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post WORLD WAR 11
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ANNOUNCEMENT ! ! !

Question Service

In the past we have had a question/answer column, but it was nothing formal and relatively few answers appeared so the questions gradually dried up.

Now under the Chairmanship of John Barbour we'd like to reactivate and expand this concept. We're going to try to provide answers to all questions, including ones relating to the validity or authenticy of stamps and covers. Please don't misinterpret this-we're not offering an expertising service, but maybe in a sense a "pre-expertising" service in that we may be able to recognize some obvious faked stamps, overprints or covers. In other words, when queried about the genuineness of an item we can offer advice. Of course, we'll also tackle any of the "what is it?" or "why is.....?" type questions. Please submit all material to :

John Barbour / 458 Elm Ave. / Haddonfield N.J. 08033

All transactions will appear in the Bulletin.

Editor's Message

Well, well, well! Apparently a few of you were afraid you'd never hear from me again and were interested enough to write. Unfortunately, I ignored all my stamp mail for the better part of a year, and the bigger the pile got the less anxious I was to tackle it. Anyway, to Jim Sanders and the others who wrote, and to Ken Mears and Roland Fluck who were trying to help (and to whom I was about half ashamed to talk to on the phone) I apologize for at least not replying to your inquiries.

Those of you who know me know I blow hot and cold--it's happened before that we've gone a year with no bulletin. I realize that this is not the way to stimulate group enthusiasm; that I should approach this task like a job. However, on the emotional level I don't really want to have to approach my hobby like a job. I envy Frank Berger and others like him who can feel a real sense of responsibility to their hobby.

Well, so much for me feeling sorry for myself.

In this Bulletin you'll note that Joe Schirmer is back with us on the topic of A.M.G.'s (like old war horses--they might want to wander in the pasture for a while, but sooner or later they want to go back to war). Also I've pulled a dirty deal on Roland Fluck--I used both his blurbs that I had (of course one was for Oct '83 and the other for Dec '83). Roland, I honestly do feel bad and hope you will keep coming up with more. The "Exceptions" piece is truly wonderful--of course I relate well to maps. I hope all of you read this because this really gets down to what I consider the "nitty-gritty" details of postal history, in this case some of the differences between Land and Postal District boundaries (the same details exist in my beloved "Obliterations"--there were towns in Thuringia that were postally part of RPD Chemnitz/Saxony; but of course this situation exists on almost all Land boundaries and probably affects whatever subject it is <u>you</u> are interested in). The piece from Ken Mears was sent me in January in an attempt to stir me to action. Sorry.

So I've used up the vast majority of what I have on hand. Where do we go from here?

There <u>has</u> to be out there more of you with some worthwhile knowledge or comments than have appeared in the bulletin. I'm sure most of you do more than just file stamps away. If you've looked at covers at all I'm sure you have some comments or have noticed something unusual. Share this with us. At least you must have some questions about items you own--see the blurb for the Question Service elsewhere in this issue and at least share these items with us. Believe me, no question is dumb (if some are I have managed to raise sume of the dumbest).

In any case, it seems we have 4 or 5 active contributors (of whom myself and Al Heinz have been most prolific). I <u>know</u> there is mor potential out there, I've met a number of you at conventions and you're interesting fellows. Write up what you know. At one time we had a member who had been in the Danish occupation forces in Germany. We had an article (many years back) on the Belgian forces occupation mail system, but none on the Danish. I about cried when this fellow finally faded away without ever writing up for us his experiences. To me, this is what history is about. The point is I would like to see more contributors to the Bulletin.

Another thing we, as a group, and also I (personally working on "cork obliterations") could use is some translation help. The Rundbrief of the LOKNOT ARGE is chock full of stuff and to my delight much of it relates directly or indirectly to the "obliterations"--this topic has been very active in the Rundbrief. I can read just enough German to figure out the subject and determine there is information of real interest to me (and some of you) but I cannot make out the details and sailient points. Anyone willing to help?

In the last 5 or 6 Bulletins I was hitting the subject of the Order of 12 May by RPD chemnitz/Poststelle II's/and brought up the "Account Books" used to register Postal Money Transfers (in the article on Wolkenstein/June 1983). What I was trying to get at (and I have further to go with this) is how the German postal system functioned and how it was organized. Hod did mail move from place to place? How was it routed? How were orders passed? How were stamp supplies passed? Where (and how) were financial transactions recorded? Is anyone else interested in these subjects (or rather carrying a subject to this level of depth)? I think I have found some good information (in the Library of Congress) but it's all in german, and again I cannot make out the details.

I really feel that understanding how transactions were recorded and how mail flowed is very important to us, because without this knowledge we cannot determine if the markings we see on material (covers, money transfers and various postal recording ledgers that have been salvaged) are "normal" or represent a deviation from the norm because of emergency conditions.

Well, anyone have any ideas or comments?

Don Slawson

P.S. (putting on my treasurer's hat)

Please don't send any dues until requested. Many of you were already paid up for 1984, but because of paucity of Bulletins and because I've been getting a real good deal on printing we have plenty of money. 1983 dues will take us through the end of 1984. I'll then figure out exactly where we stand and provide notification of dues due. Until you are specifically requested please dont send money. There are a few who have gotten paid quite a ways ahead.

SOME FRENCH ZONE EXCEPTIONS

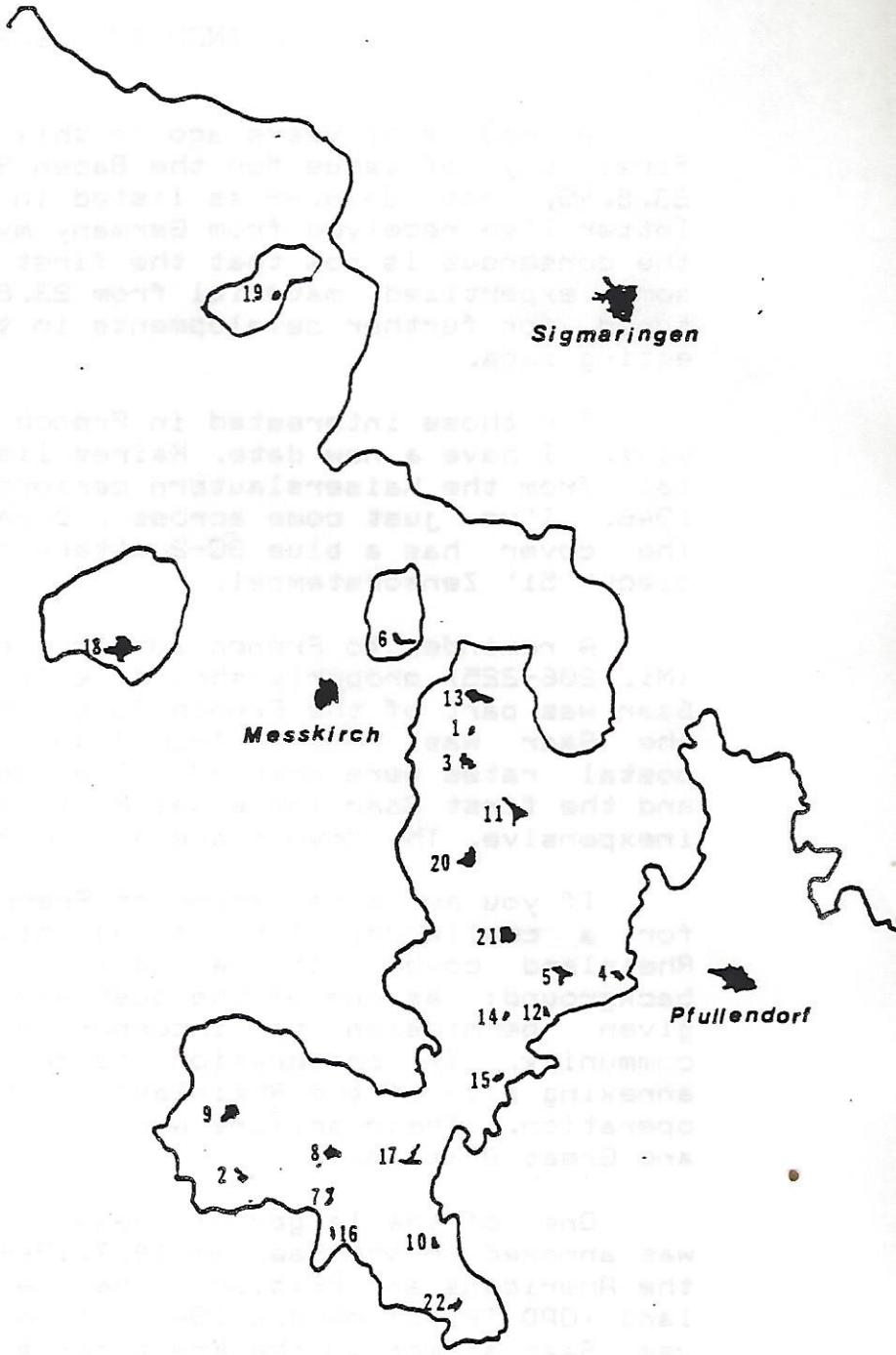
The French Zone Laender issues were only valid for the state for which they were issued, until 3 October 1949. Of course one can find exceptions as a friendly postal clerk cancelled mixed frankings and handed back the cover. Also I've seen covers sent to the U.S. that had the proper franking for the state from which they were mailed, plus additional stamps from another state. The second set of stamps actually represents nothing but a fancy set of labels since they did not pay the postage. However, there were some exceptions to the use of the stamps outside of the State for which they were issued, particularly in the southern part of the French Zone.

This article lists the majority of the exceptions, which were from the Kreis Sigmaringen. Twenty-two small towns and villages, although politically part of French Zone Wuerttemberg, were assigned to the OPD Freiburg for postal purposes and used Baden stamps. They are from the Kreis Sigmaringen and are located in three small enclaves and in the part of Sigmaringen that juts into Baden.

The postoffices and types are listed below. (PstII = Poststelle II; ZdA = Zweigpostamt des Amtes.) The accompaning numbers correspond with the town plots in Figure 2 (see next page). Check your collections to see if you have a Wuerttemberg cover franked with Baden stamps. (If you have any, I'd appreciate a copy to forward to the ARGE FZ.) (Note: from 3 Oct. 1949, FZ stamps were valid throughout the FZ irrespective of the state for which they were issued.)

	Postoffice	Type	Remarks
1	Buffenhofen/uber Messkirch	Pst II	
2	Deutwang/uber Stockach (Baden)	Pst II	
3	Dietershofen/uber Messkirch	Pst II	
4	Gaisweiler/uber Messkirch	Pst II	
5	Hippetsweiler/uber Messkirch	Pst II	
6	Igelswies/uber Messkirch	Pst II	
7	Kalkofen/uber Stockach (Baden)	Pst II	
8	Liggersdorf (Hohenz)	Pst II	*Pfullendorf*
9	Mindersdorf/uber Stockach (Baden)	Pst II	
10	Oberndorf/uber Pfullendorf	Pst II	
11	Rengetsweiler/uber Messkirch	Pst II	
12	Riedetsweiler/uber Messkirch	Pst II	
13	Ringgenbach/uber Messkirch	Pst II	
14	Rothenlachen/uber Messkirch	Pst II	
15	Ruhestetten (Hohenz)	Pst II	
16	Schloss Hohenfels/uber Stockach (Baden)	Pst II	
17	Selgetsweiler	Pst II	*Pfullendorf*
18	Thalheim/uber Messkirch	Pst II	
19	Thiergarten (Hohenz)	Pst II	*Stetten am Kalten Markt*
20	Walbertsweiler/uber Messkirch	Pst II	
21	Wald/uber Messkirch	ZdA	Messkirch
22	Waldsteig/uber Pfullendorf	Pst II	

Since my computor-/printer lash-up cannot handle umlauts, I have modified the spelling to include the requisite "e" in place of the umlaut, with one exception. Since I'm lazy I did not place the "e" in uber, so where you see uber, read ueber.



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_____, "Verschiedenes," Rundbrief 47, Arbeitsgemeinschaft "Franzoesische Zone" in BDPh.e.v., Nr. 4/82 (November 1982), pp.5-6.

FRENCH ZONE SCRIBBLINGS

A couple of years ago in this bulletin, I stated that the first day of issue for the Baden Schurz issue (Mi. 50-52) was 23.8.49, not 24.8.49 as listed in some catalogs. In a recent letter I've received from Germany my correspondent tells me that the consensus is now that the first day was 24.8.49. (Being I've some expertized material from 23.8., I'm not too sure.) Stay tuned for further developments in this slow moving and uninteresting saga.

For those interested in French Zone censored covers (both of you), I have a new date. Kaires lists the latest date for material from the Kaiserslautern censorship station to be from August 1946. I've just come across a cover with a cancel of 12.10.46. The cover has a blue GC-2 ('tank-tread') Zensurstempel and a black '51' Zensorstempel.

A reminder to French Zone collectors. The Saar issue of 1947 (Mi. 206-225) properly should be included in a FZ collection. The Saar was part of the French Zone until November 1947. On 12.11.47 the Saar was removed from Germany and on 20.11.47 money and postal rates were changed. The last day for the Wappen/Dichter and the first Saar issue was 27.11.47. Luckily, the stamps are inexpensive. The covers are a little more of a challenge.

If you are a collector of French Zone covers and are looking for a challenge, I've a suggestion for you. Try to find a Rheinland cover with a validly used Saar stamp. Here's the background: as one of the post war settlements, the French were given permission to incorporate the Saar into the French community. In preparation to do just this, the French began annexing bits of the Rheinland to the Saar, sort of a land grab operation. Their actions were strongly objected to by the U.S.A. and Great Britain.

One of the larger of these land areas, the Kreis Saarburg, was annexed to the Saar on 18.7.1946. Because of the protests of the Americans and British, the Kreis was returned to the Rheinland (OPD Trier) on 8.6.1947. I think that it was permissable to use Saar stamps in the Kreis for about one week after the transfer back to the Rheinland. Theoretically, one could find Saar stamps used in conjunction with Rheinland-Pfalz or Wappen/Dichter stamps or with Barfrankaturung, or covers franked only with Saar stamps. The only covers I've seen have been of a philatelic nature; happy hunting.

WHERE'S THE A.M.G. STAMPS????

by: Joe Schirmer
A.M.G. Editor

I think that most collectors who have been around stamps and stamp dealers, has heard the story of someone somewhere that just happens to locate a "room full of stamps".

And of course, from time to time in the news media and the philatelic press, one reads of hugh discoveries of stamps and other philatelic materials.

Having specialized in sports and Olympics for most of my life as a collector, then switching to A.M.G. the past 20 years, I always felt that even if I did find the proverbial "room full of stamps" there would not be too much for my choosen specialty.

Years ago, when working for a large New York City stamp auction house, I was completely amazed at times, of the shipments of philatelic materials we would receive for disposal. It came in everything--trunks, cartons, boxes, suitcases, envelopes, wrapped in newspaper or brown paper, etc.

The variety of the materials would astound the average collector...it was hard to realize that one dealer or collector could accumulate so many covers; or so many copies of certain stamps, or so many full sheets of another, etc.

As we all know, the stories that are told about the "room full of stamps" always takes care to mention how the stamps were kept and or mounted. Remember the man in England who was papering the walls of his room with stamps???

So, in over 45 years in philately, late last summer, I finally was able to realize my dream--while I did not find the "room of stamps"; I was asked to evaluate and catalog it.

A lodge brother of mine, whom I knew slightly had died. His widow asked me to 'look at' the stamps and tell her if they had any value. She went on to explain that her husband for almost 46 years had hopes of becoming a stamp dealer; and with this in mind; he saved every stamp, every envelope that came to his home, and his neighbors and friend did the same for him. He also would buy the "mystery" lots at various auctions.

The day I was to start, I arrived after lunch and was immediately ushered into the 'stamp room'.

It is hard to describe and to realize what confronted me in stamps. The room was made from a 2 car garage...well lighted with large windows, nicely carpeted, with 2 doors and a very elaborate alarm system for the doors and windows. Wooden cabinets lined 2 walls, and cartons and boxes were stacked against the other 2 walls. A small desk was against 1 wall and in the center of the room were 6 card tables placed end to end..loaded with albums, parts of albums and stock books.

After gazing at this conglamoration for a few minutes and finally getting over the shock of such a horde, I composed myself and set to work....

The cabinets were checked first--quickly--and they contained a real horde of covers, meters, labels and stamps. The stamps and covers were in envelopes and just stacked hither and yon--nothing was catalogued even by country.

Then I quickly checked the boxes and found the same type of "mess" as was in the cabinets. The desk had some stamps but mostly contained names and addresses and notes as to what was purchased from whom and where--what a bookeeping job.

Now my old philatelic dander was up and I eagerly went after the 6 tables of albums and stock books, hoping and wishing that I would find AMG stamps..there just had to be some there...well I searched these albums and stock books carefully and you are correct; "WHERE'S THE A.M.G. STAMPS?"

Would you believe that I spent almost 5½ hours in this "room full of stamps" and did not locate 1 single A.M.G. stamp from Germany; and not even anything in A.M.G. from Austria, France, Italy and Trieste Zone"A"????

I was totally baffled by this (and I still am) as to why there was not a single A.M.G. stamp in this mish-mash horde of philately.

A close friend of mine who is a part-time dealer here in town and a very knowledgeable collector; took on the challange to evaluate this "room full of stamps" but only after much urging from me over a few 'cold ones'.

He spent almost 7 days--approximately 8 hr. per day carefully going thru this accumulation. He did find a few goodies but nothing spectular..and no A.M.G.'s. He called me and told me his price and would you believe it, we were within $500 of each other. He made the widow and offer of well over $5000 which she eagerly accepted..a most fair price considering what was being offered.

Today, the majority of the philatelic accumulation of this "room full of stamps" has found its way to 2 large northern stamp auction houses..who knows, you may have some of this material right now.

Even after all this time, I still wonder why with such a large accumulation of stamps, there were no A.M.G. items. Surely either my friend or myself would have spotted them as we searched thru the materials--heck, there was bits of everything else, why not A.M.G.??

I have no logical explaination for this--since then I have evaluated approximately 11 collections for a local antique dealer and have always found a few pieces of some type of A.M.G. material..not much but a few here and there.

I now am wondering if any of you out there have had a similar type of experience..if you have, I would like to hear about it.

And so, I leave you with this thought...when you are after a certain philatelic item, keep searching for it--carefully and diligently..do not give up--who knows, you may also be lucky as I was and see that "room full of stamps".

Note:

This is a true story, and to finally close the story, this same gentleman who gathered this "room full of stamps", also was a railroad buff, and had over 1500 pieces of railroad memoribilia stored along with the stamps....

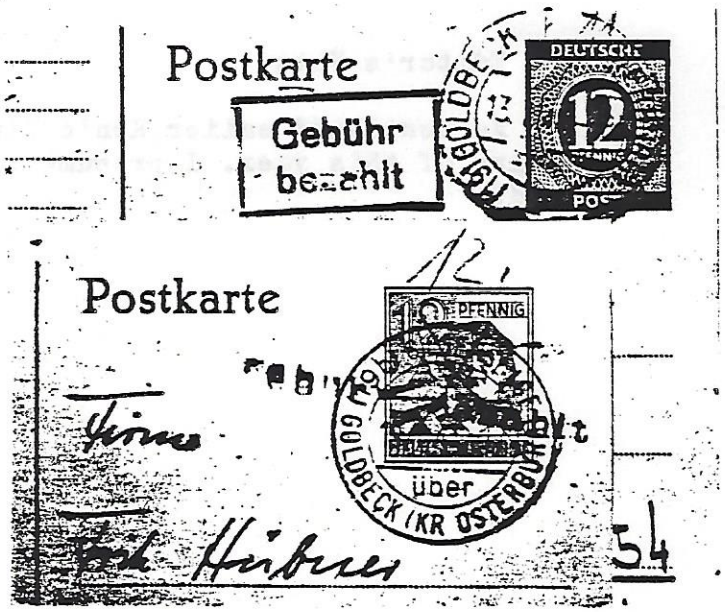
POST OR POSTAL CARD?

Ken Mears

Illustrated are two post cards: Card No. 1 (top), Michel P954, 12 Pfg. Numeral series, is canceled (19) GOLDBECK (KR OSTERBURG) 13.7.48. Card No. 2, Michel P962, 12 Pfg. Labor series, is canceled (19b) GIESENSLAGE / GOLDBECK (KR OSTERBURG) 19.7.48. (Both in the Soviet Zone).

Card No. 1 has a boxed two line violet "Gebühr bezahlt" handstamp and a handwritten, in pencil, "11" above the imprint, indicating that 11 Pfg. had been paid to the postal clerk.

No. 2 has a one line red "gebühe bezahlt" handstamp across the imprint. There is a penciled "X" across the face of the imprint and a handwritten "12" above it, showing that 12 Pfg. had been paid. Both cards are to a manufacturing company in Berlin and carry that company's dated receiving stamp.



Now the question is, who was right? The clerk in the post office for card No. 1 or the one who handled card No. 2. Ten to one franking was valid in the Soviet Zone thru 31 July 1948.

If No. 1 is right he accepted the card at one tenth of its face value, i.e., 1.2 Pfg. and charged the patron 11 Pfg. for a total of 12 Pfg., the correct domestic post card rate. Now this is a properly used postal card.

If No. 2 is right this has to be classified as a post card as it was not an officially issued card. If No. 2 was wrong and overcharged the patron then card No. 2 is a legitmately used postal card.

We urgently need your surplus Post World War II material for our next Study Group auction. Dig out thoes covers, cards and stamps that you had forgotten you had and send them to Ken Mears for our next auction. This is the best time to get top dollar for items you have just been holding on to. Write them up into lots and send them in now! Don't wait. Send them to:

Kenneth Mears
274 Harvey Ave.
Lincroft, NJ 07738

Prices realized - Post World War II Study Group auction No.2

Lot	1	11.50	Lot	17	1.35	Lot	33	6.35	Lot	38	2.00
	8	3.75		18	20.00		34	5.25		39	2.85
	10	3.75		24	15.00		35	6.35		42	53.25
	13	26.75		30	2.50		36	6.35		43	40.00
	15	20.00		32	6.35		37	6.35			

There were nineteen lots sold out of a total of forty-three for a total of $239.70. Five members submitted material and there were twelve bidders.

Editor's Note

As mentioned eadier Ken's blurb on the previous page was written in January of this yaer. I presume the request for auction material is still valid.