

World of Stamps:

Landlocked Countries: Austrian Republic, Pt. 3

by Geir Sør-Reime

In 2004, the Austrian post-office also started experimenting with the stamp format and released a souvenir sheet with Swarovski crystals incorporated into the design. In 2005, an embroidery stamp featuring an



2004 Swarovski crystal, Sc. 1966



2005 Edelweiss, Sc. 2019



2006 Meteor, Sc. 2042

Edelweiss flower was issued. A 2006 souvenir sheet featuring a meteorite was sprinkled with meteorite powder.



Left, 2008 European Soccer Championships Cup, Sc. 2161 (with synthetic crystals); right, 2008 European Soccer Championships, Sc. 2153



on ball polyurethane was issued. There was also a lenticular (hologram) souvenir sheet for the European soccer championships. Swarovski crystals were also incorporated in the 2008 trophy stamp for this championship.



2008 Venus of Willendorf, Sc. 2168



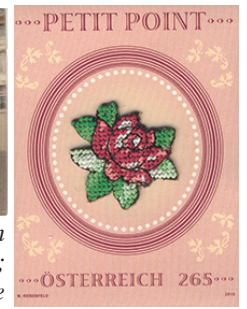
2008 Gentian flower, Sc. 2175

In 2008 there was also an embroidery stamp featuring a Blue Gentian flower.

A 2009 lenticular stamp celebrating the centenary of the technology museum in Vienne and depicting a Silver Arrow car carried no



Left, 2009 Technical Museum Vienna (lacking country name); right, 2010 Rose



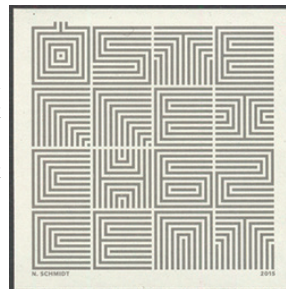
2013 Europa (electric post vans, stamp shaped as modern van)

country name. A new embroidery stamp appeared 2010. The 2013 Europa stamp showed a post van, and the stamp was die-cut as a van. In January 2014, they issued a color-in stamp where tiny colored dots in the different sections guided you to discover the hidden images: arrows for mutual communication, heart for love, a peace symbol, an Austrian flag, a leaf for environmental protection, and a symbol for equal rights for men and women. In 2014 there was also a stamp showing a rose and made of porcelain.



2014 colored-in messages

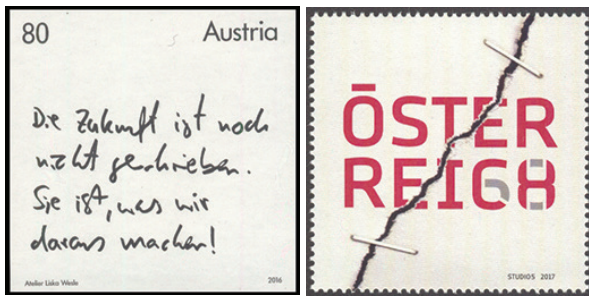
2015 started with a stamp simply inscribed 'Österreich' but hard to figure out. A stamp die-cut as a leather trousers, 'Lederhosen' in German, was made of real leather as used in the original trousers.



Left, 2015 'Österreich 65 Cent' spelled out, one character in each block; right, 2015 'Lederhosen' (with crystals)



2016 started with a stamp giving a statement about the future: The Future is still not described. It is what we make out of it! 2016 also saw a stamp made of glass! The image is printed behind the glass. There was also a 2016 knitted stamp in the shape of a women's national costume.



Left, 2016 *The Future* (text is colorless embossing on issued stamp, but printed on the blackprint); right, 2017 *Rift*

Used uniform shirts from postal employees was used as 'paper' to print a 2022 stamp demonstrating re-use of materials.



2022 re-use of uniform shirt – stamp printed on worn-out postal uniform shirt

Austria was one of the pioneering countries for crypto stamps and released its first crypto stamps in June 2019. Crypto stamps are an ordinary stamp and attached to it is a code giving access to a crypto wallet which normally contains a digital version of the stamp (normally animated) and/or some other NFT (non-fugitive token). New crypto stamps with four different animal motifs were released in June 2020. A new crypto stamp was released June 21, 2021, and the whale motif had an encrypted digital, animated twin. Two further crypto stamps, depicting a cat and a rhino, were issued October 21, 2021. September 2, 2022, another issue with an animated encrypted version of the Mercury motif from 1851 was released. The latest crypto issue released September 22, 2022, was a joint issue between Austria and the Netherlands with a bull as motif and NFT. A gold edition costing €500 and coming with a 1-gram pure gold bullion was issued November 22, 2022.

A 2017 stamp is a warning against actions and utterances that can split the nation and shows a rift through 'Österreich' repaired with staples.



2018 *Old and young*

An echo of this was the 2018 stamp showing two faces, a young one and an elderly, illustrating the message that generations should live together in harmony.



2017 *Oak stamp*



Tyrolian hat

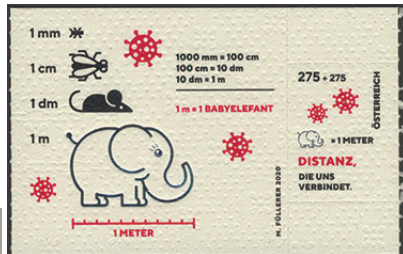
A stamp shaped as an oak tree and made of oak wood was issued in 2017. A stamp in the shape of a Tyrolian hat was issued 2018.

In 2020

a ski top shaped stamp was issued, printed on modern ski material, and the Austrian Corona-19 fight was marked with a large stamp printed on toilet paper (during the early days of the pandemic, people hoarded toilet paper fearing a shortage of it). The Covid-19 theme was followed up in 2021 with a stamp shaped as a miniature facemask.



2021 *Covid-19 face mask*



2020 *Covid-19 toilet paper*

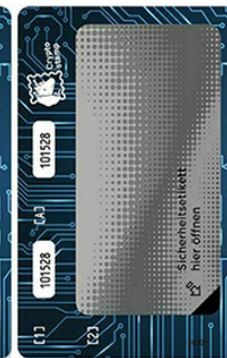
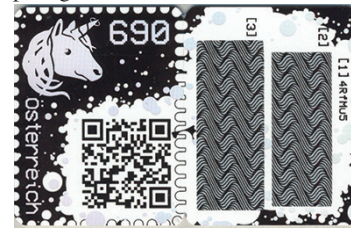


2021 *tennis star Thiem*



2022 *Covid-19 vaccination*

In 2021 there was also a stamp honoring tennis star Dominic Thiem shaped like a tennis ball and printed on tennis ball material. 2021 was rounded off with a stamp shaped like a knitted glove, followed up in early 2022 with a stamp shaped like a knitted hat. The Covid-19 theme was followed-up with a stamp printed on a plaster with the message that taking the vaccine does not hurt.



Top to bottom, left to right:
 2019 1.0 Crypto issue; 2020 2.0 Crypto (4 different motifs, one shown);
 2021 3.0 Crypto (one motif);
 2021 3.1 Crypto (one of two motifs);
 2022 4.0 Crypto (one motif, joint issue with the Netherlands);
 2022 4.1 Crypto gold edition (also joint issue with the Netherlands), and unopened pack

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Between 2012 and 2017, a series of souvenir sheets containing four stamps with motives from children's films and TV and shaped like puzzle bits were issued: Madagascar3 2012, Halloween 2013, Maja the Bee 2014, Easter egg hunt 2015, Christmas 2016, and the last issue, from 2017 had a birthday celebration as puzzle motif.



Puzzles, top to bottom, left to right: 2014 Maja the Bee puzzle pack
2012 Madagascar3 puzzle; 2013 Halloween puzzle
2014 Maja the Bee puzzle; 2015 Easter egg hunt puzzle
2016 Christmas puzzle; 2017 Birthday party puzzle

Starting 2008, Austria issued stamps featuring post-offices in areas that once belonged to the Austrian Empire. In 2008 this was Trieste, now in Italy, 2009 Cracow, now in Poland, 2010 Prague in the Czech Republic, 2011 Maribor in Slovenia, 2012 Zagreb (Croatia), 2013 Ljubljana (Slovenia), and finally 2014 Jablonec (Gablonec) now in the Czech Republic.



2008, Trieste



2012, Zagreb



2009, Cracow



2010, Prague



2011, Maribor



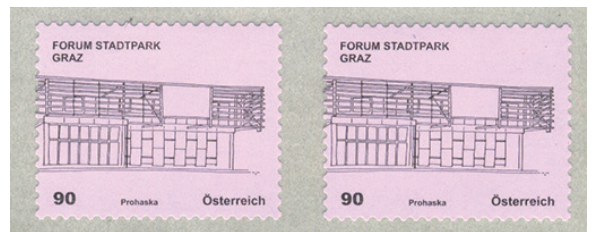
2013, Ljubljana



2014, Jablonec



2011-12 Architecture definitive booklet cover and stamps



2011-12 Architecture definitive coil stamps

A definitive series of self-adhesive stamps issued in coils and booklets and featuring Austrian architecture was issued 2011 with additional values issued 2012. A new design showing Austrian architecture was issued from 2013 with additions 2014. A definitive series called Impressions of Austria (right) was issued in 2015, and in





Top left :2017 definitive I (issued January 1, 2017)

Bottom left: 2017 definitive II a-b -sheet showing which provincial arms belongs to which province

Top right: Salzburg province stamp

Middle right: Salzburg stamp detail

Bottom right: Graz stamp, adjacent to Graz detail stamp on layout of all details



2017 two definitive series (above) showing details of the arms of the nine constituent states were issued, the first, released January 1, featured details of the arms, whereas series two, issued July 1, showed the complete arms.

The 2019-22 definitive series (examples, right) featured details and accessories relating to traditional Austrian dresses.



In 2012 an annual series of stamps highlighting the various wine growing districts of Austria started with the Weinviertel (Wine Quarter), followed by Südsteiermark (Southern Styria) 2013, 2014 Wachau, 2015 Carnuntum, 2016 Mittelburgenland (Central Burgenland), 2017 Wien (Vienna), 2018 Weststeiermark (Western Styria), 2019 Kamptal, 2020 Südburgenland (Southern Burgenland), 2021 Thermenregion, and 2022 Ruster Ausbruch.



Wine districts, from left: 2012 Weinviertel, 2017 Vienna, 2022 Tuster Ausbruch



Left, Lenz Moser, probably the best-known Austrian wine producer was honored on a 2012 stamp. Right, Hochriegel, a producer of sparkling wines was likewise honored on a 2019 stamp.



To Be Continued