



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

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I have a couple of things to discuss. As promised (or stated at least) in the last issue, I am enclosing a current membership list. I am not listing the "new members" separately since there are many of them and they're on the list.

Next, I need money. Inflation is hitting me. I was planning on absorbing the cost of this years issues, but the last issue was over \$90.- (roughly \$50 for printing the pages of illustrations and over \$40 for postage) and I've had to buy ink, stencils and paper, and I need more paper for this issue. This comes out to about \$1 per issue per dues-paying member (we now have about 100 members). I think I can get out 4 issues this year - July and August are done and I can do an October and December. Therefore, I think it is fair to charge dues for this year.

At the same time, I'd like to mention a dues increase. If you're willing to go along with it, \$5 per year would provide a little more leeway, especially with all the photographs and illustrations I'd like to reproduce, than \$4 does. Therefore, I'm hoping you'll all send in some dues (if you havn't, and I think very few have paid for 1979). Send whatever you think is fair, \$4 or \$5, and if you want to save some trouble send the 1980 dues at



From where do Philatelists get reliable Information?

by Paul Rossbach-Emden  
translated by: K. Alfred Geisser

No one should regard this question too lightly.

There are many catalogs, specialized works of literature, price lists, etc., that seem to aid in providing reliable information. A philatelic society, or better yet, research groups, are ideal for gathering useful expertise.

Are these sources, sometimes not too easy to find or reach, so fruitful as to provide a sound foundation in one or more areas of collecting? To answer "yes" to this question one would be deceiving himself, particularly if he were to conclude that he would be clearly above the competition in an exhibition.

To back this up, let me give an example. Many well known catalogs place a hefty price tag on the Vineta provisional. With items like this an exhibitor may impress those who are not thoroughly familiar with the area of specialization. However, they are of little value when the jury knows these provisionals are pure "Mache" (philatelic creations). But how many know that?

Similar conditions prevail when we check the catalog listings of the local issues of 1945-46. Has anyone given thought to why private labels are given catalog recognition and even priced? Even less understandable is the fact that many revealing research works are ignored. There are professional philatelists with the reputation for giving their customers good, sound advice. It is hard to explain how this is possible, when for example they list one of the 1946 labels from Birkenfeld/Wttbg. as being undervalued in the Michel catalog, or offer a cover from Blankenburg for DM 500.- without obligation ("as is"). Is this not puzzling?

Such offers should only be made when thorough research findings assure the buyer of no adverse consequences. This is most assuredly not so in the above examples.

Even articles in philatelic publications can not be taken at their full face value if they proclaim that valuations are fully justified. Many times researches are slanted. No one knows this better than one trying to find answers without personal gain.

These facts lead to the question "Where do the majority of jurors obtain their information, and what are they doing to aid the less informed collector?" As research is not always possible for every individual, a reminder to collectors: most libraries carry philatelic material which enables almost everyone to gain valuable information at little or no expense. Use of such material may enable one to avoid some serious pitfalls.

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Editor's remarks to the above:

Mr. Rossbach-Emden's letter has struck a sore nerve and set me off on my soapbox. I will try to hold my comments to an acceptable level.

Like Mr. Rossbach-Emden, I often get upset, I have the feeling that something is wrong, I get discouraged at encountering fakes at high prices that will not be

lowered, I see outright "philatelic garbage" offered at high prices, and yet I am having a hard time to find anyone to blame.

I too have wondered at how Michel decides what to list and what price to put on the listed material. Bundesrepublik may be fairly straightforward, but what about the more "esoteric" material we collect, particularly those items of which only a few examples exist? I have also wondered at how we, as collectors, decide what we are willing to pay for material, how much a certain item is worth to us.

Do you remember the "old days", only 10 or 12 years ago, when we were using the Bekhaus catalog, and postal stationery was affordable for even a man of modest means? Then along came Higgens and Gage, who merely converted the DM price to dollars (a fourfold increase). Very quickly the price of material soared. Obviously the demand increased even while the price was rising (which was cause and which was effect could be argued). Good old capitalistic supply and demand; the material became popular simply because a catalog was available. People bought, whether prices were "realistic" or not.

I currently seem to be seeing a similar situation with respect to the "Polish POW Camp Post" stamps. Twelve years ago only a few "fanatics" were interested in this material. Then came a specialized study group and the material was listed in Michel (at seemingly fantastic prices I may add).

So today when we look at Michel we find things like Polish POW Camp "stamps" intermixed with AMG's and Bundesrepublik. To me there is a lot of philatelic difference in the significance of these issues. To call the Polish POW material "stamps" takes a considerable amount of imagination. Please don't take my comment wrong - I probably owned examples of this material prior to almost everyone reading this article. I myself collect the postwar DP Camp "stamps" and historically I consider the POW and DP material much more interesting than, for example, Bundesrepublik. But philatelically I claim a liberal imagination is necessary to call these "stamps".

I believe a similar situation exists with respect to our "Locals stamps" field. Many of the items which Michel lists seem to be of much more historical than philatelic significance. The problem is that these historical items travel in the guise of philatelic items, and one often has trouble distinguishing the two. I can only join Mr. Rossbach-Emden in saying "beware of articles that present any Local issue in an unquestioned favourable light".

I've had people in fairly high places tell me "don't dig too hard and don't apply too strict a criterion, or we'll have nothing left to collect". I personally don't agree with this view. I feel there will be plenty of material to collect, after all there were million of letters travelling around Germany in 1945. Perhaps not many of the "Local issues" will emerge with a completely untainted reputation, yet I think even this will not deter too many people from collecting these issues. After all, I think most of us are as interested in the history of events as we are in the philately. I think it is very important that we put many of these "stamp issues" in their proper historical perspective, and I personally welcome articles which do this, even when the historical perspective turns out to be "philatelic garbage".

How do we as collectors determine how much an item is worth to us? From the Michel catalog? From dealer pricelists? I myself would have little sympathy for the person who reads a pricelist and pays \$500 or \$1000 for an item he cannot later sell. Evidently the item was worth the money to him when he bought it, and if he can afford that kind of money without thoroughly understanding the nature of what he is buying, he can afford to take the loss. I just received a pricelist

which lists a "1949 Gstadt-Gollenhausen FDC of unofficial stamps which are however interesting and rare", price at the current exchange rates over \$500.-. I'm supposed to worry that somebody who buys this item may not get his money back out of it? Fat chance! I can say it's not worth \$500 to me (not even \$50), but maybe the buyer is a millionaire and \$500 to him is about like \$10 to me. If it is worth the price to him, that is the important thing. After all, this is a hobby, and who needs guarantees that all money spent will be recouped?

I think with my ramblings I am trying to bring out a point that I feel Mr. Rossbach-Emden has not given proper significance. He seems to imply that the price of items should be based on their philatelic value. I think in our field one has also to grind into the price equation a "historical interest" factor. The point I believe Mr. Rossbach-Emden is trying to make (and in which I personally concur), that we should be aware of this and not accept "philatelic garbage" as being of philatelic value. If you want to accept material, as I often do, on the basis of it's historical value to you - fine! None of us should attempt to dictate what others should or should not collect (as if we could).

To close, let me remind you - use the HALLENSIA NORMS as a guide if you want to determine the philatelic interest of an issue. It may not be the ultimate answer, and a few issues might not be rated exactly correctly, but it is the best guide we have at the present time.

Replies are welcome, and examples and details can be given if anyone enjoys reading this type of column. I'll also keep quiet if everyone so desires.

Donald Slawson

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Looks like we have an active new member - ed.

#### Some Questions about the Early Cacheted Covers of Post War Germany

by Michael Layne

Given the increasing interest now being shown by collectors in cacheted FDC's and cacheted non-FDC's, I thought it would be of interest to examine some of the cacheted covers made in post war Germany. I have recently been finding a number of cachets which were made by a firm calling itself "Philately Equator" which was located in Hamburg. I haven't been able to obtain much information about this company other than that deduced from examining it's covers which were made between 1946 and 1949 (the dates are approximate since they are based on the dates of the earliest and latest canceled covers I have seen).

All the cacheted covers are concerned with stamps and subject matter relevant to the British and/or French Occupation Zones, predominately more the latter than the former. I have not seen any covers of the American or Russian Zone. Most of the covers have the insignia "Made by Philately Equator, Hamburg 36" stamped on the cover flap. Some covers do not have the firm's insignia, but I am guessing they were made by them based on the content and style of the cachet. Almost all the covers were mailed to the United States and even inside one I found a card with the firm's name indicating that the cover was sent complimentary. Some are unaddressed, and interestingly all of these do not have the firm's insignia on the back.

One important facet of these covers should be kept in mind. These covers probably represent the earliest attempt to produce cacheted covers after the war. Given printing and production costs of this period, exactly how many were actually made (thus determining the scarcity value) needs to be determined.

I would like to list the cachets which I have found so far, the first group being those with the "Philately Equator" insignia and the second being those without the trade name.

Group A cachets - with "Philately Equator" marking

1. Cacheted cover of an AMG stamp with jeep and soldier - green cachet. (Figure 1)
2. Cacheted cover commemorating the last day of the currency reform, June 22, 1948. Franked 10X old stamps with 22.6.48 cancel. Red and gray cachet. (Figure 2)
3. Cacheted cover commemorating the 1st day of registered post war letters in Germany, January 1, 1948 - red and gray cachet. (Figure 3)
4. FD cachet for Baden stamps - blue cachet.
5. Souviner cachet of the ski championships held in Isny, Wurttemberg in 1949 - green cachet. (figure 4)

Group B cachets - no cachet marker marking

1. French Zone journey cover canceled in each French state on a different day. Unaddressed and canceled from October to November, 1947 - brown cachet. (Figure 5)
2. French Zone mixed franking commemorative cachet. Unaddressed and franked with stamps from different states, 1947 - multicolored cachet. (Figure 6)
3. Cachet with map of the french Zone with French Zone stamps. Unaddressed - black cachet.
4. Commemorative cachet with portrait of Schiller and Wangen town gate from Wurttemberg. Franked with stamps shown in cachet - purple cachet. (Figure 7)
5. Commemorative cachet with the gold statue of Charlemagne and the Porta Nigra from Rheinland Pfalz. Unaddressed - gold cachet.
6. Commemorative cachet with a picture of Michel Ney and Saar River near Mettlach from the Saar. Unaddressed - green cachet.

Below are described some special features of some of these cachets shown in Figures 1 through 7.

The Figure 1 cachet is so far the earliest dated cachet found, late July 1946, so at least Philately Equator was in operation by this date. In addition, all the cachets have a Garstadt (Bz Hamburg) cancellation. This is not a FDC since the AMG issues were available since March, 1945.

The Figure 2 cachet for the last day of the currency reform is franked with 10X franking in old stamps. Whether covers exist with new and/or mixed frankings needs to be determined.

The Figure 3 caught cover for registered letters has at least two varieties. I have seen the same cachet with two different registration labels depicted in the cachet itself: the one shown from Hamburg and one from Reutlingen in Wurttemberg. Interestingly, the cover shown in Figure 3 was not mailed in Hamburg, but rather Pirnasens in the Rheinland-Pfalz. (ed - also it's not registered, interesting)

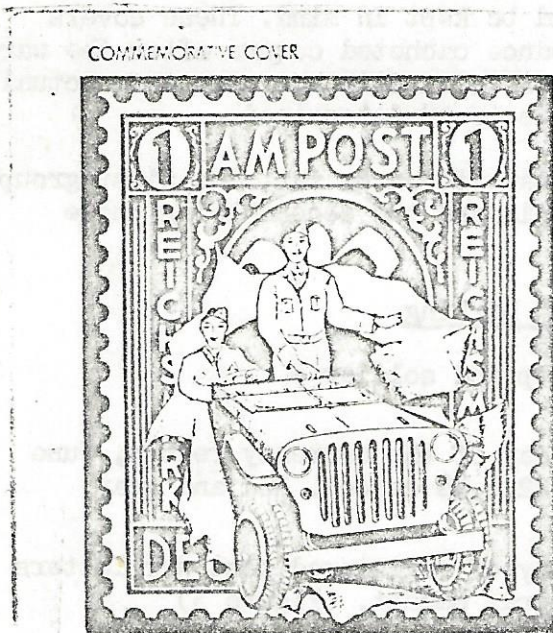


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

The ISNY cacheted cover shown in Figure 4 is dated 20.4.4, which is so far the latest date a Philately Equator cover has been found canceled.

The French zone journey cover shown in Figure 5 was canceled in four different cities and so far on all covers the cities are identical: Anderbach (Rheinland), Saarbrücken (Saar), Baden-Baden (baden) and Reutlingen (Wurttemberg). The dates of



FRANZ. ZONE: MISCHFRANKATUR

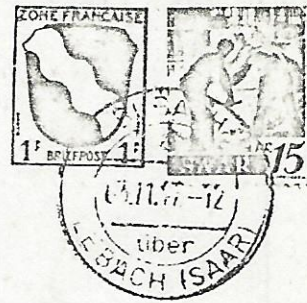
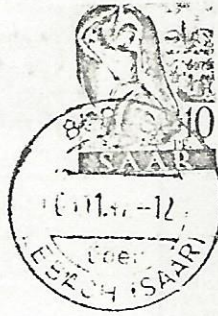


Figure 6

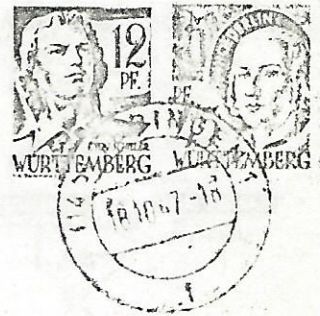
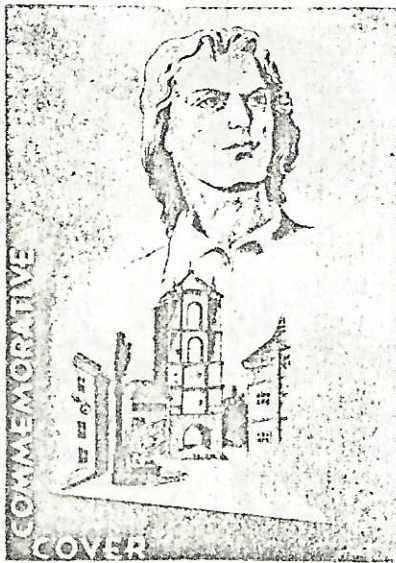


Figure 7

WW II cachets and the cachet maker Philatelie Equator. Additional information is needed in order to answer some of the following questions:

1. How many of each cachet were produced? This would aid in determining the scarcity value of each cachet.
2. How many other kinds of cachets were produced and their quantity?



3. Who was "Philately Equator", when did it start operations and for how long?

I am hoping that providing my information other readers would be able to shed light on some of the questions raised above. As additional information comes to light I will be glad to share it. (Direct all correspondence to: Michael Layne, 700 Welsh, Apt f-12, Bethayres, Pa. 19006).

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 (Editor's note) I have quite a few covers addressed variously to "Herrn F. Behle-Neuhold", "Firma Behle-Neuhold" and "Philately Equator" at Postfach 85, Hamburg 36. Seems to be a stamp shop that produced it's own cachets. My earliest cover to here is 16 February, 1946.

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(Another editor's note: I owe Al Heinz an apology concerning the following article . He wrote this in 1977 and due to my inactivity it did not get published. Some of Al's thunder may have been taken by Brent W. von Glasenapp whit his article "Some Mysteries of May 1, 1948 Resolved" in the May, 1979 Specialist, but this still makes a very interesting companion article.)

1948 Foreign-Airmail Discovery  
 by A. Heinz  
 Post WWII Study and Research Group

When airmail service to foreign countries was reestablished in West Germany on May 1, 1948, it was initially restricted to certain categories of business mail permitted by the JEIA (Joint Export-Import Agency) and to aerograms for private mail.

Business houses that enjoyed airmail priveleges were required to affix JEIA labels to all their foreign-airmail for identification purposes. These labels were supplied to them by the JEIA.

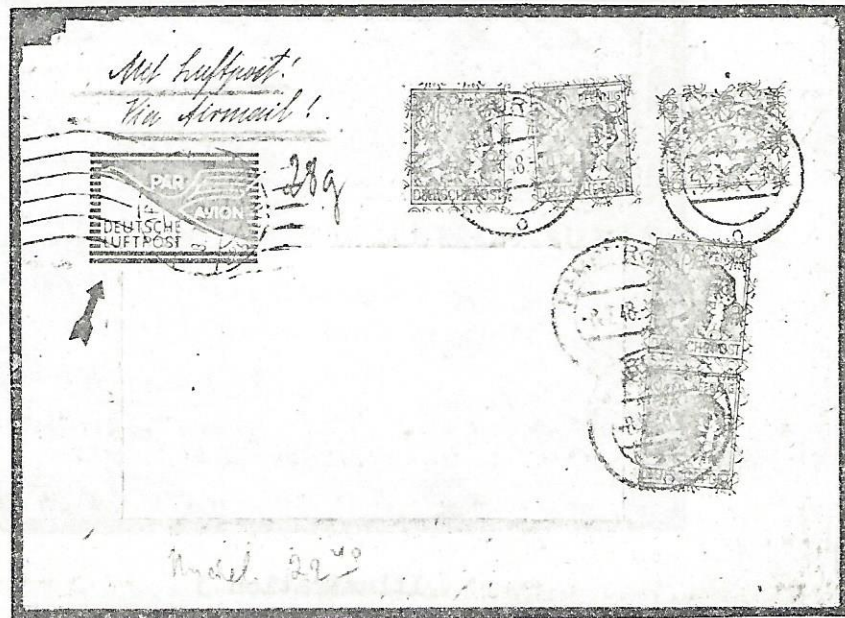


Illustration 1  
 Airmail letter carrying JEIA label, postmarked July 8, 1948

Airmail service for private mail had restrictions of another sort. It was limited to aerograms only and these had to be purchased, not with cash, but with two (2) "International Reply Coupons" each. Such coupons could, of course, only be obtained from foreign correspondents.



Illustration 2

100-pf aerogram of 1945-postmarked July 9, 1948

The aerogram's two-line imprint "Taxe percue 100 Pf/Deutsche Post" within a rectangular box proved to be very interesting as will be shown later.

On or about Sept. 1, 1948 airmail rates were reduced to 60 pf. Thereafter 60- or 100-pf aerograms could be obtained with single "International Reply Coupons". Stocks of the old 100-pf aerograms were not overprinted to show the new rate, nor destroyed. They were simply used up-as-is- at the new, reduced rate.



Illustration 3

60-pf aerogram, postmarked January 13, 1951

Aerograms were not available at all post offices at the time. To overcome this lack of supplies a special routine was introduced. It stipulated that the International Reply Coupons, required for aerograms, be enclosed in conventional airmail letters and that such letters be mailed unsealed. Local post offices were instructed to forward these letters to Frankfurt/Main, where the enclosed coupons were removed. The letters were then sealed, franked and processed. Such airmail letters can be readily identified by "sender" addresses and Frankfurt postmarks. They look like regular airmail letters; written by someone living somewhere in West Germany; who mailed them, not locally, but at Frankfurt/Main.

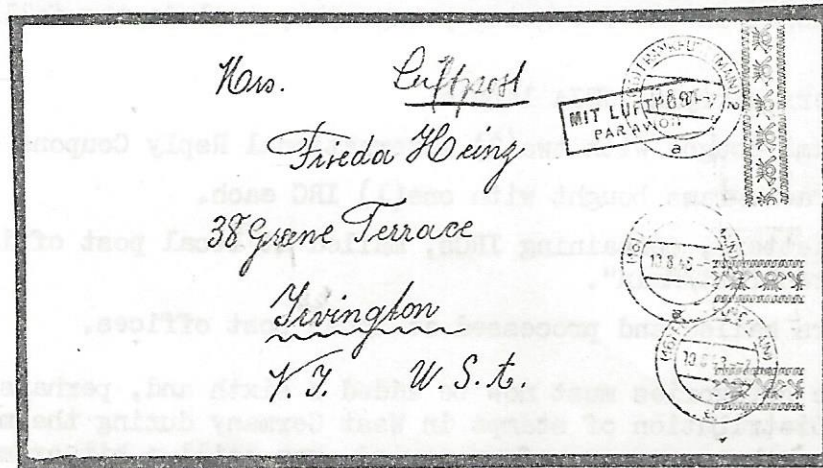


Illustration 4

Airmail letter mailed at Buechenbronn/Pforzheim postmarked "Frankfurt - Aug. 10, 1948"

On or about October 20, 1948, this "Frankfurt procedure" was revised and local postmasters were pressed into service to process airmail letters. However, single IRC's could still be used for franking foreign-airmail letters.

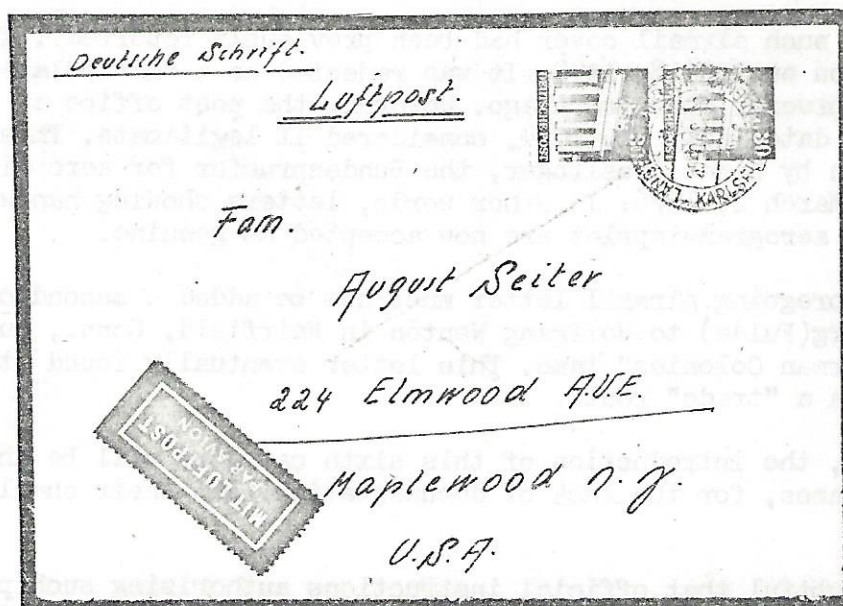


Illustration 5

Airmail letter mailed and postmarked at Langensteinbach/Karlsruhe(Baden), Oct. 25, 1948

Relatively few 1948 foreign-airmail letters exist today, simply because they had been destined to foreign countries. There the majority ended up in wastepaper baskets simply because there was little interest in them or their intriguing postal-history aspects were not known at the time. As a result, the few letters that did escape destruction are now rated as "little gems".

The West German foreign-airmail categories possible within the period in question and discussed in the foregoing paragraphs, include the following major types:

1. Business letters carrying JEIA labels.
2. 100-pf aerograms bought with two(2) International Reply Coupons each.
3. 60- or 100-pf aerograms bought with one(1) IRC each.
4. Private open letters, containing IRCs, mailed at local post offices, but postmarked "Frankfurt/Main".
5. Private letters mailed and processed at local post offices.

To these five categories must now be added a sixth and, perhaps, the most intriguing one. Distribution of stamps in West Germany during the mid-1948 months, particularly during the currency-reform period, was still a hit or miss type of operation and cash-franking procedures were usually followed when stamps were not available. In such cases, a few postmasters also employed cash franking on foreign airmail, but with a very significant difference. They did not use one of the conventional types of postage paid marks such as "gebuehr bezahlt" or "Taxe percue", as found on a multitude of domestic and foreign surface-mail letters processed in West Germany. Instead they copied onto each letter a handwritten replica of the stamp imprint, shown on the unavailable 100-pf aerograms (see Illustration 2), and added their signatures to it.

Only one such airmail cover had been previously reported<sup>1</sup>. It was mailed from Stade to London on June 8, 1948. It was rejected as a "manipulated" item by a German Bundespruefer some years ago. However, the post office at Stade, in its communication dated July 31, 1974, considered it legitimate. This is also the position taken by Horst Aisslinger, the Bundespruefer for aerophilately, in his report dated March 2, 1976. In other words, letters showing handwritten replicas of the 100-pf aerogram-imprint are now accepted as genuine.

To the foregoing airmail letter must now be added a second one. It was mailed from Rothenburg(Fulda) to Wolfgang Wenten in Fairfield, Conn., our faithful GPS member of "German Colonies" fame. This letter eventually found its way into my collection via a "trade" route.

No doubt, the introduction of this sixth category will be challenged by some doubting Thomases, for the lack of documentation. But their challenge will be welcome.

It is doubtful that official instructions authorizing such procedures were released at the time or, if they were, that copies could now be found. It is more likely that a few innovative postmasters, interested in keeping postal traffic humming, took this step on their own initiative and authority. The immediate post-war months provided ever so many examples of this type of relief action on the part of dedicated postmasters, who cared, and who had the courage to act on their own authority.

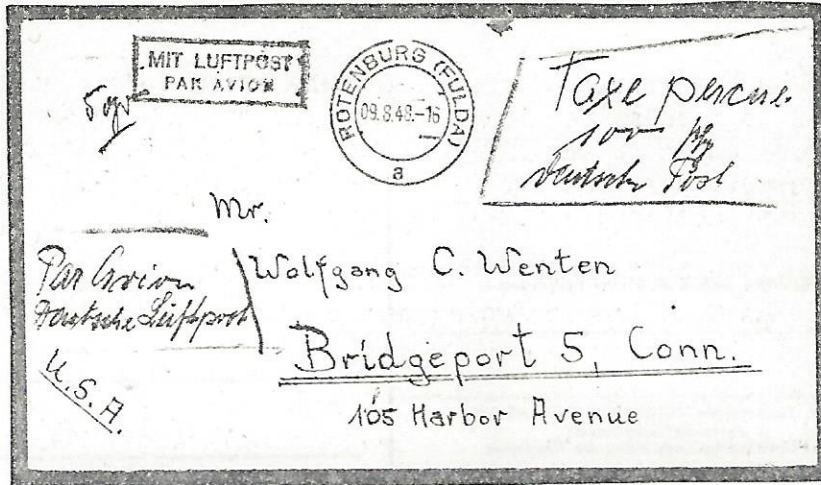


Illustration 6

Handwritten replica of the 100-Pf aerogram-imprint on a foreign-airmail letter, postmarked Rothenburg (Fulda)

Unfortunately, all mail of this sixth type went to foreign countries, and there, most of the envelopes ended in "round files" simply because they were considered as just another form of cash franking. Thus, only a few may have escaped and, I do hope, that those that did will be reported to me. It would be greatly appreciated.

Bibliography

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Photos by J. Carnevale

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An Improbable Misprint on a Converted 1946 Postcard

by Paul Rossbach-Emden  
translated by A. Heinz

On the occasion of the March 1, 1946 doubling of postal rates, some postal stationery was brought in line with the new rates by adding a second stamp imprint. In the card illustrated below the second imprint was not placed adjacent to the first one in the upper-right-hand corner but in the lower-left-hand corner. (Ed-just so there is no confusion, this is a misprint, the card was fed into the press "upside-down")

Just why the value increase (to the tune of 7pf.) required a townmark to certify that the postage had indeed been paid remains a puzzle. Thus this card must be considered highly unusual.

