

1968

THE UNIVERSITY WINTER GAMES ISSUE OF 22ND JANUARY 1968



The 1968 University Winter Games were held in Innsbruck in January. To honour that event a 2 schilling cobalt blue was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess printed in an impression of 2.85 million in sheets of 50; comb perforated $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$.

On the stamp are shown both the stadium on Ski Jump the Isel Mountain and a background of the range of mountains known as the North Chain (Nord Kette). The emblem of the 1968 Winter University Games is visible at the bottom centre of the stamp.

THE CAMILLO SITTE ISSUE OF 17TH APRIL 1968

The 125th anniversary of the birth of the famous Austrian Architect Camillo Sitte was celebrated by issuing a 2 schilling blackish brown portrait stamp designed by Otto Stefferl, engraved by Alfred Nefe and recess printed, in sheets of 50, in an impression of 2.85 million; comb perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

Camillo Sitte (1843-1903), the architect and town-planner, was the son of Franz Sitte, architect and builder of churches, of Weisskirchen, Northern Bohemia. Camillo was born on 17th April 1843 in Vienna after the family had moved there, and he studied at the University there under Rudolf von Eitelberger, also working in his father's office. In 1875 he married Leopoldine Blume, the daughter of the German scholar Ludwig Blume; they had two sons; Siegfried (1876-1945) who became an architect, and Heinrich (1879-1951) who became a famous archaeologist.

In 1875 he became director of the new State Trade School at Salzburg and, in 1883, of the similar school at Schellinggasse, Vienna. His chief written work, "The Artistic Principles of Town Planning", published in 1889, was an authoritative treatise on modern urban planning which won resounding success, running to six German editions and, later, French and Spanish versions. The sixth German edition, a reprint of the third, was published as recently as 1965. Camillo Sitte died on 16th November 1903 in Vienna.



THE VETERINARY COLLEGE ISSUE OF 7TH MAY 1968



The bicentenary of the foundation of the Vienna Veterinary School in 1768 was commemorated with a 3.50 schilling gold, brown-purple and pale drab stamp, designed by Professor Hans Ranzoni the Younger, to depict the symbol of a serpent drinking from a chalice (i.e. the asp of Aesculapius, the Greek God of Medicine), and printed in photogravure in sheets of 50 in an impression of 2.8 million; comb perf $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

The "Tierärztliche Hochschule" in Vienna is the oldest veterinary college in the German speaking countries and the third oldest in the world. Upon the initiative of Gerhard Freiherr von Swieten (1700-1772), an Animal Curing and Operation School" was erected in Vienna in 1767, and in 1776 was constituted by the Emperor Joseph II as a "K.K. Animal Hospital". From this, in 1801, came the "K.K. Veterinary Institute" which mainly served the army and which, from 1812 to 1852, was part of the University of Vienna but then was placed under the Ministry of War until 1918 when it came under the Ministry of Education. From 1897 to 1905 it bore the name "K.K. Veterinary Institute and Veterinary High School" but since 1905 it has used its present name, since a special Military Veterinary Academy existed from 1905 to 1918. In 1907 it received its own freely elected "Rector Magnificus" as its head, and, from 1908, it conferred its own degrees. In 1927 it opened its own X-Ray Institute whilst in 1957 it acquired a large farm at Markenstein in Lower Austria. In 1966 it acquired an Isotope Institute for deeper veterinary research.

THE MOTHERS' DAY ISSUE OF 7TH MAY 1968



Austria first issued a special stamp to celebrate Mothers' Day on 1st May 1935 when the painting "Mother Love" by Josef Danhauser (1805-1845) was selected for the design. The second Mothers' Day issue of the First Republic appeared on 5th May 1936 and depicted the painting "Mary with the Child" by Albrecht Durer (1471-1528). The third and last pre-war Mother's Day stamp was issued on 5th May 1937, when an original design by Franz Kraft was selected. This shows a child congratulating its mother with flowers upon Mothers' Day.

There was then an interval of 21 years before the Second Republic issued its first Mothers' Day stamp on 8th May 1958. A symbolic "Mother and Child" was designed by Adalbert Pilch for this stamp. Then another interval until 28th April 1967 when the aquarelle "Mother with Children" by Peter Fendi (1796-1842) was reproduced.

The third Mothers' Day issue of the Second Republic was this 2 schilling blackish-olive stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict a beautiful mother holding her wide-eyed child to her face, engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess printed by the Austrian State Printing Works in an impression of 2.95 million in sheets of 50; comb perforated 13¾. No Mothers' Day stamp has appeared since this 1968 issue.

THE VORARLBERG LACE ISSUE OF 24TH MAY 1968

The centenary of the Vorarlberg Lace Industry was commemorated with a 3.50 Schilling indigo stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict the head of a bride wearing a veil of Vorarlberg lace, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed, in sheets of 50, in an impression of 2,850,000 stamps; comb perforated 12x12.



The craft of embroidery (Stickerei in German) was originally a cottage industry in the Vorarlberg, dated from 1751 when two experts came from Lyon to settle in the canton of St. Gallen and to establish the trade there. Thence it spread into the Vorarlberg, attracted there by the fact that only a fifth of that province is flat and easy to cultivate. The possibility of earning an additional income from embroidery was very attractive and between 6,000 and 10,000 people, plus their children, became involved in the trade.

The next stage was the introduction of factories with hand looms and this dates from 1878 when the machines were brought from Comely in Paris. The number of people engaged in the factory rose from 1,232 in 1880, to 2,806 in 1890, to 3,456 in 1910; out of a population of 140,000. The industry continued to prosper until the First World War when it declined during the war years. From 1928 to 1938 the export trade fell from 77m schilling to 9m schilling and the factories were damaged during the Second World War. However, reconstruction then took place and, between 1948 and 1966, the export trade rose from 3m to 704m schilling.

THE "IFA WIEN" ISSUE OF 31ST MAY 1968

A special airmail stamp exhibition was held in the Hofburg in Vienna, from 30th May to 4th June 1968, in honour of 50 years of airmail post in Austria. In honour of this exhibition, three special stamps were issued.

		
2S olive brown: Etrich Dove	3.50S blackish green: Caravelle jetliner	5S deep blue: Douglas DC8 jetliner

The 2S and 3.50S values were designed by P. Sinaweil whilst the 5S value was designed by L. Kostrohris. They were all engraved by A. Fischer and recess printed in an impression of 2.95 million stamps; comb perforated 14¼x13½. In connection with this exhibition "IFA WIEN 1968", the airmail stamps of 1918 in altered colours were reprinted with a black overprint as the official souvenir sheet which was issued with each entrance ticket. It

had no postal validity. In addition, an IFA vignette sheet was issued in two printings; one in multi-colour and the other in black. A special balloon flight took place on 6th June 1968 in connection with the Austrian "Pro-Juventute" Childrens' Village and this had three special cancellations. Also, eight special cancellations were used throughout the period of the exhibition; usually one per day.

THE FREUDENAU RACES ISSUE OF 4TH JUNE 1968



The centenary of the Freudenau Gallop Races was commemorated by issuing a 3.50 schilling sepia stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict two galloping horses and their jockeys, engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess printed in an impression of 2.75 million stamps, comb perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$.

The Freudenau race track is situated in Vienna at the south-eastern end of the Prater. Up to 1931, races supervised by the Austrian Jockey club since 1868 were run there. Since 1932 these have been under the jurisdiction of the Vienna Racing Section of the Austrian Racing and Country Riders Society. The course is 2800 metres long in circumference; 700 metres in the straight. Wilhelm gives a description of the first Derby which was held on 21st May 1868. As with all Derbys it was open only to three-year-old stallions and mares, and was run over one and a half miles (2400 metres). It was won by a stallion "Wissehrad", owned by the Chevalier de Roma and ridden by the English jockey Osborne. The second was "Dante" and the third was "Vieux Garcon". The event became an international one when, in 1876, the German Baron Eduard Oppenheim won with his horse "Good Hope". In the following year the Austrian Derby was won by that very famous horse "Kincsem" from Hungary which went on to win 54 races in Austria, Hungary, Germany, England and France. After a break in 1944, the races were re-started in 1946 and have continued ever since.

THE KARL LANDSTEINER ISSUE OF 14TH JUNE 1968

The centenary of the birth of Dr. Karl Landsteiner (1868-1943), the physician and pathologist who discovered blood groups, was commemorated by issuing a 3.50S deep blue stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Alfred Nefe and recess printed in an impression of 2.8 million; comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$



THE PETER ROSEGGGER ISSUE OF 26TH JUNE 1968



The 50th anniversary of the death of the Austrian poet and writer Peter Rosegger (1843-1918) was commemorated by issuing a 2S deep green stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Alfred Nefe and recess printed in an impression of 2.95 million; comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. Peter Rosegger had previously appeared on several Austrian and indeed German stamps.

THE ANGELICA KAUFFMANN ISSUE OF 15TH JULY 1968

A special exhibition entitled: "Angelica Kauffmann and Her Contemporaries" was staged in Bregenz, and Vienna, from 15th July to 15th November 1968. To coincide with this exhibition, a special 2 schilling deep slate-violet portrait stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess printed in an impression of 2.85 million; comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$

Angelica Kauffmann was born on 30th October 1741 at Chur in Switzerland. Her father was a church and portrait painter who encouraged the artistic talents of his daughter. They went to Italy so that she could study the work of the great masters. Lady Wentworth, the wife of the British ambassador to Venice, persuaded them in 1766 to settle in London. There she played a part in the foundation of the Royal Academy in 1769 and painted the interiors of Adams-designed houses. In 1781, having married a Venetian artist, she returned to Italy and died in Rome on 5th November 1807.



THE MAGDALENSBURG ISSUE OF 15TH JULY 1968



A 2 schilling black and pale green stamp was issued to commemorate “20 Years of Excavation at Magdalensburg in Carinthia”. It was designed by Alexander Exax, to depict the famous “Youth of Helenenburg, engraved by Alfred Nefe and printed in both recess and lithography, in an impression of 2.9 million; comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$

Magdalensburg, which was called Helenenburg until 1583, is 1058m above sea level in Carinthia, north east of Maria Saal above Zollfeld. In the period of the Celts, and then in Roman times, it was a settlement with a circumference of 4km. At a depth of 120m are the remains of the Roman town with a Forum, Government Buildings, houses, bath and workshops.

In 1502, there was discovered here a statue in bronze of a beautiful nude youth called the “Jüngling von Helenenburg”. This life-size statue dates from the second half of the 5th century B.C. and is from the school of the Greek master Polycletus. It was probably taken from Italy as a votive gift to the Celtic Noricum and is undoubtedly the best preserved and most valuable statue from antiquity ever found in Austria. Since 1802 it has been preserved in the Art-History Museum in Vienna, in Room XIII of the Collection of Classical Antiquities, where it stands in the centre: “Bronze statue of a youth, probably a victor in the Greek Games, an original of the school of Polycletus (early 5th century B.G.), found at Virunum in Carinthia in 1502”.

THE GRAZ-SECKAU DIOCESE ISSUE OF 20TH SEPTEMBER 1968

The 750th anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese Graz-Seckau was honoured by issuing a 2 schilling slate-grey stamp designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict the Romanesque carving of a “Bishop with a staff”; a relief on the Cathedral of Seckau identified by some authorities as St. Aegidius, the Patron of the Diocese. It was engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and recess printed in an impression of 2.9 million; comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. The bishopric was originally in 1218 at Seckau bei Knitteld, where a large abbey was founded in 1140, but was moved to Graz later.



THE KOLOMAN MOSER ISSUE OF 18TH OCTOBER 1968



The 50th anniversary of the death of the famous Austrian painter and graphical artist, Koloman Moser (1868-1918), was commemorated with a 2 schilling agate and vermillion portrait stamp designed by Otto Stefferl, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed by both recess and photogravure in an impression of 2.85 million; comb perforated 12. Koloman Moser is chiefly remembered by philatelists for his design of the Austrian stamps from 1908 to 1915 as well as the corresponding stamps of Bosnia-Herzegovina. [See “Koloman Moser - Kunst auf Briefmarken” in the *Schätze aus dem Postarchiv* series.]

THE HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR ISSUE OF 18TH OCTOBER 1968

The 20th anniversary of the 1948 U.N.O. Declaration on Human Rights was commemorated by a 1.50 schilling carmine red, blackish green and olive grey stamp designed by Otto Zeiller to depict the U. N. Emblem of Human Rights - a flame within an olive wreath - and printed by the photogravure process in an impression of 2.9 million stamps; comb perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

On 10th December 1948, at the 3rd Plenary Session of the United Nations in Paris, “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights” was proclaimed. The 20th Plenary Session in 1965 decided that 1968 should be specially celebrated as the 20th anniversary of the original declaration.

On 1st January 1968, President Jonas proclaimed that this “World Year” would also be celebrated in the Republic of Austria. Austria indeed had possessed the basic human rights in a legal form for over a century and the social laws of the 1920s had extended these into the economic sphere. Since 1958, Austrians may in the last instance appeal to the European Court of Law of Human Rights in Strasbourg. There is also an “Austrian League for Human Rights” to ensure that the ideals of the U.N.O. Declaration are promulgated throughout the country.



THE 50TH YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC ISSUE OF 11TH NOVEMBER 1968



Half-a-century after the fall of the Monarchy and the proclamation of the First Austrian Republic at the end of the First World War, a set of three 2 schilling multi-coloured stamps was issued to mark this event. All three have a central design surrounded by the shields of the provinces. The first stamp, depicting the coat-of-arms of Austria, was designed by Otto Zeiler. The Federal President Dr Franz Jonas designed the other two; the second shows the head of Dr Karl Renner, the first Chancellor of the Republic, and the third the First Article of the Constitution: “Austria is a democratic republic whose laws come from the people”. All three were engraved by Alfred Fischer and printed, by both recess and photogravure in an impression of 2.9 million sets; comb perf 13¾.

THE 5TH CHRISTMAS ISSUE OF 29TH NOVEMBER 1968



This 2 schilling slate-green stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict the crib in the memorial chapel at Oberndorf bei Salzburg. It was engraved by Georg Wimmer and recess-printed in an impression limited only by demand and comb perforated 14¼x13½. It celebrated the 150th anniversary of the carol “Stille Nacht” as well as serving as a Christmas issue.

THE 19TH STAMP DAY ISSUE OF 29TH NOVEMBER 1968

This 3.50S + 80g blackish-green stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict the facade relief of Mercury/Hermes, the messenger of the gods, on the postal building at Purkersdorf bei Wien. It was engraved by Maria Laurent and recess printed in an impression of 2.6 million, in sheets of 50; comb perforated 13½x13¾.






Friedrich Josef, Edler von Furnberg (1743-1799), Imperial Count and Postmaster of Purkersdorf, in 1780 commissioned the architect Franz Wipplinger (1762-1812) to rebuild the old post office and provide the classical portico with its facade reliefs.



THE BAROQUE FRESCOES ISSUE OF 11TH DECEMBER 1968

Rather surprisingly the last issue of the year was devoted to the “Baroque Frescoes of Paul Troger (1698-1762) and of Anton Franz Maulpertsch (1724-1796)”. A set of six 2 schilling multi-coloured stamps was designed by Adalbert Pilch, using actual frescoes as detailed below, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed by both recess and photogravure in an impression of 2.85 million sets; comb perforated 14x13¾.

Baroque ceiling decoration flourished in Austria for a hundred years from the late seventeenth century. The leading artists were fresco painters and the bold, exuberant Baroque style was introduced by Johann Rottmayr (1654-1730). Other artists evolved their own individual styles, among them Paul Troger and Anton Franz Maulpertsch. Troger, a Tirolese from the Puster valley, worked in Italy, Salzburg and finally Vienna, painting Frescoes for all the great abbeys and monasteries of Lower Austria. Maulpertsch, a native of Langenargen, Lake Constance, studied in Vienna, and gradually developed a style of painting having a close affinity with the work of Troger. The six stamps in the “Baroque Frescoes” series show details from their best works - three from each.

Troger's frescoes.		
		
Melk Monastery - a detail representing St. Peter and St. Paul, patron saints of Melk Abbey church, from the painting, executed in 1745, showing the handing-over of the Monastery to the Benedictine monks.	Altenburg Monastery - a detail “Michael's Struggle” from “The Virgin's rescue and St. Michael's victory over the Dragon” (1733) in the church cupola.	Röhrenbach-Greillenstein - a detail: “Angel with Trumpets” from a series in the Mortuary chapel: “Judgement Day, the Resurrection' and the Descent into Hell” (1737).
Maulpertsch's frescoes.		
		
Ebenfurth Castle - the canonisation of St. Leopold of Austria - dated 1754.	Halbthurn Castle - two allegorical figures: representing two of the Seasons, from the “Apollo” painting in the stately hall of the Castle; dated 1765).	Maria Treu Church - “Mary and the Four Evangelists” from the cupola of the Piarist Church of Maria Treu (Virgo Fidelis) in Vienna; dated 1752”. This double towered parish church was consecrated in 1716 whilst the facade received its present form in 1860.