

GERMANY POST-WAR LOCALS STUDY GROUP BULLETIN

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This bulletin is being done with considerable enthusiasm. It looks as if we have a real good group. Even though only 6 people replied to our ad in the Specialist over 50 bulletins were sent out. To date 28 response forms have been returned. I know there are a lot of you out there who are interested who have not returned this form. I'm enclosing another response form with this bulletin. Please return this if you have not already done so, as before long this will constitute our mailing list. This bulletin is going to everyone, however it is definitely the last if no expression of interest has been received. A list of the respondents so far, as well as a general idea of their interests, is included.

We seem to have a pretty well spread out group, someone is interested in every aspect of our period. Since most of the people seem to have done some study in the field we should not have difficulty in obtaining contributions of material (this does not mean you can sluff off figuring someone else will write the material). Jack Strawbridge has agreed to write something on AMG's (quite a few of our members seem interested in this field). Ben Beede has sent 20 Xeroxed pages from the 12th Army Group after action report pertaining to the American censorship establishments in Germany which should be some interesting background material for AMG and censorship collectors. Myron Hill sent some articles that are out for translating, so a few bulletins from now some of these may show up. Helmut Stuenkel has written he is now in the process of moving, but as soon as he is settled will make some contributions. If the rest of you can come up with some articles (originals or translations with permission to reprint these), questions (or even better answers) or contributions to the bourse we will really be in business.

As I said last time I'm open to suggestions. Note the names at the top of this page. This was a suggestion to facilitate your writing us. Please forward all mail pertaining to the bulletin, questions, etc. to either Myron or myself.

How about contributions of forgeries? Frank Roehl talked Marie Hesse out of a few forgeries of Lobau and Fredersdorf (forged overprints) which are donated to the group--thanks to both these people. If nobody has any serious objections I'm planning on keeping one copy of each different forgery in a "club library" and the rest will be given to those interested (this is still in the air, as we have to find someone who can tell the various forgeries and would be willing to keep the "library"). Anyway, I'm hoping for more contributions so we can make it worthwhile for you to write in to get free copies. Hopefully more on this project next time.



Note we have a few more questions. How about some responses to these? If you know any answers don't sit back figuring someone else will reply. Especially pertinent to our studies is Q3 in this bulletin. It sounds kind of basic, but is really a darn good question (as are many "basic" questions).

O.K. next thing. How about a good turnout for NOJEX? I know a number of us will be there. This seems like a real good chance for us to get together and decide what we'd like to do as a group. I'm hoping we can have a (or even more than one) good meeting--so if you are going to be there please drop me a line so we can plan on how many will show up. If you're not planning on going (especially if you live fairly close as a number of our people do) please make an effort to do so--it should be worthwhile.

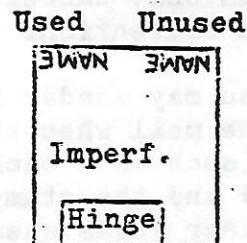
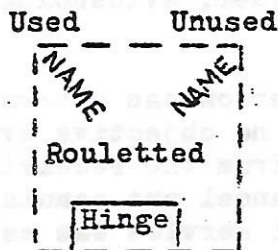
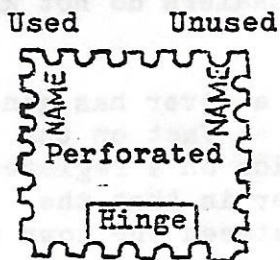
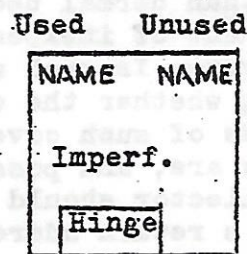
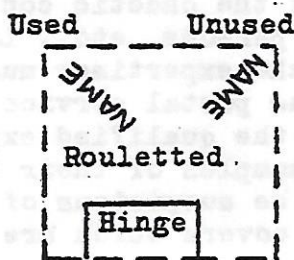
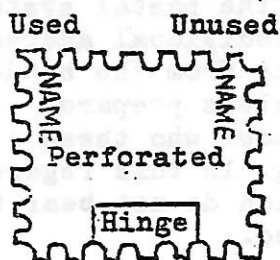
I was told by one of our members to mention that quite a good map showing locals towns is available through GPS. I assume it is in set #2 which is available from Harry Smith, 1730 Forrest Ave, Baltimore Md. 21234 for \$1.50. I have found maps extremely useful in study (as have most of the people I know). If you are seriously interested in postal history and do not already have a map library I would suggest this as a starting point. From here it is only a question of how detailed you want to get. The most detailed maps I have found are the Army map service 1:25,000 scale maps of Germany--which incidentally have an index which enables you to find darn near every brook, stream, geographic landmark, and cluster of 3 or more houses. The only trouble is I do not believe these are for sale, at least the maps of East Germany. Of course if they were it takes hundreds of sheets to cover all Germany which few of us could afford anyway. I have gotten some real satisfactory 1:300,000 scale maps of East Germany (5 sheets for the country) from Richard Schwarz K.G., 6 Frankfurt am Main 1, Eckenheimer Landstrasse 36, West Germany. The people at the Library of Congress also tell me that Reise und Verkehrsverlag, Postfach 730, Gutenbergergstrasse 21, Stuttgart may be worth a try. If any of you try this establishment let me know what you come up with. It may be worth a further mention here.

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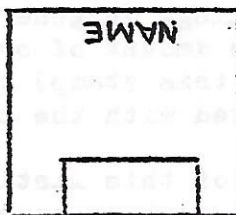
#### ON EXPERTISING MARKS by Myron G. Hill

Besides knowing the expertiser, the collector should be familiar with the proper placement of the expertiser's signature. The following drawings show the back of the stamp which has been "flipped up" from its hinge, and "NAME" is printed where the expertiser will stamp his name. Unless the name or signature is properly placed it is not a true expertising mark. The signature is on the left for used stamps, and on the right for unused stamps when the stamp is placed in the position shown in the pictures. You must also note that the direction of the letters of the name depends on whether or not the stamp has been overprinted.



No OverprintStamp Overprinted

Proofs and essays are signed in the middle of the bottom edge of the stamp:



This also includes such items as Lütjenburg No. 1 without the postal clerk's signature on the front of the stamp.

Stamps which were prepared for use but never issued, e.g. Ravensbur and Saulgau, are signed in the same manner as mint stamps that were issued.

When a cancellation is extremely rare some expertisers sign in the middle of the cancellation. When there has been a printing error on the stamp, or the stamp is a rare variety, a double signature is used. If a stamp is on a piece, it is signed on the back just as if it were off the paper. The so-called classic issues are sometimes signed more toward the center of the stamp to indicate some imperfection in the stamp. However, this is not usually done with locals; if a local stamp is damaged, it is not signed.

Covers are signed to the right of the cancel if they did not go thru the mail. If it saw postal service, it is signed in the lower right hand corner. (Most expertisers sign these horizontally, Dr. Dub vertically. I don't know if there is a convention-ed.) The position of these marks is especially important because Bedarfsbrief command a premium. I have seen covers illustrated in auction catalogs and described as Bedarfsbriefe, where the expertising mark shows that the



cover is only canceled to order, evidencing that some dealers do not know of this convention.

You may wonder how a person can determine whether a cover has gone thru the mail when there is no objective evidence of that fact on the cover (such as a backstamp from the receiving post office on a registered letter) and the stamp and cancel are genuine. The answer is that the expertiser knows when postal service was established between the town of the sender and the addressee. Obviously, covers dated before that time cannot have gone thru the mail. Some persons franked covers and had a postal clerk cancel and return them. This occurred perhaps more easily and often than normal because of the chaotic conditions of the postal system, employment of inexperienced persons, etc.. Later that individual addressed the covers. In such a case the expertiser must determine from the handwriting whether the cover saw postal service. A few dealers prepared hundreds of such covers and the qualified expertiser knows who these persons are, and possesses samples of their handwriting. In this regard the collector should always be suspicious of covers which do not bear the sender's return address, or covers which are overfranked.

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Since almost all of us in the group are interested in postal history a listing of postal rates may be of value to some of us. This knowledge is almost indispensable when collecting covers, for the surest sign of a philatelic cover is overfranking. In general, if the denomination of the lowest stamp is less than the amount of overfranking (i.e. the letter could have travelled without this stamp) then there was some kind of philatelic influence associated with the cover.

Myron Hill sent me part of this listing over a year ago, and more recently Jack Strawbridge has sent me some information on this. I have made a few additions and noted a couple places where I am not sure of the facts. If anything here is wrong I assume I will be hearing about it and can make corrections in a future issue.

The following rates were good in the American, British, Russian (as far as I know), and French (as far as I can tell by my few covers and by looking at quantities printed) Zones of occupation.

"On december 1, 1933 new postal rates were put into effect. These rates remained in effect during the early days of the occupation of Germany and were not changed until march 1, 1946, at which time most were doubled with a few going even higher"

POSTAL SERVICE	Pre-March 1946	Post-March 1946
Postcards		
local	5	10
out of town	6	12
foreign <u>1/</u>	15	45
Local letters		
to 20gr.	8	16
20-250gr.	16	32
250-500gr.	20	40
500-1000gr.	30	60

Out of town letters		
to 20gr.	12	24
20-250gr.	24	48
250-500gr.	40	80
500-1000gr.	60	120
Foreign letter <sup>1/</sup>		
to 20gr.	25	75 <sup>2/</sup>
each additional 20gr.	30	60
Printed matter		
postcards	3	6
to 20gr.	3	6
20-50gr.	4	8
50-100gr.	8	16
100-250gr.	15	30
250-500gr.	20	40
foreign, each 50gr. <sup>1/</sup>	5	10
Registration		
domestic <sup>1/ 3/</sup>	30	60
foreign <sup>1/ 3/</sup>	40	80
return receipt	30	60
Special delivery		
within a town	40	80
outside a town	80	160

Postage due: postage + 50% penalty

- <sup>1/</sup> Foreign postal service was not begun until sometime late in 1946. It did not coincide with the March 1, 1946 date.
- <sup>2/</sup> This rate was dropped to 50pfg. sometime in September 1947. The covers I have been informed of indicate between the 13th and 22nd.
- <sup>3/</sup> Anyone have any proof? Perhaps this should be the same as domestic.

So that's it for the rates which should cover 99% of all covers you come across. In a future issue we'll discuss the special or "unnormal" rates which occurred in a number of areas and towns (such as Glauchau).

Perhaps someone can come up with information on the date of establishment of postal services in the various zones. Any volunteers? This would also be useful information in helping to identify philatelic covers. In some cases a favour cancel would be obtained on an unaddressee cover, then later the cover addressed to appear to be a Bedarfsbrief. Sometimes the addresser would goof and address it to a town with which postal communication had not yet been established. Incidentally Ben Beede has an excellent table of this sort for the city of Berlin. Check the Dec. 1962 Specialist, p.324 for this if you are interested.



## Questions/Answers

- Q2. Anybody have any information on the Herbek D.P. camp overprints on AMG stamps?
- Q3. How can a "philatelic" cover be identified?
- A3. See Hill's article and other assorted comments in this issue.
- Q4. Does Hallensia classification group have a significant effect on the percentage of catalog value usually paid for an item?
- A4. (I'll give my personal opinion and will be glad to print any different ones I receive) The only absolute that Michel can use in pricing is scarcity (mainly number issued). Looking at catalog values I notice they are different for different stamps issued in the same quantities. Therefore I assume that Michel prices also reflect demand. As far as Hallensia rating influences demand this is reflected in the catalog value. Therefore the percentage you should expect to pay is independent of Hallensia rating.

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## Bourse

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 WANTED: Following AMG stamps, Brunswick (German) printing. Must be mint, light hinge accepted, well centered with all perfs. Numbers according to Michel Special Cat 1967/8, p.331. Willing to pay a fair price.

Perf. 11x11½: 8pf  
 Perf. 11½x11: 5pf, 8pf, 10pf, 40pf  
 Perf. 11½x11½: 10pf, 16pf, 30pf, 40pf, 60pf, 80pf, 1RM

Contact John T. Strawbridge  
 1811 Forest Down Drive  
 Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46805  
 with items available and price.

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 \* WANTED: Covers with handwritten  
 \* Gebuhr bezahlt markings.

\*  
 \* Richard H. Imus  
 \* P.O.Box 2018  
 \* Falls Church, Va. 22042  
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 \* WANTED: Covers from Frankenstein  
 \*  
 \* Gregory A. Rehme  
 \* 5444 Delor St.  
 \* St. Louis, Mo. 63109  
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 WANTED: Fred Ostberg, 118-11 84 Avenue, Kew Gardens, N.Y. 11415 writes he is always in the market for all kinds of local stamps and covers, especially Provisional Labels.  
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