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**Gebühr
bezahlt**

Last issue of the 1969 season. Hope all of you had a Merry Christmas. Santa Claus must have done some of his shopping at H.B. Zierer's, for I wound up with a sheet of Döbeln, Mi. #1a. The sheet has no margins - is this how they were printed or has some clot torn off the margins? Would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows - even if you have a Döbeln single with a margin that will prove the point.

I can still use information on Glauchau covers, especially covers with wierd (or seemingly wierd) rates. Good old Fred Ostberg was the only response to my last appeal, unfortunately with a complete set on cover which proves nothing about the postage rates. At least the spirit was there, thanks Fred.

We now have two new members:

Mr. Ray C. Ameen, M.D. 8845 Long Point Road, Houston, Tx. 77055

Mr. John VanGott 275 Woodland Drive, Brightwaters, N.Y. 11718

I have one change of address:

Lt. Joachim G. Heckert, 7 Totten Street, Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri 65473

In addition Bruce Fisher has written he is leaving the Azores for a tour in the Ryuku Islands, however his new address is not yet available.

That's about it. With the new year here I would like to urge you all to please pay your \$2 dues. Quite a few have been getting free bulletins - this year I will probably

tighten up a bit - no money, no bulletins.

Here's how our finances stand from 1969 including this bulletin (these are provable expenses - in many cases I did not bother to write down expenses when we were broke).

INCOME:

dues: 1969 \$75.00
1970 4.00

donations: \$48.00
\$130.00

EXPENSES:

mimeograph. \$75.00
postage \$41.78
envelopes
(300 on hand) \$4.50
pads/ink/masters \$14.10
advertising in
Convention bulletin \$30.00
entry in GERMANEX \$2.50
award NOJEX '68 \$10.00
paper \$17.40
\$195.28

The Central Saxony Transitional Issues of 1945

A contribution concerning the first postal stationary of the OPD's Chemnitz and Dresden after the fall of Germany

by Prof. Dr. Ing. Paul-August Koch, Netstal (Kt. Glarus)

translated by Myron Fox

(Reprinted from the "Festschrift zum 50 jährigen Bestehen des Berliner Ganzsachen-Sammler-Vereins" with the kind permission of the Berliner Ganzsachen-Sammler-Verein and the author.)

In the last month of the war the frontline of the Western powers had been pushed eastward through western Saxony beyond Chemnitz, and the Russians were pressing through Lausitz up to the gates of the bomb destroyed Dresden. Several days before the collapse of Germany Soviet armored forces thrust over the Elbe into Meissen, Nossen, and Freiburg to the edge of the Erz mountain chain, so as to surround from the West those German troops remaining in Dresden and vicinity as well as in the eastern Erz mountains. Thus at the end of the war central Saxony was still the area of the front and hence there resulted different sorts of conditions for the further development of the postal traffic after the fall of Germany than in the rest of the country.

The State of Affairs

The western allies had introduced the stamps and stationary of the Allied Military Postal Service into the West German regions without delay keeping pace with the advance of their occupation (first in Aachen and vicinity during March of 1945), so that the postal service could continue there beyond the end of the war without difficulty. However things were different in central Saxony. Here simultaneously occurred the conditions of the front, with the resulting interruption of the usual postal service, the "collapse" and the start of the period of occupation (with the necessity to endure changed conditions also in the postal system accounting). Since the Russians had brought with them neither new nor their own postage stamps and since a central postal authority no longer existed, the remaining administrative forces of the postal districts (QPD) were left to their own resources and improvisations. Several weeks had to pass until the printing of the first new postage stamp---the well known POTSCHTA¹ and its successors ---since the large scale Dresden printing facility was destroyed and because of the difficulty in obtaining suitable paper and glue and many other circumstances of the time. On the other hand in the beginning sufficient quantities of Hitler stamps were still in stock at the individual postoffices. Thus it was only a question of finding a way to denazify these stamps in the simplest way so that it could be done by each postoffice on their own. (A recall of the stamps in stock and the overprinting at a centralized facility could not be executed in a sufficiently short time due to the still existing difficulty of communication as well as the loss of the great printing facilities suitable for such a task.)

The "Obliterations" ("Verkorken")

First the former postal directorship of Chemnitz directed with the decree of 12 May 1945^{2,3} that the stamps of the definitive (i.e. Hitler) issues would be allowed to be used in the district, however they should be overprinted with a cork, rubberstamp, or similar device in such a way that the picture becomes unrecognizable, but the value is readable. Somewhat later (May 23, 1945) the Dresden postal directorship decided upon a similar regulation for their area. Thus the idea of the "obliterations" was created, that is the making nonrecognizable the Hitler head on the definitive series by means of a cork or other

---an employment which, with the many postoffice visitors in the week after the "collapse", occupied the counter officials who were mostly women. Those items which occur in a number of stationary issues with rectangular or similar overprinted values from mechanical printing presses are not considered here. Similarly the overprinted issues on postage stamps, official stamps, and stationary during the American occupation will also not be considered.

The "obliterations" as an emergency solution for the covering of the Hitler head or the party emblem on stamps of the Third Reich was used moreover in other different regions of Germany quite independent from one another as in Breslau⁵, Schwerin and Rostock (on stationary)⁴, Perleberg², Wittenberg-Lutherstadt and Bad Schmiedeberg (Prov. of Saxony)².

The mentioned directives in which it was required that the stamp's picture be made unrecognizable, left open in other respects the manner in which this could be accomplished. Thus in addition to indelible pencil or crayon, Indian ink, paint, and handwritten shapeless applied inkblots (especially by the public themselves, to whom the making unrecognizable of the Hitler head on the stamp was allowed) the following three sorts of overprinting can be identified:

1. With round to circular area stamps, the most made from cork, between 10 and 20mm in diameter, violet or very rarely other colors (e.g. blue), also with scattered indentures, crosslike recesses or other markings such as a city identification code.
2. With other sort of area stamps, thus squares, rectangles (also with round corners), lines, blocks, crosses, stars, also postal zone numbers---all rare.
3. With specific city stamps such as city seals (Bad Gottleuba) octagon; ornate with Gothic "D" (Lübau, also for Herrnhut); two line text stamp "Deutschlands Verderber" (i.e. "Destroyer of Germany") (Meissen and partly also Sörnewitz); castle silhouette (Schwarzenberg; and rectangular ornate (Würzen).

Each postoffice had its own, that is some, "cork" (or also other stamps) for the making of a stamp picture unidentifiable, at larger postoffices many at each counter, since most stamps or cards were not obliterated until their sale at the counter. This says accordingly that in the region of both OPD's in which there existed 310 postal places according to the register of the postoffices of the German postal region

of July 1944, many variants in the area stamp were possible, of which naturally very many, well the most, are so alike that they are difficult to distinguish, particularly since clear impressions of the "obliterations" are rarer than those of the metal stampers. Hence it is impossible to identify the issues of the individual postoffices, though it may be possible if there is a clear impression of the cancellation, yet there is still some reason to speak of "Post Office" issues as does Zumstein⁶ (for instance in the previously discussed specific city overprints). The transitional issues of two whole districts are of interest here, which one does not collect by cities, but at the utmost according to the form of the area stamper (round or otherwise)---similar to the case of the later transitional issues of the Soviet Zone after the currency reform (HOP's), where it is scarcely possible to practically collect the single overprints of the total 756 postoffices of the East Zone plus the 33 of East Berlin, but at the most one collects one set of each district at a time. It is therefore misleading if Zumstein in his catalog, under the designation "Post Office Issues" in a list of altogether 54 place names from all of Germany names only 20 which used round or rubber stamps for overprinting, and also 20 from Saxony, then merely the cities Plauen/Vogtl. for a 7mm polygon shaped overprint, Rabenstein/Sa. for broken bars, and Wildenfels/Sa. for a 12x13mm rectangle.

The Area of Validity

The "obliterations" were introduced into the district of the former OPD Chemnitz on May 12, 1945 and into the area of OPD Dresden with the resumption of postal traffic on May 23, 1945. Here was the extension of the postal delivery dependent on the resumption of the transportation system. The opening in Dresden on May 23, 1945 included at first only the local and suburban traffic. The streetcars were requisitioned in this communication crippled period in order to establish contact with the outlying districts and the neighboring cities. Later on even the steamships on the Elbe were used. In this context are the declarations of Postmaster Schneider informative about the rebuilding of the operations in the main post office district (OPD) Dresden⁷, from which the following important dates for the rating of postal pieces with cork overprints are taken:

May 23 The opening of local and suburban traffic in Dresden with

letter carriers. Postcards and letters up to 20 grams, administrative letters up to 500 grams are permitted.

- June 4 Postal delivery begins by steamboats of the Saxony-Bohemian steamship line on the stretch Dresden-Bad Schandau and back, therefore postally reunifying the Eastern Erz mountains and Swiss Saxony.
- June 5 Assimilation of the postal delivery service with the offices along the railway lines Freital-Possendorf, Freital-Siebenlehn, Hainsberg-Kipsdorf, Klotzsche-Arnsdorf-Pulsnitz, and Ottendorf-Okrilla.
- June 8 Establishment of the railway mail on the Dresden-Chemnitz line.
- June 13 Postal delivery service begins on the route Dresden-Riesa and back utilizing steamships of the Saxony-Bohemia line. Opening of letter communications with Königsbrück, Moritzburg, Nossen, Radeburg, Strehla, Gröditz via Riesa, Lommatzsch, Oschatz and Ostrau in Saxony.
- June 19 With suitable security it was established that with the issuance in a few days of the then in print first new stamp of the OPD Dresden that the discontinuance of the issuance of postage stamps with Hitler heads and official stamps of the Third Reich was fixed for June 21. (See what follows)
- June 23 Issue of the first new postage stamp after the postwar reorganization, the so called POTSCHTA and its sale at the counters of the postoffice Dresden A20 in Strehlen. These stamps were withdrawn from sale and from circulation on the same day due to the withdrawal of permission for these stamps by the Russian commandant.
- June 25 Opening of truck mail route Sebnitz-Neukirch-Wilthen and Schirgeswalde-Neustadt-Sebnitz chiefly for the delivery of mail.
- June 26 Expansion of the postal delivery service to the post offices Kamenz in Saxony, Krögis, Neuhausen, and Seiffen as well as the railway line Kamenz-Senftenberg, Hohenbocka-Wehrkirch and to the regions of the OPD's Chemnitz and Leipzig up to the Mulde line (the river Mulde was at this time the demarcation line between Russian and American zones).

The mentioned withdrawal of the Hitler stamps in the area of OPD Dresden, and thereby the end of the validity of the "obliterations", was announced through the following directive of the Chairman of the Government

Postal Administration Dresden of June 19, 1945:

"The delivery of the up till now valid postage and official stamps is immediately to be discontinued. The remaining stocks are... to be destroyed. Stamps existing in the peoples hands lose their validity and may not be used any longer. All sendings still franked with the hitherto existing stamps are to be treated as unfranked after June 20. Until the appearance of the new in print postage stamp, only payment at the post counter, or for those not prepaid, on delivery is allowed."

It follows from this directive that the withdrawal of the "obliterated" Hitler issues followed in consideration of the imminent issuance of the new postage stamp. The neighboring OPD Chemnitz with which at first postal traffic only became possible and a few places of OPD Leipzig included (see previous list of important dates under June 26), had not made preparation for the issuance of their own stamps but continued to use obliterated Hitler stamps. Due to the poor information dissemination postage due was now imposed on letters with these stamps in the area of OPD Dresden due to the cited regulation of June 19, 1945. Therefore the OPD Chemnitz issued the following decree³ on July 13, 1945:

"Reports have occurred from different offices that sendings prepaid in this district with the existing stamps have no longer been recognized as having been prepaid in the district of Dresden since June 21. So far it has not been possible to clarify this situation with the RPD Dresden district. Also it is not known what other RPD's have decreed with regard to the prepayment of sendings. To avoid inconveniences, inquiries, etc. sendings which are addressed to other districts are to be delivered to the postoffices for cancellation of the stamp so that a dated prepaid cancel can be applied. If the cancellation cannot be applied in red ink then it is permissible to use black. If offices and branch offices (ASt) do not possess a prepaid canceler then a "Gebuhr bezahlt" stamp must be applied next to the dated cancellation. The overprinting of the existing postage stamps with cork or rubber stamps, etc. must of course also continue."

A further decree followed on July 20, 1945:

"Sendings prepaid with those stamps which have had their faces made unrecognizable will now also be considered validly prepaid in the RPD Dresden district. Postage due will no longer be imposed there. The

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decree of 13 July 1945 IA6-2154 concerning the validation of stamps with a "Gebühr bezahlt" stamp remains in effect since due to poor communications with other RPD's no clarification has been achieved yet."

The knowledge of this decree is important for the judgment of the genuine need of postal pieces with corks "obliterated" Hitler stamps; particularly that such stampings with "bezahlt" stamps could also occur on stationary. (Mentions an illustration which we haven't reproduced this time -ed.). For the sake of simplicity the "bezahlt" markings were applied to most sendings and not only to those addressed to other districts.

In the beginning of August 1945, the withdrawal of the existing unoverprinted and overprinted Hitler and eventually the other still circulating postage stamps of the Third Reich from the postoffices and reception places was ordered by the Soviet military authorities in both OPD's. This was announced by the Chairman of the Dresden Postal district, Dresden A16, by the following declaration of August 2, 1945:

"All postage stamps and postcards with imprinted stamps which were issued prior to the occupation, and are still in stock, are to be delivered to the military commandant's office."

(These stamps had already been declared invalid for the region of the OPD Dresden in the earlier decree of June 19). For OPD Chemnitz these stamps ought to have been recalled by the decree of August 8, 1945 and the delivery of all sendings to the postal counter for the purpose of prepayment ought to have been introduced. Thus the period of use for the "cork obliterated" postage stamps with delivery places follows:

In region of OPD Chemnitz: 12 May 1945 to 8 August 1945
In region of OPD Dresden: 23 May 1945 to 20 June 1945

Postal Stationery

Postal stationery, in this case postcards with imprinted stamps, had special meaning in the period considered here after the fall of Germany. Since with the re-establishment of postal traffic for private individuals, only the sending of postcards or letters of up to 20 grams was allowed, with the letters being required to be temporarily delivered open, one made little use of letters and used more often postcards with the imprinted stamps. Thus for a while postal stationery was first in the postal traffic, above all in August 1945 when letters were generally forbidden for the civilian population in the district of OPD Dresden.

Since after the fall of Germany the stamps of the definitive series

according to the previously mentioned decrees of 12 May and 23 May of OPD's Chemnitz and Dresden respectively, and after a consideration of the postal stationary of the transitional period between the spring and summer of 1945 the following two points of view must be considered:

(1) Each postal user could still use those stamps of the definitive series still in his possession, which for postal stationery means at least all varieties of the definitive series postal cards (Hitler head at right) of 5 and 6Rpf. could be used. The same holds for picture cards of Berlin such as the Vienna issue with the Hitler head to the right at 6Rpf. in brown photogravure. Theoretically it is also possible though improbable that, in spite of being overfranked, the 15Rpf. postcards were used due to lack of other cards, and possibly even the Hindenburg medallion cards or the last commemorative cards which had still been valid, even though these were not mentioned in the regulations. Never the less it would be assumed that the occurrence of the last enumerated postal stationary was specially generated for a philatelic purpose. The author has indeed not seen such "fellow travellers".

(2) For those stamps in the hands of the public should the overprinting have occurred after the delivery of the sending to the post office. This one can very often distinctly discover in those cases where the obliterating strike extends over the stamp and strikes the envelope. Many times however the sender himself undertook the obliteration of the stamps as this was not forbidden. He used for this purpose seldom a cork or similar device, but more frequently indelible ink, colored ink, pen or brush were used to cover the stamp picture with crosswise or other formless blots. This method of making unrecognizable was recognized by the post offices and occur beside the usual obliterations, without special validation. That the value of the transitional issues was determined solely by need will be discussed later.

It has been determined by the writer and a collector friend that in the time between the end of May and the beginning of July 1945 that the following types of post cards were in stock at several post offices in the Dresden vicinity and in the eastern Erz mountains and in the east part of OPD Chemnitz (Numbers according to the supplement to the world stationary catalog 1938 for Germany 1941-45):
5Rpf. green to olive green

No. 284/II with slogan 1b "Fasst Kohlenklau! Verderbt....."

No. 299/II with slogan 2b "Der Führer kennt nur Kampf,"

6Rpf. different shades of violet (Bluish to red brown)

No. 300/II with slogan 2b "Der Führer kennt nur Kampf,"

6+6Rpf.

No. 288/I without slogan

No. 296, Eastern workers card with text in three languages.

The double card was many times also separated and sold individually. (For those collectors who do not have the referenced World stationery catalog supplement, the following is provided: cards No. 284 (5Rpf.), 285 (6Rpf.), 286 (15Rpf.), 287 (5+5Rpf.), 288 (6+6Rpf.), and 289 (15+15Rpf) have three lines for the senders address and no circle for the postal lead number. Card No. 290 (6Rpf.), the Berlin issue, has the entire words "Hausnummer" and "Postschliessfachnummer" printed on it. No. 291 (6Rpf.), the Vienna issue, has both abbreviated, i.e. "Haus-Nr." and "Postschliessfach-Nr." respectively; I without remarks and II with the remark "Nur im Inland zugelassen!" (only for domestic mail). Cards No. 299 and 300 (5 and 6Rpf.) respectively have 5 lines for the designation of the sender and a circle for the postal lead number. No. 296, the reply card, has a text in three languages: Russian, German, and Ukrainian.

This listing names only those types available at the post offices and no types which originated from old stocks of private citizens that were still used at that time. It does in no way claim to be complete. The cards numbered 284, 285, 287, and 288 as well as cards from the picture series numbers 290 and 291 --- we have seen cards No. 291/II42-16-1-B11 (Saalfeld)--- also cards 286 eastern workers reply card which even before the fall of Germany was on sale for domestic traffic and finally cards 299 and 300, all can occur.

From individual records and declarations and records, which in part had been made on the reverse side of cards within the personal messages about the postal system at that time are the following facts, among other things, to be concluded; Freital -- opened postoffice I again early on May 25, 1945. Postcards and letters up to 20 grams for the city of Freital and vicinity were accepted. Stamps were not available, or rather it was not then known in what form they could be used, and therefore must all sendings be presented at the postoffice for prepayment. In the afternoon "obliterated" stamps and cards were prepared and placed on sale.

Tharandt (Dresden district) reopened on the 29th of May and in the beginning cancelled obliterated stamps and cards next to the stamp and not on the picture. The previously mentioned declaration of the OPD Dresden of June 19, 1945 was interpreted by the Tharandt postoffice to mean that postcards still were valid so that postal cards with imprinted stamps were still allowed to be forwarded "obliterated" in local traffic without the assessment of postage due until June 23, 1945. Altenberg (Erz mountains) was during the last phases of the war in part burned down, including the postoffice. For want of a postal canceller and stamps a two line provisional fee paid city canceller made from a rubber stamp print set was used, also on postal cards. Later a single line rubber stamp in Gothic type 38mm long was used as a validation cancel along with a rectangular obliteration marking.

Similar variations or free interpretations of the declarations or the emergency solutions of isolated postal officials, will be confirmed for many other postoffices. The preceding confirmations are only presented as authentic examples for future discussion.

The slogan 2b) "Der Führer kennt nur Kampf..." of postcards of 5 and 6Rpf. was sometimes not made unrecognizable and sometimes was, then in different ways: by simple strokes with ink or cork obliteration or by the affixing of sealing tape or marginal strips from stamp sheets.

After the withdrawal from circulation of the Hitler stamps and postcards in the region of the OPD Dresden on June 21 at isolated postoffices, the newly issued stamps were affixed to postal cards and sold as postcards. In the stampless interim period from June 21 to June 30 (the first day of issue of the 6Pf. stamp of OPD Dresden) Dresden A18 sold for postcards, as an emergency solution, blank forms with the date stamp, imprinted with the additional stamp "Frei" and signed with the signature of the official "Gr". At other postoffices there were supplied the recently declared invalid "obliterated" postcards with the imprint "Gebühr bezahlt".

In contrast to the above is the previously mentioned cancellation of the stamp after being "obliterated" with the fee-paid circular date cancel in the region of OPD Chemnitz (in which Hitler stamps were still valid); for documentation of franking, without which the fee would still have to be paid. Only those sendings from the district of OPD Chemnitz which had been validated by the usual date stamp were at this time charged postage due in the Dresden district. For the judge-

ment of such pieces it is necessary to know the OPD district of both the place of posting of the letter and the destination.

The Special Issues

In the preceding discussion several examples were given to show that postoffices (PA) or postal stations (Pst) in part freely interpreted the issued short decrees and therefore there existed variations from the normal. Above all the official decrees were to some extent missing at some offices, for example following the temporary separation from the designated administrative authorities, so that some emergency solutions were encountered. It is not however denied that in many cases philatelic backgrounds have influenced such special issues. Valid as independent stamp issues in the regions of OPD's Dresden and Chemnitz during the transitional period, with more or less disputed collectors value, are the overprintings of Glauchau, Bad Gottleuba, Döbeln, Löbau, Meissen, Netzschkau-Reichenback, Schwarzenberg and Wurzen.

Four cities are claimed as independent stationery issues:

Bad Gottleuba---postal designation: Gottleuba(Kr. Pirna)

Postcards with the handoverprint of the small city seal, 20mm diameter, with the inscription "Die Stadt Bad Gottleuba", two four pointed stars, and the eagle coat of arms. It has not been determined which postcard types were issued or from which office they were overprinted. It is rumored that values issued earlier without overprinting were overprinted with the Gottleuba overprint when submitted to the postoffice (this is they were favor overprinted). Postally used postcards have not been seen. Card No. 300/II (6Rpf.) is known with a favour date cancel from 6.6.45 to 6.16.45.

Löbau(Sachs)

Postcards with a black metal handoverprint of an octagonal ornamental frame (13mm each side) also with an octagonal center field, in which is inserted a Gothic "D". Officially valid from May 20 to June 26, 1945² it was used in the postoffices of Löbau and Herrnhut as well as several postoffices of the vicinity (up to Seiffenhensdorf). It is not known which postcard types were in stock and were officially overprinted. Stamps and cards of the still valid former issues were accepted for overprinting from the public(collectors and dealers) in return for additional payment equal to the face value. Thus could all card types designated in the previous section also appear with this overprint. Up to the present we have seen

cards No. 284/I (5Rpf.), 285/I (6Rpf. lilac), 300/II with slogan 2b "Der Führer kennt nur Kampf...." (6Rpf. brown violet) with the slogan not made unidentifiable, crossed out in color, or overprinted with a black rectangle, as well as No. 286 (15Rpf. brownish red). The postoffice of Lßbau also favor cancelled blank postcards, i.e. without address, during the validity period e.g. August 8, 1945 with a date cancel with the distinguishing marking "n".

Meissen

Postcards are seen with the violet rubber stamp overprint "Deutschlands Verderber". This overprint is small size Roman type consisting of two lines 17½ and 12½mm long respectively and 12mm high. It normally appeared horizontal on the stamps but also appears diagonally and inverted. On sale from 15 to 23 June 1945 the length of use has not been determined, probably for as long as the second definitive typographic overprint issue, i.e. until August 4, 1945. Used at postoffices Meissen 1 and 3 as well as Sörnnewitz (Kr. Meissen). Since in addition to those stamps in stock at the postoffice stamps presented by the public at the postoffice were also overprinted, all card types previously discussed could appear with this hand overprint. Up to now I have seen the following cards: No. 300/I without slogan and 300/II with slogan 2b "Der Führer kennt nur Kampf...". The latter card is overprinted twice diagonally over the slogan with the same slogan as on the postage stamp. In a printed announcement the postoffice Meissen writes in August 1945; "An overprint with the rubber stamp shall no longer be used. The stamps have already been destroyed...". This means that at least two overprinting stamps had been available.

Schwarzenberg (Erzgeb)

Postcards with black or black-violet handoverprints of the Schwarzenberg castle silhouette, designed by Chief Postal Supervisor ret. Hugo Böttcher, Schwarzenberg. The first issue from the 10th of June to 22 July 1945 had only the castle silhouette. The second issue from 23 July to August 7, 1945 had the castle silhouette under which was the city name "Schwarzenberg"². Statements about these card types are not possible since these cards up to now have not been seen and it is not known in Schwarzenberg whether cards presented by the public were also overprinted. Samples demonstrating legitimate use are requested.

Würzen

In Würzen, OPD Leipzig, which lay at the basin this side of the demarcation line, the Hitler stamps were provided on 11 and 12 June 1945 with a black-violet handstamp in the form of a 10mm square included in which was an ornamental four roses design. Whether this overprint was also used on post cards is not known. Samples legitimately used are requested for inspection.

The Valuation

The series of "obliterations" (stamps as well as postal stationery) is one of the most interesting of the German postwar issues in so far as it is a question of an unusually created issue, a product of the time and created without philatelic motivation, whose absolutely official character cannot be disputed, and is fully worthy of being collected. (Also taking into consideration the strict philatelic conditions of the BSC "Hallensia" Halle/Saale for the judgment in qualifying the German postwar issues for the catalog listing.)

A so called emergency issue (against which it is often argued that these opposed the directives of the Deutsche Reichspost, according to which in such cases the prepayment should be applied with proof of payment of the rate) does not apply here, since stamps and postcards of the last definitive series were available in sufficient quantities at all postoffices. The individuality of this issue means on the other hand that unused "obliterated" stamps and postcards have a very restricted or even no worth to a collector, since the genuine need of these transitional issues can only be judged on cover---from the full city cancellation and date as well as from the amount of franking and further characteristics necessary. The here discussed middle Saxony transitional issues are therefore only collectable on whole letters or as used postcards. For the judgment of the value of such covers is first of all the necessity of use critical and the manner in which the unidentifiability of the picture is obtained; which as we discussed, can vary so much that a collection of all types of overprintings is impossible.

That on the other hand, with the mentioned special issues, there was in part at least philatelic influence is not dismissed. With them it is more important to confirm the necessity of use of actually used pieces. This has been possible for the writer until now only for the Löbau issue, whose stamps have been shown to him on a number of clearly legitimately

used covers from different villages of Lausitz. The remaining above described special issues must be considered as not having full value, as long as validly used postcards have not yet been seen.

In the interest of a final clarification of these transitional issues, especially the special issues, this contribution has been written, with the knowledge that it can offer only the first framework, but nothing yet complete or final. Only through the collaboration of all specialists, who have kept from those stirring times authentic data and unobjectionable copies, can such a goal be reached. There is therefore promulgated this spirited request for information for expansion and for copies of not described stationery, so that the material can be gathered for a later concluding catalog.

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8. Über the "Gottleuba-Ausgabe" see the contribution by A.L. Die Sonderausgabe des Bäckermeisters (Eine philatelische Harlekinade der Nachkriegszeit). Die Lupe 1950, page 6 with an answer by Dr. R. Foerster in the same referenced work p.351.

The author notes he will willingly validate stationery of the transitional period if the return postage is provided (Int. Reply coupons)

Still no business for a Members Corner, so that's it till next issue.