

## The “Beautiful Austria” definitive series

A new definitive series depicting scenes of “Beautiful Austria” started to appear on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1973. All the values were designed by Otto Zeiller, engraved by Werner Pfeiller, and mainly printed by the recess and photogravure processes.

In face value order

Face	Motive	Issued	<u>ANK</u>
0.20	Bergfried von Freistadt	27 June 1980	1680
0.50	Mayrhofen im Zillertal	16 September 1975	1582
1.00	Kahlenbergerdorf in Wien	24 January 1975	1583
1.50	Bludenz in Vorarlberg	23 October 1974	1584
2.00	Innbrücke bei Finstermünz	12 July 1974	1585
2.50	Murau in der Steiermark	24 May 1974	1586
3.00	Bischofsmütze	22 March 1974	1587
3.00	Bischofsmütze (Kleinformat)	7 December 1978	1627
3.50	Osterkirche in Oberwart	4 September 1978	1588
4.00	Almsee in Oberösterreich	12 December 1974	1589
4.20	Hirschegg im Kleinwalsertal	22 June 1979	1644
4.50	Windmühle in Retz	24 September 1976	1590
5.00	Burgruine Aggstein	30 November 1973	1591
5.50	Friedenskirchlein am Stoderzinken	1 July 1982	1741
5.60	Riezlern im Kleinwalsertal	1 July 1982	1742
6.00	Lindauer Hütte im Rätikon	27 May 1975	1592
6.50	Kirche zum Heiligen Kreuz in Villach	12 May 1977	1593
7.00	Burg Falkenstein in Kärnten	13 November 1973	1594
7.50	Festung Hohensalzburg	3 June 1977	1595
8.00	Bildstock bei Schloss Reiteregg	25 February 1976	1596
9.00	Asten in der Gemeinde Mörtschach im Mölltal	9 February 1983	1761
10.00	Neusiedler See bei Podersdorf	13 November 1973	1597
11.00	Stadt Enns in Oberösterreich	24 September 1976	1598
12.00	Festung Kufstein	3 October 1980	1681
14.00	Weißeck in Salzburg	27 January 1982	1727
16.00	Freilichtmuseum Bad Tatzmannsdorf	10 October 1977	1599
20.00	Myrafälle bei Muggendorf	7 December 1977	1600
50.00	Kongresszentrum Hofburg in Wien	27 February 1975	1601

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## 20 groschen blue and bright blue



The lowest value of the series was issued as a 20g blue and bright blue stamp on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1980. Its size was the normal one for most of the set at 23.5 x 28.8mm (overall size 27.5 x 32.8mm). It was comb perforated 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ :14 as were most of the other values.

On the stamp was depicted the Bergfried (Castle Keep) of the town of Freistadt in the Mühlviertel of Upper Austria. Freistadt was founded around 1220 by the Babenburg Duke Leopold VI (1198-1232) whilst the Castle was constructed in 1363 by Rudolf IV (1358-1365) although it was not finally completed until 1398. It later became a barracks but now houses a folk museum for the Mühlviertel. The tower in the centre of the stamp is 50 metres high and was originally a watch tower for the castle.

## 50 groschen slate-green and light grey-green



The 50g slate-green and light grey-green value was issued on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1975. On the stamp is depicted a typical farm in the Zillertal in Tirol. It is actually located near to Mayrhofen, and in the background may be seen the mighty Grunstein. In the middle distance are the dark green fields on the flanks of the mountain whilst in the foreground the sunburnt wooden houses are of a design that has not altered significantly since 1500. The living quarters stand above the stalls for the cattle which thus provided warmth during the winter.

## 1 Schilling sepia and light reddish-brown



The 1 schilling sepia and light reddish-brown value was issued on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1975. On the stamp is depicted the old village of Kahlenbergerdorf which has been incorporated in Vienna since 1892. On the summit of the Kahlenberg (1585ft), an important viewpoint over Vienna, is the Church of S. Joseph (Josefs-Kirche) which was built in 1628 and remodelled in 1740. It contains souvenirs of King John III Sobieski of Poland as it was from here that on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1683 the Polish armies swept to the relief of Vienna and vanquished the besieging Turks. Behind the church spire is the Hermannskogel (1782ft.), the highest point within Vienna.

## 1.50 Schilling brown-purple and dull rose



The 1.50 Schilling brown-purple and dull rose value was issued on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1974. On the stamp is depicted the handsome Parish Church of St. Laurence in the town of Bludenz in the Vorarlberg. In the background is the picturesque ravine of the Brandner-Tal with the broad snowy saddle of the Brandner Glacier. The earliest mention of Bludenz is in a document of the first half of the 9th century where it is called “villa Pludono”. By the time of Hugo II, Count of Werdenberg-Heiligenberg, a document of 20th August 1296 calls it “oppidum Bludens”. By the 20<sup>th</sup> century its population had grown to 7000.

## 2 Schilling indigo and grey-blue



The 2 schilling indigo and grey-blue value was issued on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1974. On the stamp is depicted the old bridge over the river Inn near Finstermünz in Tirol. The construction of a road through the narrows of Finstermünz was mentioned in a document of around 1300. A bridge must have been built then at the latest, as in 1348 it is mentioned as standing. This “Prugken zu Vinstermins gegen Pfuns” had to be maintained by the commune of Nauders according to a report of 1524. The piers on the banks and in the centre carry barricaded towers which with the roofs of the bridge give a very artistic appearance. It was declared a national monument in 1949.

## 2.50 Schilling deep reddish lilac and bluish lilac



The 2.50 schilling deep reddish lilac and bluish lilac value was issued on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1974. On the stamp is a view of the town of Murau in Styria. This town dates from the 9th century; in the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century it came under the domination of the Liechtenstein family which had its castle at Judenburg. On the stamp may be seen the Church of St. Matthew, built between 1284 and 1300, towering above the buildings grouped around the old bridge over the river Mur.

## 3 Schilling deep ultramarine and new blue



The 3 schilling deep ultramarine and new blue value was issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1974.

The design, of the Bischofsmütze in Salzburg, was also used for the 3 schilling stamp issued on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1978 in the smaller size of 17x20mm primarily for use in vending machines; it was printed in photogravure by Harrisons in London in rolls of 2000, but also in sheets of 100, comb perforated 13<sup>3/4</sup>:14. On the stamp is depicted an alpine farm huddled below the Grosse Bischofsmütze (2455m) and the Kleine Bischofsmütze (2428m); two of the most important peaks not



only in the Dachstein massif but also in the Northern Kalk Alps. The first tourist to climb the Bischofsmütze was Robert, Ritter von Lendenfeld, on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1879, and then these alps have become very popular with climbers and walkers. On the north west of the mountain is the Theodor Körner climbing hut at 1460m.

## 3.50 Schilling light brown and pale orange



The 3.50 schilling light brown and pale orange value was issued on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1978. On the stamp is depicted the Osterkirche at Oberwart in the Burgenland, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The first church building here was constructed about 1400 and a new church was built in 1778 to contain about a thousand people. The construction of the characteristic bulbous tops of the high towers took place in 1800. The baroque interior contains a High Altar of the Assumption and statues of St. Stephen and Ladislaus of Hungary.

## 4 Schilling deep reddish violet and bright lilac



The 4 schilling deep reddish violet and bright lilac stamp was issued on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1973. On the stamp is depicted the Almsee in Upper Austria, which lies on the northern boundary of the Totengebirge at a height of 589 metres in the eastern part of the Upper Austrian Salzkammergut. The area of the lake is 0.9 square kilometres; the length up to the mountain pass in front of the Weissenbach estuary is 2.4km while its widest width is 860 metres. The greatest depth of the Almsee is 9 metres but mostly it is about 4 metres. Despite its small depth, the Almsee contains over two million cubic metres of water.

## 4.20 Schilling black and bluish-grey



The 4.20 schilling black and bluish-grey value was issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1979. The stamp shows the village of Hirschegg in the Kleinwalsertal at the north east of Vorarlberg. This valley can only be reached from Austria with difficulty by a high mountain pass (the 30 mountain peaks around it vary between 1800m and 2000m) but easily from Bavaria, so special concession tariffs are used for the postage (see for example Austria 131 pp 15-39). Hirschegg, at a height of 1113m, is both a summer and a winter resort on the Breitach stream. Above it towers the Widderstein mountain (2536m).

#### 4.50 Schilling deep bluish green and light blue green



The 4.50 schilling deep bluish green and light blue green stamp was issued on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1976 and shows the famous windmills at Retz in Lower Austria. The one in the background was originally constructed in wood in 1773 by the miller Ferdinand Zimer. That in the foreground was constructed in 1775 in stone with a cylindrical tower in the Dutch style. Later, in 1830, it was bought by the Saxon miller Josef Bergmann who had learned his trade in Pulkau and who now restored them with new stone construction. These mills with their conical round towers, small wooden roofs and four great mill sails are now the symbols of Retz.

#### 5 Schilling violet and reddish lilac



The 5 schilling violet and reddish lilac stamp was issued on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1973. On this stamp is depicted the ruins of the castle of Aggstein in Lower Austria. A complete translation of the blackprint text is in Austria No. 51 (Spring 1980) pp.31-42.

This castle was constructed at the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century by the Kuenring family; it was destroyed by Duke Albrecht I in 1295; and rebuilt in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century by Georg Scheck von Wald. However, the castle began to decay in 1685 and only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were steps taken to conserve the ruins. They are now a favourite goal for walkers, with their view over the Danube valley.

#### 5.50 Schilling deep violet blue and bluish violet



The 5.50 schilling deep violet blue and bluish violet stamp was issued on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1982. On this stamp is depicted the small Chapel of Peace at Stoderzinken in Upper Styria. Here at a height of 2047 metres above sea level, in 1902, Emil, Ritter von Horstig d'Aubigny had constructed the so-called “Friedenskircherl”, a chapel of peace for those who climbed in the mountains. The prominent eastern projection of the slated roof may be seen clearly on this stamp. At the foot of the Stoderzinken stands the market town of Gröbming with a parish church that dates to 1170 A.D. Emil, Ritter von Horstig popularised the region as a holiday area for walkers.

#### 5.60 Schilling blackish olive and yellow-green



The 5.60 schilling blackish olive and yellow-green stamp was issued on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1982. On this stamp is depicted Riezler, the chief town of the Kleinwalsertal. At a height of 1088m in Vorarlberg, it stands on the banks of the Breitach. It is a popular resort in both winter and summer, having a ski-lift and ski-school, a clinic and a museum of local history. The people are of Swiss origin, under Austrian sovereignty since 1453 but attached to the German economy for simple geographical reasons.

#### 6 Schilling blackish lilac and bright rose



The 6 schilling blackish lilac and bright rose value was issued on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1975. On the stamp is depicted the Lindauer Hütte on the Ratikon Massif in Vorarlberg. In 1899 the Lindau section of the German and Austrian Alpine Society built its first hut in the Gauertal part of the Ratikon group in the Montafon. It stands at a height of 1744 metres above sea level, and above it rise the impressive limestone peaks of the Drusenfluh, Drei Türmen and the Sulzfluh, another 1100 metres higher, which make the horizon on the far end of the Gauertal look like shark fins. The mountain hut, which was redesigned in 2017, is one of the most popular in the region with 160 beds.

## 6.50 Schilling deep turquoise and turquoise blue



The 6.50 schilling deep turquoise blue and turquoise blue stamp was issued on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1977. It shows the Church of the Holy Cross in Villach-Perau in Carinthia standing above the river Drau. Constructed on the site of a church of St. Peter dating from 1203, this most beautiful Baroque Church of the Holy Cross was constructed between 1726 and 1747 under the direction of Andreas Sigl and Jakob Scherer. It was dedicated in 1751 by Michael Graf Attems, Archbishop of Görz. The church has a central cupola and two slender towers with onion spires. The High Altar, the chancel and the two side altars still date from the original building.

## 7 Schilling deep green and dull green



The 7 schilling deep green and dull green stamp was issued on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1973 and shows the castle of Falkenstein in Carinthia. A translation of the blackprint text is in Austria No. 39 (October 1976) pp.20-28.

The castle of Upper Falkenstein dates from the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. That of Lower Falkenstein was originally a protective bastion of the Upper Castle which was later developed into an independent castle. Both were in the possession of the Counts of Görz and both fell into ruin. However, Lower Falkenstein was restored in 1905 and is still inhabited today by its owners.

## 7.50 Schilling deep reddish purple and magenta



The 7.50 schilling deep reddish purple and magenta stamp was issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1977. On this stamp is depicted the great fortress of Hohensalzburg, founded in 1077 by Archbishop Gebhard and owing its present form to Archbishop Leonhard in 1500. Salzburg was an independent Prince-Archbishopric until the end of the Napoleonic wars when in 1816 it went to Austria; the fortress was then used as a barracks. Later it became a tourist attraction, and a funicular railway was built in 1892 to provide easy access.

## 8 Schilling reddish brown and pink



The 8 schilling reddish brown and pink stamp was issued on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1976. On this stamp is depicted a votive column from Reiteregg in Styria. This stone “Bildstock” dating from the last quarter of the 17th century stands at the entrance door of the castle of Reiteregg which lies between the villages of Hitzendorf and Rohrbach. Over this “Pestsäule” or “Plague Column” hangs a lime tree. Probably erected by the Lords of Moscon, who then held the castle, at a period when the plague was raging in Styria, the column stands on a four stepped pedestal and holds a tabernacle on winged angels' heads. This tabernacle is open on all four sides and this is crowned with an onion shaped head above which is a double cross.

## 9 Schilling deep carmine-red and rose



The 9 schilling deep carmine-red and rose stamp was issued on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1983. On this stamp is depicted the Asten valley with a view towards the Lienz Dolomites. This high mountain valley lies in the north western part of Carinthia in the upper Mölltal. It is surrounded by the mountains known as Mohar (2604m); Stellkopf (2851m); Rotwandeck (2855m); Makernispitze (2644m) and Hoher Sadnig (2745m). Through the valley runs the Astenbach which originates in the Astener Moos on a level moor. It then vanishes underground but then joins the Möll river.

### 10 Schilling myrtle-green and bluish-green



The 10 schilling myrtle green and bluish-green stamp was issued on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1973. On this stamp are depicted sailing boats on the Neusiedlersee in Burgenland. This lake is a slightly salty expanse of water. It varies in size, the maximum recorded area being 515 km<sup>2</sup>, and at times it almost completely dries up. The banks of the lake are fringed with a broad, almost uninterrupted girdle of reeds that harbour numerous wildfowl.

### 11 Schilling brown red and orange red



The 11 schilling brown red and orange red stamp was issued on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1976; it shows the town of Enns in Upper Austria. Originally constructed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by Count Ottakar II, it came into the possession of the Babenbergs in 1192 when Ottakar IV died without heirs. Its fortifications were constructed with the ransom paid by England for Richard Coeur de Lion. Schloss Ennseck, on a height, was the property of Count Fürstenberg.

### 12 Schilling sepia and light brown



The 12 schilling sepia and light brown stamp was issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1980. It shows the fortress of Kufstein in Tirol, a guardian against Bavaria. It was originally constructed in 1205 with its Emperor's Tower as a symbol of the town of Kufstein that lies at its foot. It was enlarged considerably by the Emperor Maximilian and until 1882 it served as a border fortress. Today it houses a “Heimatmuseum” (Museum of Local History) and, since 1931, the “Burgerturm” (Citizens Tower) has contained a splendid “Heroes' Organ”. The chapel of the Trinity houses a rococo altar. At the end of the Second World War, the castle was both bombed and shelled by artillery.

### 14 Schilling myrtle green and yellowish green



The 14 schilling myrtle green and yellowish green stamp was issued on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1982. On this stamp is depicted the Weisssee in the province of Salzburg. The Weisswasser valley lies in the highest eastern part of the Stubachtal in the Pinzgau district. There is a whole sequence of lakes of which the Weisssee (2250m), below the Weisssee-Spitze (7320 ft.) and above the Beler Alphütte, serves as a reservoir for the water that melts from the snow of the region. In late spring the water drains through the Weissenbach towards the north into the Grünsee at 1714m.

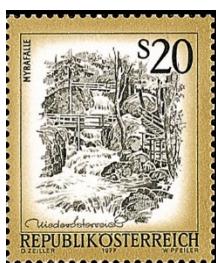
### 16 Schilling deep brown and light orange brown



The 16 schilling deep brown and light-orange brown stamp was issued on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1977 and shows the Open-Air Museum at Bad-Tatzmannsdorf in the Burgenland, opened in 1967 to serve as excellent examples of peasant houses and life in the Southern Burgenland. This collection consists essentially of peasant houses of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century; stalls (or sheds) in front of houses, with steep thatched roofs; “Kittinge” (silos for fruit that are characteristic of this region); a belfry and a house with a wine-press and wine cellars. On the stamp is shown a rare bucket-well with a wooden cogged wheel arrangement.

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20 Schilling deep olive and bistre



The 20 schilling deep olive and bistre stamp was issued on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1977. On this stamp is depicted the waterfall known as the Mira Falls at Muggendorf in Lower Austria. This is a waterfall of the Mirabach river, which joins the Piesting north of Pernitz. The water only runs on Sundays and Holy Days, since during the week it is used to drive an electricity works! The stream rises on the Unterberg (1341 m) and falls here about 100m over 17 small steps. Nineteen bridges span the stream.

50 Schilling deep violet and lavender-grey



The top value of this twenty-seven member set was a 50 schilling deep violet and lavender grey stamp, with a size 38x28.25mm (overall size 42x32.25mm). It was issued on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1975, comb perforated 13½:13¾. On this stamp is shown the Congress Centre in the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, with the equestrian statue of Prince Eugene of Savoy in the foreground. This is the northern part of the New Hofburg, in which the Congress Centre was established in 1958. This New Hofburg was constructed, between 1802 and 1806, to the designs of Louis Montoyer and mainly contained a Ceremonial Hall which was connected to the Leopoldine Tract.