

The postage due issue of 17 November 1949¹



¹ This treatise is reproduced, probably with greater accuracy than understanding, from “Austria” 40 (1977); it is a translation from some German original.



The third issue of postage due stamps after 1945 is of greater interest than the previous series for the specialist collector. This is because the production and use of this series now extends over almost two decades and it is thus already obvious that, in the course of the years, individual values have experienced a gradual development with regard to paper and gum.

The third postage due stamp series appeared at the counter for the first time on 17 November 1949 with the 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 70 and 80 groschen and 1, 1.20, 1.35, 1.70, 2.5 and 10 schilling values and replaced the second postage due series. The State Printing Works was instructed to produce the stamps by typography on "white postage stamp paper" without watermark after a design of the late Professor Ernst Schrom; an artist of the Academy. The numerals in this tall format stamp are white in coloured rectangles surrounded by an ornamental frame. Underneath the numbers is the indication of the currency "GROSCHEN" or "SCHILLING". In the top ornamental frame is "REPUBLIK"; in the bottom is "ÖSTERREICH". The groschen values are in red; the values from 1 schilling upwards are in red-violet. The size of the stamps (including the perforation margin) is 23 x 27.25 mm; the size of the design is 19 x 23.25 mm. The comb perforation is 13¾ and the counter sheet contains 100 stamps.

The surround of the sheets was printed with marginal bars and/or marginal numbers, giving three types.

- 1) Marginal bars in the left and in the right margins, the same colour as the stamp; width 45mm, length 255 mm
- 2) Marginal bars underneath; width 45mm, length 225 mm. In the left sheet margin is the total sum for the individual values rising from bottom to top; in the upper margin the sum for the digit columns (ten times the individual values) decreasing from left to right.
- 3) No marginal bars; the sums as for 2).

These three forms were used very erratically. Thus, marginal bars are found printed to the left and to the right, especially with the first impressions, yet sheets occur of the 40gr and 1S20 values which display no marginal bars but only the numbers. The newer impressions, basically from Type IV, no longer have any marginal bars, but only the numbers.

A new feature in the constitution of the counter sheets is the introduction of the "symbol digits" in the left-hand bottom corner of the sheets. These occur both with the definitives - especially also with the special stamp for the introduction of postcodes - and also with the postage due stamps. The General Directorate of the Austrian State Printing Works explained it thus: "With the ending of the printing of the impression of a postage stamp value, delivered at various times, it can thus be established exactly, whether or not through negligence, printing sheets of the same value from an earlier delivery were numbered (*counted?* Ed.) in the impression existing at the time. Since June 1965 we have introduced numbers, called symbols, for each individual impression on the lower printing sheet margin. They began with Symbol 1; Symbol 1-2 appeared in the impression immediately following; then Symbol 1-2-3 etc. Thus, because many impressions are prepared from one printing sheet, those with already used symbols could no longer be released."

The first additions to the postage due stamps took place on 7 August 1950 with the 60gr, 90gr and 1.65 schilling values in the same design. Later, on 4 December 1951, the 4gr, 3gr, 1.40 sch, 2.50 sch, 3 sch. and 4 schilling stamps were added. On 18 February 1953 the 1.50 schilling value was added and the series was completed on 30 April 1957 with the 63 groschen value.

The colour scale of dark to light, which can be established in the red of the groschen values, as well as the change from a brownish-violet (Types I and II) to violet (Type III) to a light violet (Type IV) with the schilling values, has its origin chiefly in the improvement of the postage stamp paper. With the one groschen value (which passed through eleven impressions between 1949 and 1956; all however in Type I) two different shades, i.e. carmine and a dull cinnamon, could be established. Unfortunately it is not possible to state which impressions correspond with the individual shades.

It is now proposed to consider the differentiating characteristics which can justify the division into four chief groups with two sub-groups in both the first groups, according to the type of paper and the material composition of the gum.

It was still difficult, at the end of the war, to produce homogeneous papers and colours of constant shade. The technical improvement of the whole industry soon made a constant development of the basic materials which gave to the postage stamp, as the end product, an always pleasing character. It was not only that the weight of the paper could be decreased from 80gsm to 75gsm but also the colour of the paper became increasingly whiter. This was attained at first by the introduction of the so-called "white colourers". Later, from 1963, a "lightener" was

worked into the paper. The difference consisted in the fact that “white colourers” are blue or violet coloured materials, which are admixed only in order to cover over the yellow shade of the cellulose, whilst “lighteners”, also called “optical brighteners” are chemical substances which radiate violet to blue light in the U.V. light; which changes invisibly in visible light. Therefore, equally they conceal a yellow colouration but supply a better brightness to the paper than does the ordinary coloured matter which for its part consumes white light and lets the paper finally appear grey. For complete effectiveness any examination must thus also use U.V. light as it exists by day; and especially in sunshine.

The gum also underwent an essential change in order to improve the postage stamp, the final product; above all the feared curling of the counter sheet was reduced and the sticking together in use was prevented with a less hygroscopic gum. The disadvantage was that a rippling was encountered which occurred in various directions according as to whether the printing sheet was cut from the roll and placed in the machine in one direction or the other. The silver-grey gum with the designation HLA25 used later stopped the rippling during the progress of the work but the gumming then had to be led over a polished roller and burnished. The most modern gum used at the time, which completely eliminated these difficulties, was called “Cold Glue”.

The following guide gives the characteristics of the individual types of gum. All shining “Glue” gums display rippling in practically all cases. In comparison “HLA 25” appears silky and glossy when held against the light and is without rippling. “Cold Glue” again shows itself as matte, not glossy, and has beige to rose-red colours. In addition, the values with the aforementioned gum fluoresce under the quartz lamp; an effect however which is not due to the glue but to the brightened paper. For the reasons enumerated, the following types result as a division of the 1949-57 postage dues.

- Type I ordinary white postage stamp paper; 80gsm streaked grey to yellow; gummed with glue; colour of the gum yellow-brown to yellow. Rippling principally horizontal, also vertical, sporadically net rippling.
- Type II ordinary white postage stamp paper; 75gsm white; glue gumming, colour of the gum white; rippling horizontal and vertical.
- Type III ordinary white postage stamp paper; 75gsm whiter. Gum HLA25 silver-grey; no rippling.
- Type IV special postage stamp paper with brightener, about 75gsm pure white. “Cold Glue” gumming; no rippling.

The information listed below will provide a true picture of the types and impressions in order to give a correct valuation of the individual stamps for the 1949-57 postage dues.

In connection with this it is interesting to establish on which values the Type I and II rippings have been established. This investigation can claim no right to be complete since the number of the postage due stamps investigated was relatively small.

Type I: Rippling horizontal.

1 carmine, 1 cinamon, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 and 90 groschen and all the schilling values.

Type I: Rippling vertical

1 carmine, 10, 30, 50, 63, 70 groschen, 1, 2.50 and 3 schilling.

Type II: Rippling horizontal.

1 carmine, 10, 20, 30, 50, 70 groschen, 1, 1.50 and 2.50 schilling.

Type II: Rippling vertical.

2, 10, 20, 30, 50, 60, 70 groschen, 1.50 and 3 schilling.

| Face value Sch | Type | Delivered by the State Printing Works From - To | Impressions | No. of sheets delivered |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|-------------|-------------------------|
| 0.01 | I | 21.10.49 - 2.3.56 | 11 | 64,650 |
| 0.02 | I | 21.10.49 - 11.1.57 | 5 | 26,000 |
| | II | 10.4.59 - 17.7.59 | 2 | 8,600 |
| 0.04 | I | 25.9.51 - 10.11.51 | 2 | 14,000 |
| 0.05 | I | 21.10.49 - 14.2.58 | 4 | 28,050 |
| | II | 3.2.59 - 25.9.59 | 3 | 1,500 |
| 0.08 | I | 5.10.51 - 10.11.51 | 2 | 13,900 |
| 0.10 | I | 14.10.49 - 14.2.58 | 10 | 77,000 |
| | II | 16.9.58 - 17.5.60 | 5 | 9,500 |
| | III | 24.3.61 - 9. 8.62 | 3 | 4,250 |
| | IV | 15.1.63 - 8.2.66 *) | 4 | 6,300 |
| Symbol 1 on 22nd Impression | | | | |
| 0.20 | I | 14.10.49 - 14. 2.58 | 5 | 57,400 |
| | II | 14. 4.59 - 5. 2.60 | 2 | 3,000 |
| | III | 25.11.60 - 9. 8.62 | 3 | 3,000 |
| | IV | 6.6.63 - 14.10.65 *) | 4 | 3,700 |
| Symbol 1 on 14th Impression | | | | |
| 0.30 | I | 14.10.49 - 14. 2.58 | 21 | 267,000 |
| | II | 2.10.58 - 12. 8.60 | 5 | 31,200 |
| | III | 17.3.61 - 27.11.62 | 4 | 23,400 |
| | IV | 15.1.63 - 14.10.65 *) | 6 | 33,300 |
| Symbol 1 on 36th Impression | | | | |
| 0.40 | I | 14.10.49 - 12.10.51 | 2 | 47,600 |
| 0.50 | I | 21.10.49 - 23.8.57 | 12 | 134,800 |
| | II | 16.9.58 - 12.8.60 | 5 | 12,900 |
| | III | 25.11.60 - 7.8.62 | 4 | 8,700 |
| | IV | 6. 6.63 - 5. 4.66 *) | 5 | 8,500 |
| Symbol 1 on 25th Impression | | | | |
| 0.60 | I | 2. 6.50 - 13. 5.58 | 24 | 419,700 |
| | II | 23.9.58 - 19. 8.60 | 5 | 121,700 |
| | III | 10.3.61 - 14.8.62 | 4 | 56,700 |
| | IV | 3.1.63 - 4. 3.65 *) | 6 | 127,200 |
| 39th Impression, last without symbol | | | | |
| 0.63 | I | 16.4.57 | 1 | 9,200 |

| Face value Sch | Type | Delivered by the State Printing Works From - To | Impressions | No. of sheets delivered |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 0.70 | I | 21.10.49 - 7.3.58 | 10 | 65,800 |
| | II | 3. 2.59 - 12.2.60 | 3 | 7,650 |
| | III | 25.11.60 - 7.8.62 | 4 | 9,350 |
| | IV | 15.1.63 - 8.2.66 *) | 3 | 4,200 |
| Symbol 1 on 20th Impression | | | | |
| 0.80 | I | 25.10.49 - 7. 2.50 | 3 | 27,300 |
| 0.90 | I | 2.6.50 - 18.1.52 | 2 | 13,200 |
| 1.00 | I | 2.11.49 - 7.2.58 | 16 | 231,400 |
| | II | 6.2.59- 11.11.60 | 4 | 34,600 |
| | III | 4. 4.61 - 16. 8.62 | 3 | 26,000 |
| | IV | 14. 2.63 - 9.10.65 *) | 4 | 20,400 |
| Symbol 1 on 27th Impression | | | | |
| 1.20 | I | 2.11.49 - 20.1.50 | 3 | 27,900 |
| 1.35 | I | 2.11.49 - 3. 4.51 | 4 | 103,800 |
| 1.40 | I | 21.9.51 - 29.9.51 | 1 | 9,300 |
| 1.50 | I | 25.11.52 - 7. 2.58 | 11 | 86,500 |
| | II | 3.10.58 - 11.11.60 | 5 | 37,900 |
| | III | 4. 4.61 - 16. 8.62 | 4 | 36,000 |
| | IV | 11.6.63 - 8. 2.66 *) | 3 | 19,400 |
| Symbol 1 on 23rd Impression | | | | |
| 1.65 | I | 6. 6.50 - 13. 6.50 | 1 | 9,000 |
| 1.70 | I | 2.11.49 - 25.1.50 | 2 | 17,700 |
| 2.00 | I | 2.11.49 - 7.12.51 | 4 | 57,400 |
| 2.50 | I | 29.9.51 - 11.2.58 | 13 | 117,500 |
| | II | 5. 5.59 - 16.2.60 | 3 | 15,400 |
| | III | 2.12.60 - 14.8.62 | 4 | 15,600 |
| | IV | 18. 6.63 -5.4.66 *) | 2 | 4,200 |
| Symbol 1 on 22nd Impression | | | | |
| 3.00 | I | 21.9.51 - 13.5.58 | 14 | 131,600 |
| | II | 3.10.58 - 17. 5.60 | 4 | 35,100 |
| | III | 2.12.60 - 14. 8.62 | 4 | 32,300 |
| | IV | 11.6.63 -7.11.63 | 2 | 12,900 |
| 24th Impression, last without symbol | | | | |
| 4.00 | I | 29.9.51 - 11.1.52 | 2 | 18,800 |
| 5.00 | I | 2.11.49 - 25.1.50 | 2 | 18,600 |

“) = Value given further in instructions.”