

# 1973

## ALFONS PETZOLD, JANUARY 26 1973



A 2S plum portrait stamp was issued on January 26, 1973 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the writer Alfons Petzold (1882-1923). It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Werner Pfeiler, and recess printed in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 13½.

Alfons Petzold, 1882-1923, was born in Vienna, the son of an itinerant paper-hanger who suffered several years of illness and increasing poverty before finally dying of haemoptysis, a disease of the lungs inherited from his father. Himself frail of body, Alfons found it difficult to obtain work, and after his mother died in a traffic accident, he lost his home and, for a time, became a vagrant. Eventually his friend, Ludwig Ruppmeier, helped him to return to a normal life, though in 1908 he barely survived three successive attacks of haemoptysis.

All this time, Alfons passionately read the German classics and romantic poems and he discovered an aptitude for writing lyric poetry, strongly influenced by his penchant for 'working class' socialism. His first volume of poems "Strange Music" was published in the U.S. in 1909, and after his first wife, Johanna, died in 1914, it was his second wife, Hedwig, who introduced him to a better way of life. They moved to Kitzbühel, where he wrote sketches, short stories and five novels, the most important being "The Rough Life". He died quite suddenly from influenza, aged 40.

## DRUG ABUSE, JANUARY 26, 1973

As part of a campaign against drug misuse, a 2S multi-coloured stamp was issued on January 26, 1973. It was designed by Otto Stefferl to depict the hideous face of a drug victim turning into a skull, and inscribed "Stop! narcotic poison is suicide". It was printed by the photogravure process in an impression limited only by demand; comb perforated 13½. The dramatic effect of this symbolic design is very striking; conveying as it does the message that the only end of anyone misusing drugs is an early grave. This stamp was produced at the express wish of the Federal President Dr. Franz Jonas to draw attention to the results of the misuse of drugs.



## THEODOR KÖRNER, APRIL 24 1973



The centenary of the birth of Dr. Theodor Körner, Edler von Siegringen (1873-1957), the second President of the Second Austrian Republic, was commemorated by issuing a 2S portrait stamp, in maroon and pale brownish grey, on April 24, 1973. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed, in both recess and photogravure, in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 14½; 13½.

Dr. Theodor Körner was President of Austria from 1951 until his death in January 1957. He was born at Komarno on the Danube in 1873, the son of an army officer; he was a student at the military school of Mährisch Weissenkirchen and at the military academy in Vienna where he took his degree. As a staff-captain at 26, he made a name for himself in army communications and formed a telegraph regiment. In the First World War, Körner served in the Balkans and took part in some of the fiercest battles there before becoming a staff-colonel dealing with the post-war problems of army administration, eventually holding the rank of inspector-general. His army career ceased suddenly in 1924 when he turned to politics and joined the Social Democratic Party and the Bundesrat or Federal Council, where he represented Vienna and became chairman in 1934.

But that was a disastrous year for Austria - Dr. Dollfuss, the Chancellor, was assassinated by the Nazis, parliamentary government was abolished and Körner himself was imprisoned for several months. Later

(1945), he became Mayor of Vienna and he was elected Federal President in June 1951, by a majority of nearly 200,000. The new stamp is his third commemorative; stamps were issued in 1953 and 1957 for his 80th birthday and death respectively.

### AVIATION ANNIVERSARIES, MAY 14 1973



The 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Austrian Aviation Corporation (ÖLAG) was celebrated with a 2S ultramarine and red stamp issued on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1973. It was designed by Otto Zeiller, to depict a Douglas DC-9 Jet-Liner of the Austrian Airlines, engraved by Kurt Leitgab and printed, by both the recess and photogravure processes, in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 14½:13½

In addition to commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Aviation Corporation, and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Austrian Airlines in 1958; this stamp also marked the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first international airmail service from Vienna to Kiev in 1918. For extensive details of this, see '*A Celebration of Austrian Philately*' APS 2008 pp 1-46 and '*AUSTRIA*' 215 pp 28-38

No exact reference is made to this anniversary on the stamp itself, and it is a pity that the face value is not 4S, the rate of a foreign letter which would be carried by such a plane. Perhaps the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary was regarded as only a coincidence!

### OTTO LOEWI, JUNE 4 1973

The centenary of the birth of the Austrian pharmacologist Otto Loewi (1873-1961) was commemorated with a 4S slate-violet portrait stamp, issued on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1973 as the exact day of 3<sup>rd</sup> June fell that year on a Sunday. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Alfred Nefe, and recess printed in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 14½:13½



Otto Loewi, 1873-1961, was born in Frankfurt-an-Main, the son of a Jewish wine merchant, and was educated at the municipal grammar school there. He began to study medicine and attended the Universities of Strasbourg and Munich; in 1902 he joined H.H. Mayer in the pharmacological institute at Marburg, and when the latter moved to Vienna in 1904, Loewi followed him there as an associate professor.

In 1909 he was appointed professor of pharmacology (the study of drugs) at Graz University, where he began extensive researches in the fields of physiology, pharmacology and therapy. His most important experiments were related to the mechanism of the nervous system, and in 1936 he shared with Sir Henry H. Dale the Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine. Later, he became a victim of Nazi persecution; he was imprisoned and forced to transfer the Nobel prize money, deposited with a Swedish bank in Stockholm in 1936, to a prescribed Nazi-controlled bank. He was then permitted to leave the country. He eventually made his way to the United States where in 1940 he was appointed research professor of pharmacology at New York University.

### SOCIAL INSURANCE, JUNE 25 1973



The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the National Federation of Austrian Social Insurance Institutes was honoured with a 2S deep violet blue stamp issued on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1973. It was designed by Otto Stefferl, to depict symbolically a relief of a naked man holding up another who is trying to support himself on a staff. The spade-like symbol SD, the emblem of the Federation, is shown in the top right-hand corner of the stamp. It was engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 3.3 million, comb perforated 14½:13½.

### EUROPA, JULY 9 1973

The 5<sup>th</sup> Europa stamp was issued on 9<sup>th</sup> July as a 2.50S black, greenish yellow and brownish-orange value. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch. It depicts the Europa post-horn, containing a telephone dial in its coils, surrounded by arrows symbolising communications. It was printed by photogravure in an impression of 4 million; comb perforated 14.



The Europa issues of Austria had appeared sporadically, but with this 5<sup>th</sup> issue there began a continuous series of annual issues. The significance of the placing of a telephone dial within the posthorn was that, in 1972, the P.T.T. Ministers decided to study the possibility of creating a telephone organisation for Europe.

### DORNBIRN FAIR, JULY 27 1973



The Silver Jubilee of the Dornbirn Fair was marked by issuing a 2S multi-coloured stamp on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1973. It was designed by Otto Stefferl based on the Dornbirn coat-of-arms flanked by draped bolts of fabric, and printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½.

Dornbirn is a manufacturing town in the province of Vorarlberg, bordered by the German Federal Republic, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland. In 1949 it surprised trade and commerce in Central Europe by setting up its own trade fair. At first it specialised in the field of textiles, and the first of two permanent buildings was erected in the centre of the town to house what had become an annual international textile fair. A second building was added in 1958 and the ultimate in the promotion of Austrian textiles was reached in 1966 and 1967 with the sponsoring of two exhibitions (OTEX) at Dornbirn in addition to the usual fair.

Since that time the Dornbirn Fair has ceased to confine its wares to fabrics and fibres and is now an “all-commodities” fair. A new building has made it possible to hold specialist or general fairs all year round.

### MILITARY PENTATHLON, AUGUST 13 1973

A 4S olive stamp was issued on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1973 to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Military Sports Council and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Military Pentathlon Championships at Wiener Neustadt. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict a soldier vaulting a fence (or perhaps climbing a gate), engraved by Alfred Fischer, and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. This stamp may be considered as part of the series on “Sports Motifs”. Inscribed “Military Pentathlon 1973 - Obstacle Race”



## LEO SLEZAK, AUGUST 17 1973



The centenary of the birth of the Austrian operatic tenor, Leo Slezak was commemorated by a 4S agate portrait stamp issued on August 17, 1973. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14.

Leo Slezak, 1873-1946, one of Austria's most popular and versatile tenors, was born on 18th August 1873 at Mährisch-Schönberg. He was the son of Leo Slezak, an Austrian army officer, and of the latter's wife; Anna Kretschmer. The boy was educated at the local primary school, then worked as a gardener's boy in Gmunden before doing his compulsory military service. Next he studied engineering at an industrial school and became an apprentice locksmith. During this period he took

part in amateur theatricals and graduated to minor parts in the theatre at Brünn. It was whilst he was singing in the chorus there that his powerful tenor voice came to the attention of Professor Adolf Robinson who was then an operatic star in Brünn and Berlin. Leo Slezak studied for two years under Professor Robinson and then made his debut in Brünn on 17th March 1896 as "Lohengrin". Further engagements took place in Berlin, London and Breslau and, on 15th February 1900, he married Elisa Wertheim who bore him two children, Margarete and Walter. On 13th January 1901 he made his debut at the Vienna Opera and he was to remain there until 1934 with breaks when he sang at opera houses around the world. In 1905 he was given the title of "Court Singer" by the Emperor and, in 1918, the King of Bavaria conferred a similar title upon him. The roles in which he became famous included Othello, Tannhäuser, Siegfried, Canio (in *Bajazzo*), Max (in *Freischütz*), Duke Manrico (in *Rigoletto*), Radames, Tamino and Belmonte. His voice which "enchanted the people of Vienna" was heard in innumerable concerts and radio broadcasts.

In 1933, at the age of 50 and in his prime, he impetuously abandoned his singing career and turned to films, becoming a successful character actor and comedian in such parts as "the timid home bird" and the "ill-tempered invalid". In 1921, he started to write his memoirs which appeared in three volumes, "*Meine sämtl Werke*" (1922), "*Der Wortbruch*" (1928) and "*Der Rückfall*" (1940), delightfully humorous books full of witty comments and anecdotes of his life in opera and films. Leo Slezak had numerous pets which he took with him on his travels; he collected postage stamps, pottery, glass and photographs. His son Walter became an actor, and later a noted film star in Hollywood. Daughter Margarete was a professional singer and actress. Slezak spent the last part of his life in Vienna and at his castle at Egern am Tegernsee where he died on 1st June 1946.

Slezak is said to be the originator of the Tale of the Swan. At the end of Wagner's Lohengrin the hero sings a sad farewell, then embarks on a boat drawn by a magic swan; it paddles him away as the heroine drops dead and the curtain falls to rapturous applause. In the Vienna Staatsoper one evening, as Slezak sang the final aria the swan-boat set off without him. Slezak walked to the front of the stage and enquired of the audience, "*Entschuldigen Sie bitte, wann geht der nächste Strassenschwan?*"

## STATISTICAL INSTITUTE, AUGUST 20 1973

The 39<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Statistical Institute was held in Vienna in August 1973 and marked by a 2S agate red and pale slate stamp on August 20, 1973. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict the entrance portal to the Vienna Congress Centre in the Vienna Hofburg, engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and printed by both the recess and photogravure processes in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½.



The International Statistical Institute first met in Brussels during September 1853, upon the initiative of the Prince Consort Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, as a forum for the exchange of national statistical information. The third Congress was held in Vienna in 1857 and the Permanent Commission met in 1873 in Vienna during the World Exhibition there. Austria has played a major role since then in its operations.

## FRANZ JOSEPH LAND, AUGUST 30 1973



The centenary of the discovery by an Austrian expedition of Franz-Joseph Land, an archipelago on the North Arctic Sea east of Spitzbergen, was commemorated by issuing a 2.50S deep bluish green stamp on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1973. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch using a painting by the expedition leader Julius Ritter von Payer (1841-1915) entitled "*The Expedition Ship Tegetthoff in the Pack Ice*", engraved by Kurt Leitgeb, and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½.

This group of more than 60 mainly ice-covered islands in the Arctic Ocean, with a total surface area of about 16,000km<sup>2</sup>, was discovered by an Austrian naval expedition under Karl Weyprecht (1838-1881) and Julius Payer in 1873. It was named in honour of the Emperor Franz Josef I, and although it became part of the U.S.S.R. in 1925 it is still known as "Земля Франца-Иосифа - Semlja Franza Jossifa"

On 13th June 1872, the Admiral Tegetthoff, a new, three-masted schooner with an auxiliary steam engine, glided down the Weser River from Bremerhaven into the North Sea and headed north, skirting the western coasts of Denmark and Norway. Her captain was Karl Weyprecht, she was flying the flag of Austria-Hungary, and with a team of explorers and scientists under the leadership of Julius Payer she was bound for the region of the North Pole. Proceeding along the west coast of Novaya Zemlya, the sea gradually gave way to drifting ice-floes as "high as houses" which lifted the vessel and crushed her stern. Fettered by the ice, she drifted northwards for more than four months in the darkness of the Arctic winter.

On 30<sup>th</sup> August 1873 the mist and fog suddenly cleared to reveal the mountains and glaciers of a land which they named "Emperor Franz Joseph Land" after their monarch. After numerous adventures and daring sledge journeys, Payer and his men, together with the crew of the Tegetthoff, their ice-floes driven by a favourable wind, finally reached the shores of Novaya Zemyla again. The Russian whaler Nikolai took them safely back to Norway.

## INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION, SEPTEMBER 4 1973

The centenary of the foundation of the International Meteorological Organisation was celebrated by the issuing of a 2.50S bluish violet stamp on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1973. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller using a painting by Canaletto of the Vienna Academy of Sciences (previously the Aula of the University of Vienna). The stamp depicts the Dr.-Ignaz-Seipel Square in Vienna with the building of the Academy of Science and, to the right, part of the facade of the Jesuit Church. It was engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in recess in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½.



The International Meteorological Organisation was founded in 1873 by the Academy of Sciences to provide a forum for the compilation of meteorological data on a world-wide basis; the contact in Austria being. The Academy was founded in 1847, and has since 1857 occupied the Alte Aula (Great Hall) of the Old University of Vienna which was built in 1733-55 by J.N. Jadot de Ville-Issey.

## LEATHER CHEMISTS, SEPTEMBER 4 1973



The 13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Union of Leather Chemists Societies (I.U.L.C.S.) was held in Vienna from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September 1973. In its honour a 4S multi-coloured stamp was issued on 4<sup>th</sup> September. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, to depict the coat-of-arms of the Austrian Leather Chemist Society (Verein österreichischer Ledetechniker), engraved by Alfred Fisher and printed by both the recess and photogravure processes in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perf 14.

Leather goods have always constituted an important industry in Austria; during the 19th century Vienna leatherware had a world-wide reputation. The production of leather breeches was concentrated in the Upper Austrian district of the Salzkammergut where 14 factories were devoted to the trade.

## MAX REINHARDT, SEPTEMBER 7 1973



The centenary of the birth of the Austrian theatrical director, Max Reinhardt (1873-1943) was celebrated with a 2S deep claret portrait stamp that was issued on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1973. It was designed and engraved by Otto Stefferl and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 13½:12¾.

JFG's biography of Max Reinhardt: Max Goldmann was born on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1873 at Baden bei Wien. He was the son of Wilhelm Goldmann, a merchant of Vienna, and of the latter's wife, Rosa Wengraf. The boy was educated in Vienna and early displayed an interest in the stage; making his debut as an actor in Salzburg in 1893. There he came to the attention of Otto Brahms who invited him to Berlin and taught him acting from 1894 to 1903 at the Deutsche Theater. There he changed his surname to Reinhardt and had his first major success in "Schall und Rauch" in 1901 as a character actor. However, after playing various small parts, he decided to devote his life to producing plays and teaching actors, so in 1903 he rented the Neue Theater, and in 1905 bought the Deutsche Theater. His artistic approach was to use spectacle, novel staging and contemporary idiom and he started by producing a lavish oriental pantomime called "Sumurun".

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1910 he married Elise Heims of Berlin and they had two sons; Wolfgang and Gottfried. From this period also dated his production of classical plays both in new translations and also in unusual settings. He produced "Oedipus Rex" in 1910 at the Schumann Circus in Berlin and Vollmuller's "Miracle" in the Olympia Hall in London in 1911. Max Reinhardt left Berlin in 1920 to produce "Everyman" in Salzburg and Shakespeare at the Theater in der Josefstadt in Vienna in 1924. He then returned to Berlin to produce his "Komödie" and to work at various theatres. Divorced in 1932, he had to leave Berlin in 1933 when the Nazis came to power and he settled at the castle of Leopoldskron near Salzburg. In 1934 he produced "The Merchant of Venice" in Venice itself, and on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1935 he married Helene Thimig of Vienna. When Germany invaded Austria, they had to flee first to Czechoslovakia and then to the U.S.A., where in New York in 1937 he produced his last spectacle "The Eternal Road". Max Reinhardt worked on film scenarios, became a U.S. citizen in 1940 and died in New York on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1943.

## TROTTING ASSOCIATION, SEPTEMBER 28 1973

The centenary of the foundation of the Vienna Trotting Association in 1873 was commemorated by a 2S green stamp issued on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1973. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, to depict light harness racing (Trabrennfahrer) - a jockey in silks driving a horse at full trot pulling the small chariot, engraved by Maria Laurent, and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾. Trotting races are always held on the trotting course in the Vienna Prater.



## FERDINAND HANUSCH, SEPTEMBER 28 1973



Ferdinand Hanusch (1866-1923) was a Socialist politician who became Minister of Social Welfare in the Renner Government of 1918-1920. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death was honoured with a 2S brown-purple portrait stamp issued on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1973. It was designed by Otto Stefferl, engraved by Alfred Nefe and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Ferdinand Hanusch was born on 6th November, 1866 at Oberdorf in Austrian Silesia. He was the son of Josef Hanusch, a weaver who died just before the birth of Ferdinand, and of his wife Karoline Laser. The boy was educated at the local elementary school but also had to work at the loom to help to support his family. He left school at the age of 12 years and worked as a part-time worker in the building trade. Between 1885 and 1887 he tramped to Vienna, Trieste and Berlin, as well as wandering through the Balkans as far as Turkey, but did not find any permanent employment until he returned home and worked in a textile mill.

The death of his mother in 1888 affected him deeply and he only regained his self-confidence when in 1890 he married Anna Danes. In that year he also joined the "Eintracht" (Concord) Trade Union and soon became

active in its operation. His wife and young daughter died together of tuberculosis in 1895 and in 1896 he married Julie Gill, his assistant in Eintracht, by whom he had two sons and a daughter. In 1897 he went to Sternberg as Secretary of his Trade Union and of the local Social Democratic Party. His success in reorganising his union in 1898 led to his appointment as General Secretary of the Vienna T.U.C. and in the next decade he fought many wage negotiations with the Austrian employers. In 1907 he was elected to the Diet and became a close associate of Karl Renner, who when he formed his government for the First Austrian Republic (1918-1920) appointed Hanusch as Minister for Social Welfare. During these two years he introduced social health insurance, the Chambers of Labour and unemployment benefits. He remained in Parliament when Renner's government fell in July 1920, but he became ill in 1921 and died in Vienna on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1923.

### INTERPOL, OCTOBER 2 1973



The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation in 1923 of the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) was commemorated with a 4S deep bluish violet stamp issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1973. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl, to depict a police radio operator with his equipment together with the Interpol globe symbol. It was engraved by Werner Pfeiler and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½.

The growth of modern rapid transport and communications, that could be used by criminals, that led to the formation of Interpol so that the police could also use international co-operation to act against the criminals.

### EUROPHOT, OCTOBER 8 1973

The Europhot organisation was founded in 1953 in Graz by Councillor Knozer, then head of the Austrian Federal Guild of Photographers. It held a Congress in Vienna in 1973, and a 2.50S multi-coloured stamp was issued on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1973 in its honour. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, to depict one of the first photographic portrait objective lenses developed by Josef Petzval (1807-1891), engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed by both the recess and photogravure processes in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14. Petzval's lens were faster compared to previous lenses, with 22 times the light-gathering capacity of the daguerreotype camera lens of 1839. Portraits could be taken with exposure times of less than a minute! Also, the shapes of the lenses were based on optical laws; previously lenses were ground and polished according to experience.



### FIRST VIENNA AQUEDUCT, OCTOBER 23 1973



The centenary of the opening of Vienna's first mountain spring aqueduct was commemorated with a 2S sepia, red and light blue stamp issued on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1973. It was designed by Otto Stefferl, to depict the Imperial Spring of the aqueduct at Hirschwang in the Höllental, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed, by both the recess and photogravure processes, in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. Note the coat-of-arms of Vienna below the 2S and the two drops of water forming the zeros of "100".

The aqueduct, which was constructed in 1869-73 and lengthened in 1886-87, conveys the water to the main reservoir on the Rosenhügel in Vienna, a fall of 1830 feet from the Imperial Spring.

## STAMP DAY, NOVEMBER 30 1973



The annual Stamp Day issue appeared on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1973. This 4S + 1S brown purple stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl, to depict the Archangel Gabriel, engraved by Alfred Fischer and recess printed in an impression of 2.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½.

The statue of St. Gabriel is from an Annunciation Group of 1490 by Lorenz Luchsperger which stands in the Parish Church of Wiener Neustadt. The reason for depicting St. Gabriel was that on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1972 Pope Paul VI in an Apostolic Letter had declared the Archangel to be the Patron of both the Post and of Philately.

## CHRISTMAS, NOVEMBER 30 1973

The annual Christmas stamp was issued on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1973. It was designed by Karl Gessner, engraved by Alfred Fischer and printed, by both the recess and photogravure processes, in an impression of 5.2 million; comb perforated 14.

This 2S multi-coloured stamp depicts "The Birth of Christ" in a Gothic stained glass window (1386-1395) in the parish church of St. Erhard at Breitenau in Styria. The Christ Child is seen in Mary's arms with St. Joseph looking at them and the Ox and Ass keep their watch over a crib.



## FRITZ PREGL, DECEMBER 12 1973



The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award in 1923 of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry to Fritz Pregl (1869-1930) was commemorated with a 4S deep blue stamp issued on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1973. This portrait stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl, engraved by Alfred Nefe and printed, by both the recess and photogravure processes, in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½.

Fritz Pregl was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1869 at Laibach in Carniola. He studied medicine at the University of Graz and then took a degree in chemistry in 1901. After studying in Germany, he returned in 1905 to Graz as Professor of Physiological Chemistry at the Medico-Chemical Institute. Here his work into albuminous bodies and bile acids implied using very small quantities and he laid the foundations of quantitative chemical micro-analysis. In 1917 he published his monograph *Quantitative Organic Micro-Analysis* and in 1923 he received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for this work. An antiseptic, the Pregl Iodine solution, was also named after him. Fritz Pregl died in Graz on 13th December 1930.