



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

POST WORLD WAR II

STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

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Once again we have "enclosures"--unnumbered pages which constitute the bulk of the issue. This issue has 2 enclosures:

- (1) An index for Volumes 1-16 of our Bulletin (7 pages, both sides)

THANKS TO AUSTIN DULIN FOR THIS! He deserves the hero of the year award. I did not realize until I read this what a mess I had created (unnumbered pages, blanks, illogical headings, etc.)

- (2) Bezirkstemples of RPD Chemnitz (June-August 1945) by Donald Slawson; 29 sheets of paper, 28 stapled together Map included, many sheets printed 1 side only.

Now the usual index:

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Editor's comments * * * *

The editor had a slight ticker problem (small heart attack)--got to spend a week in the hospital and another 4 weeks at home but that is apparently not much as heart attacks go. Doc says one artery in heart 98% closed, but other arteries are trying to help affected area. Apparently no big problem--they're not doing much for me ("take aspirin") and I'm pretty much clunking along as usual. Hope to see a lot of you in Indianapolis in early September.

REMEMBER INDIANAPOLIS ! ! ! (Sept 6-8)

Virtually no response to my unnumbered info page in last issue (Austin Dulin wants everything, no other responses). I'm going to chug ahead with what I have and what interests me. Two of the mentioned items are in this issue; the rest will come sooner or later.

Thanks due again to Austin Dulin for his reading of the article on "Administrative Areas" in this issue. He suggested some sentence reworkings which I think helped.

DES

* * * * *

OBLITERATIONS

Editor's comments (same editor as above, by gosh!) * * *

Is there anyone out there who is really specializing in obliterations? I have the feeling that I go into a lot of detail that nobody wants, because I can't ever find anyone who really collects this stuff. However, dealers seem to be able to sell this stuff. Who is buying it? Is there really anyone out there?

Is anyone interested in pooling assets to buy and split up big lots? Interested especially in Netzschkau? In the Sept 1984 Schmid auction there was offered a complete sheet of the 1 Pfg. Netzschkau, first printing. I had never before seen any piece to prove that the 1 Pfg. was included in the first printing. The DM 15,000 Ausruf price was, I believe, too high (the item was unsold), but even at a reasonable price the sheet is more than I want to pay myself, and nobody needs a complete sheet of this value anyway. One column is sufficient to prove that you have a first printing piece. If there are 9 other people who are interested we could buy this sheet and split it into its 10 columns, one column each.

HELP!!! I need for my exhibit a vertical pair NETZSCHKAU 3Pfg. upper stamp type I/lower stamp trial. I have been looking for this for 3-4 years; there was one in the Rapp auction a couple months ago, but I don't get their catalog. If anyone sees this or has one for sale, PLEASE let me know.

I do get many catalogs and look carefully at all German obliterations. If any of you want me to look for something you're especially after let me know. I'll be glad to try to help.

DES

H E R R N H U T

The True Philatelic Value of the Overprinted Definitives

by Paul Rossbach-Emden

freely translated by Ingeburg L. Fisher

"Trust - Truly - Whom" runs an old German proverb. In english one would probably say "Look before you leap!"

These sayings may once have been applicable in love or business. But it does not matter. Important is, that - at least verbally - even the "Old Germans" realized the necessity to voice a warning.

And we should not forget this in the age of "elaborate technology".

While riding our favorite hobby horse, let us therefore remember that we are dealing with nothing less than printed items and many collectors would be interested to hear from one of Gutenberg's followers, working in a modern printing facility what in reality can be "produced" to-day. But it is not only the "technical prowess" one should fear. The lack of knowledge can also lead to bad purchases for good money.

How easy can blind trust in the ads of "experts" lead to disaster, only to be realized later through knowledge of research or following offers. Unfortunately, I have to stress once again the fact that much of what is listed to-day under "Local Issues of Germany after 1945" still remains un-researched. A fact, which makes it easy, even for catalog editors, to publish erroneous information.

Through my latest different research projects, I will try to show the multitude of "available items". This time I would like to speak about the so highly esteemed overprinted definitives of Herrnhut (Oberlausitz).

Shortly before finishing this research project, I came across an advertisement of November 1973 which was not totally unknown to me. Herein we read: "HERRNHUT 1945 (1/13), 1 through 60 Pfg. complete, expertised Sturm. Set in luxus (premium) condition of this scarce issue, of which only 80 complete sets exist!... Michel undervalued 4.000,-, postfrisch (mint, never hinged) DM 3,900.-". So much for the ad which, one should assume, a collector could trust.

Yet, before I proceed further into the well-founded information about Herrnhut, which was gathered on the spot in monthlong labor by an interested collector friend, I would like to give a few brief extracts of other contemporary publications.

In "Katalog-Handbuch der deutschen Zonen- und Lokalmarken" (Catalog-handbook of zonal and local issues of Germany) by Dipl. Ing. Ernst Müller, we read on page 164, under part III: Forgeries, Phantoms, Official Charity Labels and other Adhesives:

"HERRNHUT - In stamp collecting circles, the local issues of Herrnhut are often mentioned. It is said that two issues were given out. The first issue supposedly consists of the Hitler definitives, overprinted "HERRNHUT" in German and Russian. In the second issue, the 3,4,5,6,8,12 and 24 Pfg. values of the Hitler stamps were supposedly overprinted with a large cross in black. Neither issues are postage stamps. The first issue was privately produced, the second issue is unknown in Herrnhut, as was stated after an

inquiry there. The following reply was received: 'To your letter of Sept. 9, 1946, Br. Nr. 215/46, the post office states that postage stamps overprinted "HERRNHUT" in German and Russian languages were not officially issued. Only a few local stamp collectors had done this privately. Stamps, overprinted with a cross in black are unknown here. The L8bau issue, overprints with a "D", were officially issued here, but are now sold out. Regret not to have any further information. (Signature).' "

In "Research Project About German Postage Stamp Issues since May 1945" by Dr. Richard Jacob, we find on page 8:

"8. HERRNHUT - Preceding events: On May 18, 1945, the mayor of Herrnhut, following orders of the garrison and city commander, ordered the printing firm Gustav Winter to overprint a number of Hitler definitives, which were to be delivered by some commercial establishments of Herrnhut. The stamps, overprinted, were returned to these establishments on May 22, 1945. Letters franked with these stamps were expedited by the post. The following values were overprinted: 1,3,4,5,6,8,12,15,25,30,40,42, and 60 Pfg. Yet all of the Hitler definitives (1 Pfg. to 5RM) exist also overprinted. However, the order for the overprinting was only for the above mentioned 13 values.

Overprint: HERRNHUT in Russian and German language

Printer: Gustav Winter, Herrnhut

Edition: 3,6,8,12 Pfg = 200; 1,4,5,30,40 Pfg = 150; 15,25 Pfg = 100; 42 and 60 Pfg = 80;

Distinguishing marks: The District Post Office (OPD) and the Central Administration for Post have refused recognition. The issue was unnecessary since the L8bau overprints had full validity in Herrnhut. Despite much commercial mail (including mixed frankings of L8bau and Herrnhut), the issue is non-official."

In "Illustrierter Briefmarken Katalog Neudeutschland 1945-1946" by J. Müller, Berlin-Spandau, we read on the inside back the following:

"Any additional overprints or surcharges not listed in this catalog are private productions without philatelic value for the collector.

"These include for instance the following issues: (partial listing)

"HERRNHUT, Saxony - According to acknowledgement from this city, 13 values (1,3,4,5,6,8,12,15,25,30,40,42, and 60 Pfg.) in editions of from 80 to 200 were "issued" typographically overprinted with the city name in German and Russian according to orders by the mayor and in accordance with the permission of the city commander. Additional overprinted values however, are admitted to be non-official."

Even more precise is the text in "Müller Briefmarken-Katalog NEUDEUTSCHLAND - 2nd Edition - 1948", page 51:

"HERRNHUT (Saxony) - (Hall.IV) - According to acknowledgement from the city of Herrnhut, 13 values of German stamps (values 1,3,4,5,6,8,12,15,25,30,40,42, and 60 Pfg.) in editions of 80 to 200 with a typographical overprint of the city's name in Russian and German were issued by order of the mayor with permission of the city's occupation command. The overprinting of additional values have philatelic significance only if used on irreproachable commercial mail. The Herrnhut postoffice used the L8bau provisionals."

Of great significance here is the entry "(Hall. IV)" next to the heading "HERRNHUT (Saxony)". Here, for the first time stated in a catalog we find that the Herrnhut-issues are to be classified under group IV of the Hallensia Norms, i.e. not deserving catalog listing (Rundbrief 3/71, p. 92; our Bulletin Nr 1/Vol 1).

Why J. Müller eventually more or less reneged on his early statements, and finally reached an, in my opinion, "enhanced" evaluation (9th Edition, page 682), I can neither explain nor agree to.

In any case, the editors, i.e. the catalog publishers always reiterate with no uncertain words that "according to information of the city of Herrnhut - the mayor with permission of the city's occupation command" managed the whole affair. Therefore, using this official acknowledgment, no doubts can remain about the accuracy of these statements.

Of importance also is the statement that the overprints were "issued" ".....by order of the mayor".

And finally an extract from the "Kircheldorf 1947 Catalog Germany and Areas". Under "Russian Zone" we read on page 503 ff:

"Fraudulent (Bogus) Issues: (Among the listings)

HERRNHUT (Hitler definitives with overprint "Herrnhut" in German and Russian)."

Thus a few extracts from literary sources which should give some cause for thought.

Finally we come to the exact findings and reports from my collector friend who, while living in Dresden went again and again to Herrnhut, and the following picture unfolds:

All non-essential residents of this - through the Brüderunität and as church center - well-known city in the Oberlausitz area of Saxony were evacuated through higher authority on May 6, 1945 to the area of what was formerly known as the Sudetengau.

In anticipation of the advancing Soviet troops, tank-traps and trenches were being constructed. Herrnhut was declared a "fortress" in order to protect the German withdrawal across the Elbe River. The post office remained closed.

These improvised fortifications proved of little value because already on May 8, 1945, enemy units entered the "fortress" with little if any resistance. The Soviets had reasons to celebrate, especially with the abundant quantities of alcoholic beverages that were found in the city.

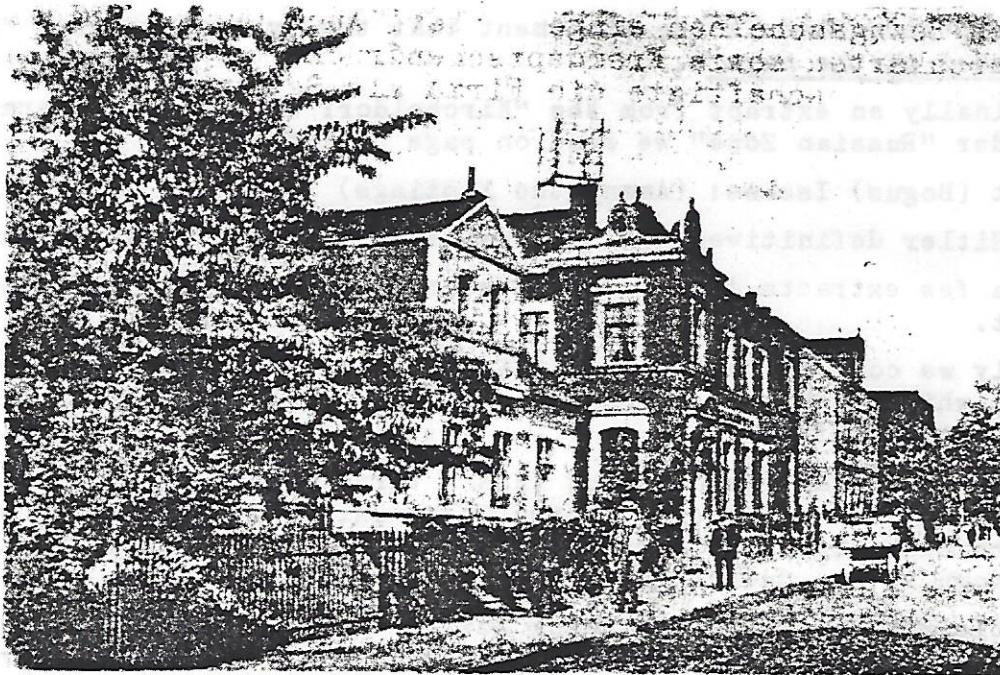
Was it the result of the "firewater" consumption or arson, but approximately 5% of the buildings, mostly in the city center, went up in flames? This question will probably remain unanswered.

Among the destroyed buildings were the church and the Zinsendorf-house. The church has been rebuilt, the restoration of the latter is still in progress.

Due to the circumstances - the occupation of Herrnhut - a quick reorientation of all facets of life in the community took place. Since the former mayor could no longer be employed, the owner of the bookprinting establishment Gustav Winter, Herrnhut, Neue Gasse (now August-Bebel-Strasse) was declared "city father" by the Soviet commander. At that time Herr Winter was 64 years old. As native, he was informed about all local events and it is also being acknowledged that he had some special philatelic knowledge.

At this time, I would not like to put special emphasis on this fact but would rather sketch the situation at the Herrnhut post office.

According to the findings, the post office building remained intact. It was occupied for a short time by enemy troops. As far as could be gathered, a search of the building took place by these troops but supposedly no postally owned utensils disappeared. The post office building - see illustration - remains until today on the same site i.e. in the "Neue Gasse" now August-Bebel-Strasse. The building dates back to the time shortly before World War I and has lately been renovated. The distance to the also still existing printing establishment Gustav Winter - I would like to emphasize - is approximately 100 meters.



The Post Office Herrnhut

Between May 20 and 25, 1945, a limited postal service supposedly began. Due to the demolition of the railroad bridges by German troops, rail traffic and thus mail expedition by rail was impossible for quite some time. The route went along the top of a high embankment which was blocked by the demolished bridges. As a solution mail consignments were expedited by horse-drawn vehicles, and as time progressed, even to the more outlying areas.

At the beginning, a Herr Artur Müller, then in his forties, was commissioned to be postmaster. He had already served during the war in the post office.

Müller's successor was Fritz Wirth who had arrived from Bunzlau (Silesia) and began doing window-service at the Herrnhut post office in 1946 until he became postmaster in 1947.

At the beginning, three postal employees did duty; their number increased as time passed.

One could assume that all questions connected with the Herrnhut overprints would be cleared up by Herr Gustav Winter, who lives to-day in a retirement-home in Herrnhut. These expectations fail due to the lapses in the memory of the elderly gentleman. Herr Winter just celebrated his 92nd birthday. Other sources had to be engaged.

My collector friend in the DDR found out the following about the Winter printing firm:

During the war and immediate postwar years, the firm was adapted mainly to the printing of rationing cards and similar coupons. But mourning announcements, greeting cards (congratulations), as well as publications in foreign language were also printed.

Back in 1939 the company, running as typesetter, bookbinder and publishing house, employed up to 25 people.

After the occupation of Herrnhut the employed personnel was probably very small. Nevertheless, this did not deter the owner, who was also mayor of the city, to contract for the most complicated of printing tasks, among which the overprinting of the Hitler definitives surely could be considered.

Here one must add that the printing firm Winter considers to-day this task less and less as a normal printing commission but rather an again and again in its importance underestimated distinct order by the Soviet commander. This officer, without contacting L&Bau, the superior postoffice of Herrnhut, or any other department, supposedly assumed total responsibility for the "local issue".

[Editor's comment: I don't really understand this. In the May, 1944 Ortsverzeichnis I Herrnhut is listed as rank Postamt, meaning, as best I can understand, it was subordinate only to the RPD headquarters in Dresden.]

These facts and statements are a clear contradiction to the many, especially then, published catalog statements, in which again and again it is stated that the "typographic overprints of the city's name took place by order of the mayor".

It seems strange that in the ensuing years the printing firm never tried to set the record straight.

I could not find out the name of the commander in question, especially since command changes had occurred.

Even if it is debatable who in reality did give the order for printing, I do not find this of great importance. Neither the city commander nor the city mayor lack a certain "official character". Looked at it from that point of view, the order did indeed originate through "official authority".

But it is just as certain that neither the city commander nor the city mayor are "equal to an autonomous authority which is legally empowered to carry on the postal service within a certain administrative area - under decisive influence", see "definitions" by the well-known Polish researcher Prof. Mikstein, Crakow (Rundbrief 3/71 p.91 = 1.)

The overprinted stamps belong without doubt to "Group IV" under the "Hallensia Norms" (Rundbrief 3/71, p.92=IV). They are not worthy of catalog value.

A very interesting fact about the possible lone responsibility of the Soviet commander of the city is the transcript, notarized by the "City of Herrnhut", and in the possession of a collector friend Alfred Heinz, Flemington, N.J. (sister ARGE/USA), which I am showing below with the permission of Mr. Heinz. I ask you herein to pay special attention to the handstamped city seal which is found applied to Hitler definitives and is lately listed in the catalogs under "Herrnhut (Saxony)" as "proof". This handstamp therefore, was still in use in 1952 (!) as can be seen from the date of the notarization. A long time span for interested persons to extend profitable "experiments"!

ABSCHRIFT
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Hiermit bescheinigen wir nach Einsichtnahme in das städtische Protokollbuch, dass das hiesige Stadtamt seitens der russischen Kommandantur untern 17. Mai 1946 beauftragt wurde, die Hitler-Briefmarken mit einem zweisprachigen Aufdruck (КЕРХУТ - ХЕРРНХУТ) zu versehen. Demzufolge wurden, da das Postamt in Herrnhut über keine eigenen Bestände verfügte, die geringen Markenbestände verschiedener Geschäftsbetriebe mit einem solchen Überdruck versehen, und zwar durch die Buchdruckerei Gustav Winter, hier. Postsendungen mit diesen Briefmarken wurden hierorts aufgeliefert und weiterbefördert; die Anzahl derselben lässt sich nicht angeben.

Herrnhut O.L., 23. Mai 1946

Stempel des Postamt Herrnhut (Oberlausitz)
Deutsche Post

(gez.) Behnert

A

Die wertgetreue Übersetzung
vorstehender Abschrift mit der
Abschrift beglaubigt.

Herrnhut, am 1946



Transcript
=====

We certify herewith, after checking the entries in the municipal protocol book, that through the Russian command, the municipal office here was authorized on May 17, 1945, to apply to the Hitler postage stamps a bilingual overprint (XEPHXYT - HERRNHUT). Since the Herrnhut postoffice did not have any stocks of postage stamps on hand, the small stocks on hand at individual business firms were overprinted through the printing firm Gustav Winter, here. Mail with these stamps was posted here and expedited. Amounts can no longer be verified.

Herrnhut O.L., 23 May 1946

(signed) Behnert

Handstamp of the post office Herrnhut (Oberlausitz)

Deutsche Post

A

Notarized

If the typographic overprints are not worthy of catalog listing, the "proofs" are of course much less so.

A few additional explanations to the typographed overprints: Herr Gustav Winter can be considered their spiritual father.

These overprints were made in his establishment without the involvement of any control authority. At no time was a representative of the postoffice in attendance. This alone speaks for itself.

As has been stated, everyone, especially agents of the still existing businesses could take their mostly small stocks of remaining postage stamps for the overprinting to the Winter establishment. Even single stamps were then overprinted with the most simple printing types (Drucktypen) in a platen-press (Tiegeldruckpresse) of the TIP TOP trademark. Sure, an astonishing process, considering how timeconsuming this "business" had to be!

With all this no (!) printer's waste supposedly occurred. On the contrary, one pointed to the decades of faultless work in the Winter firm.

The most remarkable fact in this strange story is that the postmaster of the local postoffice had no influence whatsoever in the events. Neither did he contribute any "official stocks" to the overprinting.

Additionally, a report in my hands clearly states: "In any event, no official postage stamp stocks were ever used for overprinting, instead stock on hand among the population were collected and overprinted (strips, part sheets, even single stamps). Therefore exact numbers are not known and are different for each value. In any event, the amount of overprinted stamps is very small. Their sale did not take place through the post office but quietly on the side. Although very infrequently, some were cancelled in the mail, however, genuine commercial use is extremely rare".

This says about all!

The postoffice, fully functioning, was not involved with the, oh so rare, "emergency issue"!

Therefore, does it not sound like a bad joke when to-day it is stated that "this rare 'issue' is totally undervalued in the Michel catalog"? Since these "cuties" were never sold through a functioning postoffice their classification as "fully qualified postage stamps" has to be refused!

In astonishment one has to ask from where these different philatelic advertisers get their knowledge about the quoted issues. There never existed any records about it in Herrnhut!

In answer to the question, who paid for the printing costs, I was told "there was no payment of any printing costs. It is possible, but not certain, that due to the bad times food-stuffs were traded."

One more item to cause consternation!

"Remainders or left-overs" did not exist, thus the question about their whereabouts is unnecessary.

As mentioned before, the Herrnhut postoffice was subordinate to the L8bau (Saxony) postoffice, and both postoffices belonged to the RPD Dresden. The Herrnhut postoffice supposedly had no connection with the RPD Dresden at the time, since all communications were disrupted.

Any recognition of these "emergency issues" was refused by the postoffice! Reasons being that the postoffice never was involved with this "issue", thus the events have to be considered a "private affair".

On reopening of the postal service the postoffice Herrnhut officially sold the "L8bau overprints". L8bau is situated 10 Kilometers from Herrnhut while Dresden is 97 Km. away.

From the beginning, the "L8bau overprints" were available in sufficient amounts. Thus, any other types of franking (cash franking) were not necessary. Among the "large" local mailers were the Br8derunitat and the firm of Abraham D8rnninger, which produced woven goods. However, mail volume had to be rather small if only for reasons of the uncertain times.

After the collapse, Herrnhut had approximately 2000 inhabitants. Anyone halfway able had to work. One of our informants worked in the rebuilding and clean-up project, where he finally was promoted to "column commander"

Unfortunately, no picture of the Winter printing firm could be found. According to information, the house-front was "rather narrow" and the long-time firm name had become rather illegible. The printing plant itself was on one floor and extended toward the rear of the building. The lot was described as rather narrow and twisted.

No one could give a plausible answer to the question, why "13 official" and "6 non-official" values were printed. It seems "one more or less" didn't matter as long as the printing took place.

It was not possible to post mail in mailboxes. All consignments had to be mailed at the windows.

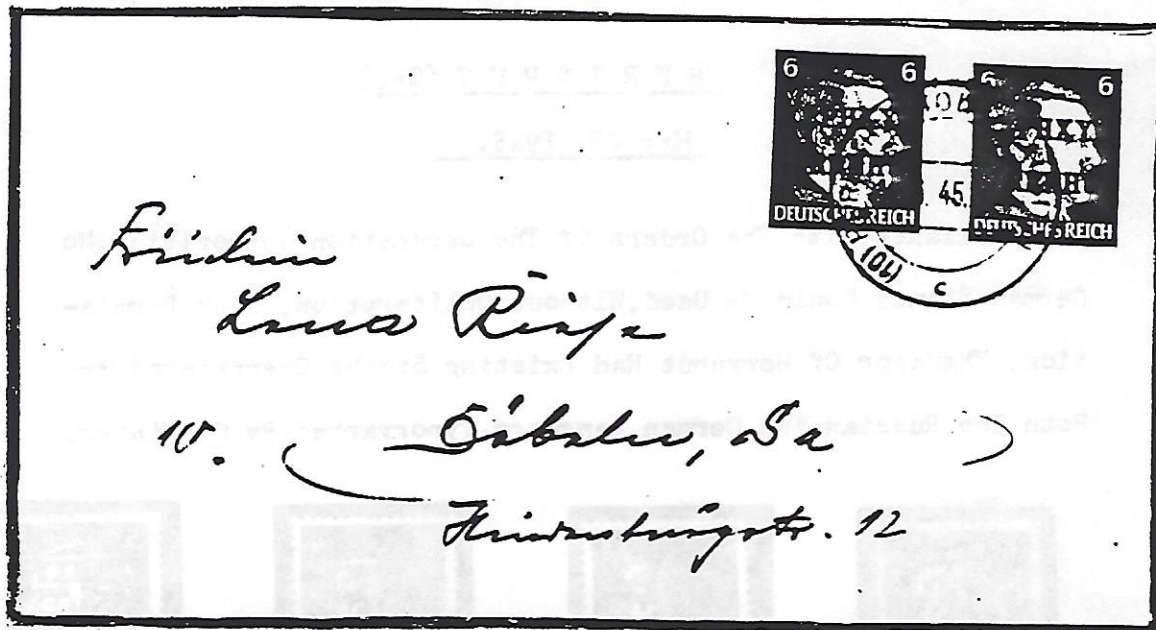
Letters and cards exist which are franked with Herrnhut overprints. Below, illustration of a cover. Mailer, a Herr Lochter, Herrnhut/Oberlausitz. This Herr Lochter died late 1973 in Herrnhut.

I surely do not have to make any remarks about the value of these types of "franking".

H E R R N H U T (Sa.)May 22. 1945.

In Compliance With The Orders Of The Occupation Authorities, No German Stamps Could Be Used, Without Obliteration, With Permission, The Mayor Of Herrnhut Had Existing Stocks Overprinted In Both The Russian And German Language. Typographed By G. Winter.





-HERRNHUT - Overprint-

Shown also, a complete set of the "official" Herrnhut overprints, owned by our ARGE friend K. Alfred Geisser, Atlanta. A similar set is owned by our other ARGE friend Alfred Heinz, Flemington. Both collectors also belong to our sister ARGE in the USA.

Both members are well aware what "philatelic value" is to be placed on these "Herrnhut issues". They believe it to be their duty to assist in the research of the events. I would like to express here my gratitude to both collectors for their invaluable assistance.

Also my thanks personal as well as in the name of the ARGE to my respected collector friend in Dresden for his endeavours and the valuable information. And at the same time we thank the many persons of both sexes that assisted my "Dresden" friend in Herrnhut. Their statements and openness have been of substantial help in the clarification of the events.

* * * * * from LOKNOT Rundbrief 16/1974

A.M.G. Trivia

by: Joe Schirmer
A.M.G. Editor

I recently paged through the current issue of the popular German philatelic magazine "DBZ"--approximately 200 pages did I scan. Surprise--I found but 3 mentions of A.M.G. material...how about that?? Now my German is good enough to spot A.M.G. and get the gist of the thing....3 mere mentions...one was a wholesale ad to sell by 1000 copies, the other 2 were offers to exchange stamps and information.

This does not mean a scarcity of A.M.G. materials...quite the contrary--it means that those who have it are holding on to it; and trying to place it in the market properly.

A.M.G. bisects do exist--I have 5 of them on postally used covers...I also have a letter from the German Post Office officials saying while no official orders were ever issued concerning bisects; they were used and in most cases;tolerated because of the hectic war time conditions. But I suggest if offered these bisects, take them on postally used covers only.

Back in 1975, an A.M.G. post booklet (Michel #MHAL at the time) which is no longer listed in the Michel Specialized catalog; sold for DM 660 about \$200 by todays standards. However I do know just a few years ago, a booklet brought close to \$2600 in a German auction. Right now I know of 7 of these booklets in US collections. I wait patiently for one to appear in auctions...we wait and wait.

For those of you that have the tough English printings of the A.M.G. to perf, and use the Gibbons Instanta I; you better not use it; because it is 1% less accurate than the Instanta II made in England. My pal, Dr. Harry Wilcke, a long time general A.M.G. collector proved this very nicely with mathematics and actual measurements of numerous stamps.

I was fortunate enough just recently to purchase a collection of nearly 600 assorted A.M.G. covers of the 3 printings (assorted). This was the first time in almost 15 years that I was able to purchase a lot of this magnitude.

May have some rather revealing information in my next column about the "label" paper issues. There is more than 1 type of "label" paper and we will leave it for the time being.

I have 6 different price lists issued by the A.M.G. dealer Klink--who has any of them? I have numbers 50,89,85,106,107 and 108. Send me a zerox copy if you have other numbers...postage and copying costs will be refunded.

If any of you choose to further enhance your A.M.G. collection, I would suggest that you subscribe to the Ram Stamp Co. auction catalogs. Their variety is among the best, and pricing is most competitive. They usually hold 4 A.M.G. auctions per year, and I know from experience that their materials are classic.

Still looking for copies of the AM Post Tables...there surely must be more than the 2 I already have...else where are the missing tables???

Does any reader know the whereabouts of Frank Kamm, who a few years ago was rather active in A.M.G. philately?? He moved from Kansas to Hollywood, Fla.---he visited me here at my home; then off to east Florida where he proceeded to drop out of the philatelic picture. Can any one help??

Lastly I have managed to obtain a large 6 volume 5 stock book collection of the German issues of the A.M.G.--all 3 printings. I would suspect this will keep me occupied for awhile trying to figure out what to keep and what to sell and/or trade. Part of this collection did belong to me some years ago...things have a way of returning home, don't they??

I am available to help you with your A.M.G. collecting--why not give me a try??

The Administrative Areas of Germany

by Donald E. Slawson

Because the Allied occupational zones and Military Government areas were based on existing German civil administrative areas, a discussion of these administrative areas may be of benefit.

Even after the Weimar Republic was formed, Germany seemed a confusing hodge-podge of areas to people familiar only with American boundaries. The historical basis for this is clear. The territory encompassed by "Germany" was the result of the unification of numerous small, medium, and (relatively) large kingdoms, duchys, principalities, free cities, and almost every type of royal territory which can be named. During the 19th century (after the Franco-Prussian war of the 1870's) these were militarily unified by Prussia into the country we today call Germany. This unification was only gradually implemented at the political and territorial level.

When the Weimar Republic was formed in 1919 it was a federation of 19 Lands (the German equivalent of a state; plural L nder). These L nder, with the exception of Th ringen (Thuringia) had existed prior to the First World War. Politically a Land was an entity; however, territorially several of these L nder were fragmented, being composed not of contiguous territory as are our states, but rather being composed of a main body with one or more exclaves of varying size (some as large as the main body) within neighboring (or sometimes distant) L nder.

Since the L nder were the political units forming the national government, the L nder may be likened to American States. Politically this is reasonably accurate; however, territorially this breaks down when one looks at Land Prussia. In American terms each of the L nder, except Land Prussia, would correspond to a state east of the Mississippi River while Land Prussia would be everything west of the Mississippi. Of course an area this large had to be subdivided for administrative purposes. Unlike the other L nder, Prussia was administratively divided into Provinces, each Province being one or more historically independent entity which had passed to Prussian control. In area these Prussian Provinces were the equivalent of the other L nder.

This makes it convenient for an American to equate both a Land (except Land Prussia) and a Prussian Province to what we know as a state. For those bothered by the fact that this is a territorial rather than a political definition of a state, bear in mind that after the National Socialists (Nazis) came to power all Land diets (governing bodies) were suspended and the sovereign power of all L nder transferred to the Reich (national government). After January 30, 1934 there was no unit in Germany which could be politically equated to our concept of a state.

Throughout the life of the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich the rationalization of internal boundaries was a continuing process. As examples:

- + In the early days of the Weimar Republic the Land Th ringen--the only new Land in the Republic--was formed by combining the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach; the Duchies of Saxe-Meiningen, Saxe-Altenburg, and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (less the district of Coburg which opted to join Land Bayern); and the Principalities of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen, Reuss (elder line) and Reuss (younger line) into a single Land. While the creation of this new Land served to greatly simplify the boundaries in the Th ringen area the result was still not a contiguous area. Land Th ringen had three exclaves--two in Province Saxony

and one in Land Bayern--and within Thüringen were numerous Prussian exclaves--one of Province Hessen-Nassau, the others of Province Saxony.

- + In 1929 the Land Waldeck-Pyromont was absorbed into Prussia, Waldeck going to Province Hessen-Nassau and Pyromont going to Province Hannover.
- + In 1937 the Land Oldenburg exclaves of Birkenfeld and Lübeck-Eutin (which did not include the city of Lübeck, a Land unto itself) went to Prussia, the former to the Rhine Province and the latter to Province Schleswig-Holstein. The city of Wilhelmshaven, which had been bought by Prussia in 1853 was restored to Oldenburg. The Land Lübeck was absorbed into the Prussian Province Schleswig-Holstein.
- + In 1941 the boundary of Land Braunschweig (Brunswick) was redrawn to combine two of the three large pieces of Braunschweig into a single territory. To accomplish this the Landkreis and Stadtkreis (terms which are defined below) Goslar of the Province Hannover were given to Braunschweig. In Exchange Braunschweig gave Province Hannover the Landkreis Holzmunden. In addition several smaller pieces of Brunswickian and Prussian territory changed hands.

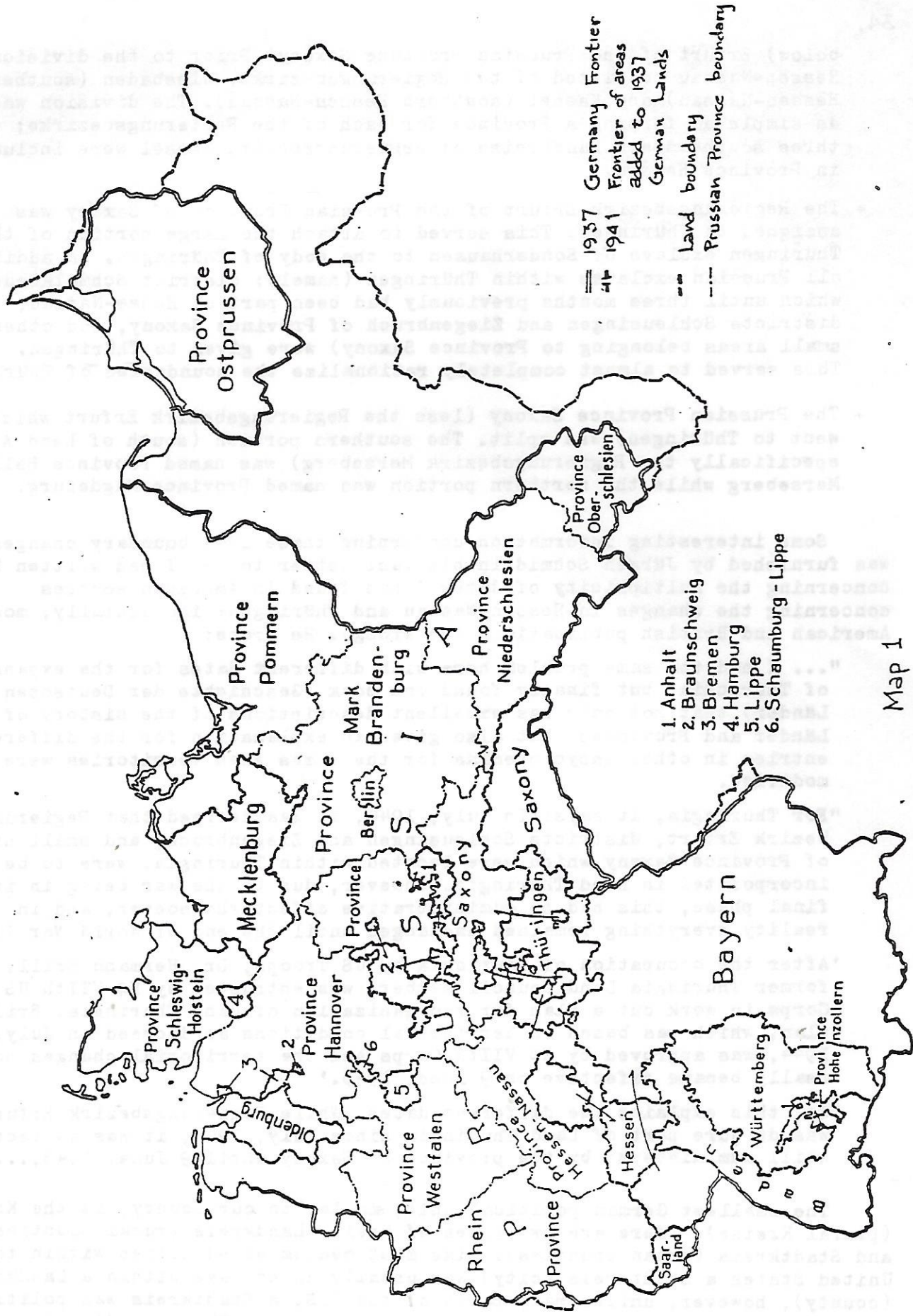
Thus, by 1941, the internal boundaries of Germany, while still perhaps confusing by American standards, were much more rational than they had been only 25 years earlier. Map 1 shows the boundaries of the Länder and Prussian Provinces within the 1937 German frontier as they existed in 1941. Additions made to these Länder by the annexation of territory conquered between 1938 and 1941 are shown.* Not pictured are the boundaries of annexed territory which became new Länder (namely: Luxembourg, Elsass-Lothringen (Alsace-Lorraine), and Österreich (Austria)). The frontier of 1937 and internal boundaries of 1941 are chosen for the map because the Allied declaration of occupation areas is based on internal boundaries as they existed in 1941--specifically after the decree of 25 June, 1941** as published in the Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, Nr. 72 dated 3 July, 1941 had come into effect--and the 1937 frontiers of Germany were those recognized by the Allies (this latter was, however, destined to be modified in the east).

Thus while there is a logical reason for picturing the boundaries in 1941, it is merely a snapshot of one instant in a continuing process of boundary modification and does not show the boundaries as they existed in 1945. For example, in 1944 the following modifications were decreed:

- + On April 1st the Province of Hessen-Nassau was split, the southern portion being designated Province Nassau and the northern portion Province Kurhessen. At the same time the Landkreis Schmalkladen (exclaved within Thüringen) was assigned to the Regierungsbezirk (another term defined

* The Belgian districts of Eupen and Malmedy in the west and a large amount of Polish territory in the east were annexed into Land Prussia. Eupen and Malmedy went to the Rhine Province; part of the Polish territory went to Ostprussia and two new Provinces, Danzig-Westprussia and Warthenland (not delineated on the map) were formed. Three Landkreise of former Czech territory were incorporated into Land Bayern (Bavaria).

** This is the decree which modified the boundaries of Land Braunschweig as discussed above.



= 1937 Germany Frontier
 # 1941 Frontier of areas added to 1937 German Lands
 - - Land boundary
 - - - Prussian Province boundary

Map 1

Land Boundaries - 1941

below) Erfurt of the Prussian Province Saxony. Prior to the division Hessen-Nassau consisted of two Regierungsbezirke: Wiesbaden (southern Hessen-Nassau) and Kassel (southern Hessen-Nassau). The division was not as simple as forming a Province for each of the Regierungsbezirke; the three southeastern Landkreise of Regierungsbezirk Kassel were included in Province Hessen.

- + The Regierungsbezirk Erfurt of the Prussian Province of Saxony was assigned to Thüringen. This served to attach the large portion of the Thüringen exclave of Sonderhausen to the body of Thüringen. In addition all Prussian exclaves within Thüringen (namely: district Schmalkladen-- which until three months previously had been part of Hesse-Nassau, districts Schleusingen and Ziegenbruch of Province Saxony, and other small areas belonging to Province Saxony) were given to Thüringen. This served to almost completely rationalize the boundaries of Thüringen.
- + The Prussian Province Saxony (less the Regierungsbezirk Erfurt which went to Thüringen) was split. The southern portion (south of Land Anhalt; specifically the Regierungsbezirk Merseberg) was named Province Halle-Merseberg while the northern portion was named Province Magdeburg.

Some interesting information concerning these 1944 boundary changes was furnished by Jürgen Schmid in his last letter to me (I had written him concerning the multiplicity of dates I had found in American sources concerning the changes in Hessen-Nassau and Thüringen; incidentally, most American and British publications are wrong). He wrote:

"... I had the same problem here with different dates for the expansion of Thuringia, but finally found one book (Geschichte der Deutschen Länder) that not only has excellent descriptions of the history of the Länder and Provinces, but also gives an explanation for the different entries in other encyclopedias for the times when territories were modified.

"For Thuringia, it says: 'In July, 1944, it was decreed that Regierungsbezirk Erfurt, districts Schleusingen and Ziegenbruch, and small pieces of Province Saxony which were located within Thuringia, were to be incorporated in Land Thuringia. However, due to the war being in it's final phase, this had no administrative effect whatsoever, and in reality everything remained unchanged until the end of World War II.

'After the occupation of Thuringia by US Troops, Dr. Hermann Brill, a former Thuringia Land Council member, was entrusted by HQ VIIth US Corps to work out a plan for reorganization of Land Thuringia. Brills plan, which was based on territorial conditions as decreed in July, 1944, was approved by HQ VIIth Corps and the territorial changes now really became effective on 9 June, 1945.'

"So, this explains the different dates. While Regierungsbezirk Erfurt was de jure part of Land Thuringia since July, 1944, it was de facto still administered by the province of Saxony until 9 June, 1945,..."

The smallest German political unit, similar to our County, is the Kreis (plural Kreise). There are two types of Kreis: Landkreis (rural counties), and Stadtkreis (urban counties). Like most medium sized cities within the United States a Stadtkreis (city) was usually an enclave within a Landkreis (county), however, unlike many parts of the U.S. a Stadtkreis was politically completely independent of the surrounding Landkreis. The most direct analogy in the U.S. is the county and "independent town" system of several states (including Virginia) where "independent towns" are effectively counties enclaved within other counties.

Between the Land/Province level and the Kreis level the Germans had an intermediate administrative level, the Regierungsbezirk (plural Regierungsbezirke). Territorially, this might be visualized as a collection of counties (similar to a State Congressional District). Politically, there is no American equivalent.

The German civil political units may be summarized:

German Civil Unit	United States equivalent	
	territorially	politically*
Land Prussia	half the country	state
Land	state	state
Province (of Land Prussia)	state	none
Regierungsbezirk	state congressional district	none
Kreis (Landkreis/Stadtkreis)	county	county

While the foregoing areas are the ones relevant to the American occupational plans it may be of interest to note that there was another set of boundaries in existence during the Third Reich--a set which in American terms is more rational and which was more important to the functioning of the Reich than the civil boundaries. After assumption of power by the Nazis the government of Germany was sort of a dual affair. On one side was the state (civil), on the other was the party (the National Socialist German Workers party = NSDAP). These were integrated by the fact that many top officials held positions in both organizations.

Like the civil side of the government with its Lands/Provinces/etc., the party side of the government was organized in administrative areas. the highest of these was the Gau (plural Gaue), which may be thought of as the party equivalent of a state. The party organization reached from the Gau down to the local level, the Gaue being divided into Parteikreise (the party equivalent of a county), these being divided into local groups, then cells, then blocks. The Gaue were created on a provincial basis, similar to proposals for the organization of civil states at the time the Weimar Republic was formed. The Gau boundaries were often coterminous with those of the Lands and Provinces, however, in some cases a Gau encompassed only part of a Regierungsbezirk (for example Essen and Düsseldorf) while in other cases a Gau encompassed part or all of two Lands or Provinces (for example Württemberg-Hohenzollern and Sud-Hannover-Braunschweig). A Parteikreis was usually coterminous with a Landkreis (meaning it contained any enclaved Stadtkreise), although in some cases a Parteikreis encompassed several Landkreise.

In 1937 there were 33 Gaue, including one for Germans abroad which made 32 within the German frontiers. These were increased as Germany acquired additional territory, so that by 1943 there were the 32 Gaue within the frontiers of 1937 Germany (a few of which now encompassed some occupied territory), 1 for Germans abroad, 1 for the Czechoslovakian Sudetenland, 7 for Austria, and 2 for annexed Polish territory. Map 2 shows the Gau boundaries effective December, 1942. It may be noted that the boundary changes not made to Lands/Provinces until 1944 (i.e. the expansion of Thüringen and the splitting of the two Prussian Provinces) are reflected in the Gau boundaries on this map.

* Until January 30, 1934

Postscript: You may have noticed I've used a strange combination of German and anglicized names; in general I think Rhine, Prussia, and Saxony are anglicized; other names are the Germanic version.

Historical Aspects and 3 more of Roland's "Exceptions"

by Donald Slawson (with new info from Roland Fluck)

In Vol 17/Nr. 1 (pp 4-5) Roland Fluck passed on information about 22 towns in southern Hohenzollern (19 in a small neck of Hohenzollern which jutted into Baden, 3 in Hohenzollern exclaves in Baden: all towns in Landkreis Sigmaringen). Of course, since he was dealing with the situation in 1947 the Land name was Württemberg-Hohenzollern, not just Hohenzollern.

During the Reich the RPD Karlsruhe served Land Baden (as well as Land Elsass which was returned to France after the war) and RPD Stuttgart served Land Württemberg and the Prussian Province Hohenzollern. At this time the 22 postal facilities named by Roland, while being in territory owned by Hohenzollern, were served postally by RPD Karlsruhe (the Baden RPD).

Southern Baden, southern Württemberg, and Province Hohenzollern became part of the French Zone of occupation. No RPD headquarters were included in this area, Karlsruhe and Stuttgart being to the north in the American Zone. Therefore, two new OPD's were created: Freiburg to serve South Baden, and Tübingen to serve Hohenzollern/South Württemberg.

The political/postal structure implemented in the French Zone apparently remained as it had previously been. The 22 named towns were politically connected to Württemberg-Hohenzollern but were postally served by the Baden postal district (now OPD Freiburg). Thus the fact that these 22 towns were politically in one area and served by the OPD of another area (another State in fact) does not represent a "new situation", just "same old story".

Of course while Baden and Württemberg-Hohenzollern were using the same stamps, as they were during the Reich and the initial period of French occupation, the political/postal situation was of no interest. Only when Baden and Württemberg-Hohenzollern began using different stamps does the political/postal relationships of these 22 towns become of interest.

The map below shows the boundaries of Hohenzollern, South Baden and South Württemberg as they existed in late 1941. I have not found any evidence that these changed prior to the end of the war. This area contains 11 enclaves/exclaves which I have numbered as follows:

* 1,3, and 4 are Hohenzollern exclaves in Württemberg

* 2 and 8 are Württemberg exclaves in Hohenzollern

After the war when Württemberg and Hohenzollern were combined the above exclaves/enclaves became non-existent, so we can forget them.

* 5,6, and 7 are the three Hohenzollern exclaves in Baden pictured and discussed by Roland (3 Hohenzollern towns served by OPD Freiburg).

* 9 is a Baden exclave in Hohenzollern

* 10 and 11 are Baden exclaves in Württemberg

The best postwar map which I have shows essentially these same boundaries (except of course Württemberg and Hohenzollern are combined), but only exclaves 6 and 9 are shown! The towns of Igelweis and Thiergarten are shown, but not shown as belonging to Württemberg-Hohenzollern (exclaves 5 and 7 according to Roland). Based on my map one would assume that these two towns had been absorbed into Baden, and also that exclaves 10 and 11 had passed to Württemberg. However, I tend to believe Roland and his sources; I think

exclaves 5,6,9,10 and 11 still existed--maybe I'd better be getting some new postwar maps.

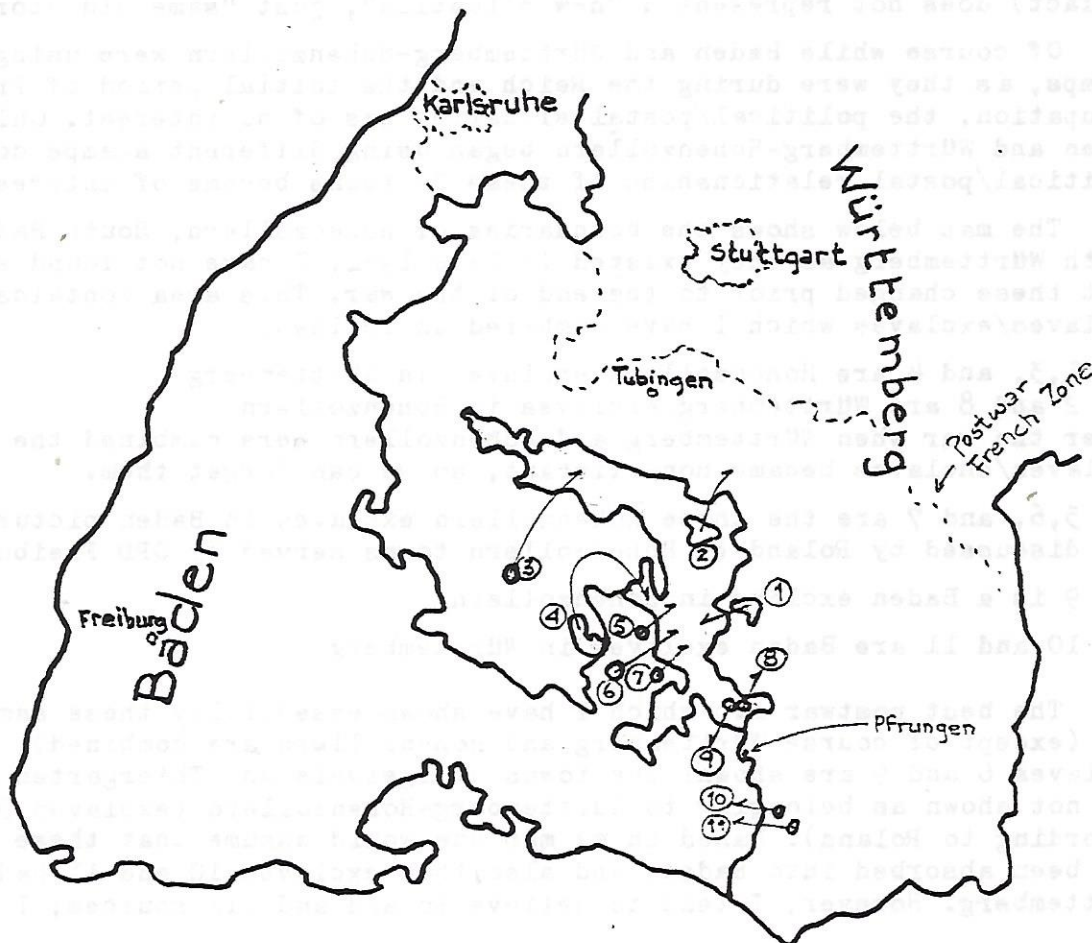
My map does show area 9 as a Baden exclave in Württemberg-Hohenzollern. In this area is one town, Wangen. Under the Reich this town was postally served by the RPD Stuttgart through the primary post office (Postamt) Saulgau (Württ). Postwar this area was postally passed to the OPD Tübingen, so you should be able to find Württemberg-Hohenzollern stamps used in the Baden town: Wangen über Saulgau (Württ)

Roland has two other cases to pass on :

- * Another Baden town served by OPD Tübingen (Württemberg stamps) is Roderach über Friedrichshafen which I cannot find on my map (it could be in exclave 10 or 11)
- * A Württemberg town served by OPD Freiburg (Baden-Baden stamps) Pfrungen über Pfullendorf

shown on my map--situation due only to a little border jog (this type of situation exists on many boundaries).

Incidentally, all three towns named are Poststelle II (no date cancels).



Province Hohenzollern
Boundaries late 1941 (unchanged to mid-1944)