



# GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY POST WORLD WAR II STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

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Director: Alfred Heinz, 1 Circle Drive, Sunset Village, Flemington, N.J. 08822  
Secretary/Treasurer: open  
Librarian: Sterling Jensen, 16300 Shamhart Dr., Granada Hills, Cf. 91344  
Translations: Donald Slawson, 463 Ridge Road, Winchester, Va. 22601

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## CONTENTS

Page	
11	The Rectangle Trial Prints of NETZSCHKAU by Donald Slawson
12	Items of Interest from here and there
13	Which Mailmen Require Assistance? material submitted by Arthur Hecker

IMPORTANT MESSAGE -- PLEASE READ THIS !!!!!!!

## SUBGROUPS

Over the last few years I have included on the application form a space for you to list your specific interests. While this was examined and used (for example, I believe Harold Peter got a list of members interested in AMG's and I got "cork onliterations") it was really of little value to anyone since none of the members knew the other's interests and there was no formal point of contact for a given subject.

During the last few years I have been lax in getting out bulletins. There are several reasons for this, among them is the fact that I become bored with the chore of having to type submitted articles into final form, then get copies made (which often requires typing the material onto a stencil, then mimeographing it). Using my "2 finger" method of typing this can be a time-consuming process. Mimeographing can be difficult if you have illustrations, but I was often forced to this method because of the cost factor. Pages 11-14 of this issue just cost us \$29 to have done locally by Xerox (130 copies).

I hope I have found a way out of these problems which can benefit us all and will also provide others with a way to become involved in the group effort.

First, as a result of my appeal last issue, two people have come through with offers to Xerox for only paper cost. This will really help! It means that once I have an article in final shape I can send it off for copying. No more having to try to mimeograph articles with illustrations. Of course there will be postage





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costs associated with sending the copies back to me for final distribution, but this should be overall cheap compared with local printing costs. In fact, two almost 40 page articles have already been sent off for Xeroxing.

Is there anyone else who can provide cheap Xeroxing? (I'd like to distribute this job as much as possible to avoid overworking our 2 current volunteers.)

Next, the main part of my scheme to distribute work (and the portion which will make our group more "coherent"). I would like to see the group split up into a number of semi-autonomous "subgroups" based on interest area. Each subgroup will be headed by a "subgroup leader/editor" who will be the point of contact for the respective interest area. Articles submitted by the membership should be submitted to the appropriate subgroup editor. This person will work the article into final shape (if necessary), take care of getting translations, add any editorial comments, prepare subgroup "reports", etc.

When a subgroup editor has prepared material he wishes included in the bulletin he will send it to one of our sources for printing to have copies made, from whence the copies will be forwarded to me for inclusion in the "next" bulletin. Alternatively, the source copy could be sent to me and I can send it off to have the copies made.

Thus, in effect, each subgroup will be autonomous, each preparing it's own "subgroup bulletin". I will prepare a cover sheet which includes a table of contents and any comments I have, and then combine this with a copy of all other material to form the "final bulletin".

There are a few "details" to work out. For example, if a subgroup has one page or less they wish included in a bulletin, then rather than having copies made they should send this to me and I will combine it with other 1 page pieces and my part of the issue, then have copies made. (Of course I don't expect each subgroup to have material for each bulletin, but I hope somebody will have something for each bulletin.) Initially there will be no consecutive page numbering scheme (which should be acceptable since a "table of contents" will be provided). However, after we get going, and assuming copying is quick enough so I only have to work "1 bulletin ahead", we should be able to assign appropriate page numbers right before the article is copied. These "details" can be worked out.

In order for this to work we need a publication schedule. For this year we will try 6 issues (1 March, May, July, Sept, Nov, and Jan). I will get out each of these "issues" even if they only consist of a cover sheet. At least this will be a test to see if we can support this schedule; if not (i.e. if we have a lot of "nothing" issues) we can drop back to 4 per year. I have enough material in the works for the first 2 issues, so we have a short time to get things going.

So far the following subgroup positions have been accepted:

Subgroup	Leader/editor
AMG	Joe Schirmer
French Zone	Roland Fluck
Nazi Obliterations	Donald Slawson (available if anyone else wants it)
Miscellaneous	Michael Layne
Censorship	Kenneth Mears

How does this sound? I'm running out of space so must cut my notes short. Please write me with offers to:

\* become subgroup Leader/editor (you name the interest area)

\* furnish Xeroxing (or any other form of copying) at a cheap price

Please write Sterling Jensen with offers to translate (German to English), even if it's no more than a reaffirming a past commitment to this. I'd like to get the Library/translation service active along with all else, and I do have a lot of material we can use if we get it translated.



## The "Rectangle" Trial Prints of NETZSCHKAU

by Donald E. Slawson

The Michel catalog lists, after the regular issues of Netzschkau, a number of trials and esoteric items which occurred as a result of the printing method used. I believe it was in the 1975-76 edition that Michel introduced the stamp IIIP which is described as a rectangle of approximately 32x27 small dots with an open center on a LPfg. Hitler stamp.

I first learned of the trial IIIP from the Bundesprüfer Heinz Egon Sturm (unfortunately now deceased) who, in 1975, sent me a Xerox copy of the copy of this stamp which he owns. He stated he had obtained his copy from Mr. Walter Opitz of Netzschkau - who incidentally was apparently the driving force behind the machine overprints prepared in Netzschkau. Thus there seems little doubt that there is some semblance of validity to the claim that this overprint is some sort of a Netzschkau "trial".

I had not passed on any information about this issue because I considered it rather academic; Mr. Sturm's copy was the only one I had had seen. However, during 1979 I saw two additional copies of this stamp offered for sale (one in the February Ladewig auction, one in the April Stanley Gibbons Frankfurt auction).



Ill. 1

Small dots trial overprint



Ill. 2



Ill. 4

"Gitter" trial?

Illustrations 1 and 2 show these stamps. Interestingly, (and what I did not know from Mr. Sturm's single copy) this overprint was applied both horizontally and vertically, evidently in an attempt to determine which format presented the best design. Obviously neither way was considered very good, since these few trials is as far as this design made it.

In the December, 1979 Ladewig auction a completely new wrinkle in the Netzschkau story appeared - a Michel unlisted trial. This item is pictured as illustration 4. This overprint is the same general shape as IIIP - a rectangle with an open center - however rather than being composed of "dots" this die is composed of small blocks, the same blocks used for the Netzschkau type I ("gitter") overprint.

This latter trial would seem to be a link between the rectangular pattern (rejected) and the use of small blocks used in the first printing of stamps in



Netzschkau. However, this presupposes that these trial prints were prepared prior to the "first printing" of Netzschkau, a fact not proved. It is possible that these trials occurred in conjunction with or even subsequent to the preparation of the regular issues of Netzschkau.

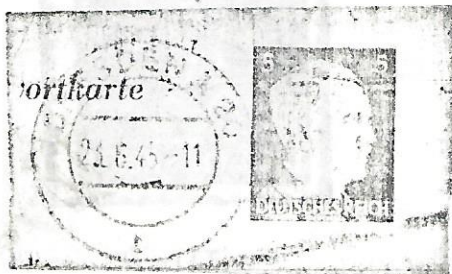
As usual, it would be helpful if we could get some good, solid information on what went on and the sequence of events. Unfortunately, Walter Opitz, a resident of Netzschkau who undoubtedly knew all the details of the Netzschkau issue, is now deceased. I have sent several letters seeking information or a contact to the post office, the mayor's office, and the firm M. Schwabe, however, all have gone unanswered. Does anyone have any information on these issues or any suggestions on how or where to obtain information?

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Items of Interest  
by Don Slawson

As a result of my article in the September, 1980 Specialist "The Cork Marks of Saxony" (which was areprint from the 1975 convention catalog) I received a couple of submissions which may be of interest.

The first came through the GPS Information Service:



"I am enclosing a copy of a Hitler 5Pfg. stamp on a piece, tied with a Dresden cancel dated 23.6.45. To me it is interesting to see an unobliterated Hitler stamp with an early post-war cancellation. .... I would appreciate some further comments from you."

While it is not completely unheard of for Hitler stamps (and swastika emblems) to slip through the postal system with no obliteration during the period of validity, this piece is a somewhat different case.

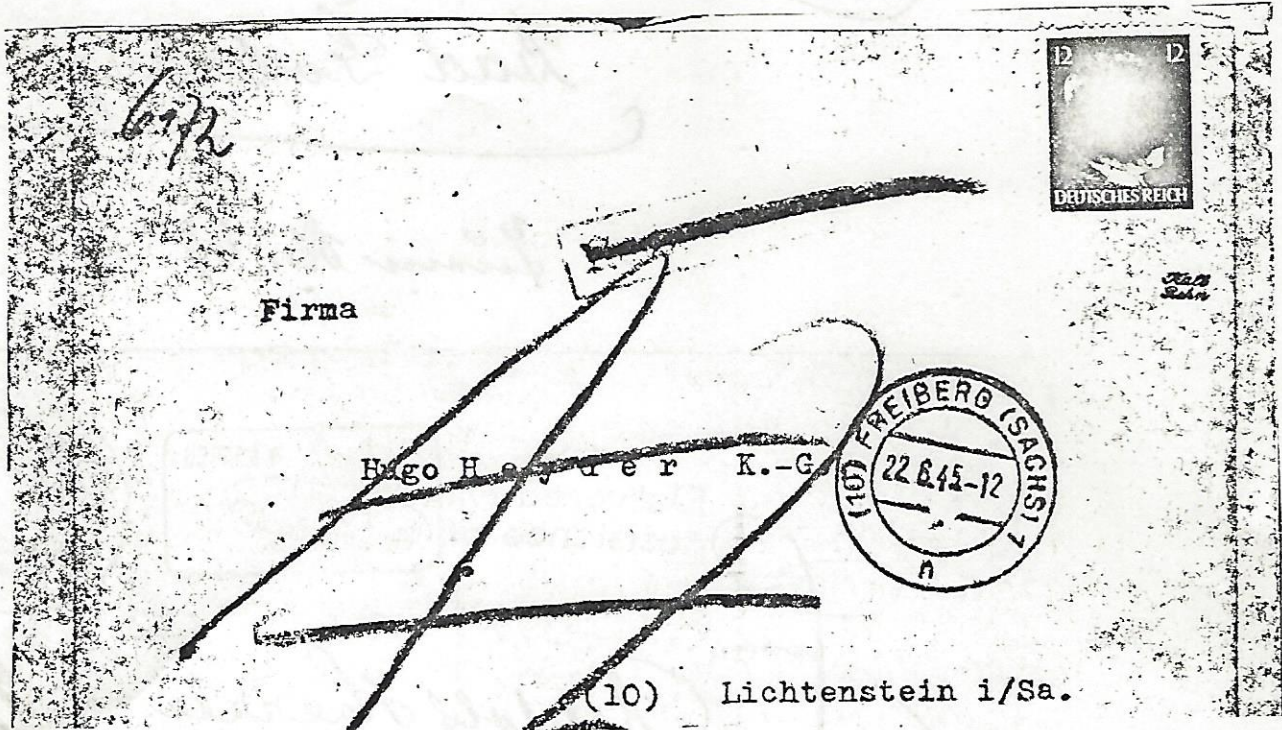
In postal district Dresden the acceptance of obliterated Nazi stamps as postage payment ended on 20.6.45 (20 June). Of course people continued to frank cards and letters with such stamps until they learned they were no longer valid, which could be several days. Normally (as near as I can deduce from my covers) an invalid postage stamp was not cancelled by the German post office, but rather a "sending cancel" was placed adjacent to the stamp and the sending marked "postage due". since the stamp pictured was not valid, the cancel which "ties it" is a mistake--however from the picture it seems obvious that the postal clerk was not planning on cancelling the stamp; this was meant to be an "adjacent cancel" which missed to a small degree and hit part of the stamp.

In any event, the stamp should have been obliterated. That it was not is just another "mistake". Perhaps since the stamp was not valid the clerk figured it was not necessary to obliterate it. Who knows whether it remained unobliterated as a result of conscious thought or through negligence?



Interesting? Sure, in that it deviates from the norm. Particularly significant? Not really, mistakes happen all the time.

The second item came from Werner Bohne, evidently sent from Germany (it was mounted on a page with german language explanation). This cover is almost identical to the one shown on page 373 of the September Specialist, namely a cover mailed in OPD Dresden with an invalid stamp whose validity was recognized upon receipt in OPD Chemnitz. The only difference is that the cover shown here does not have the stamp cancelled by the receiving post office in Lichtenstein. Thus while Lichtenstein evidently recognized the validity of the postage stamp and negated the postage due (Nachgebuhr), they did not cancel the "valid" stamp, leaving open the possibility of reuse of the stamp. Another "mistake" we must assume.



In my opinion the lack of a Lichtenstein cancel on the stamp does make the cover incomplete. In considering possibilities it is possible that this cover was handled as a normal postage due cover, and that later some very astute stamp collector who knew the relationship of the two towns and the dates of usage in the postal districts involved put the grease pencil marking through "nachgebuhr" and "12" in order to make the cover appear more interesting. I'd rate the probability of this low; the cover is probably exactly what it appears to be. However, a cancellation by Lichtenstein would have removed all doubt.

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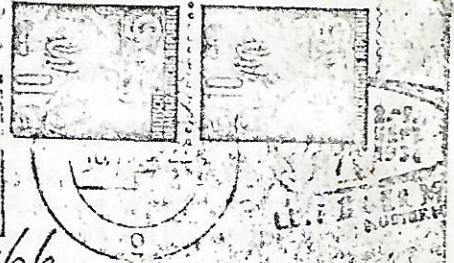
Which Mailmen Require Assistance?

based on material submitted by Arthur Hecker

Shown on the reverse are two covers mailed from the DDR to west Germany in the fall of 1955. Each carries the rubber stamp notation "Delivered with the assistance of" (in english) and a handwritten identification number on the front or reverse "E 180 466", "W 124 828". Both covers are cancelled "Leipzig BPA 32".

Does anybody know the source and meaning of these marks?





E 180 466

Delivered with the assistance of:

Julius Krels

Bad Godesberg

Zus. Nr. 48

From

Delivered with the assistance of:



Rudolf Herrling

Köln

22c

Postzahlungspt. 1

G. Heermann, Leipzig Nr. 1

Güldenpt. 2

W 124 828