

# THE "MONASTERIES AND ABBEYS" SERIES, 1984-1992.



Stift Vorau,  
Steiermark



Zisterzienserabtei,  
Mehrerau,  
Vorarlberg



Kloster des Deutschen  
Ordens, Singerstrasse,  
Wien



Stift Michaelbeuern,  
Salzburg



Stift Geras,  
Niederösterreich



Stift Stams,  
Tirol



Stift Schlägl,  
Oberösterreich



Stift St Paul im Lavanttal,  
Kärnten



Propstei St Gerold,  
Vorarlberg



Stift Rein-Hohenfurth,  
Steiermark



Kloster Loretto,  
Burgenland



Dominikanerkonvent,  
Wien



850 Jahre Stift Zwettl,  
Niederösterreich



850 Jahre Stift Wilten,  
Tirol



Stift Engelszell,  
Oberösterreich



Konvent der  
Barmherzigen Brüder in  
Eisenstadt, Burgenland



Erzabtei St Peter,  
Salzburg



Kloster Wernberg,  
Kärnten

## INTRODUCTION.

The last value to be issued of the “Beautiful Austria” series of definitives was the 9 schilling stamp issued on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1983. The first values of this definitive set were issued on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1973 and had thus been in use for almost a decade. It continued the tradition of the previous Second Republic definitives - Landscapes, Peasant Costumes and Buildings - in providing themes that covered the whole country fairly uniformly. The attempt in 1966 to produce definitives based on “Fruits” had been so ridiculed that only six values were issued.

Thus, the subject of the next definitive set of stamps had to be very carefully considered by the Austrian Post Office and, when it was finally decided to use the theme of “Stifte und Kloster in Österreich” [“Austrian Monasteries and Abbeys”] the first value, 3.50 schilling, was issued on its own on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1984 as if awaiting favourable public reaction before continuing with the series.

However, no adverse criticism was occasioned by these charming designs by Otto Zeiller\* that were then engraved by Werner Pfeiler\* and printed by both recess and photogravure processes, in sheets of 100 stamps; comb perforated 13% x 14 in impressions that were limited only by demand. The overall size of individual stamps was 32.8 x 27.5 mm, whilst the size of the design was 28.8 x 23.5 mm, so that a convenient size was provided for general use.

\* Several of the later designs were in fact solo efforts; Otto Zeiller designed and engraved the 10S design while Werner Pfeiler designed and engraved the 50gr, 1S50, 2S, 11S, 12S, 20S.

*A monastery* [from the Greek 'Monazein' = to live alone] is a residence for a community, especially of monks, living under religious vows of seclusion.

*An abbey* [from the Greek 'abbas' - father] is a monastic community governed by an abbot or abbess. The German 'Stifte' and 'Kloster' are usually both translated as 'monastery'.

### *33.1 50 groschen, The Canons' Monastery at Vorau in Styria.*

The first value of the set was a 50 groschen pale-yellow, greenish-slate and black value that was issued on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1990. The stamp shows the Canons Monastery at Vorau, in Styria, situated on the top of a high plateau between the Wechsel and Masenberg mountains.

Margrave Otaker III of Steier, later the Duke of Styria, founded the monastery in 1163 in thanksgiving for the birth of his son. The original building was reconstructed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century after a devastating fire, as a fortified monastery against invaders from the east. The Gothic and Romanesque architecture was transformed into the Baroque around 1735. The monastery church was built between 1660 and 1662, after plans by Domenico Sciassia. It is one of the most magnificent Baroque churches of Styria with its voluptuous frescoes and the rich gold coating on all the sculptures. Matthias Steinl designed the great high altar, built in 1704, as well as the beautiful chancel of 1706. The vestry was painted by Johann Cyriak Hackhofer to depict the sufferings and glorification of Christ as well as the representation of the major vices of man. The monastery also has a great library hall, 27 metres long and two stories high, decorated in 1731 to house 415 manuscripts, 20 incunabula and about 40,000 printed books.

Because it conducted an admirable grammar school, the monastery escaped suppression by Josef II and survived untouched until 19<sup>th</sup>. April 1940 when the Nazis expelled the Canons and expropriated the buildings. The buildings were used for a Nazi school and were heavily damaged in April 1945 at the end of the Second World War. When the Canons returned in May 1945 they had to start the slow reconstruction of the monastery and this has now been completed.

### *33.2 1 Schilling, Cistercian Abbey of Wettingen-Mehrerau in Vorarlberg.*

The second value of the set was a 1 schilling pale-brown, carmine-violet and black-green value that was issued on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1989. The stamp shows the Cistercian Abbey of Wettingen-Mehrerau in the Vorarlberg. In 1086, at the request of Count Ulrich X of Bregenz, monks from the Benedictine Abbey of Peterhausen at Constance, founded by St. Gebhard in 983, settled at Andelsbuch in the Bregenzerwald. In 1092 they moved to Bregenz and built the present monastery edifice called “Au am See” or “St. Peter in der Au”. They cultivated the land with mainly arable crops and cultivated the development of science and art; also patronising the Baroque architects who expanded the Abbey. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was renamed “Augia-Maior” [Mehrerau] - [the Latin 'augeo' = to make grow, to increase. The German 'Aue' = a pasture.]

When Bavaria occupied the Vorarlberg during the Napoleonic period, the Abbey of Mehrerau was suppressed in 1806, the church was demolished and the other buildings used as army barracks. In 1854 it was re-established by Cistercian monks who in 1841 had been driven away from the Abbey of Wettingen, in the Swiss canton of Aargau,



which had been founded by Heinrich von Rapperswil in 1227. Because Wettingen lay near the ancestral lands of the Habsburgs, the Emperor Franz Josef I was pleased to allow these monks to settle in the Vorarlberg. Pope Pius IX granted all the rights and privileges which had been attached to Wettingen to Mehrerau. Closed by the Nazis between 1841 and 1945, the Abbey now conducts two grammar schools and a boarding school. It also has a hospital or sanatorium which is justly famous. The monks, naturally, live according to the rule of St. Benedict as modified by the customs of Cîteaux.

### *33.3 1.50 schilling, Cloister of the German Order in Vienna.*

The third value of the set was a 1.50 schilling pale brown, green-blue and red-lilac stamp that was issued on 23rd October 1992. The stamp shows a view of the exterior of the monastery of the Teutonic Order in Vienna.

The Teutonic [or German] Order, officially the “Brothers from the Teutonic House of St. Mary in Jerusalem” was founded in 1190 in Palestine to nurse the sick or wounded from German-speaking countries. In 1198 it was transformed into an Order of Knights. In 1226, Duke Conrad of Masovia requested help from the Grand Master of the Order against the heathen Prussians. By 1230 the first Knights had reached the river Vistula and then a State of the Order was developed in Prussia. The last Grand Master of Prussia, Albrecht von Brandenburg accepted the Reformation, secularising the Order State so that he could appropriate its lands and possessions. The Order continued in the remaining German Catholic States but was dissolved in 1809 everywhere apart from Austria and its headquarters came to Vienna.

Its church is in the Gothic style with a High Altar of 1530 surmounted by a painting by Tobias Pock of 1667. Although the Viennese Order was in the gift to the crown as an ecclesiastical knightly community, a congregation of nuns was established in 1841 and one of priests in 1854. The last aristocratic Grand Master, the Archduke Eugen, resigned in 1923 to allow for further reform so that now the only lay institutions left are family institutions attached to the Order. In 1929, Pope Pius XI accepted the completed reforms, and after 1947 German nationals were again accepted as members.

### *33.4 2 Schilling, Benedictine Abbey of Michaelbeuern.*

The fourth value of the set was a 2 schilling pale yellow, dark olive-green and green-black value that was issued on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1991. It shows the Benedictine Abbey of Michaelbeuern in the commune of Dorfbeuren in the northern Flachgau, 30km from the city of Salzburg, in the Dichtental.

It is believed that a monk's cell existed here before 736 A.D. and this grew into an abbey called “Buria” which was destroyed in the Hungarian invasions between 907 and 955. It was rebuilt by donations from the Emperor and the Counts of Burghausen; the Romanesque pilaster basilica was consecrated on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1072. This basilica was transformed, in both the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, into the Gothic style. The magnificent High Altar of 1639 was enhanced in 1690/91 with statues of Saints Rupert and Ulrich by Meinrad Guggenbichler. In 1691/92 the painter Johann Michael Rottmayr [1654-1730], a former choir-boy of the monastery, painted a large “Ascension of Christ”. Another great treasure of the monastery is the enormous “Walter Bible” of 1170 with famous miniatures.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century a Theological Institute was added to the Choir School and the monastery provided professors for the Benedictine University of Salzburg. The monastery wing, with an imposing library, was constructed by Franz Alois Mayr von Trostberg in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the Hall was then decorated with Rococo paintings by Franz Nikolaus Streicher. During the Nazi period the monastery was expropriated and dissolved; the church being used for storage. However, since 1945, the monks have worked continuously to restore it to its former glory and this is now completed. The monks conduct a private academic grammar school, which takes boarders, as well as a retreat house.

### *33.5 3.50 Schilling, Premonstratensian Monastery at Geras, Waldviertel.*

The fifth value of the set was a 3.50 schilling, pale yellow, lake-brown and sepia value that was issued on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1984. The stamp shows the monastery of Premonstratensian Canons at Geras in the Waldviertel of Lower Austria. This monastery was founded in 1153, by Count Ulrich von Pernegg specifically to provide pastoral care for the Slav population as well as the Frankish and Bavarian settlers. The Premonstration Order had only just been founded in 1120, by St. Norbert of Xanten [1180-1234] at Premontre, and the first Canons at Geras were sent from Selau in Bohemia.

The monastery itself was originally constructed in the Romanesque style although subsequently decorated in the Baroque style. In 1620 it was raided and pillaged so that it had to be completely renovated. The tower of the church was constructed between 1663 and 1673, whilst in 1736 the side wing with its famous marble hall was built by the architect Josef Munggenast. Paul Troger painted the fresco, “The Miracle of the Loaves” on the ceiling.

Geras is located in a countryside cultivated by the Canons with many fishponds, about 100km north-west of Vienna and 60km north of Krems. The granary of 1670 was converted into an hotel, “Alter Schittkasten” in 1980. A decade

previously, in 1970, the monastery started to host courses of applied art, particularly rustic and icon painting, pottery, wood carving and glass decoration. The students are accommodated in the new tract of the monastery or in the vaulted rooms of the estate buildings of 1666. The library of the monastery contains late Gothic manuscripts but the idea of constructing a great new library wing never actually came to fruition.

#### *33.6. 4 schilling, Monastery of Stams, North Tirol.*

The sixth value of the set was a 4 schilling pale yellow, carmine and rosine value that was issued on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1984. On this stamp is the Cistercian monastery of Stams in the valley of the Upper Inn in North Tirol, situated 35km to the west of Innsbruck.

This monastery was founded in 1273 by Elisabeth of Bavaria, the widow of the German King Konrad IV [1228-1254] in memory of their murdered son, the tragic Konradin [1252-1268] who was the last of the Hohenstaufen dynasty. She had remarried Meinhard II, Count of Gorz and Tirol and it is he who became the co-founder when the monastery church was completed and consecrated on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1284. This church was rebuilt in 1607-09 and was decorated in the Baroque style in 1729-32 by G.A. Gump. This is the largest baroque church in northern Tirol and it houses the tombs of the rulers of the Tirol; a special "Prince's vault" being constructed between 1670 and 1681, with statues of the rulers and a crucifix group by A. Damasch. In the "Holy Blood" chapel of 1717 there are frescos by J. Schopf [1800] and statues by Kolle.

The monastery itself was also rebuilt in the Baroque style, between 1692 and 1724, by T.M. & G.A. Gump. During the reforms of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the monastery was closed for a short period [1806-1816] and was next closed by the Nazis in 1939. The monks returned in 1946 and now conduct both a classical grammar school and a modern language grammar school. A famous boarding school for ski athletes is also located at the monastery which, since the Middle Ages, has continuously provided education for the secular clergy. It is thus apposite that the main activity of the present-day monks should be that of education.

#### *33.7 4.50 Schilling, Monastery of Schlagl in Upper Austria.*

The seventh value of the set was a 4.50 schilling pale yellow, deep reddish lilac and ultramarine value that was issued on 18<sup>th</sup> May. It shows the monastery of Schlagl in Upper Austria near Algen. This border country was originally colonised from Passau, a small Cistercian monastery being founded in 1207 by monks from Langheim in Franken [Franconia] with the diocese of Bamberg. Within eight years, however, these monks had to return to their motherhouse and the monastery was re-founded in 1218 by Canons of the Premonstratensian Order. This Order is still in residence in this small monastery, the northern front of which is depicted on the stamp.

The monastery church was constructed between the 13<sup>th</sup>. and 15<sup>th</sup>. centuries; being altered into the early Baroque style, between 1726 and 1729, with a chancel of 1646-47 and choir stalls of 1735. The present monastery, built from 1626 onwards, is one of the first Baroque monasteries in Upper Austria; standing as it does on the Great Muhl river. All this reconstruction was due to the mediaeval structure being destroyed and plundered during the Peasants War in 1626. Later the Abbey church was damaged by fire in 1739 when new altars had to be installed. Since that period the abbey has changed little.

The monastery now provides its monks to administer the surrounding parishes, to direct retreats, to teach religion in the schools and to act as chaplains in hospitals and industrial companies. Within the monastery itself the monks work in a brewery, in a power plant and in the market gardens and restaurants. The abbey church is renowned as a centre of excellence in church music.

#### *33.8 5 Schilling, Monastery of St. Paul at Lavanttal in Carinthia.*

The eighth value of the set was a 5 schilling pale yellow, bright orange and brown-purple value that was issued on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1985 and shows the Benedictine Monastery of St. Paul at Lavanttal in Carinthia.

In 1091, Graf Engelbert I of Sponheim gave his ancestral castle to Abbot Wezilo [1091-1115] and twelve monks from Hirsau in the Schwarzwald. The great monastery church was constructed there between 1150 and 1220, in the Romanesque style of the Hirsau school. After a fire in 1367, this church was provided with a Gothic ribbed vault; the keystone and rosette being painted in 1468 by Michael and Friedrich Pacher. There are frescoes, painted by Thomas von Villach in 1493, depicting the donors, and early 17<sup>th</sup> century Baroque-style altars.

A Latin school and hospital were conducted by the monks in the 13<sup>th</sup> century; but the monastery was so badly damaged by the Turks in 1476 that in 1620 Abbot Jerome Marchstaller [1616-1638] constructed the present monastery buildings. The Emperor Josef II closed the monastery in 1782/87, when the buildings fell into disrepair, but it was re-opened in 1809 by Abbot Berthold III Rottler and 37 monks from St. Blasien in the Schwarzwald. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the monastery devoted itself to conducting a grammar school and providing teachers for schools in Klagenfurt. The Nazis closed the monastery in 1940, and between 1945 and 1947 it was occupied by

British troops. The monks, in addition to engaging in historical and archaeological research, administer 'big' parishes in the vicinity.

### *33.9 5.50 Schilling, St. Gerald in Great Walsertal in Vorarlberg.*

The ninth value of the set was a 5.50 schilling pale yellow, deep violet and bluish-violet value that was issued on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1986. On this stamp is the Provostship of St. Gerald at the entrance of the Great Walsertal in the Vorarlberg. This Benedictine monastery was founded by St. Gerald in 960, and given on his death in 978 to the Abbey of Einsiedeln in Switzerland which still owns it as a provostry.

The Romanesque stone church, which soon replaced the original wooden church, was destroyed in 1311. A much larger church was built in 1313; this was reconstructed by Abbot Eichhorn in 1500 in the Baroque style, and the monastery building was rebuilt at the same time. Little has altered since that period, and during the Napoleonic period it served as a refuge for the Abbot of Einsiedeln and his monks. In the Middle Ages, the Provostry won the right to hold court over its subjects; becoming a free imperial domain in 1648. This court of St. Gerald was dissolved in 1806 and, in 1839, Einsiedeln purchased the Provostry from Austria.

During the Nazi period the monastery came under military administration but was not damaged, simply tending to fall into ruins after the Second World War due to lack of renovation. Then between 1959 and 1963 under Provost Nathaniel Wirth, the monasteries were restored and the St. Anthony Chapel was turned into a Lady Chapel. During the archaeological work of 1965-66, the Romanesque tomb of St. Gerald and the Romanesque apse were made accessible from a crypt and the church re-decorated and re-opened in accordance with decrees of the Second Vatican Council.

### *33.10 6 Schilling, Rein Hohenfurth Monastery in Styria.*

The tenth value of the set was a 6 schilling pale yellow, myrtle green and bright emerald value that was issued on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1984. On this stamp is depicted the monastery of Rein Hohenfurth, situated in Styria 12km from Graz and reputed to be the oldest existing Cistercian monastery in the world. It was founded in 1129 by the Styrian Markgraf Leopold the Strong, of the House of Traungau, and his wife Sophie von Bayern of the House of Guelf. Sophie's brother, Conrad von Bayern, belonged to the Cistercian Order, which spread out after 1098 from the Abbey of Citeaux in Burgundy. Abbot Gerlacus [died 1164] came to Rein with monks from Ebrauch in Franconia to staff this monastery which was given lands by King Konrad III of Germany. The abbey church was constructed as a Romanesque pillared basilica in the style of Fontenoy in Burgundy and consecrated by Archbishop Konrad I of Salzburg in 1140. This church remained unaltered until 1738 when it was reconstructed in the Baroque style.

The monastery buildings began to be built in 1280 but architectural changes were made during the period of the Renaissance; the archives in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the court in 1608. The late Gothic cruciform chapel of the prelacy dates from 1409. There are also the burial chapel of Duke Ernst the Ironside [died 1424] and the Plague Chapel of 1681. The sacristy of 1683 is in the early Baroque style and the tower was rebuilt in 1670. The monastery today conducts a high school for 500 pupils, provides priests for thirteen surrounding parishes, organises retreats and runs an old people's home.

### *33.11 7 Schilling, Monastery of Loretto in Burgenland.*

The eleventh value of the set was a 7 schilling pale yellow, blackish-green and greenish-blue value that was issued on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1987. On this stamp is depicted the monastery of Loretto in the Burgenland, situated on the northern slope of the Leitha mountains near Eisenstadt.

The monastery takes its name from the village of Loretto near Ancona on the Adriatic, which has been a famous place of pilgrimage since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In 1644 Hans Rudolf von Stotzingen brought a copy of the Loretto statue and placed it in a chapel, itself a copy of the Holy House of Loretto, on the site of a chapel of St. John destroyed by the invading Turks in 1529

Soon pilgrims came to this new chapel, and in 1651 Franz Nadasdy laid the foundation for first a church and then a monastery. These were burnt down during the Turkish War of 1683 and then reconstructed by 1707 by the Serrite monks who were in residence. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century Loretto became a very popular pilgrimage centre but it was closed by the Emperor Josef II in 1787. Although then used for various ecclesiastical purposes, the buildings remained in existence.

The church of the Immaculate Conception is in the Baroque style, dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and situated between the cloister with the pilgrimage chapel and the monastery. In the pilgrimage chapel is located a crowned and richly clothed "Virgin and Child" statue; the object of the pilgrimage which, in 1986, attracted 77,000 pilgrims. The Serrite Order was again in charge of the Parish and the pilgrims between 1926 and 1953, whilst since 1964 the Oblates of the Virgin Mary have been the Order in charge and in residence.

### *33.12 7.50 Schilling, Dominican Monastery in Vienna.*

The twelfth value of the set was a 7.50 schilling pale yellow, reddish-brown and yellow-brown that was issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1956. This stamp shows the Dominican Monastery in Vienna; the second oldest monastery in that city. St. Dominic died on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1221 and it is probable that Cardinal Konrad von Urach took the initiative to found this monastery, in 1226, in the centre of the old University quarters. The Black Friars, the Order of Preachers, took a pre-eminent part in the teaching at the University and built a great Gothic church, second only to St. Stephens in size, as part of their monastery.

This was destroyed during the Turkish siege of 1529, to provide material for the fortifications, and was rebuilt after 1631 in the Baroque style of the Counter Reformation. The architects were Cipriano Biasino and Antonio Conevela and the present church, with its great western facade, remains their monument. The present High Altar of 1839-40 was designed by Karl Rosner and the picture above it, by Leopold Kupelwiesser, depicts the introduction of the Feast of the Holy Rosary by Gregory XIII. The chancel, of 1700, is by Manias Steidl and the Chapel to St. Vincent Ferrer by Francois Roettiers.

In 1937, over two thirds of the monastery buildings were destroyed so that the remaining monastery is but a shadow of its former self. The cloister of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, however, does remain as does the large manuscript collection of theological and philosophical books from the Middle Ages. An important feature is the crypt of the church where everyone buried there since 1410, mainly deceased monks, is listed in a "Book of the Dead" of 1680.

### *33.13 8 Schilling, Zwettl Monastery in Waldviertal, Lower Austria.*

The thirteenth value of the set was an 8 schilling pale yellow, deep violet-blue and carmine lake value issued on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1988. This stamp shows the Cistercian Monastery at Zwettl in the Waldviertal of Lower Austria. This monastery was celebrating the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of uninterrupted existence since it was founded in 1338 by Hadmar I of Kuenring as a daughter house of the Abbey of Heiligenkreuz. The abbot in 1988, Fr. Bertram Baumann O.Cist. was 66<sup>th</sup> abbot of Zwettl in an unbroken line.

Standing on the river Kamp, the monastery buildings and church are essentially of the Romanesque period. The High Gothic choir, with polygonally radiating chapels, was constructed by Master Jan in 1343 but this was enlarged several times until the Baroque period. The High Altar, depicting the Assumption of Our Lady, was designed by J.M. Gotz and the Late Gothic wing altar, depicting the life of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, was by Jorg Breu [1500].

The great tower is 80 metres high and is crowned by a gilded statue of the ascension of Our Lord. The tower oratory contains a famous Baroque organ by J.J. Egedacher. The library and the refectory are both with the cloister and both have frescoes and murals by Paul Troger. There also will be found the chapter house and the lower dormitory.

In 1988, there were thirty monks under their abbot at Zwettl and the monastery employed 150 people mainly engaged in forestry, agriculture, fish farming and the production of wine. The monks also work as priests in 14 surrounding parishes and conduct a choir school as well as retreats and an international organ festival.

### *33.14 10 Schilling, Premonstratensian Monastery Wilten in Innsbruck*

The fourteenth value of the set was a 10 schilling pale yellow, carmine-red and violet-grey value issued on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1988 to show the Premonstratensian Monastery of Wilten in Innsbruck. On 30<sup>th</sup> April 1138 Pope Innocent II [1130-1143] confirmed to Provost Marchward of Wilten his acceptance of the canonical institution there of the Premonstratensian Order in place of the college of secular priests that had previously existed in that place since 860 A.D. Wilten is now simply a suburb of Innsbruck, in the Tirol, and the priests of the monastery work in the 21 parishes of that city as well as conducting a choir school to provide chorister for those parishes.

The present monastery church of St. Lawrence and most of the monastery buildings date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the church was rebuilt in the Baroque style by Christopher Gump of Innsbruck between 1651 and 1665. The facade is in the High Baroque style, of 1716, by G.A. Gump. The monastery buildings were rebuilt by Christopher Gump between 1670 and 1696. The church contains a 17<sup>th</sup> century organ with a sounding board which is reputed to be the oldest transmission organ in the world. It possesses folding doors which were then a novelty. The church also has ceiling paintings by K. Waldmann who produced them between 1702 and 1707.

Perhaps the most prominent feature of the monastery church, as shown on the stamp, is the high tower on the front facade with the base rectangular tower surmounted by a bulbous crown which, in turn, is finally surmounted by a lantern top carrying a cross on the summit. The first bulbous crown displays the great clock.

### *33.15 11 Schilling, Engelszell Monastery Upper Austria.*

The fifteenth value of the set was an 11 schilling deep yellow-brown, stone and black value issued on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1990 and showing the Trappist monastery of Engelszell [Cell of Angels], Upper Austria, which is situated in the Inn



Quarter, of the Upper Danube valley, on the right bank of the Danube 25km downstream from Passau. Wernhart von Prambach, Bishop of Passau, founded a “cella anglica” here in 1293 and installed monks from the Cistercian monastery of Withering.

The old buildings were destroyed by fire in 1699 and the present monastery was rebuilt in the following eighty years and was consecrated in 1764; only to be dissolved by the Emperor Josef II in 1786. The facade, which is surmounted by a central tower, is presumably modelled upon that of the mother church of Withering. This facade is rectangular outside and inside there is a long elliptical space with three niches on each side. The middle one is larger and makes the church appear to be centrally planned; the choir is only one bay long with an oval apse. The angelic frescoes in the choir and ante choir are by B. Altomonte.

The nave vault was torn down in the 19th. century, because it was damaged, and its frescoes were destroyed. In 1925, the monastery started a new life with the arrival of German speaking Trappists [Cistercians of the Strict Observance] from Olenberg in Alsace but in 1939 the Nazis dispersed the 73 monks into the world. In 1945 the Trappists returned - the only Trappists in Austria - and restored the church and monastery. In 1957 a new fresco of the “Virgin with choirs of angels” was painted by Fritz Frohlich and altars and a pulpit by J.G. Ubelherr were installed.

### *33.16 12 Schilling, Brothers of Mercy Monastery, Eisenstadt.*

The sixteenth value of the set was a 12 schilling pale yellow, orange- brown and dark brown value issued on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1992 showing the Monastery of the Hospitallers [Barmherzigen Brüder] in Eisenstadt; the capital of the Burgenland. This small but beautiful church in the Baroque style, dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua, was probably constructed in 1739 in the south western corner of the hospital complex.

In 1539 St John of God [Johannes Ciudad] founded the Order of Hospitallers in Grenada. At the request of Emperor Matthias, the Order established a hospital in Taborstraße in Vienna. It was originally staffed by Spaniards and Italians; its deed of foundation by Ferdinand II is dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 1614. Then, on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1757 Prince Franz Esterházy opened a hospital in Pápa, Hungary for his subjects and invited the Hospitallers to run it. This was followed on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1760 by Prince Paul Anton Esterházy agreeing with the Provincial of the Order to open a hospital in Eisenstadt, beginning on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1760 with one priest and seven Brothers to run a hospital with eight beds.

By 1848 this capacity had been increased to twenty beds and it grew steadily during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 1980, this hospital at Eisenstadt was designated to serve as the central hospital for the northern part of Burgenland and it now has 470 beds. For that purpose, a public pharmacy that had existed prior to 1717 was also entrusted to the Hospitallers.

The hospital is very proud of its association with Joseph Haydn who was first violinist there from 1755 to 1758. In 1760 he wrote a small solo organ mass entitled “*Missa brevis St. Johannis de Deo*” for the Hospitallers.

### *33.17 17 Schilling, Abbey of St.Peter in Salzburg.*

The seventeenth value of the set was a 17 schilling stone, dull ultramarine and greenish-blue value issued on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1989 showing the Arch-Abbey of St. Peter in Salzburg; an abbey previously depicted on the 60 groschen value of the “Salzburg Cathedral Reconstruction Fund” set of 6<sup>th</sup> August 1948.

The Arch-Abbey of St.Peter in Salzburg can trace its foundation back to 696 A.D. and it became a Benedictine Abbey in 750 A.D. Until 957 it was known as the “Bishop's Monastery”, being attached to the Episcopal see with the bishop as abbot, but in that year it was separated from the bishopric and given an independent abbot; Tito of St. Emmeran in Regensburg.

In 1127 the church and monastery were destroyed by fire but were then rebuilt by Bishop Alderich [1125-1147] and this was essentially the building as it exists today. The monastery church is Romanesque [1130-42] with a narthex of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and a chief entrance in the Tuscan-Ligurian style of 1240. The facade, however, is Rococo from the Late Baroque period although the frescoes are Romanesque [1190-1240]. There are altar pictures by Kremser-Schmidt Reslfeld and F.X. König. The Chapter House is Early Gothic of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The reforms of the Emperor Josef II had little effect upon the Abbey although the political upheavals of the Napoleonic period had a damaging effect. The Abbey continued with its educational work at both primary and secondary school levels and at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century commenced social work amongst deprived youth. In 1925 a study house “St.Benedict's College” was built as a theological and philosophical teaching establishment and, in 1927, the Abbey was again raised to the status of an Arch-Abbey.

### *33.18 20 Schilling, Cloister Wernberg, Carinthia.*

The eighteenth and final value of the set was a 20 schilling pale yellow, dark brown-carmine and black-violet value that was issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1991. On this stamp is depicted the Monastery, or Convent, of the Missionary Sisters of

the Precious Blood in the Castle of Wernberg in Carinthia. It is situated near Villach where the river Drau bends sharply and stands high in the forest above the river.

The castle itself was known as “Werdenbersh” in 1227 and “Wernberg” in 1403. It came into the possession of the Khevenhuller family in 1519 when the present building, a three storeyed edifice with four mighty towers and a gateway on the north facade, was constructed. In 1672 the castle was purchased by the Monastery of Ossiach, and the church, the refectory, and the guests dining room were built by the Benedictines. However, in 1783, this monastery was suppressed by the Emperor Josef II, and for the next 152 years the castle was neglected and the church deconsecrated.

In 1935, the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood purchased the castle and its estate and started to restore them; especially the church whose flat ceiling is decorated with frescoes by Josef Ferdinand Fromiller [1693-1760] in the Baroque style. During the Second World War the convent was confiscated and used as a hospital, whilst during the British occupation, it became a school for English children. Now the convent is again in the possession of the Congregation who conduct the Castle as a tourist hotel. The Sisters undertake missionary work in the Third World and in Europe by teaching, nursing, farming and the care of the poor.