

New Issues - 2006

New Year's Concert 2006 - Mariss Jansons



€0.75; FDC date 1 Jan 2006; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Renate Gruber. Mariss Jansons, an honorary member of the Vienna Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde since 2001, conducted the New Year's Concert for the first time in 2006. Born in Riga in 1943, he is regarded as one of today's leading conductors, and proved to the world that he is a worthy conductor of the New Year's event. He began his musical training at the Leningrad Conservatoire, continuing at Vienna under Hans Swarowsky, and in Salzburg under Herbert von Karajan. For over 20 years, from 1979 to 2000, Jansons was chief conductor with the Oslo Philharmonic; amongst his many other activities he has also conducted various orchestras at the Salzburg Festival.

Austria's Presidency of the EU

€0.75; FDC Date: 1 Jan 2006; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Krystian Bieniek; Engraving: Adolf Tuma. Austria took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU from Great Britain on January 1, 2006, and occupied this office until June 30, 2006, when it handed over to Finland. The Presidency takes responsibility for the agenda of the Council for a period of six months, chairing all the sessions, pushing forward the legislative and political decisions and brokering compromises between the member states. The Austrian Presidency in the first half of 2006 covered a difficult stage of European politics. The negotiations on the EU budget for 2007 to 2012 are due, while the stalled ratification process for the EU constitution, membership negotiations with Turkey and Croatia and the situation on the Balkans will require considerable skill from Austria's politicians.



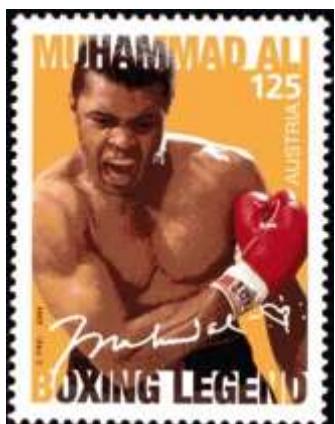
Personalised Stamps - Blue border



€0.55; FDC 10 Jan 2006; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: ÖSD. The personalised stamps issued by the Austrian Post Office under the brand Meine.Marke ("My Stamp") has increased in popularity ever since it was launched. The weekly magazine "Format" recently included it amongst the 25 best business ideas of recent history! It is now available with a choice of yellow and blue borders (in both portrait and landscape formats) and an individual choice of value imprint. The first "blue" personalised stamp shows the Austrian Post Office's shop at Kärntner Strasse 44.

Muhammad Ali

€1.25; FDC 14 Jan 2006; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Charly Frei. *"Our lives are a journey during which we must find our own answers and make our own paths. On my journey I found Islam. If I were not a Muslim, I would not have changed my name or sought to spread peace, and I would not have meant as much to people all around the world. I would not be the person that I am today, and the world would have never known Muhammad Ali."*



Astroset 4

8 x €0.55; FDC 20 January 2006; Issue 150,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**. The last set of these self-adhesive stamps consists of the stamps Pisces, Aquarius and Aries and the Chinese sign for the year 2006, the dog.



Mozart in Vienna

10 x €0.55; FDC 27 January 2006; Issue: 2,500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Maurizio Poletto. Issued as a minisheet of 10.



Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgang Theophilus Mozart; born Salzburg 27 January 1756; died Vienna 5 December 1791.

50 years of Europa – CEPT

€1.25; FDC: 3 March 2006; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. The CEPT, the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations, was founded by 19 countries, and now covers the whole of Europe.

CEPT corresponds to a European regulatory body, its activities including the standardization of guidelines for trade, business operations, and technology. Its aim is to support its members and to encourage collaboration at European level. It has set up two committees with separate fields of business, one for postal matters (the CERP) and one for telecommunications (the ECC).



Liechtenstein Museum Wien: Amerling



8 x €1.25; FDC 6 March 2006; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design & engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Minisheet of 8. The second joint issue with the Principality of Liechtenstein, in continuation of the "Liechtenstein Museum Vienna" series, is a painting of a girl's head by the famous Biedermeier genre painter Friedrich von Amerling (1803-87). Amerling studied at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, then Prague, London, Paris and Rome. He returned to Vienna, and soon became one of the most highly demanded portrait painters of the aristocracy and the rich middle classes. He was awarded many commissions by the Imperial family and the aristocracy, especially the Princes of Liechtenstein.

Post from Another World

€3.75; FDC: 24 March 2006; Issue: 600,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

The red "tadpole" is printed with ink containing finely-ground particles of a real chondrite meteorite "using a method specially developed for this purpose". Note also the ÖSD's circular perforator at work.



25 Years of "Menschen für Menschen"



€1.00; FDC 30 March 2006; Issue 800,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. Karlheinz Böhm, the son of the conductor Prof. Dr. Karl Böhm, made his debut as an actor at the Vienna National Theatre in 1949, appearing also in films from 1955. Deeply moved by the plight of the people in the refugee camps of Ethiopia, Karlheinz Böhm founded the "Menschen für Menschen" aid organisation in Germany on November 13 1981, and has worked with it ever since, spending several months a year living in the most primitive conditions in Ethiopia and using the rest of the year for media events and lectures to draw public attention to his foundation's activities.

Freemasons in Austria – in Rosenau and Vienna

€1.00; FDC 6 April 2006; Issue 350,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design and engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel.

Freemasonry began its existence in London in 1717, and spread rapidly. Duke Franz Stephan of Lorraine, future husband of Maria Theresia, brought freemasonry to Austria. Ever since, Austrian freemasonry has supported the ideas of the Enlightenment and "Josephinism", attracting as members the most important men in cultural and public life, such as the famous physician van Swieten, as well as Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. When Mozart set off on his famous "journey to Prague", he is said to have travelled via Rosenau Palace. A convinced freemason, he wished to visit his fellow masons, who had set up a lodge at Graf Schallenberg's palace in the 18th century.



Rosenau Palace was first mentioned in documents in 1593, a Renaissance building that was adapted and extended 150 years later to plans by the Baroque architect Mungenast. Frescos discovered in the entrance hall and rooms in the south wing with ceremonial decoration are evidence that a lodge was established here. The palace suffered badly during the occupation after 1945. Following its sale to the Province of Lower Austria and subsequent restoration, the Grand Lodge set up a Freemasonry Museum on the first floor, opened on April 23, 1975.

From here to October, the descriptions provided by OPost and Diebriefmarke became much longer, so it would be a pity not to retain them. From November, they reverted to normal! A summer student job?

Vending Machine Stamps - Gmunden 2006



The first new vending machine stamps will be available from August 25th to 27th at the Gmunden '06 exhibition. There are two different motifs, tulips and liverwort – these are printed alternately on a roll. (2,000 stamps per roll, i.e. 1,000 of each motif, with a maximum of two rolls in the machine at one time). Incidentally, the rolls are numbered at intervals of five on the reverse. The trilingual vending machine (German, English and Italian) only accepts coins (1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 Cent, 1 and 2 Euro coins). It does not take bank notes or cards. The minimum value is 55 Cent, the largest 3200 Cent. Values lower than 55 Cent can only be obtained by paying more than required and receiving the change in the form of stamps. The following values are available individually as standard: 55, 75, 100, 125, 175 and 210 Cent.

150th Anniversary of the Birth of Sigmund Freud



€0.55; FDC 10 April 2006; Issue: 600,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Abbot Miller.

The name Sigmund Freud is inseparably associated with the city of Vienna and Berggasse 19. It was here that the founder of psychoanalysis lived and worked from 1891 to 1938. His former surgery at Berggasse 19 was opened to the public for the first time in June 1971, thanks to the efforts of his daughter Anna Freud. Today, the Sigmund Freud Museum is testimony to the life and work of Austria's most famous 20th century scientist. It was here that Freud produced his interpretation of dreams, his case studies and his works on cultural theory. It was here too that his patients came for their psychoanalysis sessions. Freud's surgery also contained his famous couch, the subject matter of an exhibition of its own, "The Couch. About thinking and lying" on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Sigmund Freud's birth in 2006. The scientist and doctor Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) is the founder of psychoanalysis. His works form the basis for modern depth psychology and psychotherapy. In 1902 he founded the "Psychological Wednesday Society" discussion circle in Vienna, which became the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society

in 1908 and was dedicated to the investigation of the human mind, its dynamics and pathology, and to treatment using analysis and therapy.

With the idea of "free association", Freud developed his own therapy method in order to bring suppressed experiences back into his patients' consciousness. He assumed that the causes of many mental illnesses were to be found in childhood events. As the discoverer of the subconscious, Freud fundamentally altered the self-concept of mankind and created a new image of man. His extensive works not only influenced modern psychology but also left their traces in all fields of life, in science, religion, education and literature. Numerous writers and artists have also dealt with Freud's ideas and concepts.

Franz Beckenbauer - Portrait by Andy Warhol



€0.55; FDC 12 April 2006; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

Popularly acclaimed the "Kaiser", his favours courted by the press, he has become a footballing legend, with his vision and manifold talents making a major contribution to the development of football throughout these years. He is the most prominent footballing personality in Germany. Franz Beckenbauer was born on September 11, 1945, the son of a Munich post office official. He spent his youth at the Jesuit's boys' boarding school in Ingolstadt. He learned to play football with SC 1906 München and moved to FC Bayern Munich in 1958. He played his first international for Germany in 1965, but it was in the 1966 World Cup in England that he came into his own. In the 12 years he was a member of the national team,

he was capped 103 times and took part in three World Cups. There can be no doubt that his greatest success was the 1974 World Cup final when Germany beat the Netherlands. In 1977, Beckenbauer moved to the USA, a developing country in footballing terms, joining New York Cosmos, with whom he won the US championship three times. After returning to Germany in 1980, he was signed up by Hamburg SV, finishing his career in 1982. In the summer of the following year, however, he was persuaded to play a final season with the New York Cosmos. He was voted Germany's Footballer of the Year three times, and European Footballer of the Year twice. He played in 424 Bundesliga games, 396 of which for Bayern Munich, winning the championship with them four times, the European Cup four times and the German Cup four times. He won the German title once with Hamburg SV. In 1984, ten years after winning the World Cup, Franz Beckenbauer was appointed coach of the German national team, leading them to the World Cup final in 1986 and winning the Cup for the third time in 1990. This made him the second player, after Mario Zagallo, to win the World Cup both as player and as coach. Beckenbauer also served as interim coach with Bayern Munich, winning the German title in 1994 and the UEFA Cup for the first time in 1996. He has been the club's President since 1994. As chairman of the bid committee, he supported

Germany's candidacy for the organisation of the 2006 World Cup, and was appointed head of the organising committee for the Event. Franz Beckenbauer is also a popular media personality, his footballing knowledge making him highly demanded as a TV and press commentator. He founded the Franz Beckenbauer Foundation to support handicapped persons and persons who have run into difficulties through no fault of their own. His passion is golf, and his home is in Kitzbühel.

Help for Flood Victims in Austria



€5.00 [€0.75 + €4.25]; FDC 21 April 2006; Issue: 2,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma

Help for the victims of the floods in the Lower Austrian region "Marchfeld". In recent weeks we have once again been obliged to watch helplessly as the forces of nature took but a few minutes to destroy the work of many decades. The March, usually an innocuous river that is no problem to wade across, overflowed its banks, destroying dikes, flooding huge areas of agricultural land and covering countless houses, some right up as far as the roof. It will be several weeks before the entire extent of the damage can be determined, but we already know that reconstruction will cost millions.

The Austrian Post Office intends to provide financial assistance to this reconstruction. We have overprinted an existing definitive (the "Kreuzstein" in the Mondsee lake, nominal 25 Cent). The nominal is now 75 Cent, the postage for the second letter category, and a surcharge of Euro 4.25 is being charged, which is intended for the victims of the floods in the Lower Austrian region of the Marchfeld. If our customers in Austria and abroad contribute, we will be able to provide several hundred thousand Euros for the repair work. In any event, all our branches in the whole of Austria will be participating in this campaign.

Incidentally, this is the second time in the Second Republic that the Post Office has adopted this approach. In 1954, an existing stamp was overprinted for the first time, the surcharge being used to help victims of avalanches. The stamp used was one issued in 1946 and depicted a snowy Alpine scene. If this was possible in the post-war years, it should also work today. And so I should like to end with a request: Please help us as fast as possible with this campaign, which has already started, since as we say in Austria – he who helps quickly helps twice as much.

Falco - Rock me Amadeus



€0.55; FDC 18 May 2006; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Konkolits; Engraver: Thomas Schmiedt.

"Amadeus, amadeus..." And thousands sang along at his concerts, the hit sold in millions, catapulting Falco, alias Hans Hödl, to No. 1 in the hit parades. It was "Rock me Amadeus" that made him the only Austrian to make it to the top of the US charts. Replacing the dusty Mozart cliché with a new Mozart image had a huge effect on the public. By transferring the historic figure into the show business world of his time, using the sound of the 1980s, he updated Mozart, and in 1985 Falco was at the peak of his career.

Hans Hödl was born on February 19, 1957, in Vienna, the only survivor of triplets. Noticing how loudly the baby cried, the midwife handed him over to his mother with the words "Mrs. Hödl, here's your Vienna choirboy!" It soon became clear that his musical talent was accompanied by a rare gift, that of absolute pitch. He left school at 16, earning his living with casual labour,

studied at the Vienna Jazz Conservatory at the age of 19 and discovered a love of 1970s rock music. After playing in a number of rock bands in Berlin and Vienna, he had his first hit with the group "Drahdiwaberl" in 1978, "Ganz Wien", with its carefree mixing of Italian, German and English. His first solo single, "Kommissar" was released in 1982, becoming a smash hit and selling over 7 million copies to date. The combination of conventional rock music with the staccato chant of the black rappers of New York was revolutionary, and was an immediate

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international success, the definitive breakthrough. But after "Amadeus", nothing was as it had been before. There followed a number of artistically and commercially lean years. "Nachflug" brought Falco a respectable success in Austria, but in 1996 he moved to the Dominican Republic, renting a villa near Puerto Plata and attempting to make a new start. Falco lived the spirit of the 1980s intensively. He wrote pop history, he was a symbol of the era. The chorus of "Amadeus" can also be seen as a reference to himself, "He was a superstar..." The only world-famous pop star our country ever produced, he lived two lives: Falco the artist, neurotic, excessive, distant, and the private Hansi Hödl, sensitive, vulnerable, lovable. His moods were unpredictable, he desperately sought for love, and his solitude also brought him alcohol problems. His acrobatic style of driving was also his undoing. His shrill way of life came to an equally loud end in a car crash on February 6, 1998. He is buried at the Vienna Central Cemetery.

Life Ball 2006



€0.55; FDC 20 May 2006; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

It is already something like a tradition: the Life Ball – inseparably associated with the topic of Aids and Aids research. As one of the largest charity events in the world, the Life Ball, unlike the traditional ball events in Vienna, is a bright and sumptuous festivity with lots of bare skin. As in previous years, the colourful social event will take place in the historic setting of the Vienna Town Hall. The organizer of the Life Ball, Gerry Keszler, not only creates "a huge festivity of life that addresses all the senses", he

also raises considerable funds to benefit aids research with this annual event. One of the star guests for the 2006 Life Ball is the famous model Naomi Campbell. The dark-skinned beauty, who holds a special position even amongst the world top-paid models, is in the truest sense of the word decorating the new commemorative stamp.

Naomi Campbell was born on May 22, 1970, in London. She studied at the London Academy for Performing Arts, and at the age of 14 began training at the highly reputed "Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts" in London. Her first public performance was in February in 1978 in a music video with famous reggae singer Bob Marley. Finally, in 1985 she was discovered by the agency of the women's magazine "Elle" in the London district of Covent Garden. Naomi Campbell was then contracted by the "Synchro Models" agency – beginning one of the most breathtaking careers in the international model business. In the course of the years she has not only presented the collections of the most expensive fashion designers, she has also posed for the greatest photographers – and there is hardly any magazine cover that has not yet carried a photo of this dark muse. However, Naomi Campbell is not only successful as a photo model – she has also tried her hand as an actress, singer, author and, most recently, as the creator of her own cosmetic line, and has achieved considerable international acclaim. Like many other celebrities Naomi Campbell supports UNESCO, being particularly committed to her home country Jamaica and having kindergartens and houses built in her name.

With a net profit over 1 million Euro, 2005 was also the most successful Life Ball since the event was first launched. As each year, top models from Austria and abroad will present creations and daring outfits by famous fashion designers on a huge catwalk built on the town hall square in the form of a red Aids ribbon. Countless international stars and artists participate as a clear signal and advertisement for humanity, tolerance and understanding. The Austrian Post Office is once again one of the supporters of the Life Ball through the release of the new commemoratives – as in the last two years

National Customs and Folklore Treasures: Weitensfelder Kranzelreiten

€0.55; FDC 4 June 2006; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Maria Schulz; Engraver: Prof. Kurt Leitgeb.



In ancient times, the region around the market town of Weitensfeld in the Gurk Valley was covered by dense forests, and served as a refuge for the Celts. The area probably began to be settled on a larger scale in the 12th century, with Weitensfeld being first mentioned in documents in 1131. The town acquired the status of a market in 1211, and was granted the right to bear a coat of arms in 1629. The town is in possession of the oldest town flag in Carinthia, over 200 years old. The town is also the origin of an artistic treasure, the "Magdalenscheibe", Austria's oldest glass window, dating from around 1170 and now kept in the Provincial Museum in Klagenfurt. The "Weitensfeld Civic Oath" is a monument of legal history, and was recorded by the market registrar in 1765.

Each year at Whitsun, one of Carinthia's most delightful traditions is performed, the Weitensfeld "Kranzelreiten". It is a kind of solemn pledge that recalls the outbreak of the plague around 400 years ago. The Black Death is said to have raged furiously, and according to legend the only survivors were three sons of the citizens of the town and the daughter of the lord of Thurnhof Castle in Zweinitz. The young men courted the noble lady, who challenged them to a contest, the winner of which won her hand in marriage. This was the origin of the Kranzelreiten, and has since been held every year to prevent disaster befalling the town of Weitensfeld. The traditional ceremony was held even during the most difficult war years, when there was a shortage of both horses and riders.

Today, Kranzelreiten consists of a running race and a horse race, each between three young men from trading families in the town. It begins on Whit Sunday, with the invitation ride to the neighbouring villages and the singing of "G'stanzi" by the residents of the market town. The actual contest takes place on Whit Monday, when the statue of the Virgin Mary on the market fountain is decorated in a white dress and red scarf, with a bunch of keys in her left hand and a peony in her right. A group of riders gallops down the route of the race three times, from the Upper Market to the Virgin Fountain, a symbol of the banishing of the Plague. The race between the three horsemen then takes place, followed by three runners. The victor is taken in a ceremonial procession to the Virgin on the Fountain and receives a wreath, a silk cloth and a pair of stockings, and is allowed to kiss the Virgin on the Fountain. Every 25 years, the tradition is modified, and the victor's kiss and wreath are bestowed on a genuine May bride instead of the stone statue.

Formula 1 Legends - Block 2006

€5.95 in total; FDC 7 June 2006; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Charly Frei

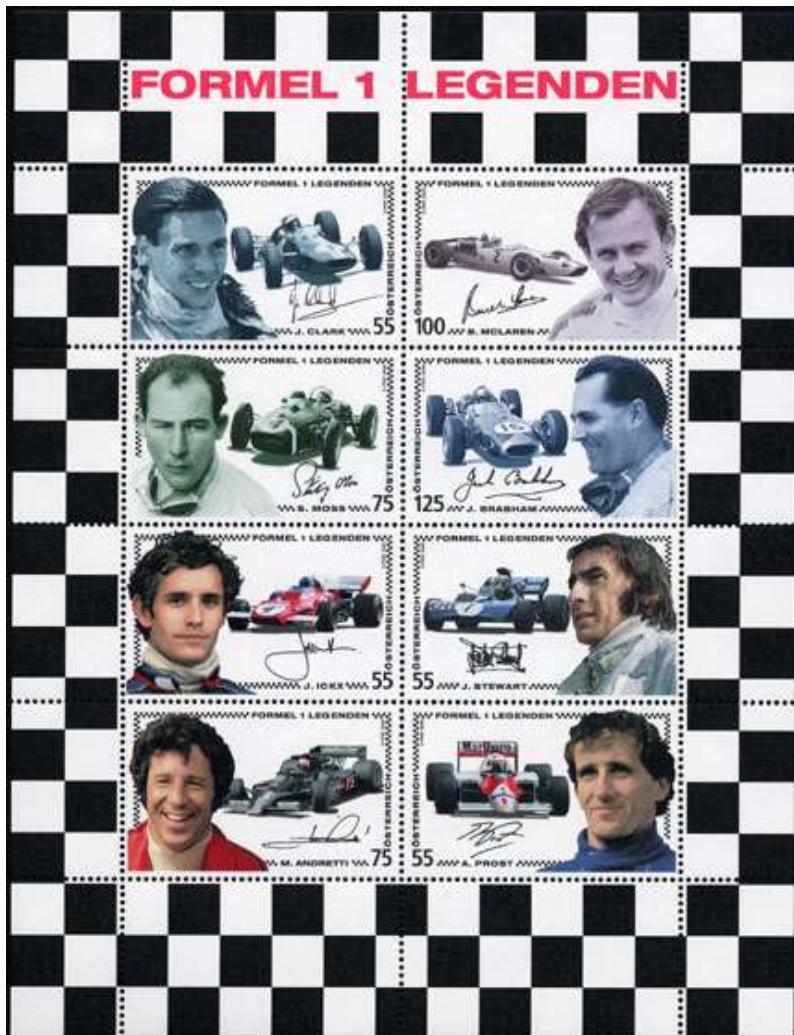
From 1968 to 1973, Jim Clark was the most successful Formula 1 driver with 25 Grand Prix victories. He was World Champion twice, in 1963 and 1965. Clark, a Scotsman, was born on March 3, 1936, and began his career with the Lotus team at the age of 20 and morally committed to this marque until his death on April 7 1968 in a crash in a Formula 2 race.

Stirling Moss, one of the best racing drivers never to be World Champion, was born on Sept. 17, 1929. The 10-fold British Champion would probably have been World Champion more than once if he had not sworn to race only in British cars. During his career, he drove 495 races in 84 different types of car, winning 222 times. Stirling Moss retired in 1963 after a serious accident and was knighted by the Queen in 1999.

Alain Prost, the analyst behind the wheel, born on Feb. 24, 1955, is one of the most successful drivers. He was World Champion 4 times (1985, 1986, 1989 and 1993) and drove in a total of 199 Grand Prix, of which he won 51. He was the owner of the Team Prost Formula 1 racing stable (1997-2001) and is still involved in touring car racing and in cycle racing.

The New Zealander's star Bruce McLaren was born on Aug. 30, 1937, in Oakland. He was only 22 years old when he won his first race. He founded his own Formula 1 stable in 1966, and together with his compatriot Denis

Hulme took 2nd place in the Constructor's World Championship in 1968. He died in an accident during a test drive on June 2, 1970.



until 1994 as a professional racer in various American racing classes.

Sir Jack Brabham – nicknamed “Black Jack” – was the first driver in history to be knighted by the Queen for services for motor racing. He is the only Formula 1 driver who has won a world championship in a car he designed himself. Together with Ron Tauranac he managed his own racing stable, and Brabham cars raced for over 30 years in Formula 1. He drove in a total of a 126 races, winning 14 Grand Prix victories and achieving the Formula 1 World Championship title 3 times (1959, 1960 and 1966). Following the fatal accidents of McLaren, Courage and Rindt in 1970, Brabham gave in to his wife's request and the age of 44 ended his career.

Austrian Post on the Stock Exchange



€0.55; FDC: 8 June 2006; Issue: 1,575,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

On January 2006, the Austrian Council of Ministers decided to privatise a total of 49% of the Austrian Post via the stock exchange. This decision was the result of a long and well-considered process involving an optimum preparation of the Post Office. In the previous year the Post Office was investigated in detail by a well-known investment bank with its respect to its capital market capacity, and the result was more than satisfactory. According to the experts the Post Office is ready for the stock exchange! This finding also convinced the ÖIAG and the Finance Minister, and as a result the decision to launch the Post Office on the stock exchange was simply a matter of time.

Sir John Young Stewart, better known as Jackie Stewart, was born on June 11, 1939, and in the 99 races of his eight-year-long Formula 1 career achieved 27 first places and the World Championship title three times (1969, 1971 and 1973). Since his accident at the Belgian Grand Prix on June 12, 1966 he has battled indefatigably for crash barriers, safety belts and more. In 2001, he was raised to the knighthood.

Jacques Bernard Ickx was born in Brussels on Jan. 1, 1945. He came to racing cars in 1966, in the same year he was given his opportunity in Formula 1 with Ferrari, and at the age of 23 became the youngest winner in Grand Prix history. In his 112 GP races, Jacky Ickx came first eight times. After retiring from active racing in 1995, Jacky Ickx remained in the trade as organiser of motor sports events.

Mario Andretti, born on February 28, 1940 in Italy, emigrated to the USA in 1955, taking with him his enthusiasm for motor racing. Andretti joined the Formula 1 scene in Watkins Glen in 1968. In the fourteen years of his Formula 1 career, he drove in 128 races, winning 12 times, and making it to World Champion in 1978. After retiring from Formula 1, he continued his career

The decision for the launch comes at absolutely the right time. The company is in a growth phase, in which every form of finance is important. The stock exchange launch provides the Post Office with access to the capital market – making it easier for the company to find inexpensive financing for the investments needed to overcome the challenges of the future. The company can thus grow more easily – which in turn secures existing jobs and supports the creation of new ones. The launch extends the financing possibilities for investments in the Post Office's ambitious growth programme – in brief, its opportunities are even better. Other post offices such as the German or Dutch enterprises have already shown that stock exchange launch for such an enterprise opens up broad possibilities for growth. These two companies have become very successful international service providers since going public – not least because they were able to finance the investments needed for growth via the capital markets. By going public the Austrian Post Office, today already a commercially very successful and strong enterprise, will become a member of the group of top Austrian companies (such as Telekom Austria, voestalpin and OMV). All of these companies are highly successful and are today in a much better position than before their stock exchange launch. The Austrian Post Office will also be able to consolidate its commercial position. Fears of possible negative consequences are unfounded. The Post Office is and will remain an Austrian institution, a strong entity, and will not be broken up, nor will any parts of the company be sold.

With this privatisation, the Post Office is making a major step towards extending its role as one of the most important service providers in the country, as a high-performance reliable domestic partner with a high service quality and strong networks. The Post Office's service obligation is laid down by the Post Office Universal Service Regulation, and will continue to be secured through the new Post Office Act. The Austrian Post Office will continue to be at the service of all Austrians in the future, covering the entire country reliably with the very best in quality. In addition, it can offer even more to its customer in the form of new products and services.

Patron Saints: St. Hemma



€0.55; FDC: 27 June 2006; Issue: 600,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Maria Schulz; Engraving: Mag. Robert Trsek.

Born around 980, Hemma lost her parents at an early age, and was adopted by Emperor Heinrich II and his wife Kunigunde, who took her to the imperial court in Bamberg. As Countess von Friesach-Zeltschach, she married Count Wilhelm von der Sann, thus becoming one of the most powerful women in Carinthia.

Her high rank did not save her from bitter blows of fate, losing her children while still young and her husband, murdered by the rebel Duke of Carinthia Adalbero von Eppstein in 1036 for having remained loyal to the Emperor. As a widow, she had sole control over the rich inheritance of two mighty families with possessions in Carinthia, Styria and Carnia. With the agreement of her relatives, she applied the larger part of this inheritance to the foundation of

two monasteries and a number of churches, and to the welfare of the poor. In 1036, Benedictine nuns from Nonnberg in Salzburg took up residence in the new convent in Gurk, which Hemma also entered as a lay sister. The founder died aged around 65 on June 27, 1045, and was buried in the convent cemetery.

The Gurk convent was not to survive for long. Archbishop Gebhard von Salzburg abolished it in 1072, founded the Bishopric of Gurk and transferred to the latter the estates of Hemma's convent. He was also responsible for the building of Gurk Cathedral, and used St. Hemma's estate to construct the monastery at Admont. The memory of the Countess of Friesach fell into oblivion, but in their struggle for independence from Salzburg, the bishop and cathedral chapter recalled their own founder, and in 1174 her bones were ceremoniously transferred to the new 100-column crypt of Gurk Cathedral, one of the most beautiful Romanesque churches in Austria, and placed to rest.

The oldest portrait of the saint is to be found in a fresco in Gurk Cathedral dating from 1220. Hemma is almost always portrayed as an elegant lady with a strikingly large bonnet, holding a model of a church in one hand and distributing alms. The memory of a just ruler gradually developed into the legend of the fair wage. Hemma, whose wont it was to pay her workers herself, allowed anyone who complained about their low wage to put their hand into the money bag themselves. But no matter how greedily they grabbed, they would only get the wage intended for them. She would be sitting on a stone of serpentine, which is now on display in the crypt under the name of

the "Hemma Stone", and is sat on by women hoping for children. Saint Hemma is also invoked for a happy childbirth and above all for eye complaints. The traditional blessing of the eyes is documented as far back as the 15th century. She was only canonised on January 5 1938 by Pope Pius XI. The anniversary of the death of the patron saint of Carinthia is celebrated on June 27, St. Hemma's Day.

60th Anniversary of the Federal Chamber of Industry and Commerce



€0.55; FDC: 28 June 2006; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

One year after the celebrations for the founding of the Republic, the Federal Chamber of Industry and Commerce can also look back on 60 years of its existence. The statutory basis for the foundation of the Federal Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce Act was adopted by Parliament on July 24 1946. The first

president was Julius Raab, one of the founders of the Chamber. The Act brought together around 130 trade federations in a single organisation, and also set up the Institute for Economic Development. Under Raab, this new institution developed in one of the cornerstones of Austria's economic and social policy. It was also Raab who laid the foundation for the future success of Austria's export industry by opening the first foreign bureau in Paris in 1946. Subsequently, traditional export markets were regained and new ones developed. As one of the four major lobbies, the others being the Austrian Trade Union Federation, the Chamber of Labour and the Chamber of Agriculture, it made a major contribution to the reconstruction of the Austrian economy following World War Two. The collaboration between these lobbies, mostly referred to in short as the "social partnership", is a unique instrument that has now become a model for Europe. It is based on the conviction that the objectives of economic and social policy can be achieved better by the co-ordinated actions of the major social groups by means of dialogue than by means of industrial conflict. This collaboration is implemented in the "Parity Commission", which since 1957 has brought together around one table the leading representatives of the government and the four major lobbies. One of the positive consequences of the efforts to ensure political compromise is for instance the rate of zero strike days per 1,000 employees in Austria, making the country the leader in Europe in this aspect. In February 1963, Ing. Rudolf Sallinger took over from Julius Raab as President of the Federal Chamber of Industry and Commerce, one of his major achievements being the development of a global foreign trade organisation. Currently, the Chamber operates over 100 foreign trade agencies and marketing offices around the world to support the cross-border activities of Austrian business. The Sallinger - Benya axis, the latter being the Chairman of the Austrian Trade Union Federation at the time, like the previous Raab - Böhm axis, became the basis on which the Austrian social partnership was able to rely. With Leopold Maderthaner at the wheel, the Austrian Chamber of Industry and Commerce then spearheaded Austria's membership of the EU. In 2000 the Chamber elected Dr. Christoph Leitl as President. From 2002 to 2006, Leitl also served as President of the European Chambers of Industry and Commerce (EUROCHAMBRES), and in 2006, he was also elected president of the Global Chamber Platform. This period has been characterised by reform of the Chamber, expansion of the EU and globalisation. Today the Austrian Chamber of Industry and Commerce sees itself as a companion and broker of opportunities for business success, its aim being to help create a feeling of optimism amongst Austrians about the future of their country with its skills, talents, and values.

Mozart in Salzburg



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Salzburg is the Mozart city, with the house in which Mozart was born, the house where he lived, the Mozarteum International Foundation, the Mozart family grave and so on. Wherever you go in Salzburg, you will find traces of the composer, and the 250th anniversary of his birth is yet another occasion to present the composer as the city's son. The series of festive events on the topic of Mozart in Salzburg begins with the "Viva! MOZART" exhibition in the Residence at Mozartplatz 1,

constructed on the instructions of Prince-Archbishop Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau around 1600, and will continue with performances of all 22 of the composer's operas during this year's Salzburg Festival. Ever since the birth of

this musical genius, the city on the Salzach River has been inseparably associated with the name Mozart. Managed by his father Leopold, the child prodigy attracted the city's attention at the early age of four. At the age of eleven, Mozart, who never attended school, composed the school opera "Die Schuldigkeit des ersten Gebots" together with considerably older Salzburg court musicians, including Michael Haydn. In 1769, he was able to arrange for a performance in Salzburg of his opera "La finta semplice", composed in Vienna, and in the same year he was appointed third concert master at the Salzburg Court Orchestra, a post that was, however, unpaid. After the death of his employer and patron Sigismund Graf von Schrattenbach, Hieronymus Graf Colloredo was made Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, and it was in honour of the new lord of the province that Mozart's Serenata dramatica "Il Sogno di Scipione" was performed. This led to the Prince appointing him to the post of (paid) concert master. In addition to the sacred music that was composed as part of his ecclesiastical court duties, Mozart turned more and more to the composition of instrumental music, such as symphonies, concertos and serenades. Nevertheless, the composer and musician endeavoured to escape the strict regulations of the service at the Salzburg court by going on long journeys (3rd tour of Italy), but the post he had hoped for abroad did not materialise. In 1775 Mozart attempted to make his own living as a composer in Salzburg, but this, too, proved unsuccessful. In August 1777, he asked to be released from his contract and travelled to Mannheim and Paris, returning to Salzburg in 1778 following the death of his mother, having again failed to obtain a permanent post abroad. In January 1779 he was once again employed by the court, this time as court organist, and it was during this time that he composed his "Coronation Mass". He put up with this position for 20 months of an always tense relationship with the Prince-Archbishop. In 1781, he travelled to Munich for the first performance of his opera seria "Idomeneo, Re di Creta". He was then immediately summonsed by Graf Colloredo to Vienna, where the dispute between the two men led to the definitive rupture of their relationship. On June 8, 1781, Mozart gave notice of his employment in Salzburg and from then on lived in Vienna, only returning to Salzburg for the occasional family visit.

Ottfried Fischer

€0.55; FDC: 1 July 2006; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.



There have never been any lean years for Ottfried Fischer, a true heavyweight in the acting business, above all in the field of political reviews. His many leading roles in TV series have won him a spot in viewers' hearts. Born on November 7, 1953 in Ornatsöd in the Bavarian Forest (near the border to Austria's Mühlviertel), Ottfried Fischer grew up on his father's farm and attended the Fürstenzell Monastery boarding school near Passau. He began a degree in law in Munich, but abandoned it after a year or two in favour of the stage. In 1978, with a few friends, he founded the "Machtschattengewächse" cabaret in the Hinterhoftheater in Munich, from then on pursuing a career mainly as a review artist. Together with the satirist Jockel Tschiersch, he was a huge success in the Munich "Wirtshaus am Hart" in the 1980s, for which he was awarded the international "Salzburger Stier" prize in 1985 by the German-speaking radio stations in Europe, followed by the "Deutscher Kleinkunstpreis" award in 1986. Since 1989, Ottfried Fischer has also had his own solo shows ("Schwer ist leicht was!" & "WAS TUN."). In the mid 1990s he was given his own TV show under the name "Ottis Schlachthof", a political review which he still presents on Bavarian Television, interviewing review

artists and giving many a rising talent the first opportunity to appear on TV. It was thanks to the director Franz Xaver Bogner that Ottfried Fischer was given his first major role on TV, in the Bavarian cult series "irgendwie und sowieso" (1986). His reputation beyond the borders of Bavaria was established with the SAT1 series "Ein Bayer auf Rügen" (from 1993 on), in which he played a leading role together with fellow-Bavarian Wolfgang Fierek for many years. 1995 saw the start of "Der Bulle von Tölz", which made Fischer one of the most successful TV detectives. Even when repeated for the fourth time, his performances as Benno Berghammer always lead to a jump in the ratings. Since then he has always had roles that are somehow related to crime-hunting, whether as the reporter in the "Pfundskerl" series or as Father Brown in a German adaptation of the G.K. Chesterton Father Brown stories. Ottfried Fischer is married with two daughters, and lives in Gauting near Munich. At the Munich Oktoberfest, he is always to be found as guest of honour in the Hacker brewery tent.

Europe 2006 - Integration of minorities



€0.75; FDC: 1 July 2006; Issue: 450,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michaela Büchel.

Immigration and the integration of immigrant minorities are at the focus of political discussion in Europe. Migration is a challenge to the institutions and culture of the liberal western world, involving not only the cultural differences that the migrants contribute to political society but also largely the willingness and ability of the majority population to tolerate such differences. For the political institutions of the European Union, the integration of migrants aims at giving best possible voice to an increasing plurality of interests and ways of life and a growing ethnic, cultural and religious variety.

The rapid increase in migrant pressure from eastern Europe after the fall of the Iron Curtain and the eastern expansion of the EU is obliging the countries of Europe to adopt a common migration and integration policy. The social integration of young people is not something that happens automatically. Pluralist societies that offer a wide variety of possible lifestyles make high demands of the way the individual finds his or her identity. It is precisely young people with experience of migration who find social integration difficult, as they find their way between the family traditions and so-called western lifestyles. They are more affected by exclusion and are the first to feel the social rupture lines that include inherited poverty and the risk of poverty, gender, migration or a political system of hostility to participation. Specific examples can be found in the school system, where the inadequate encouragement of education, in particular in the field of language, diminishes the opportunities even further. In the world of work, legal requirements such as work permits or nationality, as well as a lack of apprenticeships and jobs lead to unemployment or displacement into badly paid and often illegal work. Where one hundred years ago the struggle was against the economic exploitation of children and young people, it is the problem of youth unemployment that weighs heavily on our society today. Work as the means of earning a living has declined considerably as one of the central and familiar forces for integration. "I hate work because I can't get any!" is a cry of despair against the structural barriers such as the qualifications needed to enter the world of work that exclude above all young people with a migrant background. This even applies to second-generation children (children born in Austria of foreign parents). Around 300,000 children in Austria are either of foreign nationality or have only recently been naturalised. And this figure will increase even more over the next few years.

Day of the Stamp 2006 - The development of Austrian airmail from 1945

€3.95; FDC: 2 July 2006; Issue: 600,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Marianne Siegl; Engraving: Prof. Gerhart Schmirl.



The end of the Second World War also saw the end of civilian airmail to and from Austria. None of the airports around Vienna remained capable of operations, and yet the occupying forces very quickly attempted to permit provisional air traffic. The Americans chose the airfield at Langenlebarn near Tulln as their base, the Soviets used Aspern and a number of smaller airfields in the south and east of Vienna while the British and French shared the site at Schwechat. The first airmail after World War Two to and from Austria was the military post for the members of the Allied occupying troops. Limited postal traffic abroad was not permitted to civilians until January 2 1946, and even then was restricted to land mail in the direction from Austria. It was only on March 25 1946

that airmail could be sent abroad, although Germany and Japan were still excluded from postal traffic. Naturally every letter had to pass through the censor's hand. The first airmail letters were sent either via London using aircraft of the Royal Air Force or by train via Paris. The start of direct regular flight traffic by the American Airline PAN AM from New York to Vienna was a major media event (including in Austria). This led to the commencement of regular services to and from Austria by other foreign airlines, documented by corresponding first-flight covers. It was not until 1957 that an independent Austrian airline was founded. 1958 then saw the first flight from Vienna to London using an aircraft leased from Norway. In 1969 AUA commenced trans-Atlantic operations on the Vienna – Brussels – New York route in cooperation with the Belgium airline SABENA. While

originally air travel was some thing special both for passengers and for mail, today flight (thanks amongst other things to the increase in capacity) has long been an ordinary means of transport that is naturally also used for the mass transportation of mail. While originally airmail letters were only free of surcharge to a small numbers of countries, this privilege has gradually been expanded to ever more countries, and ultimately led to a new concept for postal charges for letters. Today there are only "Priority" letters, always sent by the fastest possible means, and "Non-Priority" letters that may also make at least part of their journey on an aircraft on their way towards distant countries. In the course of the years, the involvement of the provincial airports in air mail traffic has been reduced.

Herbert Judmaier © by author 2006

St. Anne's Column, Innsbruck

€0.55; FDC: 26 July 2006; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design & engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel.



The 13 m high St. Anne's Column in the middle of Maria-Theresia-Strasse in Innsbruck was erected to commemorate the defeat of the Bavarian invasion in 1703. It provides an excellent view of the Hafelekars mountain, from where the snow glistens well into spring. The Elector Max Emanuel of Bavaria, son-in-law of Emperor Leopold I, joined in the War of the Spanish Succession on the side of the French, and invaded Tyrol with an army. After the fall of Kufstein Fortress, the Bavarians marched into Innsbruck without meeting any resistance. However, the victory of the Tyrolean Landsturm under Landrichter Martin Sterzinger at the Pontlitzbrücke beyond Landeck triggered a popular uprising. The Bavarians encountered fierce resistance and the Elector withdrew to Bavaria again. It was on the Feast of St. Anne (July 26) 1703 that the enemy left Innsbruck. On March 15, 1704, the Tyrolean Estates resolved to erect a monument as a sign of gratitude for the deliverance from the enemy. They also pledged to make an annual procession on July 26, the Feast of St. Anne, from what was then the Municipal Church of St. Jacob (now the Cathedral) to the commemorative column. The 4000 Guilder commission was awarded to the Trento sculptor Christophoro Benedetti (1660-1735). The column was made of red Tyrolean marble, also known as Kramsach marble, and erected between 1704 and 1706 on the site of an earlier marble fountain with a statue of the Virgin. How long the pledge to make an annual procession was kept is not known. But even today, the lantern mounted below the statue of St. Anna is lit every Saturday evening. It was the St. Anne's day pledge that gave the column its name. Actually, it ought to be called the Column of St. Mary, since the Corinthian marble column bears a statue of Maria Immaculata, a copy of course, the original having been moved to the monastery church of Fiecht in 1958. At the foot of the column stand the statues of the saints venerated in Tyrol: St. Anne (the mother of Mary), St. Cassian (legendary founder of the Diocese of Säben), St. George (patron saint of Tyrol until 1772) and St. Vigilius (one of the first bishops of Trento).

Cathedral) to the commemorative column. The 4000 Guilder commission was awarded to the Trento sculptor Christophoro Benedetti (1660-1735). The column was made of red Tyrolean marble, also known as Kramsach marble, and erected between 1704 and 1706 on the site of an earlier marble fountain with a statue of the Virgin. How long the pledge to make an annual procession was kept is not known. But even today, the lantern mounted below the statue of St. Anna is lit every Saturday evening. It was the St. Anne's day pledge that gave the column its name. Actually, it ought to be called the Column of St. Mary, since the Corinthian marble column bears a statue of Maria Immaculata, a copy of course, the original having been moved to the monastery church of Fiecht in 1958. At the foot of the column stand the statues of the saints venerated in Tyrol: St. Anne (the mother of Mary), St. Cassian (legendary founder of the Diocese of Säben), St. George (patron saint of Tyrol until 1772) and St. Vigilius (one of the first bishops of Trento).

Locomotives - 100th Anniversary of the Pyhrn Railway

€0.55; FDC: 19 August 2006; Issue: 600,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinawehl; Engraving: Prof. Gerhart Schmirl.

The Pyhrn Pass, 945 m above sea level, is the lowest passage across the eastern Alps, and has been used since the Neolithic Age. In Roman times, the pass was crossed by a post road. In 1190, Bishop Otto II of Bamberg founded a hospice on the Pyhrn. With the development of industry, in particular the working of iron in the Enns Valley and the scythe making in the Pyhrn region, the Linz Diet began as early as 1866 to think about a railway link.

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The project was postponed in favour of the "Crown Prince Rudolf Railway" through the Enns Valley. This led to the foundation of the Kremstalbahngesellschaft company, which used private funds to build a railway from Linz to Klaus-Steyrling via Kremsmünster. It was not until the beginning of 1901 that the legal basis for the construction of a railway from Klaus to Selzthal was adopted, as part of the government "New Alpine Railways" project intended to prevent the collapse of the port of Trieste. In the light of the need for suitable gradients, the Bosruck route was chosen over the Pyhrn. Work was ceremoniously started on July 1, 1901 at Spital am Pyhrn. The approach sections were constructed from 1903 to 1905 at the same time as the tunnels, at times using considerable

technical outlay. Disastrous flooding delayed the completion of the 4470 metre long Bosruck tunnel, which was ceremoniously opened on August 21, 1906. On the day before it opened, the last post coach travelled over the Pyhrn Pass. The 104 km long single-track route of the Pyhrn Railway from Linz to Selzthal is still today primarily used for goods traffic. Of course, it also caused a boom in tourism in the Pyhrn-Priel region. The railway nevertheless remained of marginal value, since the collapse of the Empire and the loss of Moravia meant that the north-south link was only of local relevance. The route was renovated between 1963 and 1965, the Bosruck tunnel in particular having suffered such huge damage from steam railway operations that it had to be closed completely for two years. It was only between 1975 and 1977 that the line was electrified.

The route of the Pyhrn Railway is continuously being improved. For goods traffic, for instance, a new loop to the Western Railway was built, cutting 90 minutes off travelling times and relieving Linz station of considerable traffic. In recent years the railway has acquired powerful competition in the form of the Pyhrn Motorway, and has lost its former importance in freight transport. Although the Pyhrn railway is part of the Trans European Network, further improvement is not a top priority. On the occasion of the anniversary of the railway in 2001, Elmar Oberegger published a detailed "History of the Pyhrn railway".

Austria–Hong Kong Joint Issue – Fireworks

€7.70; FDC: 22 August 2006; Issue: 350,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma.



The application of "Crystal Fabrics", a world-wide unique invention by the Austrian company Swarovski, to the two stamps of the block creates an innovative philatelic collector product. The light refracted by the crystal produces a glitter effect that is otherwise impossible on stamps and that brings life to the fireworks illustrated. Watching fireworks displays is a captivating experience shared by people from different cultures. Whether on New Year's Day, on national holidays or on other occasions, extravagant fireworks are always synonymous with celebration and exaltation. The Hong Kong Post and the Austrian Post jointly issue a set of two stamps on fireworks, marking the seventh joint stamp issue released by Hong Kong Post with other postal administrations. The stamp showing Hong Kong presents a panoramic view of the Victoria Harbour, one of the most famous

natural harbours in the world. Hong Kong Island and Kowloon Peninsular on both sides of the harbour are glamorously lit. With the night sky splendidly illuminated by colourful fireworks, this dazzling city certainly lives up to its reputation as “Pearl of the Orient”. In Austria, Vienna in particular is where fireworks have been developed to perfection. The special location of the city on the Danube, in part surrounded by mountains, means that large-scale fireworks provide millions of people with an excellent view. For up to thirty minutes, the sky above the city is lit up by increasingly artistic displays. This is the highlight that concludes many a celebration on the banks of the “Blue Danube” that Johann Strauss celebrated in his waltzes over a hundred years ago. The stamp shows a firework display in the Vienna Prater, a former hunting reserve of the Austrian Imperial family converted into a recreational area for the Viennese population in 1766. The jolly mood of the amusement park is perfectly reflected by the bursting fireworks. The stamp is dominated by the Giant Ferris Wheel, the oldest in the world and the most visible landmark of Vienna erected in 1897 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Emperor Franz Joseph I. In 1945 it was largely destroyed and, after its reconstruction, became a popular attraction of the first order.

Austria's fauna: Lynx



€0.55; FDC: 25 August 2006; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; **Design: Hannes Margreiter**; Engraving: Kirsten Lubach.

The Eurasian lynx (*Lynx Lynx*) was originally native to all the forested areas of central Europe, from the Spanish Pyrenees to Asia, from Scandinavia to Greece. While the lynx still roved in large numbers through the Austrian forests of the 18th century, by the end of the 19th it had been mercilessly exterminated as a troublesome predator. It was only in recent decades that lynxes have strayed into the forests of the Mühlviertel and the Waldviertel from the Bavarian Forest and the Bohemian Forest. However, only few animals find sufficient living

space in the Alps or in the Gurktaler Alps and the Karawanken mountains of southern Carinthia. Resettlement projects have encouraged the return of this species since the 1970s. The Eurasian lynx is the heaviest of the four lynx species. The male can weigh up to 25 kg, with a shoulder height of 50 to 70 cm and a length of up to 120 cm. The female is a little smaller. The lynx is characterised by a reddish brown to grey-beige hide with black spots, a round head, marked side whiskers and bushes of black hair on its ears. Its tail is short and stumpy, with a black tip. The lynx is a solitary animal living in a territory of an average of 150 km², the size varying according to the food supply available. Two females are often found living in a male's territory. It mainly goes hunting at dusk and dawn, when its prey is also active, hunting mostly hoofed game such as deer and chamois. It needs between one and three kilos of meat every day. The lynx creeps up and ambushes its prey, but if it is unsuccessful, it does not pursue its victim. It travels large distance within its territory mainly at night. The lynx's mating season is from February to April, when the animals can also be seen during the daytime, attracting each other's attention with their characteristic “ma-uu” call. At the end of May/beginning of June, the pregnant female finds a protected spot to give birth to usually two blind young lynxes, and stays there for the first few weeks. She brings up her young alone, breastfeeding them until they are able to tear meat. After ten months, the young animals leave their mother and set out to find a suitable territory. This is the most dangerous time for the young lynx, and most do not survive. There is an all-year ban on hunting lynx in Austria, the animal still being one of the endangered species.

The way to WIPA 2008 - Giant Wheel

€0.75; FDC: 26 August 2006; Issue: 540,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Charly Frei



WIPA 2008, the Vienna International Stamp Exhibition, can boast a long history. It was as early as 1881 that the successful series of Vienna International Stamp Exhibitions began, repeated in 1933, 1965, 1981 and 2000. WIPA 2008, from September 18 to 21 2008, in the Austria Center in Vienna is intended as a new highlight of this tradition.

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITIONS:

1881 was organised by the Vienna Philatelist Club founded in 1880, in weeks, and was held from November 13 to 20 1881 in the premises of the Society on Park Ring. The stamps were shown in opened albums in which it was then still possible to collect "all the world" and the collections shown represented a huge value.

WIPA 1933 took place just over 50 years later, from June 22 to July 9 1933 in the Secession, the Künstlerhaus and the Military Casino. Six special post offices provided special postmarks at the various locations and venues. The special registered letter certificates ("Rekozettel") for WIPA 1933 were the only ones of their kind in the First Republic. The Austrian Post Office issued the famous WIPA stamp with the post coach motif by Moritz von Schwind.

WIPA 1965 took place from June 4 to 13 1965 in the Hofburg, occupying premises in the Ehrenhof and the Classical Collections, and in the Trade Fair Palace. The exhibition comprised five thousand frames. The Post Office issued a preliminary series of eight surcharged stamps in 1964 and a series with six surcharged stamps in 1965. The preliminary series showed the panorama of the City of Vienna from the tower block in Herrengasse, while the actual WIPA 1965 series showed the development of the letter from Egyptian papyrus to the modern typewriter.

WIPA 1981 was held on the 100th anniversary of the first WIPA 1881 from May 22 to 31 1981. The venues were again the Hofburg and the Trade Fair Palace. 5,800 frames showed the best that international philately had to offer. The Post Office issued three surcharged stamps. They all showed an image of the Hofburg, but in various stages of engraving. The finished engraving was released in block form. This was both a reference to the venue and a demonstration of the high art of Austrian stamp engraving.

WIPA 2000 was dedicated to the anniversary of "150 years of Austrian stamps" and was held in the Austria Center Vienna from May 30 to June 4 2000. In order to counteract the gigantomania of the two previous exhibitions, the exhibition was limited to 2,700 frames. The competition exhibition comprised all classes at the highest international level.

Patron Saints: St. Gebhard

€0.55; FDC: 1 September 2006; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Maria Schulz; Engraving: Mag. Robert Trsek.

St. Gebhard was born in 949, the son of Graf Ulrich IV of Bregenz and Dietburga von Zähringen. He attended the Cathedral School at Constance, where he acquired a thorough education, and was ordained priest by his uncle St. Konrad I. von Konstanz. He was consecrated bishop at the age of 30, becoming Bishop of Constance with the consent of Emperor Otto II. Frequently charged with political duties by the leading figures of the Empire, he continued the reforms of his uncle, attending to the poor of his diocese throughout his life. In 983, founded a monastery at Peterhausen, near Constance, and entrusted the running of the abbey to Benedictine monks from Einsiedeln. The monastery church was consecrated in 992. The Pope made the monastery a gift of a relic of the head of Pope Gregory I, to whom the church was dedicated.



Gebhard died on August 27, 995, and he was soon worshipped as a saint, particularly in Vorarlberg. Each year the citizens of Bregenz celebrate the anniversary of his death in the chapel built in 1793 on St. Gebhard's Mount, where once stood the castle of the Counts of Bregenz. St. Gebhard is the second patron saint of the Province of Vorarlberg and patron saint of the diocese. He is represented as a bishop with his staff and a model of the church, holding a skull with a tiara as a symbol of the precious relic donated by the Pope. The picture on the stamp is the image of St. Gebhard on the altar painting in the church of Götzis Meschach. Meschach lies above the market town of Götzis in the mountains, and was made famous by Robert Schneider's novel "Brother of Sleep". As early as the second half of the 15th century there was a chapel in the remote side valley, as can be seen from the date "1463" in the choir of the old chapel. It is not known when the chapel was consecrated, although to all appearances it was by the Bishop of Chur, Lucius Iter, in 1548. The chapel itself was dedicated to St. Wolfgang. The neogothic main altar was

made by Josef Bertsch in 1883.

Cars - Steyr 220

€0.55; FDC: 9 September 2006; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Marianne Siegl.



After World War I, the Austrian weapons factory in Steyr, founded by Josef and Franz Werndl in 1964 and now part of the Magna Group, was forbidden by the Treaty of St Germain to produce weapons. To save the works, the decision was made to switch to the manufacture of motor vehicles, a successful move that was soon followed in 1920 by the first Steyr car off the production line. In 1935 the company merged with the Graz Daimler-Puch works to create Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG, with cycle and motorcycle production remaining in Graz and cars and lorries being produced in Steyr. 1936 saw the launch of the 50 and 55 model Steyrs, known as "Steyr Baby", which soon acquired a reputation as a comfortable and sturdy car with good road-holding. Although the Steyr products were at a high technical level, the small numbers meant that

they were also expensive despite modern production methods. Nevertheless there was sufficient demand for an up-market car with increased performance.

As a consequence, Steyr developed a luxury car based on the 100 and 200 models, with the Steyr 220 interior-drive limousine going into production in 1937. This was the company's flagship car, combining sophisticated technology, style and comfort. Fitted with a six-cylinder drop-valve 2260 cc engine developing 55 hp, the car achieved a top speed of 125 kmh, and, despite a weight of around 1260 kg, consumed only 11 – 15 litres of fuel per 100 km. The car's low centre of gravity combined with the Steyr swing axle drive, independent suspension and impact-free independent steering guaranteed excellent road-holding. Additional features of this four or five-door limousine were the whole-steel streamlined body and the two opposing doors on each side. The company produced both the four-door limousine and a two-door cabriolet (with two side windows). The Steyr 220 series continued to be manufactured well into the war, with a total of 5900 cars being produced until production came to an end in 1941. Owning a Steyr 220 involved pride of ownership, and attracted not a little envy. Thanks to their racing successes and involvement in demanding expeditions – Max Resch drove over 42,000 km around the world in a Steyr 100 in 1935, Steyr cars acquired a reputation extending far beyond Austria's borders for their high quality and excellent workmanship.

Motorbikes - KTM R 125 Tarzan

€0.55; FDC: 10 September 2006; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Marianne Siegl.



The KTM Tarzan, named after the jungle hero who overcame all obstacles to reach his aim, was the first sports motorcycle to be produced in series at the Mattighofen plant in Upper Austria. It was developed on the basis of the established Grand Tourist, and went into production in 1957 in the colours red, black and silver. Its 8 hp engine gave it a top speed of 107 kmh, a considerable achievement for its time made possible by increasing the compression of the 125 cm³ Rotax single-cylinder two-stroke engine and by improving the cross-sections of the ducts. The bike's fuel consumption still remained low at 2.6 litres per hundred kilometres. The bike's acceleration was improved by fitting it with four gears. The bike's frame consisted of a front swingarm, Earles type, and a tubular torsion resistant rear swingarm. Front and rear

suspension was by means of hydraulically cushioned struts, at the time the most modern form of suspension. A noticeable feature of the Tarzan was its large, 18-litre tank, allowing an uninterrupted run from Salzburg to Milan. The tank also had indentations on the side for resting the rider's arms, as well as a rubber chin-rest. It was also an affordable bike. From 1958 on, KTM equipped all its motorcycles with a new environment-friendly exhaust. This "Frankfurt silencer", invented by Dr. Leistritz, was a light-metal diecast silencer that reduced the decibels to a whisper while also increasing the bike's performance. KTM's history began in 1934, when Trunkenpolz opened a mechanic's workshop in Mattighofen. In the following years, he specialised in motorcycle sales and repairs, and in 1952 began developing a 98 ccm light motorcycle, the R100. Series production was started only one year later, with a staff of 20 making three bikes a day. The company name was now officially KTM – Kronreif-Trunkenpolz -Mattighofen. The move into racing not only brought success on the track but also encouraged the development of new motorcycle models. Although the crises of 1959/60 and 1991/92 forced the company to restructure its business and product range, they were always followed by an upswing that was reflected in the field of racing. For instance, Heinz Kinigadner won his first 250 cc class world champion title on a KTM in 1984.

Benjamin Raich

€0.55; FDC: 23 September 2006; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Renate Gruber.



He collects sporting successes at the same speed as he travels on skis: In only 13 months, Benjamin Raich became not only World Champion and Olympic victor in two disciplines, but also won the World Cup. The "Blitz aus Pitz" has achieved at the speed to lightning what only one Austrian previously managed, namely Herman Maier in 1998. In total, the 28-year old skier from the Pitz Valley has already won six World Championship and four Olympic medals. The secret of his success: a huge commitment to training and the ability to maintain a clear head in decisive situations. The speed with which Reich managed to forget his mistakes in the

Olympic combination race in Sestriere, winning gold in the Giant Slalom and Slalom a couple of days later was impressive confirmation of the mental strength of this convivial Tyrolean. The change from a technical skier to an all-rounder is the result of the training programme that the Austrian Skiing Federation developed last year specifically for competitors in the World Cup – and which led in spring 2003 to the establishment of a new training group under the abbreviation "WC4 – World Cup 4 Disciplines". Since then, Raich has been training more for the speed disciplines of the Downhill and the Super G, and is now collecting valuable World Cup points in these competitions as well. Benjamin Raich's star was first seen in 1996, when the then 18-year-old became Junior World Champion in the Slalom for the first time. Since his childhood, Benjamin Raich, born on February 28 1978 in Arzl in the Pitz Valley in Tyrol, has been trained by his father Luis, who also runs the family's own ski racing school, the "Race Center Pitztal". The positive family background formed the basis for his success. "My family is my support, and without the assistance of my parents and my brothers and sisters, I could not concentrate on skiing," says Raich proudly. The family farm is where he finds rest, and the strength to face the stress of the racing season. His hobbies are nature, tennis, climbing and bungee jumping – the bridge at Arzl is 94 m high and ideal for this sport. Obviously, as a sports star he is always in the centre of media attention, although

he would rather not be. He describes his character as being honest, ambitious and satisfied. "What is important is that you are ready to perform and that whatever you attempt to achieve is something you like doing. And then success comes by itself, of that I am convinced," is Benny Raich's modest comment

China-Austria joint issue: "Piano"

€0.55; FDC: 26 September 2006; Issue: 600,000; Printing Style: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma.



Every year thousand of tourists come to Austria from Asia in order to be able experience for themselves our high-quality musical tradition. Visits to concerts and operas are a must during their stay. It is this musical friendship that is reflected in the Austrian-China joint issue, in the form of traditional musical instruments. For Austria, the choice was of a piano by the world-famous Bösendorfer company, while China presents the guqin, a reference to a three thousand year-old musical tradition. The particular tone and technology, known as the "Vienna mechanism", make the Bösendorfer piano an instrument that enjoys international recognition. When the company's founder Ignaz Bösendorfer acquired the licence as a master piano-maker in 1828, this was the start of a tradition of Austrian piano manufacturing that has lasted

to the present. Hand-made perfection and maximum quality in production were always the features of these products. It was not long before the world of music became aware of the singing and carrying sound of his instruments. The Bösendorfer even withstood the young Franz Liszt, whose temperamental technique had demolished any number of pianos, and both pianist and public were delighted. This was the start of the piano's march across the world. Architects and artists such as Theophil Hansen, Hans Makart and Josef Hoffmann designed special pianos for Bösendorfer. Many famous pianists, including Wilhelm Backhaus, Paul Badura-Skoda and Oscar Peterson appreciate the Bösendorfer sound and see the instrument as the ideal embodiment of Viennese musical culture. The Mozart year 2006 is also reflected clearly in this stamp. The piano is to be seen against the background of the city of Salzburg on a sheet of music from the original score of Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, one of his most famous operas composed in Vienna in 1785/86. This opera was a daring political step on the part of Mozart, the literary original being Beaumarchais' Marriage of Figaro, a work that was banned in France at the time. In this play the dramatist criticized the faults of the aristocracy. While the libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte is not quite as revolutionary as the original, it was still an affront to the nobility.

China-Austria joint issue: "Guqin"



€0.55; FDC: 26 September 2006; Issue: 600,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma.

Guqin, also called the Seven-Stringed Qin, is a traditional Chinese musical instrument with a history of over 3000 years and has been chosen by China for the joint issue stamp. The plucked instrument belonging to the zither family creates delightful harmonics, and symbolizes the essence of Chinese traditional music. It was so revered in ancient China that it was given the name of "Ancestor of Chinese Music". The guqin in the stamp is called the Da Sheng Yi Yin Qin; it was produced in the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618–907) and is now kept in the Beijing Palace Museum. With its sonorous and ancient tones, exquisite designs, the ornate lacquer of primitive simplicity and its elaborate and vivid engravings, it is a perfect treasure among the guqins bequeathed to China. The background of the stamp shows the Guqintai monument, located near the Guishan Mountain of Wuhan City. The monument was built in commemoration of the story of Encountering a Bosom Friend through Music. The walls of the monument are inlaid with the lifelike relief of the story of Boya Breaking his Guqin as a Farewell to His Bosom Friend Ziqi, the only person who could understand his music. The music title "High mountains and Running Waters" was used to symbolize the friendship and "One who could understand the music" became a substitution for the phrase "bosom friend". In 2003, the guqin was included in the list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by

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UNESCO. And the music – High Mountains and Running Waters – selected as one of the representatives of the world culture, has been taken to remote outer space by the Universe Exploration Satellite to seek out the distant bosom friends of human beings. The text in the background of the stamp is a verse by Song Xiang (1748–1826), a poet of the Qing Dynasty.

Nude on Stamp 3rd value: Youngboy Vienna Austria

€0.55; FDC: 29 September 2006; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Cornelia Schlesinger.



Her unmistakeable handwriting is a marked indicator of her personality. Born under the sign of Aquarius on January 27, 1955, Cornelia Schlesinger is a self-taught artist who has established her position on the art scene by means of the staging of her own self. Her education, grammar school in Vienna and civil engineering technical college in Innsbruck, is in apparent contradiction to her artistic talents, nevertheless it gave her artistic tendencies the encouragement they needed. Her drawings and sketches were appreciated and collected by teachers and fellow-pupils alike. Her pages of poetry are delight to both old and young, while in addition she has always made use of photography as a means of giving structure to her creative work.

Cornelia Schlesinger loves to present cycles of pictures. For the year

2000, as a symbol of the millennium, she created 99 drawings with “lucky piglets” (a symbol from Austrian tradition) in different poses, published in a picture book dedicated to her family, her three daughters and her husband. In 2005 she painted 55 pictures on the topic of “Happy Birthday Mister President” which were lined up next to each other for the opening of the architecturally spectacular Paradiso Pannonia Sandhöhe wine cellar in Mönchhof. The 12- part picture “Zodiakus” is a sexist reflection of the signs of the Zodiac. Her 2005 Christmas painting entitled “Fairytale” entrances the viewer with 15 scenes from fairytales. In 2006, she has been inspired by both the Mozart Year and by the 150th anniversary of Sigmund Freud’s birth. The works “Amadeus CCL” and the composite “FREUDenHAUS” window painting were presented in Mönchhof. Cornelia Schlesinger uses a decisive visual presentation to realise her individualism in stylistic terms, communicating to the viewer’s imagination the truest meaning of the term *joie de vivre* and stimulating him or her to enjoy the moment. It is this intention that is also expressed in the male nude “Youngboy Vienna Austria 2005” on the stamp: It is where light and colour set the tone that one wants to stay, no matter where on earth one might be.

German and Austrian 107th Philately Exhibition Bad Reichenhall

€0.55 + €0.20; FDC: 6 October 2006; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma.



It was in 1896, that the “Federation of Austrian and German Philately Clubs” was founded in Cologne, comprising over 60 clubs from the German-speaking countries. The Federation survived the First World War and continued in existence until 1924. In 1921 the Federation of Austrian Philately Clubs was founded in Vienna, followed in 1924 by the “Federation of German Philately Clubs (at Home and Abroad)” in Munich. The latter, following a very eventful existence, was replaced by the “Federation of German Philatelists e.V.” in 1946.

The Philately Exhibition tradition itself started in 1889, when the first Federal Exhibition was held in Mainz. At that time, philately was still largely a leisure activity for the aristocracy and the elite, but it has since become a popular “sport” that attracts people from all sectors of society around the world. The close friendship between the Federation of German Philatelists and the Federation of Austrian Philately Clubs dates back many years, and has resulted in the resurrection of the tradition of a joint German and Austrian Philately Exhibition.

For the first time, the 107th Philately Exhibition is to be held as a joint event of the two federations from 6th to 8th October 2006 in the Bavarian spa town of Bad Reichenhall. A varied and attractive programme of events is

expected to draw visitors from far and wide to this “Philately Festival of Superlatives”. A Philately Salon and a number of special exhibitions will give the visitors the opportunity to broaden their philatelic horizons beyond their own specialist fields and to make contact with fellow collectors. The Austrian Post Office is celebrating this bridge between nations with both a commemorative stamp to be issued for the Exhibition and a display at the Bad Reichenhall event. There will also be a display by the Austrian State Printing House.

Modern Art in Austria - Valentin Oman

€0.55; FDC: 9 October 2006; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Valentin Oman; Engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel.



The original panel painting shown on the commemorative comes from the “Homo sapiens” cycle painted by Valentin Oman in 2005. It is in mixed techniques on canvas and measures 195 x 150 cm. Its motif is an example of the focus of Oman’s works: “The central theme of my painting is the human image.” Valentin Oman’s artistic concerns were given perfect expression by Kristian Sotriffer on the occasion of an exhibition in Vienna in 1995: “It is the story, the message of mankind. It is not the individual, not the individual and his fate that is his theme, but rather decay in growth ... an emerging from the past and a disappearing into the past. ... The world is full of relics, fossils, footprints, and seems interwoven with skeletons, the gone and yet still present, the metamorphosed. What is alive is already dead, and what is dead appears to us and lives on. ... He allows us to experience something about ourselves, something that speaks to us from our dust.” Oman’s paintings show man as part of this continuity, recalling man’s mortality and addressing human existence in the tension between the past and the future. The past is presented

as something transformed and remaining. Valentin Oman uses a range of media, drawing, writing, painting and sculpture, to visualise these processes. His figures emerge from the pictorial space in fragmentary form as torsos, heads or – as in the painting on the stamp – as stele-like shapes, or stand out as silhouettes against a neutral background. The surface is frequently reworked, the pictures built up in layers, creating the impression of eroded patches on which the figures are apparent as leftovers. They seem to be created from and with time, to step forward, to leave their footsteps behind them and to disappear again.

Valentin Oman was born in St. Stefan bei Villach in 1935. As a Carinthian Slovene, he grew up bilingually and is thus at home in two cultures. From 1958 on, he studied painting at the Academy of Applied Art in Vienna, graduating under Prof. Hilde Schmidt-Jesser in 1962. In 1963, he attended the master class in printing under Prof. Riko Debenjak at the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He lives and works as an artist in Vienna and in Finkenstein near Villach. He has been shown at international exhibitions since 1963. In 2005, at the age of 70, he was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art, 1st Class. For his life’s work and for his efforts for the Slovene language in Carinthia, he was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit of the Republic of Slovenia.

Animals - Pond Turtle



Self-adhesive, sold as boxed roll of 100. FDC: 6 Nov 2006; Issue: 5.1M; Printing: Photogravure; **Design: Hannes Margreiter.**

These stamps are Austria’s first self-adhesives to come in a roll in 100-piece sets. The European Pond Turtle is the only species of turtle that is indigenous to Austria and for that reason is under strict protection. Its favoured habitat are river systems untouched by human hands with muddy riverbeds and wetland forests featuring thick vegetation and plenty of dead brushwood for basking in the sun.

Animals - Northern Bald Ibis and Brown Bear

Self-adhesive; €0.55 each but sold as 5 pairs on backing sheet at €5.50; FDC 6 Nov 2006; Issue: 165,000 sets; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Hannes Margreiter.



The Northern Bald Ibis is a social bird who seeks out members of its species to form colonies of over a hundred. For a long time extinction threatened; however the Konrad Lorenz Institute in Almtal launched a successful programme to reintroduce the species to the wild. The Brown Bear is one of the largest land predators in the world. Considered a potential threat to humans, in several regions it has even been hunted to extinction. Austria is the only country in the German-speaking area that is home to a group of Brown Bears; only a small number occasionally roam in other Alpine

regions. The Brown Bear is often represented in heraldry and is featured in many fairy tales, fables, literary works and films.

Christmas 2006 - The Holy Family at rest



€0.55; FDC 10 Nov 2006; Issue: 5M; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Franz Weiss.

The artist Franz Weiss was born in Södingberg near Voitsberg in 1921. He has created almost 500 works for churches, chapels and small monuments in 237 locations in Austria and abroad. Near his home and studio in the western Styrian town of Bernbach in the Tregist Valley, he created an unequalled work of art, the village chapel of Our Lady of the Knots. Franz Weiss' talent was recognised at an early age, and he received a solid education in Graz and Vienna. Starting from late Austrian expressionism, he developed a contemporary realism through his own specific stylistic language, thereby occupying a unique position within Austrian painting. In 1979 he was awarded the title of Professor, and in 2005 he was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for services to Science and Art.

Weihnachten 2006 – Christkindl

€0.55; FDC 24 Nov 2006; Issue: 5M; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Dr. Reinhold Stecher.



As in 2005, the 2006 Christmas stamp again shows a water-colour painting by the popular former Bishop of Innsbruck; this time the Christkindl Pilgrimage Church in wintry mood. The Pilgrimage Church "Zum Christkind unterm Himmel" owes its name firstly to the village to which the church originally belonged, and secondly to the legend of the origin of the church. The land on which it was built and around which the village gradually developed is close to the village of Unterhimmel, mentioned in documents as early as 1577. The part of Christkindl around the church became part of the town of Steyr in 1938.

Old Austria: 750 Years Lvov



€0.55; FDC 1 Dec 2006; Issue: 1.2M; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Volodymyr Taran; Engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel.

The town of Lvov was founded in 1256 by Prince Danylo Halytskyj, and named after his son Lev. It attracted Tatars, Germans, Hungarians, Poles, Latvians, Austrians and Swedes. Over the centuries, they brought their cultures, traditions and religions to the town – and thus there are buildings that show the traces of the Gothic, the Baroque, the Renaissance and the Romanesque, the Rococo and Empire, as well as contemporary architecture.

[If you peer carefully at the small print to the left of the town's seal, you can see "Lemberg", which may be a more familiar name.]

Formula 1 Legends - Michael Schumacher

€0.75; FDC: 4 Dec 2006; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Charly Frei.

Michael Schumacher, born on 3 January 1969 in Kerpen (Germany), announced after his 90th Grand Prix victory at Monza that he was retiring from active participation in motor racing. He is the undisputed king of Formula 1, having been world champion seven times in total, five times between 2000 and 2004 – a record unparalleled in grand-prix racing. This makes this Switzerland-resident German the most successful racing driver of all time.



This stamp was printed in photogravure, but an error was noticed in Schumacher's Ferrari-supplied championship dates and it had to be rapidly reprinted in offset by Enchedé instead of ÖSD. Some of the Yearbook printed texts show the wrong date; the erroneous adhesives "have all been withdrawn".

100th Anniversary of the Austrian Stamp and Coin Dealers Association

€0.55; FDC 8 Dec 2006; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma.



There have been stamps for 160 years, and for about 160 years they have been collected and traded. There have been philatelic clubs for about 140 years, retailers' associations for 120 years and in 2006 the Austrian Stamp Dealers Association celebrated its 100th birthday. Seven Viennese stamp dealers, Rudolf Friedl, Moritz Grünberg, Otto Waldemar Friedl, Karl Körner, Leopold Traub, Dagobert Wlaschim and Fanny Grossmann, founded the Austrian Stamp Dealers Club in 1906. Its first chairman was Rudolf Friedl, a dealer famed throughout Europe. Now the "Austrian Stamp and Coin Dealers Association" (Österreichischer Briefmarken- und Münzenhändler-Verband - Ö.B.M.H.V.), they organise "NUMIPHIL", the stamp and coin exchange held every year since 1992.

The new Automatenmarkenmaschine



For the winter season, the new Stamp Dispensing Machines were loaded with seasonal designs by Hannes Margreiter, showing a traditional winter scene alternating with children playing in the snow. The machine sells useful preset values (eg 55 cents), but if you overpay then the change is only given as a stamp –

eg if one inserts 50 + 10 cents one has to have a 5-cent stamp. Given time, patience, and a sack-barrow of small change one can obtain a complete set of 1, 2, 3 ... cents – and each transaction also produces a printed receipt, also collectable.