

1965

THE PRESIDENT SCHARF MEMORIAL ISSUE OF 20TH APRIL 1965



Dr. Adolf Schärf, the third President of the Second Austrian Republic, died in Vienna on 28th February 1965. He had been born at Nikolsburg in Moravia on 20th April 1890 and it was decided to issue a 1.50S indigo and black stamp for what would have been his 75th birthday. The stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, to show the head and shoulders of the President with the student hostel in Vienna, named after him, in the background. It was engraved by Georg Wimmer and printed by a combination of recess and typography in sheets of 50 stamps in an impression of 3 million pieces; comb-perforated 12x12.

Dr. Schärf had been due to make a State visit to the United Kingdom in May 1965 and also to have opened the Vienna W.I.P.A. Exhibition in June 1965. He was succeeded in his office by Franz Jonas who was elected as President of Austria on 23rd May 1965.

THE 20 YEARS OF RECONSTRUCTION ISSUE OF 27TH APRIL 1965

On 27th April 1945 the Austrian Proclamation was issued which declared that Austria had been liberated from German occupation and that reconstruction could commence. Therefore, on 27th April 1965, twenty years later, a 1.80S lake stamp was issued to celebrate two decades of reconstruction in the Second Republic. It was designed by Otto Stefferl, to depict new buildings rising behind the ruins of the old, engraved by Georg Winner and recess printed in sheets of 50 stamps in an impression of 3 million pieces; comb perforated 14½x13½



THE VIENNA UNIVERSITY ISSUE OF 10TH MAY 1965



The University of Vienna was founded by Duke Rudolf (1349-1365) in the last year of his reign and thus, in 1965, it could celebrate its sixth centenary. A 35 scarlet-and-gold stamp, designed and engraved by Professor Hans Ranzoni d.J. to depict the seal of the University, was, therefore, issued to celebrate six hundred years (1365-1965) of the University. It was printed in recess, photogravure and embossing in an impression of 3 million stamps in sheets of 50; comb perforated 14½x13½

The design depicts the oldest great seal of the University which was cut by Master Janko in Prague in 1365 and given to the University by Rudolf IV on 12th March 1365; the feast of St. Gregory. The original is lost but an imprint of 6th June 1366 is still in existence. At the base a Master, with doctoral hat and gown, lectures to seven scholars, holding a book before him. Above, Our Lady sits in a gallery between two angels heads. To the right is the coat-of-arms of the City of Vienna, whilst to the left is that of Austria; both below bearded satyrs. Around is the Latin inscription "S(IGILLUM) UNIVERSITATIS. DOCTO(A)M. MAGIST.MU(M) E.T. SCOLARIU(M) WIENNE." The original was 60mm in diameter.

THE DANUBIAN ART ISSUE OF 17TH MAY 1965

An exhibition devoted to "The Art of the Danubian School 1490-1540" was held in St. Florian and Linz in May 1965. It was, therefore, decided to issue a 1.80S indigo-black stamp in honour of this event; it was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict the wooden plaque of St. George by Albrecht Altdörfer of Regensburg. It was engraved by Hans Ranzoni d.J. and recess printed in an impression of 3 million stamps; comb perforated 13½x13¾. This exhibition, to celebrate a style of art that flourished at the end of the 15th century in Austria, Bavaria and the Alpine region, was held in the Monastery of St. Florian with the statuary shown in Linz Castle. Among the artists shown were Lucas Granach and Jörg Preu as well as both Albrecht and Erhard Altdörfer. Amongst their patrons were the Emperor Maximilian I and successive Bishops of Passau. This particular stamp depicts St. George, the famous saint who is renowned for slaying the dragon. His cultus was brought back by the Crusaders from Palestine and he was revered by the military nobility.



THE I.T.U. CENTENARY ISSUE OF 17TH MAY 1965



The International Telecommunications Union celebrated its centenary on 17th May 1965 and a special 3 Schilling bluish-violet stamp was issued in honour of this event. It was designed by Otto Zeiller, to depict the transition from morse code to television, engraved by Alfred Fischer and recess printed in an impression of 3 million stamps in sheets of 50; comb perforated 14½x13½.

The first type of telecommunications was of course the telegraph; and on 8th September 1847 a 350km telegraph line came into service between Vienna, Brünn, and Prague. International treaties followed to allow the telegraph to cross national boundaries; first within the German speaking countries so that by 4th October 1852, Prussia, on behalf of the German-Austrian Telegraph Union, could conclude a telegraphic treaty with Belgium

and France. Many other international telegraph treaties took place across the European continent so that a West European Telegraph Union was effectively founded by 1853. Its first Conference took place in May 1857 in Turin and was followed by Conferences in The Haag (1861) and Hanover (1863). Finally, in May 1865, the Paris Treaty was signed by 20 states and the I.T.U. was constituted.

THE RAIMUND ISSUE OF 1ST JUNE 1965

A special portrait stamp was issued to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the birth of Ferdinand Raimund; the classic author of Viennese popular drama. This 3S deep maroon stamp was designed and engraved by Hans Ranzoni; using as his basis a lithograph by Josef Kriehuber (1800-1876) but so modified as to stress that Ferdinand Raimund was a typical Viennese of the Biedermeier period. The stamp was recess printed in sheets of 50 pieces in an impression of 3 million; comb perforated 14½x13½



Ferdinand Raimund was the son of Jakob Raimund, a turner, and of the latter's wife Katherina Marz. Orphaned at 14, Ferdinand early decided to become an actor and was at the Josefstadt Theater in Vienna before moving to the Leopoldstadt Theater there in 1817. He wrote eight stage plays; the most famous being "The Peasant Millionaire" and "The Spendthrift". After serving as director of his theatre from 1828 to 1830 he travelled abroad. Bitten by a dog in 1836, he convinced himself that he had rabies and committed suicide on 5th September 1836.

THE WIPA ISSUE OF 4TH JUNE 1965

The WIPA (Vienna International Philatelic) Exhibition of 1965 was the great philatelic event of the year with conscious echoes of the famous WIPA Exhibition of 1933. Indeed, although no special miniature sheet with postal validity was issued in 1965, as it had been in 1933, a souvenir sheet was issued with every entrance ticket. This souvenir sheet deliberately reproduced the 1933 WIPA stamp from the original plate but in red instead of ultramarine. It was also overprinted "NEUDRUCK WIPA 1965" and had no postal validity.

Much has been written about WIPA 1965 and it was indeed a very great success. Naturally it was also commemorated by a special set of six stamps which took as its theme "The Development of the Letter". They were designed by Otto Stefferl, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in a mixture of recess and offset lithography (design and background respectively) in sheets of 50 stamps; comb perforated 14½x13½. The designs are:



#1: 1S50 + 40g black and pink. Hieroglyphics from an Egyptian papyrus Book of the Dead with, in the background, a mural from a grave in Thebes. (2.5M stamps).

#2: 1580 + 50g black and yellow. Babylon cuneiform writing on a clay tablet with, in the background, a head from the palace of Sargon II .(2.0M stamps).





#3: 2S20 + 60g black and lilac. Latin inscription on a Roman tablet with, in the background, a Corinthian column. (1.5M stamps).

#4: 3S + 802 black and pale olive-yellow. Merchant's letter of 1353 in Gothic script and with a seal with, in the background, a Gothic church window. (2.5M stamps).



#5: 4S + 15 black and light blue. Reverse of a letter of the artist Friedrich von Amerling in cursive script with, in the background, a "tabernacle" writing desk from the time of the Empress Maria Theresia. (1.8M stamps).

#6: 5S + 1S20 black and light emerald. A modern typewriter. (1.8M stamps).

Of the souvenir sheet a total of 400,000 copies were printed but only 262,285 items were sold and 137,715 were destroyed. The set of stamps was issued on 1st June 1965. There were 15 special strikes, some one day only others every day; all are listed by Wurth in his book "Sonderpostämter in Österreich" pp 1965/116-117



THE FOURTH GYMNAESTRADA ISSUE OF 20TH JULY 1965



To honour the 4th "Gymnaestrada", held in Vienna during July 1965 (20th to 24th), two special stamps were issued, both designed by Adalbert Pilch (the 1.50S black and pale blue stamp to depict men exercising with wands and the 3S black and light ochre to depict girls with tambourines), engraved by Alfred Nefe and recess printed in sheets of 50 in a total impression of 3 million; comb perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$

The word "Gymnaestrada" was coined by a Dutchman, I.H. Sommer, the founder of the first one held in Rotterdam in 1953. The word is intended to symbolise the striving for "Ever greater perfection" in these quadriennial gymnastic events: "gymna" coupled with "strada" or "estrade"; a higher level of gymnastic skill. Subsequent gymnaestradas were held in Zagreb (1957) and Stuttgart (1961). The event is sponsored by the Federation Internationale de Gymnastique and the stamps show two hitherto neglected forms of exercise - men with wands and women with tambourines.



THE SEMMELWEIS ISSUE OF 13TH AUGUST 1965



The centenary of the death of the famous Hungarian gynaecologist, Dr. Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis (1818-1865), was commemorated by a 1.50S slate-lilac portrait stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in sheets of 50 stamps in a total impression of 3 million; comb perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$

Appalled by the very heavy death-rate in the Vienna maternity hospital, where he worked as an assistant professor, he came to the frightful conclusion in 1847 that the puerperal (childbirth) fever, which caused so many deaths among the women there, was spread by the contaminated fingers of doctors and students. He then became a pioneer of antisepsis and antisepticism in childbirth, and decreased death from the disease in the First Obstetrical Clinic of Vienna from nearly 20% to 2% through the use of handwashing with calcium hypochlorite.

THE WALDMÜLLER ISSUE OF 23RD AUGUST 1965



The centenary of the death of the famous Austrian painter, Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller (1793-1865) was commemorated by a 3S black portrait stamp based on a self portrait of the artist. It was both designed and engraved by Professor Hans Ranzoni d.J.; being recess printed in sheets of 50 stamps in a total impression of 3 million; comb perforated 14½x13½.

He was born in Vienna on 15th January 1793, the son of affluent innkeepers; Georg Waldmüller and his wife Elisabeth Wittmann. He early displayed great artistic talents and became famous both as a portrait painter and as a copyist of Old Masters. He married Katherina Weidner, a singer; and their son Ferdinand became a celebrated pianist. He died near Baden on 23rd August 1865.

THE RED CROSS CONFERENCE IS3UE OF 1ST OCTOBER 1965

The 20th International Red Cross Conference was held in Vienna from 25th September to 9th October 1965. In its honour, a special 3S red and black commemorative stamp was designed by Professor Hans Wulz to depict the famous Red Cross symbol together with a piece of medical gauze. The stamp was printed, by the offset lithographic process, in an impression of 3M pieces in sheets of 50 stamps; comb perforated 14½x13½

As is well known, the Red Cross Organisation was the brainchild of a Swiss, Jean Henri Dunant (1828-1910) who in 1859 witnessed the ravages of the battle of Solferino. In February 1863, four Geneva Commissioners constituted themselves together with Dunant as the “permanent international committee for the relief of the military wounded” and this subsequently became the 25-member International Committee of the Red Cross. At the invitation of this committee, 16 European Governments, including that of Austria-Hungary, agreed at a conference in Geneva eight months later on a set of recommendations embodying the Dunant formula. Four months later the first Geneva Convention was adopted.



THE 'UNION OF AUSTRIAN TOWNS' ISSUE OF 7TH OCTOBER 1965



The Golden Jubilee of the “Union of Austrian Towns 1915 to 1965” was celebrated by a 1.50S black, red, gold and grey stamp designed by Franz Jonas, the President of the Austrian Republic, to depict parts of the Austrian Federal Flag and of the Austrian Federal Coat-of-Arms; a crowned single headed eagle. It was engraved by Georg Wimmer and printed, in a mixture of recess and photo-gravure; in an impression of 3 million, in sheets of 50 stamps; comb perforated 14½x13½. This stamp should have been issued on 23rd May 1965 but, because of the election of a new Federal President at that time, the issue had to be moved to this later date.

The date of 23rd May is called the “Day of the Austrian Towns” when representatives of all the member communities (each with at least 3000 inhabitants) meet for discussions.

In 1965 there were 185 members representing 3,704,500 inhabitants or 52.3% of all the Austrian population. Since 1923, the Austrian body has been a member of the International Union of Towns (The Hague) and since 1962, of the Council of Towns of Europe (Paris).



THE ADMISSION TO U.N.O. ISSUE OF 25TH OCTOBER 1965

The tenth anniversary of the admission of Austria to the United Nations Organisation was commemorated with a 3S sepia, red and greenish blue stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict the Austrian flag, bearing the Federal Coat-of-Arms in front of other flags outside the U.N.O. Building. It was engraved by Alfred Fischer and printed by a mixture of recess and offset lithography, in an impression of 3 million pieces, in sheets of 50 stamps; comb perforated 12.

Austria was not admitted to the U.N.O. until the State Treaty had been finalised; she became a member on 14th December 1955. The United Nations Organisation itself was constituted at the San Francisco Conference in 1945 as the successor of the League of Nations. The Conference opened on 25th April 1945; the Co-ordinating Committee completed the text of the U.N.O. Charter on 23rd June; and this was formally signed on 26th June.

THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY ISSUE OF 8TH NOVEMBER 1965



The 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Technical University in Vienna was commemorated by a 1.50S violet stamp designed by Otto Steffen, to show the front view of the University Building, engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess printed in sheets of 50 stamps in an impression of 3.5 million; comb perf 14½x13½.

The growth of the industrial revolution in Europe led to the creation of special schools of higher technical education being founded to train the technologists needed. Thus, the École Polytechnique was founded in Paris (1795) and the Polytechnikum in Prague (1806). It was decided that a similar institution should be available in Vienna and this was opened on 7th November 1815 as the Polytechnische Institut in an old Vorstadtpalais. In February 1816 a large new building was constructed in its grounds to the plans of the architect Andreas Fischer under the supervision of Josef Schemerl. The foundation stone was laid by Franz I on 14th October 1816 and it was completed in 1818. Its first courses concentrated on chemistry, mathematics and physics and it was also the seat of the Academy of Science when this was founded on 27th June 1847.

THE BERTHA VON SUTTNER ISSUE OF 1ST DECEMBER 1965

The 60th anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1905 to the Austrian writer Bertha von Suttner (1843-1914) was commemorated by issuing a 1.50S blue-black portrait stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Alfred Nefe and recess printed in sheets of 50 stamps in an impression of 3.5 million; comb perforated 14½x13½.

Von Suttner was born Bertha, Countess von Kinsky, and after her early life as a governess married Baron Arthur Gundacker von Suttner. In 1886, Bertha von Suttner met Alfred Nobel (to whom she had briefly been secretary) again in Paris and became interested in the Peace Movement. She wrote a novel "Lay down your arms" describing the atrocities of war (1889). In 1891 she founded the Austrian "Friends of Peace" Society and took part in the international peace congresses including those in The Hague in 1899 and 1907. Her magazine "Die Waffen Nieder" had an important influence upon the international peace movement. She died in June 1914 just before the outbreak of the First World War.



THE STAMP DAY ISSUE OF 3RD DECEMBER 1965



This 35 + 70 groschen blue green stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict a modern Austrian postman delivering mail to a communal postbox. It was engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 2.2M stamps; comb perforated 14½x13½.