



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

POST WORLD WAR II

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Volume 20, Number 1

(Jan-) February, 1988

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Perhaps we can start using this bulletin as a newsletter more so than in the past. At least right now I have a lot of messages to pass on.

TWO LEAN YEARS

I think any of you who have been with us from the beginning (and there are some "old-timers"--Tony Brooks, Harry Meier, Inge Fisher, Myron Fox, Myron Hill--others I missed will have to forgive me) know I blow hot and cold. I realize this tends to discourage participation, and I'm sorry. I don't know what to do about it (other than find an editor who blows consistently hot, which seems an impossibility). 1986 and 1987 were cold years for me (and no bulletins at all for you). About all I did was throw "philatelic mail" in a stack, which my wife periodically "cleaned up", so now i'm in the process of trying to find things as I get around to it (Werner, I did come across your change of address form just a couple of days ago). This is a slow process because I've loaded myself down with "current projects" (as several of you know from my phone calls and letters). This bulletin has 3 items salvaged from the historical pile.

2.

The point is: I'm trying not to forget you, I may eventually find all I received over the past two years. I remember someone sent some interesting questions about Hitler obliterations. Anyway, if you figure you're due a response from me you have 2 choices: (1) hang tough and see if I eventually respond, or (2) resubmit the request. Also, if you're willing to talk on the phone please send your phone number. I hate to write letters (I type or write very slowly); I'd much rather phone (of course my wife lets me know when my phone bill starts getting too big--oh well, that's my problem). A phone number (particularly a daytime phone number) is much more apt to get a reasonable response--I do remember, whoever had the obliterations question, I had taken it to the point where I found you had an unlisted number).

After shipping the bulletin 2 months ago 6 bulletins came back; 4 had stickers for expired forwards. I mailed these off again and since they didn't come back I assume you got them. Since then I've found at least 2 change of address forms dated '86. This bulletin is going to the address change. Point is: if you figure you're missing any bulletins you should have, let me know. Remember, bulletins went from Dec 1985 (I think, I'm at work and don't have one) to one dated Dec 87 mailed 2 months ago in Jan 88.

DUES TIME

I need to know who is out there and still interested in the group. I have also run a quick balance on the finances and find bad news (I was wondering how we did 83, 84, and 85 on only \$6--there were some big issues during those years too if you remember). Anyway, here is the story:

| Income | | Expenses | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Dues | \$ 561.00 | Postage | \$ 739.61 |
| Sale of back issues... | \$ 76.00 | Envelopes..... | \$ 49.56 |
| | <u>\$ 637.00</u> | Printer fee (gifts)..... | \$ 96.00 |
| | | | <u>\$ 885.17</u> |

Net loss: \$ 248.17

To offset this loss we had a gain of a hair over \$100.- going into 1983, but that still leaves us over \$140.- short.

Dues for 1988 (thru however long the money lasts) will be \$7.00 !! If you

want to continue with the group, please send this amount to me (Slawson).

A number of you are prepaid. If so, I'll note it here: _____

(If not noted here and you figure you're prepaid, let me know).
Even if you are prepaid, I'd appreciate a card to let me know you're alive, I have your proper address, and you are still interested (if you're no longer interested you can have a cash refund).

Point is: let me know if you're out there and interested, and SEND MONEY if you need to--I'm hoping that this will be a really good year, or at least the start of a good period. We are trying to formulate some good projects.

NOJEX 1988

I presume most of you know that the 1988 GPS Convention is going to be in the spring at NOJEX. Dates are May 28-30, a Saturday-Sunday-Monday show (Memorial Day or some holiday). We have scheduled a Study Group meeting for Sunday (remember this is the second show day, like Saturday for most shows) May, 29--probably at 2PM. I sure hope a lot of you can make it.

A number of new members have checked "Cork obliterations" as one of their interests. I'll be there and I'm always willing to talk about this subject, so show up!

Our meeting will have:

- (1) a slide show on something (subject not yet finalized)
- (2) a discussion of the "project" we are envisioning and which is actively in progress--there really is going to be some publications of interest to us going to result.
- (3) anything else participants want to raise

As an added inducement for you to show up at NOJEX. Copies of the May, 1944 ORTSVERZEICHNIS I will be available. This is the directory of all post offices in Germany, 500 or more pages worth (of course only 250 pages double-sided). This is an invaluable tool to anyone interested in covers and postmarks. It tells you the name of every postal facility, it's rank, the name of it's superior office, the name of the railway line which services it, what rural motor post lines service it, whether or not it lies on a long distance motor post line and other junk that even I have not figured out. The introduction gives some good information about the german postal system--an english translation of this will be included.

As I said, this is an invaluable tool (as some of you know who borrowed my copy to Xerox). This invaluable tool will be available for only \$20.- (which we are using as a contribution to the group). I hope I'm not overselling this darn thing, because John Barbour is going to make the copies, and I'm afraid if we subscribe too many I'll get roped into helping him and this really is going to be a heck of a job. Anyway, If you will be there and definately want a copy, drop John Barbour a postcard. Copies will be available for anyone who has requested one. After that it will be we'll sell what copies we have left on a first-come, first-served basis.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This item will probably become a regular bulletin feature. The "project" we have in mind requires an interface with many people--or at least a search to see who knows certain information needed for the project. I'm hoping the bulletin will serve as the vehicle for this interface.

My problem for today: The European Advisory Commission was charged with developing documents for joint (US/UK/USSR) signature in which capacity they defined the Occupation Zones. The first protocol was 12 Sept, 1944; amended 14 Nov, 1944 (to fix US/UK Zones); amended again 26 July, 1945 (to define the French Zone). However, the boundaries implemented (and known at least as

early as August, 1945) do not agree with the EAC protocol! There were modifications along the Soviet/British boundary. Half of Landkreis Blankenburg (of Land Braunschweig--which EAC says is British) went into the Soviet Zone. Likewise a strip of Landkreis Luneburg (Land Hannover-British) on the eastern side of the Elbe went to the Soviets. There were other minor modifications. Can anybody tell me (or give me sources to read) why the British/Soviet boundary does not conform to the EAC Protocol; who made the changes; and when???? Perhaps someone will say "legally the protocol was right, because the Landkreis and Land/Province boundaries were modified to reflect the changed conditions"--but then my problem merely becomes who changed these boundaries and when? Can anybody help me with this? HELP, HELP..... (Slawson).

B L A N K A R E A

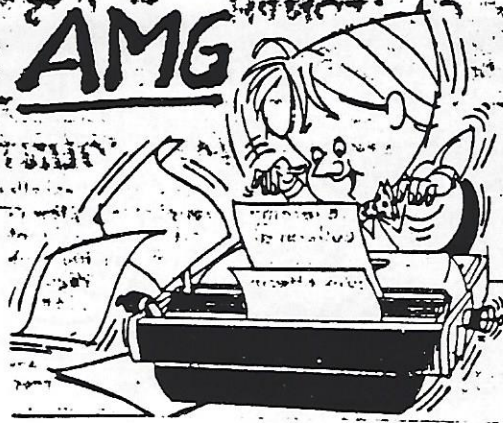
This is an unused area because the editor is running out of things to say. What should be done about this?

At one time we used to have a "Mambers Mart"--if anyone sends me material we could reinstitute this ("Wanted to Buy, Sell, Trade,...").

Also can use any other material...articles, short stories, "what is it", "hey, this is interesting or unusual",...page or half-page fillers. What is your problem, what do you want in here. Maybe we can start using this as a two-way communication rather than one-way.

Hopefully ("I hope that", not "full of hope") one more bulletin before NOJEX.

Tell the AMG Editor



by: Joe Schirmer

I have carefully checked the past 3 issues of the famous German philatelic magazine-DZB--approximately 600 pages; and the ad shown herein, is the only one I could find that offered A.M.G. stamps for sale.

This fact not only leaves me puzzled and for the time being, at a loss for answers; but it also kind of makes me wonder one important thing--just who does sell(dealers) A.M.G. stamps in Germany. This may sound unusual to one, but here is evidence that few dealers are offering A.M.G. issues.

Of course I believe that I know most of the dealers in the States who handle A.M.G. and also in England. But Germany leaves me practically blank.

Who can help clarify this???

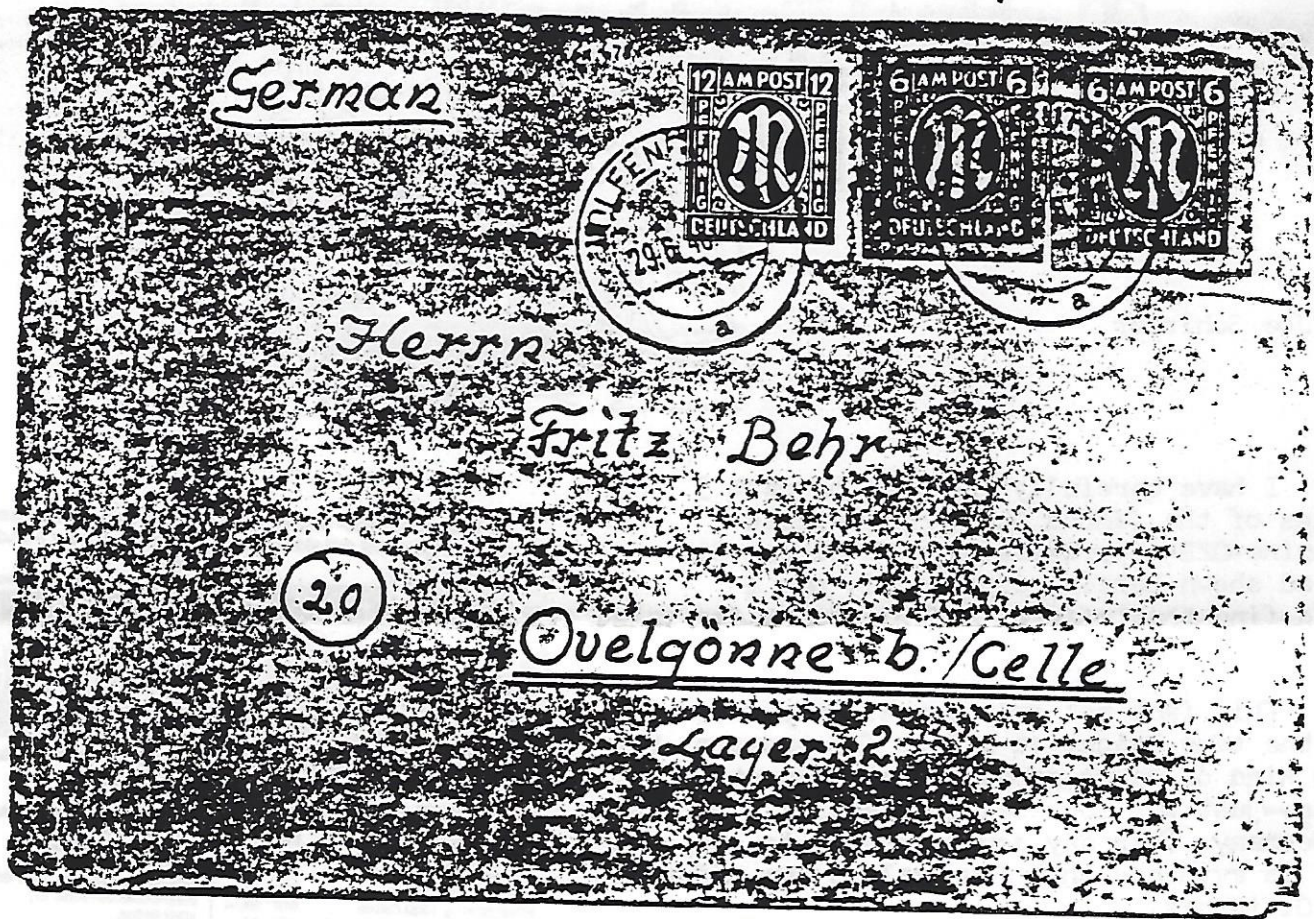
Those of you who are serious about your A.M.G. collections, no doubt may have a copy of the Hugh Vallancey book "The A.M.G. (Allied Military Government) Stamps of Germany" which was published by Herman Herst, Jr. back in 1958. But did you know that the same Vallancey along with Tom Todd former publisher of the British STAMP Magazine, submitted to the British Post Office in 1940 their essays, with suggestions outlining what had happened at the time with the World War 1 "War Tax" stamps. These gentlemen overprinted the King George VI issue "War Tax" for usage again, but British officials ignored them entirely. Nevertheless, interest being what it is in issues of this type, forgeries did appear on the scene. What this all proves is just one thing...many A.M.G. collectors do have other interest, regardless of what they may be. Incidentally, Vallancey's book on the A.M.G. issue left much to be desired in many areas, it nevertheless was the only book in English at the time. A bit later the California dealer, Joe Bush along with Harry Cass in 1958 also published their first A.M.G. catalog-Handbook adding the other A.M.G. areas of Austria; France, Italy and Trieste Zone "A". Of course the Bush Handbook is quite a bit outdated and needs revision.

Seltene Bündel- und Bogenware für den Spezialesammler
unausgeücht mit vielen Besonderheiten, eine Fundgrube,
gut sortiert:



| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--|----------|
| Bayer, 1000 Stück | DM 100,- | Bund, Deutschland, 10 000 Stück | DM 60,- |
| Alt Württemberg, 500 Stück | DM 20,- | Bund Mitter Sondermarken, 1000 Stück, vor ca. 1971 | DM 40,- |
| Deutsches Reich, 1880-1880 | DM 100,- | West-Berlin, 1000 Stück | DM 25,- |
| Adler und Ziffern, 1000 Stück | DM 100,- | Moskauer, 1000 Stück | DM 250,- |
| Sturmta, 1000 Stück | DM 100,- | S22-Straßenbahn, 1000 Stück | DM 50,- |
| Infanterie, 2000 Stück | DM 90,- | S22-Straßenbahn, 1000 Stück | DM 50,- |
| Infanterie, 1000 Stück | DM 90,- | 1000 Stück | DM 75,- |
| Hilfsarmee, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |
| Hilfsarmee, 1000 Stück | DM 50,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 60,- |
| Hilfsarmee G., 1000 Stück | DM 60,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 70,- |
| Handwerkermarken | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- |
| Kontrollpost, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- |
| Kontrollpost, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- |
| Kontrollpost, nur Besondere | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- |
| 1000 Stück | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- |
| Postmarken | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- |
| 1000 Stück | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- |
| Postmarken | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- |
| 1000 Stück | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- |
| AM Post, 1000 Stück | DM 47,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |
| Währungs 48/48, 2500 Stück | DM 100,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |
| 25 Sorten | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |
| Währungs Berlin, 1000 Stück | DM 20,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |
| Währungs Berlin, 10 000 Stück | DM 100,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |
| Währungs, Postführerhandüberdruck | DM 100,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |
| 1000 Stück | DM 100,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |
| 1000 Stück | DM 100,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |
| 1000 Stk. 123-38 (M. 8000,-) | DM 100,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |
| Posthorn Band, 1000 Stück | DM 25,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |
| Musik-Markten, 1000 Stück | DM 25,- | Sonderpost, 1000 Stück | DM 200,- |

Ausstellungen leider nicht möglich, da sich der Inhalt ständig ändert. Lieferung solange der knappe Vorrat reicht. Mindestauftrag 50,- DM.
Lassen gratis. Erfüllungsort Berlin-Cherittenburg. Lieferung nur per Nachnahme oder Postcheck.
Postcheck Berlin-West 21 1545-100. Philatel. Porto stets extra.
SEIT 28 JAHREN IHR ZUVERLÄSSIGER PARTNER
BRIEFMARKENHAUS ERICH FÖRTSCH Mitglied des APHV
KURFÜRSTENDAMME 288 (2. Stock), 1000 BERLIN 15, Telefon (030) 8221257
Öffnungszeiten: Montag bis Freitag 11 bis 17 Uhr

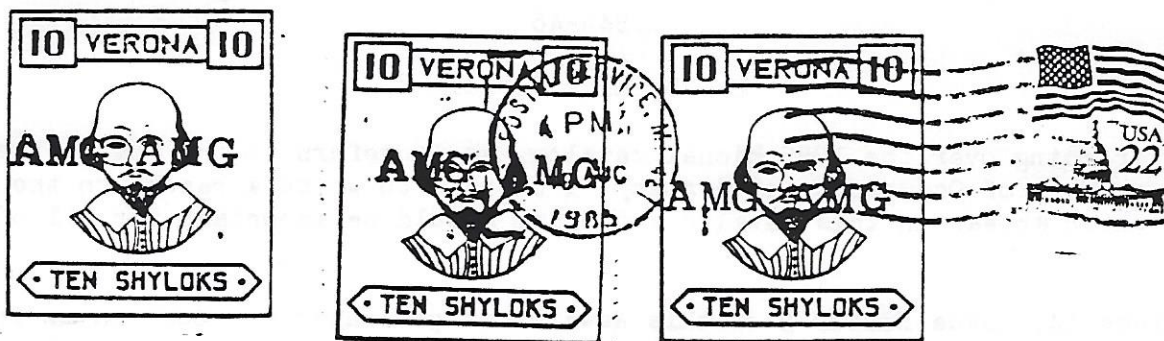


I recently obtained the above cover in a small auction lot. Just a cover we say...but take a closer look at the two 6 pfennig stamps. They have been cut from a postal card and glued to the envelope.

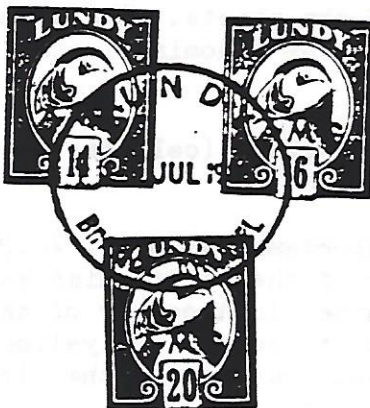
While the German postal officials frowned upon such doings, they never did officially publish any orders to the contrary (as far as I can determine). Due to the shortages of war, many postmaster "looked the other way" with an item such as this. In areas where there may have been a shortage of stamps, people and postal clerks were quick to use this method.

It is interesting pieces of postal history, such as this, that helps to make the collecting of A.M.G. most interesting. If any of you out there, have similar covers, please send me a zerox copy—thanks.

Recently two friends of mine sent me some "newly" overprinted A.M.G. stamps. Of course they came from the Lundy Island and as one knows, they are of the "rare" provisional issue. In fact, each set, had different styles of printing. Being the A.M.G. nut that I am, I started to track down these A.M.G. overprints, but the two "friends" finally admitted they were the printers and enjoyed the fun they had by causing me to go off madly trying to obtain data, other copies, etc. I say to my two "pals" CAVEAT EMPTOR (let the printer beware). I do not forget nor do I get angry—I just get even—ah, ah ha. The 2 "rare" items are shown for your enjoyment and study. Incidentally, at press time, a third item was received—the 10 shyllocks (??) from Verona (wherever that is or whatever it is)—so we decided to show it instead of both Lundy Island items.



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In a recent column, I stated that the Michel Specialized Germany Catalog no longer lists the A.M.G. booklet panes (markenheftchen). Well when Michel made their recent good revision to the entire catalog, they once again listed these scarce booklet panes. I highly recommend that you all purchase a copy of the new Michel 1985 German Specialized Catalog for it is great new edition—and for we of the A.M.G. fraternity, they now have 11 pages for the A.M.G. against 4 pages of previous issues. I like to think, that along with a few others who have been "complaining" to the Michel Catalog Editors for years, we are finally getting them to listen and take some actions in listing the majority of the well known varieties. I have some other ideas I will be submitting to Michel shortly. It is still the best catalog for A.M.G. that one can use.

The Small Shields of the French Zone of Germany
1945-46

by Abelardo Claudio

After going over the 1985 Michel catalog, as it refers to the Small Shields of the French Zone of Occupation of Germany, I decided to write a report on the various changes which appear in this catalog and which should be important for all of us to note.

Volume 14, Issue Number 5 of this Newsletter presented a report on my information found on these shields concerning varieties of paper and color varieties discovered by various researchers. I must mention that this new catalog has simplified the names of the paper varieties into W, X, Y, Z and ZZ. Previously the paper varieties were reported as W, X, xK, yC, yF, yG, Z and zL. However, even though the catalog has apparently simplified the names of the papers, previous information submitted on the numerous paper varieties is still the same for the sake of identifying the-more-difficult-to-find paper varieties.

It is interesting to note that the values of the-more-difficult-to-find-paper varieties and color varieties have increased considerably, according to this catalog, and apparently, the collecting of these is on the upward swing.

The catalog shows for the first time prices on gutter pairs and corner stamps with the date of the printing of the sheets. The color variety column which is shown in fine print, besides the listing by denomination and color, shows new changes, which are as follows:

1 pfg W paper white-gray, may-green (celadon) is now described as white-gray, light yellowish-green (various tones).

Note: During recent correspondence with Dr. Wolf-Dietrich Meisel concerning this stamp, he furnished me part of the stamp which shows that portions of the yellow color was missing from the upper left corner of the stamp. The stamp must be placed against the light in order to detect the yellow color missing from the stamp. Few copies of this stamp have been found since the light yellowish-green color and the missing yellow color are difficult to find.

3 pfg W paper lilac (flieder), glossy black, orange is now described as rose-lilac, glossy black, orange-yellow. It is a beautiful stamp which I was able to obtain from Dr. Meisel.

12 pfg Z paper brown-red, glossy black, red-orange is now described as brown-red, glossy black, dark yellow-orange.

15 pfg Z paper glossy black, blue, brown-red is now described as glossy black, violet-ultramarine, brown-red.

Two new colors are described in this catalog: 15 pfg W paper, glossy black, violet-ultramarine, brownish-red and 15 pfg X paper glossy black, violet-ultramarine, brown-red (this stamp was previously described as that of xK paper).

20 pfg Z paper varmillion, glossy black, light orange is now described as brown-vermillion, glossy black, orange.

24 pfg Y paper black, (dark) ultramarine, brownish-red to brown-red is new in this listing.

24 pfg Z paper glossy black, prussian blue, brownish-red to brown-red is no longer listed. A glossy black, blue, brownish-red to brown-red stamp is now listed.

30 pfg Y paper black, yellow-orange, brown-red has also been added to this listing.

Other colors listed in older catalogs remain the same in this listing.

The 24 pfg X paper (previously listed as xK paper) is a hot item!!!! There are not too many copies of this stamp around. While corresponding with Dr. Meisel and informing him of having found two copies of this stamp, he was very pleased to having obtained one of my copies. He informed me that in the very many years that he had studied those shields, he had not come across one used copy of the stamp. He gave me a copy of the stamp in excellent mint condition. It is of a lighter gray to almost white paper and is difficult to find. As I previously reported, this stamp was printed only on one day and how many copies of the stamp were issued is not known. I must add that the paper used in this stamp is very thin!

I discussed with Dr. Meisel the status of the prussian blue 15 pfg X paper (also known as xK paper). He was unable to give me any other information than having listed this stamp on his "Marken mit Geburtsurkunde" (Stamp with a Birthdate). I happened to have come across one copy in X paper (formerly xK) in used condition. The color of this stamp is similar to the color on the 24 pfg Z paper. I also have come across one used copy of the 15 pfg W paper but it is in a lighter prussian blue color. Is there anyone who can give us more information on these 15 pfg prussian blue or the 24 pfg X paper stamp?

I have continued to correspond with collectors and dealers in an attempt to continue the study of these wonderful shields, but I seem to be running into a blank wall. I seem to find a reluctance from knowledgeable people to even to discuss the matter. My last report was for the purpose of sharing knowledge and that of enhancing my knowledge on these shields. I even released all the information that I had available; but I am of the belief that there are many collectors in our Study Group, or even in the Germany Philatelic Society, who are not willing to discuss their findings or even do not care to discuss about them. So far, one gentleman, from the United Kingdom, contacted our Secretary, Don Slawson, and showed some interest. I attempted to correspond with him and did not answer my letter; however, he was able to put me in contact with Dr. Meisel, which I appreciated very much.

Enough has been said. I must emphasize that the new Michel Catalog has brought so much insight into the collecting of these shields. It also has continued bringing information on speck marks and minor errors of the first stamps which were placed on sale at the post offices in the French Zone of Occupation of Germany.

THE FRENCH ZONE AND THE NEW MICHEL SPECIALIZED

by O. P. DEE

Since it seems that I'm the only one that has not commented on the changes Schwaneberger Verlag has made to the post WW II section in the 1985 Michel Soezialized, I thought I would also add my two cents worth.

The Waooen/Dichter section has been reorganized and the table that I found helpful are gone. Now the paper types, colors and dates are listed with each stamp. The numbers of the machines on which the stamps were printed have been dropped. The UV colors have been changed again; I think for the third time in the past 11 years. (This doesn't bother me too much since I can only identify paper types if the printing date is attached.)

The catalog now lists prices for gutter pairs and for corner stamps with printing date attached. These are useful additions although the prices on cover for gutter pairs seem excessive since these are mostly philatelic in nature.

The color errors seem to have been changed, at least the description of the colors. I'm not an expert, but the cover prices seem to be excessively high. Also, it appears that some types are no longer listed.

And speaking of excessively high cover prices, those listed for errors seem absurdly high and I doubt that these prices have any relation to the market. And, of course, the list of errors is cursory at best.

The Laender issues now list the various types that have been listed for years in Dr. Flatters' book. Prices are listed for stamps with attached printing dates. The expanded lists also now present the types of paper and associated prices. Prices are now published for an expanded list of various errors, along with cover prices for these errors. These prices are the figment of someone's fevered imagination. Some of the panes of stamps from the first Laender issues contain more flyspecks than normal stamps. No one in his/her right mind would pay a premium for such stamps on cover. (Also, the catalog lists only a few, more readily identifiable flyspecks.)

We now have a listing of prices for used stamps with crumbly (grobkoerniger) gum. Does anyone know how to identify/recognize a used stamp that had such gum? Prices are now also listed for thin paper stamps, including never hinged stamps. Again, does anyone know how to measure the thickness of the paper when there is a full covering of unevenly applied gum? Does this paper fluoresce in a different shade than the normal (non-thin) paper?

(More to come, maybe)