

Musical Notations on Stamps: Part 8

By J. Posell

Continuing this series, which last appeared in the FAP Journal of June 1980, volume 26, no. 2. I again wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to Ethel Bloesch of Iowa City for her knowledge and invaluable help and to Chuichi Maeda for his special help with advance bulletins and with information on the Japanese stamps. Without the help of these and others over the years this series of articles could never have been produced. I am grateful. The following stamps with musical notation have appeared since the last issue.

AUSTRIA

Scott 1162

Michel 1652

Robert Stolz, prolific Austrian operetta composer, was born in Graz August 25, 1882. During his long life he composed more than 50 operettas, 100 film scores and about 2000 occasional pieces (songs, marches, etc.). He also made innumerable recordings. His most famous operetta is undoubtedly "Zwei Herzen im Dreivierteltakt". Stolz was an honorary citizen of both Graz and Vienna and was an ardent philatelist all his life. He died in Berlin on June 27, 1975, at the age of 94.

The music on the Austrian stamp is his famous song, "Im Prater blühn wieder die Bäume", op. 247. This popular song with text by Kurt Robitschek, was composed May 17, 1916. It was later incorporated into the operetta "Frühling im Prater" which was first performed at the Burgtheater in Vienna on Dec. 29, 1949. Stolz also wrote music for a film entitled "Im Prater blühn die Bäume" in which he again used the earlier song.



CANADA

Scott 857

Michel 768-769

Issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of "O Canada", the official national anthem. The music was composed by Calixa Lavallée, born Dec. 28, 1842, in Verchères, Quebec Province. Lavallée studied at the Paris Conservatory and, upon his return, toured Canada and the United States as a concert pianist. While in the United States the Civil War broke out and he served as a musician with the Union Army. The song was written at the request of prominent French Canadian patriotic societies and was first performed in Montreal on June 24, 1881. There are two unrelated texts in French and English. After composing "O Canada" Lavallée returned to the United States, played piano on a steamboat, then settled in Boston where he died in poverty in 1891. His body was moved to Montreal in 1933.



CHILE

Scott 571

Michel 932

Osman (Oscar) Perez Freire was born in Santiago, Chile, in 1879. He lived most of his life in Buenos Aires where he developed his exceptional abilities as a pianist and composer. He was also a music critic and president of the Society of Argentine Composers. During his life he obtained many prizes and distinctions. Some of his lighter pieces became very popular. He died in Madrid in 1930 and his body was shipped back to Santiago for burial. The music on the stamp is from the opening bars of "Ay, Ay, Ay", a popular romantic song known through Latin America and also well known in this country many years ago. For some unaccountable reason most of the philatelic press at the time of issue mistakenly stated that Perez was the composer of the Chilean National Anthem - and that the notation was part of the anthem. Did one source incorrectly furnish information to all, or did they copy misinformation from each other? One wonders.



CHINA (TAIWAN)

Scott 2124a

Michel 1264D-1269D

Several booklets of the National Flag Stamp were issued in 1978-1979 by the Republic of China Taiwan with the full music of the National Flag Song in the inside back cover. The booklets are of different denominations and the outside covers are also of different designs. The National Flag Anthem is usually sung after the National Anthem of the country. It was composed by Huang Tzu, who was born Feb. 3, 1903, in Chia-Ting, Chingsu Province. Huang began his musical studies at the age of 16. Two years later he began to study theory and harmony. After graduating from Ching Hua University he entered Oberlin College (Ohio) majoring in psychology with a music minor. In 1926 he entered Yale University to study composition and theory. In 1929 he returned to China and became an adjunct professor of composition at Fu-Jiang University Department of Music and the National Shanghai Music Conservatory. He died of stomach complications at the age of 34 in the Red Cross Hospital in Shanghai May 7, 1938. The song was composed during the Sino-Japanese war to lift the spirits of the people. He composed during a period of only nine years but in that time he wrote 45 songs, a cantata and two sonatas. Many of his songs are very popular today and are often sung at recitals. Huang Tzu was the outstanding musical figure in China during his time. Besides composing he also edited teaching material and edited a music magazine.

(Ruth Gua Lee, Taiwan and Ethel Bloesch)



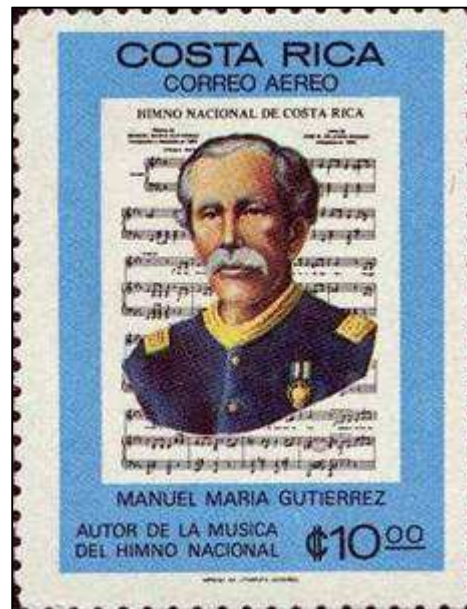
COSTA RICA

Scott C788, C789

Michel 1071-1072

Two stamps with portraits of the composer and the author of the text of the National Anthem of Costa Rica with notation of the anthem in the background of each.

The composer, Manuel Maria Gutiérrez, was born in Heredia in 1829. He was a flutist and director of bands in Heredia and in San José. The story is often told how he was ordered to compose a national anthem by the President, Gen. Juan Rafael Mora, to be played at a reception for the envoys of Great Britain and the United States. When Gutiérrez protested that his learning was inadequate for such a task he was thrown into jail where he remained until the anthem was completed. It was first performed in the Hall of the National Assembly in San José on June 11, 1853, and was hailed "as the sublime - notes of our national song". Later other compositions, a waltz, a march, a mazurka, followed. Gutiérrez soon became active in the musical life of Costa Rica. He founded an orchestra of strings and winds, and in 1862 while in Europe to buy instruments, he heard his hymn played by a massed military band of 300 musicians. He died in 1887. In 1903 a national competition for new lyrics was held and it was won by José Maria Zeledón, a lawyer.

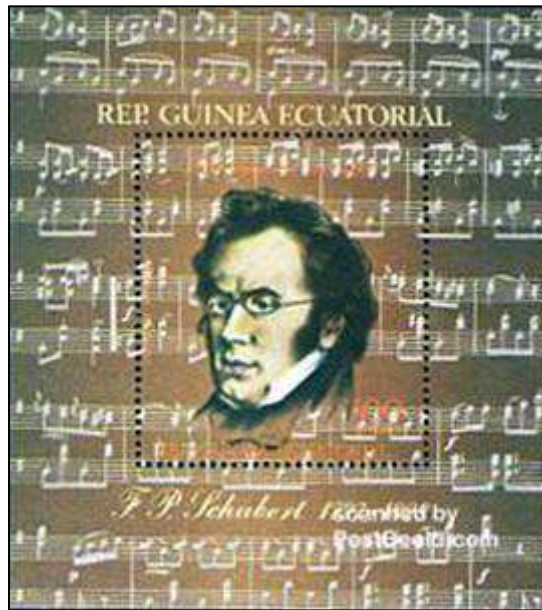


EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Scott ???

Michel 1488

In May, 1979, Equatorial Guinea issued a stamp and souvenir sheet to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of Franz Peter Schubert. The recent stamps of this country are not listed either in the Scott or Minkus catalogues, therefore catalogue numbers are not available. The musical notation is from the ballet music to "Rosamunde".



Addendum: there is only a souvenir sheet (the above mentioned stamp is a part of the sheet)

FRANCE

Scott 1691

Michel 2220

This stamp, in the French art series, is from a tapestry by Jean Picart le Doux entitled "Homage a J.S. Bach". It depicts organ pipes and notation but is nothing actually from the writing of Bach and must be considered symbolic and fanciful rather than authentic. Picart le Deux is a noted tapestry artist born in Paris in 1902.



Addendum: the score is from Cantata BWV 7: "Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam" ; first chorus, bar 3: solo violin (white part) and also bar 3: hobo d'amore II (yellow part). (Huber van Werkhoven and Arnold van Berkel; The Netherlands; 2014)

FRANCE

Scott 1706

Michel 2221

The notation is an authentic fragment of Gregorian chant used in services in the monastery of Solesmes. The monastic community of Solesmes Abbey is known as the "society of divine praising" and uses the purest Gregorian which dates at least from the 11th century. It is transcribed in square or lozenge shaped notes as seen on the stamp. The monks of Solesmes study the transcriptions in a workshop of paleography and their published results are intended for the specialist, but their performance, thanks to recordings, extends to a vast audience.

(Bulletin sent by Chuichi Maeda)



GABON

Scott C230

Michel 727

Jacques Offenbach, the creator of French burlesque opera, was born in Cologne on June 20, 1819. His father was a Jewish cantor whose original surname was Eberst. Offenbach was the name of the town where his father lived. Early in his life he went to Paris where he studied cello at the Conservatory, then played in the orchestra of the Opera Comique. In 1849 he was engaged as conductor at the Théâtre Français and in 1850, having written a very successful song, he undertook the composition of operettas, a genre in which he became a master. He composed at least 25 operettas among which his most popular are "Orphée aux enfers", "La Belle Helene" and "La Perichole". His only grand opera and real masterpiece, "Les Contes d' Hoffmann", remained unfinished at his death. Offenbach died in Paris Oct. 5, 1880. Unfortunately, the musical notation on the stamp is another figment of the designer's imagination and the notes cannot possibly represent actual music. To quote Ethel Bloesch: "Not even Offenbach would write a piece with 46 successive quarter notes, all on the upper half of the staff, and with no bar lines to boot. So let's proclaim that one a product of the designer's fancy and nothing more." Well spoken.



GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GDR)

Scott 2150

Michel 2572

A sheetlet issued in 1981 commemorating the 225th anniversary of the birth of Mozart. The notation is a fragment from the finale of Act 1 of the Magic Flute (Chorus: "Das klinget so herrlich, das klinget so schön!"). The original score is in the German State Library in Berlin.



GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GDR)

Scott 2182

Michel 2606

Georg Philipp Telemann, noted German composer, was born March 14, 1681 in Magdeburg. He was mostly self-taught in music and after studies at Leipzig University in law and languages, he became organist at Neukirche. From 1704 for about fifteen years he was Kapellmeister, Konzertmeister and court conductor to various nobility and churches. For 46 years he was town musical director at Hamburg. An extremely productive composer, Telemann was far better known in his time than Bach. He wrote about 40 operas, 12 series of church cantatas and motets, 44 passions, over 600 overtures, chamber works and much more. He died in Hamburg June 25, 1767. This stamp was released on May 5, 1981, but the fragment of music has not been identified yet (even with the help of experts).



Addendum: Thanks to the perseverance of Ethel Bloesch, the mystery of the musical fragment on the Telemann stamp of East Germany is now solved. An inquiry to Prof. Dr. M. Ruhnke of Nürnberg, author of the Telemann article in Grove's Dictionary provided the answer to the long-sought-for question. What is it? The following information is a condensation from both the writings of Ethel Bloesch and Dr. Ruhnke. The musical excerpt shows the opening of the Serenate from the Kapitänsmusik 1760. The Oratorio 1760 begins with the text "Herr, du bist gerecht" the accompanying Serenate "Wir nähren, wir zieren, wir schützen die Staaten". The excerpt on the stamp is taken from a Telemann autograph which is preserved in the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek Berlin, Sign. Mus. manuskript autogr. Telemann 23. The heading reads "Serenate." Above the top staff stands "Tromp." (trumpet). Over the second staff, "1. V.", over the third, "2 " (second violin). Between the first and second staves Telemann has inserted "Tromel" (Timpani). The energetic Telemann dominated the musical scène in Hamburg in the mid-18th century, where he served from 1721 until his death in 1767. He not only provided music for weekly services in the five principal churches, but he composed music for regular public concerts and for civic occasions as well. One such occasion was the official banquet given each August to entertain the guests of the commandant of the city's militia. For these festivals Telemann composed Captains' Music (Kapitänsmusik), heard first by these private audiences and then usually repeated in public concerts. These occasional pieces for chorus and orchestra consisted of two large sections: an oratorio performed before the banquet, and a serenate preceding the evening's ceremonies. In all, Telemann composed some 30 to 40 such works, of which nine remain in complete form. They are identified by year; the one shown on this stamp is from 1760.(FAP June 1982).

GERMANY

Scott 1344

Michel 1085

Georg Philipp Telemann, noted German composer, was born March 14, 1681 in Magdeburg. He was mostly self-taught in music and after studies at Leipzig University in law and languages, he became organist at Neukirche. From 1704 for about fifteen years he was Kapellmeister, Konzertmeister and court conductor to various nobility and churches. For 46 years he was town musical director at Hamburg. An extremely productive composer, Telemann was far better known in his time than Bach. He wrote about 40 operas, 12 series of church cantatas and motets, 44 passions, over 600 overtures, chamber works and much more. He died in Hamburg June 25, 1767. The music is from the opening of the Kantate "Singet dem Herrn" for chorus, strings, two trumpets, timpani and continuo, composed in 1708. The original manuscript is in the Royal Library in Copenhagen.

(Ethel Bloesch)



GERMANY (BERLIN)

Scott 9N456

Michel 1652

Robert Stolz, prolific Austrian operetta composer, was born in Graz August 25, 1880. During his long life he composed more than 50 operettas, 100 film scores and about 2000 occasional pieces (songs, marches, etc.). He also made innumerable recordings. His most famous operetta is undoubtedly "Zwei Herzen im Dreivierteltakt". Stolz was an honorary citizen of both Graz and Vienna and was an ardent philatelist all his life. He died in Berlin on June 27, 1975, at the age of 94.

The music on this stamp is "The Girls of Berlin" or "Die Mädchen von Berlin". It is not known whether this is music from an operetta of that name or whether it is music independent of an operetta. Enquiries among many European musicians here and to Mrs. Stolz herself, have proved fruitless. However, just recently Albert Spencer loaned an official German first day souvenir card for this stamp and on the reverse side it is clearly stated that the stamp pictures Robert Stolz conducting the opening of the march, "The Girls of Berlin". Also just received from Albert Spencer is a copy of the song itself which came from Hans Stolz, a nephew or grandnephew of the composer, and the mystery is solved. "Die Mädchen von Berlin" is an independent song in march tempo with text by Günter Loose and the music on the stamp are the opening bars of the song.



HUNGARY

Scott 2685

Michel 3484-3485

A souvenir sheet perforated and imperforate commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Hungarian composer Bela Bartok was issued in March 1981. The music is from the Cantata Profana composed in 1930 and first performed by the BBC in London, May 25, 1934.



JAPAN

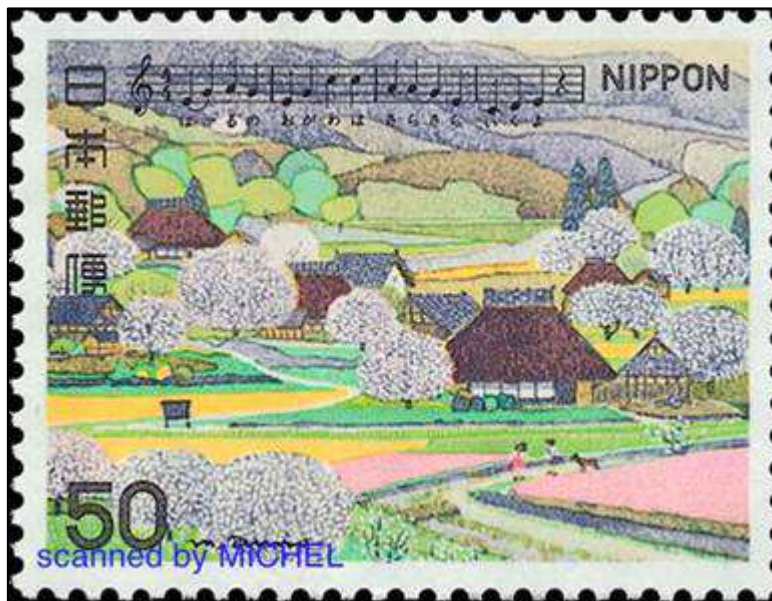
Scott 1381

Michel 1419

Children's Song Series. At the last writing only series 1, 2 and 3 were reported. Since then series 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were issued and the set of 18 children's songs is completed. Our thanks to Chuichi Maeda for all information and for booklet of songs supplied.

In all, eighteen stamps have been issued almost all devoted to an original children's song taught and sung in the schools of Japan. Surely this is an unusual philatelic tribute to musical education and perhaps an example to be emulated with profit in other countries.

The first stamp in series 4 is "Spring Brook" (Haru No Ogawa). "Spring Brook" was composed by Teiichi Okano in 1912 for fourth grade students.



JAPAN

Scott 1382

Michel 1420

The second stamp in series 4 is "Cherry Blossoms" (Sakura Sakura). "Cherry Blossoms" is a traditional Japanese song and seems to have been in existence since the Edo period (the ancient name for Tokyo). It was included in the book of Japanese zither music composed by the director of music of the Ministry of Education and published by the Tokyo School of Music in 1888. It is currently included in the teaching material for fourth grades.



JAPAN

Scott 1391

Michel 1423

The first stamp in series 5 is "The Sea" (Umi). "The Sea" was composed by Takeshi Inoue. It first appeared in 1941 for first grade elementary schools in songbook No.1 and is currently used as general teaching material in the first grades. Inoue (1894-1974) was born in Gumma Prefecture. He was a professor at Tokyo University of Music and served, among other posts, as president of the Japan Society for Music Education.



JAPAN

Scott 1392

Michel 1424

The second stamp in series 5 is "The Night of the Hazy Moon" and was composed in 1914 by Teiichi Okano for inclusion in the sixth grade of elementary school songs.



JAPAN

Scott 1393

Michel 1430

The first stamp in series 6 is "The Rising Sun" (Ni No Maru). "The Rising Sun" appeared in 1911 as Hinomaru No Hata ("Flag of the Rising Sun") and is used in the first grade of elementary schools. The music was composed by Tatsuyuki Takano and the melody was revised in part by Teichii Okano in 1941.



JAPAN

Scott 1394

Michel 1431

The second stamp in series 6 is "Memories of Summer" (Natsu No Omoide). "Memories of Summer" was first broadcast on NHK Radio in June 1949. It enjoyed great popularity and brought fame to the marshes of Oze. The song was composed by Yoshinao Nakada and is now included in the teaching material for the second year of junior high school.



JAPAN

Scott 1395

Michel 1438

The first stamp in series 7 is "Song by the Sea" (Hambe No Uta). "Song by the Sea" is currently included in the teaching material for the second grade of junior high school. It was composed by Tamezo Narita in 1916. Narita (1893-1945) was born in Kita, Akita-Gun, Akita Prefecture. He graduated from the teacher's course of Tokyo School of Music and left numerous compositions including the children's song, "Canary".



JAPAN

Scott 1396

Michel 1439

The second stamp in series is "Red Dragonfly" (Aka Tonbo). "Red Dragonfly" was composed by Kosaku Yamada in 1927 and is currently used in the teaching material for the first grade of junior high school. Yamada (1886-1965) was born in Tokyo and studied in Germany after graduating from the Tokyo School of Music. His wide ranging musical activities covered children's songs, songs and orchestral music. For his contributions to Japanese music he was awarded a cultural medal.



JAPAN

Scott 1397

Michel 1456

The first stamp in series 8 is "Lullaby" (Komori-Uta). "Lullaby" is a traditional nursery song of which no particulars are available. It was first included in a school songbook in 1941 and is currently used in the teaching material for the third grade.



JAPAN

Scott 1398

Michel 1457

The second stamp in series 8 is "Coconut" (Yashi-No-Mi). "Coconut" was composed by Toraji Ohnaka in 1936 for the NHK series of "Peoples Songs" and became very popular with the Japanese people. It is currently included in the teaching material for the third grade of junior high school. Toraji Ohnaka was born in Tokyo in 1896. He graduated from Doshishi University and then studied composition with Kosaku (Kōsoak) Yamada, eminent Japanese conductor and composer (1886-1965). His numerous works include "Oyster Shell", "Church Oratorio" and many choral works



JAPAN

Scott 1399

Michel 1460

The first stamp in series 9 is "Spring Has Come" (Haru Ga Kita). "Spring Has Come" was composed by Teiichi Okano for the elementary textbook in 1910. It is now included in the teaching material for the second grade of elementary school. Okano also is the composer of "Maple Leaves" and "Birthplace" (series 2), "Spring Book" (series 4) and "The Night of the Hazy Moon" (series 5).



JAPAN

Scott 1400

Michel 1461

The second stamp in series 9 is "Cherry Blossoms" (Hana). "Cherry Blossoms" was composed by Rentaro Taki and is now included in the teaching material for the third grade of junior high school. Rentaro Taki (1879-1903) composed "The Moon over a Ruined Castle" (series 1) and "Mt. Hakone" (Hakone No Yama). He was born in Tokyo and after graduating from Tokyo Music College, went to Germany for further study in 1901. However, he returned after a year due to illness and, died at the early age of 23.



MALI

Scott C418

Michel 847

Two stamps were issued in March 1981 to mark the Mozart anniversary. The one with notation around the border must be judged as of no musical consequence. There are notes but they are not music of Mozart. The other is notable for its interlocking horn and trumpet. Quite a trick.



NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Scott 462, 463

Michel 436-437

Rudolf Theodorus Palm, better known in his country as Shon Dodo. Palm was born in Curacao Jan. 11, 1880. He received his first music lessons from his grandfather who soon discovered that his grandson had a singular gift for music. Rudolf Palm played and taught flute, piano, clarinet, saxophone, organ and mandolin. He was active in every area of musical life in Curacao teaching, performing, arranging and composing. He belonged to various orchestras and formed his own orchestra in 1901. He was also organist of the Protestant Church and of the Jewish Synagogue as well as flutist of the Philharmonic Orchestra. Palm composed over 90 works and a street was named in his honor in Curacao. He died Sept. 11, 1950.

The music is "Triste Pensamiento" (Sad Meditations) a dance for piano composed around 1900. (Chuchi Maeda)

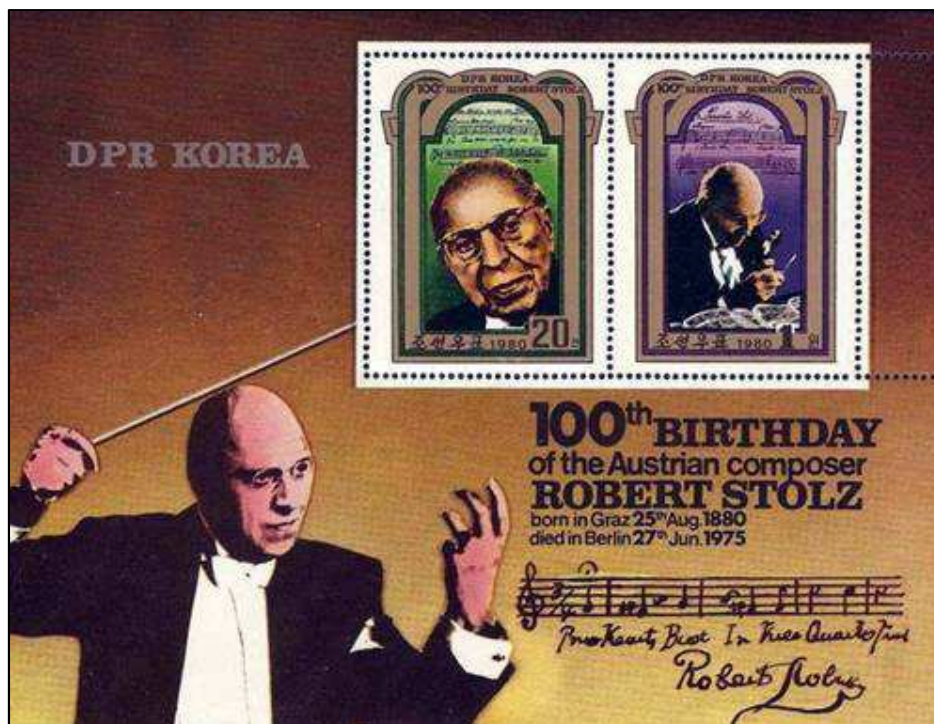


NORTH KOREA

Scott ???

Michel 2077-2078

On Dec. 30, 1980, the Democratic Peoples Republic of North Korea issued a stamp, a small souvenir sheet and a large souvenir sheet both perforate and imperforate for the birth centenary of Robert Stolz. Reportedly, the music on the stamp is "Im Garten Blühn" and the music on the small souvenir sheet is "Servus Du". The large sheet pictures Stolz conducting and bars of music. Unfortunately, because of present restrictions, the stamps of North Korea are not obtainable here and therefore cannot be illustrated.



SAN MARINO

Scott 994

Michel 1219

Robert Stolz, prolific Austrian operetta composer, was born in Graz August 25, 1882. During his long life he composed more than 50 operettas, 100 film scores and about 2000 occasional pieces (songs, marches, etc.). He also made innumerable recordings. His most famous operetta is undoubtedly "Zwei Herzen im Dreivierteltakt". Stolz was an honorary citizen of both Graz and Vienna and was an ardent philatelist all his life. He died in Berlin on June 27, 1975, at the age of 94.

The musical notation on the stamp of San Marino is the famous "Philatelisten Walzer" which Stolz wrote as a tribute to his hobby. "Music and philately are my passions" (Robert Stolz)



SPAIN

Scott ???

Michel 2492

The national anthem of Galicia. The Spanish constitution of 1978 "recognizes and guarantees the right to autonomy of nationalities and regions of Spain". The autonomous state of Galicia was established on Dec. 21, 1980, with the approval of the general Parliament and King Juan Carlos. The Galician state consists of four provinces; La Coruna, Lugo, Orense and Pontevedra. The territory has the right to use its own language, its own flag and its own Galician anthem. Information regarding the music of the Galician anthem is not available at this time. Two letters have been sent to Spain requesting this information but no replies have been received as yet.



Addendum: Since the inclusion of this stamp in Part 8, additional and pertinent information has been received from a collector in Spain. The Hymn to Galicia was written 75 years ago. It was conceived by a Galician, José Fontenla Leal, who had emigrated to Havana. He collaborated with the Galician poet, Pondal, to write the lyrics and with Veiga to compose the music. The hymn was first performed at the Gran Teatro del Centro Galego in Havana on Dec. 20, 1907, in honor of Veiga who had died in 1906. It was declared the official hymn of Galego in 1908. The Spanish composer, Pascual Veiga de la Iglesia was born April 9, 1842, in Mondoñedo. He studied music with church maestro José Pacheco and organ with R. Tafall. At the age of 19 he became organist in charge of the Cathedral of Mondoñedo and of the Collegium Musicum of Covadonga and also the Collegium of Santa Maria del Campo in Coruna. He founded choral groups in Galicia and contributed to the foundation of the Galician regional music school. During the Universal Exposition held in Paris in 1889, a choir conducted by him obtained first prize, a gold medal. Veiga died July 12, 1906 in Madrid.
(Information from Sr. Manuel Enguidanos Sabater in Gerona / FAP 9, March 1982)