

2020



100 years of the Salzburg Festival. 2€70; 21.01.2020; 180,000; Helmut Andexlinger; Offset; Enschedé. Every year the Salzburg Festival is the cultural highlight of the summer in Austria, and in terms of international resonance also throughout Europe.

25th anniversary of Austria joining the EU. 2€10; 22.01.2020; 145,000; Karin Klier; Offset; Enschedé. Austria

has been a member of the European Union since 1st January 1995. In the referendum held on 12th June 1994, 66.6 per cent of the population voted in favour of Austria joining the EU (at that time still the European Community, EC). [Judged by the flags and the value, the illustration IS the right way up.]



Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum – Hedy Lamarr. 90c; 22.01.2020; 350,000 in minisheets of 10; David Gruber; Offset; Enschedé. This year's stamp in the "Austrian inventions" series is dedicated to an exceptional lady: Hedy Lamarr was not just a world-class film star but also a highly gifted inventor, whose pioneering inventions are still being used to this day.

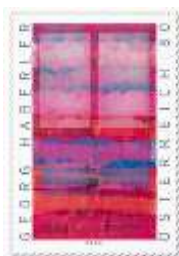
Hedy Lamarr was born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler on 9th November 1914 (or maybe 1913) in Vienna, the only child of Gertrud Kiesler (née Lichtwitz) and Emil Kiesler both of whom had Jewish backgrounds. She died on 19th January 2000 in Casselberry, Florida, U.S.A. She married 6 times and had 3 children.

After a brief early film career in Czechoslovakia, including the controversial *Ecstasy* (1933), she fled from her first husband, a wealthy Austrian ammunition manufacturer, and secretly moved to Paris. Traveling to London, she met Louis B. Mayer, head of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) studio, who offered her a movie contract (as Hedy Lamarr) in Hollywood. Her greatest success was as Delilah in Cecil B. DeMille's *Samson and Delilah* (1949). Her picture appeared in 2011 in the *Austrians-in-Hollywood* series, again as a minisheet: shown on the right.



For her contribution to the motion picture industry, Lamarr was recognized in 2013 with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Lamarr was given an honorary grave in Vienna's Central Cemetery in November 2014.

During World War II, Lamarr learned that radio-controlled torpedoes, an emerging technology in naval war, could easily be jammed and set off course. She thought of creating a frequency-hopping signal that could not be tracked or jammed. She contacted her friend, composer and pianist George Antheil, to help her develop a device for doing that, and he succeeded by synchronizing a miniaturized player-piano mechanism with radio signals. They drafted and patented designs for the frequency-hopping system. Although the US Navy did not adopt the technology until the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, various spread-spectrum techniques are incorporated into Bluetooth technology. And in 2014, Lamarr was posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for frequency-hopping spread spectrum technology.



Young Austrian Art: George Haberler – Untitled (LPO1). 80c; 28.1.2020; 230,000; Offset; Regina Simon; Enschedé. "This year's special stamp from the 'Young art in Austria' series shows an untitled, richly coloured, large-format work by Georg Haberler (1985-) dating from 2019." Die Briefmarke adds that the work is one of several (three are pictured) exhibited in Berlin as "Als der Zirkus in Flammen stand" (When the circus was on fire). It derives much of its effect by being realised on a thin fabric, which allows transmitted ambient light to reflect off the light azure wall on which it is hung and form part of the work.

2020



Brexit: Britain leaves the E.U. 1Eu80; 31.1.2020; 140,000; Anita Kern - Stamp produced for originally-scheduled Brexit date, overprinted with new date. See the appendix for amplification of the resulting controversy.

Laurin & Klement Type A. 1Eu35; 12.02.2020; 300,000; Offset; David Gruber; Enschedé. This stamp, in the Autos (or Cars) series, depicts an elegant 2-seater 'Voiturette': the two-seater Laurin & Klement Voiturette A with elegant dark red paint and wooden spoked wheels.



Zukunft kaufen!? - Konsum-Monster. (Buying the future!? – Consumption Monster) 80c; 19.02.2020; 265,002 in minisheets of 6; Offset; Susanne Fritz; Enschedé. "Every year Die Presse and Austrian Post organise a joint stamp competition. This year's winner is a monster, or at least that is what it says in the stamp's title."



Red-nosed Clown Doctors. 90c; 25.02.2020; 215,000; Offset; Marion Füllerer; Enschedé. "For over 25 years now the RED NOSES clown doctors have been bringing laughter where it is most needed and Austrian Post is honouring this fabulous commitment with a RED NOSES special stamp."

'Vöcklabrucker Christus – St. Giles' Church, Vöcklabruck'. 1Eu35; 6.3.2020; nnnn; Kombi-print; Kirsten Lubach; Enschedé. This engraved stamp from the series "Religious art in Austria" shows a work of art of particular art-historic importance: the "Vöcklabrucker Christus" is a very old depiction of Christ on a copper sheet which was found in the village church in Vöcklabruck.



Classic Edition 8:
'Postage stamps 1891/1896' 230+85c;
7.3.2020; 120,000 blocks of 2; Offset; Anita Kern.

2020 Subscriber Bonus stamp: Blue Passion-flower. Sent (free) to those with subscriptions; the more you buy the more bonus stamps you get. They are not listed in catalogues because they aren't on public sale – but they **are** valid for postage! [ANK does list them.] 85c; 7.03.2020; 300,000; Brigitte Helden; Enschedé.



'Brigitte Kowanz - Opportunity'. 1Eu80; 17.3.2020; 180,000; Offset; Regina Simon; Enschedé. The special stamp from the “Contemporary art in Austria” series shows the work “Opportunity” by the Viennese artist Brigitte Kowanz, who deals with light as a design medium in her work.

A new series is announced: **Austria, Land of Music** (Musikland Österreich). The backgrounds of this series will be a piece of music chosen by a current performer on the instrument, illustrated wherever possible by a score contemporary with its composition. *“The first issue is dedicated to the double bass, which plays an important role in the orchestra and is a worthy introduction for this series.”* 1Eu; 18.3.2020; 350,000 in sheets of 10; Offset; Kirsten Lubach; Enschedé. The background for this design is part of the score by Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf (1739-1799) for the Partita movement of his Double-bass concerto, which was written in E \flat , but is usually played in E.



[1 April 2020 - new tariffs, new selfadhesive definitives...]



‘The traditional costume of the Wachau’. 85c; 3.4.2020; 350,000 in sheets of 10; Offset; Anita Kern; Enschedé. The beautiful Wachau on the banks of the Danube in Lower Austria is the subject of this year's stamp from the “Classic traditional costumes” series. The stamp shows the highly traditional costume for everyday use for women, the indigo-printed dirndl.

125 years of excavations in Ephesus. 2Eu10; 17.4.2020; 200,000; Offset; David Gruber; Enschedé. The Austrian Archaeological Institute has been carrying out research in the ancient city of Ephesus for more than 125 years. This commemorative stamp showing a statue of the goddess Artemis from the Temple of Ephesus, one of the wonders of the world.



100 years of Auer 2Eu70; 24.4.2020; 330,000; Offset; Marion Füllerer; Enschedé. For the past 100 years we have been able to enjoy “the sweet life” with AUER products. Austrian Post is congratulating the company with a commemorative stamp in the “Classical trademarks” series.

EUROPA 2020 – Historic post routes of Thurn & Taxis. 1Eu; 8.5.2020; 215,000; Offset; David Gruber; Enschedé. EUROPA stamps are special stamps issued by European postal administrations/enterprises and bears the official EUROPA logo, a PostEurop registered trademark under the aegis of PostEurop in which Europe is the central theme. EUROPA stamps underlines cooperation in the postal domain, taking into account promotion of philately. They also build awareness of the common roots, culture and history of Europe and its common goals. As such, EUROPA stamp issues are among the most collected and most popular stamps in the world. Since the first issue in 1956, EUROPA stamps have been a tangible symbol of Europe's desire for closer integration and cooperation. In 1993, PostEurop became responsible for issuing EUROPA stamps. Each year, PostEurop's Stamps & Philately Working Group selects the EUROPA stamp theme; this year it's "Ancient Postal Routes". The illustration is the Fugger Palace in Innsbruck.



In the 18th century, the Counts of Thurn and Taxis acquired the baroque palace in Innsbruck's Maria-Theresien-Strasse. It owes its name to Hans Otto Fugger, who had it built in 1679 according to plans by the court architect Johann Martin Gump. The design was based on Italian city palaces, especially those from Genoa. The three-storey building is lavishly decorated with cornices and stucco. Two columns frame the entrance portal in the middle, the lions lying on it support the balcony with the protruding grille directly above the portal. The classical ceiling fresco "The Judgment of Paris" by Martin Knoller from 1786 adorns the ballroom on the first floor, which is why it is also called the Paris Hall. The walls are decorated with Rococo paintings.

Soon the palace was used not only for residential purposes, but also as a post station - members of the Thurn and Taxis family were not only Innsbruck post-masters, but general post-masters of the state. For this purpose, post offices as well as stables and other buildings for the postal service were set up in the courtyard and on the ground floor of the building. Even when the State of Tirol acquired the Palais Taxis in 1905, postal operations continued until 1908. Today the building houses, among other things, the Kunsthalle Tirol for contemporary art. It has been a listed building since 2006.



Roter Blitz - Graz-Köflacher Bahn Reihe VT 10. 2Eu30; 8.5.2020; Peter Sinawehl / Kirsten Lubach; 240,000; Kombiprint; Enschedé. This year's design for the engraved stamp in the "Railways" series is the legendary "Rote Blitz", a railbus on the Graz-Köflach Railway from the 1950s.

50 years of Amnesty International Austria. 1Eu35; 15.5.2020; Marion Füllerer; 230,000; Offset; Enschedé. Amnesty International has been committed to respecting human rights in Austria for 50 years. Austrian Post is now honouring the organization with a special stamp.



800th anniversary of Freistadt. 85c; 23.5.2020; Karin Klier; 235,000; Offset; Enschedé. In 2020 the town of Freistadt in the Upper Austrian Mühlviertel region is celebrating its 800th anniversary.

Modern art in Austria: Herbert Brandl 85c; 25.06.2020; Regina Simon; 235,000; Offset; Enschedé. This year's stamp in the series shows a work by the Austrian artist Herbert Brandl, who is regarded as one of the main proponents of the "New Wild Ones".



Wallfahrtskirche Götzens 1Eu35; 29.06.2020; Kirsten Lubach; 180,000; Offset; Enschedé. The parish church of Sts. Peter and Paul in Götzens is the motif for this year's stamp from the "Churches in Austria" series. It is considered one of the finest Rococo village churches in Tirol.

100th anniversary of the Lipizzaner Stud Farm in Piber 1Eu; 04.07.2020; Anita Kern; 350,000; Offset; Enschedé. (Also available as a herd of 10). In 1920 the Lipizzaners, the famous white horses, found a new home in Piber in Styria where they live surrounded by lush meadows and green forests. As the only federal stud farm in Austria, Piber has the task of breeding the Lipizzaner stallions that appear in the world-famous Spanish Riding School in Vienna. In the minisheet margins are illustrations of some of the special poses the horses can adopt.



Traditional Gastronomy: the Schweizerhaus. 1Eu75; 11.7.2020; Regina Simon; 135,000; Offset; Enschedé. The Schweizerhaus is in the Prater in Vienna. There has been a "Swiss Hut" here since 1766, but the present building has been run by the Kolarik family for 100 years. Besides the classic Viennese culinary specialties, such as goulash and Wiener Schnitzel, the trademark dish of the restaurant is Schweinsstelzen.



150th birthday of Franz Lehár. 2Eu75; 11.7.2020; Karin Klier; 310,000; Offset; Enschedé. Together with Emmerich Kalman, Franz Lehár (30 April 1870 - 24 October 1948) is considered the main representative of the Silver Operetta era, which dates from 1900 to around 1940. Franz Lehár was born in Komorn in what is now Slovakia in 1870. At the age of twelve he studied violin at the Prague Conservatory, and when he was twenty he became the youngest military bandmaster in the monarchy.

Lehár finally settled in Vienna and devoted himself primarily to composing operettas. In 1905 he made his breakthrough as an operetta composer with “The Merry Widow” (Die lustige Witwe). Many of his other works are still popular today, such as “The Tsarevich”, “The Land of Smiles” or “The Count of Luxembourg”. Until his death in 1948, Franz Lehár spent almost every summer in Bad Ischl. His residence there, the Lehar Villa, is now a museum in honour of the composer.



125 years of Swarovski. 4Eu30; 18.07.2020; David Gruber; 205,000; Offset with silver foil; Enschedé. In 1895 Daniel Swarovski founded a company that revolutionised the world of jewellery – even today Swarovski crystals are known for their exceptional brilliance



PUCH MV 50 V. 2Eu30; 08.08.2020; David Gruber; 360,000; Offset; Enschedé. The design for this year’s stamp from the “Motorcycles” series is decked out in the modified yellow Austrian Post livery: It is the MV 50 V, a moped from the traditional Austrian Puch brand.

Kunsthhaus Graz. 2Eu75; 20.08.2020; Karin Klier; 310,000; Enschedé. This year’s design for the series “Modern architecture in Austria” shows the Kunsthhaus Graz, a museum of contemporary art and an impressive landmark of the Styrian capital.



Chanterelle mushroom. 85c; 28.08.2020; Marion Füllerer; 350,000; Offset; Enschedé. The brilliant yellow chanterelle mushroom is the first design in a new series of special stamps, “Austrian mushrooms”, which is meant to showcase the wide range of indigenous mushrooms. Minisheet of 10.

Historic Postal Vehicles: Feldpost. 2Eu10; 29.08.2020. This year's motif from the “Historic Post Vehicles” series is dedicated to field post, which was essential for maintaining the morale of the troops in times of war.



The field post was the only way for soldiers at the time of the First World War Front to keep in touch with their families. For example, with pre-printed field postcards with the multilingual text “I am healthy and I am fine”, at least one sign of life can be sent home even in times of temporary mail bans.

The k.u.k. Feldpost was an establishment of the Austrian Hungarian monarchy, with the job of transmitting official and private mail between the army in the field and home. Up to a weight of 100 grams, postcards and letters marked “Feldpost” could be sent post-free. Field post offices took care of the delivery.

The stamp block from the series “Historic Post Vehicles” shows one card from WWI based on a picture by the painter Karl Schnorpfel. The two-horse field post truck loaded with mail bags is escorted by soldiers on horses, and destroyed houses can be seen in the background.

Antonio Canal, aka Canaletto – The Dogana at Venice. 2Eu10; Kirsten Lubach; 11.09.2020; Kombi print; Enschedé. Giovanni Antonio Canal was one of the most important proponents of veduta painting. (A veduta is a highly detailed, usually large-scale painting or print of a cityscape or some other vista.) A detailed view of his home town of Venice adorns this stamp from the “Old masters” series, which has been embellished with engraving.



South Burgenland – Uhudler. 85c; David Gruber; 19.09.2020; 350,000; Offset; Enschedé. A particular speciality from the South Burgenland region is the incomparable Uhudler, which is the subject of this year's special stamp from the “Austrian wine regions” series. Minisheet of 10.

Beethoven's 250th birth anniversary. 1Eu80; Karin Klier; 30.09.2020; 160,000; Offset; with silver foil; Enschedé. The ‘silver signature’ only shows as silver if viewed at an angle.



The Centenary of Austria's Constitution



1Eu+50c; Anita Kern; 30.09.2020; 125,000; Offset; Enschedé. As part of the series for the 100th anniversary of the VÖPh, this year's stamp is dedicated to the Austrian Federal Constitutional Act (Bundes-Verfassungsgesetz), which was passed 100 years ago.

The Austrian Federal Constitutional Law celebrates its centenary this year. To this day it is the core of the Austrian Constitution. Even if he wasn't the sole author of the law, Hans Kelsen (1881-1973) is often referred to as its "father". After the collapse of the monarchy in 1918, the lawyer was commissioned by State Chancellor Karl Renner to draft a constitution for the young republic. On October 1, 1920 the Constituent National Assembly approved the Federal Constitutional Law.

Hans Kelsen was one of the most important legal scholars of the 20th century, dealing with constitutional law, international law and legal theory. He held a professorship for state and Administrative law at the University of Vienna and was a member of the Constitutional Court. He left Austria when the National Socialists came to power and taught in Cologne, Geneva and Prague before emigrating to the USA in 1940, where he studied at Harvard Law School and taught at the University of California. He died in California in 1973. The special stamp block with a surcharge of 0.50 euros from the series for the 100th anniversary of the Österreichischer Philatelistenvereine (VÖPh) shows the first articles of the Federal Constitution behind a portrait of Hans Kelsen. The parliament building in Vienna, in which the Federal Constitutional Law was passed in 1920, as well as the statue in front of Pallas Athena with the goddess of victory Nike in her hand, form the distant background.



Sport and Ball – Handball. 85c; Roman Lipner-Keck; 2.10.2020; 220,000; Offset; Enschedé.

Sport and ball – beach volleyball. 1Eu; Roman Lipner-Keck; 2.10.2020; 220,000; Offset; Enschedé

Sport und Ball – Basketball. 1Eu80; Roman Lipner-Keck; 2.10.2020; 190,000; Offset; Enschedé

In the "Sports" series, the focus this time is on ball sports. The ball is one of the most versatile pieces of sporting equipment and can be used for a broad range of activities by people of all ages and levels of athleticism.

2020



Stamp Day 2020 - St. Pölten. 3Eu15 + 1Eu58 surcharge; Anita Kern; 2.10.2020; 180,000 in sheets of 6; Offset; Enschedé. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of BSV St. Pölten, the stamp is dedicated to the city of St. Pölten, where this year's ÖVEBRIA is also held.

Christ the Saviour – Spitz an der Donau, the Parish Church of St. Maurice. 1Eu35; Kirsten Lubach; 9.10.2020;

250,000; Offset; Enschedé. In its apostle cycle, the parish church in Spitz an der Donau houses a significant work of art from the Middle Ages. Embellished with engraving, the stamp from the “Religious art” series shows the sculpture of Christ the Saviour that stands at the centre.



Centenary of the plebiscite in Kärnten. 85c; Marion Füllerer; 10.10.2020; 210,000; Offset; Enschedé. The stamp commemorates the historic plebiscite, which joined South Kärnten to Austria.

Ski tip. 7Eu; David Gruber; 23.10.2020; 150,000; Serigraphy (silk screen printing); Variuscard Produktions- und Handels GmbH. As a “skiing nation”, Austria has a long tradition in skiing as a sport. Fittingly, this year’s stamp on the topic of technical innovation

impresses with both its shape and its colour: a ski tip made with a genuine ski coating.

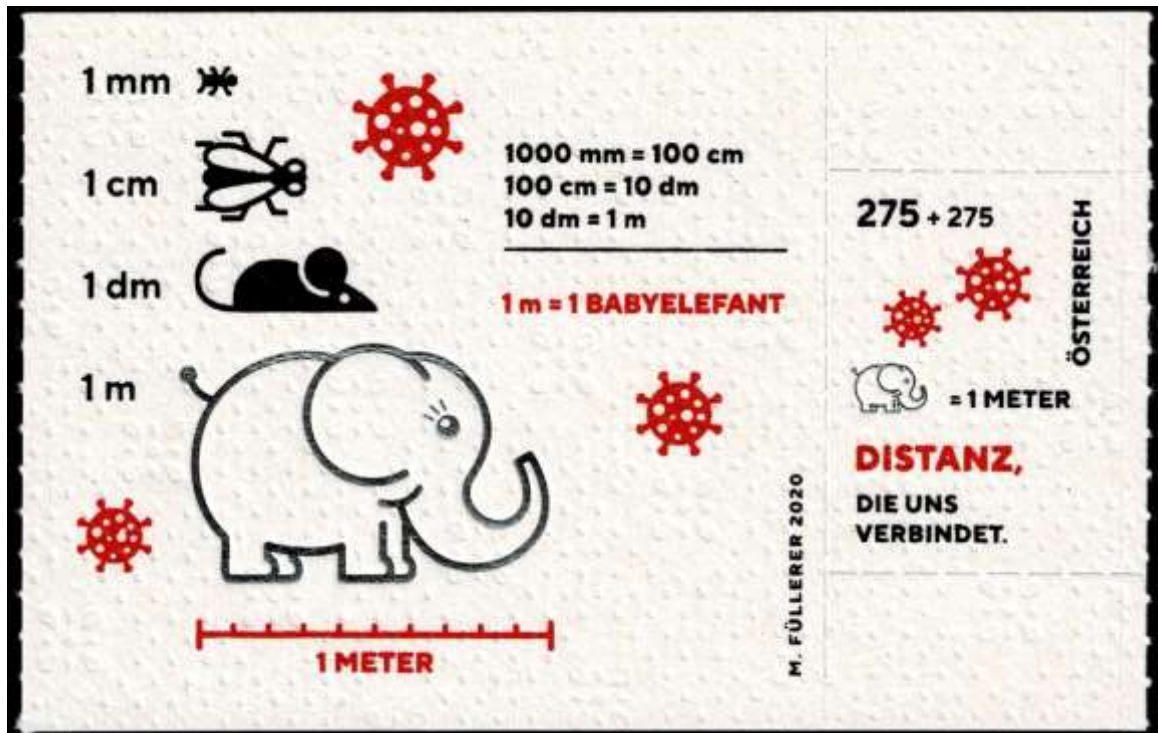


75 years of the United Nations. 1Eu80; David Gruber; 24/10/2020; 150,000; Offset; Enschedé. The United Nations Organisation was founded in 1945 as an international organisation to promote peace and security. Austria was allowed to join after the Austrian State was signed on 15 May 1955, and did so on 14 December 1955.

Corona. 2Eu75+2Eu75; Marion Füllerer; 30.10.2020; 300,000 in blocks of 1; “innovative” production by Variuscard Produktions- und Handels GmbH. The stamp is 40x50mm and the block is 140x90mm (not quite A6, which is 148x105). I’ve scanned it on a black background, so that the perfs are clear – it’s imperf by perf 3.64.

Austrian Post writes: “We have been dealing with the corona pandemic for months. This stamp reminds of how our lives are all clearly changed since the beginning of the measures against the spread of the virus. Protective mask, disinfectant and baby elephant - all these things and terms have been part of our everyday lives since the beginning of the pandemic. “Distance that connects us” is one of the buzzwords that we associate with this unprecedented situation: a distance of at least one meter to other people should help to prevent the spread of the disease as much as possible. Already, the proverbial baby elephant makes a vivid picture that will help us to correctly assess and maintain this distance, and this baby elephant can also be seen as a symbol on the stamp. Compared to the 1-meter elephant other animals are shown, representing various sizes from millimeters to a decimetre, and some very enlarged individual corona viruses.

“Not only the motif, but also the material of the stamp is like a symbol of the beginning of the lockdown due to the pandemic. How can you get this extraordinary time on a particularly innovative postage stamp? The Austrian Post pondered this, and the idea was developed of using real toilet paper as an ironic allusion to the ‘hamster-purchases’ [*hamsterkaufen: hoarding or panic-buying*] of many concerned citizens.



“In co-operation with an Austrian manufacturer of toilet paper, the design was then considered, planned and tested, because processing this paper is difficult. Toilet paper is too soft, and tears when it gets damp, so wet bonding was out of the question. The problem was solved by laminating to the back of the toilet paper a self-adhesive film made of natural fibre. The postage stamps can then be easily removed and used for franking. The perforation typical of toilet paper is also special to the stamp as well as the size of the block, which corresponds to a standard sheet of toilet paper.

“The production was challenging: the toilet paper was made in large rolls, then cut into sheets, coated with the film and finally printed - a process that takes many months to develop and optimize. The product has a serious background, and so the stamp has a surcharge of 2.75 euros for a charitable cause.”



Christmas 2020 - A Winter Landscape with a Bird Trap. 1Eu; Kirsten Lubach; 13.11.2020; 1,300,000; Offset; Enschedé. A masterpiece of Flemish painting adorns this year's stamp on the topic of art: a wintry village scene with a bird trap depicted in pale colours.

Christmas 2020 - Christmas Star. 1Eu; Roland Vorlauffer; 13.11.2020; 675,000; Offset; Coil stamp; Enschedé. The design on this special stamp is sure to get you in the Christmas spirit: a Christmas star shining above an idyllic mountain village.





ORF Light of peace from Bethlehem - joint issue with Vatican City. 1Eu85; Kirsten Lubach; 20.11.2020; 260,000; Offset; Enschedé. Through this first joint issue by Austrian Post and the Vatican Post, the light of peace from Bethlehem is being celebrated as a beautiful tradition. The reason for this happy event is the ORF's Peace Light Campaign, a 30-year-old tradition in which children from Upper Austria bring the peace light from Bethlehem to Austria. The light of peace is traditionally also brought to the Pope - Pope Francis is shown with the peace light lantern on a stamp in the stamp block, including a pen drawing of St. Peter's Basilica. The second stamp shows the baby Jesus wrapped in a red cloth, in a depiction inspired by a painting by the Italian baroque artist Guido Reni.

Christmas 2020 - The Birth of Christ; 85c; Theresa Radlingmaier; 27.11.2020; 3,100,000; Offset; Enschedé. A real treasure from the art of sacred book illumination is featured on this Christmas stamp: a medieval depiction of the birth of Christ in an initial from Codex 259/1 from the library of Vorau Abbey.



Christmas 2020 - Christmas tree. 85c; Anita Kern; 27.11.2020; 2,000,000; Offset; Coil stamp; Enschedé. The Christmas tree as a symbol for Christmas celebrations – this unusual Christmas stamp shows all kinds of culinary and decorative elements from the most wonderful time of the year.

