

THE "AMGOT POSTAGE DUE STAMP" ISSUE OF 23 APRIL 1946.

The demand for postage dues of the "Arms" type had been artificially increased by the purchase of very large quantities by collectors and by dealers. As the Austrian Post Office had no plans to print other postage dues, the Western Allies handed over the remainder of the Posthorn "Amgot" stamps and these were overprinted in black with the word "PORTO" by the State Printing Works in Vienna. The values overprinted were the 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40 and 60 groschen and the 1, 2 and 5 schilling stamps. The groschen values were issued on 23rd April 1946 and the schilling values on 20 May 1946. Very large numbers of errors may be found with this overprinted issue. The 3, 8, 10, 12, 20, 30 and 60 groschen as well as the 1 schilling values all occur with inverted overprint whilst the 8gr stamp has a double overprint occasionally. Also, with part of the impression, the 88th stamp in the sheet of every value has the second "O" of PORTO flattened, and its first "O" thinned. The cord is, of course, missing from the 10, 12 and 30 groschen stamps as on the basic issue. This issue was used throughout the entire area of Austria and was valid until 10 January 1949.

