



# GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY 1945-1948 LOCALS STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

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bezahlt**

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## NOTES

I'm sure you were all wondering if perhaps I died, if you gave any thought at all to the fact you have received no Locals bulletin for the last 6 months. I am indeed still kicking around, and must apologize to the persons who did translations (often with me urging speed) and then did not see them printed for 6 or 8 months. I hope this issue meets with the approval of all those who have devoted their time to it, and there are indeed many persons

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other than myself without whose help there would not be issues such as this, if at all.

This issue is supposed to be a treat, to make up for the lack of issues recently. In order to do this I have had to use up almost all the articles I have backlogged. Therefore, I hope you will again respond to my appeals when I ask for articles and/or translations.

Incidentally, a fair percentage of the articles we print are translations of German articles. This is fine, and I'm all in favor of translating these for the use of our members. However, in this country we also have much interesting material, and I'd like to see more articles coming from this side of the Atlantic. I see no reason why we should be dependent solely on the research being done in Germany. Certainly documentation on the AMG's and American censorship should be available from sources here, and the articles can be written here. Also, our relations with the Germans should be a two way street. If we expect to use their articles, and gain the benefits of their research, we should be making a contribution to the overall effort. The Netzschkau article herein is a fair example of what can be learned from one piece. It's no big deal, but one little piece of information which may be of interest to someone. I'm sure many of you may likewise have a small piece of a story here or there, so write it up and send it in. Nothing is too trivial.

Correction to the last issue: On page 3, by the date March 30, the town to which the stamps were to be delivered is Freidberg, not Freiberg (incidentally Al, this was my mistake in copying, not yours in translating).

On with the articles.

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THE POSTMASTER PROVISIONALS OF BAD NAUHEIM/HESSE  
(with consideration given related literature,  
and conclusions drawn therefrom)

by Manfred G. Heber

reprinted from the German's local group Rundbrief 1/1971  
translated by K. Alfred Geisser

While in Rundbrief 3 on page 37 a report of the Bad Nauheim first issue appears (reprinted in our last issue-ed), I will try to expand on the same, through facts gained from the following literature:

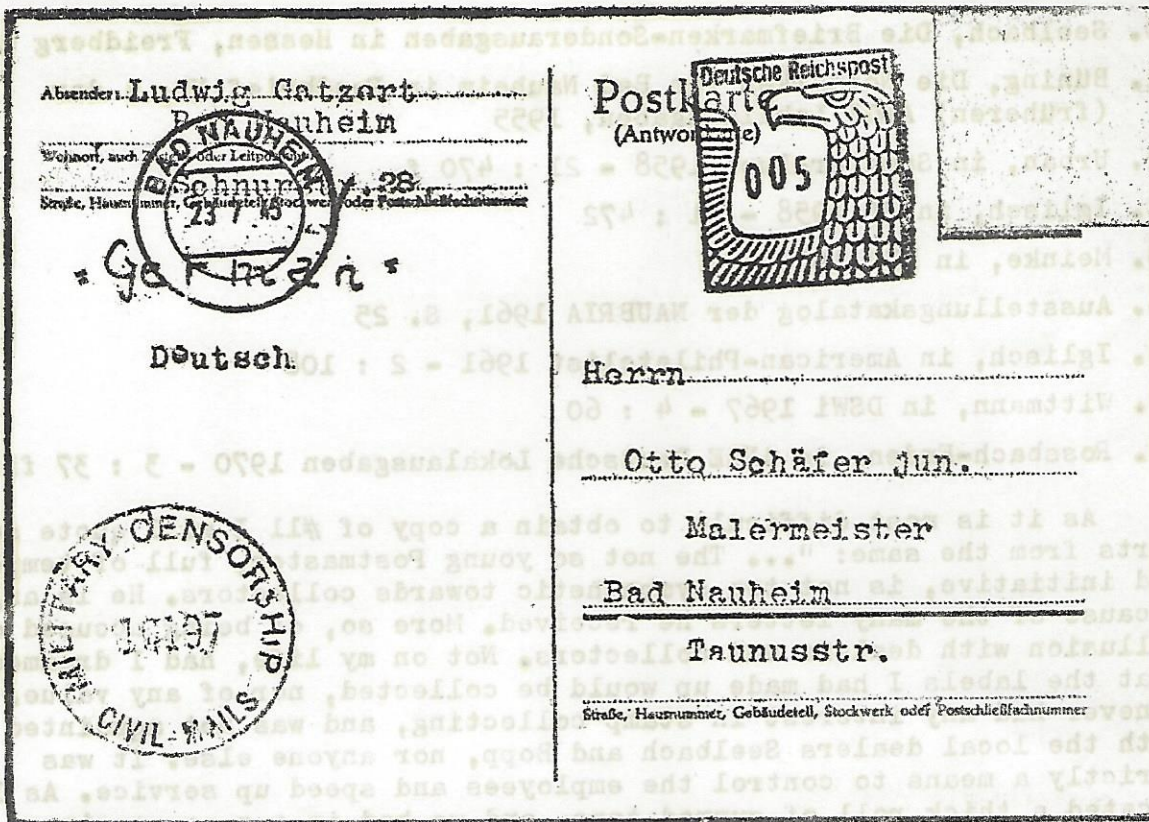
1. Jacob, Forschungsarbeit über die deutschen Briefmarken seit 1945
2. N.N., in GLOBUS, 1946 - 2 : 3
3. Müller, Katalog und Handbuch der deutschen Zonen- und Lokalmarken/  
Bellamont 1947
4. Wülbecke, Handbuch der deutschen Zonenmarken 1945-46 / Hamburg 1947
5. Grünberg, in Süddeutscher Briefmarken-Anzeiger 1948 - 5 : 69
6. Seelbach, in SBA 1948 - 6 : 80
7. Hartmann, in SBA 1949 : 15
8. Bund der Philatelisten in Hessen, in SBA 1949 - 4 : 38

9. Seelbach, in SBA 1949 : 97
10. Seelbach, Die Briefmarken-Sonderausgaben in Hessen, Freidberg 1949
11. Büning, Die Notmarken von Bad Nauheim in Rundbrief Nr. 1 der (früheren) ARGE Lokalausgaben, 1955
12. Urban, in Sammler-Lupe 1958 - 21 : 470 f.
13. Iglisch, in SL 1958 - 21 : 472
14. Meinke, in DBZ 1958 - 9
15. Ausstellungskatalog der NAUBRIA 1961, S. 25
16. Iglisch, in American-Philatelist 1961 - 2 : 108
17. Wittmann, in DSWi 1967 - 4 : 60
18. Rossbach-Emden, in ARGE Deutsche Lokalausgaben 1970 - 3 : 37 ff.

As it is most difficult to obtain a copy of #11 I will quote some parts from the same: "... The not so young Postmaster, full of temper and initiative, is not too sympathetic towards collectors. He is angry, because of the many letters he received. More so, of being accused of collusion with dealers and collectors. Not on my life, had I dreamed, that the labels I had made up would be collected, nor of any value. I never had any interest in stamp collecting, and was not acquainted with the local dealers Seelbach and Bopp, nor anyone else. It was strictly a means to control the employees and speed up service. As I located a thick roll of gummed tape, and we had in our possession a small Freistempler that had to be worked manually, we could use these to make up the different values. This was therefore accomplished. One value imprint together with a date cancel represented one stamp. The cash register like Freistempler registered the amount, which made for full and easy control. However, this did not last long, as the roll of tape was soon used up, and also the Freistempler made the eagle imprint of the former German regime, and therefore was forbidden for further use. "

From this one can draw the following conclusion : After reestablishing of local postal service, no regular postage stamps were available. For this reason, the then available Freistempler was used. One example of this is shown on page 49 (of the original article, our Ill. 1 - ed), a 5Pf. postcard. Although letters were handled in the same manner I am not able to show a sample. Since thick letters and packages could not be run through the Freistempler, some other way had to be found. For this reason the afore mentioned labels were made up. Of course they could also be used for normal letters. An example of this was shown on page 52 (of the original article, our Ill. 2 - ed). As these could go through the Freistempler there is no reason to question them. They appear to be collectors covers.

After receipt of the AM Stamps, we were able to use them, and no need for the Freistempler was anticipated any more. The letters with Freistempler imprint on brown paper are truly forerunners to the stamps listed by Michel and numbered 1 - 3. They are postage paid items, although only used on official mail and were not sold to the public. They were used to conform to regulations, and therefore should be numbered 1 - 3, as they were of equal significance as the ones listed by Michel with the numbers 1 - 3, and given full catalog valuation.

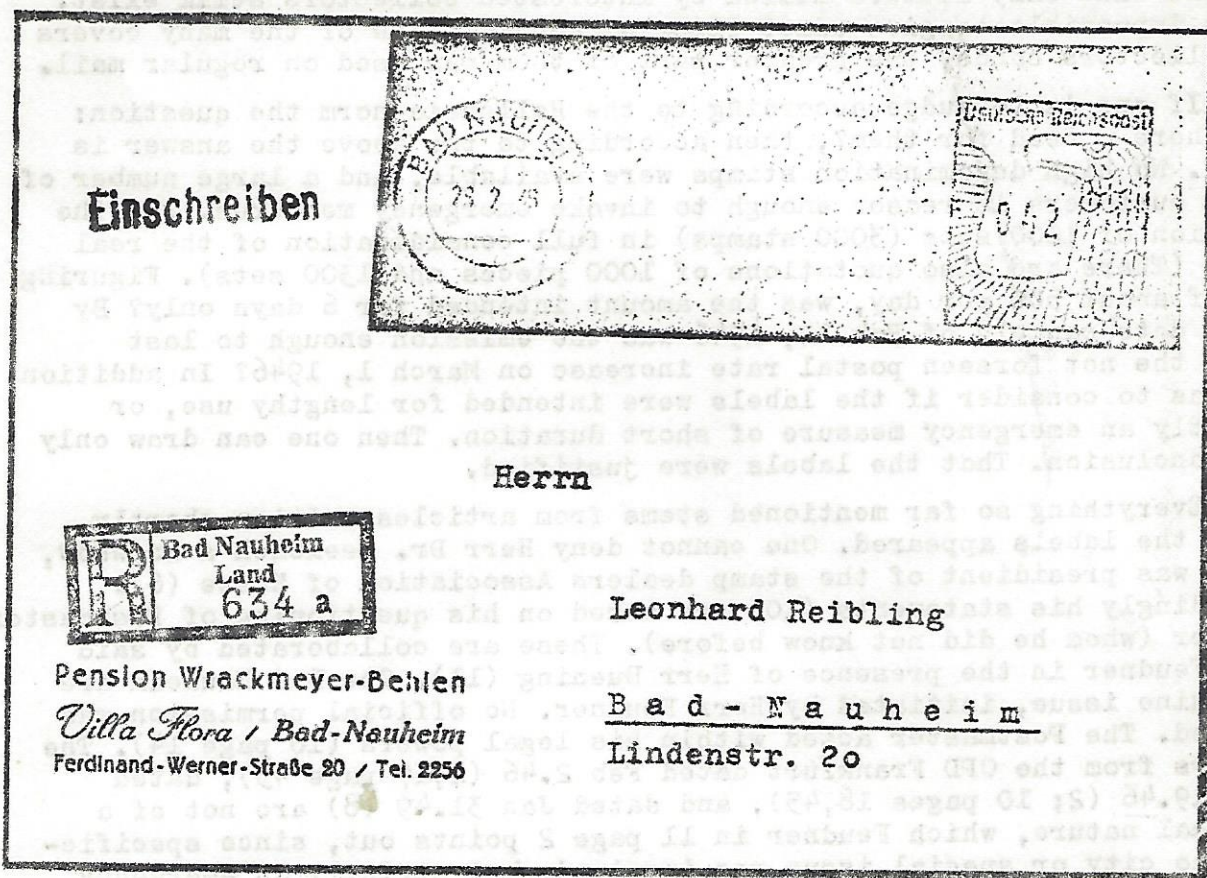


Ill. 1

So far the points brought out are believable. The situation at the quarters used as a post office were as follows: four windows were available, staffed by two women and two young helpers. The waiting room, about 4 x 4 meters, contained one bench and two desks. Due to prevailing unstable conditions, most of the mail was sent by Registry or special delivery to assure a safer delivery. Additionally, the 300 employees of Hollerith A.G. send more than 1000 packages weekly with food items to their relatives in the eastern Zone. The daily average of mail, registered only, was between 550 and 700 pieces.

As the highest denomination of the AMG's was only 25 Pfg. (the British had values of 40-42-50 and 60 Pfg. available) a special delivery required one 25, one 12, and one 5 Pfg., a package two 25, one 15, and one 5 Pfg., etc. This slowed down service, so that long lines formed, reaching into the hallway. As no seating or experienced help was available, the postmaster was searching for some means to improve this situation. He already had hunted up some gummed paper, from which he had numbered stickers printed for special delivery marking. He then found some rolls of postal seals, which he converted into the labels by using a handstamp *Zustellgebühr bezahlt*, cutting off the first part, as this was too long, leaving *"lgebühr bezahlt"*. At first the value was inserted by hand, but later was applied by stamp, two different stamps being used: a) single numerals of 5mm height b) multiple numerals 7mm high. For control two official signatures were applied, this according to postal regulations.

These could be prepared during times the postal windows were not open. A total of about 1000 sets were made available (10 S. 9f.). They were in use until the end of February 1946 since postal rates were raised on March 1.



Ill. 2

In this respect I want to relate the contents of the letter from the OPD Frankfurt again (8) dated Jan 31, 1949. "The Bad Nauheim Post Office could have used the 'Gebühr bezahlt' stamp. However, it was their belief, that due to exceptionally difficult space conditions (the U.S. Army had taken over the P.O. building) service could be greatly improved if labels with 'Gebühr bezahlt' and the proper denomination could be prepared in advance."

Wittmann in his article in DSWi 1963 page 120 ff. takes note of the various problems from the allied occupation authorities one faces with the local issues. In 10 page 10 f. the difference between "labels" and "Gebühr bezahlt" is pointed out. The criterion is the difference between control and accounting. "Labels" are made up under the control of two officials, then one had only to count the balance left over to get the exact figures. For "Gebühr bezahlt" two officials would have to staff each window (would there have been room?) for complete control,

as each transaction would have to be listed, then added, and the total amount entered in control books. According to 10 page 10 off the labels were not for sale to the public at the postal windows. Therefore they were not treated like stamps, but as labels. It is assumed that only a small unsold balance, along with some reference pieces, still exist in mint condition. Since the labels were in extensive use on packages, most of them were destroyed along with the wrapping paper. This is one of the reasons that only letters mailed by interested collectors still exist. It is impossible to give exact figures, but in spite of the many covers in collectors hands, the greater part of them was used on regular mail.

If one is to judge according to the Hallensia norm the question: was there a need for them?, then according to the above the answer is "YES". No high denomination stamps were available, and a large number of daily customers is reason enough to invoke emergency measures. Was the emission of 1000 sets (3000 stamps) in full consideration of the real need? (There are also quotations of 1000 pieces and 1300 sets). Figuring use of about 500 per day, was the amount intended for 6 days only? By known date cancels of Feb 12, 1946 was the emission enough to last until the not foreseen postal rate increase on March 1, 1946? In addition one has to consider if the labels were intended for lengthy use, or strictly an emergency measure of short duration. Then one can draw only one conclusion. That the labels were justified.

Everything so far mentioned stems from articles written shortly after the labels appeared. One cannot deny Herr Dr. Seelbach's knowhow, as he was president of the stamp dealers Association of Hesse (6). Accordingly his statements (10) are based on his questioning of Postmaster Feudner (whom he did not know before). These are collaborated by said Herr Feudner in the presence of Herr Buening (11). The Bad Nauheim are a genuine issue, initiated by Herr Feudner. No official permission was granted. The Postmaster acted within his legal powers (10 page 14). The letters from the OPD Frankfurt dated Feb 2.46 (2;17 page 45), dated July 19.46 (2; 10 pages 18,45), and dated Jan 31.49 (8) are not of a critical nature, which Feudner in 11 page 2 points out, since specifically no city or special issue was involved, but strictly an emergency measure invoked.

Misteriously, the voices of disapproval will not quiet down. The indication of regular stamps being on hand, cannot be ignored, and therefore the creation was not of the great need depicted (18 page 44). This is also born out by statements made by a stamp dealer from the nearby city of Giessen, who by his close proximity was able to observe the goings on. His opinion: "Dr. Seelbach and a second party, whose name I do not wish to give, as he is still living, (presumably the dealer Bopp who is mentioned in 11 page 1 and is living near Bad Nauheim today - translators note) have jointly initiated the issue. Also in the plans were a red cross issue, for which the approval of the three military powers had been given, but which was negated by the Bishop of Freiburg.

"At the beginning of postal service cards and letters were franked with the Freistempler, while for packages strips of gummed paper were used. One of these package pieces was in my possession but sold by me later on. Then Dr. Seelbach and the second party initiated the issue on the postal seals. They are without question from postal stock, and were prepared by the postoffice (as regards the second issue they were printed by a local firm). However, the idea did not come from the post office.

From the second issue the labels left over, plus the waste from the waste-basket of the printer, was purchased by Dr. Seelbach, and sold by him as varieties. This was the reason he owned such a large collection, which he later sold to a collector." (it is assumed that the collection is in the possession of a specialist in Berlin.)

What postal value can or should be given the labels can be determined from Feudner's remarks (11 page 2): "I am a resident here for 30 years, and feel like a real native. Letters go to all over the world from here, and are good advertisement. Who does not know Bad Nauheim, when so many with heart ailments seek relief here? Why not gain more attention through this label by making it attractive? I had in mind one depicting a heart and an arrow, but this was not to be, as the printer had no such cliché, and I could not find one elsewhere. Since the cliché with coat of arms was on hand, this determined the labels. They too have a certain attractive quality, to show the city from a different angle. That is the whole story of the Bad Nauheim emergency labels. Had I known of the later consequences, with all the inquiries from collectors, I would have kept my hands off of them. This collecting madness was unknown to me." These lines speak for themselves, as they were made in the presence of Dr. Seelbach and a third party.

On March 1, 1946 postage rates were doubled, the new rates follow:

For small package	80 Pfg.
" registered letter	84 Pfg.
" special delivery	104 Pfg.
" reg. double letter	108 Pfg.
" registered package	140 Pfg.

So if one had two packages to send, a total of 14 AMG stamps had to be affixed. For this reason, the idea of again making up a new set of labels, corresponding to the new rates came about. Since the hand imprint of the earlier issue, under poor lighting created some mixups (10 page 13), color printing was considered. The postal seals on hand, in strips of three, side by side, were sent to the local printer Lipski to do the job. For printing the strips had to be inserted one at a time, and as the color was not always applied, or taken on as it should have, the result was the varied color nuances. Figures of total emission vary between 2900 (7 page 17) and 3000 (so 13 page 46). The over 1000 sets mentioned by Rossbach-Emden in our last issue should not be considered here, as it is not known if they are mint or used. Then too, the large amount in the former postal employees possession, as well as the several hundred sets by the printer, would have to be deducted from the total given, to arrive at exact figures. In the meantime some reliable figures as to the amount came to light (8). They come close to the amounts (3000 sets  $\cdot$ /. 1000 sets = 10000 pieces  $\cdot$ /. several hundred sets = 3600 pieces) given. According to this, we get the following in two printings on these strips of three.

80 Pfg.	100/120 strips	= 660 pieces
84 Pfg.	120/130 "	= 750 pieces
104 Pfg.	120/130 "	= 750 pieces
108 Pfg.	120/100 "	= 660 pieces
140 Pfg.	150/121 "	= <u>813 pieces</u>

3633 pieces total emission

Everything in this report, attested to by the printer Lipski,

14.

indicate a small total emission, which we have to keep in mind in the future, when reference is made to the total delivered to the Post Office.

There are also three kinds of paper mentioned:

1. gray white dull (majority)
2. yellowish smooth
3. special, white smooth woodfree transparent

As eight strips of three were printed on the latter, we get a total of 24 copies of each denomination.

Flaws, or printing defects so far noted:

- P E ENNIG - left stamp of strip (only 1st printing, quantity ? )
- broken frame - middle stamp ( 1st printing)
- circle over lion tounge, right corner damaged - right stamp of strip (1st printing)

Also, there is a defective D in the middle stamp, as well as raised letters in "Nauheim" on the right stamp. Other variations; missing and inverted signature, broken seal, break in coat of arms, double print 80 Pfg., inverted overprint 104 and 140 Pfg., "40" Pfg. (the 1 is damaged), 84 and 140 Pfg. on the old first labels with partial seal are real errors, but it is questionable if these are unintentional. Most likely, as mentioned before, these are from waste recovered from the waste basket and later brought onto the open market. This must be the case for those stamps without signature, since it is easy to prove the signatures on the first issue were applied at the Post Office, so it was possible the complete second issue could have been handled the same way, before the window opened. All the labels at the Post Office had signatures applied. Those without could not possibly have come from there.

The strips of three have the printing of Postamp close and wide spaced on them in the following combinations:

P o s t a m t	P o s t a m t	P o s t a m t
Postamt	Postamt	Postamt
Postamt	Postamt	P o s t a m t
P o s t a m t	P o s t a m t	Postamt

The first issue was not sold to the public at the Post Office windows, and the second was supposed to be handled the same way. Here some exceptions were made. Though forbidden, 2 sets were sold to a youngster (3 page 80), furthermore 2 collectors (per 7 page 19 this is 4 collectors) bought for themselves, as well as members of their club, a number of sets (3 page 81). As of March 14 sufficient regular postage was available, and so the balance of the labels were sold to the public (as well as to collectors and dealers - 7 page 17 and 3). How many were available can no longer be determined, however, most philatelic letters were most likely made at this time.

The Bad Nauheim "Verein für Briefmarkenkunde" (collectors club) had their 25th anniversary at the 1961 NAUBRIA exhibition, and for this event had reproductions made (3000 of each denomination). They were printed from the original cliches. The paper, after a long search, comes close to that used on the originals. The signatures were applied with rubber stamps



in different combinations. The back or gummed side of each label has in small lettering in gray the word "Nachdruck". However, due to the transparency of the paper, and to the color, it is difficult to recognize. Anyone who has seen the originals and reproductions side by side will have no difficulty in separating the two.

This then is to catalog:

July 9 1945: Reestablishment of postal service in the Bad Nauheim locality only. Freistempler used on cards and letters.

Feb. 1946: Imprint of Freistempler on brown gummed paper from rolls. Used on packages and letters.

1. 42 Pfg. (only on registered letters possible)
2. 54 Pfg. (for registered double letters)
3. 70 Pfg. (for registered packages with address)

Feb. 1946: Postal seal with imprint "Lgebuhr bezahlt"

4.A. 42 Pfg. numbers in manuscript

5.A.

6.A. 70 Pfg. " " "

4.B. 42 Pfg. numbers 5mm. high

5.B. 54 Pfg. " " "

6.B. 70 Pfg. " " "

4.C. 42 Pfg. numbers 7mm. high

5.C. 54 Pfg. " " "

6.C. 70 Pfg. " " "

March 11, 1946: Postal seal with imprint in color.

7.A. 20 Pfennig "Postamt" close (19mm)

8.A. 84 Pfennig " " "

9.A. 104 Pfennig " " "

10.A. 108 Pfennig " " "

11.A. 140 Pfennig " " "

7.B. 80 Pfennig "Postamt" wide (24mm)

8.B. 84 Pfennig " " "

9.B. 104 Pfennig " " "

10.B. 108 Pfennig " " "

11.B. 140 Pfennig " " "

with the following varieties of the first printing:

- I. P E ENNIG left stamp
- II. break in frameline center stamp
- III. circle above lions tongue right stamp

with the paper varieties:

w = graywhite

y = yellowish

z = shiny (transparent) (8 strips of each denomination)

additional varieties:

- IV. broken seal circle
- V. without signature
- VI. double print Nr. 7 and 8
- VII. inverted print Nr. 9 and 11
- VIII. missing 1 in Nr. 11

- IX. Nr. 8 and 11 on old seals with name of city.
- X. Partial imprint only.

1961 = Reproduction of Nr. 4 - 11 - signatures applied with rubberstamp in color, on back "Nachdruck" in small lettering, difficult to recognize.

The colors of Nr. 7 - 11 vary noticeably, here you find:

Nr. 8 violet	variety	8a	winered
Nr. 9 blueviolet	"	9a	violet
Nr.10 green	"	10a	dark green
Nr.11 brownred	"	11a	brick red

These lines are the end result about the "Bad Nauheim Lokalausgabe".

If any collector friend has any material related to this subject, be it letters, cancellation dates, documentation, etc. that could be of help in expanding these findings, he should make these available for evaluation. To criticize in the background without proof, if something is not to his liking, is easy. To assist in some form in the research is apparently much more difficult. Only one person submitted letters in response to the appeal in bulletin Nr. 3.

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THE POSTMASTER PROVISIONALS OF BAD NAUHEIM/HESSE  
- AN ADDITION -

by Paul Rossbach-Emden

reprinted from the German's local group Rundbrief 2/1971  
translated by K. Alfred Geisser

If the listing in the last story as assembled by Herrn Heber is complete, then we have a grand total of twenty articles dealing with the Bad Nauheim labels. True, many of them did not deal with the question "did a real need for these exist?". Without a doubt no other issue has evoked so many contradictory statements as the Bad Nauheim issue, with it's several varieties.

The serious reader of Herrn Hebers article could not miss the points he was trying to stress. As completely neutral, he fortunately gave both sides, as noted by the various authors. He certainly deserves the plaudits of all of us for such a painstaking job.

The question now remains: can a higher rating be given than the one in my article in circuit 3 of 1970? The answer, and here Herrn Heber is in full agreement, is no! In the proper perspective of Herrn Hebers work, the following points should be noted:

1. The many contradictory statements by Postmaster Feudner concerning the labels. Considering the idea the labels were of a real need contradicts his admission of his aim to bring Bad Nauheim closer to the hearts of the world. So, if we substitute "collector" for world it would likely be closer to the truth.

2. The search not only to control his employees, but also to control his employees does not explain the reason why the workable and available Freistempler was not put to use. More on this later.
3. The many questionable statements concerning his employees. To get positive results the search has to continue. As the signatures on the labels indicate, and a closer look at the names points out, more information on the personnel involved is in order.

In regards to the official statement, at the time the Post Office was in temporary quarters at Alicenstrasse, one could draw the conclusion that the Hollerith firm or it's employees had access to vast staples of food. It is a known fact that all of Germany was on a starvation diet, and no one was sure what the next day would bring. While there was some bartering and some handouts by the occupation forces, this was not to the extent that much could be passed on to relatives in quantity. Patient, long waiting lines were the order of the day.

To evaluate the Bad Nauheim issue does not require special mention of paper or other varieties. Calling attention to points 8 and 9 of the study by Dr. Schulze-Dirks and Zirkenbach (in Rossbach's first article) one realizes all facets of postal regulations have to be considered.

Now to points 1 and 2 of the "Hallensia norm"; was there a real need for the provisionals, or were other means available at the Post Office at the time? Even though Dr. Seelbach reacted with strong language (10 page 21) against a lowly rating, the question of a real need for them has to be answered with no. If the one-time president of the stamp dealers union of Hesse were still alive today he would have to acknowledge the fact that a motor built at that time would need overhauling today, as does his story about the Bad Nauheim labels.

Not one word was said about the availability of the Freistempler, even though in use for some time. That itself puts a different light on the situation. No one can question the fact that this otherwise outspoken author has completely ignored this in his article.

There are other irregularities to be noted. It is difficult to understand the implication of the transfer of a Postmaster from Frankfurt to Bad Nauheim (10 page 9). Why the philatelic aspect was not discovered immediately (10 page 13) even though no one was closer to the facts than he. Why he was not acquainted with Postmaster Feudner (10 page 18) at the same time stating (page 14) that in a small town like Bad Nauheim nothing could be hidden from your neighbors.

As far as is known, the first mention of the use of the Freistempler of Bad Nauheim was made in circuit #1/1955 (11). Oddly enough, this text also makes mention of a discussion with Feudner, which seems impossible, as he had been in retirement for three years at that time. This could have been a planned misleading action, as on the whole it is a repetition of Dr. Seelbachs output. It is possible that the presence of a Freistempler could no longer be kept secret, as the president of the collectors club (Herr Theo Martin) had several pieces of the same on exhibit. Herr Feudner too, then admitted to this additional issue. He also stated in the presence of Herr Martin, that he found a partial roll of gummed strips, which his wife had been using for packages to their son. This rest he used for the Frankotype imprints. When they were used up

he changed over to the labels. Why all of this was needed will forever remain a puzzle.

As friend Heber noted on page 10 of his article, the use of the Freistempler made control easy, and it would not have taken much initiative to remove the old Eagle, which was used under the former regime. This was readily demonstrated by the Frankfurt Post Office which used Freistemplers with the eagle cut out.

To explain the Freistempler in more detail, it is not a franking machine, but a hand roller device, called "Bügeleisen" flat iron by the postal employees. To remove all doubts I recently contacted the Bad Nauheim Post Office and received the following reply dated May 10, 1971.

Sehr geehrter Herr Rossbach-Emden:

In regard to your letter dated April 27, 1971 concerning the "Freistempler regalia" used in 1945-46, we thank you for writing and can give you the following facts: The Bad Nauheim post office reopened on July 9, 1945 for local service. As by the closing on March 30, 1945 all current stamps had to be turned over to the military authorities at Freiberg, no stamps were available at the reopening. The OPD Frankfurt had supplied us with the Freistempler regalia, a handroller device. With this postal employees imprinted (franked) all items received for mailing. On packages, large pieces, or poorly wrapped items the device did not work too well, resulting in unclear or partial franking. Private firms solved this by using address labels, franked before being put on packages or other mailings. We hope to have served you well and remain

Respectfully,

Sig. Heun

One asks the question: could Herr Feudner under prevailing conditions expect better? Certainly the railroad between Bad Nauheim and Frankfurt functioned as well as could be expected. Even without that, he could have sent someone to get whatever was necessary for immediate needs.

It is not too far fetched, to reconstruct the activities as far as franking is concerned, which our collector friend Heber listed in our last circuit. We are forced to disagree as to why the Freistempler was found only of limited use, and also the listing of the imprinted strips as forerunners. If one is so inclined, the strips used today could also be classified as provisionals. Or? We dare not to overlook the date postal service was reestablished. One piece with Freistempler imprint (shown on page 10 of this issue - ed) is dated July 23, 1945. Now we are able to show two additional pieces courtesy of collector friend Zirkenbach. (I cannot show these so must describe them - ed).

1. Registered letter with Freistempler imprint 72 Pfg. with return receipt requested, dated Feb. 3, 1945, received in Berlin Feb. 14, 1946.
2. Registered letter with Freistempler imprint 42 Pfg. dated Feb. 22, 1945 received in Berlin Feb. 28, 1946.

The sender in both instances is Oscar Kreh, Bad Nauheim. There is no question that both letters were mailed after the war. We then can assume the dates are false, due to an incorrect setting of the Freistempler. That a correct setting was possible was illustrated in my original report. For

whatever purpose this was done, it cannot bridge the fact that the Freistempler was sufficient to meet all requirements, and also easier to control than the labels.

One thing more should give everyone something to think about. Almost all pieces with labels were addressed to local citizens. This is not so on the out of town mail. No doubt many of the out of towners would have been interested in this type and collected them. Herr Kreh, who must have been well informed on the subject, showed little regard by mailing them to such a well known philatelist as Kurt Dahmann. It has been proven the Freistempler was in use for a long time. No one was surprised by this, nor did the postmaster worry any more about control. Who can understand that?

The "bit" of the so-called forerunners came to the fore beginning February 1946. At the same time the first issue was born. One can honestly question this, as the expected increase of the postage rates was still up in the air, but became effective as of March 1, 1946.

This increase made a new issue necessary. More research is necessary to determine how the Bad Nauheim Post Office handled this matter during the first ten days, i.e. between the 1st and 10th of March. It would not be surprising to find small pieces and Freistempler imprints. Also one cannot ignore the fact that the Zustellgebühr bezahlt, now cut to 1gebür bezahlt, stamp was also available.

Another fable has to be removed. As is clearly shown in my first report, at the time the labels were prepared the Bad Nauheim Post Office had valid postage stamps available. A registered letter addressed to Herrn Dr. Paul with a March 12th date is living proof. By March 14th the AMG's were supplemented by the numeral issue. This should have been sufficient to satisfy all needs for a speedy and simplified handling of the mails, and thus make all further use of the labels unnecessary.

Considering all the facts established so far, item Nr. 2 of the list of literature, regarding the evaluation of these provisionals is incomplete. Here is a partial extract: "It is completely wrong to classify the Bad Nauheim labels official, since they did not meet the requirements of the established postal regulations. They cannot be classified locals either, as stated above, and also the contents of the letters from both the Bad Nauheim and OPD Frankfurt post offices, as both refuse to give official recognition. It is strictly a seal, issued by the Bad Nauheim office, to satisfy and relieve a situation that existed then. They cannot be called stamps, locals, or special issue. Terming the Bad Nauheim seals the only official issue within the U.S. Zone is misleading and not in order (note by the author - this latter should be heavily underlined), as this is detrimental to the collector. It is a local seal."

The strongest critics may not agree with the points mentioned in my previous article which constitute the Hallensia norm. The author has no intention of misleading anyone, or seeking a following, only to state the facts as they appear. Anyone who spends money on the hobby should know what it is for; and if he wants to be constructive he may decide to assist in the research. The real collector knows how interesting and rewarding this can be.

To the collector friends

Theo Martin of Nieder-Mörlen  
and Kurt Zirkenbach of Halle/Salle

for their cooperation in furnishing material, and to the Bad Nauheim post office for their valuable information, go my sincerest thanks.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE "V" OVERPRINTS OF SAULGAU AND WESTERSTEDÉ

by A. Heinz

The immediate postwar period produced many fascinating postal-history gems and just as many "manipulated rarities". Most of the gems have been duly recognized as such and have found their just position in the philatelic rank order. Not so with the manipulated material. There the search for truth goes on and debates among postal-history students continue unabated.

The "V" overprints of Saulgau and Westerstede have been regarded as highly questionable or manipulated in the past. The consensus of opinions among serious postal-history students has been that the two issues were strictly philatelic and "fathered" by individuals with an eye for financial gain. Why, they ask, were such series of stamps prepared at a time when the mails were generally still closed to the public and why in denominations that could not possibly be used? Why not 6- and 12-pf values only, that were needed for the few mail categories permitted at first, instead of the long series of values that were absolutely useless? "Manipulation" was the usual conclusion.

A few students felt that the two issues may possibly have been inspired by military or postal personnel anxious to start the postal wheels rolling. If so, they may have selected an overprint for available Hitler stamps that would serve to obliterate or negate Nazi symbolism and also one that would be readily acceptable to occupation authorities. The "V for Victory" was a popular slogan in allied ranks at the time and its selection for an overprint may have been considered most expedient by the individuals involved.

In this connection it has been pointed out that the overprints of Meissen - "DEUTSCHLANDS / VERDERBER" - and of Mühlberg/Elbe - "BLUT UND TRÄNEN / SEINE SAAT / SEIN WIRKEN WAR / NUR MISSETAT" - were in the same category although the principalities were located in the Soviet Zone of Occupation and thus subject to a different set of regulations.

All of these opinions proved to be nothing more than theories based upon documentarily unsupported reports and the Saulgau and Westerstede issues continued to be classified as questionable material, even though the 1972/73 Michel Deutschland-Spezial Katalog lists them as having been authorized by military authorities in May, 1945.

The picture has recently been brought into focus by a series of declassified documents obtained from military files in Washington, D.C. by our very own Don Slawson. These documents are a series of six directives

issued by SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces) prior and soon after the May 8, 1945 armistice.

It will be remembered that SHAEF reigned supreme and that its directives were valid not only in the American Zone of Occupation but also in the respective French and British Zones in which Saarlouis and Westerstede were located. The SHAEF directives were therefore binding.

The documents referred to are a series of six directives sent by staff officers of SHAEF to commanding generals of army groups or to army group headquarters "by direction of the Supreme Commander". Copies of these documents are shown in the appendix. (I'm putting these on separate sheets which will not be numbered as part of this bulletin, but which I'll include either after this article or at the back - ed)

The first directive, dated March 11, 1945, deals with the "Supply of Military Government Postage Stamps to the Reichspost". The stamps referred to are the American printing of the AMG series which actually was released prior to the "Battle of the Bulge" in the general vicinity of Aachen. The directive deals only with the supply of AMG stamps.

The second directive, also dated March 11, 1945, concerns the "Use of Military Government Stamps - Germany". It, however, contains in its paragraph #3 the following statements:

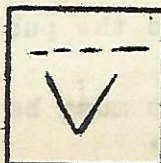
- #3. a. Should a situation develop in which Military Government stamps are temporarily not available, authority to use existing German stamps is given, provided that such stamps bear no symbols or pictures closely associated with the Nazi regime, or with the German war effort.
- b. Every precaution should be made to prevent situations which would require the use of existing German stamps however."

This paragraph could easily be interpreted as implied permission to use Hitler-period postage stamps provided objectionable Nazi symbolism was obliterated.

The third directive, dated April 11, 1945, refers to the first and specifically declares all Hitler era stamps and dies invalid, including those in the hands of the public or stored in franking meter machines. It also charges the Reichspost with the responsibility of informing the public.

Directive #4, dated May 4, 1945, introduces the "V" overprint - the letter V and directly above it the Morse code for V. Its one paragraph content is repeated here. It reads:

"Until it is possible to arrange for the manufacture of new stamps for use in the payment of social insurance and similar contributions, it is directed that Army Group commanders order the over-printing of existing German stamps with the following design: "



22.

While the directive speaks of stamps for social insurance and similar contributions it could easily be interpreted as including postage stamps.

Directive #5, dated May 11, 1945, refers to the May 4, 1945 directive and its second paragraph reads as follows:

"2. Special attention is invited to the fact that the overprinting referred to in reference letter is not authorized for any type of German postage stamps."

In other words, overprinting of stamps other than postage stamps is authorized.

Directive #6, dated June 15, 1945, again refers to the May 4, 1945 directive and expands the list of stamps that could be overprinted to include revenue stamps, postal savings stamps, excise stamps and all other categories of German stamps except postage stamps.

The six documents clearly define the status of the Saulgau and Westerstede issues. They were never authorized at the "Headquarters" level but may have been at a local level. Although directive #4 which authorized overprinting of stamps did not mention postage stamps specifically, it could easily be interpreted as including them. If then, the French authorities at Saulgau and the British at Westerstede interpreted the directive in this way, then their permission to overprint was given in good faith. No doubt, the actual overprinting in the two localities took place soon after May 4, 1945 and the overprint design was very much in keeping with the design suggested in the directive. If so, overprinted postage stamps could have been theoretically available prior to the time the May 11, 1945 directive arrived and specifically excluded them. However, indications are that this is not so. All stocks of overprinted stamps were confiscated by military authorities and none were sold to the public. This explains why legitimate used copies have not been reported to date.

In summary, six SHAEF directives, issued during the March to June, 1945 period, have a direct bearing on the "V" overprinted local series of Saulgau and Westerstede, as follows:

1. The overprints are in keeping with the design shown in the May 4, 1945 directive (the letter "V" plus the Morse code for V above it).
2. The overprinting of Hitler postage stamps was authorized by local military authorities, based upon a liberal interpretation of the May 4, 1945 and prior directive pertaining to all categories of stamps.
3. Overprinting of Hitler postage stamps was performed by local printing firms.
4. Sale of overprinted postage stamps to the public did not occur prior or after arrival of the directive which excluded them from overprinting.
5. Stocks of all overprinted postage stamps were confiscated by military authorities. Some of these found their way into philatelic channels.
6. Since both issues were not sold to the public, legitimately used copies cannot exist.
7. The Saulgau and Westerstede issues must be classified as prepared by proper authority but never issued.

END



SUPREME HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Auth. SOJ: AEF  
Initials:  
11 March 1945

1

PO 757 (Main)  
11 March 1945

AG 311.14-1 GE-AGM

SUBJECT: Supply of Military Government Postage Stamps to the Reichspost

TO : Headquarters, 21 Army Group  
Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group, APO 655, U.S. Army  
Commanding General, 20th Army Group, APO 23, U.S. Army  
Commanding General, Communications Zone, European Theater of  
Operations, U.S. Army, APO 887

1. Military Government Postage Stamps are held by Currency Section (German Finance Branch, at Twelfth Army Group and 21 Army Group.

2. When stocks are required for use by the Reichspost, the military Government officer negotiating the transaction will submit a requisition, through proper channels, to the Currency Section at Army Group, notifying at the same time the exact location at which delivery of the stamps is required.

3. Military Government Postage Stamps will be delivered by Currency Branches as follows:

a. Unopened boxes to the Reichspost official designated in writing by the Military Government (P.T.T.) officer at Civil Affairs/G-5 at Army Group Headquarters.

b. Against receipt on Form CA/f31 in triplicate, signed by the Reichspost official and, to authenticate the former's signature, countersigned by the Military Government (P.T.T.) officer, who will in all cases witness such delivery

c. The duplicate copy of the Form CA/f31 will be delivered to the P.T.T. officer at Army Group.

4. The Reichspost official receiving bulk shipment will be made responsible for further distribution of such supplies.

16 705 by direction of the Supreme Commander:

DISTRIBUTION:

- 5 - Each addresser
- 3 - U.S. Ep CC (Forward)
- 3 - Control Commission (British)
- 2 - War Office (C... 44)
- 5 - G-5 (Main)
- 2 - G-5 (Forward)
- 2 - G-5 (Rear)
- 2 - AG Records

*Copy # 2 destroyed*  
*4122 H. H. Newman*  
H. H. NEWMAN  
Colonel, AGD  
Assistant Adjutant General

REPRODUCED UNCLASSIFIED  
ORDER SEC ARMY BY REG. NO. 812414

Auth: SC.AEF  
Initials  
11 March 1945

AG 311.11-1 GE-AGM

AGO 757 (Main)  
11 March 1945

SUBJECT: Use of Military Government postage stamps - Germany

- TO : Headquarters, 21 Army Group
- Commanding General, 7th Army Group, U.S. Army
- Commanding General, Sixth Army Group, U.S. Army
- Commanding General, Communications Zone, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army, APO 27

1. Decision has been given by the Combined Chiefs of Staff that **Military Government stamps** will be used in preference to any existing stocks of **German stamps**.

2. Reichspost officials will be required to withdraw from sale all **existing German stamps**, including such as may be contained in stamp-vending machines. These stamps will be retained by the responsible Reichspost Official at **local offices** who will be charged with their safe custody, pending disposal instructions.

3. a. Should a situation develop in which **Military Government stamps** are temporarily not available, authority to use existing German stamps is given, provided that such stamps bear no symbols or pictures closely associated with the **Nazi regime**, or with the German war effort.

b. Every precaution should be made to prevent situations which would require the use of existing German stamps, however.

4. A separate memorandum is being issued regarding the method of supply of **Military Government stamps** to the Reichspost.

By direction of the Supreme Commander:

*H. H. Newman*  
J. H. NEWMAN  
Colonel, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

- 16 Each addressee
- 1 - The Office (C.A.M.)
- 3 - U.S. Group CC (Germany)
- 3 - Control Commission (Br. Element)
- 5 - G-5 (Main)
- 2 - G-5 (Forward)
- 2 - G-5 (Post)
- 1 - G-5 (Paris)

Copy # 2 destroyed  
14 July 45  
HYS

DECLASSIFIED  
Archivist in Charge  
Reference Branch  
World War II Records Division  
NARS, GSA AND by 9239 date 12 Aug 57

1  
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED EXHIBITIONARY FORCE

Initial: *B.W.*  
11 April 1945  
: : : : : : : :

APC 757 (Main)  
11 April 1945

AG 311.11-1 GE-AGM

SUBJECT: Invalidation and Withdrawal of Objectionable German Postage Stamps

TO : Headquarters, 21 Army Group  
Commanding General, 12th Army Group, APO 659, U.S. Army  
Commanding General, 6th Army Group, APO 23, U.S. Army  
Commanding General, Communications Zone, European Theater of  
Operations, U.S. Army, APO 867

1. Reference is made to administrative memorandum number 40, this headquarters, and letter, this headquarters, AG 311.11-1 GE-AGM, subject "Supply of Military Government Postage Stamps to the Reichspost", dated 11 March 1945.
2. All postage stamps bearing any Nazi pictures, symbols, or slogans or any war-glorifying designs, or other objectionable Nazi militaristic features including such stamps already in possession of the public, are hereby declared invalid. The Reichspost should be advised accordingly.
3. Similar prohibitions apply in respect of Revenue stamps, and dies contained in franking meter machines, and in Reichspost mechanical stamping machines. They must be withdrawn from use, and handed over to Military Government for disposition by destruction.
4. The Reichspost will be held responsible for advising the German public of the foregoing prohibitions, invalidations and obligations to deliver.
5. Reichspost officials should be instructed to collect and retain all prohibited stamps at central points (e.g. Main Post Offices) and arrange for special statements (in triplicate), to be made showing the full details of denominations and values so withdrawn, and where the stock is located. Two copies of the statement should be submitted to Military Government, and one retained at the office of preparation. Upon receipt of the two statements by the Military Government, one copy should be transferred to the Finance and Property Control Branch, and the other held by P.T.T. Officer at Army Group Headquarters.
6. This headquarters will give instructions for the final disposition of the prohibited stocks of stamps.

By direction of the Supreme Commander

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED  
ORDER SEC ARMY BY TAG PER 812414

16 709

*Copy # 2 Destroyed  
24 July 45  
H.M. NEWMAN*

H. M. NEWMAN  
Colonel, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

RESTRICTION:  
(See reverse side)

*H.M.S.*  
**SECRET**

SECRET

Auth: SC, AFP

Initials:

4 May 1945

OFFICIAL HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AGO 767 (Forward)  
4 May 1945

AG 14.1-1 (Germany) GS-AGM

SUBJECT: Over-Printing of German Stamps

TO : Commanding General, 6th Army Group, APO 23  
Commanding General, 12th Army Group, APO 655  
Headquarters, 21 Army Group



Until it is possible to arrange for the manufacture of new stamps for use in the payment of social insurance and similar contributions, it is directed that Army Group Commanders order the over-printing of existing German stamps with the following design:



By direction of the Supreme Commander:

*T. J. Davis*

T. J. DAVIS  
Brigadier General, USA  
Adjutant General

*Copy #1  
Destroyed  
24 July 45  
MJS*

DISTRIBUTION:  
4 - Each Addressee  
4 - G-5 Division  
2 - AG Records

16 713

CLASSIFIED  
DOD Dir. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1958  
RWD by DD date 11/28/59



1

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

APC 737 (Main)  
13 May 1945

AG 311.10-1 GE-AGH

SUBJECT: Over-printing of German Stamps

TO : Headquarters, 21 Army Group  
Commanding General, 12th Army Group, APO 645  
Commanding General, 6th Army Group, APO 23  
District Commander, Berlin

1. Reference is made to letter, this headquarters, AG 011.1-1 (Germany)  
GE-AGH, subject as above, dated 4 May 1945.

2. Special attention is invited to the fact that the over-printing  
referred to in reference letter is not authorized for any type of German Postage  
Stamps.

By direction of the Supreme Commander:

*H. H. ...*  
H. H. ...  
Colonel, AGD  
Assistant Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - Each addressee
- 1 - G-5 Division
- 2 - AG Records

16 715

DECLASSIFIED  
DDO Dir. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1958  
Classified by *70* date *31 Dec 59*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AG 511.14-1 CE-AGM

AGO 757 (Forward)  
15 June 1946

SUBJECT: Overprinting of German Stamps

TO : Headquarters, 21 Army Group  
Commanding General, 12th Army Group, APO 655  
Commanding General, 6th Army Group, APO 27

The overprinting of existing German stamps as instructed in letter  
this headquarters, AG 014.1-1 (Germany) GE-AGM, subject as above, dated 4  
May 1945, will likewise apply to revenue stamps, postal saving stamps, excise  
stamps and all other types of German stamps except postage stamps.

By direction of the Supreme Commander:

*H. H. Newman*  
H. H. NEWMAN  
Colonel, AGD  
Acting Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

- 4 - Each addressee
- 4 - G-5 Division
- 1 - AG Records

511.14-1  
X014.1 (Germany)  
Newman  
Postage Stamps

## The STRAUSBERG Overprints on Reich Commemorative Issues

by Myron G. Hill and Donald Slawson  
documents translated by Inge Fisher

To gain an insight into the true philatelic happenings of the post-war period it is necessary to study official documents and post office decrees relating to these events. It is one of the unfortunate facts of life that the area where the greatest number of these events took place is today behind the iron curtain and the necessary documents are simply not available (either to Westerners or the people in the country involved). Furthermore, sufficient years have passed so that the principals involved in these events are often deceased or have relocated in places unknown to the philatelists of today. Therefore it is normal to have to base our present knowledge on secondary sources--the covers handled at that time, or reports written in past years. The latter are often incomplete, contradictory, or reflect some personal bias or desire of the author.

We have been fortunate enough to obtain documentation from the Berlin postal library which, while obviously incomplete, provides the entire story of the Strausberg overprints on commemorative issues, identifies the principals involved, illustrates the "wheeling and dealing" carried on during this time, and as a sidelight provides a glimpse of the workings of the Deutsche Post during this period.

Our evidence consists entirely of correspondence between various postal agencies. After studying it there is only one conclusion possible for the Strausberg issue (which indeed Hallensia reached). It is philatelic.

Rather than present our version of the story or summarize it in any way (least you think we left something significant out or are injecting our own biases) the correspondence is completely and exactly reproduced to the extent we have obtained it. For this reason some explanation of the addresses to be found on the correspondence is necessary. Berlin was governed by a magistrate who had complete responsibility for the city. This included the mails, which were a department under the magistrate. The structure was similar to, and for all practical purposes can be considered, an OPD (Oberpostdirektion or postal district headquarters). Thus we have letters to and from (1) "Dept PF" (PF = Post-und Fernmeldewesen = post and telecommunications) where Berlin is implied, (2) "Magistrate of the city of Berlin, dept. of post and telecommunications", and (3) "Oberpostdirektion Berlin" which are all the same place. This department was located in Berlin-Charlottenburg 9. Earlier it had been in Berlin-Charlottenburg 5, as the rubber stamp used to date mail reads as such; but the "5" is always handwritten over with a "9". In fact, it may be noted that one piece is addressed to Berlin-Charlottenburg 5, obviously an error. Within this department there were evidently several bureaus whose function we do not know (perhaps the Berlin group may have this information); however bureaus IVB and IC and specifically IC1-2110 are intimately involved in our story.

Michel states the commemorative issue overprints (Nr. 7-33) were issued in December 1945. Our story commences somewhat later in the post office of Berlin-Steglitz.

from: Post Office  
 -2- 1 March, 1946  
 Berlin-Steglitz

Re: Validity of postage stamps.  
 Speedy decision requested.

1 Enclosure

3 March 1946
--------------

IVB
-----

to: Dept. PF  
 (1) Berlin-Charlottenburg 9

The enclosed cover, franked with 5 postage stamps of the "Kameradschaftsblock der Deutschen Reichspost" series and overprinted with the inscription "Stadt Strausberg 1945" is an example of over 1100 such covers which were sent to the same recipient. Since postage stamps dating from the Hitler era are no longer valid and the postage stamps with overprint seem only to further philatelic business, a decision is requested if these consignments, held and kept here for the time being, are as such to be considered duly franked and admissible for mailing or whether they should be confiscated.

The receiving stamp shows the recipient to be bureau IVB. They promptly forwarded the matter to bureau IC, which in turn forwarded it to OPD Potsdam (under whose jurisdiction the post office Strausberg fell) on the reverse side of the same memo, as shown below.

Berlin-Charlottenburg 9  
 Dept PF  
 IVB

4 March 1946

1 Enclosure

forwarded to  
 I for IC

for settlement by responsible office

Berlin-Charlottenburg 9  
 6 March 1946  
 Magistrate for the city of Berlin  
 Dept for post and telecommunications  
 ICI-2110

Received Oberpostdirektion Potsdam 13 March 1946
---

1 Enclosure

to: OPD Potsdam

Requesting a decision according to Pf of Zd of 28 November 1945  
 Pr/II 2112-0.

It seems logical to conclude the OPD Potsdam had already knowledge of matters in Strausberg, for the above shows receipt on 13 March, and only 2 days later (which precludes inquiry at Strausberg unless it had been by telephone) they replied:



Potsdam  
15 March 1945  
Oberpostdirektion  
IA-2112-0

21 March 1946
---------------

IVB
-----

1 envelope

Original returned.

The postage stamp dealer Franz Müller, Berlin-Steglitz, Holsteinische Strasse 12a, has been able, with the assistance of the mayor of the city of Strausberg as well as the Russian city commander, to induce the postmaster to sell over the post office sales windows, during the period Nov/Dec 1945, twenty-three different values of former commemorative postage stamps dating from the Hitler era which had been overprinted with the approval of the city. The stamps were supplied by the dealer. The Russian city commander was to have approved the usage of the Hitler era commemoratives. The postage stamps were not officially issued and will not be recognized. The inquiry at the Strausberg post office is not completed as yet.

As representative,

(signed)

This letter was received in bureau IVB, but evidently found it's way to bureau ICL-2110, for it is the only logical enclosure to the following message recorded on the reverse of the above.

Berlin-Charlottenburg 9  
27 March 1946  
Dept. PF  
ICL-2110

received
----------

28 March 1946
---------------

P.O. Berlin-Steglitz
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P.O. Berlin-Steglitz 29 March 1946 duly noted (initials)
--

1 enclosure

to: Post Office Berlin-Steglitz

For your information

The matter had now been under consideration for over a month. The post office of Berlin-Steglitz had still received no instructions; so another inquiry was sent.

from: Post Office

-2-

(1)Berlin-Steglitz  
9 April 1946

10 April 1946

IVB

Re: Validity of postage stamps

to: Dept PF

(1)Berlin-Charlottenburg 9

The post office was informed via Vz-Vf of ICl-2110 on 27 March that inquiry at the Strausberg post office concerning the postage stamps with overprint "Stadt Strausberg 1945" was not yet closed. A decision has not been reached as to the admissibility for mail despatch of these Hitler reas stamps generated for the stamp business. In the meantime further receipts of this type of mail is reported. From this it is evident that the post office of Strausberg has not received an order to desist. As of this date the following consignments are held here:

1173	consignments	since	28	February
336	"	"	25	March
2715	"	"	5	April

We have already had inquiries as to the whereabouts of the first shipment.

A speedy decision as to the validity or other instructions for these consignments is requested.

(signed)

A decision, at least temporary, was made in the office of the magistrate for Berlin.

Berlin-Charlottenburg 9

12 April 1946

Magistrate of the city of Berlin

Dept. for post and telecommunications

ICl-2110

expedite!

received

13 April 1946

P.O. Berlin-Steglitz

To: 1) Post office Berlin-Steglitz

The consignments held there are to be stored for the time being.

Oberpostdirektion

Potsdam

received 24 April 1946

2) Oberpostdirektion (2) Potsdam

For your information with a request for information about the standing of the case. Since the postage stamps are not recognized as such, the consignments should not have been accepted.

The next chronological communication is a sidelight to our basic theme. The "Central Administration for Post and Telecommunications in the Soviet Occupation Zone of Germany" is in German "Zentralverwaltung für das Post-und Fernmeldewesen in der sowjetischen Besatzungszone Deutschlands", abbreviated ZVPF in the following documentation.

Central Administration  
for Post and Telecommunications  
in the Soviet Occupation Zone of Germany  
II 2460-0  
(1)Berlin W66  
23 April 1946

To: OPD Berlin  
Berlin-Charlottenburg 9

Old mail

According to our information, arriving mail consignments franked with old postage stamps, or mail having postmarks or other symbols of the Nazi dictatorship, are being forwarded to the office of the censor by the post offices in Berlin. We ask for confirmation and further notification about what will happen to such consignments and what directives the OPD has released in connection with such mail.

(received)
25 April 1946
IB

(signed)

It is interesting that the ZVPF, which you would suspect was in the habit of issuing orders, is here asking the OPD Berlin what they are doing.

We are now missing about one month's information. However, remember our information comes from the Dept. of post and telecommunications in Berlin, and the correspondence during this month probably involved the ZVPF, OPD Potsdam, and post office Strausberg. During this time the ZVPF had reached a decision, as evidenced by the following communication.

OPD Potsdam

IB1

22 May 1946

To: OPD  
Berlin-Charlottenburg 5  
for return to ICL-2110

1 enclosure

(received)
2 June 1946
IC

The ZVPF has recognized the commemorative issues (Wiederaufbau series) of Strausberg. Not recognized are the strictly philatelic issues involving stamps issued during the Hitler period and carrying the overprint "Stadt Strausberg 1945". This latter group is to be regarded as invalid according to a December 6, 1945 release by the ZVPF - Vf II2040-0. The consignments received were

therefore not admissable according to the enclosed brochure of IA-2112-0 (this was a bureau of OPD Potsdam). We request therefore that these consignments be confiscated in line with the proposal submitted by the post office of Berlin-Steglitz.

(signed)

The back of this communication carries the handwritten instructions shown below:

Dept PF  
IC1-2110  
Berlin-Charlottenburg 9  
5 June 1946

received
7 June 1946
P.O. Berlin-Steglitz

1 enclosure

1) Post Office Berlin-Steglitz

The consignments which you hold are to be considered confiscated and are to be sent to the return mail office at post office Berlin C2. The addressee is to be notified.

Berlin C2  
14 June 1946

2) Post Office Berlin C2

The consignments received at Berlin-Steglitz are to be officially secured for the time being.

The story to this point leaves absolutely no doubt concerning the postal status of these issues. If covers were prepared in Strausberg and mailed to addresses other than Berlin-Steglitz it is conceivable they reached their destination. This, however, does not alter the fact that these stamps had no postal validity and were in fact illegal. If handled properly they would have been confiscated.

It is a well known fact that Mr. Müller's covers are today on the philatelic market. How did they get there? Fortunately our documentation has not ended.

Dept PF  
 ICl-2110  
 Berlin-Charlottenburg 9  
 21 June 1946

expedite!

1 enclosure  
 1 book

1) ?

Vice president Steinkopf of the Central Administration for Post and Telecommunications in the Soviet Zone of Germany has telephoned bureau IC on 20 June 1946 and requested that the registered covers addressed to Franz Müller, which were mailed in Strausberg, be delivered to him.

Berlin C2  
 22 June 1946

2) ?

3) Post Office Berlin C2

This order was complied with.

Our last piece is the reverse of a document, possibly the previous one (the dates fit). It is most likely written by Post Office Berlin C2 to provide information to the addressees, by may possibly have originated in office ICl-2110.

Letters addressed to Müller in Berlin-Steglitz are to be delivered to Vice-president Steinkopf at the central administration by special courier with delivery receipt.

2) Post Office Berlin-Steglitz

received
26 June 1946
P.O. Berlin-Steglitz

3) OPD Potsdam

received
OPD Potsdam
3 July 1946
IBL

4) Main Post Office, Berlin, ICl

So there we have it, an extremely uncommon insight into the preparation and attempted use of of a real, live "philatelic issue". Pity the fact that such documentation is not available in more cases.

The covers were sent to Mr. Steinkopf. Only one question remains unanswered. What was Steinkopf's interest in the case? Was he a stamp collector seeking to obtain some trading material, was he obtaining these to sell for his own profit, or did Mr. Müller have sufficient influence so he was merely an agent seeking to regain Müllers lost property?



Illustration 1

One thing is certain. The registered covers addressed to Müller which are today on the market are all properly backstamped, usually within 10 days of the postmark (see Illustration 1, showing the backstamp brought to the front). These covers are all (that we have seen) franked at the then current postage rate. Without the above documentation these could very easily be taken for postally used philatelic covers,

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Notes on the printing of the NETZSCHKAU issue

by Donald E. Slawson

Nearly complete information on the printing of the Netzschkau issue is available in the Michel catalog. However, the information is extremely condensed, and even after one translates the German he may be unaware of the implications of what he has read. These notes will present this information in a more expanded and complete form.

The first overprinting was made from a plate consisting of 40 dies, four rows of ten dies each. Each of these dies was Michel type I. In order to completely overprint a sheet of 100 stamps it was necessary to make three impressions of the plate onto the sheet. The first strike placed impressions onto positions 1 - 40 and the second placed impressions onto positions 41 - 80. Since there now remained only 2 rows to be overprinted, but there were four rows in the overprinting plate, the third strike placed impressions onto positions 81 - 100, the bottom margin of the sheet, and the roller bed (I believe this is called an impression cylinder) on which the sheet was resting.

The impression left on the impression cylinder by the third strike was destined to be transferred to the back of the next sheet placed on the press to be overprinted, appearing on the back of the 7th and 8th rows of every sheet that I have seen. The transfer on the back of the 7th row is often only a partial impression, being the lower part of the overprint whose upper part struck the bottom margin of the sheet. Illustration 1 shows a pair whose lower stamp has only a partial transfer (this pair is presumably rows 6 and 7) and also a single stamp with full transfer.



Since the bottom sheet margins vary in width, the amount of overprint appearing here varies from almost none to over one half an overprint, see Illustrations 2 and 3. The amount of overprint appearing in the margin is also influenced by the alignment of the sheet and overprinting plate. The overprint is often skewed in relation to the sheet, being higher relative to the stamps on the left side of the sheet, and running "downhill" as you look from left to right. This can be observed on the horizontal pair shown as Illustration 3. On a sheet such as this the leftmost bottom margins may have a considerable portion of an overprint, while as you look to the right the overprint on the margin becomes less and less until it disappears entirely.

The "first printing" therefore has the following characteristics:

- 1) Impressions from the same die occur more than once on the sheet (i.e. position 7 is overprinted by the same die as positions 47 and 87, positions 24 and 64 are the same, etc.).
- 2) Impressions exist on the bottom sheet margins (but are not always found there for reasons explained above).
- 3) Transferred impressions exist on the back of some stamps.

This first printing is also the source of the Michel listed variety which shows a vertical pair with type I overprint above and a cork obliteration below. This occurred when a sheet was only partially overprinted (either 40 or 80 stamps) and the remainder of the sheet cork obliterated. Only vertical pairs of this variety should exist.

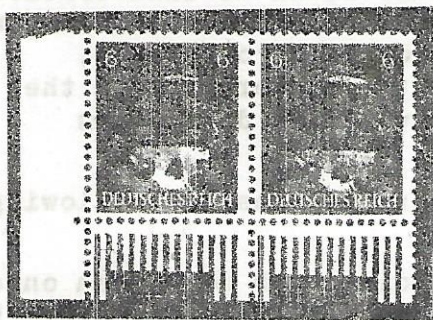
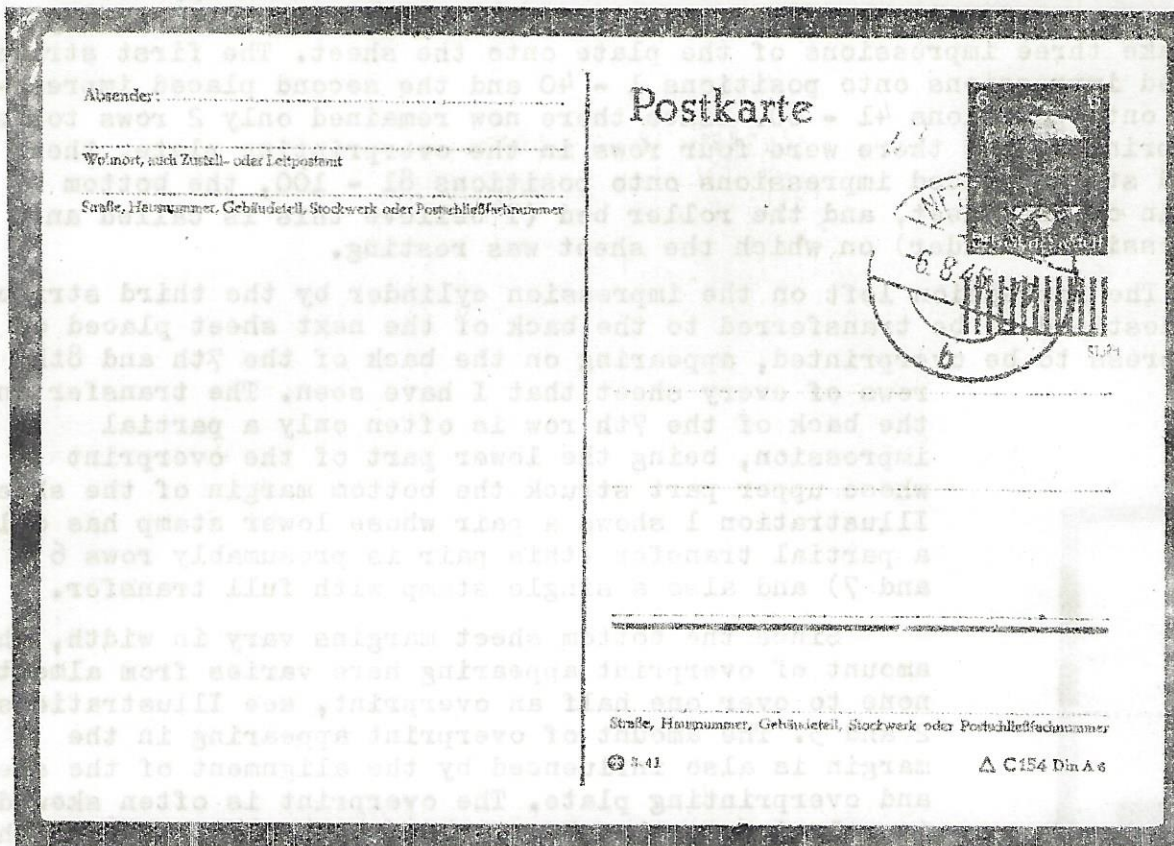


Illustration 3

Illustration 2

Only values from 1 to 12 Pfg. were overprinted in this first printing.

To eliminate the necessity of striking each sheet three times to achieve obliteration of all stamps, it was decided to prepare a plate of 100 subjects from which overprinting could be accomplished in one operation. The original plate was utilized as positions 1 - 40 in this expansion to a 100 subject plate. Five additional dies of the type I

overprint were found and used as positions 41-45, while the remaining 55 positions were filled with the three subtypes of the type II die. The format of the resulting 100 subject plate is well documented in Michel, so deserves no discussion here.

Values of 1 to 20 Pfg. were overprinted from this plate. This is the so-called "second printing".

From the above it should be noted that positions 1 - 40 of the second printing are exactly the same as positions 1 - 40 (and also 41-80) of the first printing. Given a single type I stamp it is therefore



impossible to determine if it was from the first or second printing, unless it is from positions 41-45 of the second printing or is a bottom margin copy or has a transfer on the back which indicates it to be from the first printing.

In addition to these two printings there occurred the trial printing, about which Michel has little to say, other than the fact it existed, in format it consisted of 12 horizontal bars, and "about 200" stamps were prepared. What does this mean? When were these prepared - did they precede the first printing, or were they prepared at some other time? What was the sheet format and how many sheets were prepared?

Merely the fact that this is called a trial printing seems to imply it preceded the first issue. If this were true it would then be logical to assume that a plate of 100 subjects was used to prepare these overprints, and the figure of "about 200" quoted by Michel indicates two sheets of stamps were prepared. Advertisements by some German dealers indicate they believe this to be the case - they list a variety of the trial issue with the statement "only 2 exist".

However, for quite a while I have been aware of the existence of vertical pairs with the type I overprint above and the trial overprint below. This indicates that there were fewer than 100 copies of the trial in each sheet overprinted, and therefore there must have been more than two sheets of this overprint prepared. It also indicates that this printing occurred after the first printing.

Obviously the original plate of 40 type I dies was utilized in the preparation of the trial printing. But how was it utilized? Until recently this question has puzzled me. I was faced with two possible explanations.

- 1) To the original plate of 40 type I subjects were added 60 trial subjects. In this case only vertical pairs of the combination type I-trial would exist. This implies that when the trial proved unacceptable the 60 trial subjects were removed and replaced by 5 type I and 55 type II subjects for the second printing.



Illustration 4

- 2) To the original plate of 40 type I subjects were added 5 additional type I subjects (pos 41-45) and 55 trial subjects. When the trial proved unacceptable only the 55 trial subjects were removed and replaced by the 55 type II subjects.

I have recently seen the piece shown as Illustration 4, which proves to my satisfaction that the explanation numbered 2 above is indeed the case which occurred. This piece is a horizontal pair, type I left and trial right, and the type I overprint does indeed show the same characteristics as the type I in position 45 of the second printing. This proves conclusively that there were 45 type I subjects and 55 trial subjects in the plate used for the trial overprint. Therefore the closest possible number of stamps which could exist to the "about 200" quoted by Michel, is 220, which means 4 sheets, all the 3 Pfg. value. This is the figure accepted by Sturm and other leading experts.

Assuming the derived figure of 4 sheets to be correct, if these sheets were dismantled in an optimum manner they would yield the following:

- (a) four horizontal pairs type I-trial, (b) 32 vertical pairs type I-trial, and (c) 180 single trial stamps.

The reason normally accepted for the rejection of the trial printing is that the overprint failed to sufficiently obliterate Hitler's picture. This is evident on examining these stamps, for while on some the bars are quite heavy and do a good job, on others the bars are quite thin, the ink does not take well, and the obliteration is very poor.

To summarize, the sequence of events in the preparation of the Netzschkau issue was as follows:

- (1) A plate of 40 (4x10) type I dies was made. Stamps from 1 to 12 Pfg. were overprinted by three strikes of the plate. This is the first printing.
- (2) To the above plate were added 5 type I dies (pos 41-45) and 55 trial dies (pos 46-100). Four sheets of 3 Pfg. stamps were overprinted and the trial die declared unacceptable. This is the trial printing.
- (3) The 55 trial dies were removed, and in their places were substituted the type II dies in their three subtypes. Stamps from 1 to 20 Pfg. were overprinted. This is the second printing.

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### The Provisional Postage Stamps of MEISSEN

by A. Eberhardt, Plettenberg

Reprinted from DBZ (Deutsche Zeitung für Briefmarkenkunde) 1950 Nr.2  
translated by Inge Fisher

On 28 May, 1945 the Meissen Post Office re-opened its first window. Until 2 June letters and postcards were franked "cash". However already on June 3 postage stamps were used. The clerk obliterated the Hitler portrait with a round violet dot (approx. 10mm wide). This then was the first Meissen issue.

But first allow me to make a few general comments about the "provisional postage stamps" of the Russian zone.

It was absolutely due to the needs of the mailservice, which was newly started during the latter part of May, when the OPD Dresden ordered to use all Hitler stamps still on hand. However, the special directive stated that the Hitler portrait had to be obliterated in one way or the other. Only in places where due to the special circumstances of the war no more postage stamps were on hand could cash frankings take place.

Thus it can be generally stated that the use of the former postage stamps took place according to the directives of the OPD's. (This is a proven fact about Meissen, OPD Dresden).

The type of obliteration was thus left to the individual office. There was plenty of room for fantasy; and the individual post Office did this job more or less tastefully.

It is understandable that these provisionals of the interim period do not offer much from an artistic viewpoint. They are a simple solution out of a quandary. In most cases technical aids were not available. Thus the cork obliterations in black as well as in blue ink are most common on these stamps. This is also the case with the first Meissen issue.

But why should these stamps be considered as non-official or even manufactured? Many catalogs omit this issue completely. Why? In the following I will try to prove that the Meissen postage stamps should be given the sanction which is now denied them from many quarters. In the interest of philately nothing would be more pleasing to me.

As previously mentioned the cork obliterations took place. However to especially impress upon the population the political change, five handstamps were made following a suggestion by the mayor. These carried the text "Deutschlands Verderber" (Germany's destroyer), and were supposed to be used as an overprint and replace the dot. This had to take place with special permission of the SMA (Soviet Military Administration) due to the propagandistic type text of the overprint, as well as with the permission of the OPD Dresden. This especially has to be pointed out.

These handstamps were used on June 15, 1945 for the first time. The ink was violet. There was no speculation of any kind involved. It was solely intended for the propaganda impact. The stamps could be bought in any amount and were used steadily by the public. Stamps already overprinted with the dot remained also valid, thus mixed frankings did exist.

The values 1 - 80 Pfg. were overprinted. Double letters were as yet officially not permitted. Thus the highest rate was 12 Pfg.

Since the highest rate was 12 Pfg. all other values were meaningless, however they did not lose their franking value. A sign at the post office window pointed to the fact that all overprinted stamps up to the 80 Pfg. value were available for stamp collectors. In this respect a footnote could easily be given by the catalog. The collector of "stamps on cover" would therefore immediately be informed that all covers with the higher values could not be considered as commercial every day mail.

It would be illogical to reject the Meissen handstamp due to the fact that only the first 8 values found practical usage.

Who, besides a collector franks a letter with semi-postals carrying a high surcharge as for instance the issues of the Brown Band or even the Red Cross Semi-postals from the French Zone. Nobody would consider these stamps as fraud or swindle.

The Meissen post office needed money and sold therefore also the higher values in order to save some of the investment of capital in the stocks on hand. Besides, since the approval of the OPD was given, this set is official and therefore as collectable as many other postage stamps.

Now the reader will probably ask, why only up to the 80 Pfg. value? There are even sets up to the 5.-RM value available in the trade and are even signed by an expertiser.

Sets of stamps up to the 5 RM value existing in the trade can only come from private sources. These stamps were overprinted by a friendly clerk.

One single exception has to be mentioned here. Of the five handstamps, four were in use in Meissen. The remaining one was sent to Sörnewitz, a small village near Meissen. The postal station overprinted the 1 Pfg. to the 1 RM values of the Hitler stamps on hand in black. The stock on hand in this village was however extremely small, so that the issue has to be very small.

As for the technical data of the overprint it has to be mentioned that the postage stamps were only overprinted during the sale and not the whole stock on hand. According to my information approximately 1000 full sets of the overprinted stamps were sold in Meissen. Of the regularly used values there were of course more sold. These stamps were valid from June 15 to June 23, eight days. If there was any remaining stock, it was destroyed under supervision.

Already during the first day it became obvious that the overprinting of each stamp was difficult and time consuming. Sometimes the overprint was straight, another time crooked, sometimes the text could not be read at all. The stamps did not look good. The ideal was an overprint done by machine. Due to these purely practical and formal reasons the four needed values of 5, 6, 8 and 12 Pfg. were ordered overprinted through a Meissen printing firm. The following remaining stock on hand was overprinted:

5 Pfg.	20,000	8 Pfg.	90,000
6 Pfg.	515,000	12 Pfg.	470,000

On June 23, 1945 these newly overprinted stamps reached the windows. But already at 11 o'clock in the morning the sale had to cease. Reason: According to a new directive all stamps of the 3rd Reich lost their validity. The printing of new of the individual states was already begun. The postoffice threatened to sit on the newly overprinted stamps with value of approximately 40,000 RM. According to the mayor and the Russian town commander the "Verderber" stamps should be used until sold out. Finally on July 5 the OPD Dresden gave in to the pleas of all concerned and allowed the stamps to be sold freely. They were again sold at the windows as of July 5. However the Meissen stamps with typographic overprint, cancelled 23.6.45 needed special valuation. As of August 4, 1945

the sale of overprinted stamps was discontinued, since due to the directive all postage stamps of the 3rd Reich lost their validity and could not be sold as of 6.8.45. The cork obliterations, the handstamps as well as the typographed overprints could at any time be bought at the windows during their time of validity. The sale of these stamps was moderate since the existing companies had no great need. The post office offered these stamps, especially the typographed overprints like hot bread, since it was interested in selling them as fast as possible.

Nevertheless on August 4 there were still 80,000 6 Pfg. stamps left, which were turned over to the Russian Kommandantura.

My description of the typographed set would be incomplete without mentioning a few interesting varieties. An overprinting plate was made in order to facilitate the overprint consisting of two lines. The printing plate consisted of 10 horizontal rows of overprint in linotype, which could be exchanged in case of wear during the printing process. Since the printing order at first only specified that the overprint had to be in a distinct color, trials were run in yellow and orange ink, however the final decision was made for the black overprint. Therefore the following types exist:

5 Pfg. with orange-red overprint	2 sheets
5 " " yellow	1 sheet
6 Pfg. with orange-red	1 "
6 " " yellow	1 "

The overprint itself shows many irregularities. Among the different plate flaws special mention must be made of field 20, where the V is below the D of Deutschland instead of below the "e".

There should be no further doubt about the collectability of these stamps, especially since they document a certain era which gives philately such an attraction.

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#### MEMBER'S CORNER

There's plenty of room here for any advertisements. Want lists may not get too many results, but all it costs is a 6¢ stamp.

FOR SALE by Slawson (address on first page)

Strausberg Mi. # 3K-3 pair \$30.00

OPD Berlin complete sheets	Rheinland-Pfalz complete sheets
Mi. #1 pane I, Av \$2.50	#1 plate A 12.2.1948 \$1.-
Mi. #3 pane I, v \$1.50	#9 plate A 16.2.1948 50¢
Mi. #5 pane II, wz \$1.50	#9 plate B 17.2.1948 50¢
Mi. #6 pane I, wz \$1.75	#10 plate B 21.5.1947 \$2.25
(has variety 6A I)	#11 plate A 19.2.1948 50¢
	#13 plate B 3.6.1947 50¢

I bought 280 cork obliterated postal money orders with a lot of duplication. I a month or so I'll have these worked-up. If you need any particular item let me know and I'll see if I have it.