



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY post world war II STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

Vol 10 Nr. 5

Sept/Oct 1977

Director: Alfred Heinz, 1 Circle Drive, Sunset Village, Flemington, N.J. 08822

Secretary/
Treasurer : Chuck Blunck, 4535 Cherry Lane, Indianapolis, Ind. 46208

Librarian/
Translation: Sterling Jensen, 16300 Shamhart Dr., Granada Hills, Cf. 91344

Editor: Donald Slawson, 463 Ridge Road, Winchester, Va. 22601



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MESSAGES, ETC.

One of the first things you'll notice in this bulletin is that pages 59 and 60 appear twice. Harold Peter furnished his excellent article already printed (thanks a lot), and I thought it was only going to be 8 pages, so I started my part with page 59. Well, after receiving Harold's article I do vaguely remember that after I sent an additional article on the subject that he informed me his would be increased to 10 pages. This is why Al's article starts on the second page numbered 59.

Next, I assume you realize that I have not met my goal of a bulletin every two months, and this bulletin dated "October" is a little late. I've had a number of setbacks. First, in the middle of October I sat down to get this issue out, and the typewriter broke. Well, the local dealer



was swamped (guess every typewriter in town broke down), and it took a month to get mine back, with no rental available. I put together what I needed done at the printers and took it down, but evidently the Christmas rush was on, for a couple weeks passed with no news. Then my parents arrived from Oregon for the holidays, so I kind of forgot about the bulletin for a while. Hopefully I'm back on track (using hopefully in the right manner to mean "full of hope").

I still plan to put out 6 bulletins for the 1977 dues year. The next one will be dated Nov-Dec and I hope will be out at least by the first week of February. If you have paid Chuck 1978 dues no problem. If not, dues will be mentioned in the next bulletin, and also in the first issue dated 1978.

In the next bulletin I'll have:

1. An excellent article on the Belgian Fieldpost in Germany. This came from "The Sammler-Lupe", and we have not heard from them concerning permission to print. It originally came from a Belgian publication, so I'm planning on printing this and crediting "Lupe" even though we do not have specific permission. If any of you legal experts foresee problems or want to stop this, write me quick.
2. The next installment of Helmut Weigelt's work on Kurierdienst.
3. Al Heinz on the beginning of Airmail service.
4. A newly discovered cash-register franking mark.

Let me know what you want in (or out of) the bulletin. I've been trying to include in the "Obliterated Nazi Issue Notes" a lot of prices, material sold, etc. to keep you informed of what is around and what it costs. Is this useful to anyone? If I'm the only guy who really cares about this I do not have to include it in the bulletin. I hope before long to be including in this column some information on fakes, or raising questions about dies I think may be fake that are not now so recognized. Is there any interest in this type of information?

I would like to urge any of you working on the translation of Heinz Vesper's work to complete this as rapidly as possible. I have several sections, but do not want to start printing this until the whole is completed, least I have to break the continuity to wait for uncompleted sections.

Michel Amenta has noted that West Berlin mixed franking possibilities have been well studied, their relative scarcity determined, and appropriate catalog listings made. However, this has not been done for the rest of postwar Germany. Certainly there are many possible mixed frankings. I think that by studying Michel's comments on dates of validity that most of them could be determined, but what exists in the real world? Which combinations were really used, and how common are they? Is anyone interested in this? Is it worthwhile to try to determine? If anyone thinks this may be worthwhile to pursue, please drop either Mike or me a card.

Guess that's about it. I'm almost to the end of my page (I always prepare the first page the last thing). Keep the articles and tid-bits coming, after the next issue I may be hurting for material again.

AMG STUDY GROUP REPORT.

Director: Harold E. Peter
 120 S. Spruce St.
 Wood Dale, IL 60191

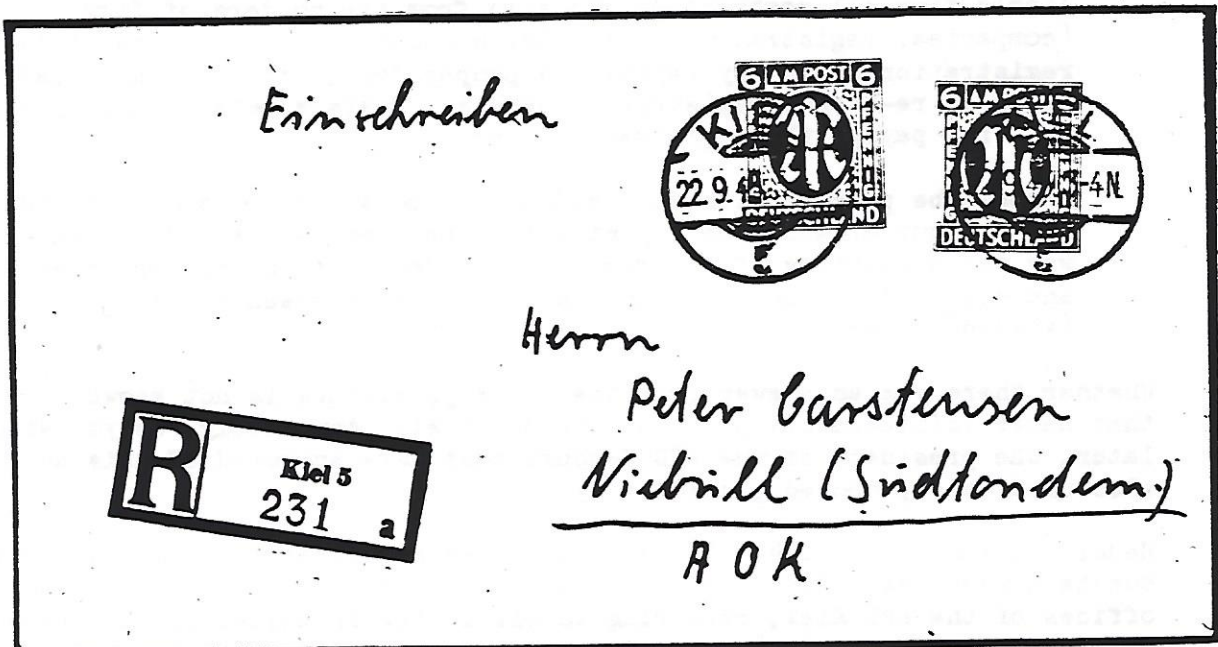
In our last Bulletin, Don Slawson asked many questions in regard to the usages of registry labels as 30 Pfennig postage stamps by the RPDs Kiel and Hamburg. In reply to his questions, I would like to present the following article along with a few illustrations. I have accumulated material in the form of articles as well as answers to my inquiries from the RPDs Kiel and Hamburg. I am sure most of Don's questions will be answered--if not, I would be pleased to fill in as far as my knowledge and background material reaches.

THE USAGE OF REGISTRY LABELS AS 30 PFENNIG STAMPS
 BY THE RPD KIEL AND HAMBURG

by Harold E. Peter

Why was this type of usage necessary and why was the authorization given to use the registry labels as 30 Pfennig postage stamps? Let's examine some of the known facts:

RPD KIEL



COVER I. RPD Kiel. Cancelled Kiel 5 on September 22, 1945. Backcancelled Niebüll on September 29, 1945. Also handwritten "Geschäftlich" on back.

Leading up to the events was an order by the British Military Government to reopen the registry services on August 22, 1945. There definitely was a shortage of postage stamps, especially since some of the higher denominations were not issued until after the registry service was reopened, authorizing the usage of registry labels as 30 Pfennig stamps as of August 22 for the RPD Kiel and September 1, 1945, for the PRD Hamburg. The registration service for all of the British Zone was opened as of August 24, 1945. For instance, the two values most needed, the 30 Pfennig and 42 Pfennig, were not issued until September 11 and September 17, 1945, respectively.

The president of the RPD Kiel, Mr. Bauer, initiated the usage of the registry labels as 30 Pfennig postage stamps. He wrote a letter on August 15, 1945, under Reference Number (AktENZEICHEN) IA4-2460, to the presidents of the RPDs Bremen, Hamburg and Hannover, which translates as follows:

"The RPD Kiel, because of orders from the British Military Government, is supposed to make preparations for the re-opening of the registered letter service. Due to the shortage of stamps an understanding must be reached of how the franking of the registered letters, especially for the registration fee, should be accomplished. I feel that the accounting of the transaction through handwritten notice 'postage paid' (Gebühr bezahlt) on the letters (ADA V, 2 \$ 6 unter Ib) is too complicated. I am planning to use, for the registered letters, the registration labels also as the 30 Pfennig postage necessary. By using special markings such as overprinting '30 Pf' on the labels we will give them the identification of 30 Pfennig stamps. For this purpose I will recall the registration labels from all postoffices and also from the holders of firm (companies) registration books (Selbstbücher). The holders of firm registration books, by paying the proper fees, can at a later date again be re-issued registration labels. Postage meters cannot be used for paying the registration fees.

I would be pleased with an immediate response of how soon a reopening in your area of the registration services is planned, in which way the accounting of the registration fee is to be accomplished, and what objections you might have with my proposed procedure."
(signed) Bauer

Whether there was an answer from the three presidents is not known. We do know that Bauer initiated his plan for the RPD Kiel. Apparently, as you will see later, the president of the RPD Hamburg must have approved of this action as he also used this proposed procedure by Bauer.

Bauer, on August 18, 1945, issued a telegram and later the same day more elaborate directions under Reference Number (AktENZEICHEN) IA-2460 for the post-offices of the RPD Kiel, referring to his letter of August 15 (IA4-2460) and his telegram of August 18, regarding the registration services as follows:

"As already established by my telegram, the registration services will be reopened in the British Occupation Zone (except Berlin)

"as of Wednesday, August 22, 1945. Allowed are registered letters up to 500 grams (for official and business mail only) and postcards (also for the public). Valid for the authorization, etc., of the extension of the civilian postal services are the rulings of July 1, 1945.

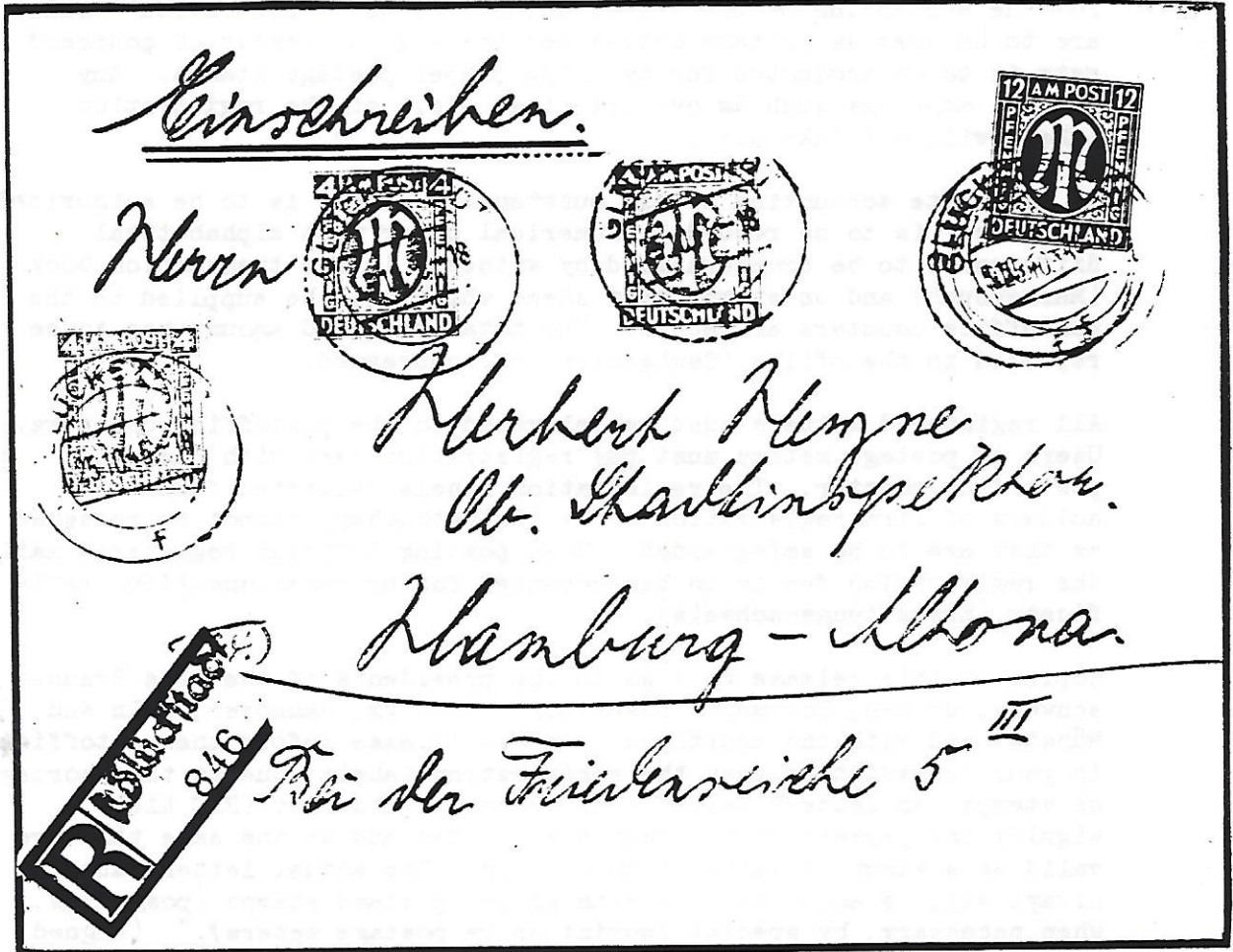
For the accounting of the registration fee, the registration labels are to be used as postage stamps and the regular letter or postcard rate is to be accounted for by using proper postage stamps. Any special markings such as overprinting, etc., of the registration labels will not take place.

An immediate accounting of all outstanding labels is to be authorized. The number is to be recorded (numerical order with alphabetical differences to be countersigned by witness) in the transaction book (Markenbuch) and on stamp order sheet which will be supplied to the postoffice counters as needed. The total recorded amount has to be reported to the office (Sachgebiet IVA) concerned.

All registered letters must be delivered to the postoffice counters. Users of postage meters must pay registration fees with cash at postoffice counter. The registration labels collected from the holders of firm registration books (Selbstbücher) cannot be reissued as they are to be safeguarded. When posting official registered mail the registration fee is to be accounted for by recompensation certificate (Erstattungsnachweis).

Copies of this release will go to the presidents of the RPDs Braunschweig, Bremen, Dortmund, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Hannover, Köln and Münster and with the additional remarks 'Please inform the postoffices in your jurisdiction that the registration labels, due to the shortage of stamps, on letters mailed from my postal district (RPD Kiel) signify the payment of the registration fee and at the same time are valid as a stamp in value of 30 Pfennig. The actual letter rate as always will be accounted for with proper postage stamps (postcards, when necessary, by special imprint or by postage meters).' (signed) Bauer

It is apparent from the above that the order to reopen the registry services was given on August 18, 1945, and the actual date was set to be August 22, 1945. Nowhere was there a ruling as to the additional application of the "postage paid" (Gebühr bezahlt) markings. We know covers exist—however, this marking was applied by the clerk on his own initiative and his judgment as to its merits, or because of his knowledge of other rules governing such emergencies. There is no information known of an order by the RPD Kiel to end the usage of registry labels as postage stamps. One must assume this to coincide with the date of the RPD Hamburg of October 6, 1945. A lack of the necessary stamps at the various postoffices would account for the later dates available for this emergency measure. Covers featuring this kind of usage within the RPD Kiel are more valuable the smaller the town.



COVER II. RPD Kiel. Cancelled Glückstadt on October 25, 1945, late date!! Backcancelled Hamburg-Altona on October 26, 1945. Also has handwritten "Geschäftlich" on back.

There are also quite a few towns that did not make use of the receiving cancels. The Michel Specialized 1977/78 lists the following towns from where this type of usage has been recorded:

Kiel 1	Kaköhl
Kiel 4	Kappeln, Schlei
Kiel 5	Karby
Kiel-Elmschenhagen	Kellinghusen
Kiel-Hassee	Kirchenbarkau ü. Preetz
Kiel-Wik	Klausdorf, Schwentine
Ahrensböök	Kropp ü. Schleswig
Ascheberg	Laboe ü. Kiel
Bad Bramstedt	Ladelund ü. Niebüll
Bad Segeberg	Lensahn
Barmstedt (Holst.)	Lindholm
Beringstedt	Lackstedter Lager (Holst.)
Blunk ü. Bad Segeberg	Lütjenburg (Ostholst.)
Bordesholm ü. Neumünster	Malente-Gremsmühlen
Bornhöved ü. Neumünster	Munsterdorf ü. Itzehoe
Bosau ü. Eutin	Nebel, Amrum
Bredstedt	Neukirchen (Holst.)
Brokstedt ü. Neumünster	Neumünster
Brunsbüttel-Koog	Neustadt (Holst.)
Burg/Dithmarschen	Niebüll
Burg auf Fehmarn	Nortorf
Büsum	Owschlag ü. Rendsburg
Dahme (Holst.)	Plön 1
Delve (Holst.)	Ponitz (Ostholst.)
Eckernförde	Preetz (Holst.)
Elmshorn	Probsteierhagen ü. Kiel
Erfde ü. Rendsburg	Quickborn (Holst.)
Eutin	Rabenkirchen
Flensburg 1	Rellingen (Holst.)
Flensburg Land	Rendsburg
Flintbek ü. Kiel	Rickling (Holst.)
Friedrichsstadt, Eider	Schleswig 1
Glückstadt	Schönberg (Holst.)
Grebin ü. Plön	Schönwalde (Holst.)
Grossenbrode	Sörup (Angeln)
Hattstedt ü. Husum	Stople ü. Preetz
Heide (Holst.)	Süderbrarup
Heidmühlen (Holst.)	Timmendorfer Strand
Heiligenhafen (Holst.)	Todenbüttel ü. Rendsburg
Heikendorf ü. Kiel	Tolk ü. Schleswig
Henstedt ü. Ulzburg	Uetersen (Holst.)
Hohenfelde ü. Schöneberg	Wallsbüll ü. Flensburg
Hohenwested (Holst.)	Wankendorf ü. Neumünster
Holzdorf b. Eckernförde	Westerland (Sylt)
Husum	Wilster
Itzehoe	Wittdün, Amrum
Jevenstedt ü. Rendsburg	Wrist

This listing is not complete as I am sure other towns made use of this emergency measure.

RPD HAMBURG

RPD Hamburg had basically the same criteria except for some changes in dates which are documented.

On August 17, 1945, under Reference Number (AktENZEICHEN) 609/PTT/2/1/91, dated August 17, 1945, the president of the RPD Hamburg received the following order:

"Subject: Re-introduction of registration service. Reference is 609/PTT/2/44 of July 19, 1945 and your reply I/IA dated July 21, 1945:

1. You are authorized to introduce registration services for letters (up to 500 grams) and postcards forthwith.
2. You should advertise the resumption of this service and inform me of the date of introduction as soon as possible."

(signed) Hudson
Major for the Colonel
Comd 609 L/R Det Mil Gov.

On August 23, the president of RPD Hamburg (in absentia by Dr. Harmann) mailed a notice to the offices in his district covering the re-establishment of the registration services for postcards for official, business and civilian (private) mail and for letters up to 500 grams for official and business mail for all of the British Zone as of August 24, 1945. The public is to be informed through billboards or other means. Reference Number (AktENZEICHEN) IAL-2190-1.

Another letter, under Reference Number IAL-2125, also dated August 23, 1945, was released by the president covering, in substance, the same rulings as established by the RPD Kiel:

"Because of the additional service of registration requiring stamps, the shortage of stamps will be more noticeable...."

This release then continues in the same manner as the earlier mentioned letter by the president of the RPD Kiel. However, this release is of additional importance because it establishes the use of the registration label as a 30 Pfennig stamp within the RPD Hamburg as of September 1, 1945!!

"On September 21, 1945, preparations were underway to eliminate the use of registration labels as 30 Pfennig stamps on registered mail as it was requested to make sure there was a sufficient supply of 30 Pfennig stamps. A supply of 100,000 stamps was supposed to last approximately 10 days." This paragraph was taken from a letter signed by Dr. Dietze.

Released on September 29, 1945, under Reference Number IAL-2190-1 referring to Reference IA-2125 dated August 23, 1945 by the president of the RPD Hamburg, was the following:

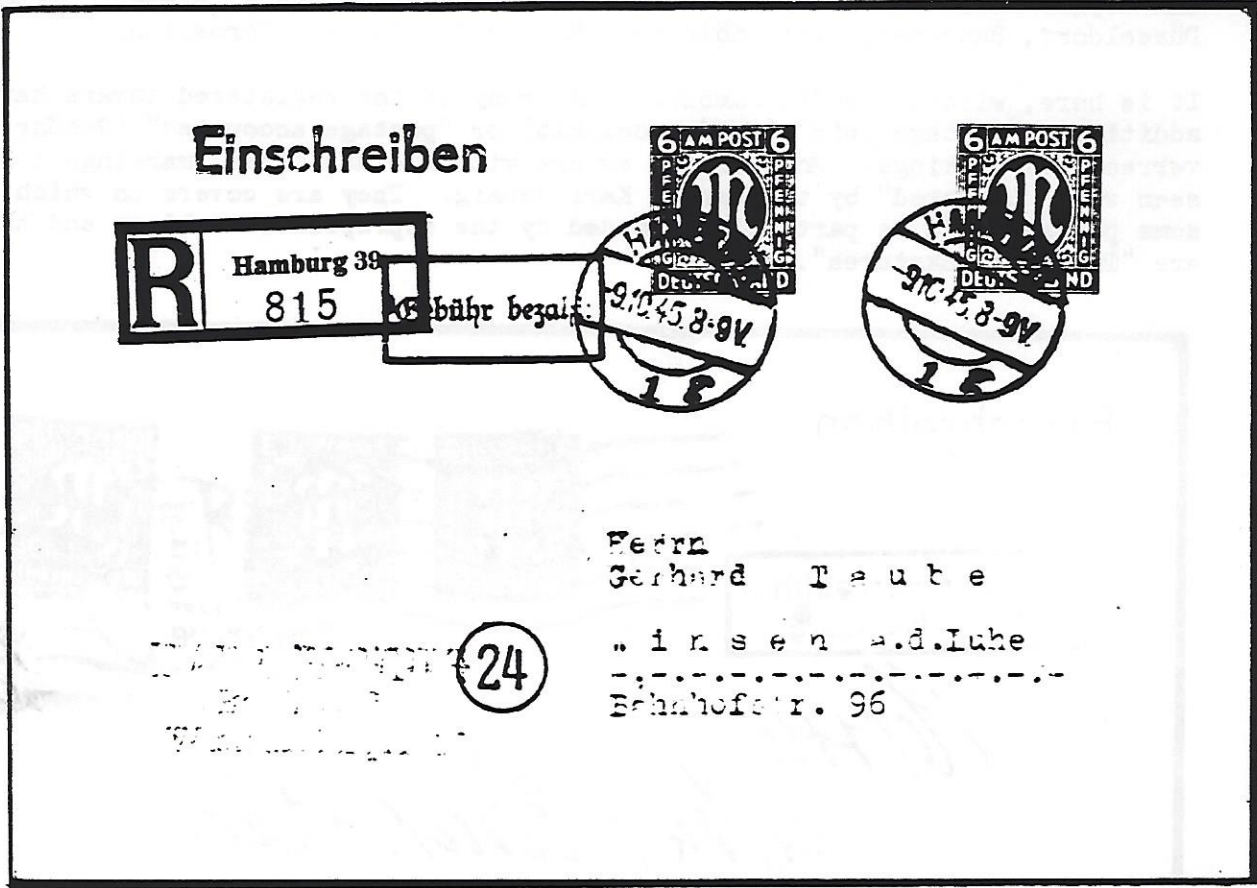
"Since there is sufficient supply of 30 and 42 Pfennig denominations and there will be supply in the future, we will terminate as of October 6, 1945, the practice of allowing the registration labels to sub also as 30 Pfennig stamps. An inventory of the registration labels must be taken at the close of counter hours on October 6 and to be accounted for as stamps and recorded and then continued to be used as they were prior to the British occupation." (signed in absentia) Dr. Dietze

This release was routed to all postoffices and subpostoffices of the RPD Hamburg and copies mailed to the president of the RPDs Braunschweig, Bremen, Dortmund, Düsseldorf, Hannover, Kiel, Köln and Münster for their information.

It is here, within the RPD Hamburg, that many of the registered covers have the additional "postage paid" (Gebühr bezahlt) or "postage accounted" (Gebühr verrechnet) markings. Most of the covers with the additional markings I have seen were "prepared" by the dealer Karl Hennig. They are covers on which some postage paid is partially recorded by the appropriate markings and they are "Teilbarfrankaturen".

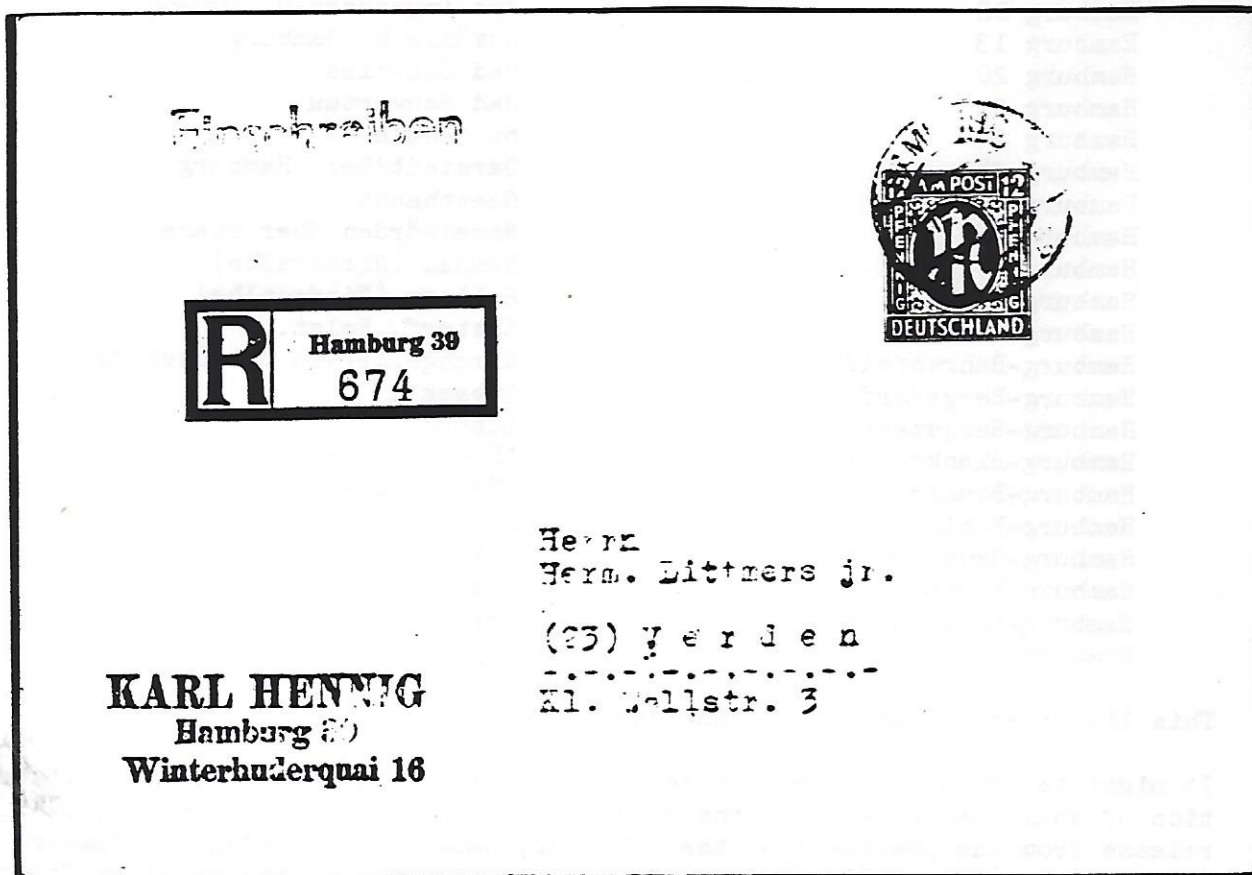


COVER III. RPD Hamburg. Cancelled Hamburg 1 on September 9, 1945. Back-cancelled Hamburg 24 on September 10, 1945. Also with rubber stamp "Commercial" on back. Note 2-line "Gebühr verrechnet Pa 1 Hamburg" on front!!



COVER IV. RPD Hamburg. Cancelled Hamburg 1 on October 9, 1945 8-9 V. (late date)!! Backcancelled on October 9, 1945 -15. On back also rubber cancel "Geschäftlich". Note "Gebühr bezahlt" on front in box tied to registry label.

I do believe that some of the covers with such markings, especially where they tie in with the registration labels, are genuine covers of this emergency ruling:



COVER V. RPD Hamburg. Cancelled on last day without any additional markings Hamburg 39. Backcancelled October 7, 1945 Verden(Aller). Also rubber cancel on back "GERMAN Geschäftlich".

For the RPD Hamburg, the Michel Specialized 1977/78 lists the following offices of Hamburg and the towns of the district from where this usage has been recorded:

Hamburg 1	Hamburg-Sasel
Hamburg 4	Hamburg-Stellingen
Hamburg 5	Hamburg-Wandsbek 1
Hamburg 11	Hamburg-Wellingsbüttel
Hamburg 12	Amelinghausen-U. Lünebg.
Hamburg 13	Aumühle b. Hamburg
Hamburg 20	Bad Oldesloe
Hamburg 21	Bad Schwartau
Hamburg 24	Buxtehude
Hamburg 34	Garstedt/Bez. Hamburg
Hamburg 36	Geesthacht 1
Hamburg 38	Hamelwörden über Stade
Hamburg 39	Hammah (Niederelbe)
Hamburg 43	Hollern (Niederelbe)
Hamburg-Altona 1	Kastorf, Holst.
Hamburg-Bahrenfeld	Kirchgellersen ü. Lüneburg
Hamburg-Bergedorf 1	Lübeck 1
Hamburg-Bergstedt	Lübeck 2
Hamburg-Blankenese	Lübeck-Travemünde
Hamburg-Bramfeld	Mölln (Lauenb.)
Hamburg-Fuhlsbüttel	Ratzeburg
Hamburg-Grossflottbek 1	Reinbek
Hamburg-Harburg	Stade 2
Hamburg-Langenhorn 2	Trittau
Hamburg-Lokstedt 2	

This list also should not be considered complete.

It might be of value to mention here that on September 1, 1945, the registration of small packages was reinstated. In addition, on September 28, 1945, a release from the president of the RPD Kiel, Bauer, under Reference Number (Aktenzeichen) IA4-2460 and Issue Number 116, was issued and reads as follows:

"Return Receipts. With authorization from the Military Government the usage of return receipts (ADA V, 1 § 28) is immediately allowed." (signed) in absentia by Dr. Kessler

I would be interested to hear from the members regarding this article. I would also appreciate xerox copies of covers of any postoffice not listed in the article, as well as any covers showing different markings (including those on the reverse side).

Early GROSSRAESCHEN Postmarks

by A. Heinz

The date of re-opening of the mails to the public in various regions of post-WW II Germany has always been a very controversial subject. It varied from town to town and was strongly influenced by a number of factors, including: (1) the prevailing political climate, (2) occupation army directives, (3) degree of destruction and (4) tempo of local reconstruction efforts.

Grossraeschen had been fortunate. It had suffered but minor damage and Soviet occupation authorities had encouraged immediate re-opening of mining activities in the area, for purely "reparations" purposes.

Actually the Grossraeschen area was restricted for a short period because certain categories of war prisoners were put to work in the coal mines. Thus Grossraeschen was then relatively isolated and its postmaster was left to shift for himself. Furthermore, the last Nazi postmaster, Oberpostverwalter Friede, had effectively "evacuated" the inventories of the post offices in his domain before he escaped to the West, well ahead of advancing Russian forces.

A new postmaster, Herr Schmidt, was assigned by the Russian authorities. He had been a mailman prior to his promotion to postmaster and had little management experience. No doubt, he was of the proper political color.

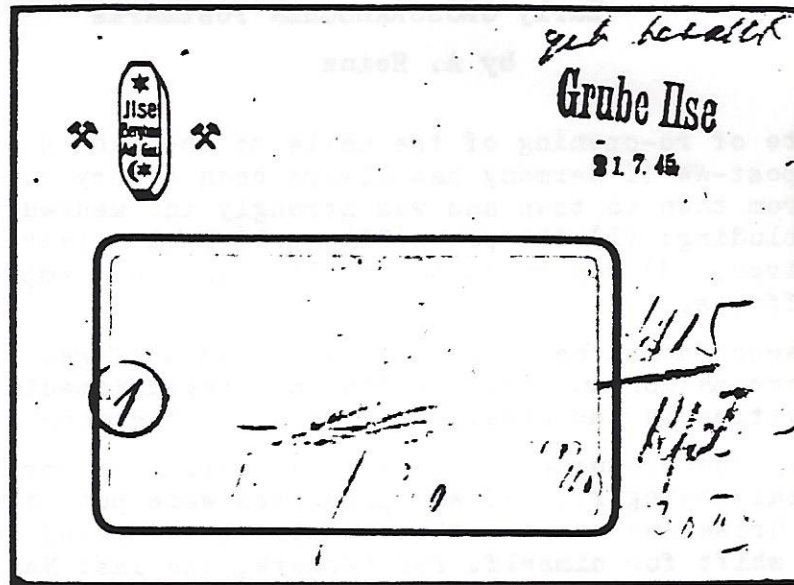
These, then, were the circumstances that prevailed in Grossraeschen after the May 8, 1945 surrender. It is known that a courier system for official mail was first set up in the area. Just when it started to function and when public-mail service was reestablished is still a mystery, largely because of the reluctance of East Zone postal authorities to respond to inquiries. The few courier envelopes that have come to my attention are devoid of postmarks and other data that could be helpful in establishing re-opening dates.

What is known is that the mails were re-opened to the public sometime prior to mid-July, 1945 and that this early mail was processed on a cash-franking basis. Valid stamps, provisionals or otherwise, were not then available; so "postage paid" marks were used, as in many other towns in post WW II Germany.

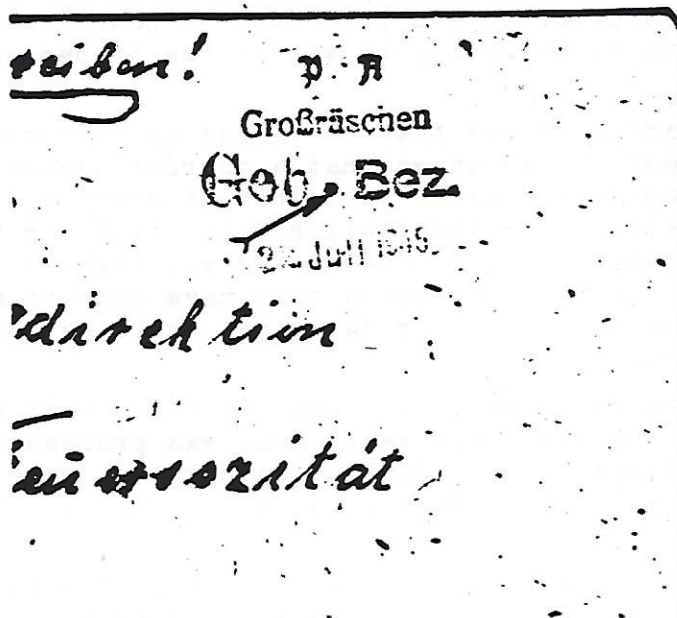
The earliest private letter reported to date - June 1977 - was mailed at Grossraeschen on July 14, 1945. It is of the stampless variety and carries a postage paid mark (gebuehr bezahlt) and an emergency postmark of a type not reported to date. Judging from a Xerox copy, this recently discovered letter does appear legitimate in every respect.

A similar letter, mailed at the Grossraeschen branch office "Grube Ilse", is shown in illustration # 1. The cover is dated July 21, 1945 and proves that valid stamps were not available at the "Grube Ilse" branch office on that date.

A small section of a third letter, a registered one, is shown in illustration # 2. This letter carries the well known, 3-line, emergency postmark of Grossraeschen (Mi. #1); a postmark that appears on most Grossraeschen mail franked with postmaster provisionals. The first two lines "P.A./Grossraeschen" identify the post office at Grossraeschen. The third line "Geb. Bez." is an abbreviated postage-paid mark.



Ill. # 1 Cover showing a handwritten postage paid legend, a single line "Grube Ilse" postmark and date



Ill. # 2

Portion of a registered letter showing 3-line, Grossraeschen postmark (Mi. #1) and July 22, 1945 date

What is significant in the three covers discussed is the absence of stamps and the dates. All three carry a "postage paid" indication of some kind. If postmaster provisionals had been in the picture at the time - July 14 to 22, 1945 - the makeshift, three line, Mi. #1, postmark would not have been designed to contain a "postage paid" legend. Chances are that the three-line postmark was introduced prior to the release of postmaster provisionals and that it was continued in use, without change, as a cancellation device when provisionals became available for franking. That is, the third line "Geb. Bez." was not removed from the handstamp. That may explain the questionable presence of a "postage paid" legend in an emergency postmark used later to process mail franked with valid stamps.

It has recently been suggested⁽⁷⁾ that Grossraeschen provisionals, specifically the Nachnahme type (Mi #2), were available as early as late June, 1945 and, to prove his point, the author illustrated such an item, on piece, postmarked "2.Juli 1945".

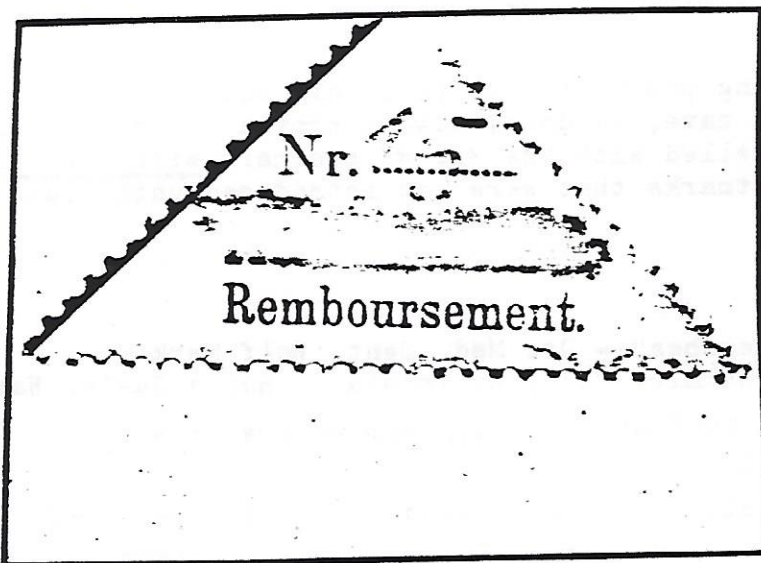


Illustration # 3

Nachnahme provisional
(Mi. #2) on piece.

(Courtesy Herr Herbert
Stephan)

During my study of the Grossraeschen complex I have seen many such provisionals, on piece and on cover. They all appeared very legitimate. All carried the Mi. #1 postmark and late June or early July 1945 dates. I have also seen many legitimate appearing pieces and entires similarly cancelled (late June - early July) and franked with other provisionals, including 6- and 12-pf. types. Since the 6- and 12-pf. provisionals were not issued until August 20, 1945, they cannot possibly carry legitimate June or July 1945 cancels. Obviously these items were cancelled with backdated postmarks. Provisionals were not issued until late July, 1945 and any earlier cancellation on provisionals must therefore be classified as backdated.

Actually, these backdated cancels can be readily identified. They do carry a minor but very significant flaw that is not readily apparent to the casual student. Observe the position of the period after "Geb." in the bottom line of the Mi. #1 cancel. In the genuine postmark, ill. #2, the period lies close to the middle of the space between "Geb" and "Bez.". In the backdated or manipulated version, ill. #3, it is shifted to the right by about 1.5mm. No magnifying glass is needed. The difference is quite obvious.

This position difference of the period after "Geb." alone would hardly qualify as proof positive that some cancels were backdated or manipulated, if you will. However, there is more to the story.

It is a known fact that the Mi. #1 postmark, ill. #2, was extensively used from late July to mid-October, 1945 to process mail. On or about October 10, 1945, the period in question dropped out of the handstamp; but it was continued in use - minus the period - until October 18, 1945; at which date it was retired.

The handstamp was reactivated late in 1945 or in early 1946 for the production of many philatelic "gems" by the then manipulation-oriented postmaster Schmidt. At that time the absence of the period was noted and it was replaced, but fortunately in a slightly shifted position. Backdated Mi #1 cancels can thus be readily identified.

In summary, it may be stated that:

1. Early Grossraeschen mail was processed on a cash-franking basis until late July, 1945.
2. Postmaster provisionals were not issued in Grossraeschen until late July, 1945.
3. Entires or pieces carrying postmaster provisionals and late June or early July, 1945 cancels have, to date, always proven to be manipulated. They are invariably cancelled with the Mi. #1 postmark with the shifted period or with other postmarks that were not introduced until late October, 1945.

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OBLITERATED NAZI ISSUE Notes

Compiled by Donald Slawson

Recent Prices and Material Offered

I don't know how closely any of you watch auctions or keep track of material offered, but the 169 Grobe auction (25 October) had some real gems. In the last 8 years I have seen 4 "Meerane Brief" (see the Michel section on Glauchau) offered, the cover pictured in Michel has been offered twice, a postcard, a window envelope, and a large piece. Each of these had the Meerane Postverschlusszettel over Glauchau stamps (I think the latest Michel lists these at DM 2500.-). The Grobe auction was offering three of these items, two over schwarzungen (one postcard and one cover with 2 x 12pfg. stamps), and a large piece with Glauchau Nr. 7. The two former carried an Ausruf price of 1600DM. vs. a Michel price of DM 1800 (which when the 13% is added would make the Ausruf over Michel), while the latter was started at DM 1400 (against a Michel of 2500), presumably "cheap" because it was only a piece.

These items must be getting popular and valuable. Grobe offered the window envelope about 1½ years ago and it sold for DM 1500. A year ago they offered the piece and it brought DM 1500. This same piece was just sold in

the 10 Interphila auction (6 Sept) and brought DM 2500. Incredible!

Well, so much for the Meerane Brief. The Interphila auction (Schöpke & Lange/Interphila, 3 Hannover, Rathenaustrasse 13/14) has kindly furnished me prices on many of their obliterations. Also the firm Stampazine in New York City has given us prices realized in their auction back in August. So here are some recent prices realized in auction (for amounts in DM divide by 2 and you come real close to the \$ amount when the 13% is included).

- Bad Sarrow: A set of Michel IX-XII brought DM 230, while another set with gum problems couldn't get an Ausruf of DM 100.
- Barsinghausen: 1-7 in pair type I-II brought Ausruf of DM 1300 (Michel DM 1300+200%). Two covers, one with type I the other with type II complete each with return markings brought DM 1200. A mint set of type I brought DM 380, while a set of type II with an extra 20pfg. doubledruck was unsold at Ausruf DM 800. In Stampazine type I got \$170 while type II brought \$165.
- Chemnitz: A set of Stadtwappen overprints brought DM 580.
- Döbeln: 1a with double inverted overprint brought DM 80, while the same 1b brought DM 130 (this seems wrong). A PI on cover was not sold at DM 1800 (this same piece was also sold in the Grobe auction a year ago and brought DM 1200).
- Finsterwalde: Two used copies of I were offered. Evidently there was not much bidding competition, but both copies were sold. One sold for DM 720 (Ausruf DM 700), the other brought Ausruf of DM 850.
- Fredersdorf: Michel 1-23 brought DM 190 mint, DM 200 used on piece. Nr. 24-25 mint brought DM 200. A lot of 2 covers with 1pfg (3), 5, 6, and 10pfg. brought DM 60. Used or on piece 26+F906 brought DM 60, F885-6 DM 120, and F906-7 DM 65. A mint set of 27-38 brought DM 120.
- Glauchau: In Stampazine 1-18 brought \$15, #19 \$12, and I-VI \$31. In Germany a set of Parteidienst (20-29) brought DM 460. Three sets of Behördendienstmarken were offered, mint, on piece, and on cover, and brought respectively DM 2350, 2250 and 2500.
- Gottleuba: Michel 1-21 mint brought \$165 and DM 720 (the German figure sounds high). # 22 mint brought \$ 42 and DM 150. A cover with 6xlpfg brought DM 160, a cover with 8pfg DM 65. A 1943 Hitler birthday 40pfg. on cover brought DM 260 (sounds like a bargain, most German dealers would want about DM 500 for something like this.)
- Grabow: A lot of 6, 12 and 24pfg on piece brought DM 230.
- Herrnhut: There were a number of lots, but these are so expensive that I usually don't bother to check the price.
- Helzhausen: 1-3 mint brought DM 60 and \$23. Used DM 65, used in Zwenkau DM 90. Mi. Nr. III mint brought DM 180.
- Lobau: Mi #1-2 used (violett overprint) DM 1400. Mi # 3-25 mint DM 125. Mi # 3-27 (including engraved) mint DM 300. Card with 5,7,26,28 and W151 unsold at DM 300. Mi # 26-7 used on piece DM 200. Mi # 28,31 mint DM 65. Cover 3,EIII unsold at DM 200. K22 with overprint used DM 110. DR165 used on piece with cork obliteration DM 100. Two covers (Bedarfs), one with DR156(3x) the other with DR 157 and 170 with cork obliterations brought DM 500! Block 7 with Lobau overprint, no gum and fault unsold at DM 800.
- Meissen: 2-21 used on piece DM 130, 2-24 on piece, minor stains, \$200. Cover with 2,25 and 1pfg cork (not claimed Bedarfs) DM 300!

Mühlberg: Mi. # 1-15 mint DM 330, used DM 390; Mi. #16 (10pfg engraved) mint DM 500, used DM 460. Mi. # 10I 20pfg. vertical pair with under stamp having red overprint - 2 pairs known - DM 2200.

Namburg: Mi. #I DM 660 mint; Mi. #II mint DM 700. Vertical pair of I on cover DM 3500 Ausruf - no sale

Netzschkau: Mi. # 1-11I \$280 used on piece, 1-11 I+II (2 complete sets) mint DM 1300. Mi. # 2,3,4,5 & 8 with print offset on back (1st printing) DM 100 (mi. DM 210). Mi. # 1P Ausruf DM 180, sold 170.

Perleberg: Mi. # 1-5 had 5 sets offered, one mint the others used. The mint brought DM 140, while the 2 used sets I checked on brought only DM 130 each.

Saulgau: Mi. # i-XII brought DM 70, while II-V in blocks with 1 inverted but no gum brought DM 50.

Schwarzenberg: Mi. 1-23I used with overprint color somewhat "washed out" brought DM 320, while 1-23II mint brought only DM 240. 24-25II (engraved values) brought DM 430 mint, DM 620 used. Type II overprint on 1pfg. Hindenburg used on piece got DM 160.

Strausberg: Mi. 1-6 brought DM 50 in Germany, \$12 in New York. 1-30 got DM 150, 7-30 mint brought \$29 in New York, used DM 210 in Germany. Mi. 31-33 (postcongress) mint brought DM 360.

Wittenberg-Lutherstadt: 1-20 used on piece brought DM 170, while 3 R-covers brought DM 110.

Wurzen: Mi. # 1-20 (to LDM) used on piece got DM 280. # 21-22 (Engraved) brought DM 770 mint and DM 870 used. I-III got DM 200 mint, DM 230 used.

In New York a cover "Luckau" with cork obliteration and "Gebuhr bezahlt" and Sept 15, 1945 postmark brought \$12. Something's fishy, for on Sept 15 the obliterations were not valid postage. Werner Bohne had given me a copy of a similar cover (postmark same date), but it was registered with 42pfg in postage, and the cancellation did not tie the stamps to the cover. Thus it appeared a normal attempt to use obliterations after they were valid. Perhaps these were philatelically inspired, but nothing appeared illegal about the cover. The one just sold is described as "tied to cover, so something is wrong."

A cover "Ortmannsdorf" franked with Scott #507-11 (I don't have a Scott catalog) obliterated with a paper paste over, postmark June 20, 1945 got \$82.!!! Perhaps I shouldn't be amazed, for in Germany recently a similar cover went for over \$100 as I remember (I can't remember the auction, but was amazed at the price, especially considering these are completely philatelic preparations. I'll admit paste over obliterations are scarce, and on Bedarfsbrief are certainly desirable, but on philatelic cover is another thing.

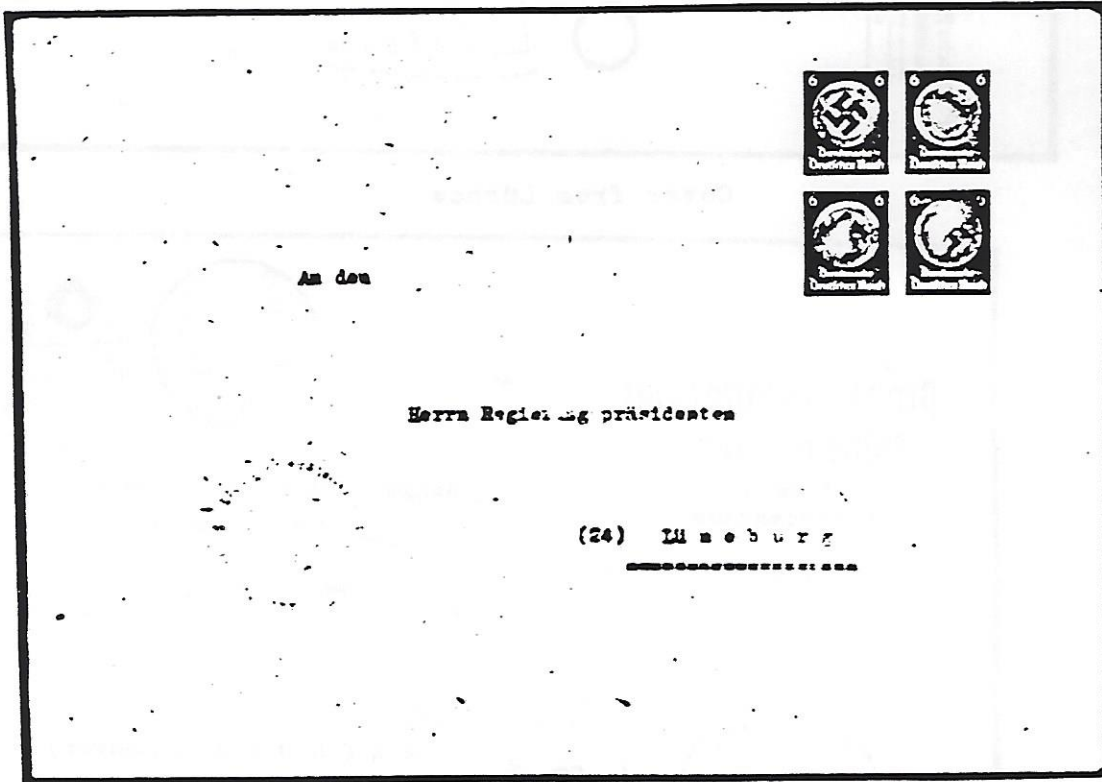
That's about it. I note a scarcity of Schwarzenberg type I material, and the Schwarzenberg type II is cheap compared to Michel, as is Perleberg used. Prices here are definitely cheaper than in Germany, in fact, in Germany the stuff's getting awfully high. Cork obliteration covers never go for less than 30DM, and usually significantly more. A lot of good stuff seems to be on the market, maybe the high prices are bringing it out. I think a lot is held or being bought by speculators or people "hedging against inflation" and think that maybe we should watch our step in buying, for it may not be genuine collector demand which is driving the prices up. Unless there are many more people collecting this material than I know about, there should be enough material to go around.

The Stampazine prices were furnished by Mike Amenta. Thanks Mike.

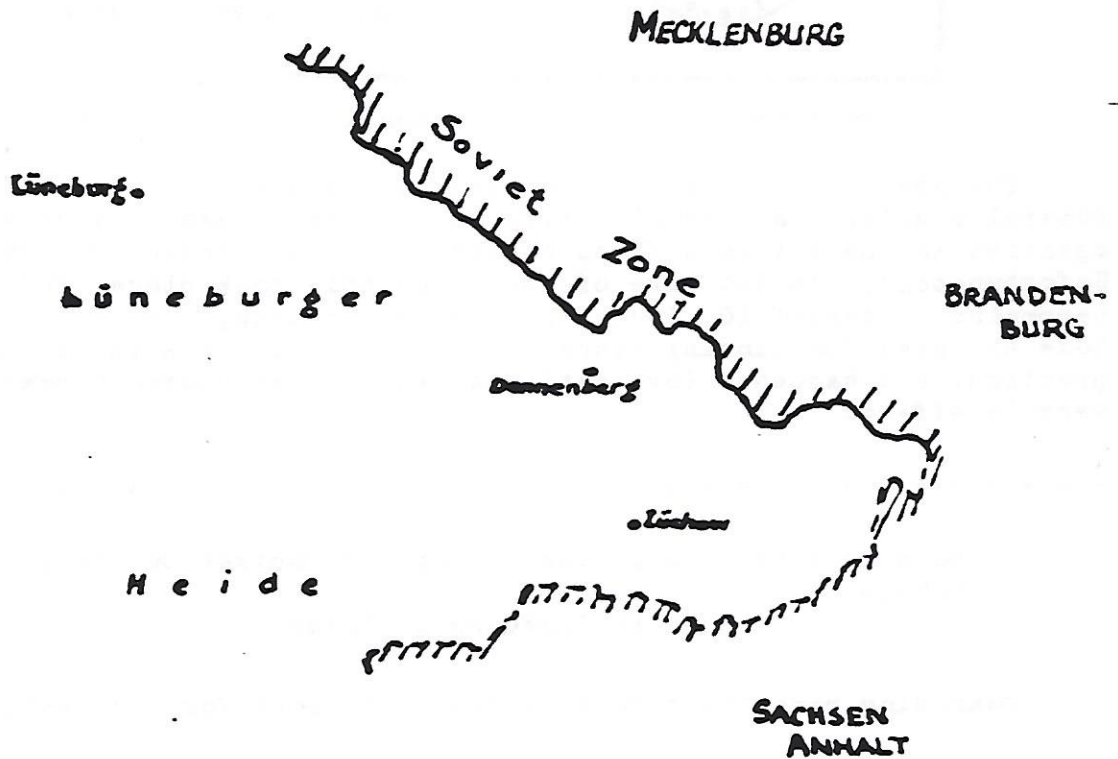
"Cork Obliterations" in the British Zone

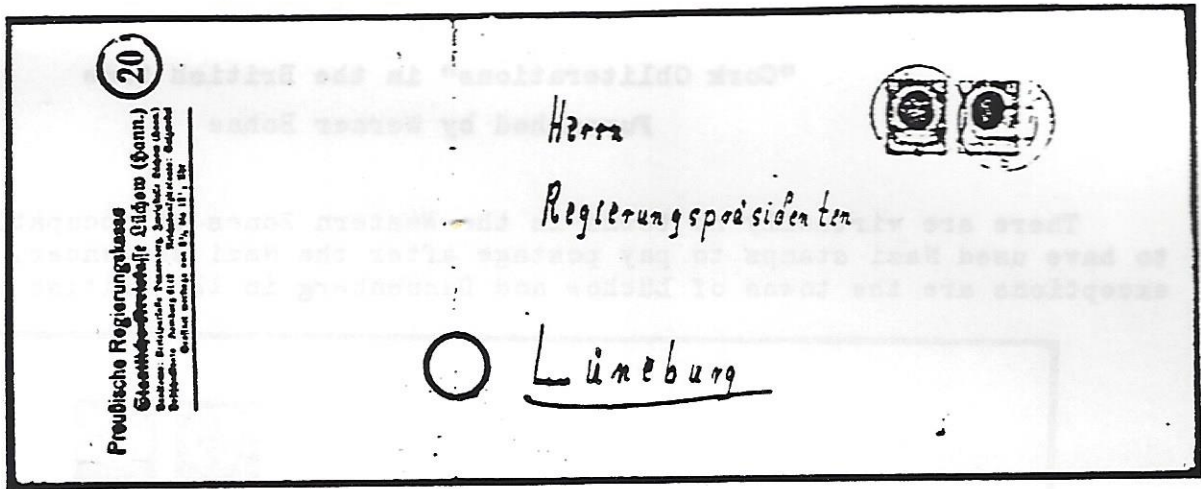
Furnished by Werner Bohne

There are virtually no towns in the Western Zones of occupation known to have used Nazi stamps to pay postage after the Nazi surrender. Two exceptions are the towns of Lüchow and Dannenberg in the British Zone.

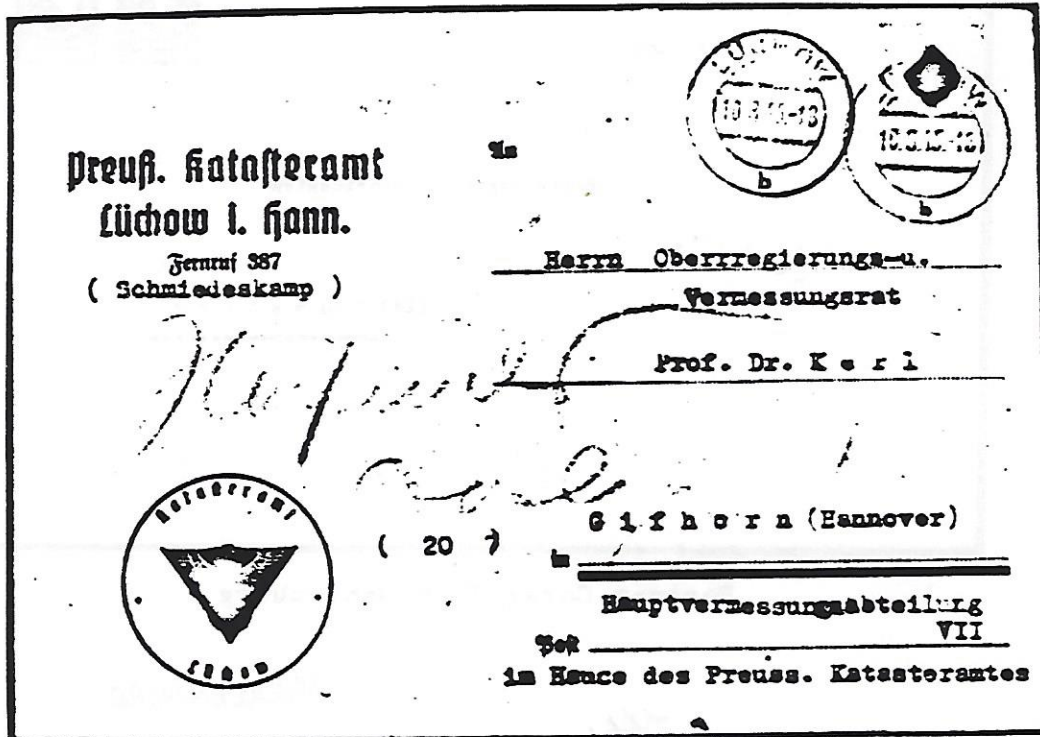


Postwar Cover from Dannenberg





Cover from Lüneburg



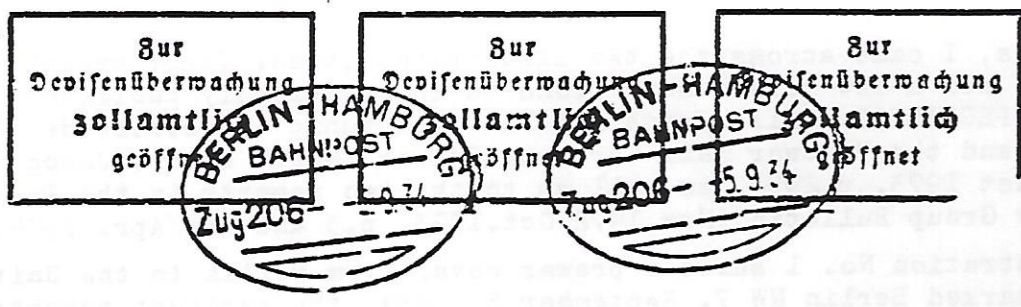
Another Lüneburg cover, Postmark 10 August, 1945

The use of obliterations in these towns does not seem to have been a general practice used on all mail, but a device used only by official agencies in these towns. Thus, obliterations are known only on Dienstmarken. Unfortunately, I'm not sure of the dates this took place. For sure it was happening on August 10, 1945. This is interesting, for mails in the British Zone had been functioning since June or July, so this is not an "early" practice, but happened (or continued) well after "normal" postal functions were in effect.

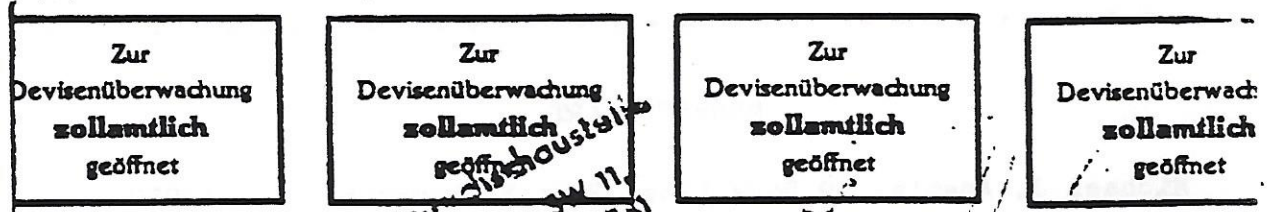
More Observations on the Prewar and Postwar Currency Censor Labels

by Ingeburg L. Fisher

Searching recently through a dealer's stock for interesting Berlin



Currency Censor on cover postmarked "Berlin NW7 / 5.9.34" sent to East Pittsburg, Pa. U.S.A.



*Devisenamt
Postamt SW 11
Mitternstraße 128/129*

23. Dez. 54

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page.

Currency Censor on cover postmarked "Berlin SW11 / 23.12.54" sent to Los Angeles, Calif. U.S.A.

covers, I came across the two illustrated items. Their examination prompts me to add a few more observations to the previously published articles in the SPECIALIST "Third Reich Pre-War Censorship" by B.R.Beede (Dec 1959, p. 768) and the "Prewar Nazi Currency Censor Label" by Dr. Jason Manchester (August 1973, p.295), as well as to the two reports in the Post World War II Study Group Bulletin (Nov.1972/Oct.1973, p.3 and Mar/Apr. 1974, p.22).

Illustration No. 1 shows a prewar cover from Berlin to the United States, postmarked Berlin NW 7, September 5, 1934, the earliest reported date thus far. The envelope was slit open across the flap and resealed with three of the previously described type 1 currency censor labels. What I find of particular interest is that the inspection must have taken place in the train while the letter was en route to the port of Hamburg, as can be seen by the applied railroad cancel "Berlin-Hamburg Bahnpost, Zug 206 - 5.9.34" (train No.206, Sept.5, 1934).

Illustration No. 2, in contrast, shows a postwar cover, also posted in Berlin (West) and addressed to the United States (postmarked Berlin SW 11, December 23, 1954). Closer examination shows the familiar slit across the flap of the envelope under the four currency censor labels. Yet, the letters on these labels vary in style from those previously illustrated. This cover was examined immediately after posting as can be seen from the applied hand-stamps "Devisennachschhaustelle / beim Postamt SW 11 / Mückernstrasse 138/141" (currency control at the SW 11 Post Office) "23.Dez.1954". Additionally a signature was applied which contrasts with the previously reported covers.

MEMBERS MART

Michael J. Amenta, 19 Dock Lane, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050

writes he has a copy of the 1944 (May) "Ortsverzeichnis I" which lists all post offices in the Reich and I think General Gouvernement, gives the RPD of each, etc. For \$50 he will provide a Xerox copy of this 500 page document, postpaid. I saw a copy of this document (an original) recently in one of the auctions and the ausruf was DM 150.-, which was \$75 back when the mark was only 44¢.

I (Slawson) am still looking for a lot of obliterated Nazi material. If any of you want to get rid of anything in this line let me know.

End of this issue.