



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY POST WORLD WAR II STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

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Messages, Notes, Etc.

You'll note that I did not include in this bulletin all that I promised in the last issue. I'm hoping to have the next bulletin (Feb 1978) out about on schedule, and had to hold something back for it. I'm starting to hurt for material again, so if any of you have anything of interest to the membership (not necessarily an article), send it in.

Members' Mart

From Anthony Cerrato
53 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, 10701

I have forgeries of some Hitler obliterations that purport to be from "Netzschkau", "Chemnitz 26" and "Wittenberg-Lutherstadt". If anyone is interested in purchasing any of these as reference material, please write me.

---I'm sure many of you have items desired or to sell or trade. Send in a note to appear in this column----



Obliterated Nazi Issue Notes

by Don Slawson

In the last issue I made quite a "deal" out of the "Meerane Covers", stating that they seemed to be going up in price and there was a demand for them. I think I was snookered, and think it may have been a real "set-up". The three covers I mentioned auctioned in Grobes' 169 auction of 25-28 October, 1977 did not find a new home. Evidently there was not a single bid on them at the prices I stated in the last issue, as all three items are in the latest Grobe catalog (22-24 February, 1978), at somewhat reduced Ausruf prices (DM 1300, 1200 and 900).

I have the feeling that the DM 2500.- price brought in the INTERPHILA auction by the Meerane cover cut-out was a "set-up" by somebody seeking to raise the price on this material. Perhaps the owner bought it back at a greatly enhanced price.

This seems to be a good object lesson that it is collectors that establish the price of material, and evidently not many are willing to go into the vicinity of DM 2000 for this particular item. I have been concerned lately that prices seem to have gone up a lot, and have often wondered if the Ausruf prices in auction were not a little unrealistic. It does my heart good to see some of this stuff unsold. Perhaps prices may someday return to the point where some of us "average guys" can afford to build a good collection, but I'm afraid, overall, that this is a forelorn hope.

(continuation from page 81)

The Official and Courier Mail Systems of East Germany
Part XI

Catalog Section, Part IX

Issue of April 1, 1956

Value (Pfg.)	Michel No.	Color	Printers' Markings
5	1	brownish-black	VEB Grapische Werkstätten III/18/97
10	2	brownish-black	-same-
20	3	brownish-black	-same-
40	4	brownish-black	-same-
70	5	brownish-black	-same-

NOTES:

Specialists recognize two paper types by their reaction to UV light.

- a: dark under UV
- b: light under UV

Reprints exist. They are without gum and printers' markings. They have a cliche (sheet) cancellation.

For information on postal validity see the text portion of this section.

Covers exist with markings such as "Als Verwaltungspost nicht zugelassen" (Not admissible as Verwaltungspost A).

End of Part XI of the story

The Belgian Military Post Offices in Germany after the Second World War
by C. Haubruge and R. Decabooter

translated from German by Eugene R. Marshall

(The original from which this was translated appeared in "Die Sammler-Lupe", issues 14 and 16/1973, pages 435-37, 499-500)

The following article first appeared in the newsletter of the organization "Belgian Philately on the Rhein" (Belgische Filatelie aan de Rijn) and can be obtained in a more detailed Dutch or French language version from the editor of that newsletter. Those interested can contact Mr. Van de walle Jos - CCB/BSB - BPS 5 - Belg. Militärpost - 5 Köln 1.

PERIOD I: 1946 to February 29, 1972

The differences between the shape and position of the letters in the cancellers allows those used during this period to be divided into two major groupings.

Group 1. The initials B.P.S. and the numbers in the bottom of the canceller follow the curve of the lower part of the ring. This group includes all of the normal hand cancellers and can be further divided into three categories by the size of the letters in the words "POSTES-POSTERIJEN" and the abbreviation of the post office identification.

A. Large Letters: Two types exist

1. Wide letters: The number of the post office is the same size as the letters "B.P.S." It is also possible to identify three varieties within this category from the placement of the first letter of the word "POSTES" and the last letter of the word "POSTERIJEN" with respect to an imaginary line drawn immediately beneath the date and time.

a. The letters "PO" for POSTES and the "EN" of POSTERIJEN are found below the horizontal line. (Type d)

Found on cancellations of the following post offices:

B.P.S. 1	B.P.S. 4	B.P.S. 6	B.P.S. 11
B.P.S. 2	A B.P.S. 4 A	B.P.S. 7	B.P.S. 12
B.P.S. 3	B.P.S. 5	B.P.S. 9	B.P.S. 27

b. Only the letters "P" and "N" are below the horizontal line. (Type e)

Found on cancellations of the following post offices:

B.P.S. 1	B.P.S. 5	B.P.S. 9	C B.P.S. 12 C
B.P.S. 2	B.P.S. 6	B.P.S. 10	D B.P.S. 12 D
B.P.S. 3	B.P.S. 7	B B.P.S. 10 B	B.P.A.
B.P.S. 4	B.P.S. 8	B.P.S. 11	
B B.P.S. 4 B	B B.P.S. 8 B	B.P.S. 12	

c. The words "POSTES" and "POSTERIJEN" are completely above the imaginary horizontal line. (Type f)

Found on cancellations of the following post offices:

B.P.S. 12	B B.P.S. 12 B	B.P.S. 14	B.P.S. 16
A B.P.S. 12 A	B.P.S. 13	B.P.S. 15	



Type d



Type e



Type f

2. Narrow and long letters: By application of the above described identification system, it is possible to separate these cancellations into two varieties.

a. The letters "P" and "N" are below the horizontal line. (Type g) This variety always occurs together with a post office number that is larger than the letters in the abbreviation "B.P.S." or "SMP/CP".

Found on cancellations of the following post offices:

B.P.S. 1	B.P.S. 7	B.P.S. 11	A B.P.S. 14 A
B.P.S. 2	B.P.S. VII	B B.P.S. 11 B	B.P.S. 36
B.P.S. 3	B.P.S. 8	B.P.S. 12	B.P.S. 37
B.P.S. 4	B.P.S. 9	B.P.S. 13	B B.P.S. 37 B
B.P.S. 5	A B.P.S. 9 A	B B.P.S. 13 B	B.P.S. 41
B.P.S. 6	B.P.S. 10	B.P.S. 14	SMP/CP

b. The words "POSTES" and "POSTERIJEN" are found completely above the imaginary line. Two subtypes of this variety can be identified by the size of the post office numbers.

(1) Post office number larger than the letters "B.P.S." (Type h)

Found on cancellations of the following post offices:

B.P.S. 2	A B.P.S. 2 A	B B.P.S. 2 B	B.P.S. 41
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(2) Post office number the same size as the letters. (Type i)

Found on cancellations of the following post offices:

B.P.S. 1	A B.P.S. 6 A	A B.P.S. 8 A	BPC/A/CP
A B.P.S. 1 A	B B.P.S. 6 B	C B.P.S. 8 C	S.P.C./A/E.A.
B B.P.S. 1 B	C B.P.S. 6 C	B.P.S. 11	BPA
A B.P.S. 3 A	B.P.S. VII	B.P.S. 12	OPC
B B.P.S. 3 B	A B.P.S. VII A	B.P.S. 13	A OPC A
B.P.S. 5	B.P.S. 7	B.P.S. 14	B OPC B
A B.P.S. 5 A	A B.P.S. 7 A	B B.P.S. 14 B	C OPC C
B B.P.S. 5 B	B B.P.S. 7 B	A B.P.S. 37 A	BPC
B.P.S. 6	C B.P.S. 7 C	SMP-DIR-MPD	



Type g



Type h



Type i

- B. Medium Size Letters: Definitely smaller than those of category "A", but fairly wide. Only the letters "P" and "N" extend below the imaginary horizontal line. (Type j) The number of the post office is the same size as the letters "B.P.S."

Found on cancellations of the following post offices:

B.P.S. 1	B B.P.S. 9 B	B B.P.S. 10 B	OCC 1 CDB
B.P.S. 3	A B.P.S. 10 A	A B.P.S. 12 A	A BPC A

- C. Small Letters: Letters approximately 2.7 mm high and very narrow. The words "POSTES" and "POSTERIJEN" are found completely above the imaginary horizontal line. (Type k) The number of the post office is the same size as the letters "B.P.S."

Found only on cancellation: "A B.P.S. 11 A"

Group 2. The initials B.P.S. and the post office number are parallel with the date. The words "POSTES" and "POSTERIJEN" are printed completely above the imaginary horizontal line.

- A. Date stamp on pedestal: Without wavy lines. (Type l) These so called "bookkeeping" cancellers are mounted on a moveable arm which is connected to a pedestal and used at a postal window. In the afternoon, the canceller was set forward to the first hour setting of the following day. These cancellers were put into use in June 1967. This type of cancellation device was not issued to field and camp post offices.

Found on the cancellations of the following post offices:

A B.P.S. 1 A	A B.P.S. 6 A	A B.P.S. 10 A	A B.P.S. 36 A
A B.P.S. 2 A	A B.P.S. VII A	A B.P.S. 11 A	A B.P.S. 37 A
A B.P.S. 3 A	A B.P.S. 7 A	A B.P.S. 12 A	A B.P.S. 41 A
A B.P.S. 4 A	A B.P.S. 8 A	A B.P.S. 13 A	E B.P.S. 12 E
A B.P.S. 5 A	A B.P.S. 9 A	A B.P.S. 14 A	



Type j



Type k



Type l

- B. Hand Roller Cancel: Preceded and followed by wavy, parallel lines.
(Type m) The roller cancellers were used on large shipments; samples, packages, boxes, etc. The canceller is positioned perpendicular to and 5 mm from the six horizontal wavy lines. Worthy of note are the lines above and below the date in the canceller illustrated.

The canceller exists only for: "D B.P.S. 7 D"



Type m

- C. Railroad Cancellers: Instead of the usual text, "POSTES-POSTERIJEN", the abbreviation, "AMBT. MIL. SPWK.", is used (Ambulant Militaire Spoorwegkantoor). This canceller has the date and hour in the middle and a letter code in the center of the bottom half of the canceller. The hour marking is sometimes replaced by two small solid blocks. (Type n)

The following cancellations exist.

AMBT. MIL. SPWK. A	AMBT. MIL. SPWK. C
AMBT. MIL. SPWK. B	AMBT. MIL. SPWK. D



Type n

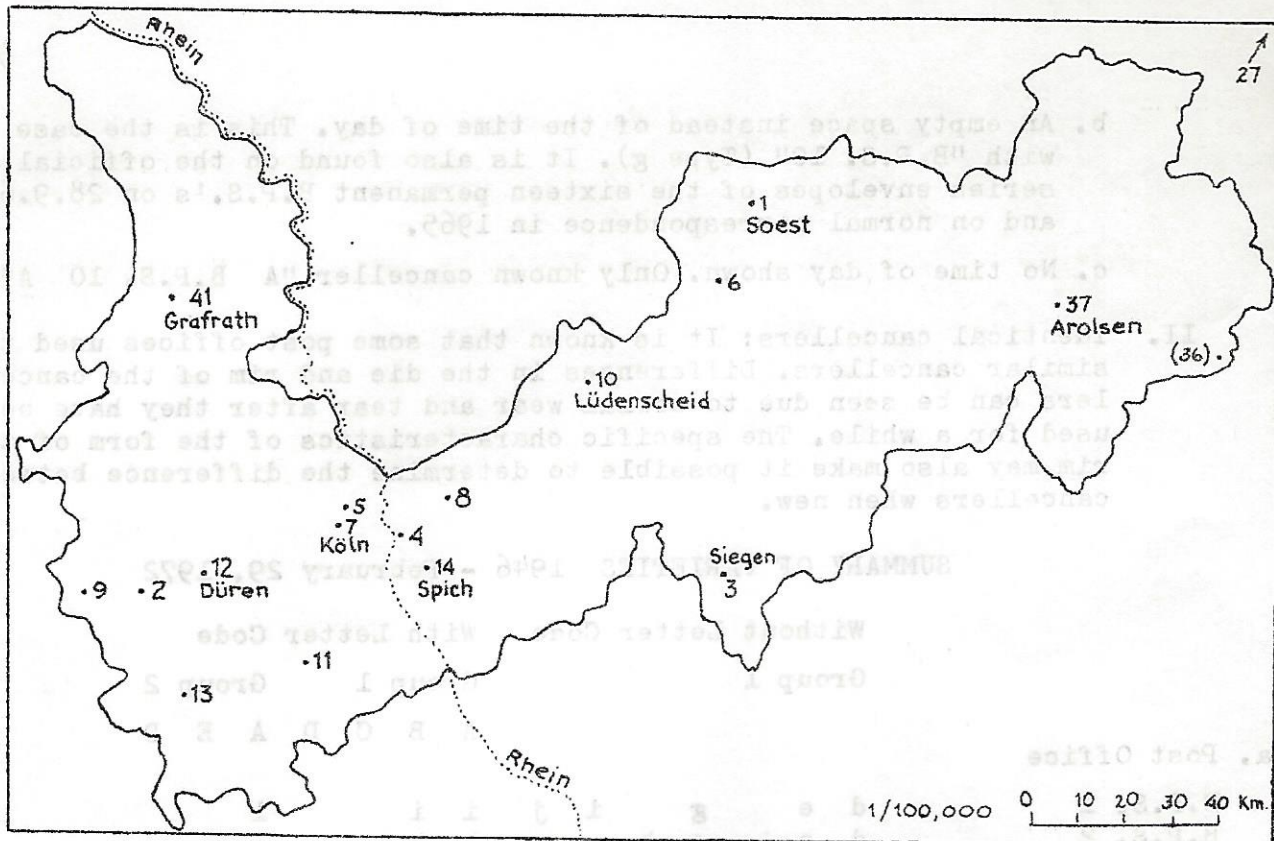
Meanings of the abbreviations in the cancellers:

B.P.S.	= Bureau postal secondaire
S.P.C./A/E.A.	= Service des Postes et colis aux armées/Echelon arriere
BPC/A.CP	= Bureau des postes et colis aux armées/Comptabilite
SMP/CP	= Service militaire postal/Comptabilite
OCC I CDB	= Office central comptabilite I Centrale Dienst Boekhouding
BPA	= Bureau postal aux armées
OPC	= Office postal centralisateur
SMP-DIR-MPD	= Service militaire postal-Direction/Direktie-Militaire Postdienst
BPC	= Bureau postal centralisateur

Speciality Items:

I. Date stamp without time of day. The following errors exist.

- a. Time of day replaced by two small solid blocks. This occurs only on cancellers: SMP/CP, OPC, S.P.C./A/E.A. and AMBT. MIL. SPWK.



Belgian Military Postoffices

1 - Soest	6 - Neheim	11 - Euskirchen	36 - ex-Kassel
2 - Propateierwald	7 - Weiden	12 - Düren	37 - Arolsen
3 - Siegen	8 - Bensberg	13 - Vogelsang	41 - Grefrath
4 - Wenthoven	9 - Aachen	14 - Spich	
5 - Ossendorf	10 - Lüdenscheid	27 - HÖhne	

PERIOD II: Beginning March 1, 1972

After twenty-five years of existence and one extra day (February 29, 1972), the death knell was rung for the familiar cancellation with the text "POSTES-POSTERLIJEN" and "B.P.S.". The new format was introduced to provide greater uniformity among Belgian military post office cancellers. The description of the cancellation devices of the post offices is listed separately from the special offices in the following paragraphs for clarity.

A. Post Offices: The cancellations of the post offices contain:

- In the upper half: the abbreviation "POST." followed by the post office number.
- In the middle: the customary date and hour markings.
- In the lower half: the postal area code for the Belgian Armed Forces in Germany (B.S.D.). (On some special offices, you will find dots forming a hexagon with a dot in the middle instead of the postal area code 4090. Found on "POST. X1" and "POST. X2").
- One or two letters are generally on the canceller to tell the difference between cancellers from the same post office.

Group 1. Large letters: 3¼ mm high for "POST." and 4 mm high for "4090". The number 3 in the date and hour markings has a round top. This group includes all of the normal cancellers that are equiped with a handle. It is divided into two sub-groups by the position of the letters.

A. The letters are located on both sides of the date and hour markings. This type of canceller can be found with the letter "A", "B", "C", "D", or "E" arranged in this manner. (Type p)



Type p

B. The letters are located on both sides of and slightly higher than the postal area code "4090". The only canceller of this type is "POST. 7" with the letter "D". (Type q)



Type q

Remarks:

1. All permanent military post offices use the Type p canceller with the letters "A", "B" or "C". The letters "D" and "E" are only found on the canceller from "POST. 12".
2. Normal correspondence was always cancelled with the same device. "Normal correspondence" in this case means mail from collection boxes or mail brought to the postal office by couriers from the various units within its area of responsibility.

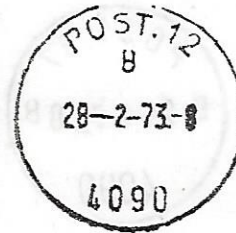
The following is a list of the cancellers used by the 16 permanent post offices:

<u>Type Letter</u>			<u>Type Letter</u>		
POST. 1	p	C	POST. 8	p	C
POST. 2	p	A	POST. 9	p	B
POST. 3	p	C	POST. 10	p	C
POST. 4	p	C	POST. 11	p	B
POST. 5	p	B	POST. 12	p	E
POST. 6	p	C	POST. 13	p	B
POST. 7	q	D (March 1 to May 14, 1972)	POST. 14	p	A
	p	C (May 15 to June 1, 1972)	POST. 37	p	C
	q	D (beginning June 2, 1972)	POST. 41	p	B

Group 2. Small Letters: 3 mm high in "POST." and "4090".
The number 3 in the date and hour markings has a flat top. This group includes those "bookkeeping" cancellers mounted on a pedestal by means of a moveable arm. These cancellers are used exclusively at the post office windows. In the afternoon, the hour setting of the following morning was used. A canceller of this type was used at all post offices except "12" with the letter "A" in the upper half between the "ST" of "POST." and the date and hour markings. (Type r) Post office 12 used a similar canceller except that it contains a letter "B" instead. (Type s)



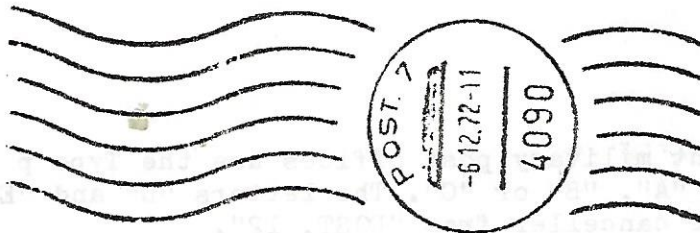
Type r



Type s

Contrary to the other canceller types, these "bookkeeping" cancellers were supposed to be used on the afternoon of February 29, 1972 with the date March 1, 1972. Evidently, one post office used the old "BPS" cancel on the afternoon of the 29th.

The new hand roller canceller of post office 7 (POST. 7) was issued in the following format: (Type t)



Type t

B. Special Post Offices - the following special post offices exist:

Fonck Barracks, Lüttich, Belgium
A central sorting facility

Camp "Gabrielle Petit", Aachen, Germany
Administration of the Belgian Military Postal System
The main bookkeeping office
A central sorting facility

Group 1. The postal area code number of the B.S.D. (4090) at the bottom of the cancel.

- A. "DIR. POST" Administration of the Belgian Military Post. Formerly "SMP-DIR-MPD". (Type u) Always without letter.
- B. "POST. C1" Main Bookkeeping Office. Formerly "OCC-1-CDB". (Type v) With the letters "A" or "B".



Type u



Type v

Group 2. Seven dots in the shape of a flattened hexagon are found in the lower portion of the cancel rather than the postal area code number, "4090". The letters "A", "B", or "C" can be found on the cancellers of this group.

- A. "POST X1" The central military sorting facility in Belgium. Formerly "OPC". (Type w)
- B. "Post X2" The central military sorting facility in Germany. Formerly "BPC". (Type x)



Type w



Type x

The imprint of the central sorting facilities can be found on:

- Official Documents and Mail
- Normal Mail
- "POST. X1" was used on the back of specific types of mail as a transit marking (for example, Express Mail).
- "POST. X2" was only used for the cancellation of mail removed from the mailboxes by the military guard forces at special times: Saturdays at 3 p.m. and weekdays at 6:30 p.m. This explains why the canceller was always set for 7 p.m.

The Official and Courier Mail Systems of East Germany
Part XI

by Helmut Weigelt

translated by Richard S. Zerbe

(Continuation of the story from Vol. 10 Nr. 3 May/June 1977)

Franked Verwaltungspost

March 31, 1956 brought to an end the Verwaltungspost and the postage-exempt Verwaltungspost A. At that time, these were the two special forwarding procedures which the DDR used for the transmission of official mail. Effective April 1, 1956, a new Verwaltungspost A came into existence. The fact that this new Verwaltungspost A had a special series of stamps indicated that Verwaltungspost A had lost its postage-exempt status.

The stamps issued at this time had face values of 5 Pfg., 10 Pfg., 20 Pfg., 40 Pfg., and 70 Pfg. Except for the value designation, all values in the series are identical. They all have the same design, the same brownish-black color, were produced by the VEB Graphische Werkstätten in Leipzig. They were produced by the offset process, and show the same printers' markings (Druckvermerke), with the addition of "III/18/97". Catalog publishers do not agree on the color designation, so that collectors generally refer to the "black numerals" when speaking of this issue.

The design is quite simple. At the top, in the decorative border, is the word "Dienstmarke". Similarly, the designation "Deutsche Demokratische Republik" appears as a part of the decorative border at the bottom of the stamp.

The printing was done in sheets of 100 on the usual paper bearing watermark number 2 in a horizontal position. This watermark, DDR and post-horn, has only been found in the horizontal position to date, and no deviations in this position have come to light.

The perforation is the usual comb perforation, 13:12.5. The printers' marking is a single line marking, and can be found in the lower left hand corner of the sheet under the first three columns of stamps and the column numerals. Any issue on which the printers' marking is missing is a reprint, and exists only with a cliché cancellation.

All government officials and agencies were allowed to use the new Verwaltungspost A for correspondence with other government officials or agencies. The restrictions which had been placed upon the postage-exempt Verwaltungspost A had obviously been lifted. However, all offices and agencies which wished to make use of this Verwaltungspost A had to make special contractual arrangements with their jurisdictional post office. But even this procedure was not without its short-comings, as will be shown later.

It was possible to use the new Verwaltungspost A for a variety of classes of postal matter, including all types of letters and packages, as well as printed matter and postal cards. Such inferences as those which have sometimes appeared in the philatelic press stating that Verwaltungspost A could not be used for postal cards and printed matter simply are not based on fact.

No special fees, such as those levied on Verwaltungspost, were charged for Verwaltungspost A. In fact, the fees charged were the same as those charged for regular, private mail. Several examples will show the rates charged for the various Verwaltungspost A services.

Printed matter to 50 grams	0.05 DM
Postal cards, local and domestic	0.10 DM
Letters, local, to 20 grams	0.10 DM
Letters, domestic, to 20 grams	0.20 DM
Letters, domestic, 20 to 250 grams	0.40 DM
Packages, up to 2000 grams	0.70 DM

Registration and special delivery services were not available. Nevertheless, covers have appeared which bear the franking for a special delivery letter, namely, 80 Pfg., on a domestic letter up to 20 grams. But such letters were never treated as special delivery letters. Identifying such covers as special delivery letters can only be the result of an incorrect interpretation of the regulations governing forwarding *Verwaltungspost A*.

Upon accepting franked *Verwaltungspost A* mail, the post office did not issue any sort of receipt to the sender. In all probability, however, the sender had to maintain his own record of out-going mail.

On franked *Verwaltungspost A* covers, all sorts of inscriptions can be found, such as "*Verwaltungspost*", "*Verwaltungspost A*", "*Behördenpost*", "*Kurierpost*", and so on. This is understandable because there was no prescribed procedure in this matter. Actually, none was necessary, since the franking, in itself, was sufficient indication of the type of forwarding required.

However, there were orders which directed that all *Verwaltungspost A* envelopes, together with their franking, were to be held for a period of four weeks, and then destroyed. These orders were not always carried out in full.

We have already mentioned that all offices and agencies which wished to use *Verwaltungspost A* for the forwarding of mail had to make contractual arrangements with their jurisdictional post office. As a rule, this was done by the county council (*Rat des Kreises*) in its respective headquarters city. However, since it was possible to reach any and all administrative offices within a county through *Verwaltungspost A*, a situation developed whereby, despite the fact that the actual address was quite different, all *Verwaltungspost A* mail for a given county was delivered to the county council office. It was then necessary for the addressee to fetch his mail, and to sign a receipt for it. Naturally, this led to complications. After all, which addressee could anticipate the arrival of any *Verwaltungspost A* mail?

The author recalls quite clearly the situation in Calau, where he served as director of the State Notary's office. This establishment was completely independent of the county council in Calau. Yet despite this independent status, it was necessary for him to make daily trips to the mail room of the county council, in order to get any mail which might possibly have arrived there for the State Notary's office. But how much more inconvenient must it have been for those addressees who were not located in the county seat? In such cases, it became necessary for someone in the council's office to inform the actual addressee by telephone that *Verwaltungspost A* mail had been received there, and finally, it became necessary for a special messenger to fetch the letter, and to execute the necessary receipt, of course. This entire procedure was not sufficiently well developed to be satisfactory. Consequently, it lasted only until Sept. 30, 1956 - a total of only six months.

In connection with the instructions governing the destruction of *Verwaltungspost A* envelopes, several things should be mentioned. The office of the city council, which took care of the contractual arrangements with the post office, was always kept informed of all developments and changes in procedure. But while the council office was informed, for example, of the regulation requiring the destruction of envelopes after their being held for

a period of four weeks, other offices, officials and agencies were not. The author, as the director of the State Notary's office in Calau, knew absolutely nothing about this regulation. The same thing also happened to others who received Verwaltungspost mail indirectly, such as the VEB enterprises and governing bodies of small communities, especially those in rural areas. In such places it was quite possible to obtain entire covers for philatelic purposes. In fact, it is even known that philatelic organizations within VEB enterprises received permission to cut these stamps from covers for use in their collections. In other words, procedures varied quite a bit from one location to another.

Mixed franking of officials for Verwaltungspost A and those of the compass design was not possible.

Verwaltungspost A was finally terminated on September 30, 1956, and was replaced by the new procedural regulations for the Central Courier Service - the ZKD or Zentraler Kurierdienst.

At the same time, the black officials of the numeral design were demonetized. Consequently, the issue was in use for a period of only six months, which is a relatively short time. For this reason, stamps on cover merit a premium price. Genuinely non-philatelic letters are readily recognizable by the postal markings; they require a postmark or cancellation on the front, and on the back, the postmark of the sending and receiving office.

The 70 Pfg. value is extraordinarily rare and is usually found only on package wrapper cut-outs. The condition of these stamps varies, but at best is no more than average. This is quite understandable when one considers the condition in which packages frequently reach the receiver. In addition, one must consider that the quality of the paper used for package wrappers and large envelopes left much to be desired. Unfortunately, forgers too have recognized this, and have produced some really fine wrapper cut-outs. One should therefore be quite careful in the acquisition of package wrapper cut-outs. Expertization is strongly recommended in these cases.

No less a rarity, however, is the 5 Pfg. value used in single franking for printed matter.

In order to simulate genuinely non-philatelic covers, and, to be sure, package wrapper cut-outs, forgers have used the following cancellations.

Karl-Marx-Stadt C 1 m	Sonneberg (Thür) 1 a	Wernigerode i
	Sonneburg (Thür) 1 n	Wernigerode p

At intervals, over a period of time, the DIA (Deutscher Innen- und Aussenhandel) released mint stock remainders of these stamps for sale to collectors. In addition, cancelled stamps were also made available to collectors. However, these cancellations were produced by cancelling full sheets of stamps at one time, providing so-called "Sheet-cancellations". For these sheet cancellations, the following cancelling dies were used.

Berlin C 2 ad	Leipzig C 1 ag
Berlin W 8 b (roll canceller)	Leipzig C 1 h (roll canceller)
Berlin W 8 ab	Leipzig N 18 w
Berlin W 8 cc	Leipzig W 33 d
Berlin NW 63 c	Löbau (Sachs) o (roll canceller)
Erfurt 1 f	Löbau (sachs) r
Erfurt 1 aw (roll canceller)	Meiningen b (roll canceller)
Frankfurt (Oder) 2 a (roll canceller)	Pirna z
Frankfurt (Oder) 1 (roll canceller)	Schwerin (Meckl) 1 GC (roll canceller)
Gera 4 n	

(continued back on page 70).