

2009

Saliera



2 off 2.10€; FDC: 24 Jan; ; Issue 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

The Saliera is the only surviving goldsmith's work by the Florentine sculptor, medallion maker and goldsmith Benvenuto Cellini (1500-1571). The salt shaker ("Saliera" in Italian) made of gold is partly enamelled, stands on an ebony base, and is in the style of the late Renaissance. The work was commissioned by King François I of France and was made between 1540 and 1543 while the artist was in Paris. It was later given to Archduke Ferdinand II of Tyrol, thereby coming into the possession of the Habsburgs.

Landskron Castle



Issued as a boxed roll of 25 self-adhesive stamps; face value 0.55€. FDC: 30 Jan; Printing: Photogravure; **Design: Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. The castle is one of the most impressive castles of Austria, first named in 1351.

Classic Trademarks "Pez"



0.55€; FDC: 6 Feb; Issue 400,000; Printing: Offset. Our grandparents already knew the PEZ peppermint sweets, products from the Haas family business. In the meantime, the PEZ sweets are now available in a variety of flavours and the dispensers have achieved cult status. PEZ (derived from P-feff-E-rmin-Z - peppermint) was invented by Eduard Haas in 1927. He was the son of a merchant family that had already been involved in innovative activity at the time of the monarchy. Shortly after the end of the First World War, Haas pudding powder, vanilla sugar and Quittin (jellying aid for making jam) were on the market; and PEZ was originally intended to provide a healthy alternative for smokers. The mint flavour, regarded as sophisticated at the time, was

aimed exclusively at adults until the 1950s.

Old Austria: Cracow



1€; FDC: 13 Feb; Issue 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma. Cracow, the capital of the Voivodeship of Lesser Poland, is about 250km south of Warsaw, the country's capital. This old city, the capital of Poland until 1596, is still referred to as the country's secret capital. The old town centre and Wawel castle, the former residence of the Polish kings, are part of the UNESCO world cultural heritage.

400th birthday of Raimondo Montecuccoli



1€30; FDC: 20 Feb; Issue 200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. Montecuccoli originated from a highly regarded central Italian family, studied languages and the classics and joined the Imperial Army in 1625. His uncle Ernesto was Feldzeugmeister and captain of the guard. His most important victory was that over a huge Turkish army in 1664 in the battle of Mogersdorf an der Raab. Four years later Montecuccoli was appointed President of the Imperial Council of War. He ended his military career at the siege of Philippsburg and spent many years studying at the Imperial Court. He created the basis for the Leopoldine Academy for Natural Research.

60 years of SOS Childrens Villages



0.55€; FDC: 6 Mar; Issue 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Helga Genser.

“Only a loved child can be a loving adult” - this was the principle behind the foundation of the SOS childrens villages and originates from Hermann Gmeiner, born on June 23, 1919 in Alberschwende, Vorarlberg and died 1986 in Innsbruck, Tyrol. In Austria, there are currently 10 SOS Childrens Villages and eight SOS kindergartens. Around the world, Hermann Gmeiner's idea is already being lived out in 132 countries, financed by donations.

Formula 1 Legends: Lewis Hamilton



1€; FDC: 17 Mar; Issue 250,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Russel Harvey

Following his second place in the 2007 season, Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton, born on 7 January 1985 in Stevenage (England), became the youngest world champion in the history of Formula 1 in 2008.

100 years of Vienna Technical Museum



2€65; FDC: 17 Mar; Issue 312,000; Design: Garry McLanachan; Printed by: Outer Aspect Ltd.

The new commemorative spectacularly combines the two topics of the Vienna Technical Museum and the Mercedes Silver Arrow, and is another example of modern stamp design. Produced using lenticular technology, the stamp dramatically shows the “most beautiful form of technology” with a vivid moving 3-D effect.

Schönbrunn



FDC: 20 Mar; Issue 1,200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Audrey Möschl

The Imperial Palace of Schönbrunn with its many outbuildings and the huge park is one of Austria's most important cultural monuments, a baroque jewel in the heart of the city of Vienna and attracting nearly 7 million visitors each year. Alongside the Palace itself, the Gloriette the impressive Palm House and of course the world's oldest zoo, the Schönbrunn Tiergarten, are also well worth a visit. The Christmas market in front of the Palace is a popular meeting point both for tourists and the citizens of Vienna.

Preserving the glaciers and polar regions



0.65€; FDC: 26 Mar; Issue 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Irmgard Paul

The new commemorative raises one of the most serious problems of our age, the preservation of the glaciers and Polar regions. Alongside the vital efforts aimed at saving the rain forests from further logging activities, the research of the glaciologists is no doubt one of the most important in the global race against time to secure the ecologically balanced survival of our planet.

50 years of the Steyr Puch Haflinger



0.55€; FDC: 27 Mar; Issue 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld

This lightweight all-terrain vehicle of the Austrian company Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG was developed in Graz between 1957 and 1959 and produced there from 1959 to 1974. The planned successor for the Haflinger, the H2, is the Puch or Mercedes G developed and built in Graz and appreciated today by military and private customers around the world as the all terrain vehicle. The Haflinger's large brother, the Pinzgauer, is produced in two and three axle versions with a variety of superstructures.

200th Anniversary of the Death of Joseph Haydn



0.65€; FDC: 31 Mar; Issue 1,200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Elke Ederer

Joseph Haydn (31 March 1732 to 31 May 1809) was one of the leading Austrian Viennese Classicism composers. He was born in Rohrau in Lower Austria and grew up in modest circumstances. Discovered in 1740 by the Musical Director of St Stephen's Cathedral, who was looking for new talent at the time, he moved to Vienna where he spent nine years with the St Stephen's Boys' Choir, and also received tuition in singing, the piano and the violin. The extensive oeuvre left behind by this great composer is still part of the concert repertoire around the world and loved by millions. Joseph Haydn wrote 108 symphonies, 24 operas, 14 masses, 6 oratorios, 35 concertos for various

instruments, 83 string quartets, 46 piano trios, 21 string trios, 52 piano sonatas and an enormous quantity of lieder, motets and cantatas.

Barn owl



Issued as a boxed roll of 100 self-adhesive stamps; face value 0.55€. FDC: 4 April; Printing: Photogravure; **Design: Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

The Barn Owl is well known throughout Europe; over 30 subtypes exist. The female is darker and larger than the male.

[My thanks to Hannes for this illustration]

Christo



1€10; FDC: 15 Apr; Issue 300,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. How broad the field of modern art can be is most impressively demonstrated by the Bulgarian born Christo Vladimirov Javachev, better known as “Christo, the packaging artist”.

Fred Zinnemann



0.55€; FDC: 29 Apr; Issue 1,200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma

Fred Zinnemann was born in Vienna on April 29, 1907. As a child, he was a close friend of Billy Wilder, who like himself was later to become a famous Hollywood director. He won his first Oscar for the short film “That Mothers Might Live”. In the following four decades he directed such classics as “The Search”, “High Noon”, “From Here To Eternity”, “The Nun’s Story” and “The Day Of The Jackal” and over the years there was hardly any silver screen star with whom Zinnemann didn’t work. Fred Zimmerman was awarded a total of five Academy Oscars, and nominated a further six times. The film “High Noon” won Zinnemann the New York film critics’ Award for the Best Director in 1951.

Vienna State Opera House – The Ring of the Nibelungen



1€; FDC: 2 May; Issue 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld

Richard Wagner was amongst one of the most important innovators in European music in the 19th century. “The Ring of the Nibelungen”, a cycle of four operas, was composed over a period of more than 30 years. Two years after it was completed, the entire tetralogy (“Das Rheingold”, “Die Walküre”, “Siegfried” and “Götterdämmerung”) was given its first performance in the Bayreuth Festival Hall.

850th anniversary of the founding of St. Pölten



0.55€; FDC: 2 May; issue: 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Irmgard Paul; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

In 1159 St. Pölten obtained the first town charter of modern Austria. In 1481 it was pledged to the Hungarian king, but when he was expelled Maximilian I claimed the town as booty in the Peace of Bratislava. In the 17th and 18th centuries, St. Pölten flourished, gaining its attractive appearance with the cathedral, the town hall facade, the Church of the Carmelites, the Convent of the English Ladies and various palaces. In 1785, the bishopric was transferred from Wiener Neustadt to the town. In 1986, St. Pölten was made the capital of the province of Lower Austria, and since 1997 has also been

the seat of the Lower Austrian provincial government.

100th anniversary of the launch of the Thalia propeller steamer



0.55€; FDC: 7 May; Issue: 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Dr. Stefan Klampferer; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

“With this new commemorative, the Austrian Post Office is celebrating what is without doubt a unique piece of floating culture”; the German text is somewhat more helpful (!) saying that the Thalia is one of the last screw-propeller steam-driven boats in Europe. Built in Dresden in 1909, it was taken out of service in 1974 but repaired in 1988 and is now the flagship of the Wörthersee fleet. The 2-cylinder engine produces 110kW; the ship is 40 metres long and displaces 91

tonnes. 300 passengers can enjoy its restaurant, bar and saloons.

Religious art in Austria - Baptismal font in the Old Cathedral, Linz



0.55€; FDC: 8 May; Printing: Engraved-recess; Design & engraving: Mag. Robert Trsek; Printed: ÖSD.

The Old Cathedral was constructed from 1669 to 1678 and is renowned for the spaciousness of the single-nave building. The Diocese of Linz was founded in 1784; by the end of the 19th century Linz had grown so much that a new larger cathedral was built.

An important feature of the Old Cathedral is the famous “Bruckner Organ”, originally made for the Engelszell Monastery Church but moved to Linz when the Cistercian monastery was dissolved. The organ was adapted especially according to the wishes of Anton Bruckner, who was cathedral organist here from 1855 to 1868.

140th anniversary of the Vienna State Opera House



1€; FDC: 25 May; Issue: 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

Viewed from the Opernring, i.e. from the front, one sees the historic part of this elegant building that has survived from the original of 1869. The facades are in the Renaissance style, while the loggia on the Ringstrasse side impressively underlines the public character of the opera house. Although much of the interior of the old Opera House was destroyed on 12 March 1945, the main facade, the central staircase with the “ceremonial

stairs”, the “Schwind” foyer and the Tea Salon on the first floor were all spared.

Formula 1 Legends - 3



4x0.55€; FDC: 27 May; Issue: 250,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld; Printed by: ÖSD. This block of stamps brings the Formula One Legends series to its provisional end.

2009

200th anniversary of the Battle of Aspern and Essling



1€10; FDC: 4 June; Issue: 300,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter; Printed by: ÖSD. Block issue.

The Battle of Aspern took place on 21 and 22 May 1809 between the Napoleonic armies and Austria, near the villages of Aspern and Essling (now part of Vienna). It was of historic importance because it was the first time Napoleon was defeated on the battlefield.

Europe 2009 - Astronomy



0€65; FDC: 5 June; Issue: 600,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Irmgard Paul; Printed: ÖSD

Under the direction of the Technical University of Graz, experts from Austrian universities have constructed the first Austrian satellite, TUGSAT-1, which is equipped with telescope, computer, mass memory and memory controls, thermal controls, power supply and data transmission; it will weigh only around 6 kg. An astronomical camera on board opens up new possibilities for exploring the stars.

UNESCO World Heritage List: Graz historic old town centre



1€; FDC 12 June; Issue: 500,000; Engraved-recess printing; Design: Peter Sinaweil; Engraver: Professor Wolfgang Seidel.

100 years of the Wiener Neustadt airfield



1€40; FDC: 12 June; Issue: 250,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma.

On June 11, 1909 the municipal council of Wiener Neustadt resolved that: "For the purpose of promoting mechanical flight, the municipal council shall construct an aeroplane hall on a plot of land located at Wölldorferstrasse on the Steinfeld, shall make the plots of land in this area available to the tenants of the hall for purposes of flight trials, and shall permit other interested parties to construct similar halls." It opened

on November 17, 1909, three hangars accommodated the first Imperial and Royal military aircraft.

Animals - Longhorn beetle



0€75; FDC: 19 June; Issue: 4,130,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.; Self Adhesive Stamps

The Rosalia longhorn has antennae up to twice as long as the body in males, and the same length in females. The coloration serves as good camouflage with their preferred habitat, the European Beech. They are found from the Alps east to Slovakia.

100 years of the Wachau Railway



0€75; FDC: 20 June; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Engraved-recess; Design: Peter Sinawehl; Engraver: Prof. Gerhart Schmirl.

Opened in 1909, the line runs through the Danube regions of Wachau, Nibelungengau and Strudengau, linking the towns of Krems, Grein and St. Valentin. The journey is full of variety, running past vineyards and historical sites, following the course of the Danube. The landscape is characterised by natural beauties such as the terraces of the old vineyards as well as numerous cultural monuments.

Animals - honeybee and bee-eater

10 x 0€55; FDC: 28 June; Issue: 650,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**; Self Adhesive Stamps in a set of 10 on a yellow card like previous issues.



Anemones



0€55; FDC: 1 Sept; Issue: 200,000; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé.

This stamp was issued as a "loyalty bonus gift for 2009" to Opost subscribers. It shows a bunch of anemones, based on an ancient depiction in the 'Florilegium of Prince Eugen of Savoy' which is kept in the Austrian National Library.

60 years since the filming of "The Third Man"



0€65; FDC: 2 Sept; Issue: 900,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

The story was set in Vienna after the Second World War. The city is divided into five zones, one administered by each of the occupying forces, the USA, the Soviet Union, France and the UK, plus the international zone administered jointly by all four. The black market is flourishing, and anyone who resists the gangs of black marketeers ends up in the Danube.

One of the most famous scenes is without doubt the chase through the extensive sewers (in reality nearly all was a stage set at Pinewood Studios built by Hans Smith's Uncle Bert!), in which Harry Lime, played by Orson Welles, is injured by gunfire and then, trapped in an exit shaft, is finally shot dead. The theme music, played on the Zither, is perhaps even better known than the film!

20th anniversary of the opening of the Austria-Hungary border.



0€65; FDC: 10 Sept; Issue: 1,000,000; Printing: Offset; Design: I. Benedek; Printed by: Hungarian Banknote Printing Co.

This joint issue, "20th anniversary of the opening of the border between Hungary and Austria", is the commemoration by the post offices of Hungary, Germany and Austria of one of the most important political events of recent history. The fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 led to permanent changes in and for Europe, not only from a political point of view but also for the economy and society.

Day of the Stamp 2009



2€65+1€30; FDC: 11 Sept; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld; Special issue with surcharge

The MS Österreich was ceremoniously launched on July 29, 1928. It survived WWII as a rundown wreck, and after lengthy restoration made its second highly acclaimed maiden voyage in the summer of 1953. The MS Österreich with its three salons has a capacity of 600, including seating for 230 inside. Catering for the passengers comes from the ship's own kitchen, which supplies one restaurant and two on-board buffets.

Commemorative block "Carnuntum-Gerulata Roman excavations"



0€55 & 0€65; FDC: 11 Sept; Issue: 250,000; Printing: Engraved-recess; Block issue, jointly by Austria and Slovakia.

Carnuntum, just past Schwechat, was founded by the Roman general Tiberias roughly 2000 years ago and became the capital of the province of Upper Pannonia. At its greatest, Carnuntum occupied an area of around 10 square km and had a population of some 50,000. It was a base for the Roman Danube fleet. Hadrian raised Carnuntum to the status of a

town, Septimus Severus made it a "colonia". After the Romans withdrew in the middle of the fifth century, Carnuntum increasingly sank into oblivion.

Gerulata was a Roman military camp close to modern Rusovce, a district of the Slovakian capital Bratislava. The camp was abandoned in the 4th century; the best surviving building is the foundations of a square house 30 by 30 metres, with walls roughly 2½ metres thick.

Berta von Suttner: 120 years since the writing of "Lay Down Your Arms!"



0€55; FDC: 12 Sept; Issue: 900,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma.

Born Bertha Kinsky, her upbringing was left to her mother who was addicted to gambling. When the money ran out in 1873, Bertha took up the post of governess for the four daughters of Baron von Suttner. However, Bertha and Suttner's son Arthur fell in love, much to the displeasure of his parents, and Berta was forced to resign in 1876. On 12 June 1876, she and Arthur secretly married in Vienna, then travelled to Mingrelia in Western Georgia to stay with Princess Ekatarina Dadiani, spending nine hard-working years there and becoming skilled authors and journalists. Once they returned to Austria, Berta was able to devote herself increasingly to pacifism.

Her anti-war novel "Lay Down Your Arms!" was published in autumn 1889, and was immediately a world bestseller – much to the annoyance of the military and the armaments industry. She was convinced that mass murder was no solution to any problem. In 1902, her husband Arthur died, a great loss for which not even the 1905 Nobel Peace Prize could console her. She died on 21 June 1914 in Vienna, where she had lived since 1903. Seven days later, the heir to the Austrian throne was assassinated in Sarajevo, the start of the First World War.

The Rosary Triptych



0€55 + 0€75 + 1€; FDC: 18 Sep; Issue: 750,000; Printing: Engraved-recess; Design: Prof. Ernst Fuchs; Engraver: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel; Type: Block issue.

Ernst Fuchs deliberately intended his 3m x 3m triptych to dissolve the dichotomy between the Jewish and Christian faiths, and to stimulate a dialogue on this topic. The first painting was

displayed in the apse of the redesigned interior of the Hetzendorf Parish Church in 1958; by Christmas 1960 the triptych was complete. Art experts and the press were delighted, but the public expressed emotions ranging from helpless incomprehension to spiteful rejection. In September 1979 the pictures were torn down and vandalised; but restored and replaced in 1999.

Gregor Schlierenzauer



1€; FDC: 26 Sep; Issue: 300,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Renate Gruber; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B. V.

This popular Austrian sportsman excels in all types of ski jumping and ski flying.

Wolfgang Loitzl



1€; FDC: 26 Sep; Issue: 300,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Renate Gruber; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B. V.

Another Austrian ski jumper, at first a reliable member of the team and later winning individual events.

Series Locomotives: Drösing - Zistersdorf local railway



1€; FDC: 4 Oct; Issue: 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: E. Sladek; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

In 1886, the Kaiser Ferdinand Northern Railway was granted a new licence obliging it to build and operate a number of additional local railways. On October 1, 1889, the route from Drösing to Zistersdorf via Ringelsdorf, Niederabsdorf and Eichhorn was opened. The stamp shows a 5042 series diesel railcar in Zistersdorf station. The line has avoided closure because of the importance of its freight traffic: initially bricks and sugar beet; oil in the 1930s, now rubbish to the waste incineration plant.

Modern Art in Austria - Leander Kaiser



0.55€; FDC: 9 Oct; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Leander Kaiser.

Leander Kaiser, born in Innsbruck on July 2 1947, is without doubt one of Austria's most remarkable painters. His highly regarded activity, which has also achieved international repute, is not restricted to the graphic arts; he is also the author of numerous philosophical, art theory and art history texts. In his doctoral thesis in 1980, for instance, he addressed the "problem of general humanity in Hegel's aesthetics".

The painting dates from 1994 and bears the title "Woman rocking on a chair".

Block: Austria-Japan Year 2009



2x1€40; FDC: 16 Oct; Issue: 200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: M. Morita; Printed by: Cartor Security Printing. Block issue.

The present elaborately-designed commemorative block is the first-ever joint issue by Austria and Japan in their 140 years of friendly relationship. Uemura Shōen (1875-1949) was the most important painter of the Meiji, Taishō and early Shōwa periods. She was above all famous for her representation of beautiful women in the typical Japanese style; This painting dates from 1936 and bears the title "Autumn clothing". Gustav Klimt (1862-1918) was one of the most important representatives of the Viennese Jugendstil. His portraits of society women made him world-famous. This painting of Emilie Flöge dates from 1902. The background of the sheet shows a lacquer tray with autumn grasses dating from the 16th century; the amphora-shaped vase from 1817 is from the Vienna Porcelain Factory, where the elegant flower arrangement was painted by Josef Nigg.

Block: Velázquez - portrait of the Infanta Margarita Teresa



2x0.65€; **FDC:** 22 Oct; **Issue:** 250,000; **Printing:** Photogravure; **Design & Printing:** Real Casa de la Moneda. Block issue. ANK2865 & 2866

Margarita Teresa was the daughter of King Philip IV of Spain and Maria Anna of Austria. Her marriage to Leopold I, who was her uncle and also her cousin, was the result of protracted negotiations and plans. The Madrid Court had three paintings by Diego Velázquez sent to Vienna, showing the young Infanta at the ages of three, five and eight. In 1666, the 15-year-old bride arrived in Vienna and the marriage was celebrated in great splendour. The young Empress Margarita Teresa died in Vienna at the age of 21, shortly after the birth of her sixth child. Leopold I used this marriage later to establish his claim to Spain during the Spanish War of Succession.

Advent 2009

0.65€; FDC: 6 Nov; **Issue:** 2,000,000; **Printing:** Offset; **Design:** Altbischof Dr. Reinhold Stecher.

The stamp shows the small church of Ranui in the Vilsnäs Valley, South Tyrol. Ranui (Rhaeto-Romance for “old farmyard on a branch of the stream”) was a farm that was converted into a small hunting castle around 1700, with a small church being added at the same time. The scene is dominated by the 3025 m high north wall of the Sass Rigais in the Geisler Group. The picture was painted by Dr Reinhold Stecher, the former bishop of the diocese of Innsbruck.



Classic Trademarks "Palmers"

0.55€; FDC: 12 Nov; **Issue:** 400,000; **Printing:** Offset; **Design:** Irmgard Paul

Palmers means not only international underwear and lingerie trends; it is also a name that stands for impulses that have made their mark on society through the evocative and internationally acknowledged poster campaigns and their reflection of the image of women that have had a visible influence on the development of this image. It was above all Palmers' advertising that has influenced and contributed to the determination

of the image of women in Austria over the last 90 years. The image of women that Palmers then went on to create was that of the self-confident sensuous woman with a huge inner aura. *[I don't write this stuff, I only copy it. Ed.]*

Patron Saints "St. Leopold"

0.55€; FDC: 13 Nov; **Issue:** 500,000; **Printing:** Photogravure and Intaglio; **Design:** Maria Schulz; **Engraver:** Mag. Robert Trsek.

St Leopold, the patron saint of the province of Lower Austria, brings to an end the popular “patron saints” series. As with the other stamps in the series, Maria Schulz (design) and Robert Trsek (engraving) were responsible for the finished version of this attractive commemorative.

Leopold III, the Mild or the Pious, lived from 1073 to 1136. He was of the Babenberger lineage, his father being Margrave Leopold II and his mother Ida von Formbach-Ratelnberg.



Leopold III's grave is in the Lower Austrian monastery of Klosterneuburg, which he founded in 1108; it gradually expanded to become Leopold's residence. Other monasteries were founded at Heiligenkreuz and Klein-Mariazell, their functions being mainly evangelisation, education and the cultivation of what was still a densely forested area.

Christmas 2009 - 60 years of the Christkindl Post Office



0.55€; FDC: 20 Nov; **Issue:** 6,500,000; **Printing:** Offset; **Design:** Adolf Tuma.

It was a miraculous healing and the courage of an abbot from Garsten in Upper Austria that led to the construction of the pilgrimage church of the Merciful Christkindl at Baum unterm Himmel. In 1725, the church was consecrated and in 1787 raised to the status of an independent parish church. The establishment of the Christkindl Christmas Post Office in 1950 was the Austrian Post Office's contribution to making the baroque treasure known throughout the world.

It was an officer of the occupying army in the Second World War who had the idea of setting up a Christmas Post Office. The idea was taken up by the Vienna General Post Administration, and on December 15, 1950 the first special Post Office whose function was to send greetings with a special postmark was opened up in the only room of the "Haus Davids" inn (the innkeeper was called Georg David). Although only mail for Austria was accepted in the first period of operations, even then over 42,000 letters were sent via Christkindl. In 2009, the "heavenly post office" celebrated its 60th anniversary.

10 years of the Essl Museum



0.55€; FDC: 21 Nov; **Issue:** 300,000; **Printing:** Offset; **Design:** Michael Rosenfeld.

The Essl Museum in Klosterneuburg just outside Vienna without doubt houses one of the most comprehensive and exciting collections of modern art in Austria. To celebrate the 10th year of its creation, the Austrian Post Office sends its congratulations in the form of a commemorative stamp.

The starting point for Agnes und Karlheinz Essl's collection is their personal view of contemporary art. Austrian painting from 1945 forms the core of the collection, but since the 1990s there has also been a greater focus on international art and contemporary electronic and experimental music. Agnes and Karlheinz Essl are convinced that "Art enriches life and releases innovatory forces. Art is an elixir of life that permits deeper insight into interrelationships of life and existence."

200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin

3x0€55; FDC: 24 Nov; **Issue:** 250,000; **Printing :** Photogravure and Intaglio; **Design & Engraving:** Mag. Robert Trsek. Block issue.

As the founder of modern evolutionary theory, Charles Darwin (1809-1882) is without doubt one of the most important scientists of all times. His work had a fundamental influence on biology and geology, and was of major importance for subsequent ideas.

