



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY POST WORLD WAR II STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

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Editors remarks, messages, etc.

First, you'll note I started this bulletin with page 1, a goof as it is not the first issue of this volume, but no killing matter.

Next, the article on Saxony obliterations by Dr. Wittmann has come through our library/translation service under Sterling Jensen. I'm very happy that this channel is functioning, but I do know that this article was submitted by me, and since I have received no "article reviews" from him I am assuming that very few or no articles are being channeled to him by our other members for translation or inclusion in a "literature review" column. I do not know who is monitoring which periodicals, but I am hoping that many of us are involved in supplying Sterling with material for translation and inclusion in the bulletin. We've got to work together for this thing to function.

Next, you'll note this issue is still strongly oriented toward issues of special interest to me, mainly because I am having to write articles or supply them for translating. I'd sure like to see an end to this situation. The article by Helmut Weigelt is a start, here (continued on page 28)



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The 1945 Obliterations of Postage Stamps in Saxony
by Dr. Heinrich Wittmann, Munich

Reprinted from the Deutschland-Sammler Nr. 6/7, 1975
translated by Inge Fisher

The "Saxony Obliterations" (Sächsische Schwärzungen) are, as is well known, only one facet in the field which is better and philatelically correctly called "1945 provisional issues of Saxony from stocks on hand" (Sächsische Aufbrauchsausgaben 1945)**. Even today these "obliterations" play an unassuming role since their classification causes difficulties in many instances. By contrast, the provisional issues, which can be easily distinguished through characteristic, typographic or handstamped overprints, have succeeded as individually cataloged issues.

In a previous issue we explained that the conception of the 1945 Saxony Provisionals was based on 2 directives which were issued by the OPD Chemnitz on May 12, 1945 and by the OPD Dresden on May 23, 1945. This latter directive concerned however, at first only the postal service within Dresden and its suburbs. Both directives were published in Nr. 12/1974 of the Deutschlands-Sammler (p.189). While the directive of the OPD Chemnitz soon assumed validity within its area of responsibility, the directive of the OPD Dresden of May 23, 1945, was valid at first only for the 10 listed postoffices within the city district of Dresden and 13 further postoffices in the suburbs, i.e. the close vicinity. Thus, in no way did it have validity within the whole district of the OPD Dresden. The postal service itself started only slowly within the district. Therefore, several postoffices within the area of the OPD Dresden had to take independent measures in order to start functioning. And it is for certain, that those postoffices with relatively many personnel and little business could use the "Gebühr bezahlt" system. On the other hand, postmasters with few employees and a heavy workload tried to work efficiently. Therefore many used the same system that had been introduced in the area of the OPD Chemnitz and at the same time was also known as being used within the city of Dresden. The slowly growing resumption of postal service within the district of the OPD Dresden is covered in the 1947 article "The history of the East Saxony (OPD Dresden) Postage Stamps" by Postamtman Schneider. From it Koch cites the following:

Prof.Dr.Ing. Paul-August Koch, Netstal "The Central Saxony Transitional Issues of 1945" in "Festschrift zum 50 jährigen Bestehen des Berlin Ganzsachsen Vereins" Berlin, 1951 (This article was reprinted in our bulletin back in Volume 2 I think-ed)

- 23 May: Resumption of local and suburban service in Dresden by messenger. Admitted are postcards and letters to 20gr, official mail to 500gr.
- 4 June: Beginning of lettermail transportation by steamships of the "Sächsisch-Böhmischen Steamship line along the route Dresden-Bad Schandau and back, thus opening up the area of the eastern Erzgebirge and the Sächsische Schweiz.

**Translators note: In the following these issues are for simplicity called "provisionals" or "provisional issues"

- 5 June: Resumption of lettermail transportation service with the offices along the railroad lines Freital-Possendorf, Freital-Siebenlehn, Hainsberg-Kipsdorf, Klotzsche-Arnsdorf-Pulsnitz, and Ottendorf-Okrilla.
- 8 June: Establishment of railway mail service along the Dresden-Chemnitz line.
- 13 June: Beginning of lettermail transportation service with steamships of the Saxony-Bohemia line along the Dresden-Riesa route and back. Beginning of lettermail delivery with Königsbrück, Moritzburg, Nossen, Radeburg, Strehla, Gröditz über Riesa, Lammatzsch, Oschatz, Ostrau i.Sa. (these latter 2 are in OPD Leipzig-ed)
- 19 June: As soon as it was established with reasonable certainty that the issuance of the first new postage stamps of the OPD Dresden, which by then were already in print, could be counted upon within a very few days, the sale of postage stamps with the Hitler portrait or of the official stamps was ordered to cease as of 21 June.
- 23 June: Issuance of the first postage stamp after the collapse, the so-called POTSCHTA, and its sale at the counters of the Dresden A20 postoffice in Strehlen. Also on the same day withdrawal from sale and circulation due to withdrawal of permission for this stamp by the Russian commander.
- 25 June: Opening of the motorized post routes Sebnitz-Neukirch-Wilthen and Schirgiswalde-Sohland-Steinigtwolmsdorf-Neustadt-Sebnitz, especially for mail transportation.
- 26 June: Expansion of the letter transportation service to include Kamenz i.Sa., Krügis, Neuhausen and Sieffen postoffices as well as the railway line Kamenz-Senftenberg, Hohenbocka-Wehrkirch, and the areas of the OPD districts Chemnitz and Leipzig all the way to the "Mulde line" (the river Mulde was at that time the demarcation line between Russian and American occupied territory).

The mentioned withdrawal of the Hitler stamps within the area of the OPD Dresden (therefore the expiration of the validity of "obliterations") was announced through the following directive of June 19, 1945, issued by the president of the OPD Dresden:

"The sale of the up until now valid postage stamps, including the official stamps, has to cease at once. The stocks on hand...to be destroyed. Postage stamps in the possession of the population also lose their validity at once and therefore cannot be used any longer. All consignments franked with these former stamps after June 20, are to be handled as not being franked. Until the appearance of new and already in print postage stamps, only cash franking is permitted for consignments posted at the postoffice windows or payment upon delivery of non-franked consignments.

signed Dr. Knetschke

"

This measure however proved to be precipitant. The "Potschta" was withdrawn on the day of issue by order of the Russian commandant (a further proof of his absolute power!) and only on June 28 was the now corrected 12pf. postage stamp issued, while additional values followed on June 30 (6pf.), July 3 (8 and 10pf.), July 6 (5pf.), July 7 (40pf.), July 10 (15pf.) and July 26 (20pf.).

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The neighboring OPD Chemnitz however, made no preparations to issue individual postage stamps, since plentiful stocks of obliterated Hitler stamps were available to be used up. Thus it followed that due to the above mentioned directive of June 19, 1945 of OPD Dresden, consignments originating in the area of OPD Chemnitz which were still being franked with obliterated Hitler stamps, were considered as unfranked and being charged postage due. Therefore, the OPD Chemnitz issued the following directive on July 13, 1945:

"From reports of different postoffices can be seen that those consignments which are franked in this district with former postage stamps, are since June 21 in the OPD Dresden district no longer recognized as being franked. A clarification of this matter with the OPD Dresden has so far not been possible; It is also not known what has been directed by other RPD's concerning the franking of consignments. In order to avoid complaints, inquiries, etc., the offices are therefore requested to cancel all stamps on consignments to other districts with dated prepaid cancellations until further notice. If red ink is not available or other difficulties arise, black ink can be used. If offices and agencies do not own a prepaid canceler, the stamped "Gebühr bezahlt" should be applied next to the dated cancellation. The overprinting of former postage stamps with the aid of cork or rubber stamps, etc., must of course be continued."

Evidently an agreement with Dresden must have been reached, since the RPD Chemnitz on July 20, 1945 issued the following decree:

"Consignments which are franked with postage stamps with obliterated portrait are now also recognized as validly franked in the RPD district Dresden. Postage due fees are therefore not assessed. In regards to the Gebühr bezahlt cancellations of the postage stamps with the portrait, the directive of July 13, 1945, remains in effect for the time being, since no clarification with the other RPD's could be reached due to a lack of communications."

Without the exact knowledge of these directives, their sphere of effectiveness and the time of validity, all judgements of the individual provisionals has to remain dilettantic playfulness.

The officially ordered obliteration of the Hitler portrait could be accomplished by four different means:

- a) Obliteration with pencil, ink or colored bars (lines). An identification of such pieces can naturally only be possible on used stamps with legible postmark, insofar as they are on cover with a return address. Even then it cannot be identified if the obliteration took place through the sender before posting or afterwards through the postal clerk.
- b) Obliteration through silent hand stamps made out of wood, cork, rubber, etc. In a number of cases such postage stamps can be identified even in unused condition. The Michel Special Catalog illustrates a few such examples. In other cases, however, it is also impossible to identify if the obliteration was done privately or officially.
- c) Obliteration through distinguishing handstamps. Typical examples are the handstamped overprints of Meissen, Löbau, Schwarzenberg, etc.
- d) Obliteration through typographical overprint. This generally took place where large amounts of postage stamps were used and the workload of overprinting each individual stamp seemed to be uneconomical.

The provisionals with distinguishing handstamped or typographed overprints are being listed in the catalogs as independent issues due to the ease of their identification and expertization. They stand basically, however, on the same level as the simple "obliterations" (Schwärzungen), which of course exist in different colors than black only. And due to some examples existing on cover in large amounts, it can be ascertained if they are postoffice or private obliterations.

The effacement according to the repeatedly mentioned directive of OPD Dresden had to be done subsequently "to all postage stamps remaining in the hands of the population" without mention through who. The ensuing assumption that private persons could make the postage stamps in their possession valid for franking purposes through the obliteration of the Hitler portrait was therefore given. Clearly based on this, the mayor of Herrnhut--owner of a printing firm--therefore overprinted with professional ambition the postage stamps which were in his and his business friends possession.

However, similar occurrences did not become known from the area of the OPD district Chemnitz, since the wording of its directive of May 12, 1945, was clearer and expressed specifically that "the still in the hands of the public remaining postage stamps had to be obliterated through the postoffices on posting of the consignment".

Through the bombing raids of the British and American Air Forces in the previous weeks, two thirds of the postoffices in Dresden were destroyed and the largest part of the population had fled or been killed. The limited resumption of the postal service on May 23, 1945, depended only for 4 weeks on these provisional former postage stamps, whose further use was already being forbidden as of June 21. On the other hand, in the district of the OPD Chemnitz, where proportionally much less war damage had occurred, the postal service began functioning one more already on May 12, 1945, and the provisional stamps were in use until August 8, 1945. Therefore, many more examples of obliterated stamps are available from OPD Chemnitz area than from the OPD Dresden area. A special aid was also that the whole stock of postal money orders from the Chemnitz district was saved from destruction and reached West Germany. Thus absolutely faultless and conclusive material could be researched and checked.

"Envy and Society" is the title of a 1966 publication by Helmut Schoeck, probably the most active and respected professor of Sociology who we have in the Federal Republic today. He could have written a special chapter about "Envy in Philately". Envy is a little endearing property of some collectors, which can go so far as theft. Thus, for instance, a well established wholesaler of electrical equipment stole approximately DM 1500.- worth of valuable stamps from albums during pre-auction inspection from a Munich stamp auctioneer. He was, however, found out. Envy also is the reason oftentimes that stamps, in the possession of another collector, are declared as second rate since one cannot possibly hope to own them. Envy also plays a role where lucky finders cannot be happy over their honestly acquired property. As one could read in a column of a West German philatelic newspaper that these "saved" postal money orders reached the trade in a more or less unsavory fashion. Surely no dealer in old paper exists who has not been approached by collectors to let them search through the stacks, which generally originated from wastepaper baskets of large companies and government offices, for postage stamps. Already 70 and 80 years ago eager collectors searched through official and clerical files for stamps. This did not change until well into WW II. During the house cleaning actions (Entrümpelungsaktionen = Translator's note: during the

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war the government encouraged the public to rid houses, especially attics and basements, of stacked up old furniture, clothing, etc. which might burn easily during bombing raids) once again forgotten boxes with old correspondence were found in attics and basements which were then checked by collectors. The most famous such find surely is the cover with the strip of 3 of the "Schwarzer Einser", the Bavaria Nr. 1, which was found in such an action in northern Bavaria. In all instances, one has to assume that the individual collector asked the office supervisor, the clergy, the owner of the old papers, or any other person responsible for the necessary permission, which probably as given as long as there was no interruption of office work. It is therefore an accusation totally out of nowhere to accuse the owner and seller of these postal money orders of 30 years ago of unsavory doings. For the dealer in old papers, these postal money transfers were and remained nothing but used paper with a value of a few pennies per kilogram, and the whole stack could not have weighed more than 5 or 10 kg.

In the same manner, sorting through old papers ready to be destroyed, several Feldpost and Inselfpost covers have been saved, especially the few remaining covers with the Ruhrkessel stamp. "Genuinely used" (Echt gelaufen) covers with this stamp exist in very few cases. Only where such letters were dropped, against regulations, into Reichspost mailboxes instead of being deposited at the fieldpost station, and then expedited during the fall of 1945 after the months long wait, and then in most cases only after obliteration of the Hitler portrait. "Genuinely flown" covers do not exist. What however does exist originated almost without exception from a Hessian paper factory, where they were found and saved from destruction by a philatelist. In Vienna, the center for Inselfpost mail thousands of such letters were also saved from destruction and saved for philately. Another case could also be mentioned, different insofar as the general welfare was being damaged. The then issued food ration stamps for travellers, the so called "Reisenmarken", were valid in both the American as well as the British Zone. At periodic intervals these were withdrawn, invalidated and replaced with a new issue. During the spring of 1948 a mishap occurred. The at the time valid series was declared invalid in the British zone four weeks earlier than in the American zone. With or without intention, the different food ration stamp offices turned these invalid stamps over to a paper factory. Here, in all haste, the employees fished them from the waste and sold them at high prices to interested people who had the possibility to travel to the U.S. zone. A few thus added to their rations at a time of the worst shortage. But let us return to philately.

Over the years I have personally seen and been able to check approximately 800 of the already mentioned stock of postal money orders. The earliest date was established as June 1, 1945. It can be assumed that on this date postal money service resumed once more in the district of OPD Chemnitz, but only within the district itself. Diverse Hitler stamps obliterated with ink or blue pencil were found, and some cases of stamps without obliteration. The instruments used for the obliteration by the post office were also quite distinguishable. The postoffice Chemnitz 1 for instance, used rubber stamps, cork stamps, split corks, inkblots and block hand-stamps. Chemnitz 4 used rubberstamps, corkstamps, inkblot stamps and block stamps. For the villages outside of Chemnitz a single instrument also was not sufficient. Annaberg, for instance, used 2 rubberstamps of 13 and 16mm diameter, corkstamps and inkblot stamps. Aue used a double rubberstamp, a rubberstamp with a hole in the center, and an inkblot stamp. Frankenberg had an inkblot stamp, a rubberstamp of 13mm and one of 16mm. The word "stamp" without any special designation means a circular

handstamp, while the word "inkblot stamp" means a stamp of irregular shape. Mixed frankings from Schwarzenberg show inkblot stamps with hand-stamped overprints of the type with the village silhouette. Generally though, the distinguishing overprints were already sorted, since a philatelist bought the material at the time and kept the already then as individualistic described overprinted issues.

Since finally the DDR officially began to research during the last year the situation prevailing in 1945 during the resumption of postal service, one can assume that further knowledge will surface in the near future.

A few interesting observations from the study of the mentioned 800 postal money transfers from the Chemnitz district are published here:

The following forms were used: postal money transfers, fieldpost money orders, Zahlkarten (money transfer orders: ed-I think these are transfers of money through postal checking accounts), and Steuerzahlkarten (tax payment money transfer orders); all these were used however as straight postal money orders, since the postal checking account service was as yet not functioning.

The types of obliterations of the Hitler portrait were many. Totally unobliterated stamps were found from Chemnitz 1 on 16 July and Oberlichtenau (Bz Chemnitz) on 25 July. Chemnitz 4 used a fingerprint (!) on June 29 as an obliterator, while Mügeln used a charcoal pencil on June 4, as did Wolkenstein on July 10. (Ed: Mügeln is in OPD Leipzig) Blue ink (possibly used privately) appears on June 2 and June 7 in Zschopau. Ink pencil was used in Aue on June 23 and in Döbeln on June 25. (Ed: Döbeln is OPD Leipzig).

In Schwarzenberg ink pencil (possibly private) as well as a black rubber stamp of 17mm diameter was used on June 1 (the assumed first day of postal money order service). From Rittersgrün (Erzgebirge) a mixed franking was found with the 10pf. stamp of the first handstamped Schwarzenberg overprint and a 20pf. stamp with cork stamp obliteration. Ursprung used on August 4 a postleitzahl handstamp "10" in a circle, affixed twice at a 90° angle.

Due to the above mentioned directive of OPD Chemnitz on July 13, 1945, the "Gebühr bezahlt" markings make their appearance in the following period as either double circle or double oval in red and in black on the postage stamps as well as next to the postage stamps in some cases. However, even before the directive had been issued markings such as "Bezahlt" (paid) or "Gebühr bezahlt" in manuscript or stamped were used, since evidently the appearance of difficulties was already recognized earlier.

The manifold possibilities of cancellations and of provisional stamps form the special attractions in this field. Who however does not know the total circumstances, legal basis and local conditions, is not able to judge these issues.

* * * * *

Saxony Nazi Issue Obliterations

A survey of facts known to me, with emphasis on the questions which remain to be answered

by Donald E. Slawson

I would like to address for a moment Dr. Wittmann's statement about the middle of page 4 of this issue, "Without the exact knowledge of these decrees, their sphere of effectiveness and the time of validity, all judgement of the individual provisionals has to remain amaturish (I changed this word from the one the translator chose) playfulness." I presume "these directives" refers to the previously mentioned directives of OPD Chemnitz dated 12 May, 13 and 20 July, and 8 August and the directives of OPD Dresden dated 23 May and 19 June. It is my claim that these directives leave many, many questions unanswered. As Dr. Wittmann himself points out, the 23 May directive of OPD Dresden was addressed to only 23 post offices. So how do we account for the opening of service in the other towns of the OPD?

Further, I will later show that there absolutely had to be additional decrees of OPD Dresden that directly relate to the procedures used on cork obliterated covers. Also, some events connected with usage of Saxony cork obliterations definitely took place without OPD direction. This happened in both OPD's Dresden and Leipzig. It seems reasonable to assume that these events which took place without OPD directive took place on essentially a town-by-town basis where the actions in a given town may have been based on written orders, but also may only have happened as a result of verbal orders or information and no written confirmation exists.

I claim that if research without knowledge of these above mentioned six decrees is "amatur playfulness", then research with knowledge of these 6 decrees is little more than "amatur playfulness". In fact, I'm afraid that research with knowledge of all decrees of every Saxony OPD during the period 12 May to 8 August would still have to be termed "amaturish playfulness" because all the OPD decrees will not explain all the events that took place since many events occurred on the local level. However, it is my claim that knowledge of what happened can also be gained by examining philatelic evidence. From this theories can be formed to explain what evidently happened. I certainly do not mean to minimize the value of documentary evidence. Documentation is of course the primary research tool, and gives the "official" version of what happened. However, often reality varied from the "theory" contained in documents and decrees, and in the end, even with knowledge of the decrees, it is only through examination of further evidence that we can ascertain what truly did happen.

I think we are now at the point where we are making the attempt to bring forth the relevant material, both written and philatelic, for us to try to determine what actually happened. This is not amaturish playfulness, but philatelic research. At all moments in time our guesses or theories concerning what happened may not be completely accurate, and I think we may never have the whole "true" story--our theories will always contain some guesswork or unproved assumptions. But guesses and assumptions based on philatelic evidence are not playfulness.

I would like to make the observation that it is always the information we already know which keeps getting hashed over and over again. The decrees whose text has appeared in the Deutschland-Sammler are well known, along with their meaning (approximate knowledge of these appeared in the Specialist over 15 years ago). I don't mean to minimize the value

of printing the directives, for in many cases only the approximate wording of the decree was previously available, and the exact wording has provided some interesting additional information. However, how about all the directives that must exist that will shed some light on our unresolved questions? It's amazing that known or suspected information keeps "coming to light", yet the decrees relevant to facts that most people don't suspect never seem to turn up. It's almost like the "decrees" are being generated to meet known facts or that researchers are ignoring some very important documentation because they don't realize it's relevance.

During the years 1967 to 1972 I spent a small fortune on postage and International Reply Coupons (for return postage) attempting to get copies of the above 6 documents plus a few others and answers to other questions. My searches led through postal museums, other museums, the German Kulturbund philatelic section, OPD headquarters, individual post offices and private persons. From all this only one "new and useful" fact relating to obliterations was gleaned. No copies of the decrees I was seeking came my way. At last it seems the Germans are really researching this field, and I certainly hope that some of the remaining questions will be resolved. It is with great enthusiasm I read that the DDR is permitting research into this area, for it is there that most of the information must lie. I'd also like to note that the ARGE Loknot has just established a study group for obliterations, and I am hoping that their efforts will prove fruitful. I will be glad to contribute anything I can offer to the success of their endeavor. I would like to say, that as a first step it seems important to establish a framework of the situation to facilitate the trading and assimilation of information. It is often quite time consuming to read and assimilate all the information in an article which rambles over a number of facets of the obliterations with no structure. Often points are mixed in with other points. For this reason I have attempted to provide some sort of logical structure to the presentation of information in this article.

Let's now look at some of the facts and unresolved questions. In attempting to present this in some order I will consider only the Saxony area and will approach it OPD by OPD; first OPD Dresden, since it is here many complexities arise, next OPD Chemnitz, and lastly OPD Leipzig, which was not addressed in Dr. Wittmann's article. Since certain aspects of usage are essentially OPD independent, these will be considered prior to the individual OPD's.

I. Method of Obliteration

I believe the method of obliteration is OPD independent, and so can be discussed as a generality rather than on the OPD basis. Much has been said about this, but unless it is addressed on a town by town basis, the only thing that can be said is "anything goes".

The purpose of the obliteration was to alter the political significance of the material. As long as this was done, little attention was paid to who did it or how it was done. In both OPD Dresden and OPD Chemnitz, and presumably in OPD Leipzig, the stamps remaining in the hands of the public retained their validity. Thus we can expect to find obliterations by private persons as well as obliterations by the post office. Dr. Wittmann in his article seems to say that private obliterations should not exist from OPD Chemnitz, because of the wording of the directive of 12 May. Yet my feeling is that the meaning of the particular sentence is not to prohibit private obliterations, but to inform the post offices that consignments posted with unobliterated stamps must have them obliterated.

Quite obviously, from a practical point of view it would be quite impossible to prohibit private obliterations, for when a consignment was presented with an obliterated stamp who could tell if the obliteration had been applied by the consignee or applied by another post office, or even the same post office, before the stamp had been sold.

Dr. Wittmann points out the various methods used to obliterate stamps. As I said, "anything went". The only item we may add to his list is "fingerprint", but this is basically an ink obliteration, just a special way of applying the ink.

Since anything was possible we do come across "game playing" by certain individuals in an attempt to create items of interest for the philatelic trade. Fortunately, these are fairly few, and for the most part are confined to distinctive obliterations. The stamps of Glauchau (OPD Chemnitz) are fairly common on philatelically made covers, many with imprinted return address "Glauchau Papierwarenfabrik". Many covers with imprinted address "Heinrich Klein" or "Eric Klein" may be found from the area around Dresden, most from Pappritz. These mostly have very distinctive obliterations, 5 and 6 pointed stars and other fancy marks. These are privately applied obliterations. Per se there is nothing wrong with these, since private obliterations are perfectly legitimate. However, these covers were not mailed to carry messages, but merely prepared for philatelic trade.

In general, I'd suggest that each person who collects these issues to ask himself if he wants to collect items which document the day to day operations of the post office or if he is willing to accept items collector created only for the philatelic trade. If he wants only the former I would say view with suspicion any cover which appears too clean, too nice, too distinctive, and stay away from complete "sets" especially mint, but even used on piece.

II. Geographic limitations on Service

As with method of obliteration, the geographic limitations on service are essentially OPD independent, so should be discussed as a generality.

A. Destination within the Soviet Zone

Service within the Soviet occupied portion of Saxony was freely available. The vast majority of material is confined by destination to the OPD Chemnitz-Dresden-Leipzig area, the same area where the material originated.

Mail to all destinations in the Soviet Zone evidently made it's trip. I have several Postanweisung (postal money transfers) addressed to Berlin or Potsdam which made it to their destination, but were returned because postal transfer of funds from outside the district was not permitted. After the Americans withdrew from Western Saxony and Thuringia mail made it into these areas, but in Thuringia was at least sometimes charged postage due. Illustration 1 shows a cover that was accepted in Olbernhau on 28 May, and held in the post office until 26 July when it was dispatched to Leipzig, which had been under American occupation until 1 July. A receiving stamp shows receipt on 31 July.

B. Destination in the Western Occupied Zones

Any material destined to the American occupied sections of Saxony or Thuringia was either returned or held until the Americans evacuated the area before being forwarded.

Material to the Western Zones of occupation was normally returned.

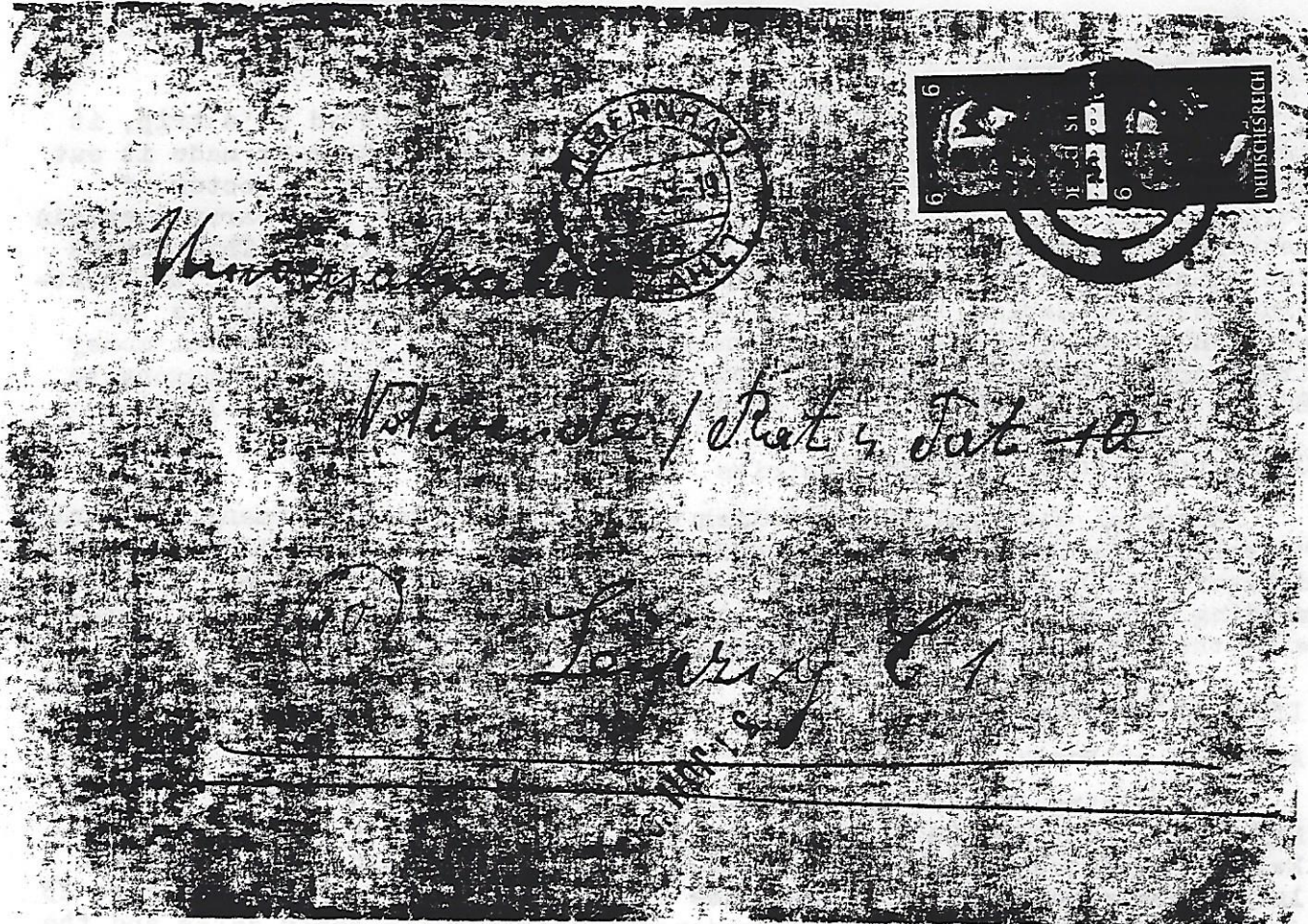


Illustration 1- Cover to Leipzig held for 7 weeks in Olbernhau

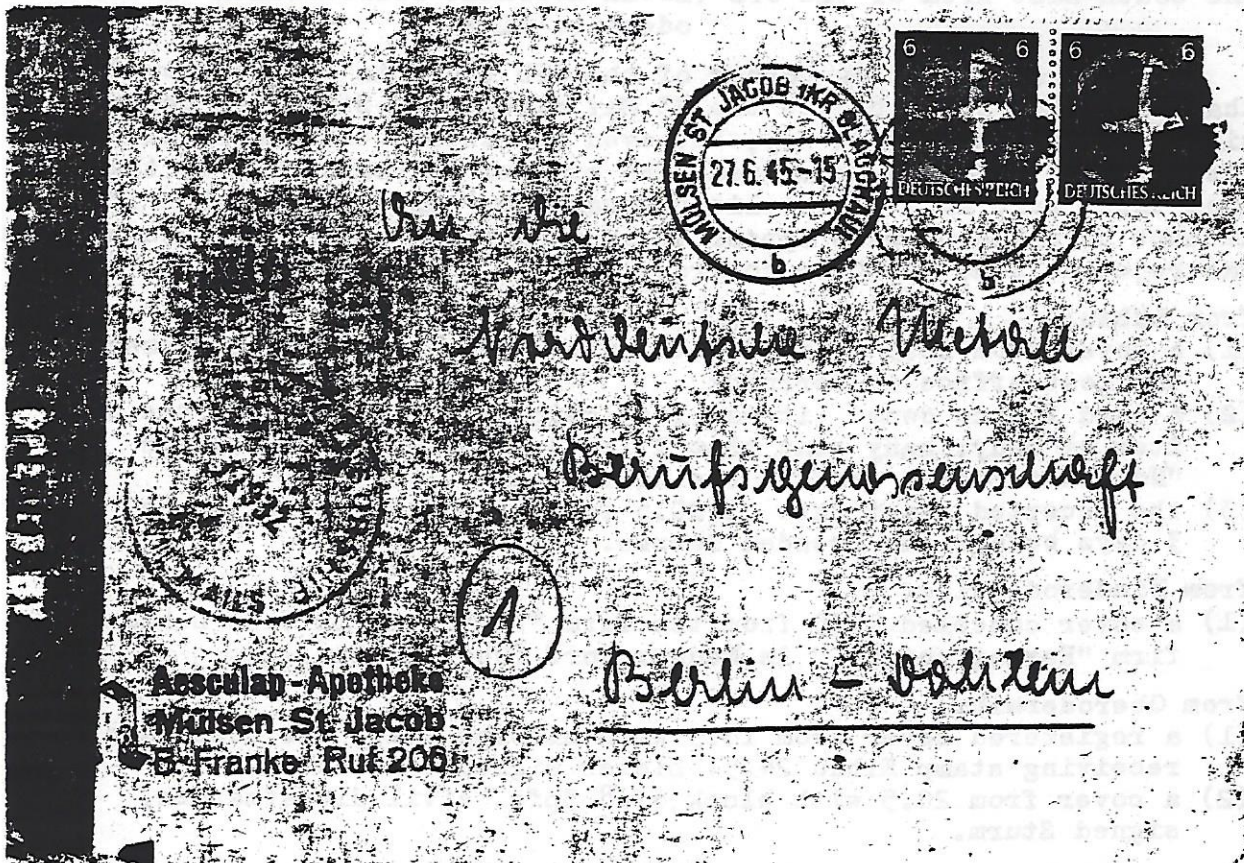


Illustration 2 - Cover to Berlin with Allied Censorship

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I have one piece to Hamburg which appears to have completed it's trip, it is charged postage due and has no returned marking. Perhaps it made it out via the Berlin route. I have several letters to the American sector of Berlin which definitely made it to their destination as they carry American censorship markings. One of these is shown as Illustration 2. This proves the existence of a postal connection from Saxony to Berlin and to the western sector of Berlin, so there is no reason to believe that mail to the western zones of Germany did not make it out via this route. Postal money transfers to Berlin which were returned show that the trip from Saxony to Berlin normally took about one month at this time (July-August, 1945).

C. Destination in Foreign Countries

Material destined to the Polish Administered area of Germany (the only "foreign" destinations I have found) was returned, but evidently not until delivery had been attempted. The material was usually not refused at the sending office, but was returned, often after a period of over one month, with the notation delivery was impossible.

III. OPD Dresden

A. Start of Postal Service

Concerning this we have available the decree of OPD Dresden dated 23 May, 1945, but this is addressed to only 23 post offices of the district. Even here, I think some facts are at variance with the decree, as I will later show a cover from one of these 23 offices which was posted before 23 June. Let's look at philatelic evidence concerning the early dates and the start of service.

1. The South-East Area of the OPD (L8bau-Herrnhut-Oberoderwitz-Niederoderwitz-Eibau)

In the southeastern corner of the OPD there is a lot of evidence that a service began before the 23 May directive. Sturm has never signed a cover before 20 May, but even he accepts that early date as the start of usage in this area. The problem is compounded by the fact that there were many philatelic "shenanigans" in the area, but I'll attempt to build on what appear to me as good covers--even though Sturm has rejected some of these covers.

from L8bau:

- (1) a cover from 18.5 franked with party official stamps addressed to the post office in Herrnhut
- (2) a card I once owned (it was lost going to Werner Bohne, the only item of many, many sent that I lost) from 19.5 with message "Now that postal traffic has again begun....."
- (3) the accepted start date of 20.5 for the "D" overprint issue, still 3 days before the Dresden decree.

from Niederoderwitz:

- (1) a cover canceled 17.5 from the firm "Pektinfabrik Curt Lehmann" to firm "Herzog and Co." in Neugersdorf (Oberlausitz).

from Oberoderwitz:

- (1) a registered cover from 18.5 with missing flap, but does have a receiving stamp Eibau 24.5. Zierer signed this cover.
- (2) a cover from 20.5 with block of 8 3pfg. civil dienstmarken, signed Sturm.

We could also consider the Herrnhut issue, put out on 22 May as having a bearing here. Quite obviously the issue of Herrnhut was not

in the least influenced by the OPD Dresden directive (as Dr. Wittmann states), since the Herrnhut issue appeared the day before the Dresden directive.

So we have an accepted service beginning in this area at least by 20 May, and in my opinion good evidence that it began a few days sooner. The decree of Dresden had no bearing.

2. Other Areas of the OPD

The 23 May decree may explain when service started in the 23 post offices to which it was addressed, yet I have a cover from Dresden-Bad Weisser Hirsch (one of the 23 towns receiving the decree) posted on 22 May. This is shown as Illustration 3. The stamps are obliterated, but the cancel does not tie the stamps to the cover. Evidently the obliteration was intended to invalidate the stamps, and the cancel was applied only as a supplemental mark to show the office of origin.



Illustration 3 - 22 May cover from Dresden-Bad Weisser Hirsch

I have heard reports of similar covers, where the obliteration was used to invalidate the stamps (rather than alter the political symbolism), but I have not seen them and do not know if they were used before or after 23 May, nor the towns they are from. These covers may provide some interesting information on the initial period of services.

3. Conclusions

It appears service began in OPD Dresden almost on a town by town basis. Even the 23 May decree does not completely explain the start of

Firma

F. A. Bernhard AG.

19

Z i t t a u /Sa.

EMIL WOLTER

DRESDEN-A.1

OSTRA-ALLEE 6



Illustration 4 - 22 May cover dispatched as paid, postage due charged on arrival

Kraft

Versicherungs AG



Dresden-A.1

(1a)

Schließfach 5

Nachgebühren

Kurt Rosenlöcher & Co.

Kom.-Ges.

⑩ Dresden A 46

Putzjahnstraße 18

Illustration 5 - 22 May cover dispatched as postage due

service in the 23 offices to which it was addressed. It must be established when each town began service, if it was a result of OPD or Local initiative, and the conditions and limitations on service. The 23 May decree is only one small part of a gigantic puzzle.

B. End of Service (the 19 June decree)

As with the start of service, there is a complexity here, and we are definitely missing some decrees which may help to clarify the situation.

1. Postage Due on Continued Usage

An examination of covers mailed within or into OPD Dresden after 19 June reveals a very interesting fact. Most of these covers show a 100% postage due charge, a very unusual case in Germany where the usual charge is 150% of postage. The details of this was the only "useful and new" piece of information I managed to obtain in all my queries to East Germany. The OPD Dresden told me that from 20 to 28 June the postage due rate on covers franked with Nazi era stamps was set at only 100% of postage. After this, namely on 29 June, 1945, the postage due rate reverted to the normal 150% of postage.

Certainly this must have been promulgated by decree of the OPD. It was my theory that this information was in the same decree of 19 June which terminated usage of the obliterated Hitler stamps. However, now the text of the 19 June decree is at hand and it mentions only "...consignments franked with these former stamps after 20 June are to be handled as not being franked." This is certainly confusing, as it would imply that letters should be handled in the way unfranked letters were normally handled, namely charged 150% postage due. Yet without doubt the word to charge 100% postage due got around, in fact a study of covers shows that the word to charge 100% was evidently passed more effectively than the word to revert to the normal 150%. So certainly we must assume there was at least one more decree issued on 19 June (to pass the word to charge 100% postage due) and possibly another around 26-28 June. If we buy the fact there were two decrees on 19 June, one to prohibit use of Nazi stamps and a second to place into effect a 100% postage due rate on these covers for a period of eight days, then we must accept the theory that these two decisions were arrived at separately. Certainly if they had been arrived at simultaneously they would have been promulgated in the same decree. If we accept the "dual decision" theory then the "prohibit use" decision had to be first. So we must assume that this was the sequence of events: a decision was made to prohibit use of Nazi stamps, the order issued, then, as the initiators of this were reflecting on it, they decided to lessen the financial impact on customers by charging only 100% postage due, so the 100% postage due decision was then issued.

This is indeed a possible sequence of events, but not one I would have expected. To me the "formulate a complete plan and promulgate it in one decree" would be a much more likely event to occur. Given the fact that the "prohibit use" decision was made and the order promulgated, the difference between 100% and 150% postage due hardly seems worth the effort of an additional decision and promulgating this decision in a decree.

A study of the actual postage due rates is rather interesting, and shows that, as normal, things didn't always go as decreed (see Illustrations 4 and 5). On covers posted in OPD Dresden it can be determined if the postage due was applied on the sending or receiving end by the fact that covers dispatched as paid will carry a cancel on the stamps and a postage due marking, while covers dispatched as postage due have the cancel placed adjacent to the stamps, not on them, and a postage due marking.

16.

Following are the postage due rates I find on covers in my possession:

Covers originating in OPD Dresden

<u>town</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>rate</u>
Dresden A20	22.6	100%
Dresden A27	21.6	100% dispatched as paid
Dresden A32	27.6	100%
Dresden A37	23.6	100% dispatched as paid
Dresden A46	22.6	100%
Dresden A46	25.6	100%
Dresden N30	22.6	100% dispatched as paid
Dresden-Blasewitz	22.6	100%
Freiberg 1.	6.8	150%
Freiberg 2	14.7	150%
Freiberg 3	22.6	none
Freital 1	25.6	100%
Heidenau	21.6	none
Löbau	2.7	100% dispatched as paid
Neustadt	22.6	none
Pillnitz	21.6	100%
Sayda über Freiberg	1.7	100%

Covers into OPD Dresden

<u>from</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>date rec'd</u>	<u>rate</u>
Burgstadt	16.7	Dresden		150%
Burgstadt	14.7	Obersaida		100%
Burgstadt	3.8	Pirna		none
Cossen	2.8	Dresden		none
Döbeln	13.7	Dresden		none
Hainichen	25.6	Dresden		100%
Hartmannsdorf	16.7	Dresden		100%
Schmannewitz		Radebeul	13.7	none
Stein	30.7	Dresden		150%
Glauchau	5.7	Dresden A20		none
Glauchau	28.6	Freiberg		100%
Glauchau	18.7	Dresden A20		none
Schwarzenberg	21.6	Obersaida		100%
Chemnitz 4	19.6	Dresden A16		none
Chemnitz 5	7.7	Dresden-Bad Weisser H.		100%
Chemnitz 17	16.6	Dresden A16	23.6	none
Adelsberg	27.7	Dresden-Bad Weisser H.		none
Aue	9.7	Dresden A16	12.7	none
Dorfchemnitz	13.7	Dresden N23		none
Falkenstein	14.7	Siebnitz		150%
Falkenstein	19.7	Dresden A16	23.7	none
Harthau	23.6	Dresden A16	28.6	none
Hermannsdorf	20.6	Dresden A16	25.6	none
Hormersdorf	6.7	Dresden N23		100%
Kändler	11.7	Dresden N	13.7	none
Lengefeld	22.6	Dresden		100%
Lengenfeld	20.7	Dresden A16		none
Lichtenstein	20.7	Dresden A16		none
Mülsen St. Niclas	7.7	Dresden A16	12.7	150% crossed out
Reitzenhain	14.7	Dresden N6		none
Siegmar-Schonau	6.7	Dresden N6		150% crossed out
Thalheim	20.7	Dresden N6		150%

At some time the decision was made to cease charging postage due on Nazi era frankings. Presumably, this applied only to consignments arriving from other OPD's and did not contain any wording implying that these stamps were again valid for use in OPD Dresden. Certainly this must have been promulgated by an OPD decree, and it must have occurred before 20 July, as by that date the OPD Chemnitz was aware that covers from their OPD would no longer be charged postage due. The knowledge of the date and wording of this OPD Dresden decree would be useful.

2. Continued valid usage

Other than the postage due question, there are a couple of towns where problems concerning the end of usage must be resolved. These involve continued usage after the June 19 decree. The first is Lößbau, where usage of the "D" overprint definitely continued at least until 1 July (based on covers Sturm has signed). The other case is Meissen, where usage of the machine overprint "Deutschlands Verderber" continued into August. This latter case was not a communication problem, as special permission had been received from the OPD for the continued use of these stamps, evidently as a propaganda measure.

However, it does seem reasonable to assume that the use of the Meissen issue must have created one further OPD wide decree. Supposedly, the use of the Meissen overprints was discontinued on 23 June as a result of the OPD decree of 19 June. By 5 July special permission had been received to continue use of these. Yet at this time, as best I am aware, an OPD wide order to charge postage due on Nazi era frankings was in effect. Certainly the OPD would not have given permission to use these issues if they would not be recognized as valid outside Meissen as a result of an OPD order. Therefore, by 5 July the OPD must have either issued the general order to cease charging postage due on Nazi frankings, or else have issued a special OPD wide decree exempting the "Deutschlands Verderber" overprint from postage due.

Other than this we have numerous towns where usage was attempted by postal patrons after 19 June (in fact almost to the end of July), but in all cases I have seen the letter was properly treated by the local post office as an unfranked letter.

3. Conclusions

The termination of service seems to have functioned more smoothly than the initiation of service. Exceptions to the OPD decree should be noted and complete explanations made.

C. Services Available

1. Discussion

This is also fairly confusing. We have available the 23 May decree upon which the start of service is based, and it clearly puts no limitation on the services to be offered. In our discussions concerning the Meissen issue Dr. Wittmann has told me that letters up to 500 grams (fee 4Opfg) as well as postal money transfers were permitted in OPD Dresden during the "cork Mark" time (23 May-19 June).

However, if this is true I have seen no evidence of it. I have seen only postcards and ordinary letters to 200 grams (fee 24pfg). I have seen 2 registered letters which appear genuine, but both these are from the south-eastern area of the OPD. The first is the Oberoderwitz cover from 18.5 which I mentioned earlier, and the second is a Lößbau cover dated

18.

1.7.45, which, even though franked with the "D" overprint stamps is technically after the period of "cork marks" in this district. I have seen other registered pieces from L8bau, but all appeared philatelic.

With regard to Postal Money Orders traffic I will say it makes sense that it would have existed. Certainly offices in OPD Dresden were redeeming money transfers which originated in OPD Chemnitz (in fact money transfers received in OPD Dresden have been my best source of knowledge concerning functioning post offices in OPD Dresden). It seems that if OPD Dresden was accepting money transfers, then they would also be initiating them. However, I'll admit I'm not familiar with exactly how the postal system functions, and perhaps there could be a good reason for not initiating money transfers even though they were being received.

I am reluctant to accept the fact that money orders were available without some sort of proof. Even if the large center portions of the postal money transfers retained by the OPD have been destroyed through recycling, there are two pieces of each money order retained by the customers, one by the sender and one by the recipient. Perhaps some of these may still be found.

2. Conclusion

No evidence of postal money transfer (Postanweisung), postal checking account transfer (Zahlkarte), package traffic, or value letters (Wertbrief) has presented itself, and the only known examples of registered letters come from areas of the district where the decrees of the district were not adhered to or loosely interpreted. More research needs to be done to establish exactly what services were available.

D. Other Considerations

None--this inserted to maintain my numbering system

E. Characteristic Obliterations

I do not plan to give a detailed discussion of these issues here, as each issue may require whole articles. I include this primarily to provide a logical place to include this information in the general scheme of things.

1. Bad Gottleuba

No Bedarfsbrief are known to me, in fact very few covers of any type.

2. Herrnhut

I'll try to have Rossbach-Emden's article on this translated. Dr. Whittmann stated that these were privately produced, which I was happy to see. Evidently these stamps would fall in about the same class as the Heinrich and Erich Klein obliterations (yet this Herrnhut issue commands a very, very healthy price).

3. Meissen

Discussion of this town is being carried on and numerous articles have been written on this single town.

4. L8bau

The decrees of the OPD were not strictly adhered to here, but the legitimate postal usage of this issue cannot be disputed.

IV OPD Chemnitz

In general, the situation in OPD Chemnitz seems much more straightforward and adheres to documentation much better than the other cases. Events occurred fairly consistently in the Soviet portion of this OPD. The main confusion factor arises due to the American occupation of the western portion of this OPD, part of which was turned over to the Soviets on 13 June, the remainder on 1 July. The details of this were discussed in my article "The American Occupation of Saxony April-July 1945" which appeared in the Feb. 1970 Locals Study Group Bulletin.

A. Start of Service

Details of what was going on philatelically in the American occupied area seem to be lacking. There is evidence that a service was established using obliterated Hitler Stamps, but little is known. I have a cover mailed in Crimmitschau on 12 May, which went to Altenburg, Thuringia (this cover is pictured in my article "Further Information on the 1945 'Cork Marks' of Saxony" in the GPS 26th Convention Catalog). The 1948 Müller Neudeutschland Catalog lists 5 May as the starting date of Lichtenstein obliterations. I do not know if this is significant, or even if Lichtenstein was American occupied--it was very close to the line of occupation at that time.

To simplify matters we will consider only the portion of the OPD under Soviet control, which is what we are talking about anyway when we refer to "Saxony obliterations". The main important thing to remember is that the whole OPD was not under Soviet control, and the Americans withdrew in 2 phases, returning some area to OPD Control on 13 June and the remainder on 1 July. Philatelically, the transition from American to Soviet control would have been eased if a service was functioning in the American area. What we need to establish is what the postal conditions were in the American area, and exactly which towns were under American control.

In the Soviet area the start of service was based on the 12 May decree. The decree is addressed to "all offices of the district", but obviously could reach only those offices in the Soviet occupied area. This decree was evidently the start service basis for all offices of the district, and could be applied to the towns initially under American control when they were returned to Soviet and OPD control.

This order was evidently implemented as best it could be. It seems reasonable to assume that services had pretty well broken down, evidently physical damage was minimal, but people were not reporting to their day to day jobs because of the chaotic conditions. Obviously the conditions created by foreign occupation were fairly traumatic. Anyway, May covers are rather scarce and are primarily found from large towns. By 1 June, usage in smaller towns is well known, and it seems reasonable to assume that by this date service was available in virtually every town under OPD control.

B. End of Service

Here the problem seems rather uncomplicated. The 8 August decree ordered an end to usage, and usage rapidly ended. In fact, pieces after 8 August are quite uncommon. A few pieces where obliterations were validly used are known until 11 August. What has surprised me is the instantaneous dissemination of decrees, but since the postal and telecommunication functions are combined (in Germany), I presume that postal decrees were disseminated via cable or other telegraphic means, which allowed for receipt almost as soon as the decree was issued.

The only major deviation occurred in the town of Meerane. Here the Soviet town commandant on 5 August issued an order to immediately cease usage of Nazi era stamps. This went so far as to include the "obliteration" of obliterated Nazi stamps, and was implemented by pasting pieces of Postverschlusszettel (postal sealing label) over the obliterated Nazi stamps. Such a cover is illustrated in Michel at the end of the section on the Glauchau Lokalausgaben.

I am aware of no other interesting or questionable facets of the end of usage in this OPD, however a list should be made of towns known to have continued usage after 8 August.

C. Services available

Almost all services seem to have been available in this OPD. To date, I have seen no evidence of a package traffic, but almost all other services

have been found, local and domestic postcards and letters, Registered letters, postal money transfers (Zahlkarte), and postal checking account transfers (Zahlkarte). An example of this latter is shown at left.



Zahlkarte from Glauchau - obverse

<p>Überweisungen zu Konto sowie Nutzung besonderer Blätter—Einzahlungen auf das eigene Konto sind gebührenfrei.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>100</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>250</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>500</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>750</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>1000</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>1000</td><td>50</td></tr> </table>	100	15	250	20	500	25	750	30	1000	40	1000	50	<p>arten Gebühren erhoben: bis 1250 R.M. ... 60 Pf " 1500 " ... 70 " " 1750 " ... 80 " " 2000 " ... 90 " über 2000 (unbeschränkt)... 1 Mark</p>
100	15													
250	20													
500	25													
750	30													
1000	40													
1000	50													

Also lohnt es sich!
 Anmeldung bei Ihrem Postamt

Bitte diesen für postdienstliche Zwecke bestimmten Raum nicht mit Freimarken

Zahlkarte from Glauchau - reverse

Dr. Wittmann mentioned that the only Zahlkarte he has seen were used as Postanweisung, and this is indeed the most common case, but I do have several examples of Zahlkarte used as Zahlkarte. I suspect the reason that these are uncommon is because the top portion of the card, which normally contains the postage stamp is always cut off. I suspect this was done so the receiving post office could save part of the card and the remainder could be returned to the issuing post office. I really don't know the details of post office procedures. Anyway, it is only when more than 1 postage stamp was used to pay the fee that the bottom portion of the center portion of the card contained any postage stamps. Thus it is easy to believe the majority of these pieces were philatelically uninteresting and wound up as trash, even if they were examined by a philatelist.

D. Other Considerations (Decrees of the OPD, etc.)

Because of the end of usage in OPD Dresden, with the resultant problem that covers validly franked in OPD Chemnitz were being charged postage due on their arrival in OPD Dresden, OPD Chemnitz issued the 13 June decree calling for use of a "paid" marking on all covers destined outside the OPD. This order was continued by the 20 June decree.

These are the only decrees I know of which influence the markings we find on material mailed in this OPD.

E. Characteristic Obliterations

1. Glauchau

This town was under American occupation at the time the obliterations were prepared, and they were created for a revised postal rate. Before these could be extensively used the town was returned to OPD (Soviet) control. This makes the situation exceedingly complex, and this single issue will require a major piece of documentation (if the true facts are ever established).

2. Netzschkau

This town will also rate a healthy section of it's own. To be brief, (and maybe stir a little response), let me say that in spite of the fact that this is an issue of only values with a real postal necessity, which would lead one to believe in its "cleanness", that postal useage is remarkably scarce. Mint sets, pairs of the various types, and even complete sheets of both printings are fairly readily available, yet Bedarfsbrief are very scarce.

3. Schwarzenberg

There may be some doubt as to the motives behind the issuance of this set, and there definately was no postal need to include values over 1RM., but there is known definate postal usage of the low values of this set.

V. OPD Leipzig

The situation in OPD Leipzig is rather complex. First, Leipzig was in the area under American control until 1 July, so anything happening in the Soviet occupied section of the OPD was definately without OPD direction. Second, the so-called "Holzhausen" local issue is not a town issue as all other distinctive obliterations, but is an OPD wide issue, prepared in Leipzig. Third, I am not even sure exactly what area comprised the OPD Leipzig. As near as I can tell, in 1944 there was no OPD Halle, all the area of the to-be OPD Halle was part of OPD Leipzig. When this situation changed I do not know. A commorative sheetlet of OPD Halle contains the wording "15 June 1945 - Postdirektion Province Sachsen - from the earlier OPD districts Halle(Saale) and Magdeburg". This certainly seems to say an OPD Halle existed on 15 June, 1945, and it seems verl unlikely that this had been created after the war, so I assume that an OPD Halle had been made while the Nazi's were still in power and existed at the end of the war, and so OPD Leipzig was much smaller than the big OPD Leipzig that existed in May, 1944.

So for the purpose of discussion here, I'll assume that OPD Leipzig was the small northwest portion of Saxony (the portion of Gau Sachsen that remained after OPD Dresden and Chemnitz are removed). This was definately the area of OPD Leipzig at the end of 1945.

A. Start of Service

Service in OPD Leipzig seems to have been confined primarily to the towns adjacent to OPD Chemnitz, the larger towns, and some small towns subordinate to the large towns. The cause of initiation of services is unknown. Presumably the cause, at least before the Americans withdrew from Leipzig, was a local decision at each town, based on the knowledge that this was taking place elsewhere.

I have never seen any material from May, and from early June it is still rather scarce. The date of the start of service, and from where the initiative for starting service came, will have to be established on a town by town basis, since it evidently occurred on a town by town basis.

At some time the OPD made the decision to issue an OPD wide obliterated Hitler issue. The 1972 Michel says June 1945, the 1948 Müller Neu-deutschland says July 1945. This question may be rather significant, as we should establish if this took place while the Americans or Soviets were in control (remember Americans were there until 1 July). Orders went out to subordinate offices to ship supplies of stamps to Leipzig, the stamps were obliterated in Leipzig, and the obliterated stamps returned to subordinate offices with orders to place them on sale.

The correspondence of the OPD concerning this issue would be very interesting to see. There are several questions this will answer. Was a specific date set for sale of the OPD issue? Was tacit or specific permission to use cork obliterations prior to the preparation of the OPD issue given? Were stamps from subordinate offices really called in to be overprinted in Leipzig? If so, there would have been no supply of stamps left in the subordinate offices to use as cork obliterations. I think the documentation concerning this OPD issue may well provide some interesting information concerning the official start of service.

B. End of Service

Evidently all service using obliterated Nazi stamps was terminated by the same order which said do not place the OPD issue on sale. Evidently the OPD issue was prepared and shipped to subordinate offices with orders to place them on sale effective 3 August. However, before 3 August the decision was made to discontinue use of obliterated Nazi stamps, so an order went out saying effective 3 August usage of all obliterations was to cease. This is the story I build up from a piece here, a piece there.

I have never seen a valid usage after 3 August. The very few pieces I have posted after this date were treated as unfranked "postage paid" covers--evidently handed in at the counter and the fee collected in cash and the stamps ignored.

I'm hoping that the documentation of the OPD will clarify this situation.

C. Services Available

As in OPD Chemnitz, it appears a wide variety of services was available. I have seen or own cards and covers, postal money transfers, postal checking account transfers and value letters (Wertbrief). While I've not seen registered covers I have no reason to suspect they do not exist. No evidence of package traffic is known to me.

D. Other Considerations

1. Areas using cork obliterations

I have one fact to report which may be quite significant. I have

23.

covers or Postanweisung from over 37 towns of OPD Leipzig, and every one of them is from east of the Zwickau-Mulde River. This is the area initially occupied by the Soviets, and the area tied into the OPD Chemnitz-OPD Dresden postal service from the time these started. I have not seen a single cover originating in the area under American occupation until 1 July, with the exception of the OPD issue used in Holzhausen on 3 August.

I'm not sure what we'll find in the documentation when and if it comes to light, but I'm sure the above observation must have some significance.

E. Characteristic Obliterations

1. D8beln

Only the 6pfg. value was overprinted. This seems a little strange in that postal money transfers are known from here and values to at least 4Opfg. were being utilized. Hopefully more light can be shed on this.

2. Holzhausen

As stated earlier, this is an OPD issue, not the typical town issue. Hopefully details will be found in the OPD archives.

3. Wurzen

I know of no postal usage of this issue. I also know no details of the preparation or supposed use.

That's about it. I hope this provides a point of departure for some more effort on researching these very interesting, and very legitimately used (a rarity among "Locals") issues.

* * * * *

The following is a continuation of a series that was started in the Specialist. The last of the Specialist articles appeared in the March, 1970 issue and this continues from that point. The translator sends George Blizil the message not to reprint this, as it is not translated quite as cleanly as it would be were it to appear in the Specialist.

The Official and Courier Mail Systems of East Germany
Part IX

by Helmut Weigelt

translated by Richard Zerbe

The End of the Issues of Official Stamps, and Several Variations on the Theme

In the Gesetzblatt (Legal Journal) of the DDR, Part II, No. 20, dated July 6, 1960 the following order appeared:

"Order

for the repeal of the order regulating the issue and use of official stamps of the German Post for the franking of mail.

Dated: June 7, 1960

#1

"The order of July 20, 1954 regulating the issue and use of official stamps of the German Post for the franking of mail (ZBl. S. 349) is

hereby repealed.

#2

"This order becomes effective with its publication.

Berlin, June 7, 1960.

The Minister for Posts and Telecommunications
signed: Burmeister

Therewith the order, which is quoted in full in Part IV, is repealed.
The end of stamps is at hand.

Internal directives to various organizations and agencies of government imply that officials were to be used up by 30 April, 1960, or turned in. Still, we note that for the period which followed, covers franked with officials can be found. This is also true of covers on which the franking is indicated by the use of blue meters (in this connection see Section V.)

Letters or cards franked either with official stamps or blue meters, and which were posted in the period from May 1, to June 7, 1960, should not be disregarded by specialists. However, similar material mailed after June 7, 1960 can be considered to be a curiosity.

The period during which official stamps were used, lasted almost six years. During that time a total of 53 stamps (not including watermark varieties) was issued.

For the most part, collectors treat officials like the proverbial step-child. Like parcel post or postage due stamps, among others, they do not get the same attention from collectors that regular issues do. As can be seen after a little study, however, a specialized collection of "Official Stamps of the DDR", be it ever so small, can be a collection of great interest. These stamps can do another thing too, namely, shed light on conditions in the Soviet Zone of Occupation, the so-called German Democratic Republic.

Still, there are some interesting aspects and facts about these issues which should be considered.

VARIOUS OFFICIAL ISSUES IN MIXED FRANKINGS

The possibility of mixed frankings arose with the issue of the first value of the offset printing, the 12 Pfg. value. This 12 Pfg. value could no longer be used as a single franking after October 1, 1954, because of rate changes. Beginning in October, 1954, one finds this stamp most frequently in combination with the 8 Pfg. offset value (which also could no longer be used as a single franking) to make up the 20 Pfg. rate for a domestic letter.

All the values of the offset series can be found in mixed franking with all the later issues.

In order to spare collectors the task of doing the necessary research and checking, a list of possible mixed frankings is given. In order to avoid any confusion, all numbers given are the Michel catalog numbers.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1) Mi. 1 - 17 | with a) 18-I - 27-I |
| | b) 18-II - 22II |
| | c) 28 |
| | d) 32-I - 33-I |
| | e) 29-II - 32-II |
| | f) 34A - 41A |
| | g) 34B - 37B |

- 2) Mi. 18-I - 27-I with a) 18-II - 22-II
 b) 28
 c) 32-I - 33-I
 d) 29-II - 32-II
 e) 34A - 41A
 f) 34B - 37B
- 3) Mi. 28 with a) 32-I - 33-I
 b) 29-II - 32-II
 c) 34A - 41A
 d) 34B - 37B
- 4) Mi. 32-I - 33-I with a) 29-II - 32-II
 b) 34A - 41A
 c) 34B - 37B
- 5) Mi. 29-II - 32-II with a) 34A - 41A
 b) 34B - 37B
- 6) Mi. 34A - 41A with 34B - 37B

Naturally, some of these mixed frankings are rarer than others. However, establishing the value of these covers is not the purpose of this portion of the discussion.

OTHER MIXED FRANKINGS

1) Mixed frankings between blue meters and officials exist, but are relatively scarce. Actually, there was no real need for such mixed frankings. Organizations which had (and used) meters, had no real need to order and use official stamps.

Still, the author has a very large cover which has a metered franking of 80 Pfg. (which is shown by the numeral 080) and sent by the "VEB Wasserwirtschaft Obere Elbe", Dresden N 6, Georgenstrasse 3. It is dated December 2, 1954. In addition, there is a single copy of Michel number 4, the 10 Pfg. offset value, cancelled December 3, 1954, the day of delivery to the post office, Dresden N 6. Further, it carries Registry label number 00575, Dresden N 6c. In this case, it was not until the letter was turned over to the post office that the 80 Pfg. postal fee, indicated by the blue meter, was found to be insufficient. On the following day, the required 10 Pfg. increment was added in the form of an official stamp. The cover carries no markings to the effect that it had been returned to the sender. Only the backstamp indicates that the letter was delivered on December 4, 1954 in Senftenberg.

This type of franking is unusual, but not illegal.

2) This is not true, however, of mixed frankings which contain officials and regular issues. This type of franking was not admissible. Nevertheless, covers with this type of franking exist. It is always possible that the responsible people either within the organization or within the post office simply missed the irregular franking. However, there are also materials which can only be considered to have been "manufactured".

On April 19, 1958, the author spoke to the "Hallensia" club in Halle on the subject of "Behördenpost" (Government mail). After the presentation, he was shown some "manufactured" items of the boldest type. In addition to official stamps, these covers also carried not only special issues of the DDR, but even several of the so-called blocked values (Sperrwerte). Obviously, some collector had his fingers in the philatelic pie. An honest collector, who is truly interested in his hobby, simply cannot accept or condone this sort of activity. Still, these things happen.

Mixed frankings which contain officials and definitives should always be considered with a certain amount of skepticism. But those which contain officials and special issues or commemoratives, especially the blocked values, can almost always be found to be, at best, shady deals. One should certainly be extremely careful before spending good money for such items.

Mixed frankings with officials and red meters are possible, but none have been found.

Kiloware lots have produced some interesting mixed frankings, including those with blue meters and definitives, such as, for example, a mixed franking of this type with a Quedlinburg cancellation dated October 30, 1956. Kiloware lots have also produced items with high value definitives (e.g. the L.--M Pieck) and low value officials, as well as the reverse, i. e. high value officials and low value definitives. Such items, however, can only be considered as mixed frankings if both types of stamps are devalued, i.e. cancelled by the same cancellation imprint. Normally, the package delivery charge payment of 30 Pfg. was evidenced by affixing and cancelling a definitive or definitives on the back of the package card by the post office making the delivery. However, package cards do exist on which the delivery charge stamps have been affixed on the front of the card, thus giving the appearance of a mixed franking, especially when cancellations are not clearly legible.

Package card cut-outs with officials in the front and definitives on the back, or the reverse, cannot be considered as mixed frankings. One must always remember that, in the case of officials on the back of the card, the receiving organization may have chosen to defray the delivery charge from its stamp supplies rather than from petty cash.

OTHER INVALID FRANKINGS (see also Section IV)

The author has in his possession a cover which has the printed return address: "Photo-Arndt, Lübbenau (Spreewald), Hauptstr. 33/Telefon 320". The cover is addressed to the author, and is franked with a single copy of the 20 Pfg. official - offset printing on safety paper. This is the explanation for the franking.

On August 21, 1958, the author and his family spent a vacation day in the Spreewald area. One of the standard activities in this area is a boat trip, and a standard part of every boat trip is a photograph of the passengers as taken from the shore. After the photographer has completed his work, he uses a bamboo pole to transfer a number of order cards to the boat. In order to have a souvenir of the trip, the author sent the card to the Arndt firm in Lübbenau. In return, he received a letter "Printed Matter", franked with a 20 Pfg. official. At that moment the most important question was not whether the photograph turned out well, but rather what had happened that would make it possible for the Arndt firm to have or use officials. The author took the time to look up the firm. It was a purely private undertaking, run by a woman. I showed the envelope to Mrs. Arndt, and asked my questions.

"You see", she said, and reached under the counter and produced a small box, "I receive uncanceled stamps from many customers. These are intended to cover the cost of mailing the photographs. I put all the stamps in this box, and remove stamps from it as I need them."

Together with Mrs. Arndt, I examined the contents of the box. They included definitives and some special issues, but none of the blocked values, nor were there any more officials. Mrs. Arndt explained to me that she could only have gotten the stamp on my cover from some customer. She

really did not fully appreciate or understand the difference between regular definitives and officials, and saw nothing special about franking with officials. As she put it, "Stamps are stamps"; to her it was far more important that the stamps not be cancelled. Whether or not she simply dropped my cover in the mail box, she could no longer remember, but she did note that during the summer vacation season, it was not unusual to have an employee carry a large number of letters to the post office at one time.

In any case, an unusual situation, one in which the post office was caught napping.

MASS FRANKINGS

Naturally, cover collectors look for mass frankings with officials. Such covers do exist, and are by no means rarities or unusual. For example, there is a registered cover from the State Forest Service Calau, in Altdöbern (R-label 378, cancellation date June 23, 1955) franked with 14 copies of number 18-I. Further: a cover with return receipt of the County Court in Hainichen, cancelled June 30, 1955, and franked with 9 copies of number 19-I; a package card with 5 copies of number 11; another package card with 7 copies of number 15; a third with 5 copies of number 16, 1 copy of number 10, and 2 copies of number 19-II.

The record holder, though, is probably a "Wertbrief" valued at DM 28,100. It was mailed by the dispersment office of the FDGB Sonnenberg, in Steinach. Its franking, DML2-10, was indicated by affixing 2 copies of number 11, 1 copy of number 14, 1 copy of 21-II, 15 copies of number 27, and one copy each of numbers 29, 30, and 32.

One footnote: It's not always a good idea to cut the stamps out of an envelope. One can readily destroy very interesting or unusual covers.

This concludes the discussion of one phase of official postal service of the DDR. It should be noted that the official issues discussed thus far, and the use of them are generally considered under the generic term "Verwaltungspost B" (Administrational mail B). After the officials which belong to this group "B" were withdrawn, official mail was franked with the usual definitives or red meters, just as other mail. This is the end of this particular story.

Still to be considered, however, is the official mail which belongs to the "Verwaltungspost A" category. It is also known as "Zentraler Kurierdienst" (Central Courier Service).

This courier service, and its distinguishing features and differences will be discussed in the following sections.

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Questions and Answers

I have had one question, which the author had reasoned out the answer himself, but I'm going to go ahead and present it.

Question:

" I have some cards that have a postal cancel, but have not been addressed. The cards have some sort of obliteration as part of their denazification. Some have the stamp cut away, others have the stamp blacked out with ink by either machine or handstamp. Is this postal cancel on unaddressed cards a "stamp" of validity to show that postage has been prepaid?

28.

If so, I presume postally used cards would have two cancels, yet I have at least one card that has the stamp impression blacked out, is postally used, but has only one postal cancel. I can only presume the procedures varied from place to place."

Answer:

The assumptions that conditions varied and the "second" cancel (actually the first one applied) was a "verification stamp" are correct. This verification procedure was used only in the British Zone, and as far as I know, only in the early time after the collapse. There is a paragraph on this in Herb Schulz's article "Reconstruction of The Post in Germany, 1945-46" in the November 1950 Specialist, and I know more detailed discussion somewhere, but I can't find it.

Usually, cards with blackout by machine in the Western zones carry the inscription "postage paid", but this is not always the case. These type cards were prepared in the British, American and French Zones. I presume the Michel or Higgens and Gage postal stationery catalogs say something about this.

If anyone wishes to write a little article on this I'd be glad to print it.

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Messages (continued from page 1)

is a field I was almost unaware of, but it seems to be interesting. Sure hope more people will write up something.

As usual, I must apologize for a lack of bulletins for a while. It was receiving the material from Dick Zerbe and Sterling Jensen almost simultaneously in late August that provided impetus to go ahead and get something done. So keep the material coming in, even if it's no more than something for our Question/Answer section. I hope to have another bulletin out by the middle of November.

Next, our new members. I note that one can translate Danish. Hope Sterling was made aware of this. I had noted some articles listed in the Literatur Nachrichten on Danish Fieldpost in Germany in Danish philatelic magazines. Hope we can work something out on this.

H. R. Ingemansen, 19924 Mokena St., Mokena, Ill. 60448

Interested in about everything but FDC and flyspeck varieties

David F. Menari, 21 Ridgewood Ave., Wheeling, W. Va., 26003

Interested mainly in AMG's and "Gebuhr bezahlt"

R.G. Ramsey, 70 Cambridge Ave. Apt. 1923, Toronto, Canada, M4K2L5

Joined as point of contact for the Toronto Chapter

Member Mike Amenta, 19 Dock Lane, Port Washington, N.Y., 11050 has volunteered to be point of contact for a "Kaleidoscope" or small tid-bit column. If anyone has anything they deem appropriate for such a column (which could include announcements, awards won, shows, etc.) please contact him.

Guess that's the major things and I'm running out of space and don't want to do another whole page.