

# Landlocked Countries: Austrian Republic, Pt. 2

by Geir Sør-Reime

A provisional Austrian government was set up April 28, 1945, and led by Dr. Karl Renner, and it was subsequently recognized by the Four Power Allied Control Council. The Republic of Austria was re-established May 14, 1945, and from November 24, 1945, its first issue with landscape motifs was released.

Dr. Karl Renner had been chancellor of the first government of the Austrian Republic 1918-20, and then became President of the new Austrian Republic 1945-50. Renner as President was portrayed on a 1946 set of semi-postals issued for the first anniversary of his government. He also appeared on the 1948 single issued for the 30th anniversary of the Austrian republic.

In 1951 a single mourning stamp was issued on the death of Renner and showing a portrait of him. In 1958, his portrait appeared on a stamp celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Austrian Republic and in the same design as the 1948 issue. Three stamps were issued in 1968 for the 50th anniversary of the Austrian Republic, one of them showing a portrait of Renner. Another stamp featured the national arms and the arms of the constituent states of the Republic.



Top, 1946 Renner, Sc. B168

Middle row, left to right: 1948 Renner and 30th anniv. of republic, Sc. 557; 1951 Renner memorial issue, Sc. 573; 1958 Renner and 40th anniv. of republic, Sc. 636;

Bottom row, 1968 50th anniversary of republic, Sc. 820-22



The federal structure of the Second Republic was established at a provincial conference in 1955, and the 45th anniversary of this conference was commemorated on a 1990 single showing the arms of the nine states.

The 25th anniversary of the Second Republic was commemorated with two 1970 stamps (one shown, next column), in 1975 the 30th anniversary was commemorated with a single stamp, in 1995 the 50th anniversary was commemorated with a 2005 souvenir sheet of two stamps.



1990 45th anniversary federal state, Sc. 1518

Left, 1970 25th anniversary of 2nd republic, Sc. 861; below, left to right.: 1975 30th anniversary of 2nd republic, Sc. 1014; 1995 50th anniversary of 2nd republic, Sc. 1674; 1985 40th anniversary of liberation, Sc. 1309; bottom, 2005 60th anniversary of 2nd republic souvenir sheet, Sc. 1012



In 1985, the 40th anniversary of liberation was celebrated on a single stamp (above right).

In 1946 there was also a set of semi-postals linked to the anti-fascist exhibition "Never



1946 anti-fascist exhibition, Sc. B171, B172, B174

forget". This set included two designs that were banned by the occupation authorities, but copies exist on the philatelic market.



1946 anti-fascist exhibition unissued



1946 also saw a single stamp for the 950th anniversary of the documented use of "Austria", and a large semi-postal set for the reconstruction of Vienna's Stephan's Cathedral (page 6). 1946 950 years "Austria", Sc. B184

In 1947, semi-postals were issued to support former prisoners-of-war. A similar series appeared in 1948.



Above, 1947 Return of Prisoners of War, Sc. B218, B221, B223;

Right, 1948 Return of POWs, Sc. B264, B267



1947 interim definitives, Sc. 505, 515

as a temporary measure pending the introduction of a new definitive series, the 1948 Provincial Costumes series.



1948 costumes definitives, from full set, Sc. 520-56:

left, Sc. 526 Salzburg, center Sc. 537 Tyrol, right, Sc. 553 Gail Valley

The 30th anniversary of the Austrian Republic was celebrated with a single 1948 stamp featuring a portrait of President Renner. Also in 1948, the 130th anniversary of the Christmas carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" was commemorated with a single stamp. In 1968, the 150th anniversary of the carol was also commemorated on a single stamp.



Left, 1948 130th anniversary Silent night, Holy night, Sc. 558; upper right, 1968 150th anniversary Silent night, Holy night, Sc. 823; right, 1955 10th anniversary 2nd republic, Sc. 599

In 1955 the tenth anniversary of the re-establishment of the Austrian Republic was celebrated with a set of five stamps. There was also a



single stamp marking the 1955 State Treaty when the four Allied powers signed a treaty with Austria, re-establishing its sovereignty and ending the Allied occupation. The stamp was one of the 1945 stamps of the Soviet zone overprinted "STAATSVERTRAG 1955".



Left, 1955 State Treaty, Sc. 604; right, 1980 25th anniversary State Treaty, Sc. 1152

In 1980, the 25th anniversary of the State Treaty was commemorated with a single stamp showing the flags of Austria and the four Allied powers.

As a sovereign state, Austria was granted membership in the United Nations Organization, and this was marked with a 1956 stamp. In 1965, the tenth anniversary of Austria's UNO membership was celebrated with a single stamp, and for the 30th anniversary a stamp was issued in 1985.



Left, 1956 UNO membership, Sc. 610; upper right, 1965 10th anniversary UNO membership, Sc. 754; right, 1985 30th anniversary UNO membership, Sc. 1317.

A definitive series featuring heritage buildings and monuments was first issued 1957, with new designs added up till 1970.



1957-70 definitives: left, Swiss Gate, Vienna, Sc. 699; center, Steiner Gate, Krems, Sc. 626; right, Schwechat Airport, Vienna, Sc. 627A

In 1973 a new definitive series featuring natural scenery from around the country was issued, with new value added up till 1983.



Left to right, Weissee, Salzburg, 1109; Openair Museum, Bad Tatzmannsdorf, Sc. 974; Myrawaterfalls, Sc. 975

In 1963, the 600th anniversary of Tyrol as an Austrian province was commemorated on a single stamp.

In 1964, Austria hosted the Winter Olympic Games in Innsbruck, and seven stamps with winter sport motifs were issued



1963 600 anniversary Tyrol, Sc. 708

for the Games in 1963. Innsbruck also hosted the Winter Olympics in 1976, and eight semi-postal stamps were issued for the Games in 1975.

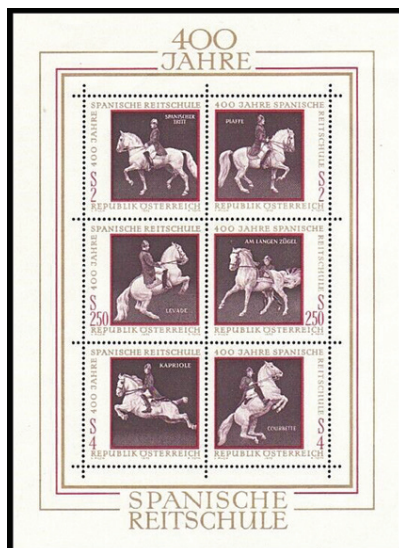


1963 Innsbruck Olympics 1964 – Sc. 711/17



1975 Innsbruck Olympics 1976, Sc. B331/B338

A world-famous institution in Vienna is the Spanish Riding School, and in 1972 its 400th anniversary was celebrated with six stamps issued in a souvenir sheet. The 450th anniversary was celebrated in 2015 with a single stamp.



1975 400 years Spanish Riding School, Sc. 929; 2015 450 years Spanish Riding School, Sc. 2570

In 1873, an Austrian expedition discovered the Arctic islands they named Franz Josef Land, and the centenary of their discovery was honored on a 1973 single. In 1926 the archipelago was annexed by the Soviet Union and is part of the Arkhangelsk region. In 2022, the 150th anniversary of the Austrian North Pole expedition that discovered Franz Josef Land was commemorated with a souvenir sheet.

In 1979, the United Nations' Vienna International Center opened, and the United Nations started issuing distinct stamps for its Vienna office.



1973 Franz Josef Land – centenary of discovery by Austrian North Pole Expedition – Sc. 942

2022 150th anniv North Pole Expedition

Austria marked the opening with a single 1979 stamp showing the center. There was also a 1989 stamp for the tenth anniversary of the center.

In 1983 the visit of Pope John Paul II and the 300th anniversary of the relief of Vienna (from Turkish sieges) were commemorated on single stamps.



1989 UNO City 10 year Sc. 1477



1983 Papal visit (John Paul II), Sc. 1252



1983 Relief of Vienna – Sc. 1253

A new definitive series featuring monasteries and abbeys was issued from 1984 till 1992. Between 1993-95 a series again featuring monasteries and abbeys but in a completely different design was issued.



1984-92 definitive, Sc. 1472

Controversial Dr. Kurt Waldheim was President of Austria 1986-92, and in 1992 his presidency was commemorated on a single stamp with his portrait. He had been Secretary-General of the United Nations 1972-81.



1992 Kurt Waldheim (as Austrian president), Sc. 1576



In 1995, Austria joined the European Union, celebrated on a single stamp combining Austrian and EU flags.

1995 EU membership, Sc. 1667

In 2014, the 20th anniversary of the referendum resulting in the membership was commemorated on a single stamp, again combining the two flags and a dove of peace. The 25th anniversary of Austria's accession to the EU was commemorated on a 2020 single, again showing the flags of Austria and the EU.

During the second half of 1998, Austria held the Presidency of the EU and issued a stamp to publicize it. Austria also held the Presidency during the first half of 2006 and issued another stamp for it. During the second half of 2018, Austria again held the EU Presidency and issued a stamp to publicize it.



Clockwise: 2018 Austrian EU presidency; 2006 Austrian EU presidency, Sc. 2035; 2014 20 years in EU, Sc. 2508



2020 Brexit

During 1997-2000 a definitive series featuring myths and legends was issued.



1997-2000 definitives: Left, Pied Piper from Korneuburg, Sc. 1746; right, Bread Loaf Monument, Sc. 1811

Along with several other EU countries, Austria adopted the Euro in 2002. A definitive issue featuring tourism spots was issued January 1, 2002, along with a single stamp marking the introduction of the Euro. The tourism series was complemented with additional values in 2003. In 2004-05, most values of this series were surcharged with new values. In 2006 an additional value was added.



Left to right, 2002-03 definitive, Sc. 1873; 2002 definitive, Sc. 1864; 2005 surcharge, Sc. 1980

In 2007, a new definitive series illustrating flowers was introduced, with an additional stamp added 2008.

2007-08 definitives, left, Sc. 2080; right, Sc. 2169 on embroidered material



Concurrently with this series was 2006-10 a series of self-adhesive stamps issued in sheets or coils and depicting animals.



2006 Wildlife self-adhesive sheet stamps, 2006, Sc. 2071-72

In 2003, the first Austrian stamps inscribed "Austria" instead of "Österreich" were issued, a souvenir sheet of four stamps commemorating the rock band Rolling Stones' visit to Vienna. Several other stamps inscribed "Austria" followed, including a 2003 stamp honoring jazz pianist Oscar Peterson. In 2004 there was a stamp honoring Austrian-born Arnold Schwarzenegger, at that time Governor of California, also inscribed "Austria".



2006 Muhammad Ali, Sc. 2038; 2003 Rolling Stones, Sc. 1924; 2003 Oscar Peterson, Sc. 1941; 2004 Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sc. 1961

To Be Continued