



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY POST WORLD WAR II STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

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MESSAGES/NOTES

An Apology

I'm afraid that in our last issue I failed to list Myron Fox as the translator of Mr. Slaboch's article on Glauchau cover forgeries. To the best of my knowledge this is the first time I have failed to list a translator. Sorry Myron.

Meet me in St. Louis, Louis

We have lined up a meeting at the St. Louis convention. Al Heinz is slated to give a talk on "Postal history kalied-scope of Post-WW II Germany", which should be of interest to all. If anyone has anything on his mind, feel free to bring it up. I'm hoping we may be able to get more people involved, and to get some of the "subgroups" active. Check the show catalog for the exact time and place of meeting.



The Hamburg/Kiel Registry Labels

This little blurb in the last issue evidently generated some interest. I received letters on this from Bud Hennig and O. Winter, as well as a phone call from Harold Peter. Also in the meantime I have received a "Sonder-schrift" (special work) from the LOKNOT Arge written by Herbert Stephan titled "Use of registry labels as 30Pfg. stamps", which seems to contain a lot of documentation and cover the subject very thoroughly. Harold has promised to provide more information on this subject, so I'm hoping that he will take Stephan's work into account and come up with something for us. Depending on the conclusions reached in these further works I'll let you know some of the feelings the others who have wrote in hold (it could be the conclusions of these further works support the feelings).

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Address Correction:

Ray Carlson's street address should be 24806 Lyndon

Address changes:

Robert Korman, P.O. Box 463, Huntington, N.Y. 11743
Gregory Mason, HQ Co, USMCA NBG, APO New York, 09696

New Members:

James M. Sanders, 3805 Cleveland Ave., Brookfield, Ill. 60513
Stephen L. Strausberg, Box 4059 52nd OMS, APO New York, 09123

Jim writes he is interested in Trieste Zone A. Anyone with similar interest please contact him.

Stephen writes he is interested in obliterations, especially Bohemia and Moravia. Even though these are legally Czechoslovakian, there is precedent for GPS studying these. Jay, can you give him any help on these? In fact, I'd like to see something written on these, even perhaps including the over-prints on General Gouvernment, Austrian, Slovakia, etc., all the obliterations on Nazi issues. Jay, could you sparkplug such an effort, perhaps with Stephens help?

* * * * *

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

No business this issue, but I want to include this section so you'll keep it in mind. There are 3 outstanding questions, of which I know answers to two are fairly trival for the person with access to the answers, and the answers have to be fairly readily available somewhere. Let's participate!

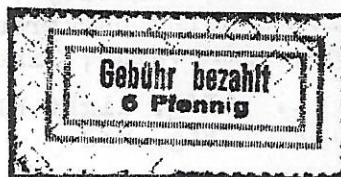
Are the so-called "Postage Paid" Labels of LOHNE/OLDENBURG Issued in 1945 Acceptable to Philatelists?

by Paul Rossbach-Emden

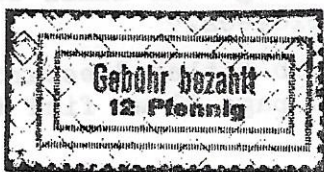
translated by K. Alfred Geisser



Underground: Pale blue
Inscription: Dark brown



Underground: Pale blue
Inscription: Black



Underground: Red
Inscription: Dark brown
"1" of "12" with top
bar



Underground: Red
Inscription: Dark brown
"1" of "12" without top
bar

Those having had access to contemporary literature on the subject should not have any difficulty in answering the question posed by the title.

What serious collector is not familiar with the Hallensia Norms, published in 1949 under the auspices of the Deutsche Kulturbund by the eminent Dr. Arno-Alexander Shulze-Dirks and Kurt Zirkenbach?

A listing of all issues from May, 1945 to the end of 1946, with an evaluation of the issues from the standpoint of inclusion in catalogs, was contained in the publication No. 14/15 April 8, 1947 of the Nordrhein-Westfalen E.V. in the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten. On page 54 of this publication the next to the last paragraph reads as follows:

"We will and must apply a strict yardstick to the postwar issues, and separate the chaff from the wheat, and avoid misleading ourselves and our friends who put their trust in us."

Contents of philatelic organs of the postwar years were not intended to force certain opinions on anyone. The realization of an honest base is needed to build upon, so as to keep philately clean.

After reading the comments of some philatelic papers regarding the Lohne labels, no further comments should be needed.

In the above mentioned report of the Kulturbund, the labels are tagged fraudulent on page 13.

In "Deutsche Notfrankaturen 1945-46" by Wulbecke in 1947, one notes on page 17 under Lohne/Oldenburg:

"An evacuated doctor did a thriving business in July/August 1945 with 2 labels he created of 6 and 12Pf. colored blue and red on a colored background. The D.A. had the last word".

In the "Catalog Berlin" (Deutsche Länder and Städtmarken/Richtpreisliste der deutschen Länder und Städtmarken nach 8 Mai 1945) published by Georg Hähle, text by Ing. Helmut Oetken, issued in 1947, on page 9 we find the following:

"LOHNE/OLDENBURG Postal district 23

Private labels, quantity 7445, format rectangular 42x21mm., on white paper with colored background, dark brown printed "Gebühr bezahlt" in two lines, with value, lined borders, smooth gum, perf. 11

1. 6Pfg. light blue

2. 12Pfg. red

-, -

-, -

Set R.M. -, -

Observation: This is a private, not official, emission, instigated by a private person and cancelled by unsuspecting postal employees after postage had been paid. Thus some pieces went through the mails due to the ignorance or carelessness of the postal employees."

In August, 1946 an article by Dr. Richard Jacob titled "Research on German stamps issued after May, 1945" appeared. On page 22 we find the following:

"16. Lohne/Oldenburg (OPD Oldenburg)

"Preliminary: A newcomer to Lohne, Dr. Kayser, on his own initiative had some labels printed, used them on cards and letters, took these items to the post office, and paid in cash the fee due on them. In July he disposed of these items. Later the post office refused to accept similar items for mailing.

"Values: 6Pf. blue 12Pf. red

"Emission: 6Pf. = 7256 12Pf. = 6855

"Character: The labels of Lohne are of private initiative, and therefore of no value to the collector."

The Kircheldorf Catalog of 1947 on page 499 under Local Issues lists 5 towns as swindle issues, Lohne/Oldenburg among them.

More detailed is the "Katalog und Handbuch der deutschen Zonen- und Lokalmarken" published by Dipl. Ing. Ernst Müller in 1947. On page 165:

"Lohne/Oldenburg

Diverse stamp dealers are offering the labels of Lohne for sale. Apparently they are the only ones issued in the British Zone. The asking price for them is rather high. We can read in Richard Borek's Philatellische Nachrichten of March 25, 1946 (No. 190): Lohne is a small city in Oldenburg with one printing establishment and a post office. One day an energetic Dr. K. appeared there with a valise full of cards and letters having 12Pfg. and 6Pfg. Gebühr bezahlt labels pasted on them. He paid the necessary postage, and had the postmaster apply a cancel to his product. He then proceeded to offer his merchandise to stamp dealers, and must have been rather successful, as the many dealer offerings suggest. He also approached the firm Boreck, and they were willing to buy. However, before putting out any money, they got in touch with the Lohne post office. The answer from there is as follows:

"The labels in question were not officially issued by either the Reichspost or the Postamt Lohne. An evacuated Dr. K. resided a short time in Lohne, but departed about a month ago for parts unknown. He had those

items cancelled at the post office in July. They should not be considered as stamps, rather of no value to the stamp collector. Eventually the post office refused to accept mail with these labels.

'This Dr. K. has now left Lohne, and is not to be found anywhere. How many collectors have acquired these valueless labels for good money is anybody's guess.

'The post office confirms the statement by Boreck calling the labels worthless, of no official or semi-official nature, strictly the product of Dr. K. for his own personal gain. The post office had no part in the production or sale.

Signature

xxx

The "Handbuch der deutschen Zonenmarken 1945-46" by M.v.d. Wulbecke published in 1947 on page 71 has this enlightening statement:

"Lohne/Oldenburg: In the small city of Lohne a recent newcomer made full use of the unsettled conditions, and an obliging postal employee had no objection to this businessman applying labels to his extensive correspondence. After paying the postage, this man was able to pass off these labels of his own creation. In the few July days he enjoyed this privilege he was able to bring a substantial quantity of them into circulation."

The following short statement is in the "Illustrierter Briefmarkenkatalog Neudeutschland 1945/46" by J. Müller:

"Lohne/Oldenburg
1945. Labels with inscription "Gebühr bezahlt" and value in brown color with double frame line are to be considered as private promotion. Issue about 7000 pieces.
1. 6Pfg. blue -,- 2. 12Pfg. red -,- "

E.P. Finke wrote an article in 1947 with the title "Fälschung in deutscher Lokalpostmarken und Schwindelausgaben". In this listing of items with questionable character, Lohne/Oldenburg is also mentioned. On page 6 we find:

"Lohne(Oldenburg): Labels 6Pfg. brown/blue and 12Pfg. gray/red with Gebühr bezahlt and value in two lines framed with a double line."

In the early postwar years an article by Burgfeldt titled "Die postalischen Notausgaben 1946-47" appeared. On pages 37-38 we find this:

"Lohne/Oldenburg
Private issue of labels inscribed "Gebühr bezahlt". Pfg. brown on blue, 12Pfg. brown on red.

"This emission is of private nature, and while first tolerated by the post office after postage had been paid items actually went through the mails. The position taken by the Lohne post office follows:

There never was an emergency issue of Lohne. Even though a newcomer to Lohne had some labels printed for his own use, the post office had no part in their production or issue. They were not used for paying the postage on mail.

"The B.S.C. Hallensia lists the issue under 'Machwerke' (made up or manipulated."

This review of literature can be updated in philatelic writings. Most collectors main interests are towards legitimate issues which are untested. All the negative answers and replies tend to make it easy to assess

the value to give the Lohne labels. Of course, everyone is entitled to collect what he likes. However, "Machwerke" has nothing to do with postal emissions, and in no way can be recommended to add to your collection for exhibition purposes. Particularly if you are expecting a high rating you may be disappointed, for philatelic knowledge rates pretty high in exhibitions.

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Editors notes concerning the above:

I think Mr. Rossbach-Emden has done a creditable job of researching the literature of the late 1940's concerning the Lohne issue. Without a doubt, the evidence at that time was that the Lohne issue was a complete fabrication. All sources support this conclusion. Of course I would expect these sources to agree, because they are probably all basing their work on each other, or on correspondence with the Lohne post office which was passing on the story "fabrication".

Some of the cork obliterations I offered for sale about 5-6 years ago came from a Dr. Kurt Kayser, who also mentioned he had a lot of Lohne material. All of a sudden this meshes in with the story.

Given the facts as presented, I am surprised that Michel continues to list this issue. Has new evidence come to light? Unless there is new evidence to support this "issue", I believe we should do our best to see that it is relegated to its proper place. Historically interesting? It's up to you. Related to the postal system? Perhaps. "Postage stamps" in any traditional sense we understand? Based on the 1947 story--definitely not!

(Slawson)

* * * * *

The STRAUSBERG Overprints on Reich
Commemorative Issues - an Update
by Donald Slawson

You may or may not remember the original article by this title in our October 1972 issue on page 23. You will recall that that article ended with over 4,000 confiscated Strausberg covers addressed to Franz Müller being delivered to Vice-president Steinkopf of the ZVPF. This was done to satisfy a request Steinkopf had made on 20 June, 1946.

Even though we did not know then, and I still do not know, Steinkopf's motivation for handling these covers, I have come across a "follow-on" which shows more of Steinkopf's involvement in this issue.

In Rundbrief Nr. 22/1976 of the ARGE Loknot, on page 8, is an article by Dr. Werner Bohne and Mr. Herbert Stephan entitled "The Overprinted Stamps of STRAUSBERG by Berlin". The letter shown on the next 2 pages is taken from this article.

Note that this letter is from Vice-president Steinkopf and addressed to Müller ! The date is 24 June, 1946, exactly 4 days after Steinkopf had requested the confiscated covers. The letter lists the commemorative issues overprinted, and ends with "tatsächlich im Postbetrieb verwendet worden sind", which loosely translated says "actually were used in postal traffic".

24. Juni 1946
① Berlin W 66, den
Leipziger Straße 9-7
Fernsprecher Ortsverkehr 420017
Fernverkehr 425971

V/r St

(Bitte in der Antwort Nummer
und Gegenstand anzugeben)

Herrn
Franz Müller

(1) Berlin-Steglitz
Holsteinische Straße 12 a

Es wird hiermit bestätigt, daß die auf Veranlassung des Magistrats der Stadt Strausberg durch Ihre Vermittlung herausgebracht Überdruckpostwertzeichen und zwar die Sondermarken:

1. Großer Preis von Wien 1944 6 + 4 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945 1 Ff,
2. Großer Preis von Wien 1943 Freudenau 12 + 88 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945,
3. Großer Preis von Wien 1943 Freudenau 6 + 4 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945 30 Pf,
4. Großer Preis von Wien 1944 Freudenau 12 + 88 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945 42 Pf,
5. Europäischer Postkongreß Wien 1942 3 + 7 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945 4 Pf,
6. Europäischer Postkongreß Wien 1942 6 + 14 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945,
7. Europäischer Postkongreß Wien 1942 12 + 38 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945 50 Pf,
8. Kameradschaftsblock der Deutschen Reichspost 8 + 12 Pf
goldener Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945,
9. Kameradschaftsblock der Deutschen Reichspost 12 + 18 Pf
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945,
10. Kameradschaftsblock der Deutschen Reichspost 16 + 24 Pf
goldener Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945,
11. Kameradschaftsblock der Deutschen Reichspost 20 + 30 Pf
goldener Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945,
12. Kameradschaftsblock der Deutschen Reichspost 24 + 36 Pf
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945,
13. Tag der Briefmarke 1944 6 + 4 Pf -
goldener Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945 5 Pf,
14. Tag der Briefmarke 1943 6 + 24 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945 80 Pf,

15. Deutsche Goldschmiedekunst 6 + 4 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945 10 Pf,
16. Deutsche Goldschmiedekunst 12 + 88 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945 15 Pf,
17. 10 Jahre Hilfswerk Mutter und Kind 1934/44 3 + 2 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945
eine Mark (1 M),
18. 10 Jahre Hilfswerk Mutter und Kind 1943/44 6 + 4 Pf -
goldener Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945
zwei Mark (2 M),
19. 10 Jahre Hilfswerk Mutter und Kind 1934/44 12 + 8 Pf -
goldener Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945
drei Mark (3 M),
20. 10 Jahre Hilfswerk Mutter und Kind 1934/44 15 + 10 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945
fünf Mark (5 M),
21. Wehrkampftage der SA 1942 6 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945 60 Pf,
22. 600 Jahre Stadtrecht Gauhauptstadt Oldenburg 6 + 4 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945 40 Pf,
23. Deutsches Reich 3 + 2 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945,
24. Kameradschaftsblock der Deutschen Reichspost 6 + 9 Pf -
schwarzer Überdruck: Stadt Strausberg 1945

tatsächlich im Postbetrieb verwendet worden sind.

In Vertretung



M. K. K. K.

I would strongly suspect that this letter was prepared by Steinkopf and delivered to Müller along with the confiscated covers. Thus in one stroke was created over 4000 examples of "legitimate Bedarfsbrief" and the documentation to prove the story.

I think this should be an object lesson to all of us. Be extremely careful in what you accept as documentation to prove the "legitimacy" of an issue. I'm sure we all realized that connivance, influence and/or graft went on at lower levers to create "stamp issues" in 1945 Germany, however, here we have a letter signed by the Vice-president for Posts and Telecommunications which attempts to give legitimacy to an issue which is proved to be illegitimate through the archives of the very postal system of which he was a Vice-president.

When attempting to establish the legitimacy of an issue one must be extremely skeptical in accepting statements of legitimacy from the very people who stood to profit from an issue. Of course the faker will swear to you, "Oh yes, yes--these are legitimate". Our basic problem is determining who stood to profit from the various postwar issues. One would not normally expect a Vice-president of the ZVPF to be involved in the "Wheeling and dealing".

I guess about all we have proved here is:

- (1) specifically, that the name "Steinkopf" should be added to the list of known bad sources of information, and trust should not be placed in any information carried over his signature, and
- (2) generally, that even information emanating from the highest levels cannot unconditionally be accepted as gospel.

* * * * *

The Post-WWII Courier Mail of PFORZHEIM

by A. Heinz

Post-WWII Research and Study Group

Pforzheim is a city located on the northern edge of the Black Forest, at the confluence of the Enz, Nagold and Wuerm rivers. Its prewar industry was, and still is, largely jewelry oriented. The author hails from one of its suburbs, Buechenbronn. He did serve an apprenticeship in jewelry in Pforzheim, prior to emigrating to the USA in 1923.

Pforzheim was one of the hardest hit cities in Germany. On February 23, 1945 a squadron of some 240 Lancaster bombers appeared over the city and proceeded with a concentration-pattern bombing attack.

Pforzheim lies in a valley and the exploding incendiary bombs created a fire-dome over the city. As a result, 35,000 of its inhabitants-peace time population of 85,000-perished at the time. A large percentage of them was buried underneath the rubble. Within 20 minutes 95% of the city was destroyed and only a few houses on the periphery escaped the holocaust.

When the author visited Pforzheim, in 1952, rubble removal was running in high gear and weekly mass burials of uncovered corpses were still being held. The city has since been completely rebuilt, with strong emphasis on modern standards.



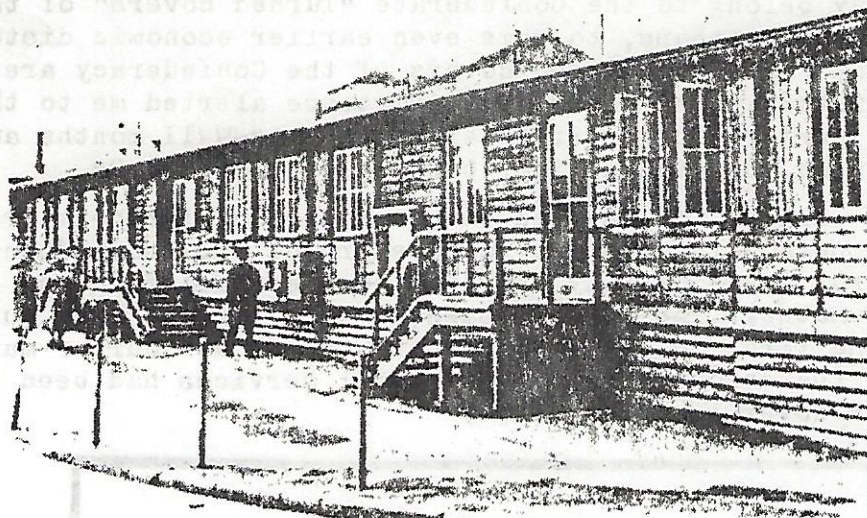
Ill.#1 Pforzheim after Feb. 23, 1945 air attack



Ill.#2 Burial-ground transformation of Pforzheim

According to a recent report (1) all post offices within the city itself had been destroyed and the city was subsequently served by the suburban branch office of Dillweissenstein. Verbal reports indicate that during the first few weeks following the attack, emergency post offices were set up in converted trucks or busses. So far no documentary or photographic evidence has been found to support these statements. What has been found though is a photo of an emergency post office set up in a hastily constructed hut in the Luisenstrasse, shown as Illustration 3.

Immediately after the armistice, May 8, 1945, all postal services were discontinued by occupation authorities. At that time Pforzheim was a unit of the French Occupation Zone. A little later courier services for official mail were established, not only in Pforzheim, but in many localities throughout post-WWII Germany. Some of these operated on a clandestine



Ill.#3 Emergency post office erected in the Luisenstrasse

basis; others enjoyed the blessings of occupation authorities or were simply tolerated. In some areas this courier mail had to clear through military censorship channels.

Courier mails were generally carried by messengers on foot. If they were lucky they had bicycles at their disposal. All other means of transportation had been either destroyed, confiscated or, in some cases, hidden in fear of confiscation.

Courier envelopes generally look very primitive. They do not carry postal markings, only addresses and sometimes, but not always, notations such as "Durch Boten" (via courier), "Durch Polizei Kurier" (via police courier) or similar legends. Because of this meager evidence, courier envelopes were rarely recognized as postal-history material and were usually placed into "round files" if not pressed into service a second or even a third time.

Paper is usually in short supply during and immediately after a war and WWII was no exception. The economics of adversity came into play. Envelopes were used as many times as possible and one cover reported was actually used five times.

The re-use practices generally employed in post-WWII Germany were:

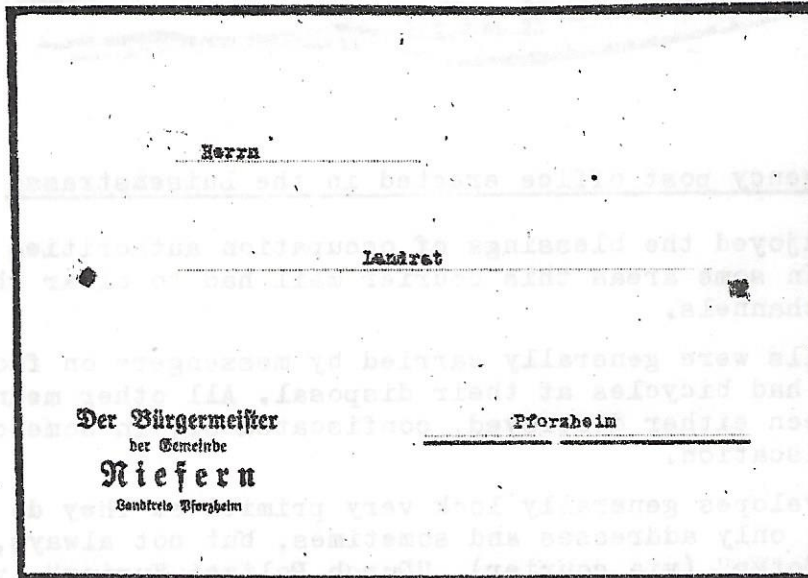
1. Crossing out the address on the front of the envelope and using the back for the second address.
2. Pasting address labels over the fronts of envelopes.
3. Turning envelopes inside out and re-using them.

None of these methods can be considered original. Crossing out addresses on envelope fronts and recording second addresses on the back had been practiced decades before on prephilatelic courier mail. Also, the use of paste-over address labels was an established practice. Germany's inflation period was a typical example. Paste-over labels were then frequently used and could be obtained at the market place. One enterprising individual

marketed them under the tradename "Addresskappe Pfifikus" and even managed to obtain a patent for them. Patent DRP #315911.

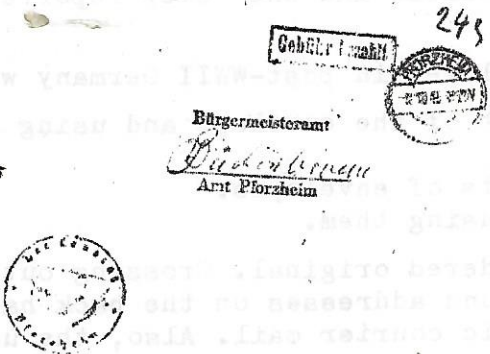
The third, or turned cover, method was also not an original one. That claim to fame may belong to the Confederate "Turned covers" of the U.S. Civil war period or, perhaps, to some even earlier economic disturbance somewhere. In any case, the turned covers of the Confederacy are now regarded as postal-history gems. Their very existence alerted me to the possibility of repeat performances during Germany's post-WWII months and permitted me to get in on the ground floor back in the late 1940s.

Practically all of the re-used covers from the Pforzheim area that have come to my personal attention to date are of the "turned cover" variety. The first usage usually involved courier mail from one government agency to another. The second usage, again official mail, usually differed from the first in that it did not qualify as courier mail; having been processed, the second time, after postal services had been reestablished. One such cover is shown below.



Ill.#4 Turned courier-mail envelope(first usage)

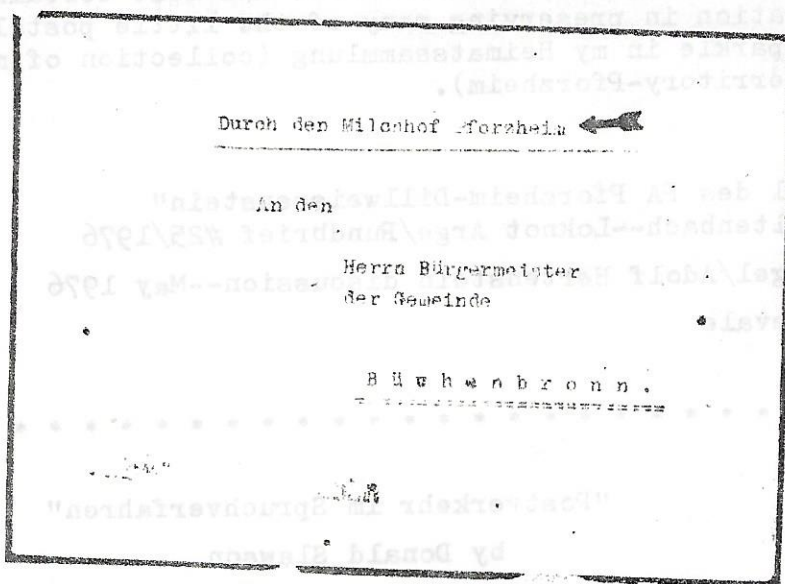
This envelope qualifies as a "turned cover". It was first sent by the mayor of Niefern, a suburb of Pforzheim, to the Landrat (county official) in Pforzheim. Niefern was not destroyed, hence the use of a typewriter for addressing the envelope. Courier mail from agencies located within the city generally carry handwritten addresses. No typewriter was available to them at the time. At the Landrat's office the envelope was turned inside out and used a second time for a letter to the mayor's office in Buechenbronn. The address for this second tour of duty involved both handstamping and handwriting.



Ill.#5 Second usage of turned Niefern cover-dated Oct. 2, 1945

In the meantime postal services had been reestablished and cash franking was used for the second trip. The postmark for this second trip shows Oct. 2, 1945 as the date and "12V" as the hour indication. This "12V" indicates that the canceller was a reactivated one. The 24-hour time indication was introduced during Hitler's regime and postmarks showing Vs or Ns after the hour indicate 12-hour recordings or pre-Hitler models. The letter also shows a denazified seal of the Landrat as the sender address.

In some areas relay-stations were set up for official mail carried by couriers. These are reminiscent of the Pony Express relay stations of the American West, about a century ago. These relay stations were usually established on outskirts of heavily destroyed communities. Couriers from various government agencies within the district brought their mail to these make-shift relay stations and returned with mail addressed to their own home office. The letter shown below is one of these relay-station types.



Ill.#6 Letter processed by courier relay-station

The letter shows the typed message: "Durch den Milchhof Pforzheim" (via the Milchhof Pforzheim) and a handwritten note: "Eilt sehr" (urgent). It was sent by courier of the "Arbeitsamt" (department of labor) in Pforzheim to the Milchhof relay station. There it was picked up by another courier and brought to the Buergermeister (mayor) of Buechenbronn, a neighboring village, south of Pforzheim.

The name "Milchhof" suggests that this relay station's normal function was that of a milk distribution center and indeed it was. According to verbal reports (2) from a postal official, occupation authorities provided vehicles and fuel, so that milk could be collected in rural villages surrounding Pforzheim and brought to the Milchhof for distribution to the little children within the city. The drivers of these vehicles became couriers. They carried official mail between the Milchhof and the various administrative agencies on their milk routes.

The illustrated Milchhof letter could be readily duplicated and authentication could prove difficult, if not impossible. However, this letter is authentic in every respect and, to support this statement, let me relate some personal experiences that bear on the subject.

Buechenbronn, my birthplace, was then a rural village located about 5 km. south of Pforzheim. It has since been incorporated into the city. I

can vouch for the distance; since, as an apprentice, I was obliged to walk it twice a day, back in the early 1920s. The stroll down the mountain in the morning was usually a breeze compared to the hike up in the evening, after a day's work. This was particularly true in the winter time when strong winds, coming over the Vosges Mountains in France, made their presence felt. My hiking companion, another jewelry apprentice-enamel painter, was a chap named Hermann Rittmann who, after the war, became the elected mayor of Buechenbronn. We were his houseguests during our 1952 trip back home. He permitted me to browse through the archives of the town hall and made me a gift of all mail items that attracted my attention. The Milchhof envelope was one of them. I have not seen another copy since then. At the time Buergermeister Rittmann grinned and suggested that I was really not a stamp collector but a collector of Altpapier (collector of scrap paper). Herr Rittmann has since passed on; but I still treasure his memory, our many hikes through the beautiful Black Forest and most certainly, also, his inspired collaboration in preserving many of the little postal-history pearls that now sparkle in my Heimatssammlung (collection of material related to home territory-Pforzheim).

Bibliography

1. "Ortsnotstempel des PA Pforzheim-Dillweissenstein"
Horst Muller-Altenbach--Loknot Arge/Rundbrief #25/1976
 2. Postamtman Nagel/Adolf Hertenstein discussion--May 1976
- Photos by J. Carnevale

"Postverkehr im Spruchverfahren"
by Donald Slawson

INTERNIERTEN-POST

GEBÜHREN FREI
Nr. 2 W. C. H. C.

Illustration 1



Illustration 2

The article by Dick Imus on this same subject in our last issue brought out some interesting information and raised a couple questions. Werner Bohne noted he has one such cover and has wondered about it. Likewise, I have such a cover, and fortunately it provides the answer to one of the questions Dick raised.

As Dick noted, the order definitely specifies covers are to be inscribed "Postverkehr im Spruchverfahren", however, my cover, which is dated 20 July, 1948, is inscribed "Briefverkehr im Spruchverfahren". The franking mark is shown in Illustration 1. The answer to the meaning of "W.C.H.C." (War Criminals Holding Center) is provided by the mark shown in Illustration 2.

Dick states the above is the only "special postal item" he has seen dealing with postal priveleges of individuals

involved in denazification proceedings. In Illustration 3 I show a postcard from the Spruchkammer (Denazification court) in Schwabmünchen (OPD Augsburg in the American Occupation Zone) which contains the wording:

"Auf Grund der Angaben in Ihrem Meldebogen sind Sie vom Gesetz zur Befreiung von Nationalsozialismus und Militarismus vom 5. März 1946 nicht betroffen."

which loosely translates to:

"On the basis of your answers to the questionnaire, the law of 5 March, 1946 against National socialism and Militarism does not apply to you."

Drucksache		Portopflichtige Dienstsache	
B 1 Verfahren			
Der öffentliche Kläger bei der Spruchkammer		Urgent / German	
Schwabmünchen		Herrn / Frau / Fr.	
Az.: 6/109/11		Elsbeth Sachisthal	
Auf Grund der Angaben in Ihrem Meldebogen sind Sie von dem Gesetz zur Befreiung von Nationalsozialismus und Militarismus vom 5. März 1946 nicht betroffen.		geb. 28.2.97	
Der öffentliche Kläger:		Grossaitingen 188 1/7	
1000000. 3 47			

Illustration 3

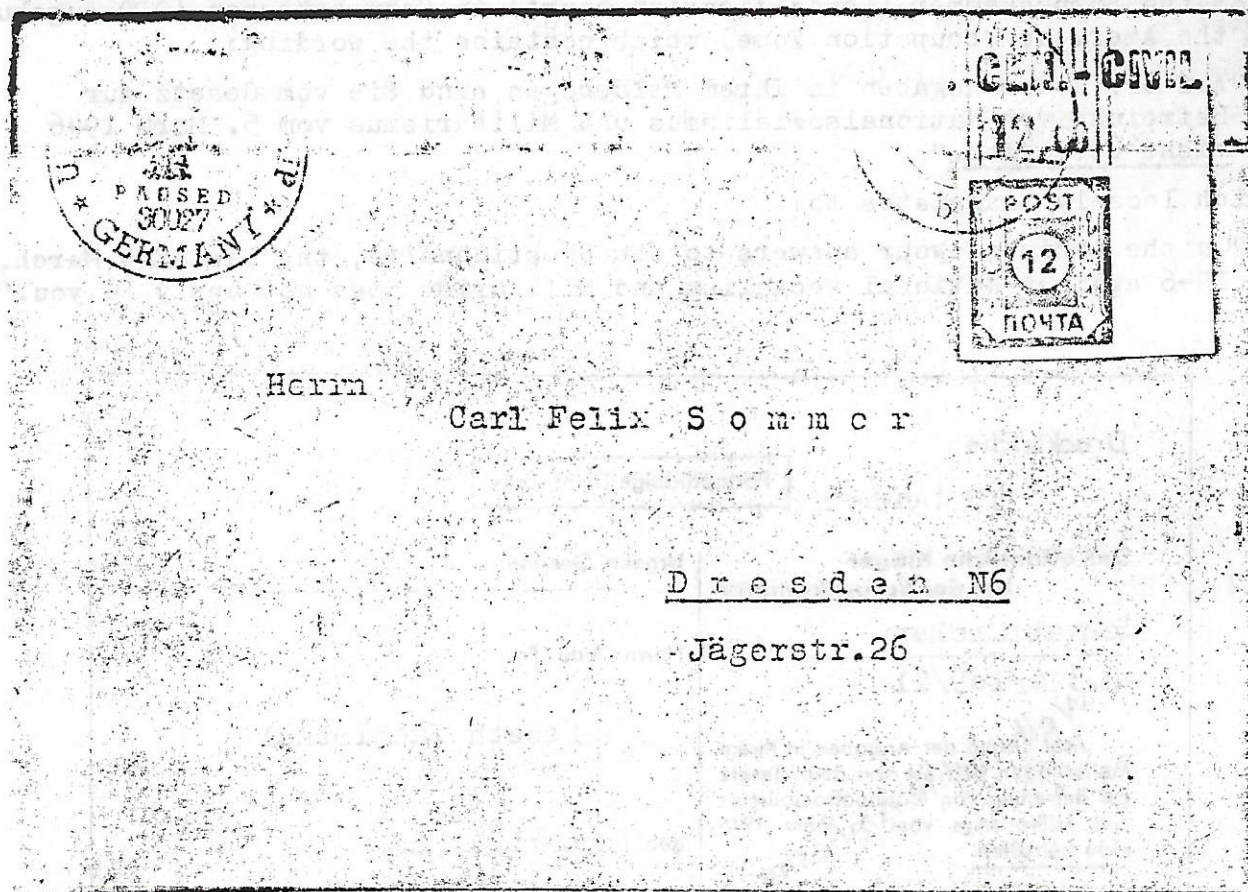
This card is dated April, 1948. I have a similar card (one containing the same message, but it appears on the reverse) dated March, 1947 from Schwetzingen, also in the American Zone.

Although these items do not represent "postal priveleges" of individuals involved in denazification proceedings, they do exist because of these proceedings and, I guess, should therefore be included under this general theme.

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An Item From a recent Auction (POCHTA)

found by Jay Carrigan
written up by Don Slawson



In a recent Stampazine auction in New York City there were quit a few locals offered, including the above cover.

First, I'd like to ask that one of our New York City members (perhaps Keith Stupell, Art Hecker or Fred Ostberg) drop in on these people and get a list of prices realized for the locals. Since I do not receive Stampazine catalogs you'll have to supply me the lot description as well as the price. I'd also like you to convey my thanks for the above copy. I'd appreciate it if one of you fellows would do this to show these people we are a group, and they are really helping more than one individual.

I must say it was nice of Stampazine to furnish this copy, and their lot description evidently did bring out the fact that this item was questionable.

Now, to the cover itself. How could this happen? The POCHTA is genuine, and the cancel is evidently 23.6.45--a typical "favour cancel" of the POCHTA. We know the "eagle" censorship die was not introduced until April (March at the earliest), 1946. Certainly this is a genuine censor die strike (I've never seen a fake of this die). How the heck did the censor tape and die get onto this cover? If anyone has any theories on how this could have happened, I'd sure like to hear them.