



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

POST WORLD WAR II

STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

DIRECTOR : Alfred Heinz, 1 Circle Drive, Sunset Village, Flemington, N.J. 08822
EDITOR : Donald Slawson, 463 Ridge Rd., Winchester, Va. 22601
SEC/TREAS
LIBRARIAN/ : Sterling Jensen, 16300 Shamhart Drive, Granada Hills, Ca 91344
TRANSLATION

SUBGROUPS:

A.M.G.:
CO-DIRECTOR/EDITOR
Joseph Schirmer
193 N.W. Alpine Ave.
Port Charlotte, Fla. 33952

CO-DIRECTOR
Harold Peter
P.O. Box 369
Elkhart, Ind. 46515

CENSORSHIP:
DIRECTOR/EDITOR
Kenneth Mears
274 Harvey Ave.
Lincroft, N.J. 07738

FRENCH ZONE:
DIRECTOR/EDITOR
Roland Fluck
P.O. Box 1104
Boulder, Co. 80306

**EMERGENCY CANCELS,
REGISTRY LABELS,
"GEBUHR BEZAHLT":**
DIRECTOR/EDITOR
Harry Meier
128 Bartholdi Ave.
Jersey City, N.J. 07305

MISCELLANEOUS:
DIRECTOR/EDITOR
Michael Layne
420 Cedar
Jenkintown, Pa. 19046

OBLITERATIONS:
Donald Slawson
463 Ridge Rd.
Winchester, Va. 22601

**POSTMASTER
PROVISIONALS:**
Alfred Heinz
1 Circle Drive
Sunset Village
Flemington, N.J. 08822

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total 92 pages (on 60 sheets of paper) this issue.

With our "at cost" Xeroxing I now have our two largest backlogged articles done. Gene Marshall and Jay Carrigan have done a tremendous job on this. It really helps.

Sorry this bulletin is a couple weeks late. I'll throw the blame on the printers of this new title page--I have it now only because I bugged them a few times.

Note some new contributors this issue. Please respond to Roland Flucks questions--looks like he'll work up whatever is of interest to somebody. I'm informed that work (Xeroxing) is already underway for the next issue and we have some more contributors. Hope you find something of interest.

Don Slawson

OBLITERATED NAZI ISSUES

--The nature of "Trial" prints--

by Donald Slawson

In the October and December issues I devoted considerable detail to a discussion of the "trial" prints of Döbeln and Netzschkau. Harry Halle is the only one who raised the question to me of whether or not these issues should be considered "trials", and by implication the more general question "How do we know which stamps are "trials" and which are not?"

Remember the events and conditions of the time, and the postal decrees which authorized the use of obliterated Nazi issues. While a semantic purist may argue that the decree of OPD Chemnitz implies that stamps were to be obliterated by postal personnel it definitely does not specifically state this, and, from a practical standpoint, it would have been nonsensical and unenforceable if it had been stated. Although a cork was suggested there were no limits placed on the method of obliteration, and there were few limitations placed on the style of obliteration--only that the numeral of value should remain visible and the picture of Hitler should be "obliterated" or "blacked-out". The spirit of the decree is certainly clear: pictures of Hitler and swastika symbols were not to travel through the mails unless they had been obliterated.

What significance does this have? Just this! It means that anyone was free to obliterate stamps using any method they wished to apply the obliteration and the obliteration could be of any form--so long as it met the criteria of "obliterating" the offending picture. The result was a perfectly valid postage stamp; the obliteration itself could be the fingerprint of John Doe, the Doe family coat of arms applied with a rubber stamp, or the text "the Doe family/worked constantly/to thwart his plans" applied from metal typeset. The form did not matter--as long as the stamp was "obliterated" it was perfectly legal and valid for postage.

Now, relating this to "trial prints" we must be careful not to confuse a "trial print" with a "private obliteration". But how do we tell the difference? Unfortunately, the imprint design is no help (in the next issue I'll give a very interesting example of a private obliteration which closely resembles an official "distinctive obliteration").

I hope as a working definition we can say there are two types of "trial prints". The first is an overprint that was prepared as part of the process whereby the postal personnel and other interested parties (which may have included the local military commandant or local government officials) arrived at a design to be imprinted on the stamps. This step may include the local printing shop if the trials to determine design are set in type. The second type of trial occurs at the print shop as a printing plate is being prepared to execute the overprinting of the chosen design. In this step the "trial" is the chosen overprint, but may be on a stamp value "not officially issued" or executed in an ink color different than that used for the final production run.

The only way I can see by which we can determine whether or not a given stamp is a "trial Print" (especially if it is the first type of trial in which the design may vary considerably from the final implemented design) is to have the word of a person (or better several persons) involved in the process of preparing the issue that "yes, this stamp is a design which we ran off then decided against". Of course there are problems even with having this type of "proof". If an issue was philatelicly inspired, or if a philatelist was accidentally involved in the preparation

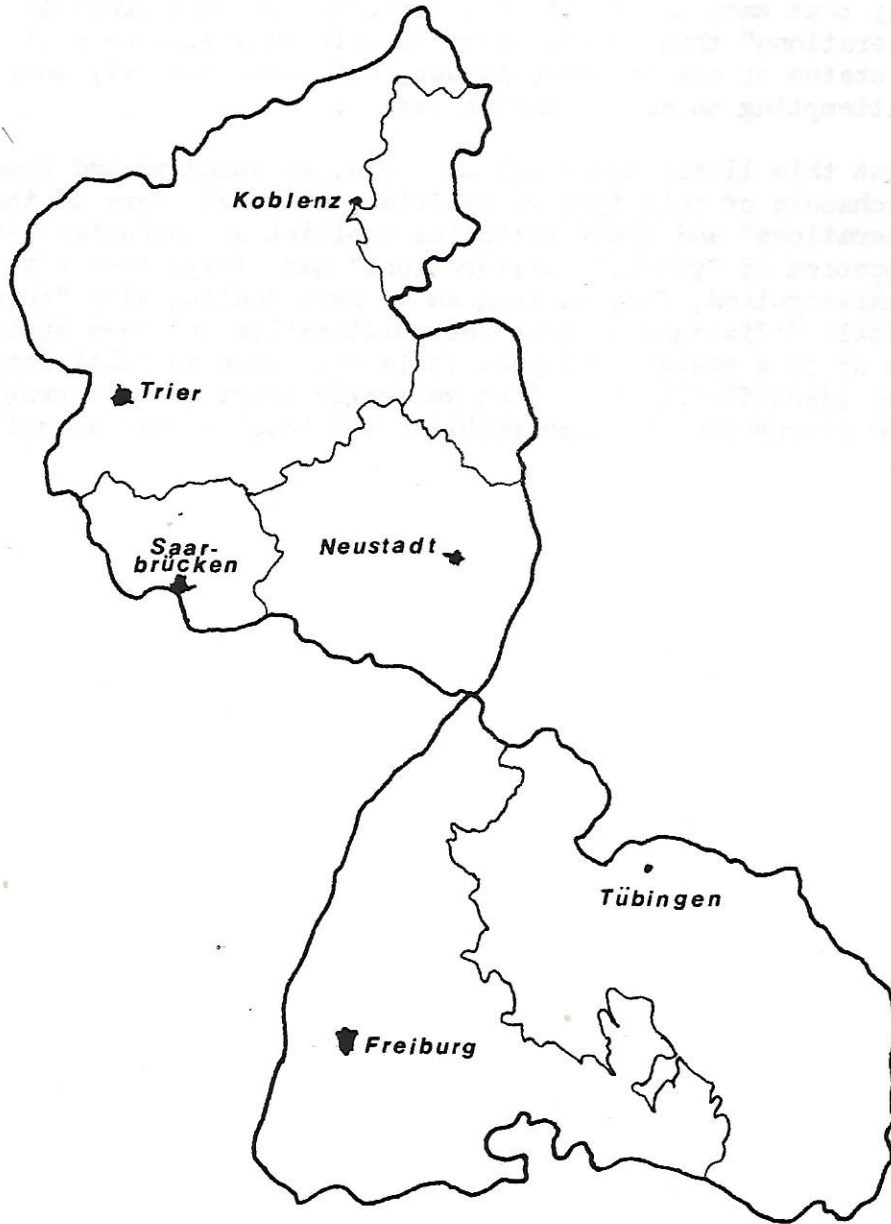
of an issue, then this philatelist could create so-called "trials", and would be a seemingly impeccable source when he swears that the trials were part of the design selection process.

At this point in time there is probably little chance of obtaining firsthand information regarding the authenticity of the various "trial" prints. I hope that the Michel catalog has been a stickler when it came to requiring proof of the authenticity of the items they list as "trials".

I will freely admit that I have absolutely no proof that the items I listed in both the Döbeln and Netzschkau articles are "trial prints". In fact, I wish more of the readers had picked up on and questioned this terminology. I consider it quite likely that many of the items I pictured are more properly termed "private obliterations" than "trial prints". Unfortunately, we will probably never know the true status of any of these issues, and today can rely only on intuition and logic in attempting to assign them a status.

I hope that this little blurb has made you, as students and prospective (or potential) purchasers of this type of material, at least aware of the existence of "private obliterations" and their potential conflict or confusion with "trial prints". The problem of "private obliterations" has always been with us, only has usually gone unrecognized, for, as long as we were dealing with "cork" obliterations it made little difference whether the obliteration had been applied by a private person or by a postal employee. It is only when an obliteration assumes a distinctive and identifiable shape that we really start to have problems. Perhaps we can get some discussion of these problems and resolve what we call "trials" and what we don't.

Französische Zone



I hope this short note piques your interest. The French Zone is one of the many interesting areas in the Post WWII period and many questions still remain to be answered. And many answers still remain to be clarified.

If you are interested in this area you have probably been as frustrated as I have been in trying to find any material published in the U.S. (I am a relative newcomer to the GPS and brand new to the Post WWII Group, so I don't know what has been done by these two groups). Very little information exists in the APRL or in the GPS library.

However, I am quite sure that our membership has a great deal of knowledge in this area, at least collectively, and by pooling this information we may well further everyone's knowledge. With this in mind, I offer myself as a point-of-contact for those interested in forming a sub-group for the French Zone.

If you follow the French Zone in Michel's Specialized, you have noted that, not only have the catalog prices changed rapidly over the past several years, but that usage dates for some of the stamps have also changed. (A note on prices: if you follow the prices realized in German auctions you will note that much material sells for well below catalog prices). But back to date changes, the catalog still lists the Carl Schurz issue (Mi Baden 50-52) as being issued on 24 August 1949 when the actual date was 23 August 1949.

Did you know that there are two types of Red Cross sheets? The catalog fails to note this.

As you are well aware, even Michel's Specialized cannot list all of the plate types and plate errors. Dr. Platters has published a book listing all the plate types for all of the issues after the Wappen/Dichter issue. The book also contains (for the flyspeckers) all the plate errors for the first Länder issues and some of those for the second issue. However, I think the study of the second issue is incomplete (the currency reform left a lot of collectors short of funds for sheets). Has anyone compiled the plate errors for the second Länder issues?

In October of 1949, with the emergence of the Bundesrepublik, one could use French Zone stamps in the American and British Zones. The design of the French Zone definitives remained basically the same after the currency reform, only the colors changed. Since the postal clerks in the other zones were not aware of which stamps were invalid, one often finds, after 10 October 1949, pre-currency-reform stamps on covers from the American/British Zones. These covers are plentiful and perhaps you have noted in the new Specialized that these covers do not earn a premium.

You say that you are interested in other areas of postal history. Well there were 4431 various post offices, branches, etc., and for the past several years the Arge French Zone has been collecting the various cancels. To date they have uncovered 2435, so, much remains to be done in this area. Below are, respectively, the various types of postal stations, their total number, and the cancels registered to date:

Post Offices	312	312
Branch Post Offices	436	426
Poststelle I	1281	1050
Poststelle II	2412	647

Or if you are interested in censored covers: Udo Kairies published an article in 1978 in the Sudwestdeutsche Postgeschichtliche Blätter of the Freiburg OPD concerning censor stations in the Southern French Zone. His information sometimes differs, significantly, from Riemer. Moreover, since that article, several new censor marks and individual censor numbers have been discovered. Since the French were quite secretive about their censorship operation, much information still needs to be discovered.

But you say you are only interested in postal stationary! O.K, what do you know about postcards? Conventional wisdom says that the Aufbrauchsausgaben and Behelfsausgaben were only valid until 31.12.46. Does anyone have any with a later date of use? Or, perhaps you have a solution to an interesting problem. Until October 1949, the French did not authorize the use of stamps, etc., from the other zones. Yet from January 1949 we find Bizone aerogrammes used in the French Zone. Were they sold in the French Zone post offices or did they come from the Bizone?

As you know, the French were not originally included as an occupying power for a defeated Germany. Their zone of occupation was thrown together from the American and British Zones. If there is enough interest in the French Zone, I'll start a brief history in my next article. I'll also include a general review of a few books and articles which may be of general interest.

So, if you are interested in joining a FZ sub-group, let me know; include your areas of interest. To keep interest up, obviously we need to keep publishing new information. If you are able to provide information, write articles, etc., please let me know that also. If you have questions, send them, we'll publish them. If you send enough information we'll keep Slawson busy.

Roland Fluck
P.O. Box 1104
Boulder, Colorado 80306
U.S.A.

PROLOGUE

It is not very often we can read such unique story regarding the AMG issues. So much of any official information has been and will be continued to be lost by not having the research done in the early post war period. Many of the persons involved would still have been alive and their memories would be fresh.

I am happy however to have gotten this unique material written up by not only someone collecting this era but also by someone with a flair for writing. Will Payne you should try it more often !!

There's no doubt in my mind that the material was officially accumulated by someone, see initial RAW Fig. 16, of the British Military Government. Augmented by the "official" army paper and by some of the cancels also being applied on this paper rather than only on the stamps.

The question of whether "label" or "Leipzig" paper, in my opinion still remains clouded. Especially since the handwriting with which "Leipzig Paper" see Fig. 20 has been written seems to be different from the one having made all the other notations. The earliest date I have the 6 Pfennig Leipzig paper cancelled on postcard is August 9th. 1945.

The Bremen paper as referred to Fig. 23 is listed in Michel as Westermann "Andrucke". I agree with Will Payne in regard to the statement by Winter that it would not be possible that the counting numbers on the left margins would ascend from top to bottom. This only happens on the "label" paper. Andrucke are the last step before, minutes before, the actually printing process starts. The "label" paper printings were printing proofs.

The 3 Pfennig value of the "label" paper printing, in my opinion, must be scarcest value other than of course the ones which are "buried" in the British museum. I do own all the values, left margin strips of three however the 3 Pfennig value is missing also.

I am assuming the individual "RAW" was assigned to the printer and that he was able to take samples of the various printings as he thought necessary therefor the samples Alfeld paper did not have the black sheet numbers.

May we have your comments ? Please do make notes as you read this unique story and let us hear from you.

A 20 YEAR OLD AUCTION PURCHASE REVEALS SOME INTERESTING & UNIQUE AMG MATERIAL

(Let Me Somewhat Ostentatiously Call It)

" THE PAYNE FIND "

At about 8 p.m. on Friday, March 4, 1960, I became the owner of an accumulation of German AMG material which minutes before had been identified as lots 181 and 182 in the Auction Sale No. 36 of the London Stamp Exchange Limited, Liverpool Street, London EC2 England. The description of the lots in the catalogue was as follows:

- 181 - AMGOT issue. A remarkable accumulation of Official First Prints, Mint Control blocks of six, and do. with specimen pmk. Westeman Printings, one on Alfeld paper, also in part sheets. From the archives. (Quantity) Estimated value 60 shillings.
- 182 - Do. Westeman issue on label paper. Harrisons English printing, general American printing, and do. First issue in British Zone mainly in m. and u. Control blocks. From archives. (Quantity) Estimated value 60 shillings. (Figs. 1 and 2)

At this time in 1960, I had been collecting AMG's with great enthusiasm for about 2 years; it was of course much easier in those days and material in quantity was quite frequently encountered. I had a buying advertisement in the U.K. Bi-Weekly Philatelic Magazine and through this had acquired very many complete sheets of the various printings. I also picked up an Aachener Bogen for next to nothing but remember feeling that 6 shillings was too much to pay for an 80 Rpf on registered cover. Anyway, this was the background to my situation and in the quest for AMG's in bulk, my attention was drawn to these auction lots. I had them sent for home viewing prior to the sale and was attracted, not in fact by the supposedly different trial papers, the existence of which in any case were unknown to me at the time but because they contained, amongst others, large blocks of the German 8 Rpf and some blocks of 6 of each of the 80 Rpf and 1 RM in both mint and used condition. These values I did not have in other than single stamps. The whole accumulation had a somewhat mysterious air about it and I was determined to be the successful bidder. In consequence, I sent in postal bids many times higher than the reserve and in the event the auctioneer put the two lots together and they became mine.

I have since 1960 shown some of the material to a few fellow enthusiasts, exhibited selected items at the convention of the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society in Great Britain and in 1973 showed a few sheets at IBRA in Munich. I also disposed of a few items about 16 years ago, the exact details later. However, I have never before found time or inclination to write up the "find" properly and, as I will soon be disposing of much of this material, felt I should now, whilst it is still virtually intact, describe it in detail for the benefit of current and future students of the issue. Harold Peter of Chicago, leader of the AMG study group of the GPS, has also been cajoling me for many months to put pen to paper and so here is as

accurate a description as I can manage. After each factual description, I will make some comments which are of course my opinion based on experience and I will be more than pleased if other collectors debate any conclusions I reach so that we may all in turn increase our knowledge of this very interesting period in Germany's philatelic history.

Fact

The two lots together contained stamps of all three printings, some mounted on small sheets of white paper and some in part sheets unmounted. There were no complete sheets of 100 in unbroken form but many of the sheets had been parted rather crudely and a little jigsaw puzzle work showed that several of the larger blocks, in some cases quarter sheets, had at one time been joined together. Both the loose blocks and those mounted on the white paper were enclosed either in a manilla envelope or in one of six double sheets of British Army issue foolscap ruled line writing paper bearing the code G.R. (40). Each of these Army issue sheets of paper has in manuscript a description of the material it enclosed and most of the individual items were in turn interleaved by pieces of thin transparent paper.

Comment

The immediate comment on the whole package of material is "where did it come from?". However, I feel we should reserve conjecture on this point until all the items have been examined.

Let us then look at each of the small parcels in turn and in so doing examine first the postmarked material and then the mint part sheets.

SECTION A - POSTMARKED ITEMS

1. U.S. PRINTING

Fact

This wrapper bears the hand written annotation:

American Printing

1st Issues in British Zone

Date: -20.6.45

followed by a list and description of the stamps it enclosed.
(Fig. 3)

Inside were sheets of off-white paper measuring 8 1/4" x 5 7/8" and onto which are mounted in most cases a mint and used block of 6 of the same value of the U.S. printing. Occasionally, a sheet bears used or mint blocks on their own. The mounting is by means of half a stamp hinge attached to the selvedge of the stamp sheet in a rather amateurish way. In no case are the stamps themselves stuck down by their own gum. In some cases the postmark also touches the backing sheet of paper indicating the relevant stamps had the postmark applied after they had been mounted. The two items, 5 and

8 Rpf, mentioned on the wrapper with postmarks of 4.9.45 and 14.9.45 respectively were not enclosed when I obtained the material. To simplify the description, let us use the word "Unit A" and, in this context, describe it as a sheet of white paper bearing a mint block of 6 and a used block of 6, the latter franked twice 20.6.45-9 by a double ring postmark - Braunschweig 1 g. (An example is Fig. 4).

The exact details and quantities are as follows:

- 3 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit A's'
- A smaller grey sheet bearing 2 used blocks of 6
 - A white sheet of thicker paper bearing a mint block of 6 but with a manuscript apparent file reference number in ink in the top right hand corner "120/FPTT/19/13" and a pencil annotation "American/3 Rpf/1st Issue". (Fig. 5)
- 4 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit A's'
- A smaller grey sheet of paper bearing only 2 used blocks of 6
 - An unmounted mint block of 9
 - A white sheet of thicker paper bearing only a mint block with pencil annotation "American/4 Rpf/1st Issue".
- 5 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit A's'
- An off-white sheet similar to 'Unit A' with both mint and used blocks but with postmark "Braunschweig 1 g 10.11.45-10".
- 6 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit A's'
- An off-white sheet similar to 'Unit A' with both mint and used blocks of 6 but with postmark "Braunschweig 1 g 10.11.45-10".
- 8 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit A's'
- An off-white sheet similar to 'Unit A' with both mint and used blocks of 6 with postmark "Braunschweig 1 g 10.11.45-10".
- 10 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit A's'
- 12 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit A's'
- An off-white sheet similar to 'Unit A' but with both mint and used blocks of 6 with postmark "Braunschweig 1 g 10.11.45-10".
- 15 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit A's'
- 25 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit A's'

All values, when checked under U.V., are identified as the third issue (Michael z).

Comment

All values are present twice as 'Unit A'. This postmark date, 20/6/45, is interesting. We know the U.S. Printing was the first of the AMG's to be used and that the 5, 6, 8 and 12 Rpf were sold in Aachen (U.S. controlled) on March 19th. Michel gives the "First Day" for the other values as July 1st. Drossart/Kalweit go into more detail. They state May 15th as the first day for the 3, 4 and 10 Rpf but in Cologne only. They give June 26th as the opening of the Post Office in Braunschweig and July 1st as the first day of the 15 and 25 Rpf and also as the date for the opening of many other Post Offices and collecting boxes in the British Zone. Thus, the used blocks in 'Unit A' are postmarked in Braunschweig (British Zone) six days before the opening of that Post Office and eleven days before the official first day of the 15 and 25 Rpf values in any Post Office. Of course, it is clear that the stamps did not frank any letter nor did they travel through the post but the early date suggests the stamps were "filed" or "collected" by someone connected with the official reorganization of the Postal services. There appears to be no significance in the blocks franked on November 10th in Braunschweig.

Although other items in this "find" duplicate material which is already known, I am currently unaware of the existence of any other blocks of the U.S. printing, or indeed any singles, postmarked in Braunschweig before June 26th or in the case of the 15 and 25 Rpf values postmarked anywhere before July 1st. As I mentioned earlier, the 5 and 8 Rpf postmarked 4th September and 14th September respectively were mentioned on the wrapper but were not enclosed. These dates are of course the 'First days' for the identical values of the English Printing. Perhaps our "filer/collector" incorrectly recorded the dates on the wrapper for the American Issue examples, then realized his mistake, refiled the examples, but failed to cross out his notes on the wrapper. The sheet bearing a mint block of 3 Rpf and with a manuscript annotation 120/FPTT/19/13 (Fig. 5) is interesting. There are more sheets with similar numbers which we will discuss later but they certainly give the impression of once having been housed in a comprehensive filing system, which may or may not have been official.

ENGLISH PRINTING

2. Now the second of the six packages.

Fact

This particular double foolscap sheet has been used twice as a wrapper. On the inside, but crossed out, is: (Fig. 6)

Military Government

English Printing

(Harrisons)

Flown and landed at Hustedt
armed convoy to Brunswick

3	19.9.45
4	14.9.45
5	4.9.45
8	14.9.45
12	28.8.45

6	Missing	28.8.45
---	---------	---------

However, this double sheet was then turned inside out and a new annotation written: (Fig. 7)

English Printing	Harrisons
------------------	-----------

Flown and landed at Hustedt then armed
convoy to Brunswick for British Zone
Distribution

3 Rpf	2 sets	mint	2 sets	used
4 Rpf	6	" "	4	" "
5 Rpf	5	" "	3	" "
6 Rpf	1	" "	1	" "
8 Rpf	6	" "	4	" "
12 Rpf	1	" "	1	" "

Inside this makeshift wrapper were again off-white sheets of paper exactly similar to those bearing the U.S. printing and the stamps are affixed in the same way. (Example, see Fig. 8) Let us call, as 'Unit B', a block of 6 each mint and used mounted on an off-white sheet of paper with double ring Braunschweig 1 g postmarks of varying dates.

3 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit B' dated 19.9.45-14

4 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit B' dated 14.9.45-16
1 'Unit B' dated 17.9.45-16
1 'Unit B' dated 26.9.45-14
1 loose unmounted mint block of 6
1 mint block of 6 mounted on white thicker paper with pencil annotation "Harrisons/4 Rpf/1st Issue/14 Sep. '45" (Fig. 9)

5 Rpf: 1 x 'Unit B' dated 4.9.45-12
1 x 'Unit B' dated 14.9.45-16
1 x 'Unit B' dated 26.9.45-14
1 off-white sheet of paper bearing a mint and used block of 6 dated 4.9.45-12 with pencil annotation "Thin smooth paper" (Fig. 10)
2 loose mint corner blocks of 6, one with an ink annotation "H 1st Issue" (Fig. 11)

6 Rpf: 1 x 'Unit B' dated 28.8.45-13

- 8 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit B' dated 14.9.45-16
1 x 'Unit B' dated 17.9.45-16
1 x 'Unit B' dated 20.9.45-17
1 x 'Unit B' dated 28.9.45-14
2 loose mint corner blocks of 6, one with an ink annotation
"H 1st Issue"
- 12 Rpf: 1 x 'Unit B' but on light brown paper mounting dated
28.8.45-13 with pencil annotation "Harrison"

Comment

All specialists and catalogues agree on the first days of the British printings as follows:

28 August 1945 - 6 and 12 Rpf
4 September 1945 - 5 Rpf
14 September 1945 - 4 and 8 Rpf
19 September 1945 - 3 Rpf

Each of the values in this parcel does contain at least one example of the appropriate first day but the other dates do not seem to have any particular relevance. How common, however, is the first day postmark on an English printing stamp? In my experience very scarce. There is little else to note from this package except to observe that all the pencil and ink annotations, both on the mounting sheets and the wrapper, appear to be in the same hand and also the same as the writing described in package 1.

3. GERMAN PRINTING

Fact

Now the third of the small packages. (Fig. 12)

Westerman Printing on Alfeld Paper

Printed by Georg Westerman Brunswick
Issued for Entire British Zone from Reichspost-
direktion Brunswick

Then, follows a column of each of the values of the German printing from 1 - 100 Rpf, together with the quantity and a series of dates.

This package was obviously fatter than the preceeding two, containing as it did the 20 values of the German Printing. Again, blocks of 6 mint and used were affixed by half a hinge to sheets of off-white paper (Example, see Fig. 13). Let us call, as 'Unit G', a block of 6 each mint and used mounted on a sheet of off-white paper with Braunschweig 1 g postmark of varying dates. The details and quantities are as follows:

- 1 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 11.10.45-15
- 3 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 11.10.45-15
- 4 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 31.10.45-11
- 5 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 3.9.45-13. One of the used blocks has a Braunschweig 13 B postmark and the date is shown as 03.9.45. 2 x 'Unit G' but mounted on a sheet of buff paper dated 3.9.45-13. On each sheet, hand written in pencil is the comment Westerman 1st Issue (Fig. 14). 1 x 'Unit G' but mounted on a sheet of buff paper dated 30.8.45-13 with hand written pencil annotation "Westermann Alfeld".
- 6 Rpf: 2 'Unit G' mounted on buff paper dated 21.8.45-9.
- The first mounting sheet has a blue pencilled annotation "First Issues of Westermann Stamps on/ALFELD paper 21.8.45 @ 0900 hrs." (Fig. 15)
- The second mounting sheet has a pencilled annotation in capital letters "BIRTHDAY OF THE 6 RPF STAMP
PRINTED BY GEORG WESTERMANS
ON
ALFELD PAPER
1ST DAY OF
ISSUE
21. Aug. '45"
At the bottom of the sheet are the signature initials "RAW".
(Fig. 16)
- 8 Rpf:- 2 x 'Unit G' dated 9.10.45-13. One has ink hand written annotation in German "Westermann Druck auf Alfelder Papier. / Ausgabe von 9.10.45".
- 1 x 'Unit G' but mounted on grey backing sheet dated 9.10.45-13
- 10 Rpf:- 1 x 'Unit G' dated 29.8.45-12
- 1 x 'Unit G' but mounted on buff backing sheet dated 29.8.45-13 with hand written pencil annotation "West. Al."
- 12 Rpf:- 1 x 'Unit G' dated 25.8.45-13
- 1 x 'Unit G' but mounted on buff backing sheet dated 25.8.45-13 with hand written pencil annotation "Westermann Alf."
- 15 Rpf:- 1 x 'Unit G' dated 28.8.45-9
- 1 x 'Unit G' but mounted on buff backing sheet dated 28.8.45-9 with hand written pencil annotation "West. Al."
- 16 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 10.10.45-16
- 20 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 23.10.45-10
- 24 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 19.10.45-9
- 25 Rpf: 1 x 'Unit G' dated 29.8.45-12
1 x 'Unit G' on buff paper dated 29.8.45-12 with pencilled annotation "Wes. Al."

30 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 11.9.45-13
40 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 11.9.45-13
42 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 17.9.45-12
50 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 19.9.45-14
60 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 21.9.45-13
80 Rpf: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 21.9.45-13
1 RM: 2 x 'Unit G' dated 17.1.46-9
2 x 'Unit G' dated 17.1.46-9 but with Braunsweig 13 b postmark

(Fig. 17)

Comment

All values with the exception of the 24 Rpf are present at least once bearing postmarks which agree with the current Michel 'first day' dates. I specifically say "current Michel" since over the years the Catalogue Editor has changed his view on these first day dates. He now has them right except, in my submission, for the 24 Rpf which from this evidence was released on Friday, October 19th rather than Wednesday, October 17th. Drossard/Kalweit agree on this point. Again, of course, first day strikes on individual German Printing AMG stamps are rare and for instance, other than in this package, I have never personally seen the 8 Rpf, 80 Rpf or 1 RM with such postmarks.

The comments on the 2 'Unit G's' of the 6 Rpf Alfeld paper (Fig. 15) are interesting. The signature initials "RAW" are relevant. My friend Oskar Winter in his notes on similar material discovered in the British Museum (Germania Feb. '74 and GPS Specialist Jan. '74) refers to similar initials after a hand written note stuck into an album alongside examples of label paper proofs. Thus, we have the further clue that our "filer/collector" who accumulated the "lot" I am describing was probably an official of the British Army and part of the team charged with the reorganization of the civil postal service. The somewhat triumphant way the notes on this sheet were printed in capitals, the use of the word Birthday, etc. suggests it was the culmination of a department's work to obtain indigenous supplies of stamps to meet the overwhelming demand for which those quantities "imported" from U.S.A. and Britain were becoming, or had become, totally inadequate.

4. GERMAN PRINTING LABEL PAPER

Fact

The Fourth package had the following annotation:

Westerman's Essays (crossed out) Issues

Label Paper

(Fig. 18)

4 Rpf: Enclosed was a block of 25 stamps from the left-hand upper quarter of the sheet. The left-hand margin is inverted as is typical with label paper but the block is mint and unmounted.

6 Rpf: There are two items:

- a) A sheet similar to a "Unit G" but with grey mounting paper. The postmark reads Braunschweig 13 b 16.7.45-10. The stamps are Label paper and again the left margin of the used block shows the inverted marginal numbers. (Fig. 19)
- b) The second sheet bears 2 horizontal rather than vertical blocks of six and the buff mounting paper is of a different shape from all others. (Fig. 20). This bears two used blocks of six each postmarked 16.7.45-9. Braunschweig 1 g. Again the stamps are label paper, one block showing inverted left margin but a pencilled annotation reads "Leipzig Paper".

Comment

These items are very interesting. The second of the two 6 Rpf sheets (b above) bears the annotation "Leipzig Paper" but the wrapper says clearly Label paper. Much has been written about this apparent confusion but Oskar Winter's explanation (GPS Specialist Jan. '74 and Germania Feb. '74) seems now to be the accepted one. He states that the trial printing was on Etiketten papier (Label paper) but that the English word label, and the German town Leipzig, when spoken in local dialect, sound very similar and hence in translation Etiketten papier was mistakenly called Leipzig paper. Drossard/Kalweit and others tell us that some sheets of the 6 Rpf label paper were used for postage to help to satisfy the enormous demand for the postcard rate before the officially issued Alfeld paper stamps were available. The date 16th July '46 is over a month before Alfeld paper stamps were issued but is 8 days after Drossard says label paper was first authorized by RPD Braunschweig for use in the Harz area. Does anyone have examples of label paper usage between the 8th and 15th of July? The 4 Rpf value was enclosed in this wrapper in mint condition only. Because it was, however, in this package, was there a suggestion at the time that sheets of this printing proof on label paper, for this value, should also be issued as a stop-gap measure? 4 Rpf of course at that time represented the "printed paper" rate of weight 20-50 grams. Certainly, however, this did not happen and 6 Rpf is the only value on label paper to have seen a postmark. Perhaps this wrapper was originally intended to hold mint examples of the printing proofs but the heading was changed when the decision to use the 6 Rpf value was made.

5. FIFTH WRAPPER - U.S. PRINTING

Fact and Comment

For completeness sake I mention this fifth wrapper and its annotations but when I acquired these lots, this wrapper did not contain any stamps. Perhaps, it was a predecessor to wrapper 1.

This double foolscap of Army paper had been used twice. Inside was the heading "General American Printing", a list of nine values and against two of these some numbers. (Fig. 21) On the front page was written:

Military Government

American Printing	1st Issues in British Zone
9 Denominations	A Column of Figures & Dates subsequently crossed out and underneath these
Issued from Reichspost Oberpost direktion in British Zone	(9)

(Fig. 22)

SECTION B - MINT BLOCKS AND PART SHEETS - GERMAN PRINTING

Fact

Before I come to the sixth makeshift wrapper, I would like to discuss the contents of the manilla envelope. This envelope bore no writing whatsoever but contained white sheets of paper similar to those I have described as Units A, E and G. On these sheets were mounted blocks of 6 of various values of the German printing on various papers.

1. BREMEN PAPER

Fact

On seven sheets are mounted examples of values printed on Bremen Paper. Each value is represented by a mint upper right corner block of 6 which is stuck to the mounting sheet by the original gum of the selvedge. Against each block is a pencilled comment and some sheets bear a file reference number in ink. The values, comments in pencil and the filing reference in ink where included are as follows:

(Example, see Fig. 23)

<u>VALUE</u>	<u>PENCIL ANNOTATIONS</u>	<u>INK REFERENCE NO.</u>
6 Rpf	"Westermanns 6 Rpf Bremen"	
12 Rpf	"Westermanns 12 Rpf Color Essay Bremen"	120/FPTT/19/4
16 Rpf	"Westermanns 16 Rpf Color Essay Bremen Not Issued"	
20 Rpf	"Westermanns 20 Rpf Essay Bremen"	120/FPTT/19/5
24 Rpf	"Westermanns 24 Rpf Essay(Dark)Bremen"	120/FPTT/19/6

This block of imperf horizontally between the upper stamps and the margin (Fig. 24).

24 Rpf "Westermanns 24 Rpf Essay (Light) Bremen"

30 Rpf "Westermanns 30 Rpf Color Essay Bremen"

In addition a loose left lower corner block of 4 of the 12 Rpf darker color was present. (Fig. 25)

Comment

These blocks exhibit the characteristics recorded in Michel, Drossard/Kalweit and elsewhere for this trial printing (Andrucke), i.e. thick grey paper and diagonal netted gum. Sometimes I have seen this trial printing referred to as Bremer paper but our filer/collector quite clearly refers to the examples as Bremen (with a final N rather than an R). In either case I assume it refers to paper from the town of Bremen. It is interesting to note the two mounted blocks of the 24 Rpf in light and dark brown. There is of course a fair degree of color variation for each value of the German printing but neither of these two shades matches very closely examples I have of the final and adopted color on the issued Alfeld paper. No doubt the dark grey paper itself has had an effect on the color density of the ink. Three of the values have an inked manuscript reference in the top right hand corner similar to that which we noted on the mounting of the 3 Rpf American Printing. Again there are more of these and I will discuss them later on. The mint loose lower left corner block shows a vertical and horizontal cutting line in the margin which together make a right angle. This is seen on trial papers but never on issued sheets. (Fig. 25). I find I have to disagree with Winter's observations (Germania Aug. '64). He states that the left hand margin inscription of both Bremen and Label paper count in ascending order from top to bottom. The loose block of 4 of the 24 Rpf (the only example I have with a left margin) certainly does not do this as the illustration shows.

2. LABEL PAPER

Fact

On ten sheets are mounted upper right corner blocks of six of eight values on Label Paper. (Example Fig. 26) Again, they are affixed by the gum of the upper selvedge. The values, the comments in pencil and the filing reference in ink where included, are as follows:

<u>VALUE</u>	<u>PENCIL ANNOTATIONS</u>	<u>INK REFERENCE NO.</u>
4 Rpf	"Westermanns 4 Rpf Essay Label Not Issued"	
5 Rpf	"Westermanns 5 Rpf Essay Label Not Issued"	120/FPPT/19/9
6 Rpf	"Westermanns 6 Rpf Essay (Light Color) Label"	120/FPPT/19/8
6 Rpf	"Westermanns 6 Rpf Essay (Dark Color) Label"	
6 Rpf	(This is a vertical right marginal strip of 6 containing the lower corner stamp (Field 100) affixed by the gum of the selvedge) "Westermanns 6 Rpf First Issue Label (Fig. 27)	
8 Rpf	"Westermanns 8 Rpf Essay Label Not Issued"	120/FPPT/19/10
10 Rpf	"Westermanns 10 Rpf Essay Label Not Issued"	
12 Rpf	"Westermanns 12 Rpf Essay Label Not Issued"	120/FPPT/19/11
15 Rpf	"Westermanns 15 Rpf Essay First Issue Label Not Issued"	120/FPPT/19/7
25 Rpf	"Westermanns 25 Rpf Color Essay Label Not Issued"	

Comment

All the stamps in this section exhibit the dark greyish color of paper under U.V. rather than the white of the regular Alfeld paper. Eight values are present. Drossard/Kalweit tell us that nine values (i.e. including the 3 Rpf) were printed on label paper. Furthermore Winter has seen the whole set except for the 1 RM on label paper in the British Museum. Other than in the British Museum, I have never heard of the other eleven values. In fact, although the 3 Rpf is stated to exist on label paper, I personally have never seen an example. How common is it? Why, I wonder, was it not present in this accumulation? Incidentally, the nine values duplicate those values of the American printing. Four of the blocks show vertical and/or horizontal cutting lines in the corner of the selvedge. This, as we have mentioned, is found only on trial and proof printings. Further evidence of the issue of the 6 Rpf trial printing is provided.

All other seven values are annotated "Not Issued". Only the 6 Rpf has the comment "1st Issue". We find here five more mounting sheets with apparent file references which I will discuss later. I note from my latest Michel Catalogue (1979/80) the comment that all values of the German printing with the exception of the 1 RM are known on Label (Etiketten papier) paper and all are valued similarly. This is obviously nonsense so far as the availability of the individual values is concerned. As the 6 Rpf was actually issued and used, albeit in small quantities, it is therefore the most common relatively speaking; the other seven values, which I have described, would appear to be next and equal in scarcity value whilst those known only in the British Museum are just not available at all to the philatelic world. Again, as with the Bremen Paper, we can only speculate about the quantity of examples printed. We can, perhaps, make a better guess after looking at the next group of material.

3. ALFELD PAPER

Fact

On three sheets of backing paper are mounted blocks of 6 on Alfeld paper. The 6 Rpf and 15 Rpf are from the top right hand corner, the 25 Rpf is the top left corner. Each is mounted directly by means of the gum of the sheet selvedge. The values, pencilled comments and ink file references are as follows:

<u>VALUE</u>	<u>PENCIL ANNOTATION</u>	<u>INK REFERENCE NO.</u>
(Fig. 28) 6 Rpf	"Westermann's/6 Rpf/1st Issue/ Label (Crossed Out)/Alfeld"	Nil
(Fig. 29) 12 Rpf	"Westermann's/12 Rpf/Color Essay/ Alfeld"	120/FPTT/19/14
(Fig. 30) 15 Rpf	"Westermann's/15 Rpf/Color Essay/ Alfeld"	120/FPTT/19/16

The block of 6 Rpf bears a black sheet number 050 opposite stamp number 10 and a faintly type written .. AUG, in the right hand margin.

The 15 Rpf block bears a red sheet number 50 opposite stamp number 10.

Comment

Only three of the issued 20 values on Alfeld paper were present in this accumulation. Why these three? I can't offer any explanation. These were the first three to be issued of course: 6 Rpf 21 August, 12 Rpf 25 August and 15 Rpf 28 August. However, on 29th August came the 10 and 25 Rpf and the 5 Rpf was issued on the 30 August so one might well have expected to see these values too. Two more ink file reference numbers are present and one will notice how these are close in sequence to others we have noted. The 6 Rpf was originally described as label but revised to Alfeld, another clue to the confusion which probably accompanied the issue a month earlier

of the 6 Rpf on label paper to some Post Office counters. The very low sheet numbers on the 6 and 15 Rpf are also interesting. I have never seen numbers below 100 before and indeed any lower than four figures are considered scarce. A rough rule of thumb which most specialists of the AMG's agree is: Black sheet numbers equal first printing, Red sheet numbers equals second but still early printing, no sheet number (the majority) equals later printings. I personally have always found black sheet numbers very difficult to come by and have only a few in my general collection. Here, however, we find one black and one red on what must have been the first printing. I have never before seen a type written date on a sheet. I wonder who was responsible for the -- AUG on the margin of the 6 Rpf block?

4. LOOSE BLOCKS AND STAMPS ON BOTH ALFELD AND LABEL PAPER

Fact

We now come to the sixth makeshift paper wrapper:

This has again been used twice. Inside but crossed out is the heading Military Government/Westermanns Printing (Fig. 31). This is followed by a column of 11 values. Against the 16 Rpf is the comment "First Issue", against the 24 Rpf is "approved altho' lacking in red (5,000 sheets)" and against the 20 Rpf is "approved 20 Oct.". Both the 30 and 40 Rpf have written against them "Unperf". The double foolscap sheet has been turned inside out and a new heading says merely "Westermann Printing". There then follows a column of values, a quantity and a comment about the gum. (Fig. 32)

The stamps contained did not exactly correspond to the numbers against that value on the wrapper but the variances were fairly small and confined to few values. The most interesting point of all, however, is the "find" that those examples noted as "dull gum" are printed on Alfeld paper but most of those described as "bright gum" are printed on Label paper. Details as follows:

VALUE	NOTED ON WRAPPER		FOUND INSIDE WRAPPER	
	DULL GUM	BRIGHT GUM	ALFELD PAPER	LABEL PAPER
1	200 (Very Dull)	-	200	-
3	200	-	200	-
4	-	263	-	263
5	-	288	-	288
6	92	166	92	78
8	200	276	200	274
.				(+ 2 badly torn)
10	-	284	-	284
12	94	192	94	167
15	69	260	69	260
16	187	-	187	-
20	159	75	243	-
24	191	-	191	-
25	-	278	-	278
30	100	-	100	-
40	-	97	97	-

Variations

- a) The contents inside from those noted on the wrapper and
- b) From the Dull = Alfeld and Bright = Label theory are as follows:
 - 6 Rpf - 88 Bright Gum/Label Paper Missing
 - 12 Rpf - 25 Bright Gum/Label Paper Missing
 - 20 Rpf - Both those noted as light and dull gum are in fact Alfeld paper
 - 40 Rpf - The 97 examples noted as bright gum are in fact Alfeld paper.

Observations on the Label Paper Items

- a) All values have at least one block, mostly more, from the left of the sheet and hence exhibiting the inverted margin although no matching quarter sheets were present. (See Fig. 33 for Examples of Quarter Sheets)
- b) 4 Rpf. 1 corner block of 19 and one lower right 1/4 sheet has a manuscript W.L. in the right margin.
- c) Many of the corner blocks show either or both horizontal/vertical cutting lines.
- d) Some stamps are damaged, this apparently occurred when the original counter sheets of 100 were roughly separated.
- e) Some stamps exhibit trace of rust marks (foxing). These I hasten to add were present when I acquired them in 1960 and have not developed nor worsened since that time.
- f) Some jigsaw puzzle work shows that the Label paper blocks of 6 described earlier under B2) were originally joined to the blocks of 19 present in this wrapper.

Observations on the Alfeld Paper Items

- a) 8 Rpf. Written in the right margin and spreading over two parted quarter sheets in pencil manuscript is "1st Issue". This is incidentally written on a sheet with no sheet number. (Fig. 34)
- b) Another 8 Rpf upper right corner sheet has red sheet number 3229.
- c) As with the 8 Rpf, "1st Issue" is written on the margin of a parted sheet of the 16 Rpf. (Fig. 35)
- d) All the 20 Rpf examples are very pale compared to normal issue Alfeld paper of this value and reported along a parted right margin is "approved 20/Oct. RAW". Another single marginal stamp has the "RAW" initials. (Fig. 36)
- e) 24 Rpf. Along one right hand parted margin is written in red crayon "Not enough Red but approved as 5,000 (printed)? sheets". (Fig. 37)

f) Apart from the one red sheet number on the 8 Rpf sheet, no other sheet numbers were present.

Comment - On Label Paper Items

This "find" of Label paper examples is really rather significant and throws new light on the estimate of the quantities originally printed. The initials W.L. on the two margins of the 4 Rpf, presumably stand for Westermann Label. Our collector/filer was fairly accurate with his gum description. Where a comparison is possible, he is correct in saying that some values can be divided into dull and bright gums and of course we note that a brighter more shiny gum is a feature of Label paper examples when compared to those on Alfeld. However, there really is no difference between the gum on the examples of the 20 Rpf and compared to other sheets of the 40 Rpf in my collection, the gum on the examples mentioned here is no different and cannot really be described as "bright".

Comment - On Alfeld Paper Items

Although these are straightforward examples of stamps on the issued paper, certain examples are not without interest because of the pencil annotations. The "1st Issue" on the 8 Rpf and 16 Rpf obviously mean the first issue of that value and not that these were the first Westermann values to be issued. The "approved 20/Oct RAW" on the 20 Rpf makes sense as it was issued 3 days later on the 23rd. Again, we have the signature initials we have mentioned before, "RAW". The 24 Rpf annotation "Not enough red but approved as 5,000 (printed ?) sheets" is an interesting comment. The color on these is very slightly lighter than most other sheets I have in my collection but personally I attach comparatively little importance to the color shades of German printing because of the difficulties at the time of obtaining constant ink supplies. Any AMG specialist must surely be able to show a significant range of shades for each value but few attach much importance to these. The absence of sheet numbers on all but one of these blocks is a little confusing. If we accept that early sheets did have black and then red numbers in the margin next to stamp No. 10, then why do these, which must be early sheets, not have numbers? Were they printed merely as file copies or were some sheets printed without numbers before as well as after the use of the black and red identification?

Comment - On Ink Reference Numbers Found on Some of the Mounting Sheets

If we consolidate those mounting sheets with ink file references, we see that all have 120/FPTT/19/ and then a further one or two numbers. I do not know the significance of either the 120 or the 19 but assume FPTT stands for "Field Post Telegraph & Telephone". The final numbers range from 4-16 but 12 and 15 are missing. In summary, they have been found as follows:

<u>CODE NUMBER</u>	<u>PRINTING</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
4	German Bremen Paper	12 Rpf
5	" " "	20 Rpf
6	" " "	24 Rpf
7	German Label Paper	15 Rpf
8	" " "	6 Rpf
9	" " "	5 Rpf
10	" " "	8 Rpf
11	" " "	12 Rpf
12	Missing	
13	American	3 Rpf
14	German Alfeld	12 Rpf
15	Missing	
16	German Alfeld	15 Rpf

There does not seem to be too much logic here: Perhaps Codes 1-3 represented the other three values known on Bremen Paper, perhaps Code 12 another of the Label Paper values. However, this is pure guess work. Will the other mounting sheets and their specimens ever come to Philatelic attention? I doubt it after 35 years. One assumption I do make is that these were official reference numbers and hence if the authorities still both know and are prepared to reveal the significance of the other parts of the code, we may be able to piece a little more together. My attempts to investigate this have unfortunately proved fruitless so far.

Let us now try to summarize the whole package and first to answer the question "where did it come from?".

There is no doubt at all in my mind that the stamps were collected by a person working either for the Control Commission in Germany (CCG) or the British Army and one who was involved with the reorganization of the mail service in Germany immediately after World War II. He was not in my view a philatelist. The collection may or may not have been part of the official files on the subject but I tend to think it was, the ink reference numbers and the hand written notes about approvals, etc. giving me this view. I think it unlikely that the lot was stolen while still being in a "current" or "live" file since the material did not reach the market until 15 years after the event and the original auction reserve price was paltry. Hence, no motive of theft for significant personal gain. Much more likely to my mind is the situation whereby the files had outlived their life, had been designated for destruction and someone, he may or may not have been the original collector/filer, decided to retain the stamps as a memento. Some similar material was presented to British Museum and some other (the lot examined by Winter in 1964) obviously found its way to a collector in Germany.

Let us now address ourselves to the determination of the relative scarcities of various of the items. Nowhere else have I heard of reference to filed blocks of stamps of the three printings with specimen first day postmarks. Hence, I believe these to be unique. I am unaware of other large blocks on Bremen paper and consider the blocks of six from this accumulation to be the largest currently in existence.

So far as the Label paper examples are concerned, the 6 Rpf must be the most common having been issued and used with official blessing. How many sheets were sold? Fifty, a hundred or perhaps 250, I doubt if it were any more. The other seven values I have, would have been printed in very much smaller numbers. Winter (August '64) mentions a part sheet of each value, Wittman (October '64) commenting on the same lot mentions 150 examples of the 6 Rpf and 40-50 examples of the other 8 values. These were bought, we are told, by a collector in Germany and some/all may therefore have been sold and dispersed in the marketplace. I personally sold a quarter sheet of 25 from each top or bottom left hand side, of each of 8 values in 1964. These went to a German dealer and hence one assumes were again dispersed. Thus, we now have two opportunities whereby Label paper examples, in total about three quarters of a sheet, may have reached the Philatelic market. To these we add those items still in my possession and also those in the British Museum. In total, I therefore suggest no more than 4 sheets (400 stamps) of each of the 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15 and 25 Rpf were printed and some of these are of course frozen in the Museum. I can't really comment about the 3 Rpf nor the high values known only in the British Museum. It would perhaps be an interesting exercise to send questionnaires to specialists to try to determine the current whereabouts of examples of Label paper and hence to estimate the quantities still available to collectors.

I have reached the end of the description of these two old auction lots and of my comments about the individual items. All in all, I think AMG specialists will agree this is a significant and interesting "lot". Some of my conclusions may be debated, I hope they are as other minds and experiences are brought to bear. I have left many questions open and hope for answers. The facts, however, are as I have described and whatever else, the items involved will remain gems in any collection of immediate Post War Germany.

A. J. Payne
Wilmington, DE 19803
March 1980

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A.M.G. EDITOR COMMENT

Etiketten or "label" paper is still known today by both names.....Etiketten or Leipsiger paper. The one reason it is called label paper is that sometimes the paper was pregummed before printing; hence the term "label" paper. As some paper came from the Leipzig district, it was also called Leipzig or Leipziger paper.

We are of the opinion that the term Leipzig paper as mentioned in this article is possibly an incorrect term, as there is no positive evidence that this paper did come from the Leipzig district or wherever else. All we definitely know is that there was a label paper used in the printing of these proof stamps.

Even the printer; Westermann did not know where they had obtained this paper; and did say they used it for printing labels. So it is obvious that those connected with this original find would call it label paper.

A further interesting fact is that Michel states all values except the 1 RM were printed on this etiketten paper with clear printing and the paper showing a brownish color under the ultra violet light. But in their 1981 catalog they state that the color is "unimportant and irregular". Now Payne in his article mentions 9 values of label paper as does the Drossard AMG catalog. The British Museum has all but the 1 RM value.

So we now can ask these questions:

- (a) is there further data available somewhere concerning the 1, 16, 20, 24, 30, 40, 42, 50, 60, 80 pfg. stamps printed on label paper??
- (b) was there other lots similar to the Payne Find that contained the other 10 stamps?
- (c) if all values were printed on label paper as some information reports, then why did they not print the 1 RM stamp along with the others??

And so, while my friend Will Payne has done an excellent job of describing his find, and Mr. Winter has furthered this label paper story, I still believe there must be further research made into this label paper area in order to definitely ascertain that ALL values except the 1 RM stamp was printed on label paper.

As Mr. Peter stated in the Prologue of this article, may we have your comments?? If you write to Mr. Peter or to me, please send a copy to the other accordingly.

Joe Schirmer