

1990

EUROPEAN POSTAL SERVICES, JANUARY 12 1990



The 500th anniversary of the foundation of regular European postal services in 1490 was commemorated with a 5S multicoloured stamp on 12 January 1990. This stamp was designed by Reinhold Gerstetter, to depict a “Postal Courier” from a copper engraving by Albrecht Dürer, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel, printed in both recess (brown-black) and photogravure (chamois and brown-olive) in an impression only limited by demand; comb perforated 13¾:14.

The Austrian Post Office had selected the year 1490 for its foundation for three historical reasons:

- ❖ a communication of 11th July 1490 from the Emperor Maximilian to the town of Speyer ordering it to found both a mounted and foot post for the Imperial Service;
- ❖ an entry in the “Raitbuch” of the Tirol Exchequer Chamber of 11th December 1490 concerning the payment of 300 Rheinischen gulden to a Johanneth Daxn, Chief Postmaster; and
- ❖ an entry in the “Memminger Chronik” of 1490 that states that in that year the postal service came into existence.

For students of postal history, it is interesting that no mention of the Thurn and Taxis Family, that subsequently dominated the European post, is made in connection with this seminal year of 1490!

KITZBÜHEL SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS, JANUARY 12 1990

The 50th Hahnenkamm ski championships were held at Kitzbühel in January 1990 and were commemorated by issuing a 5S multicoloured stamp on 12 January 1990. This stamp was designed by Ferdinand Dorner to depict a panorama of Kitzbühel in Tirol with the ‘Streif’ downhill run and the ‘Gansler’ slalom run, printed in photogravure only (violet-blue, ochre-yellow, lilac-brown, dark green-blue, red and black) in an impression of 3 million; comb perforated 13¾:13¾. This championship was started in 1892 by Franz Reisch, an innkeeper and later mayor of Kitzbühel (1903-1913) and developed with the installation of the ‘Hahnenkamm Seilbahn’ in 1926. The village is now the most famous ski resort in the world.



SALOMON SULZER, JANUARY 17 1990



The centenary of the death of Salomon Sulzer (1803-1890), the creator of modern synagogue songs, was commemorated by issuing a 4.50S portrait stamp on 17 January 1990. This stamp was designed by Wolfgang Schuler and printed in photogravure only (Turkish-blue, straw yellow, carmine and black) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Sulzer was born on 18 March 1803 (although some sources state 30 March) at Hohenems in Tirol and died on 17 January 1890 in Vienna. He early displayed considerable musical talent and served as cantor in Hohenems from 1820 to 1826. He then went to Vienna to the New Synagogue that was opened in the Seitenstellengasse that year. He served also as Professor of Voice at the Vienna Conservatory and founded the first Vienna Choral Society.

His songs, contained in two volumes, appeared under the title ‘Schir Zion’ (harp of Zion) in 1840 and 1865. They range from the strictly orthodox songs of the Eastern Jewish sphere to the spiritually more open attitude of the Western-Yiddish language cultural area.

FRIEDRICH EMICH ANNIVERSARY, JANUARY 22 1990



The 50th anniversary of the death of the micro-chemist Friedrich Emich was commemorated by issuing a 6 S portrait stamp on 22 January 1990. This stamp was designed by Friedl Weyss-Lampel, engraved by Prof. Rudolf Toth, and printed in both recess (dark carmine-brown) and photogravure (bluish grey) in an impression of 2.9 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Friedrich Emich was born in Graz on 5th September 1860 and died there on 22nd January 1940. He introduced many new ideas and techniques and he will always be remembered as the father of microchemistry.

LINZ 500th ANNIVERSARY, MARCH 9 1990

The 500th anniversary of Linz as the capital of Upper Austria was celebrated by issuing a 5S multi-coloured stamp on 9 March 1990. This stamp was designed by Georg Pucalka to depict a miniature on parchment of about 1490 by Ulrich Schreier, that depicts the Emperor Friedrich III (from the Greiner Marktbuch). This stamp was engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (violet-black) and photogravure (ultramarine, yellow, dark rose-lilac, yellow-brown and gold) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 13¾:13¾.



Emperor Friedrich III (1415-1493) lived in Linz from 1489 to his death, making it the centre of the Holy Roman Empire. On 10th March 1490 he issued a decree making Linz the capital of the 'Fürstentums Österreich ob der Enns' - Upper Austria. Encircling the medallion are the seventeen coats of arms representing his possessions: at the top is the Imperial Eagle, then clockwise Hungary, Styria, Krain, Windischmark, Pfirt, Burgau, Alsace, Upper Austria, Cilli, Portenau, Kiburg, Tirol, Bohemia, Carinthia, Old Austria (Lower) and New Austria.

VIENNA UNIVERSITIES ANNIVERSARIES, APRIL 6 1990



Both the 625th anniversary of the University of Vienna and the 175th anniversary of the Vienna Technological University were commemorated by issuing a single 5S multi-coloured stamp on 6 April 1990. This stamp was designed by Otto Stefflerl, to depict the two university seals side by side, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (lilac-purple) and photogravure (carmine lake and gold) in an impression of 2.8 million; comb perforated 14:14.

The University of Vienna - 'Alma Mater Rudolphina' - was founded on 12 March 1365 by Duke Rudolf IV and given a papal bull by Urban V on 18 June 1365. The Technical University was founded on 14 July 1815 by Franz I and opened on 6 November 1815.

ANTHERING ANNIVERSARY, APRIL 27 1990

The 1200th anniversary of the foundation of Anthering, 7km to the north of the city of Salzburg on the Austrian-Bavarian borders, was celebrated by issuing a 7S multicoloured stamp on 27 April 1990. This stamp was designed by Prof. Johannes Kral, to depict the parish church and the village coat of arms, printed in photogravure (ultramarine, straw-yellow, purple-lilac and black) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14:13¾.

The first mention of the name - 'ad antheringas ecclesia cum territorio' - was in the 'Notatia Arnonis' of 788/790 which lists the other 66 churches subject to Salzburg. A wooden church was apparently constructed about 800A.D. and this was replaced in 1200 by a stone Romanesque one to which the tower was added in the 13th century.



NATURAL BEAUTY SPOT, APRIL 27 1990



Another addition to the series 'Natural Beauty Spots in Austria' was issued on 27 April 1990. This 5S multicoloured stamp was designed by Prof. Adalbert Pilch to depict vineyards in Southern Styria, engraved by Prof. Rudolf Toth, and printed in both recess (lilac-black) and photo -gravure (olive-yellow) in an impression of 2.8 million; comb perforated 13¾:13¾.

Southern Styria is renowned for the quality of its wines and the stamp depicts a typical view of its vineyards, terraced on its charming hills with winding roads with the occasional farm building. On the hill in the foreground stands a wind pump for water. The wines are almost exclusively white wines, recognised by their fine aroma and harmonious relationship between alcohol, sugar residues and fruit acid. Total

production is about 4% of the country's output but nevertheless contributes considerably to agriculture and tourism.

LABOUR DAY CENTENARY, APRIL 30 1990

The centenary of the use of the 1st of May as 'Labour Day' was commemorated by issuing a 4.50S multicoloured stamp on 30 April 1990. This stamp was designed by Werner Pfeiler to depict a historical design from 1897, and printed in photogravure (Turkish-blue, lemon-yellow, red, dark green-blue and in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 13¾.



In the summer of 1889, France celebrated the centenary of its revolution with a world exhibition and the Austrian delegates to it, in the spring of 1889, agitated for an annual celebration of Labour Day on 1st May. This was initiated in 1890 in Austria as a 'proletarian feast' and was granted state recognition when in 1919 Ferdinand Hanusch introduced the law 'the first May of each year to be a general rest and feast day' which was passed by the Austrian National Assembly on 25 April. After the putsch of March 1933, the Christian Socialists with the Fascist militia tried to break the symbol of the workers' movement. On 28 April 1933 the public were warned against participating in the demonstration. After the civil war the Fascist regime banned all workers' movements.

EUROPA - CEPT, MAY 4 1990



The general theme for the 1990 Europa issues was 'Post Office Buildings', so the 22nd issue depicted the Ebene Reichenau post office in Carinthia on a 7S multicoloured stamp issued on 4 May 1990. This stamp was designed by Maria Siegl and printed in photogravure only (ultramarine, citrus- yellow, cinnamon, black and gold) in an impression of 3.7 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

The village of Reichenau is at an altitude of 1095 m in the upper Gurktal in Carinthia. Ebene Reichenau contains the bus terminal and the post office which was founded in 1871 to serve four hamlets in the district. A new building was opened on 10 October 1988, and was constructed in traditional materials to blend into the landscape as the

stamp well illustrates. The significance of the stamp's motif cannot be missed. In the background it shows forests and mountains, which are so characteristic of Austria; it shows the comparatively small post office, similar to many others in the mountain region.

SECKAU ABBEY ANNIVERSARY, MAY 4 1990



The 850th anniversary of the foundation of Seckau Abbey in Styria was commemorated by issuing a 4.50S deep violet-blue stamp on 4 May 1990. The stamp was designed by Prof. Josef Buchner to depict the 'Seckauer Gnadenbild' relief there, engraved by Annemarie Kalina, printed in recess only in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Seckau Abbey was endowed in 1140 by Augustinian canons. An already existing community in Sankt Marein bei Knittelfeld was moved to Seckau in 1142. The abbey was suppressed by Joseph II on 13 May 1782. In 1883 it was taken over by Benedictine monks from Beuron (Hohenzollern) who purchased the abandoned monastery and set about restoration of the abbey.

37th STAMP DAY ISSUE, MAY 25 1990

The annual issue for the Day of the Postage Stamp appeared as a 7S plus 3S surcharged value on 25 May 1990. This stamp was designed by Prof. Otto Stefferl and printed in photogravure alone (Turkish blue, greenish-yellow, orange-brown, purple-lilac, black and gold) in an impression of 2.953 million; comb perforated 13¾:13¾.

The stamp design is a symbolic representation on a theme of 'Thematic Collecting'. These themes are all placed within individual hexagons arranged as if fitted together in a mosaic. Amongst the themes may be distinguished minerals, cars, trains, heraldry, royalty, musical instruments, insects, dogs and butterflies whilst the value S7 +3 also occupies a hexagon cell. The design was created from designs produced for a competition organised by the Federation of Austrian Philatelists in 1989 for students of the School of Graphic Artists in Vienna.



HANS MAKART, MAY 29 1990



The 150th anniversary of the birth of the famous Austrian painter, Hans Makart (1840-1884) was commemorated by issuing an 1878 self portrait as a 4.50S multicoloured value on 29 May 1990. This stamp was designed by Auguste Böcskő, engraved by Maria Laurent and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (Turkish-blue, sulphur-yellow, lilac-purple, reddish-lilac and gold) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14.

Hans Makart was born on 27 May 1840 in Salzburg and died on 3 October 1884 in Vienna at the height of his fame and as a leader of the artistic life of the capital; mainly based upon a great series of historical paintings. In 1879, for the celebration of the silver wedding of Emperor Franz Joseph I and Empress Elizabeth, he arranged a magnificent parade which climaxed his popularity.

EGON SCHIELE, MAY 29 1990

The centenary of the birth of the famous Austrian artist, Egon Schiele (1890-1918) was celebrated with a 1917 self-portrait stamp that was issued as a 5S multicoloured value that appeared on 29 May 1990. This stamp was designed by Auguste Böcskő, engraved by Maria Laurent, and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (chamois, orange-yellow, carmine, cobalt and gold) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14.

Egon Schiele was born in Tulln, Lower Austria on 12 June 1890. In 1906 he started his studies at the Wiener Kunstakademie. In 1912 he served a term in jail, accused of obscenity and pornography in his paintings. He died on 31 October 1918 three days after his wife, victims of an epidemic disease. (Spanish Flu?)



FERDINAND RAIMUND, JUNE 1 1990



The bicentenary of the birth of the famous Austrian actor and playwright, Ferdinand Raimund (1790-1836) was also celebrated with a portrait stamp issued as a 4.50S multicoloured value on 1 June 1990. This stamp was designed by Wolfgang Schuler and printed in photogravure only (Turkish blue, yellow, purple-lilac, dark blue-green, scarlet and black) in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Raimund was born on 1 June 1790 in Vienna (Mariahilfstrasse) and died at Pottenstein in Lower Austria on 5 September 1836. His work stemmed from the old Viennese theatre tradition, the so called 'Old Viennese Folk Theatre', which he led to a peak. As an actor, he was responsible for a style which was imitated by the following generation of actors.

CHRISTUS MEDICUS CONGRESS, JUNE 5 1990

The second 'Christus Medicus' Congress (for Christian doctors) was held in Bad Ischl from 5 to 9 June 1990, marked by a 7S multicoloured stamp was issued on 5 June 1990. This stamp was designed by Auguste Böcskő, engraved by Prof. Alfred Nefe and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (chamois, bright-violet, dark-violet and gold) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14:13¾. The designer has reproduced on this stamp the famous painting 'The Hundred Gulden Note' by Rembrandt showing Our Lord rebuking Judas for suggesting that Mary's ointment should be sold and the money given to the poor.



In 1967, the Austrian working society 'Doctor and Minister' was founded in Ried im Innkreis (Upper Austria), on an ecumenical-Christian basis. Through meetings and publications, it intended to promote healing activities in accordance with the instructions of Christ, and provide a forum for positive discussions among human scientists and between them and Christian theologians.

HARDEGG 700th ANNIVERSARY, JUNE 8 1990



The 700th anniversary of the elevation of Hardegg, in Lower Austria, to the status of the smallest town in Austria was celebrated by issuing a 4.50S multicoloured stamp on 8 June 1990. This stamp was designed by Prof. Ferdinand Dorner to show a view of Hardegg with its coat of arms, engraved by Gerhard Schmirgl, and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (ultramarine, sulphur-yellow and matt purple) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 13¾.

Hardegg is situated against the border with Czechoslovakia in the Waldviertel. the stamp shows the castle, restored between 1878 and 1905 and now a museum to Maximilian of Mexico. In the valley, the 12th century church and the tavern stand

beside the river Thaya.

OBERDRAUBURG

The 750th anniversary of the foundation of Oberdrauburg in Carinthia was marked by a 5S multicoloured stamp on 8 June 1990. It was designed by Maria Schulz, basing the design upon a copper engraving by the Freiherr von Valvasor of the 17th century, and printed in photogravure only (ultramarine, sulphur-yellow, scarlet, gold and black in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.



This important market town is mentioned in a document of the 12th century under the name 'Traburch castrum'. Also, in 1455, Bishop Paolo Santonino of Caorle states that "the strong place of Oberdrauburg is near to Paluzza but on the river Drau below a high mountain in Upper Italy". The castle was purchased by the Pichler family in 1842 and the son started to restore it using plans with the original measurements. Unfortunately the First World War terminated the work. In 1975 the family donated the Hohenburg to the municipality and with the help of local inhabitants some restoration has taken place so that cultural days can be staged there.

GUMPOLDSKIRCHEN 850th ANNIVERSARY, JUNE 15 1990



The 850th anniversary of the foundation of Gumpoldskirchen, 20km south of Vienna, was commemorated by issuing a 5S multicoloured stamp on 15 June 1990. The stamp was designed by Prof. Ferdinand Domer, to depict an historical view of the town hall (in the circle), the parish church and the coat of arms of the town. It was engraved by Gerhard Schmirl and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (bright- cobalt, yellow, lilac, beige in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 13½.

Gumpoldskirchen, a market town in a wine growing area, was first mentioned in 1140 in a will of the Cathedral Prior of Passau, Gumpold von Pornheim, and it is supposed that it had been founded by an earlier 'Gumpold'; possibly an ancestor of the Prior.

MATHIAS ZDARSKY, JUNE 20 1990



The 50th anniversary of the death of Mathias Zdarsky (1856-1940), the founder of Austrian skiing, was celebrated by issuing a 5S multicoloured stamp on 20 June 1990. The stamp was designed by Maria Siegl, to depict Zdarsky actually skiing, engraved by Gerhard Schmirl, and printed by both recess (black) and photogravure (ultramarine-grey, black-brown and yellow-brown) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Mathias Zdarsky was born on 25 February 1856 in Koschichowitz and died on 20 June 1940 in St. Polten. Although he worked as a teacher, painter and sculptor, his main claim to fame was as a student of the science of skiing. Zdarsky developed a safety ski binding which would release if the skier fell forwards which reduced the risk of broken bones and torn ligaments. Zdarski was also the founder of the 'Slalom' in which skiers have to negotiate a series of gates whilst descending a steep course.

MODERN SHIPBUILDING, JUNE 28 1990

The 150th anniversary of the building of modern ships using steel in Austria was commemorated by issuing a 9S multicoloured stamp on 28 June 1990. This stamp was designed by Prof. Ernst Fuhrherr to depict a modern ship against a line drawing of an early ship of 1880, and printed in photogravure only (Turkish blue, greenish yellow, black, red and violet-ultramarine) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14.



Ignaz Mayer pioneered the transition from wooden to steel construction for ships for use on the Danube. The ship of 1880 was 'The Telegraph' whilst that of 1978 was 'The Anton Tschechow' which was a floating hotel. Austrian shipbuilding is a major contributor to Austria's exports with over 80% of production being exported. The link up of the three waterways - Danube, Rhine and Main - in 1992 opened the market.

JOSEF FRIEDRICH PERKONIG, AUGUST 3 1990



The centenary of the birth of the Austrian writer Josef Friedrich Perkonig (1890-1959) was commemorated by issuing a 5S multicoloured portrait stamp on 3 August 1990. This stamp was designed by Prof. Alexander Exax, engraved by Gerhard Schmirl and printed in both recess (black-brown) and photogravure (red, brown and gold) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

MODERN ART, AUGUST 30 1990

The modern art subject selected for depicting on a 5S multicoloured stamp issued on 30 August 1990 was “Herr des Regenbogens” by Robert Zeppel-Sperl. This design was engraved by Wolfgang Seidel, and printed in both recess (black and lilac-carmine) and photogravure (Turkish-blue, sulphur-yellow, matt purple and olive-brown) in an impression of 2.8 million; comb perforated 13¾.

The painting appears to have a group of round-faced observers looking down from a rainbow encircling the sun, at a walled city. Robert Zeppel-Sperl is one of the early post-modern group of Artists often working in a phantasy form of image.



DIALYSIS AND TRANSPLANTATION CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 4 1990



The 27th European Dialysis and Transplantation Federal Congress was held in Vienna from 5 to 8 September 1990. To mark it, a 7S multicoloured stamp was issued on 4 September 1990. This stamp was designed by Prof. Otto Stefferl, to depict a kidney, a dialysis machine and an anatomical diagram, and printed in photogravure only (purple-lilac, chrome yellow, Turkish blue, black-blue violet, sepia and black) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14:13¾.

The European Dialysis and Transplantation Federation, European Nephro-logic Federation EDTA/ERA was founded in Amsterdam in 1961. The Austrian branch was founded in 1970 by Professor Watschinger with the name of the “Austrian Society for Nephrology”. In 1902, an Austrian, Dr. Emmerich Ulmann, carried out the first successful kidney transplant on an animal in Vienna. The Austrian Bruno Watschinger in conjunction with Kolff developed the double coil artificial kidney. In 1990 Austria carried out more kidney transplants per capita of its population than any other country in the world.

FRANZ WERFEL, SEPTEMBER 11 1990

The centenary of the birth of the Austrian writer Franz Werfel (1890-1945) was commemorated by issuing a 5S multicoloured portrait stamp on 11 September 1990. This stamp was designed by Helga Herger, engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and printed in both recess (violet-black) and photogravure for the border colours (matt purple, dark green and gold) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Franz Werfel was born in Prague on 10 September 1890 and died on 26 August 1945 in Beverly Hills, California. He is principally known for writing “The Song of Bernadette” (1941) which was made into a film, and he married Alma Maria Schindler, the widow of Gustav Mahler.



U.N.O. FORCES PARTICIPATION, SEPTEMBER 20 1990



The 30th anniversary of Austrian participation in the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces was celebrated by issuing a 7S multi-coloured stamp on 20 September 1990. This stamp, designed by Valentin Wurnitsch, depicts both the United Nations and the Austrian flags, and was printed in photogravure only (ultramarine, Turkish-blue, scarlet, light grey and black) in an impression of 5.2 million; comb perforated 13½.

Since 1960, Austria has participated with about 28,000 men, in ten UNO peace keeping operations; Congo (1960-64), Yemen (1963-64), Cyprus (1964-), Palestine (1967-), Cairo and Ismailia (1973-79), Damascus (1974-), Bagdad and Tehran (1984-88), Afghanistan and Pakistan (1988), Iran and Iraq (1988) and Namibia (1989-90).

CONFERENCE OF THE PROVINCES, SEPTEMBER 24 1990

The 45th anniversary of the holding of the first Conference of the Provinces, that established the Second Republic as a federal state, was celebrated by issuing a 5S multicoloured stamp on 24 September 1990. This stamp was designed and engraved by Werner Pfeiler, with the arms of the Provinces arranged in a circle, and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (ultramarine, yellow, red, green, orange, silver and gold) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perf 13¾.



The concept of illustrating the arms of the provinces was previously used in the design of 7 August 1946 when the portrait of Dr Karl Renner was surrounded by them. Even earlier, the head of Franz Josef I had been surrounded by the arms of the Imperial Provinces on the 10kr of 1858. The First Republic 1918-1920 was formed on the idea of a federal state and a continuous process of reform has evolved to produce the country as we know it.

LEOBEN MINING UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 22 1990



The 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Mining University at Leoben in Styria was commemorated by issuing a 4.50S multicoloured stamp on 22 October 1990. This stamp was designed by Prof. Friedrich Mayr to depict the seal of the University, engraved by Annemarie Kalina, and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (green and red) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14.

The University was founded by the initiative of the Archduke John and was opened on 4 November 1840 under the direction of Peter Tunners to provide a scientific background to Styrian mining. On the coat of arms are (1) the crossed hammers and book of mining, (2) the Archduke's swan, (3) the Lion of Styria and (4) stylistic mountains.

KARL VON VOGELSANG, NOVEMBER 1990

The centenary of the death of the Christian social reformer Freiherr Karl von Vogelsang (1818-1890) was commemorated by issuing a 4.50S multicoloured portrait stamp on 8 November 1990. This stamp was designed by Helga Herger, engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (Chamois, brown-ochre, brown-orange and bright cobalt) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½



Karl von Vogelsang was born on 3 September 1818 at Liegnitz in Prussian Silesia and died in Vienna on 8 November 1890. Converting to Catholicism in 1850 and expelled from his estate by the German Kulturkampf, he became a tutor to Prince John II of Liechtenstein.

He became deeply involved in the Christian Social School that had its basis in the writings of Pope Leo XIII. In 1875 Count Leo Thun entrusted him with the management of the only Austrian Catholic daily paper, the Vaterland. This led him to become the head of the Christian Social School.

METAL WORKERS TRADE UNION, NOVEMBER 16 1990



The “Metal, Mining and Energy Trade Union” was founded at a congress, held between 26 and 28 December 1890, of workers in the iron and steel industry of Austria. Its centenary was commemorated by issuing a 5S multicoloured stamp on 16 November 1990. This stamp was designed and engraved by Prof. Otto Stefferl, to depict three workers stripped to the waist in the operation of tapping a blast furnace, and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (Prussian blue, yellow-ochre, carmine-lilac, red-orange and gold) in an impression of 2,7 million; comb perforated 14.

ICE CURLING, NOVEMBER 23 1990



The third World Ice Curling Championships were held in Vienna from 21 to 25 November 1990, and these were honoured by issuing a 7S multicoloured stamp on 23 November 1990. This stamp was designed by Valentin Wurnitsch to depict a curler in action, and was printed in photogravure only (yellow, matt purple, ultramarine, ultramarine-grey, cobalt, black and grey) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14:13½.

The first of these Championships had been held in 1983 in Frankfurt am Main and the second in 1987 in Brixen in the South Tirol. In those of 1990 in Vienna, it was possible to win up to twelve gold medals in 14 competitions, in various classes. The Vienna event was attended by competitors and officials from sixteen countries; including the USA and Australia but not the UK!

At the 1936 Winter Games at Garmish-Partenkirchen and the 1964 games at Innsbruck, ice curling tournaments took place in the form of show competitions. Today there are over 100,000 players organised in over 1700 clubs. Competitions are of individual and team events with either target shooting or long distance being the deciding point.

SCHÖNBRUNN PALMHOUSE, NOVEMBER 30 1990

The re-opening of the Schönbrunn “House of Palms” on 30 November 1990, was celebrated by issuing a 5S multicoloured stamp on 30 November 1990. This stamp was designed by Prof. Ferdinand Donner, with the inscription ‘opened 1882 reopened 1990’, and printed in photogravure only (ultramarine, moose-green, yellowish-green, black-blue, blue-grey and black) in an impression of 2.7 million; comb perforated 14.

Somewhat similar in design to the Schönbrunn Pavilion, this ‘greenhouse’ is the largest of its kind in Europe. It was constructed to the design of F. von Segenschmid and took two years to build (1880-82). The building suffered serious bomb damage on 7 February 1945 inflicted by the USA Air Force; it was repaired and opened again on 14 January 1953. Deterioration of the iron frame work necessitated the closing of the house to the public in November 1976.



CHRISTMAS, NOVEMBER 30 1990

The annual Christmas stamp appeared on 30 November 1990. It was designed by Karl Gessner, to depict a nativity scene, engraved by Prof. Alfred Nefe as a 5S value and printed in both recess (lilac-black) and photogravure (brown ochre, lime-yellow, blue, purple-lilac and gold) in an impression of 7 million; comb perforated 13½:13½.



The design selected for this year was “Die Geburt Christi” (The birth of Christ) from the ‘Verduner Altar’ in the Monastery of Klosterneuburg. It was the work of Nikolaus of Verdun (who also built the shrine of the Three Kings at Cologne) and was completed in 1181. Originally the enamel panels decorated the pulpit of the Romanesque monastery church. Following a great fire in 1330 the panels were remodelled into a winged altar. When the church was remodelled in the Baroque style the altar was moved again to the treasury. Today the altar is at the tomb of St. Leopold, founder of the monastery and patron saint of Austria.