



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

POST WORLD WAR II

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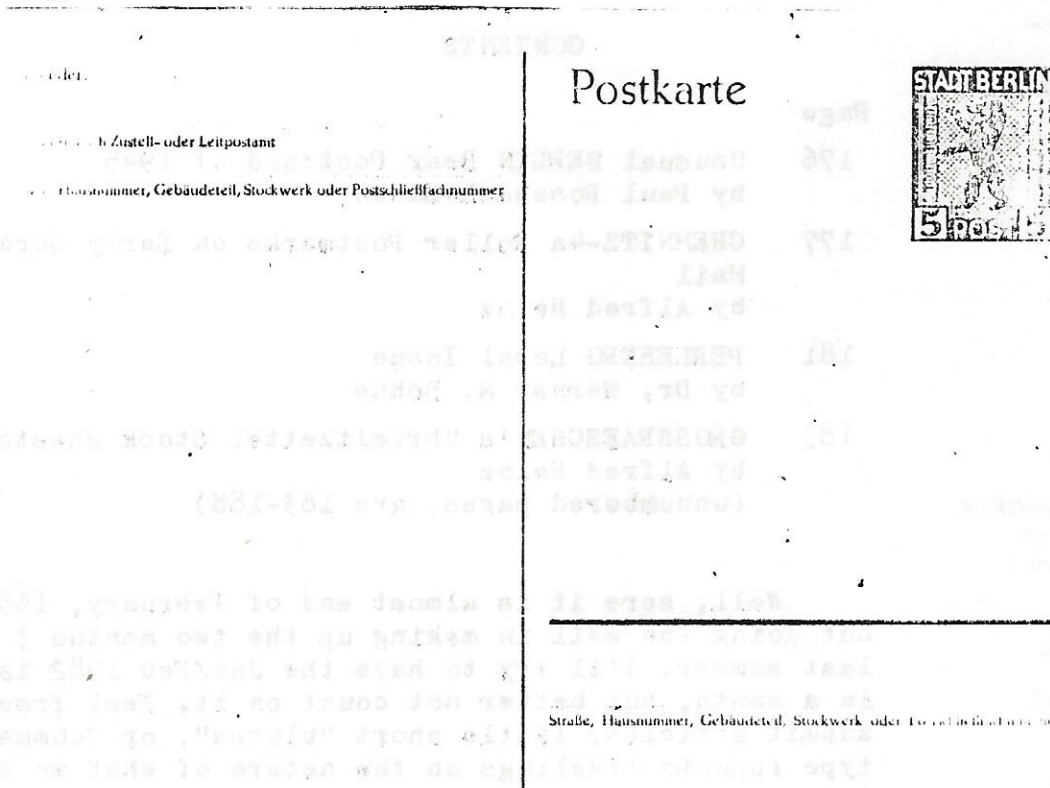
Well, here it is almost end of February, 1982. I'm not doing too well in making up the two months I lost last summer. I'll try to have the Jan/Feb 1982 issue out in a month, but better not count on it. Feel free to submit articles, little short "blurbs", or "comment" type reports (feelings on the nature of what we collect)-- I'm sure that there must be some "soapbox" feelings out there; share them.

In Next issue:

- (1) We will initiate an auction (I was holding this for 1982, and unfortunately the first issue has slipped a couple months). Details in next issue. Set aside any material you want to sell.
- (2) Financial accounting for 1981. We will have to go to \$6 dues for 1982. Dues can be paid anytime you wish now. (20 or so members have already paid).

Unusual BERLIN Bear Postcard of 1945
 by Paul Rossbach-Emden
 translated by Alfred Heinz

Inspired by a very detailed article on the Berlin-Bear Postcards of 1945 in the "Die Gansache" periodical of the "Berlin Ganzsachen-Sammler-Vereins" and the MÜNCHNER Ganzsachens Vereins 1912 e.V., Nr. 1/78, I searched through my collection to find the unusual item illustrated below. It belongs to the first issue (without circle for postal district code) which is already relatively scarce.



This item, with a 5Pfg. imprint, is not of the dull, light-violet paper variety; but is cream colored with a touch of green.

Also, it may be noted, that this card in my collection shows another deviation from the description usually found in periodicals. It shows a solid heavy line instead of a dotted one immediately below the third thin dotted line of the address section.

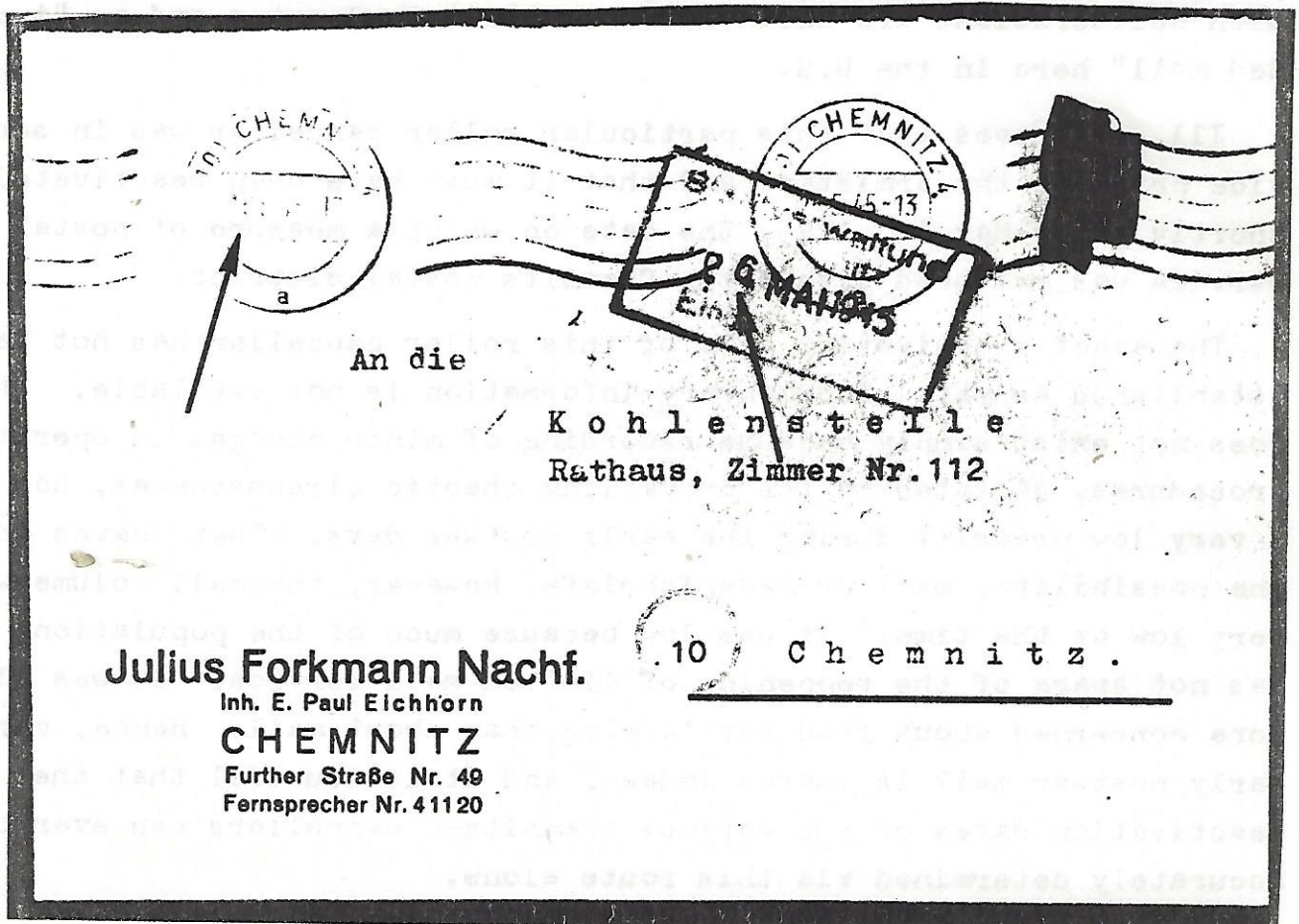
Perhaps this find will inspire you to check your own collection for similar, unreported items and reporting them.

(Editor's note: I checked my cards--both of them. I really cannot tell all the colors, I have called mine "Salmon" but may be wrong because cream with possible greenish tone is not too inaccurate. Anyway, both have the heavy line as the fourth line in the address section. Is it the heavy fourth line which is not common, or is it just this in conjunction with particular card shade varieties? Can any of our Postcard Group members furnish further information on these cards?

"Chemnitz-4a Roller Postmarks on Early Corkmark Mail"

by A. Heinz

In the #37/1981 Rundbrief of the "Loknot Arge" an article appeared written by our own Dr W. Bohne, entitled: "Fruehverwendung des Rollenstempels "PA-Chemnitz-4" (or early usage of the Chemnitz-4 roller postmark). In the article a cover (Bedarfsbrief) is illustrated that carries such a roller postmark, dated May 26, 1945, and the author indicated that, in the opinion of the "expertization committee", this was the earliest known date. That date puzzled me. I was under the impression that I had seen corkmark mail cancelled with this particular "Rollenstempel" on earlier dates. But in going through my extensive corkmark holdings (which I had obtained, back in the early 1950s, from Curt Paul of Chemnitz, the internationally known postal-history student of this particular field) I found only one letter carrying the Rollenstempel of Chemnitz-4 with an earlier postwar date. It is shown in ill. #1 and is postmarked May 25, 1945- or only one day earlier than the "Bohne" cover.



Ill. #1 Chemnitz-4 roller cancel, dated May 25, 1945

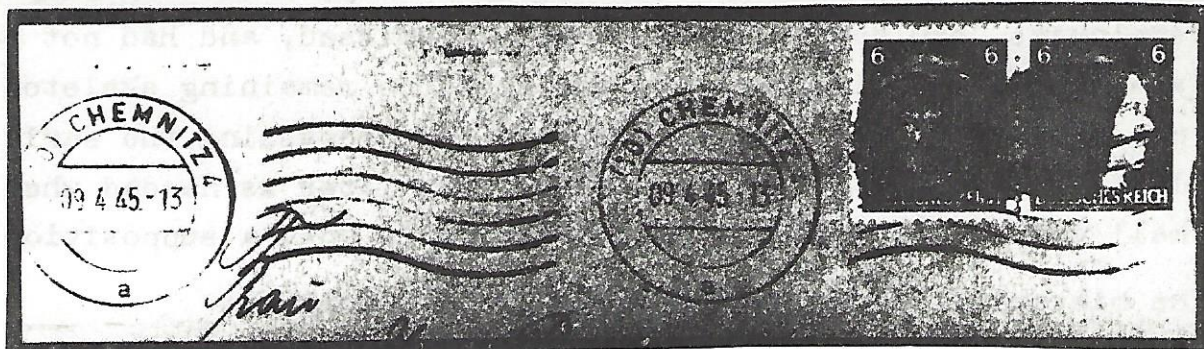
The date in the bridge of its postmark is not very clear; but a microscope study has shown it to be 25/5/1945 and that of the addressee's box-type, incoming-mail stamping 26/5/1945. A similar cover, also cancelled on May 25, 1945 with the Chemnitz-4 Rollenstempel, sleeps in the collection of a friend of mine. Its postmark is crystal clear. The pair of covers prove that the Rollenstempel was reactivated on or before May 25, 1945.

The Bohne cover differs from mine in another significant respect. It shows "fingerprint" obliterations; whereas mine was obliterated with the narrow side of an eraser.

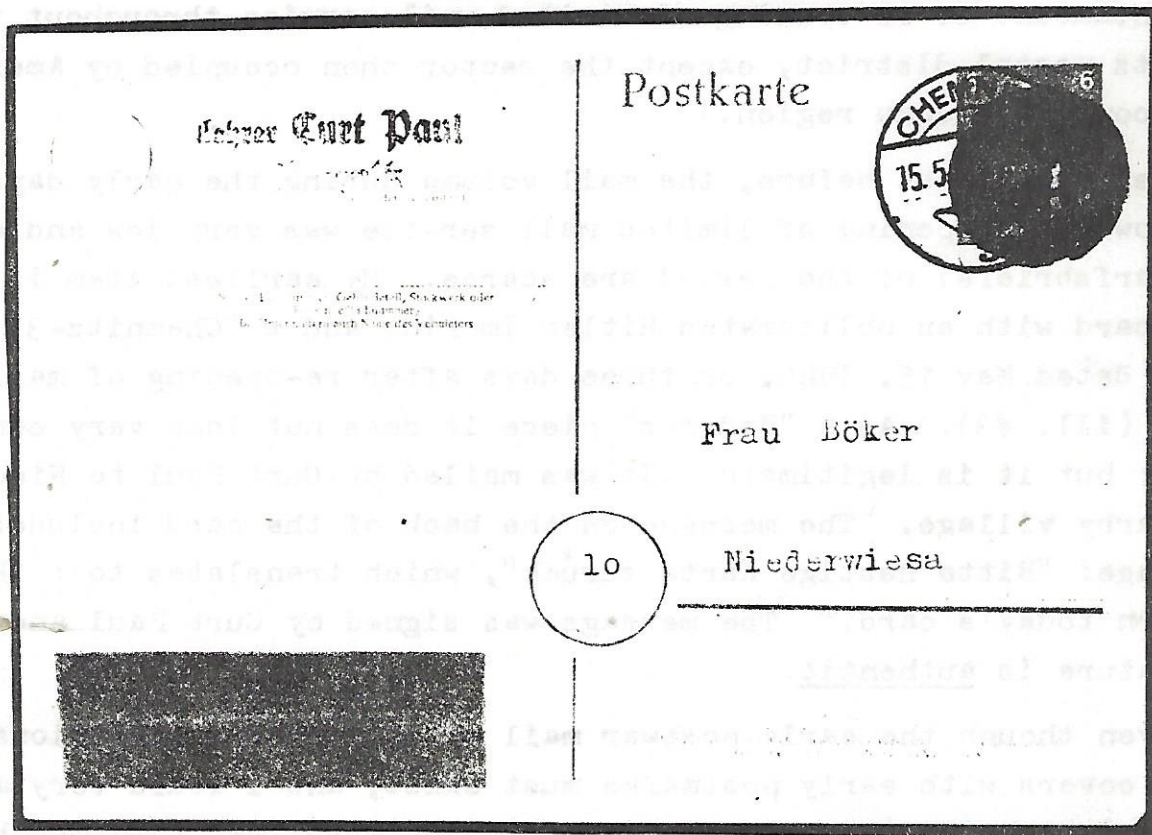
What I also found in my search for Chemnitz-4 Rollenstempel was a cutout (ill. #2) from a letter which was mailed in Chemnitz-4 on April 9, 1945 or several weeks prior to the May 8, 1945 armistice. It carried the very same roller postmark. The letter in question was in transit while the Allies "rolled" through Germany and was impounded by them. It was released later, after it had been censored and its Hitler stamps obliterated in keeping with a directive issued by SHEAF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces) late in 1944. Such obliterations are known as Überrollers in Germany and as "impounded mail" here in the U.S.

Ill. #2 proves that this particular roller canceller was in service prior to the armistice and that it must have been reactivated shortly after May 12, 1945, the date on which a measure of postal service was restored within the Chemnitz postal district.

The exact reactivation date of this roller canceller has not been established as yet. Documentary information is not available. It does not exist simply because recording of minor changes in operating procedures, dictated by the prevailing chaotic circumstances, had a very low priority during the early postwar days. That leaves only one possibility, mail or Bedarfsbriefe. However, the mail volume was very low at the time. It was low because much of the population was not aware of the reopening of limited mail service. It was also more concerned about food and lodging than about mail. Hence, very early postwar mail is scarce indeed, and it is doubtful that the reactivation dates of the various Chemnitz-4 cancellers can ever be accurately determined via this route alone.



III. #2 Chemnitz-4 roller cancel, dated April 9, 1945
 (Courtesy: Don Slawson)



III. #3 Early "Corkmark" postcard, postmarked May 15, 1945

Chances are that the Chemnitz-4 post office was then understaffed, simply because former members of the Nazi Party, including many postal employees, had been unceremoniously dismissed, and had not been replaced as yet. This then suggests that the remaining skeleton crew did not employ all available cancellers for processing the early, low-level mail volume, but reactivated them later as needed when the mail volume increased. That, however, is only a supposition.

The historical aspects of the case are as follows:

1. At the time of the armistice, May 8, 1945, the city of Chemnitz was not occupied.
2. Three days later, on May 11, 1945, Soviet troops occupied Chemnitz, including postal-district headquarters.
3. One day later, on May 12, 1945, the newly appointed interim director of the Chemnitz postal district, with the blessing of its SMA (Soviet Military Administration) commander, released the now famous "IA6-2154" directive which introduced "corkmarks." This was tantamount to re-opening of limited mail service throughout the Chemnitz postal district, except the sector then occupied by American troops (Glauchau region.)

As pointed out before, the mail volume during the early days following re-opening of limited mail service was very low and entire (Bedarfsbriefe) of the period are scarce. My earliest item is a postal card with an obliterated Hitler imprint and a "Chemnitz-3" postmark dated May 15, 1945, or three days after re-opening of mail service (ill. #3). As a "Bedarfs" piece it does not look very convincing; but it is legitimate. It was mailed by Curt Paul to Niederwiesa, a nearby village. The message on the back of the card includes the passage: "Bitte heutige Karte zurück", which translates to : "Please return today's card." The message was signed by Curt Paul and the signature is authentic.

Even though the early postwar mail volume was low, additional corkmark covers with early postmarks must exist, and I would very much appreciate being informed of their existence so that they may be included in our corkmark registry.

Photos: Courtesy Bob. Effinger, Jacksonville, Al.

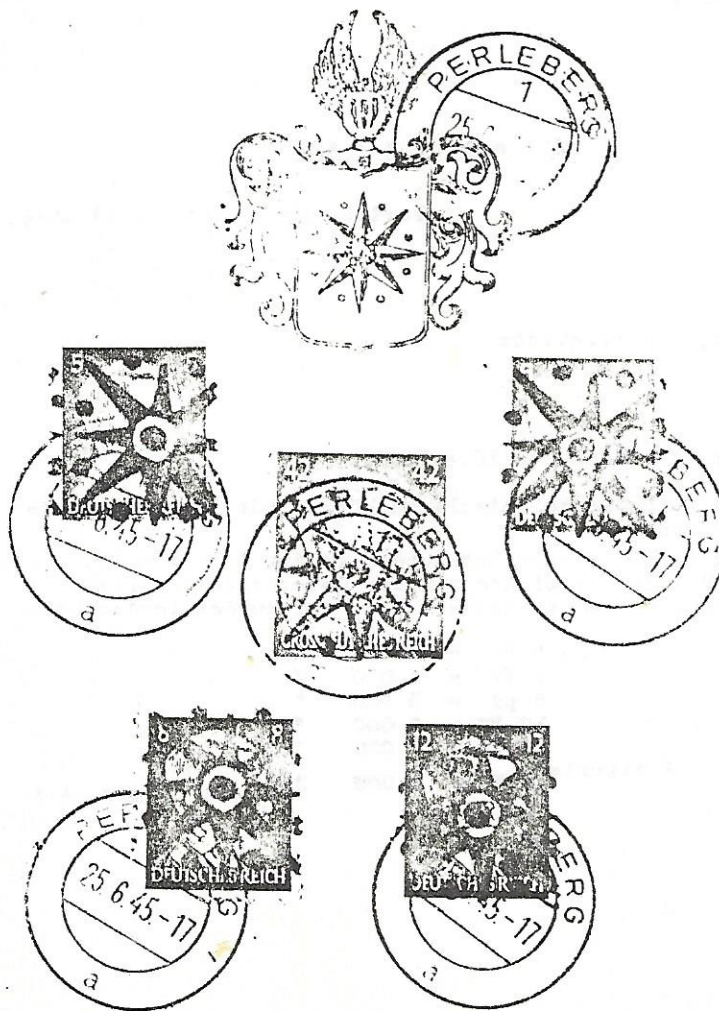
PERLEBERG Local Issue

by Dr. Werner M. Bohne

(Information originally appearing in the LOKNOT Arge Rundbrief 35/1980)

Very little has been published about the cork obliterations on the five values of the Hitler Series used by the Post Office in Perleberg (Brandenburg). This obliteration was required by the Soviet Authorities.

In the past couple of years particularly, the so-called "Perleberg Souvenir Sheetlet" has appeared quite often at auctions. The sheetlet consists of the five issued values affixed to a sheet of paper, size about $4\frac{1}{2}$ " X $6\frac{1}{4}$ ", of rather poor quality (see illustration below) which echoes the paper availability of the times. At the top of this sheetlet the coat of arms of Perleberg was applied and each of the values were then cancelled at the Post Office "Perleberg 1 a - 25.6.45 - 17". It is not known whether this "Souvenir Sheetlet" was sold at the Post Office,



the Mayor's Office or, what is much more likely, privately initiated.

Although the Michel Germany Specialized Catalog does not list the quantities issued, this is documented by the Perleberg Post Office (see illustration below) as follows:

From June 11, 1945 to June 26, 1945 the following quantities were issued:

	5 Pf	=	3000 copies
	6 Pf	=	5000 copies
	8 Pf	=	3000 copies
	12 Pf	=	5000 copies
	42 Pf	=	1000 copies
Postal Stationary	6 Pf	=	5000 copies

The Post Office statement confirms the issuance and use of the stamps and based on the number issued, the Michel catalog valuation appears to be correct.

A b s c h r i f t

Postamt

Perleberg, den 18. April 1946.

B 1

Herrn

E. Müggen, Rechnerrevisor

hier

Bezug Ihr Schreiben vom 15.4.1946.

Nach vorhandenen Unterlagen können wir Ihnen folgende Angaben machen:

Nach dem Zusammenbruch wurden in der Zeit vom 11.6. - 26.6.1945 die alten Hitlerwertzeichen mit dem Ueberdruck des Perleberger Stadtwappens vereehon und verwendet. Und zwar wurden in den Umlauf gebracht:

	zu 5 Pf	=	3 000 Stück
	6 Pf	=	5 000 "
	8 pf	=	3 000 "
	12 Pf	=	5 000 "
	42 Pf	=	1 000 "
Postkarteng	6 Pf	=	5 000 "

Gen. i. A. Vathke

GROSSRAESCHEN'S UHRZEITZETTEL STOCK SHEETS

by: A. Heinz

Post-WWII Study Group of the GPS

During the early days, following the reopening of the mails in Grossraeschen in late June or early July, 1945, "postage paid" markings were used there to process mail. This was in keeping with routines established decades earlier to bridge periods of stamp shortages.

These stampless routines had a very short life at Grossraeschen. They were soon superseded by another expedient, one not officially sanctioned, but tolerated by upper postal management. The Grossraeschen postmaster issued a series of emergency stamps on his own authority. These do qualify as postmaster provisionals. He used whatever gummed labels, stickers, and customs forms he could find in his evacuated post office and converted them to postmaster provisionals in a rather crude way.

One of the labels converted to postmaster provisionals was the Uhrzeitzettel, a small stamp-sized label, normally displayed behind a small mail-box window, that shows the next mail-pickup period. In their pristine form, these Uhrzeitzettel were 23 by 23 mm, white, gummed stickers on which 6.5 mm high numerals and fractions were printed in black ink. These indicated mail pick-up periods in units of the twentyfour-hour clock system, introduced during the Hitler era.

The conversion of these mail-pickup stickers to provisionals was crude and simple. The black numerals were crossed out (two lines) and value numerals were written above them. As a security measure, an unrelated legend in German shorthand was handstamped onto them. This completed the transformation from label to postmaster provisional.

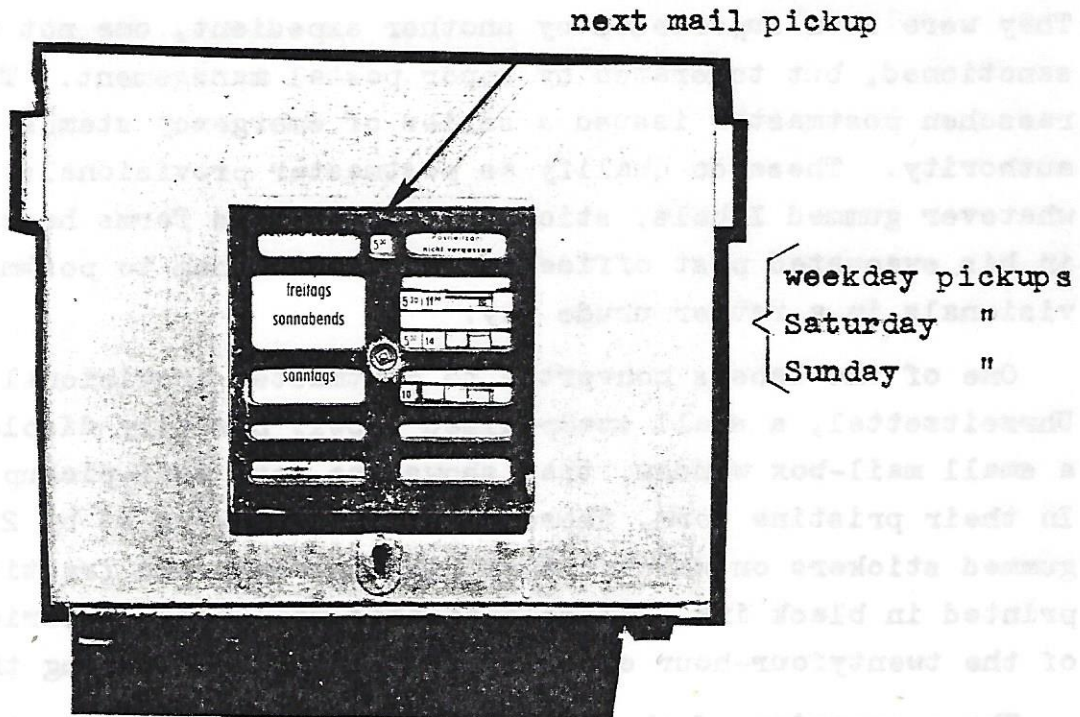


Ill. 1 Uhrzeitzettel converted to a provisional stamp.

The Uhrzeitzettel provisionals have been the subject of several scholarly articles, but the purpose and design of the original labels have been given little or no attention. The following study is an attempt to rectify this omission.

The conventional mailbox (known as type EB 4), used in Germany since 1875, is of the cast iron variety, and is equipped with several windows, behind which mail-pickup information is displayed.

A modern version of it is shown in ill. #2.



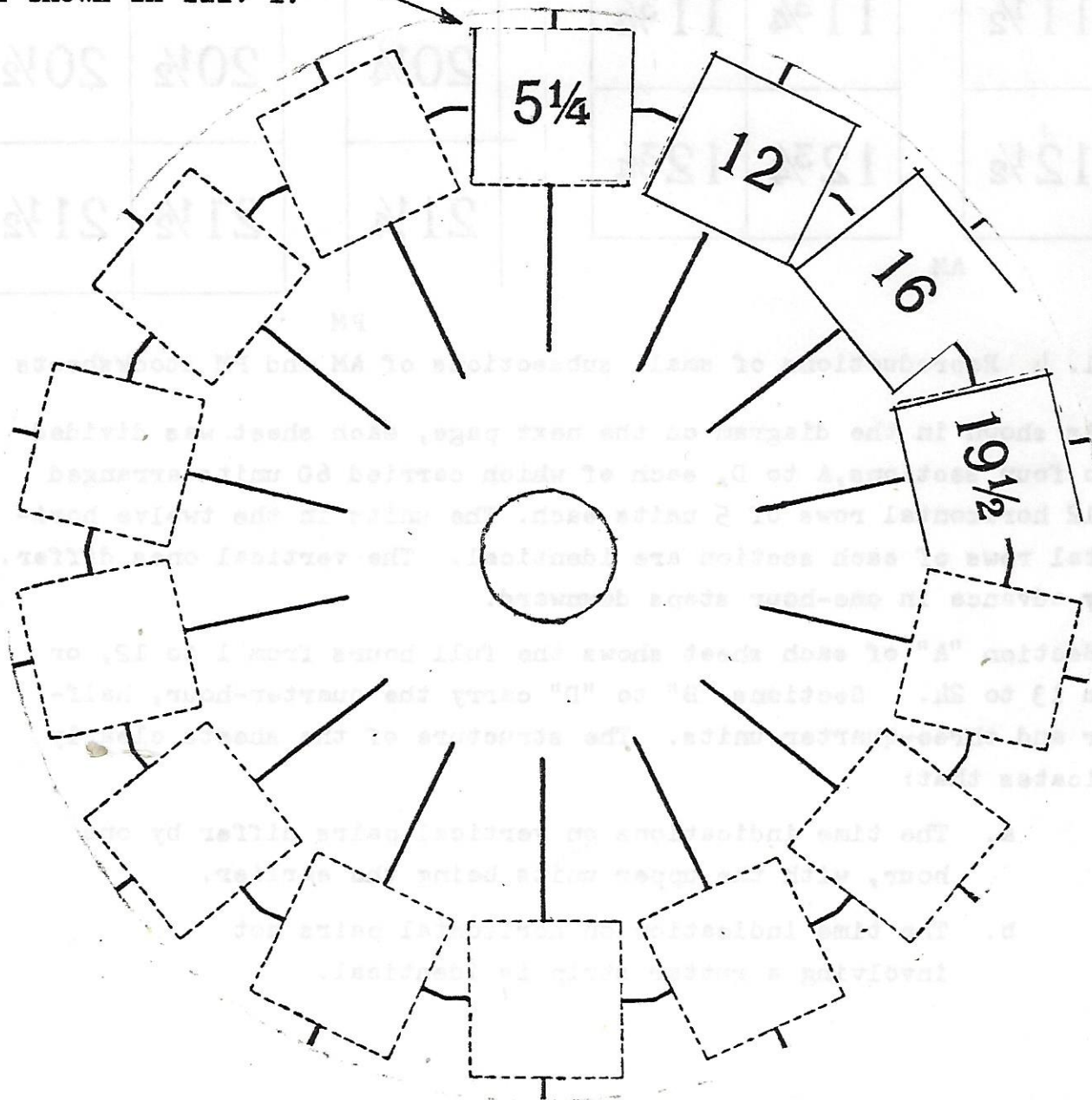
Ill. #2 Modern version of EB 4 mailbox
 (Courtesy: Werner Berger)

Behind two of the central, right-hand windows are mechanical tracks with sliders onto which small labels (11 by 18.5 mm) are pasted, which show all the mail-pickup times for an entire week, including Sundays. These labeled sliders perform the same function as the display cards shown in U.S. mailboxes but differ from them in that the pickup information is not printed or typed, but pasted on with small labels. These small (11 by 18.5 mm) labels were not converted into provisionals.

* The weekday recordings on left-hand side of display window are slightly displaced (upward).

Behind the very small, central, toprow window is a 16-cm diameter, circular, cardboard disc on the periphery of which a series of the larger labels, the 23 by 23-mm. type, is affixed. In normal operation, only one of the labels would show through this small mailbox window, and it would indicate the next mail-pickup period. The mailman would advance the disc to the next period after each mail pickup. These larger labels were the ones that were converted into provisional stamps.

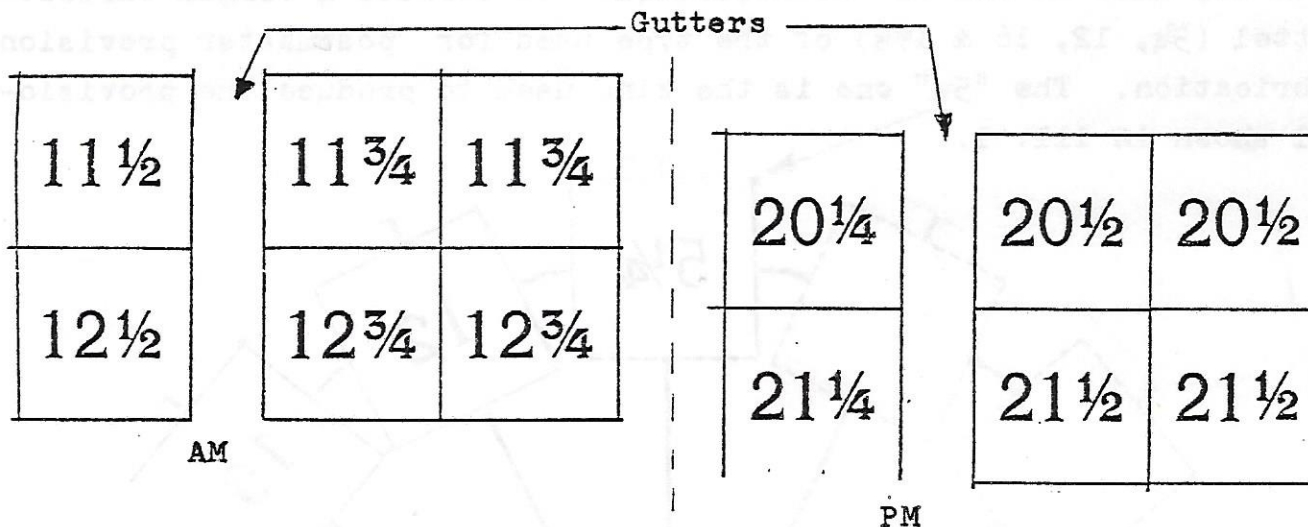
Ill. 3 is not a reproduction of a drawing but of one of the discs actually used in one of the mailboxes. It carries 4 virgin Uhrzeitzettel ($5\frac{1}{4}$, 12, 16 & $19\frac{1}{2}$) of the type used for "postmaster provisional" fabrication. The " $5\frac{1}{4}$ " one is the kind used to produce the provisional shown in ill. 1.



Ill. 3 Circular disc used to indicate next mail pickup in mailboxes
(Courtesy: Horst Kahl, West Germany)

The 23 by 23 mm labels, used on the circular disc, were stocked in sheet form by most post offices, and were imperforate. Individual units had to be cut out with scissors. This then indicates that the procedure for transforming labels into postmaster provisionals also included a perforating step, since the endproduct was line-perforated (11).

The label stock sheets were of two types. The A.M. sheet covered the morning hours from 1 to 12 in quarter-hour steps. The P.M. sheet covered the afternoon hours from 13 to 24.



111. 4 Reproductions of small subsections of AM and PM stocksheets

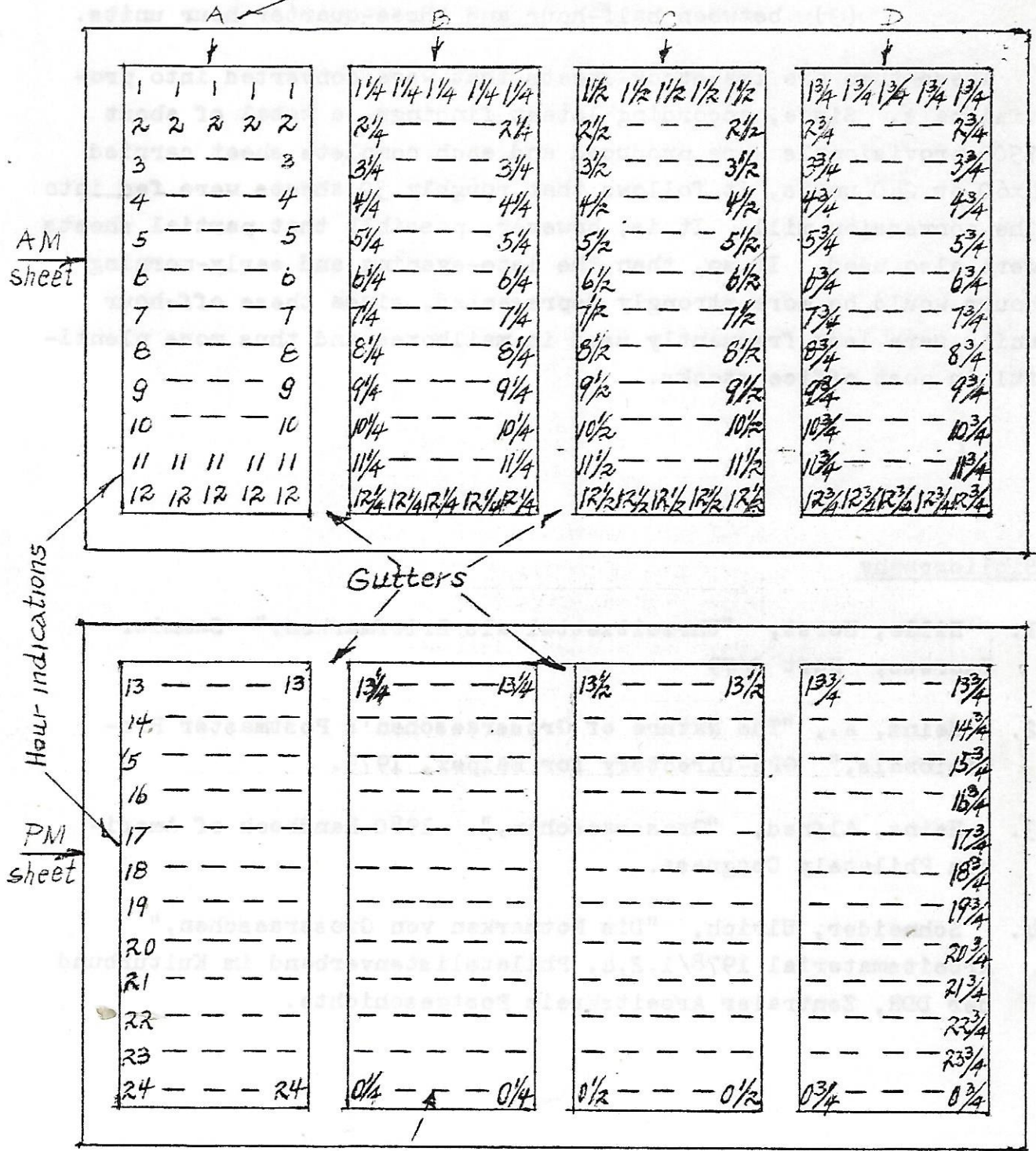
As shown in the diagram on the next page, each sheet was divided into four sections, A to D, each of which carried 60 units arranged in 12 horizontal rows of 5 units each. The units in the twelve horizontal rows of each section are identical. The vertical ones differ. They advance in one-hour steps downward.

Section "A" of each sheet shows the full hours from 1 to 12, or from 13 to 24. Sections "B" to "D" carry the quarter-hour, half-hour and three-quarter units. The structure of the sheets clearly indicates that:

- a. The time indications on vertical pairs differ by one hour, with the upper units being the earlier.
- b. The time indication on horizontal pairs not involving a gutter strip is identical.

Basic Structure of Virgin Uhrzeitzettel Stock Sheets¹

Subsections A to D - each with 12 x 5 or 60 units



A.H.
5/1/1980

- c. Horizontal pairs with central gutter strips are only possible between: (1) full-hour and quarter-hour units; (2) quarter-hour and half-hour units, and (3) between half-hour and three-quarter hour units.

These then are the stock sheets that were converted into provisionals. Since, according to latest findings, a total of about 7500 provisionals were produced and each complete sheet carried 4x60 or 240 units, it follows that roughly 30 sheets were fed into the conversion mill. It is, however, possible that partial sheets were also used. If so, then the late-evening and early-morning hours would be more strongly represented, since these off-hour units were less frequently used in mailboxes and thus more plentiful in post office stocks.

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