



# GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY POST WORLD WAR II STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

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Director: Alfred Heinz, 1 Circle Drive, Sunset Village, Flemington, N.J. 08822

Secretary/  
Treasurer : Chuck Blunck, 4535 Cherry Lane, Indianapolis, Ind. 46208

Librarian/  
Translation : Sterling Jensen, 16300 Shamhart Dr., Granada Hills, Cf. 91344

Editor: Donald Slawson, 463 Ridge Road, Winchester, Va. 22601

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### This and That

First, I again need to address dues. At our current meeting in Baltimore there was no opposition to charging \$5 per year dues, however, as I stated in the last issue, nobody will be thrown out (or denied bulletins) if only \$4 is paid. However, we do need to collect dues for this year (because of expenses). Chuck has just sent me a list of who has paid what. Based on this list I am indicating below what your dues status is. If there is a mistake in this, please work it out with Chuck.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ 1979 Paid/not paid    1980 paid/not  
(in some cases people paid "for 1980" under the assumption  
1979 was going to be free - these payments have been  
moved back to cover 1979)

Also enclosed an interest questionnaire. Please fill it out and return it to Chuck. Maybe we can get something going from this.





Concerning Forgeries  
An Editorial by Donald Slawson

I hope you all read Dr. Bohne's article "On Expertising" in the Sept. issue of the Specialist (P. 423). All I can say is BRAVO! In my comments concerning Mr. Rossbach's article in the last bulletin I had thought about launching a tirade about forgeries and then decided against it. I'm glad I waited, for at that time I was not aware that relief might be in sight, -- and that is relief spelled FORGERY, not R-O-L-A-I-D-S (for the benefit of our German friends that is a word play on a current TV advertisement for an antacid tablet). Dr. Bohne made several statements I thoroughly enjoyed - but I thought he should have gone even further.

Believe me fellows, we who collect the Hitler obliterations are amongst the biggest victims of forged material. Dr. Bohne questioned, in milder language than I might use, the ethics of not having material signed as forged. This has long bothered me. I have taken it in the neck on the forgeries I bought as genuine (fortunately this was early in my career before I learned about expertising, and my losses were minimal by today's standards but seemed significant at the time). However, it seems a lot of other people are not willing to do this.

At some point in time we must switch to a system which requires the marking of forgeries as such. To me the only fair thing to do is to implement this and let the chips fall where they may. In this manner at least the loss due to holding forgeries will be spread around - both dealers and collectors will wind up holding forgeries. However!... such a system will only work if we, as collectors, are willing to buy only material which has been expertised. When, or if, you accept the "bargain" at  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  Michel and avoid the expertising fee you are cutting your own throat in the long run.. Believe me, the genuine stamp bought at  $\frac{4}{5}$  Michel will yield a better return on the money paid than the unsigned stamp bought at  $\frac{1}{4}$  Michel.

There is a fair number of dealers who seem to want the collectors to be the ones to take it in the neck. I've had dealers refuse to sell forgeries cheap, telling me "I can get more selling it 'as is'", or "I bought it on a flyer and at least want to get my money out of it". What a bunch of baloney! If we buy something on a flyer and it winds up fake which dealer cares if we get our money back out of it? And the old "as is" baloney.... when I first started in this field I was naive enough to believe it meant an item hadn't been checked, but it didn't take me too long to learn it was another way of saying it was an unsigned fake. I'll guarantee you the chances of finding genuine obliterations "as is" is about 5% - certainly not high enough to warrant a price of  $\frac{1}{3}$  (or  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{10}$ ) the Michel value.

Please don't get me wrong - I'm not saying all dealers are this way. I've had dealers give me forgeries for quite nominal prices (but seldom free). I'm also not saying it is only dealers who suffer from the "as is" syndrome. I have encountered collectors who have obliterated Nazi issues which are "signed", but the signum might be known on forged material (misuse of a legitimate signum), it might be either a forgery of a legitimate signum or a person who was clearly out of his area in obliterated Hitler material, or it might be an owners mark as opposed to an expertisers mark. When informed of this I've had people say "thanks for the info - here's a couple copies for your reference", but I've also had them say "I don't care", "I can't afford to have it expertised because there's no use wasting good money if it is a forgery" or "it's got a signature and that's good enough for me".



I very much liked Dr. Bohne's statement about the lack of value of fakes. I feel this is extremely applicable to our material - the basic stamps are cheap and plentiful, and it takes little time, materials or talent to create a forgery. The value of a Sperati forgery is one thing - that guy had talent and it took time for him to do his thing. Our material is a different proposition. Forgeries are cheap and easy to produce and further they are quite plentiful (as evidenced by the fact that at least 75% of the average U.S. dealers stock of obliterations is forged). Believe me, there are enough forgeries to satisfy the demand of the few of us who want the forgeries as well as the genuine material. The dealer quoted statement "...but these have a value as forgeries, there is a big demand for this material" I also feel is a bunch of baloney. The dealer is trying to hold the material until somebody who doesn't know it is a forgery comes along.

There is another trick to squeeze more money out of us. This is the old "sell the forgery at a certain fraction of the Michel value" trick. More baloney! It is just as easy to execute a Netzschkau or Barsinghausen forgery as a L&B forgery. So why should the former be 3, 4 or 5 times as valuable as the latter. Because the genuine stamps are more valuable? ..But we're not talking about genuine stamps, we're talking about forgeries. At times I feel like I'm in a looney bin - things just don't make sense.

One thing is certain; if we as collectors are willing to pay high prices for fakes dealers will keep selling them to us at high prices. Right now some dealers don't seem to care if they sell fakes or not, they won't lower their price and I'm convinced it is because they know that sooner or later a sucker will come along. In spite of what some of them say I'm also convinced that they have little money in the obliterations they stock - at least in the fakes.

What can we do to help eliminate these problems? As collectors we should only buy material we know to be genuine, or to buy forgeries as such and not pay 1/3 or whatever of the Michel value for forgeries. I would very much like to see us establish a "Free forgeries circuit" such as the HOP group has - but in order to do this we must get material, and in order to do this we must gain credibility in expertising such as the HOP group has done.

We should also support any effort to make expertising of material on sale, if not mandatory at least permissible. I was surprised to learn in Dr. Bohne's article that the law was involved in applying signatures to stamps bought in an auction. I had assumed that this was a condition imposed by the auction houses. We should work to have the laws pertaining to this matter changed, for as DR. Bohne implied, marking a forgery as such does not change the stamp itself, it only changes what people think about the stamp. It makes it hard or impossible to sell forgeries at a healthy price, and that is the crux of the problem.

In the meantime, without changing any laws, the problem could be solved if the auction houses would make permission to have material expertised a precondition for accepting material, and all expertisers were to implement the rule that stamps would be marked - good or bad - if an opinion could be rendered. In addition to auction houses the same rule should be applied to any sale of stamps, the right of expertising and all stamps signed, no more of this "don't sign if fake" crap.

Such procedures are possible only if we, as collectors, insist on them.

It's up to us fellows, what do we do?



An Open Question of Interest to the  
Collectors of Obliterated Nazi Stamps

--Part II--

by Donald Slawson

The story of the "Saxon obliterations" is supposedly fairly well known-- Michel devotes a full page to it and the literature (including our Bulletin) contains quite a number of articles on this subject. But how much do we still not know?

Map 1 shows the Nazi Gau of Saxony (destined to become, after adding the portion of Gau Selesia west of the Oder River, the Land of Saxony in the DDR) in May, 1945 - after a small stub of Saxony east of the Oder River had been transferred to Polish administration. There were three postal districts (RPD's) in Saxony - RPD's Chemnitz, Dresden and Leipzig. In 1944 this latter RPD encompassed not only territory in Saxony but also the Gau Halle-Merseberg (destined to become the southern portion of the Land Sachsen-Anhalt in the DDR) and the county (Kreis) of Altenburg of Gau Thuringia.

A couple issues ago I raised some questions concerning the separation of the OPD Halle from the OPD (RPD) Leipzig and when this happened. For this issue I want to focus on the area of Saxony, on OPD Leipzig in particular, and raise some additional questions. (Incidentally, the date of OPD Halle separation has not been resolved).

The use of obliterations in the RPD's Chemnitz and Dresden is fairly clear-cut and given in the "Sachsen schwärzungen" section of the Michel catalog. The RPD Chemnitz authorized usage from 12 May to 8 August, 1945 and the RPD Dresden from 23 May to 20 June, 1945 (there are some complexities in this latter case, perhaps the subject of the next follow on article). Little mention is made of RPD Leipzig. However, upon examination of the list of town names in Michel you will find a small portion - perhaps 10% - of the towns listed are in RPD Leipzig. How did this come about? What was the authorization for this usage? Unfortunately I do not know the answer to these questions. I am again hoping that somebody will come through with some good, solid, documented answers to these questions.

Let's look at the situation in RPD Leipzig and see what we know and what we don't know.

First, if the towns using obliterations are located on a map an interesting fact can be observed - every one of the towns is on the east side of the Mulde River. The significance of this fact seems obvious. In Part I I stated, and pictured in Map 3, that the area west of the Mulde River was occupied by the American army and held by them until July 1, 1945. Thus every one of the towns of RPD Leipzig which used obliterations was in the area which was separated from Leipzig and under Soviet occupation from 8 May (the Nazi surrender) until 1 July, 1945. An examination of postal material (mainly postal money transfers) shows that use of obliterations had begun by early June and was fairly common by the end of June.

Other facts may be noted concerning the location of these towns. Adjacent to the boundary of RPD Chemnitz (the southeastern portion of RPD Leipzig) usage is dense - almost all towns used obliterations. Proceeding northward usage becomes more scattered. Virtually no obliterations were used north of the Saxony boundary.

How can this be explained? Since obliterations were being used in June we can be certain that this usage was begun without the guidance (or knowledge) of RPD Leipzig. So who authorized this service?







There appear to be only two possibilities. First, it may have been implemented on a town level, town by town, based on the practices of neighboring towns. Thus it would have "radiated northward" from the boundary of RPD Chemnitz, each town implementing service because the next door town was doing it. The local postmaster learned of the practice of using obliterations, perhaps from processing incoming mail, and requested from the local Soviet military commander permission to do the same, which was granted. Second, it is possible that the suggestion or impetus for implementing this method of payment was supplied by the Soviets. The fact that this postal service and method of payment seems to terminate at the Saxony boundary and that all other areas of Soviet Saxony (RPD's Chemnitz and Dresden) used obliterations certainly suggests that the use of obliterations was authorized throughout Saxony. Thus the suggestion for using obliterations to implement a postal service in the Saxony portion of Soviet occupied OPD Leipzig may have filtered down the Soviet military government chain of command and been given to the local postmasters rather than vice-versa.

In either of these cases the local Soviet town commandant would have had to O.K. the use of obliterations. The important question seems to be did he do this on his own initiative or did he have orders it was permissible? Such orders, to be effective only in Saxony, would have had to be issued by some authority responsible only for Saxony. I believe there was a "Soviet Military Administration for Saxony". It would certainly be interesting if the records of this body dealing with postal matters could be obtained.

There is another significant aspect to the fact that all towns using obliterations are east of the Mulde. Usage in many (if not all) of these towns took place before the end of June. On 1 July the Americans withdrew and the RPD Headquarters in Leipzig could again communicate with all offices under its jurisdiction, both east and west of the Mulde. One would think that after this date a common course of action would have been followed throughout the RPD. However, this does not seem to be the case. The towns east of the Mulde continued using obliterations through the month of July, yet the towns west of the Mulde continued to refrain from using these issues. Certainly there must be some explanation for this.

What had taken place in the American occupied west bank that may have prevented obliterations from being used? Is the answer as simple as the fact that it took over a month to get the postal service implemented and before a service using obliterations could be implemented the use of these issues was ordered to cease (in early April)? Highly unlikely! RPD Chemnitz decreed use on 12 May, and usages by 25 May - only 2 weeks later - while uncommon are not impossible to find. So if a service had been authorized by RPD Leipzig shortly after 1 July certainly it would have been implemented and some evidence of it would exist. Therefore there must be some other answer.

Let's review what we know about RPD Leipzig after 1 July. The only place I have found any useful or seeming relevant information is in literature on the "Holzhausen" local issue (incidentally, Holzhausen is west of the Mulde). From this story we are told or can infer that:

- (1) The "Holzhausen" issue was really an RPD issue. It was prepared in Leipzig, evidently for use throughout the RPD.
- (2) The issue was "distributed" (to what towns is not known) on an unknown date with orders to place it on sale on 3 August.
- (3) The decision was made that the obliterated Nazi issues were no longer valid for postage and were not to be sold. A decree to this effect was



issued by the RPD Leipzig, evidently on 2 August, but possibly a day or two before this. The date on which sale of stamps was to cease was 3 August (the beginning of business on 3 August - evidently the last day of sale was to be 2 August).

- (4) This message did not reach Holzhausen and Zwenkau (and possibly some other towns) prior to opening of business on 3 August, so on that day they sold some of the RPD stamp issue, terminating sale around noon.

The one fact from this story which can be verified from existing philatelic material is that the use of obliterations in RPD Leipzig terminated on 3 August (but at the close of business on 3 August). The use of "cork obliterations" east of the Mulde, as previously stated, began in early June and continued through June and July but does seem to have terminated on 3 August. I have not seen a single item from RPD Leipzig on or after 4 August which has the obliteration accepted as valid postage. Thus we can safely assume that this RPD termination order (dated 2 August?) which was to be effective on 3 August, was transmitted to all post offices of the RPD.

So we're still left with our question "what orders were issued by RPD Leipzig and why after 1 July did half the RPD continue use of obliterations while the other half did not use them?"

When was the decision made to issue an RPD obliteration issue? Prior to 1 July while under American occupation or after 1 July while under Soviet occupation? Conflicting statements exist (see my article on Saxony Nazi Issue Obliterations, Section V-A, Vol 9 #2 (Sept 1976) Bulletin). Was the Leipzig issue prepared only on stocks of stamps held in Leipzig or was the stamp supply of surrounding towns called in for overprinting? It is entirely possible that the issue was planned under American occupation and the stamp stock of the towns which were in the American area (namely west of the Mulde) were called in to be overprinted - similar to the events in Glauchau. Thus when the Americans left on 1 July there were no stocks of Nazi stamps left in the towns west of the Mulde.

Was a postal service implemented west of the Mulde prior to 3 August? As said, no obliterations have been found, but perhaps some of our "gebühr bezahlt" collector friends can furnish evidence that a service did exist. What we need are covers from RPD Leipzig, west of the Mulde River, between 1 July and 3 August, 1945.

Whatever the case, the RPD Leipzig must certainly have issued some decrees or communications with the post offices under its jurisdiction. Numerous questions have been raised. Is there nowhere to find answers to these questions? The decrees (or directives) of RPD Leipzig must certainly be preserved in an archive somewhere.. These would certainly help to clear everything up. I certainly hope that some of our German friends will be able to come up with some answers, or at least suggestions as to where answers may be obtained.

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Bonn-Transex Covers

by A. Heinz  
Post-WW II Research and Study Group

In leafing through one of my "work binders" recently, I came across three letters that attracted my attention. In discussing their unusual features with one of my collector friends, a fourth letter entered the picture.

The four letters hailed from the Rheinland (British Zone) and were addressed to the USA. They were mailed sometime in 1947 and are devoid of stamps or "postage paid" markings of any kind. Instead they each carry hand-stamped legends to the effect that the letters were received at "Bonn-Transex" without stamps. In addition, each of the letters shows, adjacent to the above legends, two sets of handwritten initials (pencil) and a hand-stamped date. The legends, initials and dates are all located in the upper right hand corner, where stamps are normally affixed.

The legends on the four letters vary only slightly in content but their physical structure differs materially. Two types of legends were noted and these are illustrated.

Type A

"Ohne Marken bei Bonn-Transex  
Mit \_\_\_Marken eingegangen am"

which translates to: "Received without/with \_\_\_ stamps at Bonn-Transex on"

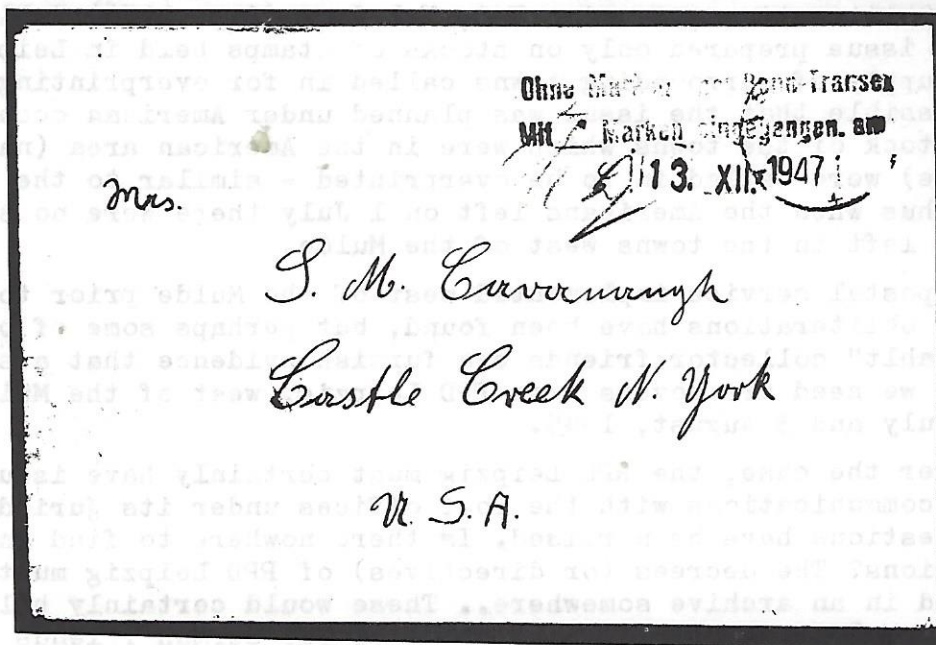


Illustration #1

Letter showing type A legend



Type B

"Ohne Marken beim Postamt  
Mit        Marken Bonn-Transex  
eingegangen"

which translates to: "Received without/with        stamps at the post office Bonn-Transex"

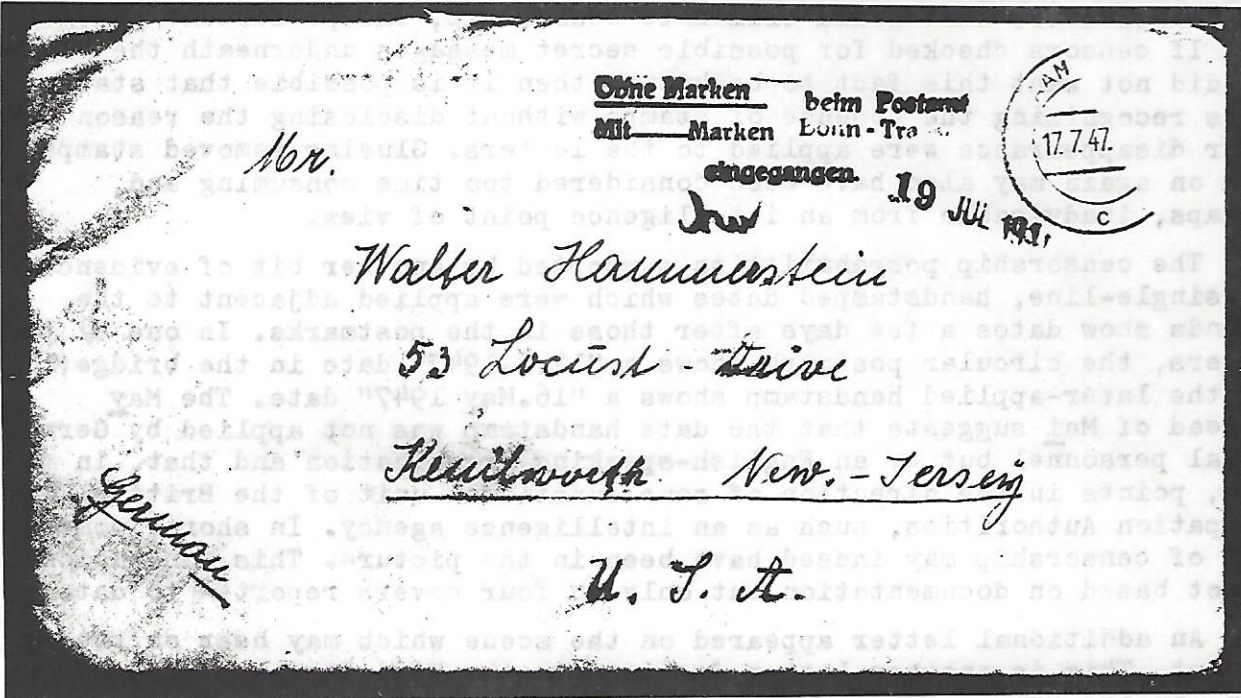


Illustration #2

Letter showing type B legend

The upper two lines of the 3-line legend appear to have been printed with two handstamps, not one. The line spacings differ and appear to be smaller on the right half. This may be an illusion.

A microscopic study of the four covers revealed that they had been franked with stamps at one time. Certainly, gum remnants and partial postmarks indicate the presence of stamps prior to the application of the handstamped legends.

On all four letters the first word, "Mit" (with), in the second line of the handstamp is crossed out, which indicates that the "Ohne Marken" (without stamps) of the first line applies. Simply stated, all four covers arrived at Bonn-Transex without stamps, according to the legends.

Just how the stamps disappeared from the letters during the interval between posting and arrival at Bonn-Transex is a mystery. Certainly, unfranked mail is normally returned to the sender for franking. If four stampless covers, postmarked within a short time period and all hailing from the same region in Germany (Rheinland), appear on the scene and all show gum remnants and partial postmarks, then it would seem the stamps did not accidentally drop off but were intentionally removed. The avail-



ability of two types of handstamps at Bonn-Transex also suggests that many, not just a few, letters received the "handstamp treatment". But if the stamps had not dropped off in transit but had been intentionally removed, then where and why? Also, what function did the Bonn-Transex office perform?

Censorship is one possibility. All four letters fall into the foreign-mail category. They were addressed to the USA and posted in the British Zone. However, none of the letters show censorship markings of any kind, none whatsoever. That would eliminate censorship, except for one possibility. If censors checked for possible secret messages underneath the stamps and did not want this fact to be known; then it is possible that state-ments recognizing the absence of stamps without disclosing the reason for their disappearance were applied to the letters. Glueing removed stamps back on again may also have been considered too time consuming and, perhaps, inadvisable from an intelligence point of view.

The censorship possibility is supported by another bit of evidence. The single-line, handstamped dates which were applied adjacent to the legends show dates a few days after those in the postmarks. In one of the letters, the circular postmark shows a "12.5.1947" date in the bridge; but the later-applied handstamp shows a "16.May 1947" date. The May instead of Mai suggests that the date handstamp was not applied by German postal personnel but by an English-speaking organization and that, in turn, points in the direction of some functional unit of the British Occupation Authorities, such as an intelligence agency. In short, some form of censorship may indeed have been in the picture. This conclusion is not based on documentation but only on four covers reported to date.

An additional letter appeared on the scene which may bear on the subject. This is another letter destined to the USA. It was posted at Bonn, in the British Zone. This letter too was franked with stamps at the time of posting. The stamps then fell off or were removed in transit.

This letter was censored and may have carried the typical sealing strip used by British censors. If it did, the strip was tied to the cover by a censorship seal carrying a serial number. Unfortunately, a strip, about 13 mm wide, was ripped off on the left-hand side of the envelope when the letter was opened by the receiver. That strip may have carried the censor's sealing tape.

In the upper left-hand corner of the letter, where stamps are normally affixed, a large-stamp-sized piece of brown sealing tape was placed. It carries the handwritten (ink) two-line message "Briefmarke/fehlt" (stamp missing) and the number shown in the censor's seal (18786). The script itself appears in German style.

There is no question that a stamp had been in the position the strip of sealing tape now occupies and that it had been cancelled. The cancel was of the slogan type. It included an instruction and normal circular postmark. The circular postmark disappeared with the stamp; the instruction is still there. It reads: "Vor dem Umzug/Verordnung 16/lesen!" (prior to moving read instruction 16).

The disappearance of the circular postmark unfortunately eliminated all possibility of establishing dates. It would be interesting to find out if this "sealing tape" item is a forerunner of the Bonn-Transex letters, or perhaps a successor.



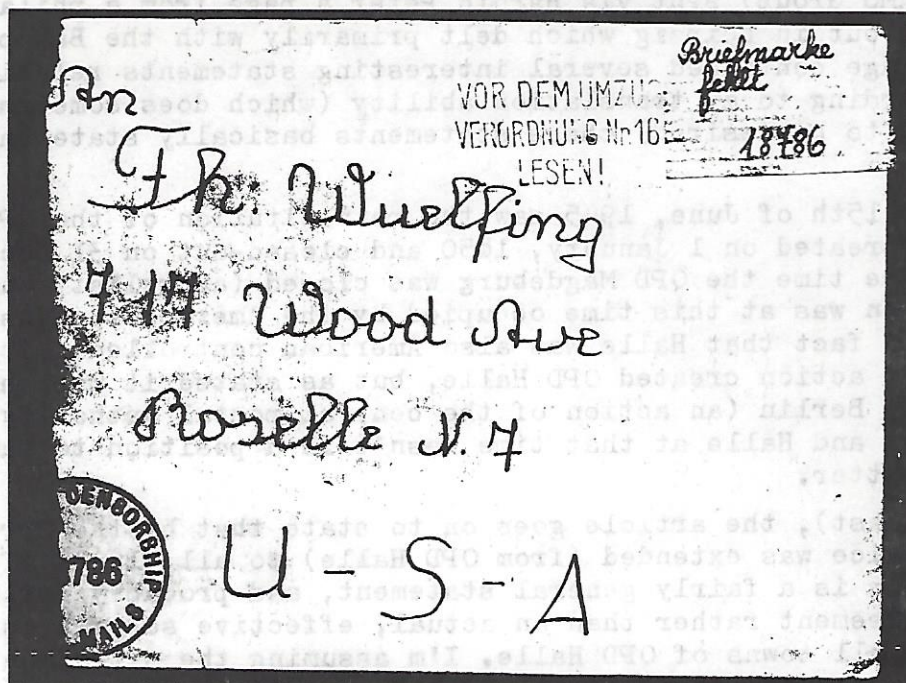


Illustration #3

Letter carrying "Briefmarke/fehlt" notation on piece of brown sealing tape.

What has been established is that the several Bonn-Transex covers and the single, brown-sealing-tape cover all originated in the British Occupation Zone and were addressed to the USA. They were all franked and cancelled at local post offices but were devoid of stamps when they left the Bonn-Transex "clearing house". Just what passing through this clearing house involved continues to be a mystery. Some special censorship routine is suspected.

Information bearing on the subject and reports of other items in the hands of study group members would be very much appreciated.

(All photos by "Study Group" member Bob Effinger).

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Responses to Previous Questions and Editorials  
(compiled by Slawson)

In Resonpse to my questions on OPD Halle in the June issue:

Inge Fisher was the first to try to help with the questions I raised, and while we kicked the questions around a bit we really managed to establish little or come up with many "new" facts.

A German friend, Horst Kahl (whom I believe is especially active



in the German AMG Group) sent via Harold Peter a page from a philatelic publication put out in Leipzig which dealt primarily with the Bahnpost. However, this page contained several interesting statements relating to OPD Halle. According to my translation ability (which does sometimes leave something to be desired) these statements basically state the following.

First, the 15th of June, 1945 saw the reinstatement of the OPD Halle which had been created on 1 January, 1850 and closed-out on 31 December, 1936. At the same time the OPD Magdeburg was closed (aufgelöst) but the Magdeburg portion was at this time occupied by the Americans. (Unstated was the specific fact that Halle was also American controlled). It doesn't say exactly what action created OPD Halle, but as stated it must have been a decree in Berlin (an action of the central postal authority for the Soviet Zone) and Halle at that time wasn't in a position to take action on the matter.

Next (and last), the article goes on to state that by the 23rd of July postal service was extended (from OPD Halle) to all places of the Soviet Zone. This is a fairly general statement, and probably reflects some kind of agreement rather than an actual, effective service established and working for all towns of OPD Halle. I'm assuming the situation is similar to that encountered in the Western Zones. It is probably impossible to know the actual true situation except on a town-by-town basis. Even though policies were proclaimed and official actions taken on specified dates, the practical date on which the policy or practice was implemented in any given town was variable. Thus a general statement such as that above is probably the most effective way to solve the problem of when OPD Halle started service. If we need to know about two specific towns (like Muhlberg and Wittenberg) on a given date we'll have to check with those two towns, and if we get no answer we're at a dead end.

In response to my comments on Mr. Rossbach-Emden's article (August issue)

I received one comment indicating I was dictating what people should collect and that some "stamps" were not worth collecting. I didn't mean to do this. What I was trying to indicate was that what we collect should be put into its proper perspective, and that while some of it may have a disreputable philatelic aspect it can still be very interesting from a historical perspective.

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Were there Two "Gebühr bezahlt" Stamps  
in use at BIRKENFELD an der Nahe?

by Paul Rossbach-Emden

Translated by Al Geisser

At first glance it appears as if the two letters shown below have the same "Gebühr bezahlt" impressions. If the cancellation dates of 6.9.46-12 and 21.1.48-15 were reversed it would be rather difficult to decide. .

It is well known that rubber stamps, if extensively used, tend to



BIRKENFELD (NAHE) "Gebuhr bezahlt" Covers



Deutsch  
Dienstsache

*Herrn*

*German Mess*

**Amt für Vermögensverwaltung  
des Kreises Birkenfeld**

**22b Birkenfeld-Nahe**

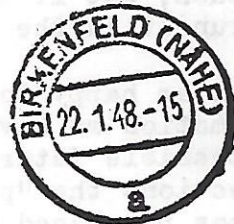
*Birkenfeld*  
*Ger. Str.*

6 September, 1946

Gebühr bezahlt

*Herrn Rechtsanwalt*

*Walter Emmrich*



**22b** *Bad Kreuznach*

*Kreuzstr. 78*

22 January, 1948



wear and tear. Characters take on distorted forms. Knowing this, the letter dated 6.9.46 would seem more likely to be the later of the two covers shown; the "Gebuhr bezahlt" showing signs of extensive use, the letters distorted being wider and shorter.

This of course is not the case. The letters of the older stamp would have shorter and thinner letters, and the "b", "h" and "l" would be of the same length as in the "Gebuhr bezahlt" of 22.1.48 since the demand for use at the later date was not as great.

Another sign that two types existed is in the difference of the letter "r" of "Gebühr". In the first case the "r" has a hook, in the latter the "r" has a dot at its end.

This leads to the conclusion that in Birkenfeld a.d. Nahe two somewhat difficult to separate "Gebühr bezahlt" handstamps were used.

This points up the importance of careful examination of all material. (translators note: There are 5 Birkenfeld's in Germany, my home town being one of them - but not the one under discussion.)

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This and That (Continued from page 39)

I don't know if all of you happened to notice Peter Rickenback's request for info on DP Camps in the Specialist a few months ago, but this had an interesting sidelight. Myron Fox informed me that as a result of this he had sent Peter the list of Lithuanian DP Camps that we had run in the Bulletin several years ago, however, the list was not complete, that I'd stopped before the end. Well, I was sure this was wrong, but on checking by gosh I found I never did complete the list in the Bulletin. I'd transferred all the camps to my personal lists (which I sent Peter-- over 6 pounds of stuff) but did not run the end of the alphabet in the Bulletin. Nobody seemed to miss this at the time, so it probably doesn't amount to a hill of beans, but if there is a great demand for the remainder of this list I can run it in the Bulletin.

I am happy to see that several members have been able to use the information we have published lately, and are reporting material to authors for possible future updates. At least 2 people have found in their collections the "provisional aerograms" with handwritten notations, and one has purchased one with stamps. So this article was useful to at least three of us. Mike Layne has also received at least one additional item for his "Philately Equator" cachets.

So all in all we're making progress. I do have quite a backlog of material to print (but don't let that stop anyone from sending in further articles) so hope to keep going for a while. Next issue at the end of December.