

1978

EGON FRIEDELL, JANUARY 23 1978



The centenary of the birth of the Austrian writer Egon Friedell (1878-1938) was commemorated by issuing a 3S black and light blue portrait stamp on January 23, 1978. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl, engraved by Alfred Fischer and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (light blue) in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. The blackprints were 2600.

Friedell was born in Vienna, wrote books, dramas, and works on philosophy and cultural history. He also wrote for the cabaret and was a theatre critic. His works were banned in Nazi Germany and, after the occupation of Austria, he committed suicide in Vienna on 16th March 1938.

VIENNA'S UNDERGROUND, FEBRUARY 24 1978

The opening of the Vienna "U-Bahn" was celebrated by issuing a 3S multi-coloured (copper-red, lilac-carmine, ultramarine, blue-grey and black) stamp on February 24, 1978. It was designed by Otto Zeiller and shows an underground train, printed in photogravure in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. The blackprints were 2600.



In 1968 the General Council of Vienna decided to construct the basic network of the Vienna U-Bahn, and by 1970 tenders were requested. The network, by 1978, had a total length of 25.8Km and consisted of three lines called U1 (6Km, 9 stations), U2 (3.5Km, 7 stations) and U4 (16.3Km, 18 stations). The average distance between the stations was 796 metres. The U1 Line runs from Reumannplatz across Karlsplatz and Stephansplatz to Praterstern. The extension of this line to Kagran (4.2Km, 5 stations) had already been decided by the General Council of Vienna.

The U2 Line from Karlsplatz up to Schottenring follows the previous tram line route between Secession and the Landesgerichtsstrasse, then goes through a newly constructed underground portion to Schottentor and Maria-Theresien-Strasse; joining the U-4 Line at Schottenring.

The U4 Line goes from Heiligenstadt through Karlsplatz to Hütteldorf by curving through the centre of Vienna. The trains can be driven in both directions and are assembled as 1, 2 and 3 double wagons.

BIATHLON, FEBRUARY 28 1978



The Biathlon (a Greek word meaning "double contest") World Championships were held, between February 28 and March 5, 1978, at Hochfilzen in Tirol. To honour this event a 4S multicoloured stamp was issued on February 28, 1978. It was designed by Otto Stefferl, and shows the double event of skiing and rifle shooting, engraved by Alfred Fischer and printed both by recess (violet purple) and photogravure (greenish blue and gold) in an impression of 3.15 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. The blackprints were 2600.

On the occasion of the Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck in 1964, and again in 1976, the Austrian Post Office issued stamps relating to this theme. At the 50th Session of the International Olympic Committee, held in Paris during June 1955, the Austrian request for the inclusion of a Biathlon in the 8th Olympic Winter Games at Innsbruck in 1960 was agreed. However, by a vote of 30:32 these games were actually held in Squaw Valley so that was where the first Biathlon took place.

The championships comprise (a) 20 Km singles race on skis followed by rifle shooting for seniors; (b) 15Km singles race and rifle shooting for juniors; (c) 1.0Km singles race for both seniors and juniors with two shooting matches (both lying and standing) each of five shots; (d) relay races (for both 4 seniors and 3 juniors separately). Each competitor has to run 7.5Km, in the middle of which he has to fire five shots after 2.5Km in the lying position and another five after 5Km in the standing position.

LEOPOLD KUNSCHAK, MARCH 13 1978



The 25th anniversary of the death of the Austrian politician Leopold Kunschak (1871-1953) was commemorated by issuing a 3S deep violet-blue portrait stamp on March 13, 1978. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch, based on a portrait in the Austrian National Library; engraved by Rudolf Toth; and recess printed in an impression of 3.15 million. Comb perforated 14½:13½.

Kunschak was born in Vienna on November 11, 1871. He grew up in abject poverty, and left school in 1882 to become an apprentice cobbler. His early experience in this trade brought him into contact with the Christian Workers' Organisation and it was a strike of the workers on the Vienna Tramway Company that turned him towards politics and he founded the Christian Social Workers' Association in December 1892. Using his paper

“Freedom”, founded in 1896, he spread this movement in Austria and became its leader. From 1904 to 1934 he was a town councillor in Vienna, from 1907 to 1934 he was a member of the Austrian Parliament and, from 1908 to 1920, he was an elected representative to the Provincial Diet of Lower Austria with responsibility for educational matters. During the years of the First Republic, he concentrated upon social matters and, even after the introduction of the Corporative State in 1934, he still exercised much critical influence. After the Anschluss he was imprisoned from March to May 1938 and was again arrested in July 1944. Liberated in 1945, he again served as an M.P., became Deputy Mayor in Vienna and was the President of the National Council from November 1945 until his death in Vienna on March 13 1953.

ETHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM, MARCH 13 1978

On May 25 1928, the then ethnological department of the Natural History Museum was opened as an Ethnological Museum in the Corps de Logis of the New Hofburg on the Heldenplatz. To mark the 50th anniversary of this event, a 3S multi-coloured stamp was issued on March 13, 1978. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch and shows an Aztec feather shield, and was printed in photogravure (ultramarine, straw yellow, red, block-blue and gold) in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾. 2600 blackprints.



Ethnology is the science that treats of the varieties of the human race. The Natural History Museum in Vienna originated with the purchase by the Emperor Franz I in 1748 of the collection of J. von Baillou of Florence. The ethnological collection, founded in 1876, was housed in Room XIV on the Ground Floor and grew by 1918 to contain about 115,000 objects as explorers went to the ends of the earth and brought back their finds. Today its most important collections are (1) the James Cook Collection acquired in 1806; (2) the ancient Mexican Collection taken during the Spanish Conquest and located in Austria since the 16th century; (3) the Benin Collection acquired in 1899 after the British had destroyed the Kingdom of Benin in 1896. It contains 74 bronzes and is thus the largest collection of such Benin bronzes in the world.

SUITBERT LOBISSE, MARCH 23 1978



The centenary of the birth of the wood engraver Suitbert Lobisser (1878-1943) was commemorated by issuing a 3S blackish brown and stone stamp on March 23, 1978. Designed by Kerl Gessner, it depicts not a portrait of the engraver but his wood engraving “Bergbauern” (Mountain Peasants) which is preserved in the Carinthian Provincial Gallery in Klagenfurt. It was engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed by both recess (blackish brown) and photogravure (stone) in an impression of 3.15 million; comb perforated 13½. The blackprints were 2600.

Leo Lobisser was born on March 23 1878 at Tiffen in Carinthia. The boy attended the Grammar School in Klagenfurt, and then in 1899 entered the Benedictine Abbey of St. Paul and after two years in Rome, was ordained priest in 1903. His name in religion was Suitbert or Switbert. Fr. S. Lobisser O.S.B. studied from 1904 to 1908 at the Vienna Academy of Pictorial Art and became a drawing teacher at the monastery grammar school. In 1914 he was granted the title of Professor of Design at the Vienna School of Industrial Art.

After producing watercolours of journeys through Carinthia, he devoted himself from 1917 to producing great wall pictures and frescoes. After designing a wood-cut (announcement of a birth) for a Dr Hackl, he turned ever

more to this technique, using the Masters of the 16th century as his models. His wood engravings brought him such great renown that in 1929 he was elected a member of the Vienna House of Artists. In 1936 he was awarded the Large State Prize, and in 1939 the Mozart prize. He died in Klagenfurt on October 1 1943.

HUNTING EXHIBITION, APRIL 28 1978



An International hunting exhibition was held at Marchegg in Lower Austria during April and May 1978. A 6S deep blue, reddish brown, and turquoise-blue stamp was issued on April 28, 1978 to mark this exhibition. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch and shows items associated with hunting; engraved by Rudolf Toth; and printed in both recess (reddish-brown) and photogravure (deep- and turquoise-blue) in an impression of 3.1 million. Comb perforated 13¾. The blackprints were 2600.

The stamp shows a black grouse, a hunting satchel, and a fowling piece:

- (a) Black Grouse, german Birkhahn, Tetrao tetrix, is the size of a domestic hen and nests on heaths and moors. The male has gleaming black plumage, a lyre-shaped tail, and brilliant white under tail covert.
- (b) Hunting Satchel of one of the Counts Thürheim made in Austria around 1730. It has gilded brass ornaments on coloured silk covered with hunting scenes in gold and silver thread as well as with trimmings of red velvet with gold borders.
- (c) Fowling Piece (so-called Teschinke: Small Rifle) made in 1655 by Master Christopher Kloss of Teschen, Silesia, for the Emperor Ferdinand III. Partly gilded and engraved barrel, a trigger-guard in the form of a harp and a brown wooden shaft bearing the arms of the Duchy of Silesia.

Items (b) and (c) are in the Arms Collection of the Vienna Art-History Museum in the Neue Burg.

EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE, MAY 3 1978

The Third Interparliamentary Conference concerning European Co-operation and Security was held in the Vienna Parliament Building from 3 to 9 May 1978. To commemorate this conference, a 4S multi-coloured stamp was issued on May 3, 1978. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller and shows the Parliament Building underneath a map of Europe, and printed by the photogravure process (in cornflower blue, emerald, dark brown and gold) in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprints were 2600.

The Interparliamentary Union was founded in Paris in 1889 by the British M.P., Sir William Randal Cremer and the French Deputy Frédéric Passy. This Union met in the Austrian Parliament in 1903, 1922 and 1954. In 1969 a Spring Conference of the Interparliamentary Union took place in Vienna, and in 1978 the Austrian Parliament had the honour of being the host of a regional conference of that Union. The aim of the Union is personal contact between the parliaments of various countries and, by common activities, to develop further democratic processes with the purposes of strengthening peace and international co-operation.

The Austrian Group of the Interparliamentary Union consists of all 183 members of the Lower House and all 58 members of the Upper House of the Austrian Parliament. The main topics discussed were (1) the question of security in Europe; (2) co-operation in the fields of economics, science and technology and (3) co-operation in the field of human rights.



EUROPA-CEPT, MAY 3 1978



The special European theme chosen for 1978 was "Buildings" and Austria selected the magnificent fortress of Riegersburg in Styria as its contribution. The 6S purple stamp depicting this castle was issued on May 3, 1978. It was designed by Otto Zeiller, engraved by Alfred Nefe and recess printed in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 13 3/4. The blackprints were 2600.

The original castle was constructed during the twelfth century and the first mention of a Burggraf, Otto von Riegersburg, is in a document of 1128. Later documents, from 1142 to 1185, often mention the brothers Hartnid, Herrant and Richter, now known by the family name of Wildon, as living in this castle.

After the death of Liuthold von Wildon, the castle and lordship went to Albero von Kuenring-Diernstein who married LvD's daughter Gertraud. Their son, Leuthold I, in 1295, was one of the leaders of the rebellion of the nobility against Duke Albrecht I in Austria. This so ruined him financially that Leuthold I sold part of his estates, in 1299, to Ulrich von Walsee-Graz and the latter acquired the remainder of those estates by 1301.

When this house died out in 1363, with Eberhard VIII, it went to his cousins of the Walsee-Enns line. The castle in its present form dates from 1597-1613 and it resisted all attempts by the Turks to capture it. In 1822 it was purchased by Prince Johann Josef von und zu Liechtenstein who restored it to its former glory. It still belongs to the House of Liechtenstein which again repaired the castle after the heavy war damage of 4th to 8th April 1945. In 1959 it was declared a National Monument.

GOTHIC ART IN STYRIA, MAY 26 1978

A provincial exhibition was held at St. Lambrecht, entitled "Gothic Art in Styria", in the period from the end of May to the beginning of October 1978. To mark this exhibition, a 2.50S black and brown-ochre stamp was issued on May 26, 1978. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, and shows the great Admont Pietà created about 1410A.D. by an unknown Master of the Salzburg School. It was engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (brown-ochre) in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14 1/4:13 1/2. The blackprints were 2600.

The Benedictine Abbey of Admont in Styria was founded in 1074 by Archbishop Gebhard of Salzburg. It grew to become one of the most powerful of the Austrian abbeys; although mostly burned down in 1865 it was rebuilt by 1869. It was this abbey that lent the Pietà for the exhibition held in another Benedictine Abbey; that of St. Lambrecht in Upper Styria which had been founded in 1096.



The Gothic period in Austria is usually taken as beginning in 1282 with the arrival of the Habsburgs, and ending in the first half of the 16th century with the Counter-Reformation and the start of the Baroque style. The items selected for the exhibition included wing altars, pictures, sculptures, frescoes and ecclesiastical furnishings - especially those for Lent. These still have a special importance today in the religious and cultural life of the Upper Valley of the Mur, which flows through Styria.

GMUNDEN TOWN CHARTER, JUNE 9 1978



The 700th anniversary of the granting, by Rudolf I of Habsburg (1273-1291), in 1278, of a town charter to the town of Gmunden, was celebrated by issuing a 3S multi-coloured stamp on June 9, 1978. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, and shows Ort Castle, engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed in both recess (dark violet) and photogravure (reddish lilac, grey and gold) in an impression of 3.15 million; comb perforated 14. The blackprints were 2000.

Gmunden, the capital of the Salzkammergut, is a busy town and a favourite watering place, charmingly situated where the Traun leaves the Traunsee. On the southern edge of the town, and also reached by boat across the lake, stands Schloss Ort originally constructed in 1138 and rebuilt in 1634. It has Gothic towers and an originally late Gothic chapel containing traces of early Baroque frescoes; an early classical altar (around 1770/80) and a Lady Statue (around 1450). The two most famous owners of Ort Castle and estate were Count Adam von Herberstorf

and the Archduke Johann Salvator of Tuscany. The former was the regent of the Duke of Bavaria in Upper Austria at the time of the Counter-Reformation and lived in Ort in 1625 at the time of the Peasants' Revolt which was suppressed in 1626. The latter was born on November 25 1852 in Florence as the youngest son of the Grand Duke Leopold II of Tuscany. After a distinguished military career in the Austrian Army (FML 1879) he renounced his rank and titles in 1889 and took the name of Johann Ort from the castle which he owned. In 1890 he undertook a world cruise in a sailing ship and vanished in 1891. He was officially declared dead in 1911.

SOCIAL TOURISM, JUNE 30 1978



A 6S multicoloured stamp was issued on June 30 1978 in honour of the 25th anniversary of the Austrian Association for Social Tourism. It was designed by Otto Stefferl and shows a girl's face surrounded by fruit and flowers, engraved by Alfred Fisher, and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (dark rose lilac, ultramarine, chrome-yellow, blue-green, reddish-lilac, and gold (!) in an impression of 3.1 million. Comb perf 14½:13½; 2600 blackprints.

Social Tourism is not simply the arrangements of holidays for workers, or even ensuring that the latter have the legal right to holidays, but is considered as a cultural movement within the new social reforms in Europe. The Austrian Association for Social Tourism was founded in March 1953 and its Silver Jubilee was marked by opening its third

Holiday Centre, for families with many children, at Ossiach in Carinthia. With its international contacts, it organises social tourism not only on Austria but also world-wide.

The International Association for Social Tourism (BITS: Bureau International du Tourisme Social) now consists of 79 organisations in 18 countries. Austria is naturally a member and was the host when in October 1972 the 6th International Congress for Social Tourism took place in Vienna. Indeed, the resolutions of that Congress became known as the "Vienna Charter".

LEHÄR CONGRESS, JULY 14 1978

An International Lehär Congress was held in the Bad Ischl Kurhaus from 14th to 17th July 1978. An exhibition devoted to the "Merry Widow" and "Giuditta" was also staged there from 14th to 28th July 1978. To commemorate this Congress a 6S deep turquoise-blue stamp was issued on July 14, 1978. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl, and shows a portrait of the composer below a view of the Lehar-Villa, in Bad Ischl. It was engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 3.15 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.

Franz (Ferencz) Lehár, 1870-1948, the Hungarian composer, was born in Komarom and studied at the Prague-Conservatoire. He became a military bandmaster and conductor in Vienna, but later tried his hand at composition. His first serious opera, *Kakuska* (afterwards called *Tajiana*), being unsuccessful, he devoted himself entirely to the composition of romantic operettas. The *Merry Widow*, produced in 1905, made him world famous, despite some adverse criticism of his "insincere pathos, sweetness and sentimentality". Among his other operettas were "The Three Graces", "The Count of Luxembourg", "Gipsy Love", "Frasquita", "Frederica" and "The Land of Smiles". During his last years he lived in retirement at Bad Ischl, and composed his own obituary in which he wrote: "I wanted to achieve more than pure entertainment - I wanted to conquer the hearts of the people".



BUILDING AND WOOD WORKERS, AUGUST 21 1978



The 15th Congress of the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers was held in the Vienna Sofiensäle from 21st to 24th August 1978. In its honour a 1.50S black, yellow and dull vermilion stamp was issued on August 21, 1978. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch and shows calipers, a plane, hammer and saw (as implements of the building and wood working trades) against an outline globe, and was printed in photogravure in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.

The International Federation of Building and Wood Worker Unions (I.B.B.H.) has a membership of 3 million and the Congress was attended by the representatives of 106 unions in 51 countries.

The I.B.B.H. was founded in 1934 in the difficult days of the rise of Nazism, and by 1946 had about a million members in 15 countries. Since then it has expanded considerably so that, in 1970, a permanent secretariat was founded in Geneva. Forestry workers are an important part of the Federation which is dedicated to industrial democracy and political freedom.

BATTLE OF DURNKRÜT, AUGUST 25 1978



The 700th anniversary of the battle near Durnkrüt and Jedenspeigen on August 26 1278, by which the Habsburgs acquired Austria, was commemorated with a 3S multi-coloured stamp on August 25, 1978. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch and shows King Ottokar of Bohemia on the left fighting King Rudolf of Habsburg on the right, engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (orange yellow, red, lilac grey and olive yellow) in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾. There were 2600 blackprints.

After the death of Friedrich II von Babenberg, the clergy and nobility of Austria had granted the ducal coronet in 1246 to Wenceslas I, King of Bohemia (1205-1253). When the latter died, his son Ottokar II became not only King of Bohemia and Markgraf of Moravia but also Duke of Austria. The death of the Emperor Conrad IV in 1254 had been followed by the Great Interregnum which ended in 1273 when Rudolf of Habsburg was crowned King of Germans at Aachen. Ottokar II refused to recognise this election but was defeated at the gates of Vienna in 1276 and forced to cede Austria, Styria, Carinthia and Carniola to Rudolf. Two years later, Ottokar II renewed the war but was defeated and killed at the battle of Durnkrüt or Marchenfeld on August 26 1278. The Austrian provinces were given to Rudolf's sons, Albrecht I and Rudolf II, and thus was laid the foundation of Austrian power in Central Europe.

FOUNDATION OF VILLACH, 8TH SEPTEMBER 1978

The 1100th anniversary of the foundation of the town of Villach in Carinthia by King Karlmann in a document of September 9, 878 was commemorated by issuing a 3S multi-coloured stamp on September 9, 1978. The stamp was designed by Alexander Exax and shows the river Drau, with above it the words of the original document "ad pontem uillah" (i.e. up to the bridge of Villach). It was printed in offset lithography (samian, ultramarine, red-brown and grey-black) in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600. The document is still preserved in the Carinthian Provincial Archives.



FOUNDATION OF GRAZ, SEPTEMBER 13 1978



The 850th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Graz, the capital of Styria, by the Margrave Leopold the Strong in a document of 1128/29, was commemorated by issuing a 4S red-brown deep green and grey stamp on September 13, 1978. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller and shows the middle Graz city seal of 1440, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (red-brown) and photogravure (deep green and grey) in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.

Graz, the second largest city of Austria, with a population of a quarter of a million, is located on both banks of the river Mur on the Austrian side of the Alps. Above it towers the Schlossberg with its castle ruins.

FISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS, SEPTEMBER 15 1978

The 25th World Sport Fishing Championships were held in Vienna during the middle of September 1978. To honour this occasion a 4S multi-coloured stamp was issued on September 15, 1978. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl and shows an angler from a medieval manuscript, engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed, in both recess (black) and photogravure (brownish lilac, ultramarine, cobalt, yellow, purple lilac and greenish olive), in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.



The stamp design makes reference to the fact that around 1200 A.D., the knight and minnesinger Wolfram von Eschenbach, in his book "Titurel", mentions sport fishing as "vederangel". During the 15th and 16th centuries, princes and knights indulged in sport fishing just as they did in hunting and falconry and the Emperor Maximilian was renowned as an exponent of the art.

The Austrian Workers' Anglers Association was founded fifty years previously and in 1978 it was calculated that over 200,000 persons indulge in the sport. The first International Conference of Sport Fishers (Anglers) took place in Rome, on 22nd February 1952, when the "International Confederation of Sport Fishing" (C.I.P.S.) was founded by representatives of twenty national Sport Fishing organisations. C.I.P.S. organises, usually each year, the World Sport Fishing Championships; the previous one being held in Mosel in Luxemburg in September 1977. It was because the Austrian Workers' Anglers Association was celebrating its Golden Jubilee, that at the C.I.P.S. Congress in Varna in Bulgaria, during April 1977, it was agreed to hold the 25th Championships in Austria in 1978.

HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, OCTOBER 2 1978



Between 1st and 6th October 1978 there took place in Vienna the 7th World Congress of the International League of Associations devoted to the Handicapped. To mark this occasion, a 6S black and orange-brown stamp, dedicated to the "Handicapped of Austria" was issued on October 2, 1978. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl to symbolise the handicapped as a distorted pattern between two normal ones, and was printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.2million, comb perforated 14½:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600. The Austrian State is proud of the considerable amount of support that it affords to the handicapped of all age sand also of its attempts to integrate them in society.

CONCRETE CONGRESS, OCTOBER 9 1978

The 9th International Congress of the Concrete and Prefabrication Industry was held in Vienna from 8 to 13 October 1978. To honour this event a 2.50S red-orange, violet-brown, dark blue-grey and black stamp was issued on October 9, 1978. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl and shows a concrete chain, and was printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 13½. The blackprint impression was 2600. This Congress was attended by approximately 1500 delegates from the 22 member societies from around the world which constitute the International Federation. They also represent about 12,000 Concrete and Prefabrication firms.



EUROPEAN FAMILY CONGRESS, OCTOBER 27 1978



The European Family Congress was held in Vienna from 26 to 29 October 1978. To honour this Congress a 6S multicoloured (Turkey Blue, Chrome Yellow, Dark Rose Lilac and Black Lilac) stamp was issued on October 27, 1978. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, and based on a picture by Albin Egger-Lienz (1868-1926) was printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. This picture, entitled "Tischgebet" (Grace at Table), was painted in 1922 and is now hung in the Tirol Provincial Museum, the Ferdinandum, in Innsbruck. The blackprint impression was 2600.

The Austrian Bishops' Conference had decided to declare 1978 "The Year of the Family"; a theme stressed by the Holy Father during their ad limina visit to Rome. To stress the importance of the Christian understanding of the family, the Catholic Family Union of Austria, together with the Evangelical Family Aid Society in Austria and the National Committee of U.I.O.F. (The International Family Organisation), decided to summon this European Family Congress in Vienna.

On May 5 1978, the Cardinal Archbishop of Vienna issued a pastoral "Christians and the Future of Europe" in which he stressed that the family is the hope for the future of Europe. This was, therefore, the theme adopted for the Congress under such headings as (1) defence of the national and international interests of the family; (2) origins and problems of family development in Europe; (3) family and education; (4) family and society; (5) the family as restored society and new measures for development.

LISE MEITNER, NOVEMBER 7 1978



The centenary of the birth of the physicist, Lise Meitner, was commemorated by issuing a 6s deep violet portrait stamp on November 7, 1978. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, using a portrait in the Austrian National Library, engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.

Meitner was born on November 7 1878 in Vienna and died on October 27 1968 in Cambridge. Her special field was the study of radioactivity, especially the problems of beta rays and the bombardment of uranium with neutrons

VIKTOR ADLER, NOVEMBER 10 1978

The 60th anniversary of the death of the Austrian politician, Viktor Adler, was commemorated by issuing a 3S black and red portrait stamp on November 10, 1978. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch and shows a bust of Viktor Adler by Anton Hanak (1875-1934), engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (red) in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 14½:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.

Adler was born on June 24 1852 in Prague and died on November 11 1918 in Vienna. Originally a doctor he became a prominent member of the Social Democratic Party.



FRANZ SCHUBERT, NOVEMBER 17 1978



The 150th anniversary of the death of the famous Austrian composer, Franz Schubert, was commemorated by issuing a 6S reddish-brown portrait stamp on November 17, 1978. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch using a portrait of Schubert by Josef Kriehuber (1800-1876), engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 3.8 million; comb perforated 14. The blackprint impression was 2600. Franz Schubert had previously been portrayed on the 10K value of the 1922 Musicians Fund Set and on the 12 groschen value of the 1947-49 Famous Austrians Set.

CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 1 1978



The annual Christmas stamp was issued on December 1, 1978 as a 3S multi-coloured value. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch and shows the Madonna and Child of 1739 by Martino Altomonte in the Monastery Church of Wilhering in Upper Austria. It was engraved by Rudolf Toth and printed, in both recess (black) and photogravure (sulphur-yellow, ultramarine, purple-lilac and gold) in an impression of 5.2 million; comb perforated 13½:12¾. The blackprint impression was 2600.

Martino Altomonte was born in Naples in 1657 as the son of German parents. He came to Vienna in 1700 and together with Johann Michael Rottmayr was the founder of Austrian Baroque painting. He painted much in Wilhering and was still working there in 1742, at the age of 85 years, three years before his death.

28TH STAMP DAY, DECEMBER 1 1978

The annual "Day of the Stamp" issue was a 10+5S value on December 1, 1978. It was designed by Johannes Kral and shows an Austrian Post Bus of the standardised type introduced in 1913, and was printed by photogravure in an impression of 1.75 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600. The blackprint is devoted, with illustrations, to the history of the Postbus service. Because of its general philatelic interest, the entire text of the English version is appended.



AUSTRIAN ALPINE CLUB, DECEMBER 6 1978



The centenary of the Austrian Alpine Club was commemorated by issuing a 1.50S bluish violet and gold stamp on December 6, 1978. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller and shows the Archduke Johann Hut on the Grossglockner (3454m) as painted by E.T. Compton (1849-1921). It was engraved by Alfred Nefe and printed in both recess (bluish violet) and photogravure (gold) in an impression of 3.35 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. The blackprint impression was 2600.

AUSTRIAN MODERN ART, DECEMBER 6 1978



The fourth stamp in the series "Modern Art in Austria" was issued as a 6S multicoloured value on December 6 1978. It was designed by Professor Rudolf Hausner and shows his painting "Adam", and was printed in photogravure in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾. The blackprint impression was 2600.

Rudolf Hausner was born on December 4 1914 in Vienna. He studied at the Academy of Pictorial Art under Carl Fahringer and Karl Sterrer and produced such paintings as "The Fool's Hat" (1955), "The Arch of Odysseus" (1956) and "Great Laokoon" (1967). "Adam" was painted in 1973.

HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION, DECEMBER 7 1978



The 30th anniversary of the "Declaration of Human Rights" was commemorated by issuing a 6S deep reddish purple stamp on December 7, 1978. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefferl, and shows six hands bound together but struggling to become free, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and recess printed in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14¼: 13½. The blackprint impression was 2600. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was accepted on December 10 1948 at the third sitting of the General Assembly of the United Nations.