9th Olympic Winter Games to be held at Innsbruck from 29th January to 9th February 1964, a special commemorative set of seven stamps was issued. This set was designed by A. Pilch and engraved both by R. Toth (1S, 1.80S and 3S) and by G. Wimmer (others); being printed in a combination of recess and rotogravure; comb perf $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$.

		
1S light grey (Slalom) [4.5 million]	1.20S light grey-blue (Biathlon) [3m]	1.50S grey (Ski jumping) [4.5m]
		
1.80S light purple (Figure skating) [4.5m]	2.20S light green (Ice Hockey) [2.5 m]	3S light slate (Tobogganing) [3 m]
	<p>As usual the stamps were printed in sheets of 50. Each stamp also bears the Olympic symbol of five interlinked rings to emphasise the international nature of the event. Most of the skiing events took place on the slopes of the Axamer Lizum; the men's downhill event on the Patscherkofel Mountain; and the ski-jumping at Mount Isel; bobsleighting and tobogganing were at Igls and the other events at Seefeld.</p>	
4S cobalt (Bob-Sleighting) [2.5 m]		

The first Winter Olympics were held at Chamonix in 1924 and subsequently at St. Moritz (1928 and 1948), Lake Placid, N.Y. (1932), Garmisch-Partenkirchen (1936), Oslo (1952), Cortina d'Ampezzo (1956) and Squaw Valley, California (1960). Hungary issued a set of eight stamps also on 11th November 1963 in honour of these Winter Olympic Games. This set, designed by M. Fule and F. Gal, also depicted similar sporting activities.

THE STAMP DAY ISSUE OF 29TH NOVEMBER 1963



The 14th annual "Day of the Stamp" issue was designed by Professor Josef Quittan, to depict the Vienna 101 post office in the Western Railway Station with its sheds, engraved by Hans Ranzoni and printed, by both offset lithography and recess, in an impression of 1.4 million; comb perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{4}$. It was issued as a 3S + 70g black and drab stamp.

THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE OF 29TH NOVEMBER 1963

The third Christmas stamp was designed by Fritz Zerritsch to depict the "Holy Family" from a Christmas Crib by Josef Thaddäus Stammel (1695-1765), engraved by Hans Ranzoni and recess printed in an impression limited only by demand; comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. This 2S deep bluish green stamp was issued as the last stamp of the year.

