

# THE “STORIES & LEGENDS” SERIES OF 1997-2000.



Der Lindwurm von  
Klagenfurt



Die Grausame Rosalia  
von Forchtenstein



Die schwarze Frau  
von Hardegg



Der liebe Augustin



Der Basilisk



Der Rattenfänger von  
Korneuburg



Die Donaunixe  
vom Strudengau



Die heilige  
Notburga



Der Hexenritt



Die Laib-Brot-Marter



Der heilige Konrad  
von Altem



Auffindung des  
steirischen  
Erzberges

## By face value

Face	FDI	ANK	Where?	What?
6S50	11.7.1997	2258	Klagenfurt	The Lindworm of Klagenfurt
7S	21.3.1997	2245	Forchtenstein	Rosalie, the cruel lady of Forchtenstein
8S	19.2.1999	2304	Hardegg	The Black Lady from Hardegg in Lower Austria
9S	23.1.1998	2272	Wien	Augustine the piper
10S	21.1.2000	2333	Wien	House of the Basilisk in Vienna
13S	23.1.1998	2273	Korneuburg	The pied piper from Korneuburg
14S	19.9.1997	2262	Grein	The Danube Maiden from Strudengau
20S	27.8.1999	2321	Maurach	St. Notburga, greeting a tired farm worker
22S	28.4.2000	2343	Graz-Mariatrost	The witch ride of Mariatrost
23S	16.6.2000	2358	Raabs a.d. Thaya	The Bread Loaf Marterl
25S	5.6.1998	2290	Bregenz	St. Konrad, Bishop of Konstanz
32S	12.11.1999	2330	Eisenerz	Discovery legend

## By FDI date

Face	FDI	ANK	Where?	What?
7S	21/03/1997	2245	Forchtenstein	Rosalia, the cruel lady of Forchtenstein
6S50	11/07/1997	2258	Klagenfurt	The Lindworm of Klagenfurt
14S	19/09/1997	2262	Grein	The Danube Maiden from Strudengau
9S	23/01/1998	2272	Wien	Augustine the piper
13S	23/01/1998	2273	Korneuburg	The pied piper from Korneuburg
25S	05/06/1998	2290	Bregenz	St. Konrad, Bishop of Konstanz
8S	19/02/1999	2304	Hardegg	The Black Lady from Hardegg in Lower Austria
20S	27/08/1999	2321	Maurach	St. Notburga, greeting a tired farm worker
32S	12/11/1999	2330	Eisenerz	Discovery legend
10S	21/01/2000	2333	Wien	House of the Basilisk in Vienna
22S	28/04/2000	2343	Graz-Mariatrost	The witch ride of Mariatrost
23S	16/06/2000	2358	Raabs a.d. Thaya	The Bread Loaf Marterl

All these stamps were designed by the new stamp designer, Adolf Tuma and were engraved by Prof. Werner Pfeiler. All are comb perforated 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x14 and printed by the State Printing Works in Vienna.

## The legends

- 6S50 The Lindworm (= winged serpent or dragon) of Klagenfurt, reputed to obtain its name from the existence of such a dragon. The stamp was printed in both recess [black] and photogravure [blue-green and grey-pink];
- 7S Rosalia, the cruel lady of Forchtenstein, is shown flying over the castle of Forchtenstein in Burgenland. This stamp was printed in both recess [black] and photogravure [yellow-brown and ochre-brown]
- 8S The Black Lady from Hardegg in Lower Austria (she haunts the castle) together with a rider on horseback. This stamp was printed in both recess [black] and photogravure [bright violet and orange]
- 9S The Charming Augustine or Augustine the piper who was born in Vienna in 1643, the son of an inn keeper. He played his bagpipes and was renowned for his tragic-comic song “O, du lieber Augustin, alles ist hin!” Printed in both recess [black] and photogravure [chamois and pink-lilac.
- 10S The legendary House of the Basilisk situated in Vienna's first district can be found on Schönlaterngasse 7, unmistakably labelled by the sign that reads “Zum Basiliken”. The cellar walls of this house date back partly to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. As one strolls through this idyllic street in the old part of the city, one inevitably pauses in front of House No. 7 where a somewhat peculiar bird in stone can be seen in a niche in the wall between the windows of the second floor. It is actually a sandstone carving of a rooster wearing a little golden crown and with a cast-iron beak and tail. According to legend, this peculiar creature, whose image appears on the house's façade, lived in a deep well in the courtyard. An old rooster laid an egg, a toad incubated it to maturity, and a basilisk was hatched. This terrifying legendary reptile had the body and legs of a giant toad, misshapen claw-like talons covered with warts, its tail was long and scaly, and the gaze from its eyes killed all on whom it fell. The basilisk is said to have been discovered on the morning of June 12, 1212. It was killed by a brave apprentice who showed it its own reflection in a mirror: thereby winning the hand of his master's daughter. The well was sealed with large boulders, thereby ridding the entire city of this terrible apparition. Colours: Photogravure light-grey & red; Intaglio chamois. [Also used on the miniature sheet sold along with the WIPA entrance ticket: see 'Austria' 131 p4.]
- 13S The pied piper from Korneuburg. In England we are more familiar with the Pied Piper of Hamelin by Robert Browning, based on one of the fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm. [Hamelin in Brunswick]. Printed in both recess [black] and photogravure [light-grey and violet.
- 14S The Danube Maiden from Strudengau. These maidens who lure voyagers from their boats are well known from the Legend of the Niebelungengau. The stamp was printed in both recess [black] and photogravure [grey-ultramarine and bright green-blue].
- 20S St. Notburga, greeting a tired farm worker. The stamp was printed in both recess [black] and photogravure [chamois and dull green]. The legend of St. Notburga goes back to 1265. She was the daughter of a hatmaker and was born in Rattenburg in Tirol. She became the patron saint of the Tirol and of “leisure at the end of the working day”.
- 22S On the northern edge of the Styrian capital of Graz, the mighty Mariatrost pilgrimage and parish church, built in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, rises on a 469 m high hill. After Mariazell, it is the most important Marian sanctuary in Styria. At the entrance of the church's pulpit, created around 1770, the witch ride of Mariatrost is shown. The depiction shows a large flying cat on which a witch is riding. She throws a handkerchief to a worshiper who is holding his iron-soled shoes up to a wayside shrine with a statue of Mary. The background for this votive picture is a legend according to which a soldier had come all the way from Hungary to ask the Blessed Mother to free him from an evil curse. A gypsy

had asked him to dance but he refused with the argument that he was sorry for his shoes. Full of anger, the woman threatened him that he would no longer have shoes in the future. At the same time, she stole his handkerchief to cast the curse on him. And indeed, from now on, no shoe lasted longer than two days. In desperation he made a pilgrimage to Mariatrost to pray here. There the gypsy came in the form of a witch riding a big cat and gave the handkerchief back to the soldier, who was freed from the magic of the constantly worn-out shoes.

- 23S The Bread Loaf Marterl, Raabs a.d. Thaya, Lower Austria. The legend of the construction of the “bread loaf Marterl” in Raabs is that once upon a time, a very hungry young manual labourer stole a loaf of bread from a wealthy farmer in Oberndorf, who saw him. In order to run faster, the boy threw the bread away while fleeing. The farmer picked up the loaf and angrily hurled it at the boy, striking him in the head with such great force that the boy dropped to the ground fatally wounded. The court eventually sentenced the farmer to build a Marterl on this site. Colour: grey-green, yellow-green; Intaglio black.
- 25S St. Konrad, Bishop of Konstanz. The design shows the young Konrad dropping his handkerchief and a spring with water flowing from it. He is in front of the Castle at Altems. The stamp was printed in both recess [black] and photogravure [grey-green and yellow-orange]
- 32S A scene from the legend of the discovery of the Erzberg (mountain of iron ore). The stamp was printed in both recess [black] and photogravure [reddish ochre and olive]. The 32 schilling value is the rate for registered letters.