



# GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## 1945-1948 Locals

### STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

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#### LOCALS TAKE TOP AWARD AT BALPEX

As you have probably seen in the November Specialist one of our members took the President's Award with a Local exhibit (and it wasn't Al Heinz). This was of course Myron Hill with his "Storkow" - an excellently prepared exhibit. Congratulations! Another sign Locals can win top awards - the rest of us should keep working.

Well, you see again we have a 4 month issue for a total of only 5 again this year (not only that it's 2 months late - but the people who get it as a back issue will never know). Partly this is my fault for not pushing harder, but until the membership swamps me with articles I will not honor any gripes (in other words if I have a backlog of articles you can gripe if I don't get out bulletins). There are a lot of us who have the knowledge - let the rest of us in on it. I've tried to set an example with Glauchau, you know things about as fast as I do in this field. I have a lot of information on the plating of these issues but hate to beat you to death with one town. So somebody else do some writing. Your story need not be complete to report here. You're apt to get some good feedback. Ben's comments on Glauchau sent me down some paths I hadn't considered - in my opinion a real worthwhile exchange of ideas. Jay Carrigan's article in this issue is a real good start - something fairly common we can all look for.

Oh yea - guess for the record I'd better report the other awards at BALPEX. Gold to Harold Peter for his AMG's (and a gold to Kenneth Koenig who is not a member of our group in the same field). Silver's to Al Geisser for Provisionals and John Barbour for a potpourri of the 45-6 period (and another non member Mark Cassidy for another potpourri). Bronzes for Harry Meier for his emergency postmarks and myself for corks.



Al Geisser is still after information for his Birkenfeld story. If have any items from here please let him know ( at 2816-B Skyland Way, Atlanta, Ga 30319). He needs the following information (1) cover or piece (2) date of cancel, (3) type of cancel (Verbestempel or ordinary), (4) type of mark - (a) straight box 19:39am as in Michael or (b) curved box round corners about 22:42am.

### !!! LIGHTING !!!

#### I URGENT NOTICE FROM MYRON WILL ABOUT AUCTIONS

The Locals Study Group will begin a mail auction when sufficient material is received to be worthwhile ( or 3-4 months, whichever comes first). For this project to be successful members will have to support the auction by submitting material and bidding. We hope there will be enough interest to have an auction with each issue (at the rate I'm getting out bulletins there should be). Members who have material they would like to auction should send it to Myron Hill Jr. (address on front) who will handle the auctions. It will be helpful if members describe material when submitted, but this is not required (although I suspect if there are minor varieties this should definitely be noted when submitted, else it may be missed - ed.).

The following rules will govern the auctions:

- (1) No commission will be charged the seller, but he must pay the costs of returning unsold lots or settlement. This will be about 15¢ per auction.
- (2) The buyer will be charged the postage and other costs. It is expected that this will be 30¢ regardless of the number of lots purchased. Where a number of covers are purchased or when the buyer wants the shipment registered or certified that extra amount will be charged.
- (3) All overprinted stamps, cork obliterations, or other items where forgeries are common must be advertised before being submitted to the auctioneer.
- (4) There will be no reserve bids. Lots will be sold to the highest bidder at one bid advance over the second highest bidder. The owner of course can bid on his own stamps.
- (5) Lots must be paid for before they are sent. Lots must be returned by the buyer within one week of receipt if he wants a refund for any reason (e.g. lot not properly described) unless other arrangements are made with the auctioneer beforehand.
- (6) Bidding will advance as follows:

up to \$1.00 - 5¢  
1.50 - 10¢

5.00 to 10.00 - 25¢  
over 10.00 - 50¢

That's it. The rest is up to us.



MORE PROBLEMS ON BERLIN  
from Inge Fisher

In the 1955 Specialest there is an article titled "Stampland Berlin 1945" by Dr. F.W. Gerhard Schmidt. On page 5, quote "--Even though the Berlin Bear stamps had been distributed at the post offices on June 9, 1945, they probably could not have been used by the public until August 2, for this was the date when postal service again was permitted (Fig. 7)--" end of quote. Fig. 7 shows an 8 Pfg. Berlin Bear stamp cancelled Berlin -? 3.8.45. I assume somewhere in the Soviet Sector, since he wrote mostly about this part of Berlin.

I possess only one cover - unsealed window envelope, therefore without address, franked with 8 Pfg. Berlin Bear and cancelled Berlin - Charlottenburg 2, 06.8.45, thus Western Sector. 8Pfg. was the local rate, thus it must have been addressed to somewhere in Berlin. Has anybody an earlier cancellation from the Western Sectors? This Aug. 6 cancellation corresponds with the date in the Bulletin for U.S. Sector.

Same article, same pages: quote "--to simplify, only open communications were to be allowed, which actually meant only postcards. Some ingenious people however, had the idea of sending open letters, which was perfectly in line with postal usage. The Allied Kommandantura therefore decided, on Aug. 16, 1945, that open letters of a private nature would not be delivered, and that after Aug. 17, only ordinary or registered postcards and official and business letters (the latter only with special permission of the Commander of the Sector) were permissible in Berlin --" end of quote.

Figure 27, page 33 (May/June 70) of the Bulletins

Berlin (US Sector)	intracity	Interzonal (USSR Zone only)
registered letters	13 Oct. 45	13 Oct. 45

I have an unsealed registered cover, franked with the 8, 10, 20, and 5 Pfg. Berlin Bear, cancelled (tied) Berlin-Dahlem 18.8.45, and R-Label Berlin-Dahlem, which seems to be a genuine Bedarfsbrief, addressed to "Hönow Nord über Berlin Mahlsdorf". Now this is in opposition to the directive of unsealed letters (1st article) and also earlier than "registered letters on 13 Oct. 1945" or 15 Oct, 1945 (my last letter). Also assuming the rate to be correct if Hönow Nord is domestic rate 12 Pfg. plus 30 Pfg. registration fee, there was as yet no domestic postal service. Does anybody know if Hönow Nord was close enough to be included in the Greater Berlin area for delivery?

In the Worker Series overprinted "Sowjetische Besatzungs-Zone" validity for franking purposes, Michel Spezial 1970 states on page 399: from "3 July 1948 to 15 January 1949" within Western Sectors and to Western Zones for SBZ stamps. Fine -- Yet on page 466 it says "until early September 1948" for the Western Sectors. Did the SBZ overprinted Workers lose their validity earlier than the other two sets (Bears and Numerals) overprinted SBZ?



When were the other two SBZ sets issued?

Specialist August 1969, page 331

b 3) seven values of the Berlin Bear Series with SBZ overprint  
no date --

4) Numeral series 5, 15, 30, 75 and 84 with SBZ overprint  
from October 14, 1948

Michel, Spezial 1970, table on page 399:

Bären ab 20.9

Ziffern ab 23.9

and on pages 467 and 468 : Berlin Bears 1948, end of September  
Numerals 1948, end of September

Besides, there was no 15 Pfg. Numeral ever overprinted. Instead  
there was a 45 Pfg. value overprinted.

Regarding the article "Some Berlin Covers 1945-6", by Benjamin R. Beede (Page 27 of Bulletin Vol. 1, No. 3, 1968) I have one item to add to the list with Nos. 2 & 6. A cover addressed to Berlin-Lichterfelds, franked with the 24 Pfg. Worker and cancelled Berlin SW 11, 06.5.47, but return address Dresden. It has the US censorship tape and seal. Was this cover carried by mail to Berlin, there censored and cancelled, the 24 Pfg. franking indicates domestic rate. Otherwise I have to ask if it was dropped into the mail in Berlin, then why was a local cover censored?

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POSTAL SERVICE IN OPD ERFURT UNDER AMERICAN OCCUPATION 1945  
by Benjamin R. Beede

There have been several discussions of Postal conditions in the Glauchau area during and immediately after the occupation of that territory by the United States Army in 1945. Saxony was, however, by no means the only portion of Eastern Germany penetrated by our forces. Recently, a money order (Postanweisung) form came to my attention which throws some light upon conditions on OPD Erfurt. The form bears a cancellation and Bezirksstempel from Arnstadt, June 14, 1945. Arnstadt is in OPD Erfurt. Judging from the map that Don Slawson reproduced in the January/February 1970 Bulletin (Map 3) as part of his article "The American Occupation of Saxony April - July 1945", Arnstadt was clearly under American occupation on June 14th. According to V. Heintze, Die Marken des Landes Thüringen (1947), p.4, postal service did not resume in OPD Erfurt until July, 1945. My earliest cover from the CPD is dated July 18, 1945.

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THE COITBUS OVERPRINT VARIETIES  
by Jay Carrigan

Editors Note:

This is the first article in what we hope will be a regular feature of this bulletin. The purpose of this column is to record the observations made by contributors regarding unusual and interesting material in their collections. Anything of interest which is not appropriate for a scholarly article is welcomed here. Research



need not be exhaustive, or even necessarily complete. Even a few lines about some item would be desirable. This space is also available for elaborations and rebuttals of previous contributions. All contributions should be addressed to: Mr. Jay Carrigan  
12448 Over Ridge Road  
Potomac, MD. 20854

The overprinted labels of Cottbus (Michel #23-31 and 34) afford the collector the opportunity of assembling an impressive display of varieties using inexpensive stamps. This series of overprints consists of a line obliterating the old surcharge (Michel lists the varieties where this line is absent - this article is concerned only with unlisted varieties), a new surcharge followed by "RM" when the value is in even marks, and the date "10-1-1946". On Nr. 34, the overprint also contains the line "Tag der Briefmarks".

The following is a value - by - value listing of the overprint varieties which I have observed to date:

1 Pfg. (Michel #25)

The overprint is in Gothic letters and numerals. The plus sign is normally squared off on all four ends. Varieties occur where the bottom stroke of the plus is cut at an angle, going down from left to right. The length of this bottom stroke varies somewhat, although the very short stroke observed on some of the other values has not been seen on this stamp. A further variety, with the bottom stroke cut slightly up from left to right has been noted.

3 Pfg. (Michel #26)

The overprint is in Sans-Serif numerals. Remarkably, the squared-off plus sign has not yet been observed on this value. The bottom stroke of the plus is cut down from left to right, in varying lengths and angles. The periods between the numbers are usually square. However, an irregular round period between the "10" and "1" of the date has been observed.

5 Pfg. (Michel #27)

The overprint is in Gothic letters and numerals. The plus sign is normally squared-off. The variety with the bottom stroke cut down from left to right occurs in varying lengths, including a very short stroke variety. A further variety consists of a square period directly beneath the bottom stroke of the normal squared-off plus sign.

6 Pfg. (Michel #28)

The overprint is in Latin numerals. The plus sign is normally squared-off. The variety with the bottom stroke cut down from left to right occurs in varying lengths. A further variety (in conjunction with the slanted plus), with the uppercurve of the "3" in the value damaged, has been observed.

10 Pfg. (Michel #29)

The overprint is in Gothic letters and numerals. The plus sign is of a different type than the lower values, being in the shape of an ornate dagger. No important varieties other than the flyspeck type have been noted.

12 Pfg. (Michel #30)

The overprint is in San-Serif numerals. The plus sign is in the shape of an ornate dagger, as in the 10 Pfg. All three periods between the numerals are normally square. Varieties occur with both of the periods in the date being round, or with only the first period in the date being irregularly round. A variety with the square period in the value larger than normal has been noted in conjunction with both square and round periods in the date.

15 Pfg. (Michel #31)

The overprint is in Gothic letters and numerals. The plus sign is normally squared-off. The variety with the bottom stroke cut down from left to right occurs in varying lengths. The variety with the square period immediately below the squared-off plus also occurs on this value. A further remarkable variety is the occurrence of an ornate plus sign similar to the dagger type on the 10 and 12 Pfg. There appear to be two settings of the overprint, unique to the value. The first (normal) setting has the "1" of "1946" centered below the two legs of the "R" of "R1". The second setting has the "1" directly under the left leg of the "R". Minor varieties which have been observed include an open "4" in "1946" (first setting).

25 Pfg. (Michel #34)

The overprint is in Gothic letters and numerals. The plus sign is normally squared-off. The variety with the bottom stroke cut down from left to right occurs in varying lengths. No other varieties have been observed.

It should be noted that the results of this study were based on the examination of no more than a dozen stamps of each value. It is hoped that holders of large quantities (especially full sheets) will be able to elaborate considerably upon these results and report new varieties.

In conclusion, let me note that most of the varieties mentioned above appear to be quite common. It would appear to be quite a challenge to assemble a complete set of "normal" stamps.

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Just printed the first 2 pages - are pretty crummy, so went to the neighbor on the other side to try that typewriter. Seems better. Try to struggle through page 2 (numbered 50) and get the info on the auction.

The Glauchau printer's waste advertised in last issue is still available.