

# 1969

## THE VIENNA DIOCESE ISSUE OF 28TH JANUARY 1969

The 500th anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese of Vienna in 1469 was commemorated with a set of six 2 Schilling stamps designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict pillar statues from St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 2.95 million sets; comb perf 13½x13¾. Each stamp, in addition to the statue and its niche, shows at its base the coat of arms of the Vienna diocese and an angel with a posthorn.



- a) St. Stephen the Protomartyr carrying the stone by which he was killed
- b) slate; St. Christopher bearing the Christ Child.
- c) deep blue; Madonna with Child.
- d) myrtle-green; St. George killing the Dragon.
- e maroon; St. Paul.
- f) olive-black; St. Sebastian pierced with arrows

After the destruction of the original ecclesiastical organisation by the invasion of the Slavs, the Austrian lands were administered by the Archdiocese of Siebenburgen with a suffragan diocese of Passau. The first independent Austrian diocese was that of Vienna in 1469 and this was raised to an archbishopric in 1772.

## THE I.P.U. MEETING ISSUE OF 8TH APRIL 1969



The Inter-Parliamentary Union Meeting for 1969 was held in Vienna. A 2 Schilling deep bluish-green stamp was issued in its honour, designed by Otto Zeiler to depict the Vienna Parliament Building, engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and recess printed in an impression of 3 million; comb perforated 13½x13¾.

The stamp for the Spring session of the Interparliamentary Union held during April, shows the venue of the meeting, the handsome Parliament Building in Vienna with its Corinthian columns and the statue of Pallas Athene 'on guard' in front of it. The I.P.U. was founded in 1889 when, on the initiative of Sir William

Cremer and Frédéric Passy, the first conference was held in Paris to popularise the idea of international arbitration. It now provides a permanent liaison between the Parliaments of member countries who, since 1945, have worked primarily on the many aspects of peace and reconstruction, including economic development, immigration and emigration, international law, morality and social problems.

## THE EUROPA ISSUE OF 28TH APRIL 1969

The 10th anniversary (1959-1969) of C.E.P.T. was commemorated with a 25 multi-coloured designed by two Italians, L. Garbarra and G. Belli, to depict a temple-like colonnade constructed from the words EUROPA and CEPT, and printed in photogravure in an impression of 3.0 million; comb perforated 12.



## THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ISSUE OF 5TH MAY 1969



The 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Council of Europe was commemorated by issuing a 3.50S multi-coloured stamp designed by Karl Gessner to depict a column and the stars as the emblem of the European Council. It was printed by photogravure in an impression of 3 million; comb perforated 12.

A ring of 12 golden stars on a bright blue ground symbolises the unity achieved between the countries of Europe in 1959. The number of stars now has no relation to the current membership. On the left is a classical Ionic column of ancient Greece. The aims of the Council are to achieve a greater unity between its members, to safeguard their European heritage and to facilitate their economic and social progress.

## THE AUSTRIAN ARMY ISSUE OF 14TH MAY 1969



A 2 Schilling deep sepia and red stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict two Austrian soldiers in battle dress with helmets, one holding a pair of binoculars and the other an automatic weapon. It was engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed, in both recess and offset lithography, in an impression of 3.05 million; comb perforated 12.

The Austrian Army of the First Republic ceased to exist in 1938 when it was incorporated into the German army. With the conclusion of the State Treaty in 1955, Austria received the right to re-form an Army and the “B-Gendarmerie”, a special division of the Gendarmerie of 1945 to 1955, served as its basis. By a law of 7th September 1955, national service became compulsory for all men with an ordinary length of service of 9 months. Then the recruit serves in the reserves. The country is divided into three Army Groups, at Vienna, Graz and Salzburg, with a further division (from 1955 to 1962) into nine brigades. Since 1962 there have been only seven brigades. In total, there are approximately 50,000 soldiers in 246 companies (4 companies to a battalion) located in 80 garrisons. Military music is provided by 9 bands and a special emergency service was constituted in 1959 in the Pioneers, to deal with catastrophes. As Austria is a neutral country, the Army has the task of defending that neutrality as well as providing for the internal security of the State.

## THE VIENNA STATE OPERA ISSUE OF 23RD MAY 1969

A special miniature sheet (see next page) was issued to celebrate the centenary of the Vienna State Opera, which was constructed between 1861 and 1869 as the Imperial Opera House, by A. von Siccardsburg and E. van der Null. This sheet was designed by Otto Stefferl, engraved by various people as described below, and printed by both recess and photogravure in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 13½.

1	2	3	The “miniature sheet” consists of eight 2 Schilling blackish brown, red and gold stamps, each depicting a different scene from various operas, arranged around a central label depicting the Vienna Opera House circumscribed with a wreath.
4		5	
6	7	8	

Each miniature sheet included an outer edge of blank labels whilst the Post Office counter sheet consisted of four of these miniature sheets. See the essay “Vienna State Opera” for much more information! The descriptions below are numbered in agreement with the diagram above.

Stamp #1, engraved by Kurt Leitgeb, shows the last scene of “Don Giovanni” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) which was first produced in Prague in 1787. Don Giovanni sits at his loaded table, drinking claret and anticipating the roast pheasant. The statue of the Commendatore has not yet arrived...

Stamp #2, also engraved by Kurt Leitgeb, is a scene from another opera by Mozart. It shows Papageno, with his bird cage, from the opera “Die Zauberflöte”(i.e. The Magic Flute) which was first presented in Vienna in 1791, at the Theater auf der Wieden when the owner, Emmanuel Schikander, appeared in person as Papageno.

Stamp #3 is from the opera Fidelio by Ludwig von Beethoven, first produced in Vienna in 1805 and revived there in both 1806 and 1814. Its first performance was on 20th November 1805 at the Theater an der Wien; Beethoven conducted from the piano to a scanty audience; the French army having just occupied Vienna. On the stamp Florestan is singing his freedom aria. This stamp was engraved by Georg Wimmer.

Stamp #4 was engraved by Alfred Fischer and shows a scene from "Lohengrin" by Richard Wagner, which was first produced in Weimar in 1850. It shows Lohengrin and Elsa von Brabant in the final scene of that opera.

Stamp #5 was engraved by Werner Pfeiler and depicts a scene from the opera "Don Carlos", by Giuseppe Verdi, which was first presented in 1867 in Paris. On the stamp are shown King Philip and Queen Elizabeth.

Stamp #6 was engraved by Alfred Nefe, with a scene from the opera "Carmen" by Georges Bizet, which was first produced in 1875 in Paris. The stamp depicts José seated on a chair entranced by Carmen dancing.

Stamp #7 engraved by Georg Wimmer depicts a scene from the opera "Rosenkavalier" (i.e. Knight of the Rose) by Richard Strauss, first presented in Dresden in 1911. Sophie is holding the rose presented to her by Octavian.

Stamp #8, engraved by Maria Laurent, depicts the ballet "Swan Lake", by Tchaikovsky. Prince Siegfried and Odette are performing one of the dances from this ballet.



## THE MAXIMILIAN I EXHIBITION ISSUE OF 4TH JUNE 1969



Upon the occasion of the 450th anniversary of the death of the Emperor Maximilian I (1459-1519), a commemorative exhibition was held in Innsbruck and a 2 Schilling black stamp was issued in connection with this exhibition. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict the Gothic armour of Maximilian I, engraved by Alfred Fischer and printed in both recess and photogravure in an impression of 3 million stamps; comb perforated 13½.

*“The last of the Knights”* was the distinction accorded to Maximilian I, King of Germany 1486-1519 and Holy Roman Emperor, whose personal suit of armour is depicted this stamp, issued for the Maximilian I Exhibition in Innsbruck. He was the son of Frederick III (born at Wiener Neustadt in 1459) and he acquired Burgundy and Flanders by his marriage to Mary of Burgundy in 1477. Maximilian became Emperor on the death of his

father in 1493, and became involved in war with France for the sovereignty of Milan and Naples. Finally, he was forced to cede Milan to the French after Francis I's victory at Melegnano in 1515. He brought Spain under the power of his dynasty by the marriage of his son Philip to the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella. Maximilian inaugurated many administrative reforms, and was the author of several autobiographies and a work on hunting. The exhibition arranged at the Armoury in Innsbruck showed him not only as the creator of an empire but as one versed in the arts, hunting, tournaments (where his skill was unmatched by any other knight) and the sciences.

## THE S.O.S. ISSUE OF 16TH JUNE 1969

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation in 1949 of “S.O.S.” - Children Villages Movement - was commemorated with a 2 schilling purple-brown and yellow-green stamp, designed by Otto Stefferl to portray a smiling young girl in front of one such village, engraved by Alfred Nefe and printed by both recess and photogravure in an impression of 3.05 million; comb perforated 13½x13¾.



Hermann Gmeiner founded the first of his “S.O.S. Children's Villages” for refugee children at Imst, in the heart of the Tyrolean mountains, in 1949. In the following year, the first children moved into what he called the “House of Peace” in the village, and since that time, sixty-five children's villages have been established in twenty-six countries of the world - thirty-eight in operation, fourteen under construction and thirteen at the blueprint stage. The children are looked after by foster mothers who each “keep house” in their own households, caring for about eight children. The pioneer of the Children's Village Movement was Anton Afritsch, who founded the Verein Kinderfreude at Graz in 1908”. The balloon post of the Austrian “Pro-Juvente” raises supporting money for the children's villages.

## THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONGRESS ISSUE OF 16TH JUNE 1969



The 19th Congress of the International Union of Local Authorities was held in Vienna during June 1969. It was honoured with a 2 schilling red, blackish brown and light ochre stamp that was designed by Otto Zeiller and shows the oldest known seal of Vienna. It was printed in photogravure in an impression of 3 million; comb perforated 13½x13½.

The International Union of Local Authorities was founded in 1913 in Ghent. It arose from the increasing need for international contacts so that local authorities could grow in the same manner. Despite the interruptions caused by two World Wars, the Union was reconstituted in 1946, and by 1969 had members from approximately 60 countries. In 1953, at the invitation of the Lord Mayor Franz Jonas, the 11th Congress was held in Vienna and now the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress returned to that city from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 1969. The main theme of the 1953 Congress had been “The large city and the small communes” whilst that of the 1969 Congress was “The Finances of the Local Authorities”.

The symbol of the Congress was the oldest City Seal of Vienna as shown on the stamp. Vienna was given its charter, on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1221, by the Babenberg Duke Leopold VI. On the seal is the single-headed eagle of the Mödling branch of the Babenbergers, of 1220-29, and the legend “SIGILVM CIVIVM WINNENSIVM” (i.e. Seal of the City of Vienna); the seal has a diameter of between 70 and 80 mm.

## THE "AUSTRIANS LIVING ABROAD" ISSUE OF 22ND AUGUST 1969



A special 3.50 Schilling red and slate-green stamp was issued in honour of the "Austrians Living Abroad Year". It was designed by Professor Clemens Holzmeister to depict the Austrian Flag encircling the globe, engraved by Georg Wimmer and printed, in both recess and photogravure, in an impression of 3 million; comb perforated  $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ .

1969 was the Year of the Tenth Province; alternatively, the Year of Austrians Living Abroad. There are more than 350,000 of them, all of whom have left Austria in the past 50 years in a series of emigration 'waves' for various reasons - the collapse of the monarchy (1918), military and political clashes (1927), the Dollfuss affair (1934), German occupation and expulsion of the following the end of World War II (1945). The 'emigrants', among them many Austrians distinguished in numerous professional fields,

are not forgotten, however; there are more than a hundred associations of Austrians living abroad, and these have a central organisation, the "Weltbund der Österreicher im Ausland" (World Union of Austrians Abroad) and the associated "Auslandsoesterlicherwerk", both based in Vienna. These offer practical assistance to the elder Austrians, and cater for the cultural needs of all Austrians abroad, providing links with the homeland. For those members of the so-called 'Tenth Province' (Austria has nine), the Austrian Government designated 1969 a year of celebration. The stamp shows the Austrian 'flag' encircling the Globe".

## THE I.L.O. ISSUE OF 22ND AUGUST 1969

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the International Labour Organisation in 1919 was commemorated with a 2 Schilling blackish-green stamp that was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict two hands on a spanner (the Jubilee Emblem; *but are they trying to turn it or to pull it off?*) and was printed in photogravure in an impression of 3 million; comb perforated  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$ .



The I.L.O. was founded in 1919 with the object of bringing together governments, employers and workers for the purposes of discussing social law and the raising of the living standards of the world. Austria joined the I.L.O. in the Spring of 1920 and, although its membership was broken in 1938 by the Nazi occupation, it was re-formed in 1947 when the 30<sup>th</sup> General Conference of I.L.O. accepted Austria back into its fold. By 1969, 121 States were members of I.L.O. and thus half-a-century had produced a strong organisation with a permanent Secretariat working on international work norms and technical co-operation.

*[The Albertine issue's proper place is here, but it's been moved down to get the pictures and the words on the same page!]*

## THE PRESIDENT JONAS ISSUE OF 3RD OCTOBER 1969



The 70th birthday of the Federal President, Franz Jonas, was celebrated with a 2S deep ultramarine and pale grey stamp that was issued on 29th September 1969 (FDC 3rd October). It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Alfred Nefe and printed by both recess and photogravure in an impression of 3.2 million, comb perforated 13:13.

Franz Jonas was born on 4th October 1899 in Vienna, the son of a manual worker. After his youthful schooling was finished, he entered the School of Printing to become a typesetter but also attended courses for workers conducted at the University of Vienna. He now became active in the workers' political movement in Vienna and, by 1932, had risen to become the secretary of the Socialist district organisation. However, he retired into obscurity during the Dollfuss and Nazi periods, to emerge in 1946 as Chairman of the Vienna, District XVI. After a period during which he supervised the distribution of

food rations, he took charge of building and housing matters. So successful was he in this field that in 1951 he was elected as Lord Mayor of Vienna. He also rose in the Socialist Party; becoming a member of the Upper House of Parliament in 1952 and of the National Council 1953. He then became the Socialist candidate for the Presidency of Austria upon the death of Adolf Schärf in 1965. Franz Jonas was elected, on 24th May 1965, as Fourth President of the Second Republic. On 25th April 1971 he was re-elected for a further term of six years but died in office on 24th April 1974. (306).

## THE ALBERTINA BICENTENARY ISSUE OF 26TH SEPTEMBER 1969

The Albertina Graphic Collection was founded in 1769 by Albert, Duke of Sachsen-Teschen (1738-1822), the husband of Maria Christina (1742-1798); a daughter of the Empress Maria Theresa. It was extended by the Archdukes Karl, Albrecht and Friedrich in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and became State property in 1919. To commemorate its bicentenary, a set of eight 2S multi-coloured stamps was issued to depict some of the treasures of this great Vienna collection. The set was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by various people as described below and printed, by both photogravure and recess, in an impression of 3.3 million sets; comb perforated 13½x13¾.



Stamp #1 was engraved by Alfred Fischer and depicts a “Young Field Hare” by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528)

Stamp #2 was engraved by Maria Laurent to show the “Madonna with the Pomegranate” by Raffaello Santi (1483-1520).

Stamp #3 The set continues with a stamp, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel, that portrays the famous Dutch painter Pieter Brueghel (1525-1569) from his painting “The Painter and the Amateur”.

Stamp #4 On the following stamp, engraved by Alfred Nefe, is depicted not the artist Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640) but the head of his young son, Nicholas (1618-1655).

Stamp #5 On this stamp, engraved by Georg Wimmer, is depicted the famous Spanish hero “El Cid killing a bull” from the painting by Francisco Goya (1746-1828).

Stamp #6 Here is the self portrait of Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn, engraved by Rudolf Toth.

Stamp #7 Next, on a stamp engraved also by Rudolf Toth, is portrayed a detail from the painting by Francois Guerin (1735-1791) of a “Lady Reading - Marquise de Pompadour - and (as?) a small girl”.

Stamp #8 Finally, on a stamp engraved by Alfred Nefe, is shown “The Artist's Wife” by Egon Schiele (1890-1918). Edith Schiele and her husband both died of “Spanish Influenza” in October 1918 in Vienna.

## THE P.T.T. EMPLOYEES UNION ISSUE OF 17TH OCTOBER 1969



A 2 Schilling multi-coloured stamp was issued in honour of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Union of Workers of the Postal and Telegraphic Services. It was designed by Viktor Theodore Slama, to depict symbolically lightning passing through the handle of a post horn against the background of the globe. It was engraved by Georg Wilmer and printed by both recess and photogravure in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½x13½. The foundation of this union in 1919 was a reflection of the collapse of the Monarchy and a change in the status of the employees, who were previously servants of the Crown.

## THE SAVINGS BANK ISSUE OF 31ST OCTOBER 1969

A 2 Schilling blackish green and silver stamp was issued to commemorate both World Savings Day and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Austrian Savings Bank. The stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict a late medieval wrought iron savings box of about 1450, and printed in photogravure in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 13½x13¾. The foundation of savings banks in Austria goes back to the Savings Bank patent of 1817 or to the law of 1844. The First Savings Bank was founded in Vienna in 1819 and is one of the five large Credit Banks of Austria. In 1953 it founded a museum with saving boxes from the whole world together with old coins and banknotes.



## THE 5TH CHRISTMAS STAMP ISSUE OF 28TH NOVEMBER 1969



The 1969 Christmas stamp reproduced the painting "The Madonna" by Albin Egger-Lienz (1868-1926) which hangs in the "Homeland Museum" in Schloss Bruck at Lienz in the Tirol. The 2 Schilling maroon and pale greenish-yellow stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed by both recess and photogravure in an impression limited only by demand and comb perforated 12x12

## THE 20TH STAMP DAY ISSUE OF 5TH DECEMBER 1969

The stamp depicts the front side of the hanging shield of the former postal station at Unken in Salzburg as shown on a water colour painted by Friedrich Zeller in 1890 and now in the possession of the Post- and Telegraph Museum in Vienna. The 3.50S + 80g black, carmine, and pale stone stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Alfred Fischer and printed by both photogravure (pale stone) and recess (black, carmine red) in an impression of 2.5 million; comb perforated 12x12. The shield dates from 1710, bears the initials of Franz Mayrgschwendner, the second postmaster of Unken, and depicts either an ox or a horse. It is supported by the Salzburg lions.

