

THE “AUSTRIAN HERALDRY” ISSUE, 1 JAN 2017

The new definitives, valid from 1 Jan 2017, are designed by Anita Kern and printed in offset by Enschedé. Their theme is “Austria’s heraldry”, and the designer chose to focus on sections of the coats of arms in order to make unfamiliar details visible. As well as adhesives, postal stationery is available with the new design: inland and foreign postcards and envelopes. Some values were issued only in strips, the rest only on cards.

The 4-stamp cards have the actual stamps printed on the back; the 10-stamp card opens to reveal the stamps inside!

The postage rates were “adjusted” from 1 July 2018, and a new range of definitives was duly issued. As in 2017, they were designed by Anita Kern and printed in offset by Enschedé. The same theme of “Austria’s heraldry” was chosen, but the coats-of-arms were shown in full. As before, some postal stationery is available with the new design. Some values were issued only in rolls, with strips-of-five available to philatelists for some values; the rest only on cards. For four of the Länder capitals, the cards contain 25 or 50 stamps – so Vienna would cost you €45 and Grätz €57.50! Again, the 4-stamp cards have the actual stamps printed on the back, and are displayed thus for comparison with the 2017 issue; the 10-stamp card opens to reveal the stamps inside.

The more expensive cards were made available to collectors as the front cover of the commercial pack, which has the remaining stamps on fan-folded sheets – eg the “25 80¢ for 20€” card has one 80¢ on the back of the cover and six more on each of four ‘pages’ in a zig-zag arrangement inside.

Innsbruck & Linz's Arms are not on stamps but on postal stationery.



Traditionally worried about theft, the Post Office displays these cards as covers-only overprinted **MUSTER WARE AM SCHALTER ERHÄLTLICH**, in a rack near the counter. The customer has to select which one he wants and ask for it.



