

Landlocked Countries: Austrian Republic, Pt. 4

by Geir Sør-Reime

The war in Ukraine was reflected in a 2022 Austrian stamp expressing solidarity with Ukraine and featuring the Ukrainian flag.



2022 semi-postal for help to Ukraine

In 2006, Austria introduced personalized stamps where customers can add their own designs to the picture area of the stamp. The Austrian post-office has also produced numerous 'official' personalized stamps, in single design sheets, in sheets with between 4 and 20 different designs, and in prestige booklets.



Right, Personalized stamps WW I series, here first issue, the Sarajevo incident; Above, selection of single stamps



from annual series featuring churches, Signs of the Zodiac, reptiles, insects, religious statues, flowers, railroads, Christmas, aquarium fish, mammals, minerals, postal vehicles

The single design sheet stamps include several annual series featuring so diverse subjects as churches, religious sculptures, signs of the Zodiac, insects and reptiles, aquarium fishes, Austrian flora, minerals, wild animals, and birds. There are also sets with 3 or 4 greeting stamps and related stickers.

In 2008, the Austrian post introduced an annual stamp with flower bouquet motifs used as a loyalty reward to philatelic costumers and



2008 Loyalty



2015 Loyalty stamp and notice.

not for sale. You are allocated the number of stamps corresponding to your philatelic spending the previous year. Scott mentions these but does not assign a catalogue number as they are not for general sale.

Many famous composers have been honored on Austrian post-1945 stamps: Schubert, Ziehrer, and Bruckner 1947, Strauss Jr. and Strauss Sr. 1949, Millöcker 1950,



Top to bottom, left to right, more page 14

- 1947 Bruckner – Sc. 518
- 1956 Mozart – Sc. 609
- 1961 Liszt – Sc. 674
- 1972 Ziehrer – Sc. 932
- 1974 von Dittersdorf – Sc. 1008
- 1978 Schubert – Sc. 1095
- 1982 Haydn – Sc. 1210
- 1987 Gluck – Sc. 1415
- 1992 Zeller and Millöcker – Sc. 1567
- 1996 Bruckner – Sc. 1700

Lanner 1951, Schrammel 1952, Wolf 1953, Mozart 1956, Haydn 1959, Mahler 1960, Liszt 1961, Koschat 1970, Beethoven (birth bicentenary) 1970, Ziehrer 1972, Bruckner (inauguration of memorial center) 1974, Schönberg (birth centenary), Eysler, von Dittersdorf, and Schmidt 1974, Fall, Strauss Jr. 1975, Lehar (international Lehar congress), and Schubert 1978, Asher and Stolz 1980, Haydn and Kalman 1982, Hauer 1983, Berg and Fux 1985, Albrechtsberger, Wagner, and Liszt 1986, Michael Haydn und Gluck 1987, Richard Strauss 1989, Sulzer 1990, Mozart (death bicentenary) 1991, Zeller and Millöcker 1992, von Suppé and Dostal, and Webern and Beethoven 1995, Bruckner (no portrait, stamp depicts an organ) 1996, Brahms and Schubert 1997, Lehar (stamp showing the Volksoper theatre) 1998, Strauss Jr. and Strauss Sr. 1999, Mozart 2006, Pleyel and Kienzl 2007, Haydn 2009, Mahler 2010, Mozart 2011, Richard Strauss 2014, and Lehar and Beethoven (250th birth anniversary) 2020.



1994 Karl Böhm – Sc. 1658



The conductor Karl Böhm was honored by a single stamp on the centenary of this birth in 1994.



Left to right, top row first: 1975 Strauss – Sc. 1024; 1986 Wagner – Sc. 1347 1998 Lehar – Sc. 1767; 2010 Mahler; 2020 Beethoven



The centenary of the waltz 'Blue Danube' by Strauss, and the 125th anniversary of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra were both commemorated on 1967 stamps, and the 150th anniversary with a 1992 souvenir sheet. The 175th anniversary in 2017 was again commemorated with a single stamp.



Left to right: 1967 Blue Danau waltz centenary – Sc. 786; 1967 Vienna Philharmonics 125 years – Sc. 789; 2017 Vienna Philharmonics 175 years



Left, 1970 Musikverein – Sc. 864; right 2000 Vienna Symphony Orchestra centenary – Sc. 1825

In 1970 the centenary of the 'Musikverein' building where the now famous New Year concerts are held and featuring its iconic organ, was marked with a single stamp. In 1975, the 75th anniversary of the Vienna Sym-

phony Orchestra was marked with a single stamp. In 2000, its centenary was marked with another stamp (prior column). Also, in 1970 famous operettas were featured on a set of six stamps.

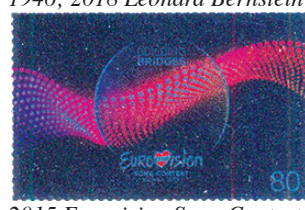


1994 Karl Böhm – Sc. 1658

In 2004, the first stamp portraying the conductor of that year's New Year Concert from Vienna, Riccardo Muti was issued. It was inscribed "Austria". In 2004 there was also stamps honoring conductors Seiji Ozawa and Nicolaus Harnoncourt, and in 2005, Lorin Mazel, the conductor of that year's New Year Concert was honored with a stamp. There was also a stamp for the tenth anniversary of the Herbert von Karajan Center with a portrait of the famous conductor. The 2006 New Year Concert was conducted by Mariss Jansons and was featured on a stamp, and the 2007 Concert by Zubin Mehta, again featured on a stamp. In 2018 the birth centenary of Leonard Bernstein was commemorated on a single stamp.



Left to right, top row first: 2004 Riccardo Muti – Sc. 1945; 2006 Mariss Jansons – Sc. 2034; 2007 Zubin Mehta – Sc. 2078; 2004 Seiji Ozawa – Sc. 1946; 2018 Leonard Bernstein



2015 Eurovision Song Contest

The European Song Contest 2015 was held in Vienna, and a single stamp was issued for that occasion.

Austria's colorful artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser designed his first stamp for Austria in 1975. Later, he designed further Austrian stamps, and stamps for other countries. The Hundertwasser



1975 Hundertwasser – Sc. 1029

stamp was also the first of an annual series showing modern art.

In 1987, the Hundertwasser House (residential homes designed by Hundertwasser) was depicted on a single stamp. In 1993, a detail of Hundertwasser's work '90 Heads' was used for the stamp commemorating the Council of Europe Heads of State Conference in Vienna. In 2000, four stamps in a souvenir sheet were issued for the death commemoration of Hundertwasser and featuring four versions of his work 'Blue Blues'.

In 2004, a poster designed by Hundertwasser for the Danube Meadows National Park was used for an Austrian stamp promoting nature conservation.

A souvenir sheet showing four artworks by Hundertwasser was issued in 2008, and there was also a prestige book containing it and a color print of it, in addition to eight personalized stamps showing artworks for Hundertwasser stamps from several countries (Cape Verde, Senegal, Liechtenstein, United Nations and a non-issued stamp from French Polynesia).

In 2011 a painting by Hundertwasser was used on the stamp issued for the 20th anniversary of the Vienna Museum of Fine Arts/Hundertwasser Museum. There was also a prestige booklet with personalized stamp again showing artworks for non-realized stamps for Senegal, Morocco, French Polynesia and the United Nations.

There have also been some privately ordered personalized stamps featuring several of the buildings designed by Hundertwasser, as well as a few stamps reproducing some of his paintings.

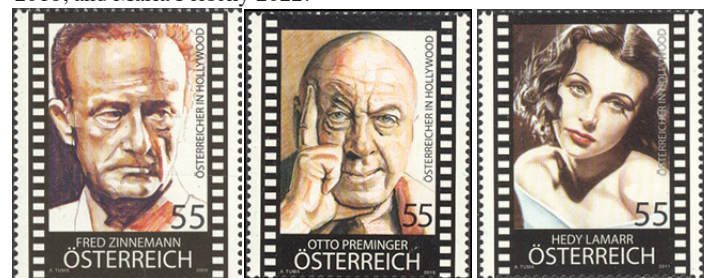


Left to right, top row first: 1987 Hundertwasser House, Sc. 1389; 1993 Hundertwasser Council of Europe Summit, Sc. 1629; 2004 Hundertwasser nature conservation, Sc. 1972; 2000 Hundertwasser in memoriam, Sc. 1821; 2004 Hundertwasser architecture privately ordered personalized stamps; 2011 Hundertwasser Museum 20 years; 2008 Hundertwasser 80th birth anniversary, Sc. 2173

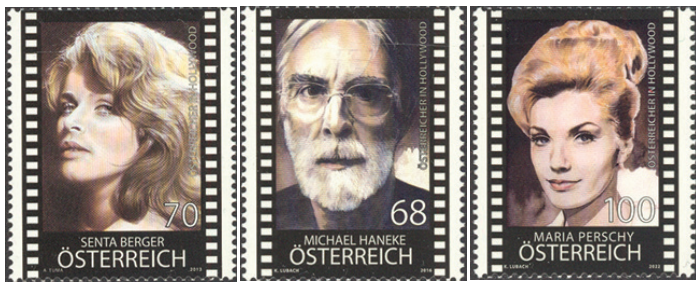


Top to bottom: 2008 Hundertwasser prestige booklet cover
2011 Hundertwasser Museum prestige booklet covers (2 different)

A stamp series entitled Austrians in Hollywood started 2009 with Fred Zinnemann, followed by Otto Preminger 2010, Hedy Lamarr 2011, Turhan Bey 2012, Senta Berger 2013, Eric Pleskow 2014, Maria Schell 2015, Michael Haneke 2016, Christoph Waltz 2017, Klaus Maria Brandauer 2018, and Maria Perschy 2022.



2009 Fred Zinnemann 2010 Otto Preminger 2011 Hedy Lamarr
More images, page 16



2013 Senta Berger 2016 Michael Haneke 2022 Maria Perschy

In 2017 the Austrian Post introduced what it calls Dispenser stamps replacing the non-pictorial labels printed in post-offices and used instead of postage-stamps. The dispenser stamps have fixed values and their motifs are changed 3-4 times each year. The aim is for people to see more stamps on the mail they receive.



Left to right, top row first: 2017 Dispenser single; 2017 Dispenser collector sheet. Issued for introduction of dispenser stamps, Austria Post made a folder with this sheet containing all four values, and first day cancelled coil stamps; 2018 Dispenser stamp; 2022 July dispenser stamp and 2022 July dispenser with corrected name; 2021 July dispenser stamps

In addition to normal postage stamps, air post stamps, and semi-postal stamps, Austria has also issued postage due stamps, as well as machine stamps. Postage due stamps were issued from 1918 till 1989.



1920-22 Postage due stamps – selection with one each 1920-21 series (here Sc. J62), 1921 (Sc. J102), 1922 (here Sc. J120); see also next column



1949-89 Postage due stamps, 1949-57 (here Sc. J246 and J259), and 1985-89 (here Sc. J257)

Machine stamps were first issued 1983. The first of these were printed in the vending machine, but from 2006, the machine printed the denomination and location on pre-printed designs. Normally, there have been two issues (consisting of two motifs each) per year, one illustrated with flowers and one illustrated with winter and/or Christmas motifs.



Left to right, top row first: 1983 machine stamp—first issue; 2008 machine stamp—soccer; 2008 machine stamp—WIPA 2008; 2014 machine stamp—flowers; 2015 machine stamp—Eurovision Song Contest; 2018 machine stamp—Christmas

In 1950, a seasonal post-office was opened at the tiny village of Christkindl (literary Christ Child). From 1951, it was possible to post letters to have the Christkindl pictorial date stamp applied from anywhere



Christkindl 1951-62 label; 1984 Christkindl label on letter, Christkindl label postmarked in Oberndorf bei Salzburg and stamps cancelled at Christkindl post-office; 2012 Christkindl stamp in booklet of 5. 2012-2020 Christkindl stamps have water-activated gum and are loose within the booklet pack.

in Austria provided you affixed a Christkindl routing label. These routing labels were sold at post-offices. From 2004 onwards, the label was replaced by a routing or additional stamp. These stamps serve two purposes: it pays for forwarding to the Christkindl post-office, or, if you post it to or at the Christkindl post-office, it pays a service fee for cancelling the card or letter.

Austria also has a long history of issuing pre-paid stationaries and was the first country to issue postal cards. Here we limit ourselves to showing the latest issue, a 2022 postal card.



Now we have been through several narratives expressed on Austrian stamps, but there are many more, collecting Austrian stamps will reveal them!



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