

2018



Vienna Tuba. 2€10; 22.1.2018; 130,000; Maria Schulz; Engraved-recess printing; Enschedé. The Vienna Tuba is a special version of the ordinary tuba, developed to blend seamlessly into the Classical Viennese Orchestral Sound. Unusually, it has six valves, three operated by each hand.

Bentwood Furniture - Michael Thonet. 80c; 22.1.2018; 350,000 in minisheets of 10; David Gruber; Offset; Enschedé. Brought by Prince Metternich from Germany to Vienna, Thonet perfected the manufacture of bent-wood chairs (as seen in every coffee-house in Vienna) – and their efficient packing: 36 of Nr 14 will fit in a 1m³ box! A previous stamp (2002) showed the Nr 14 design; this time the Nr 4 is featured.



Steyr Type 50 "Baby". 1€25; 27.1.2018; 130,000; David Gruber; Offset; Enschedé. The Steyr 50 Kleinwagen, aka Steyr Baby, was developed by Steyr-Daimler-Puch and sold from 1936 to 1938 as a basic yet comfortable and economical transport for 4 people with their luggage. It cost 4,500 Schillings.

Two Faces: 68c; 15.2.2018; 240,000 in minisheets of 6; Johannes Lampert & Daniel Matt; Offset; Enschedé. The stamp illustrates the modern trend away from multi-generation families living together under the same roof, to solitary or single-parent-with-child living in a separate dwelling, often in a different town or indeed country.



Jan Davidsz. de Heem – Still life, Breakfast with Champagne Glass and Pipe. 2€10; 22.2.2018; 130,000; Kirsten Lubach; Engraved-recess printing; Enschedé. Baroque splendour in abundance! A characteristic painting by artist Jan Davidsz. De Heem – one of the most important Dutch still life artists of the 17th century – adorns this commemorative stamp from the "Old Masters" series.

Joannis Avramidis, Large Head. 68c; 22.2.2018; 240,000; Regina Simon; Offset; Enschedé. The "Großer Kopf" is a characteristic bronze sculpture by the Greek-Austrian sculptor Joannis Avramidis (1922-2016) dating from around 1970. Described as "Master of the human form", Avramidis was much honoured in his adopted homeland.



"Yellow Rhododendron": the Subscriber's bonus stamp for 2017. 68c; 3.3.2018; 330,000; Brigitte Heiden; Offset; Enschedé. Valid for postage but not listed in most catalogues.



Postage stamps 1863/64. 220c+68c; 3.3.2018; 130,000; Anita Kern; Offset; Enschedé. The postage stamps issued in 1863 and 1864 have the white double-headed eagle in a coloured oval frame with a geometric design, with the then currency stated above and the face value below.

KTM R 125 Grand Tourist motor bike. 2€20; 17.3.2018; 250,000; David Gruber; Offset; Enschedé. A legendary two-wheeler from Austria.



300th birthday of Kremser Schmidt. 80c; 13.4.2018;

Kremser Schmidt (1718-1801) was an important Austrian painter of the late Baroque and the beginning of Classicism and is best known for his religious paintings. His good contacts to the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts soon brought him many commissions, and so his altarpieces and scenes of saints can be found in many parish churches and monasteries in the country. In 1768 he was admitted to the academy himself, although he had no academic art training. In

addition to his ecclesiastical works, he also created portraits and mythological representations as well as numerous drawings and etchings, which show a strong influence of Rembrandt's works.

His self-portrait, which is on display in the Alte Galerie in the Joanneum Universal Museum in Graz, shows him around the age of 30 as a self-confident and successful painter. Martin Johann Schmidt was artistically active into old age - his extensive work includes more than 1000 items. Another well-known family portrait shows the seventy-year-old artist sitting at an easel with his family. It was probably intended to furnish his home and studio in Stein an der Donau. Today the privately owned portrait can be seen on loan at the Belvedere in Vienna.

2018 Road World Championships Innsbruck. 80c; 13.4.2018; 175,000; innsbruck-tirol sports GmbH; Offset; Enschedé. The Union Cycliste Internationale Road World Championships will be held in the Tirol from 22nd to 30th September 2018. For a few days this will make Innsbruck the focal point for road cycling, but even without this the Tyrolean capital city is well worth a visit: it is considered one of the most beautiful urban alpine cities in the world.



Heilig-Geist-Kirche in Vienna's Ottakring district.

1€75; 14.4.2018; 200,000; Peter Sinaweil; Kirsten

Lubach; engraved-recess printing; Enschedé. The commemorative stamp from the "Sacred Art in Austria" series shows the high altar of the Heilig-Geist-Kirche (Church of the Holy Ghost) on the Schmelz former parade ground in Vienna's Ottakring district, which depicts the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Hotel Sacher. 1€70; 20.4.2018; 130,000; Regina Simon; Offset; Enschedé. The stamp shows the entrance to the Hotel Sacher in Vienna and a piece of the cake named after it. The legendary Original Sacher-Torte with its deliciously smooth chocolate covering and apricot jam filling was and still is a huge success: “often imitated, never bettered”.



You can buy one in the shop – eg the piccolo, 12cm dia, 400-gram, 27€50 in a wooden box. If that’s not big enough you can order one up to 46cm diameter.

650 years of the Austrian National Library. 1€75; 6.5.2018; 200,000; Karin Klier; Offset; Enschedé.

The centrepiece of the Austrian National Library in Vienna’s Hofburg is undoubtedly the Baroque State Hall, which Emperor Charles VI had built during the 18th century by Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach and his son. The ceiling frescoes are the work of Daniel Gran. Particularly outstanding features are the statues of the Habsburg rulers and four impressive Venetian globes. The State Hall houses around 200,000 books from the years 1501–1850. The Library also runs the ALEX web site <http://alex.onb.ac.at/> where all of Austria’s laws are freely readable.



EUROPA 2018 – Vienna’s Schemerl Bridge. 80c; 9.5.2018; 185,000; Marion Füllerer; Offset; Enschedé. This year’s **EUROPA** stamp is dedicated to “Bridges”.



On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of Otto Wagner, the Schemerl bridge on the Nussdorf weir in Vienna was selected for the commemorative stamp. Spanning 49 metres over the Danube Canal and towpath, the bridge links Nussdorf in Vienna’s 19th district with the Brigittenauer Sporn in the 20th. It owes its name to the architect and hydraulic engineer Joseph Maria Schemerl von Leythenbach, who as Hofbauratsdirektor drew up a plan for regulating the Danube in 1810, although this was never implemented. The Schemerl bridge was built between 1894 and 1899 as part of the Nussdorf weir and lock system. Just upstream the Danube Canal

branches off from the Danube, with the weir regulating the amount of water that enters the Canal. Otto Wagner designed the system; the bronze lions on the pillars at each end of the bridge are by the sculptor Rudolf Weyr. See also “The bridges over the Donaukanal” in Austria 167 (Autumn 2009).

Locate and insert the photos I took!

150 Years of District Administration. 2x68c block; 25.5.2018; 160,000 blocks; David Gruber; Offset; Enschedé. On 19 May 1868 an imperial statute introduced the current form of District Administration in Austria (Bezirkshauptmannschaft); they were the administrative authorities for a specified district.



Sports. A group of 3 stamps on water sports issued 25.5.2018 begins an ongoing series. Designed by Roman Lipner-Keck and printed in Offset by Enschedé, the 68c depicts water-skiing; the 80c kite surfing; and the 170c sailing. The printings are 210,000, 185,000 and 190,000 respectively.



Tag der Briefmarke. 2€88+1€44 surcharge; 25.5.2018; 33,500 sheets-of-6; Roman Lipner-Keck; Offset; Enschedé. The design incorporates sights from around Wörthersee in Kärnten – where the Sports stamps are pictured.

800 years of the Diocese of Graz-Seckau. 80c; 8.6.2018; 195,000; Marion Füllerer; Offset; Enschedé.

At the start of the 13th century, Eberhard II the Archbishop of Salzburg outsourced parts of his bishopric, and the diocese of Seckau was founded on 22nd June 1218. The first Bishop of Seckau was Karl I of Friesach; with his episcopal seat and cathedral at the existing Augustinian Monastery in Seckau. When Emperor Joseph II dissolved Seckau Abbey; the episcopal seat was relocated to St. Giles at Graz. 2018 is also the 1,300th anniversary of the death of St Rupert, a patron saint of the diocese. The stamp shows a detail from a 1520 statue of St Rupert made by Lienhart Astl.



The traditional costume of the Thayatal. 80c; 24.6.2018; 350,000 in sheets-of-6; Anita Kern; Offset; Enschedé. This year's stamp in the "Classic traditional costumes" series presents that of the Thayatal in the Waldviertel region of Lower Austria.



Centenary of the death of Peter Rosegger. 2€30; 26.8.2018; 475,000; David Gruber; Offset; Enschedé.



2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of the Styrian author Peter Rosegger, born on 31st July 1843 in Alpl near Krieglach in Styria, the oldest of seven children. His parents were foresters and the boy could not attend school regularly; he was too frail for the heavy work of forestry so trained as a travelling tailor. He learned a great deal about the lives of the people in his homeland, soon developing a passion for reading, and started to write his own stories and poems. Throughout his life Peter Rosegger remained very attached to his home. He received many awards for

his work and for his social engagement, such as the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art and the Order of Franz Joseph, as well as being nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature. He died on 26th June 1918 in his home in Krieglach.

Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 1€35; 29.6.2018; 240,000; Marion Füllerer; Offset; Enschedé. (The original design omitted some smaller countries – rapidly corrected!)

The presidency of the Council of the European Union (also known as the Council of Ministers) changes every six months; and this is the third time that Austria has taken on the presidency and the various associated duties.

The Council comprises the member states ministers responsible for the various areas. Its remit is primarily negotiating and enacting EU legislation in conjunction with the European Parliament; coordinating the policies of member states, including in the fields of economic, budgetary and employment policy, education, culture and youth and sport; the joint foreign and security policies of the EU; international agreements and drawing up the EU budget. Additionally there are the negotiations for the United Kingdom leaving the European Union ("Brexit"). The stamp depicts the outlines of all 28 member states of the European Union; the stars are picked out in gold leaf.



Birth centenary of Leonard Bernstein. 90c; 6.7.2018; 295,000; Regina Simon; Offset; Enschedé. Bernstein was born the son of Jewish immigrants on 25th August 1918 in Lawrence, Massachusetts in the USA. He learned to play the piano while just a child, and in 1939 he graduated in music from Harvard University. His first major appearance as a conductor followed in 1943. Bernstein is best known for his musicals, especially *West Side Story* from 1957. The legendary film of the same name from 1962 won ten Oscars. Bernstein also worked in Europe after WWII; in 1959 he conducted at the Salzburg Festival and he was a regular guest conductor

for the Viennese Philharmonic and at the Vienna State Opera from the 1960s on. Leonard Bernstein died on 14th October 1990 in New York.

Modern Art series: Hubert Scheibl. 1€80; 6.7.2018; 190,000; Dieter Krauss; Offset; Enschedé. Hubert Scheibl was born in 1952 in Gmunden. Hubert Scheibl is one of the most important Austrian artists of the modern age. He says of his work, *"In the alchemy of seeing, the limits of our images are the limits of our world. The image often has a remnant of memory, a trace that points beyond what can be seen. My work is a searching movement that intuitively converges on unknown fields of energy and forms of energy, oscillating constantly between here and there."* The American art critic Donald Kuspit wrote: *"Scheibl's paintings are authentically pre-pictorial, like the best abstract art. That is, they articulate a surface that is not so much a screen on which images are projected as a seismograph registering primordial sensations."*



Rosenbauer ‘HEROS’ titan helmet. 2€70; 20.7.2018; 260,000; Robert Sablovic; Offset; Enschedé. Neither Austrian Post nor Die Briefmarke deign to explain what the stamp shows. However Google reveals the secret: it’s a high spec helmet for firefighters!



Centenary of Republic of Austria. 80c; 23.8.2018; 350,000 in sheetlets of 10; Helmut Andexlinger, Offset; Enschedé. After the end of the First World War and the fall of the monarchy, the Republic of Austria was created. On 21st October 1918, the Provisional National Assembly convened, after which a provisional constitution was enacted and a State Council established. The first State Chancellor was the social democrat Dr. Karl Renner. The German-Austrian Republic, as it was then called, was proclaimed on 12th November 1918 in front of hundreds of thousands of people who had gathered on the Ring in front of the parliament building. On the previous day, Emperor Charles I had renounced all participation in affairs of state (but carefully did not abdicate). The commemorative stamp shows the parliament building in Vienna, the central location of the democracy to which

Austria subscribes.



Historic Transport: Tauernstrasse coach. 2€10; 24.8.2018; 130,000 blocks-of-one; Regina Simon; Offset; Enschedé. Four-horse-drawn passenger coach at the top of the pass on the Tauern mountain road, which connects Pongau with Lungau. In addition to the mail, the coach is also carrying passengers and their luggage, which is strapped to the roof. The coach appears to be travelling at high speed; the road looks to be exceptionally firm and well-used. The coachman sits beneath the protruding roof at the front of the carriage.



Centenary of deaths of Klimt, Schiele, Moser & Wagner. 3€20; 24.8.2018; 40,000 blocks-of-four; Anita Kern; Offset; Enschedé. 1918 was a fateful year for Viennese modernism; four of the most important artists of the modern age died: Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, Koloman Moser and Otto Wagner. The block of stamps shows Moser's painting “Spring”, Klimt's “Death and Life”, a light urban railway station designed by Wagner, and Schiele's “self-portrait with Physalis”.

rebuilt – twice! The present building is described as “A complete work of Baroque art”.

Basilica Maria Geburt, Burgenland. 80c; 8.9.2018; 190,000; Kirsten Lubach; Offset; Enschedé. In the series “Churches in Austria”: the stamp shows the Basilica of the Nativity of Mary in Frauenkirchen, in the district of Neusiedl am See. The church was destroyed by the Turkish invasions and





Klaus Maria Brandauer. 80c; 20.09.2018; 350,000; Kirsten Lubach; Offset; Enschedé. “From Bad Aussee to Hollywood”. To celebrate his 75th birthday, the actor Klaus Maria Brandauer is now being honoured with an illustrated portrait on a commemorative stamp in the “Austrians in Hollywood” series.

Saint Erentrude. 1€75; 21.09.2018; 160,000; Kombi; Peter Sinawehl; Enschedé. St. Erentrude, also known as the “mother” of the province of Salzburg, died 1,300 years ago. This engraved stamp from the “Religious art in Austria” series is dedicated to her. She came from a noble family from Worms and followed



her uncle, St. Rupert, to Salzburg. He had Nonnberg Abbey built below the Hohensalzburg fortress for his niece, who became the first abbess. Like Erentrude, her fellow nuns were also of noble birth and well-educated. The nuns’ work was dedicated to the care of the poor and sick as well as the upbringing and education of adults and children, especially girls.



Styrian hat. 6€90; 22.09.2018; 140,000; Design and embroidery by Hämmerle & Vogel. The Styrian suit was already a popular item of clothing in Styria in the 19th century – famously worn by Archduke Johann. The grey loden jacket with its dark green trim is traditionally accompanied by a Styrian hat. This is primarily manufactured from dark grey or dark green woollen felt or animal hair; the hat band is likewise usually dark green and is decorated with a “Gamsbart” (made from the greyish black hair from the neck of a chamois buck) or feathers.

The traditional Vorarlberg company Hämmerle & Vogel, with its headquarters in Lustenau, has been in the embroidery business for 60 years. International clients such as Chanel and Oscar de la Renta rely on the company’s expertise – as does Austrian Post.

Every Styrian hat stamp takes around 6,600 stitches and 33 metres of embroidery thread to make. The hat, in the special “Styrian green”, is made of exclusive merino sheep’s wool thread produced by the company Schoeller from Hard in Vorarlberg. This “Shaminah” merino wool thread impresses with its 14.5 micron wool fibre, the finest and highest grade of wool fibre that exists. The sheep’s wool used for this comes from a number of Australian farms which have been awarded “Bluesign” certification for their sustainable textile production. The Gamsbart decoration is made of two twisted black and grey threads. The hat is affixed to an ecru background with guipure lace perforations.

100 years of airmail. 90c + 45c block with surcharge; 06.10.2018; 115,000; Anita Kern; Offset; Enschedé. This stamp is the first of a Miniseries marking the 100th anniversary of VÖPH (the Federation of Austrian Philately Associations) in 2021, who will receive the ‘minimal’ surcharge as was done for various past WIPAs. With aircraft already having been used to transport field post during the First World War, 1918 marks the start of civilian airmail.



30th anniversary of “Vier Pfoten” (= 4 paws). 90c; 12.10.2018; 230,000; Marion Füllner; Offset; Enschedé. 4 paws is an animal rescue organisation; the stamp shows a rescued bear.

Congratulations bouquet. 80c; 14.10.2018; 700,000; Roland Vorlauffer; Offset; Enschedé. A philatelic floral greeting, the congratulations stamp is a colourful adornment for any letter. There is no value printed on the stamp, but it is valid for the standard inland rate. Stamps of this type have previously been issued for various occasions, as a “thank you”, for example, or as a stamp for sending expressions of sympathy.



Weststeiermark, in the series “wine regions of Austria”. 90c; 18.10.2018; 340,000; David Gruber; Offset; Enschedé. Issued in minisheets of 10. This year’s wine stamp features the Blue Wildbacher grape.

150 years of the Crown Prince Rudolf Railway - The route to the south. 1€35; 20.10.2018; 250,000; Peter Sinaweil and Kirsten Lubach; Offset; Enschedé.



This stamp commemorates the third railway line to traverse the Austrian Alps after the Southern Railway over the Semmering Pass and the Brenner Railway in the west. The railway from St. Valentin to Tarvisio, also known as the Crown Prince Rudolf Railway, was intended to connect the centres of the iron industry in Upper Austria, Styria and Carinthia to the Southern Railway, which ran from Vienna to Trieste. The intention was to divert transit traffic from Germany and Bohemia to the Rudolf Railway via additional access routes in order to increase utilisation. The newly founded “*k. k. priv. Kronprinz Rudolf-Bahn Gesellschaft*” (Imperial and Royal privileged company of the Crown Prince Rudolf railway, or KRB for short) was granted a concession to build the railway. The engineer Franz Kazda adapted the route to match the terrain, taking it through the valleys and over the Schober Pass, the lowest crossing over the Alpine ridge. On 15th August 1868 the first section of the route from St. Valentin to Steyr was finally opened. A continuous journey, lasting 14 hours, along the full 407 kilometres to Tarvisio became possible from 1873 on. However, a connection to the privatised Southern Railway company was not established due to objections by the latter. The economic conditions meant that the hoped-for transport levels were never achieved, as a result of which the KRB was nationalised in 1884. Today it is part of the Austrian national railway network. The commemorative stamp shows the KRB 6 Knittelfeld, one of the oldest goods engines operated by the KRB.



300 years of Viennese porcelain 1718–2018 4€20; 24.10.2018; 185,000; Karin Klier; Offset with “UV- varnish”; Enschedé. When Europeans discovered how to make porcelain, one of the first makers was the Wiener Porzellanmanufaktur under the management of the Hofkriegsrat (central military administrative authority) agent Claudius Innocentius du Paquier. On 27th May 1718 Emperor Charles VI signed a special privilege granting the manufactory a monopoly throughout the empire. In 1721 the factory moved to the street whose name still bears witness to this today: Porzellangasse in Vienna’s 9th district. After the privilege expired, Empress Maria Theresa took the business under Imperial ownership in 1744. Since then, every piece made has borne the cobalt blue and white striped shield under the glaze as the trademark of Viennese porcelain.

The Viennese Porcelain Manufactory closed its doors in 1864. In 1923 investors from the group around Josef Hoffmann, the great designer and founder of the Wiener Werkstätte, became aware of the rich heritage and opened the “Neue Wiener Porzellanmanufaktur Augarten” in the Baroque park of the same name. Since that time the Augarten factory has continued the traditional craft and the tradition of artistic innovation. The special stamp is the first to have a denomination of EUR 4.20 (for a medium-size inland priority packet). Its design shows a printed classic Baroque style teacup with painted embellishment.

Vienna University of Economics and Business – Library. 2€70; 9.11.2018; 250,000; Karin Klier; Offset; Enschedé. As part of the “Modern architecture in Austria” series, Austrian Post presents the library of Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), which impresses with its unusual design. This University moved in 2013 to the WU campus between the Messe Wien, the Prater and the Krieau racetrack.



800 years of Schlägl Abbey. 80c; 11.11.2018; 350,000 in minisheets of 10; Kirsten Lubach; Offset; Enschedé. In 2018, Schlägl Abbey in Upper Austria's Mühlviertel region celebrates its 800th anniversary. The Abbey was founded at the start of the 13th century, originally as a Cistercian monastery. After the monks left the establishment because of the inhospitable living conditions, the abandoned abbey was taken over by the Premonstratensian Order from Bohemia a few decades later. Arguments over the re-establishment of the abbey resulted in the foundation charter being dated to 1218. Schlägl Abbey had a successful brewery for over 400 years.

Christmas 2018 – Christmas tree. 90c; 16.11.2018; 750,000 in rolls and in smaller strips for philatelists; Age de Carvalho; Offset; Enschedé. The modern

graphic design of the tree on this Christmas stamp is especially attractive.



Christmas 2018 – 200 years of “Silent Night”

90c; 23.11.2018; 1,450,000; Anna Rastl; Offset; Enschedé. On Christmas Eve “Silent night, holy night” rings out around the world in many different languages. 200 years ago, it was sung for the first time in the church in Oberndorf in the province of Salzburg.

Christmas 2018 – vintage – young girl with cat. 80c; 30.11.2018; 2,500,000 in rolls; Anita Kern; Offset; Enschedé. The designer of this delightful Christmas design is not known, but it was published for the first time on a picture postcard printed by the postcard publishing company Raphael Tuck & Sons in England in 1914. This London publishing company was founded in 1870 by Raphael Tuck (sic!), who was born in the Polish city of Wroclaw in 1821, and specialised in greetings cards and picture postcards. It enjoyed its most successful period in the Victorian era.



Christmas 2018 – religious – the birth of Christ, Maria Rast. 80c; 30.11.2018; 2,800,000; Dieter Kraus; Offset; Enschedé. The stamp shows a section from the ceiling fresco of the pilgrimage church of Maria Rast in Hainzenberg above Zell am Ziller. The church is located close to the Gerlos Pass road which links Oberpinzgau in Salzburg to Zillertal in the Tyrol. Zell am Ziller still belongs to the archdiocese of Salzburg, which is why this connection via the Gerlos Pass has long been considered important; it was also an important transport route in the period when gold was still being mined at Hainzenberg, which continued into the 19th century.