



THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP BULLETIN

April 2023, Volume LVIII, Number 2 (#227)

Inside:

- Hitler and Mussolini's Grand Italian tour
- Correspondence from Jewish Refugees in Shanghai by Michael Samuels
- A telling document from David Mui
- AuctionWatch!
- Great Channel Islands Material
- And so much more!!

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The Best in Philately:

Jewish Refugees in Shanghai-

Michael Samuels has some incredible covers from fleeing Jewish refugees that made their way to China. Truly an incredible read!

The Italian Grand Tour- Hitler and Mussolini take a tour of Italy in 1938, leaving behind rare historical photos that are sure to awe.

Channel Islands' Auctions- They have had quite an auction of WWII German occupied channel Islands, and we have the best of the best!

Displaced Persons Catalog- A great catalog for sale on Refugees during the Third Reich era. Just email dp-catalog@aon.at for more information.

Plus: AuctionWatch!, Danzig, Trivia, David Mui's great document and more!

Help! My goal is to keep this website and journal free and easy to everyone. Still, I could use a few dollars to cover expenses. Help us out by donating on Paypal at our website, or by sending a check made out to Chris Kolker to 25 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360. Thank you for your continued support. You are what makes our study group great!

Calling for any and all articles- long or short, introductory material or the work of an expert. We need them all! Simply email me your articles, scan or idea to kolkermd@att.net. Keep calm and keep collecting!

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To Our Esteemed Readers:

Welcome to another great addition of the *Third Reich Study Group Bulletin*. We have some phenomenal pieces to show you show you this issue. The list is impressive: the Channel Island Society shows us some great pieces from their latest auction, while David Mui gives us a rarely-seen document from the Third Reich-era. The auction houses remain busy, after recording one of their best years ever, and we have captured some of their best stuff. Furthermore, this issue's *Stamps of the Third Reich* show some unbelievable photographs. And if all that isn't enough, we have a bit of extra trivia for you. It makes for a fascinating and entertaining read.

As we head into Spring, our thoughts are already turning towards preparing for the Great American Stamp Show in August. Believe it or not, I am already preparing with literature handouts and information. It's quite the task, and I could use your help. Any donations to help the cause that you can muster would be wonderful: simply click on the box at our website www.trsg-usa.com that says "Donate", and 100% of the proceeds go to directly helping our wonderful group.

One more thing: Let's keep philately going! Specifically, we could use your scans, ideas, and articles. If you are even considering contributing to our wonderful periodical, please drop me a line at ctkolker@mail.com.

Meanwhile, relax and enjoy our latest issue. Drop me a line and tell me what you think.

Until next time, I remain...

Your Humble Editor,

Chris Kolker MD

Stamps of the Third Reich

Christopher Kolker



This issue's *Stamps of the Third Reich* is the January 30th, 1941 German-Italian Brotherhood-in-Arms.

Professor Richard Klein designed the stamp, and it is perforated at 13 ½ by 14. The Reich Printing Works used the photogravure technique on coated paper. It has a swastika watermark, and was valid until December 31st 1942.

No printing varieties exist for this stamp, but it does exist in a full range of shades from light to deep brown carmine, but these variations don't change the stamp's value.

This stamp's unique postmark depicts a sword and collapsed hands. Three variations of that postmark exist: one in Berlin, Vienna, and Munich. Each were used only on January 30th 1941.



The Amtsblatt:

The German-Italian Pact

Michel 763, Stanley Gibbons 751, Scott B189

No. 29/1941 New Commemorative Stamp

The German Reich Post is issuing a commemorative 12 + 38 Pfg. face value stamp, illustrating the head of the Führer and that of the Duce.

For the existing common defense of our two European nations, the German-Italian Brotherhood-in-arms is emphatically and purposefully portrayed before the whole world. The stamp is 29.5X38.5 mm in size and has been printed sheets of 50 using the photogravure process at the Reich Printing Works. The surcharge is going towards the Culture Fund.

Professor Richard Klein (Munich) designed the stamp, based on photographs taken by the Reich official photographer Professor Heinrich Hoffman. The Italian Postal Authorities are also issuing a series of 6 stamps of similar style in the near future; the designs will include a German and Italian soldier in addition to portraits of the two great statesmen.

The new commemorative stamp is being sold at all Post and Government mail offices from January 30th. Financial accounts will be processed in accordance with regulation specified in Amtsblatt #600/1940, S681.



Italy Scott 413-18 stamps

The History:

This is the stamp that commemorates the Axis alliance of Germany and Italy. In fact, the Axis Alliance is named for the longitudinal proximity of Berlin versus Rome upon a single vertical axis. The stamp glorifies that close relationship.

Hitler and Mussolini met on 17 different occasions, and to summarize each of those meetings would be superfluous and tedious., since the crux of their relationship was public displays of friendship, strength, and grandeur. The best epitome of their relationship is Hitler's visit to Italy in 1938.

While this may not be the most famously remembered of all the visits, with that distinction being the Munich Pact signing in 1938, this meeting visually displays to the world their grandiose egos and ambitions more than any other.

It was not the two dictators' first meeting, which had occurred in Venice four years previously. Mussolini had not taken Hitler seriously until the 1930 German election, when he began giving Hitler advice on tactics. Hitler failed to take it and when the two men met in 1934, they were not in accord. In 1935 the Germans even secretly supplied arms to the Emperor Haile Selassie for defense against the Italian invasion of Ethiopia.

By January 1936, however, Mussolini was telling a German envoy that Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy shared 'a common destiny'; that summer the two powers worked together in Spain, and in November Mussolini described the relationship between the two countries as the 'axis' around which Europe would revolve. Mussolini visited Germany in September 1937 in a display of Fascist-Nazi solidarity and when Hitler took over Austria in March 1938, Germany was patently the dominant partner in the relationship, with the German army perched on the Italian frontier.

Hitler arrived in Rome on May 3rd, accompanied by Goebbels and Ribbentrop as well as some five hundred party officials, diplomats, security guards and journalists in three trains. A special station had been built for the Germans, who were greeted by Mussolini and King Victor Emmanuel. Rome was adorned with decorations, including swastikas, and a new street, the Via Adolf Hitler, had been constructed, along which the German leader was driven to the Quirinal Palace, where he stayed as guest of the king. Victor Emmanuel and Hitler found each other tiresome. Hitler was uncomfortable at the court and felt with reason that he was treated with disdain. The king is said to have asked the German leader how many nails there were in the German infantry boot, and when Hitler did not know, explained at some length that the Italian boot had fifty-two nails in the sole and twenty-two in the heel.

The next day was devoted to a tour of Rome and two private meetings between the Führer and the Duce, and in the evening, they reviewed the Italian fleet in Naples. The Vatican remained ostentatiously aloof, but there was a state banquet on May 8th at which the two leaders made speeches of German-Italian solidarity and Hitler announced that Germany regarded the Italian frontier 'forever as unchangeable'.

After visiting Florence on May 9th Hitler and his group returned to Berlin the following day. He had privately pressed for a military alliance between the two countries, which at this point Mussolini refused, though in the summer he copied the Germans by introducing anti-Jewish legislation. He had now decided that the Mussolini family was Nordic and related to the 'purer' Germans rather than the Latins, though he had earlier dismissed Nazi racial theories as 'anti-scientific drivel'. The relationship with Germany would dominate Italian foreign policy all the way to war; in May 1939 they signed a formal treaty, the so-called 'pact of steel'.

The Pictures:



Hitler being greeted by Mussolini and the King of Italy after he arrives in the Rome Train station in May 1938

The via Adolf Hitler as it looked in May 1938



They traveled to the Monumento Nazionale a Emanuele II and laid a wreath at the WWI-era Tomb of the Unknown soldier



Hitler touring what is probably Circo Massimo in Rome during his 1938 tour.

Hitler stayed at the Palacio Venezia while in Rome, and then toured the Pantheon at night. Here is one of the few pictures available of the tour.





Hitler, Mussolini, and King Emmanuel all went to Naples to look over Italian naval exercises being done there. They all boarded the Conte di Cavour, pictured here.

After the naval tour, they proceeded to Florence via train. After arriving, a grand military-style parade awaited them, with Hitler as the main attraction. He is seated in the back seat of one of these limousines.





Hitler's care in front of the Basilico di Santa Maria del Fiorio, the cathedral of Florence.

They also stopped at the Piazza del Croce to much fanfare.



Nell'interno: UNA CARTA A COLORI DELLA GRANDE GERMANIA

LA TRIBUNA ILLUSTRATA

Abbonamenti - Interni: Anno L. 20 - Semestre L. 10
Estero: Anno L. 25 - Semestre L. 15
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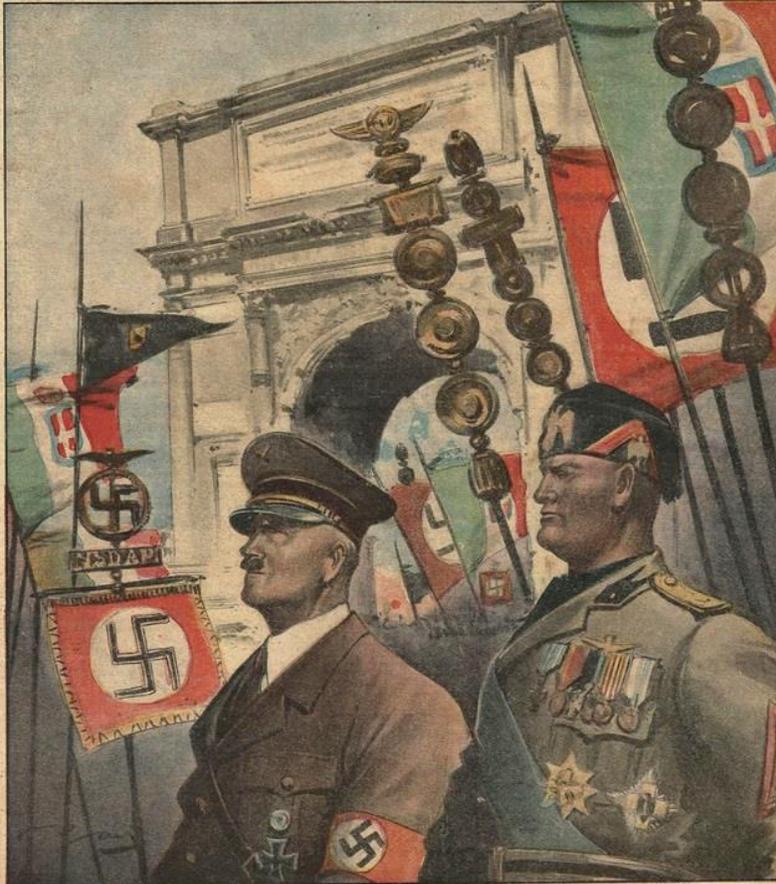
Supplemento illustrato de "La Tribuna"
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Anno XLVI - N 19

8 maggio 1938 - Anno XVI

Cent. 40 il numero



*Il Duce dell'Italia nuova accoglie in Roma imperiale il Capo della risorta Germania.
Due Rivoluzioni e due Popoli acclamano entusiastici al nuovo incontro.*
(Disegno di Vittorio PISANI).

Roman publication highlighting the 1938 visit

From the Desk of David Mui

David was kind enough to send us this receipt for the girls' branch of the Hitler Youth. This is one of those organizations you don't mind going by the wayside!

Thanks, David!

Quittung

Diese Quittung dient dem Einzahler als Ausgabebefug.

Reichsmark

30/ Nr: 14808

von Steph. Maier JM 18/10

für Mittelkarte (13.35 12.10)

richtig empfangen zu haben, bescheinigt

9.10.35, den 3/11 1935

NSDAP / Hitler-Jugend

Dienststelle
 Reichsmittel i. d. H. 67
 Jungmädchengruppe 18/545
 Volksgarten

Der Einzahler Steph. Maier Der Geldverwalter

Bemerkungen:

Quittung

Diese Quittung dient dem Einzahler als Ausgabebefug.

Reichsmark

30/ Nr: 14816

von Steph. Maier

für Mittelkarte 20.10.35

richtig empfangen zu haben, bescheinigt

6.11.35, den 6.11 1935

NSDAP / Hitler-Jugend

Dienststelle
 Reichsmittel i. d. H. 67
 Jungmädchengruppe 18/545
 Volksgarten

Der Einzahler Steph. Maier Der Geldverwalter

Bemerkungen:

CHANNEL ISLANDS SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY

Founded 1950

Date: January 17, 2023

Press Contact: Steve Wells Press & Advertising Officer

Auction NS19

The Channel Islands Specialists' Society has made available the results of its 703-lot Autumn auction, NS 19, which closed on November 24, 2022.

Auctioneer Nick Stuart commented: "This was another good auction, with sales of £17,400 and 94 bidders participating. The quality and variety of material on offer, from early postal history to modern Jersey stamps, generated much interest especially those items which are rarely available as well as material not usually found in the commercial auction houses' sales".

There were several 1940 "Service Suspended" covers which could not be delivered to the Islands from the U.K. because the German Military Occupation had started. A cover sent on June 28, 1940 from St. Helens in Lancashire addressed to Guernsey received the **NO SERVICE / RETURN TO SENDER** violet cachet along with an unusual **U** handstamp in black alongside: with a reserve of £38 it sold for £65 (NS19167).

A February 22, 1941 registered cover with 6 x 2d Centenary bisects – of which four were hardly separated - cancelled by Guernsey single circle date-stamps, was offered at £40 and sold for £48 (NS19184). A registered KGV postal stationery envelope uprated with 4 x 2d Centenary bisects also sent in February 1941 had a reserve of £25 and sold for £38 (NS19188)

The range of Guernsey Arms and Jersey Arms and Views stamps were popular with a Guernsey 1d Arms imperforate block of 4 selling for £80 (NS19200).

Commercial usage of the stamps on cover during the German Military Occupation, especially if they have surcharges or Instructional cachets, is always in demand. A 1941 Guernsey underpaid sealed letter with a fine **3D TO PAY / 324** handstamp fetched £80 (NS19238).

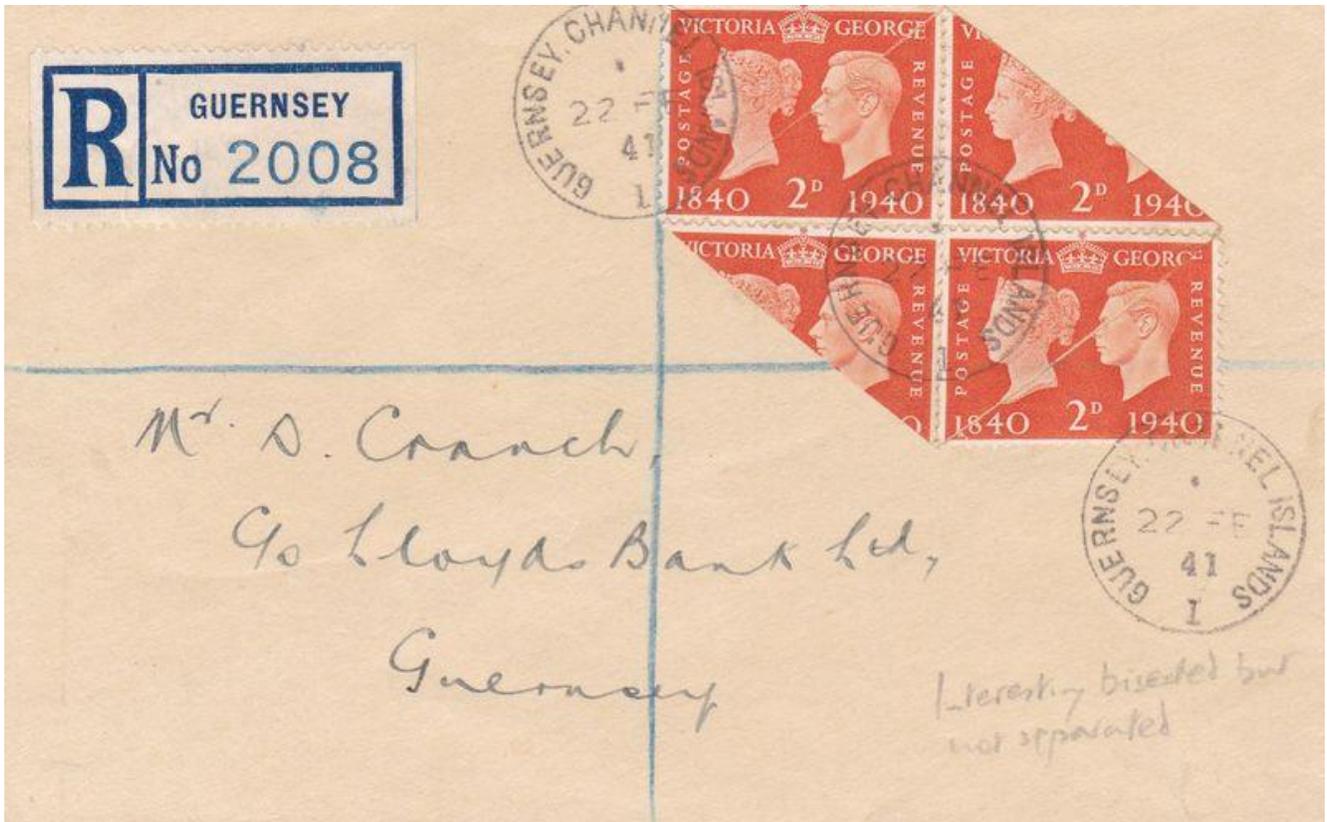
The use of sub post-office registration labels during the Occupation was limited, so a 1944 Guernsey registered cover with a Forest date-stamp and a Forest Registration Label sold for £130 (NS19255). A 1944 Jersey registered cover with a set of Views stamps cancelled with a St. Martin's Jersey date-stamp and the rare "D" type registration label sold for £200 (NS19311).

Further information about the C.I.S.S. may be obtained from the website: <https://www.ciss.uk/>

The Study of Stamps, Postal History and Postcards of the Channel Islands

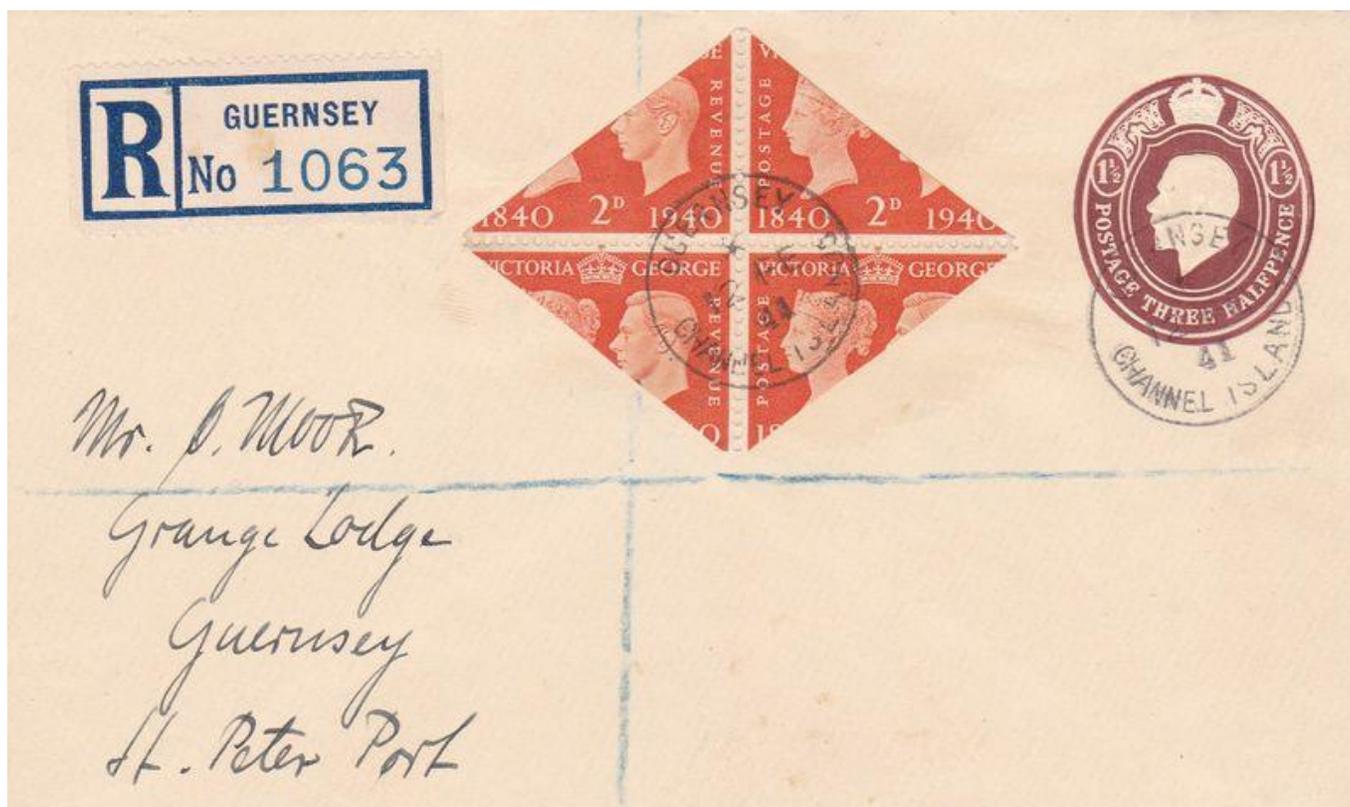


The June 1940 cover with the “No Service Return to Sender” cachet with the U handstamp, selling for £65.



This February 1941 bisected cover sold for £48.

This postal stationary envelope sent in February 1941 sold for £38:





The "Forrest" label, rare in Channel Islands philately, brought the price of this cover to £130.



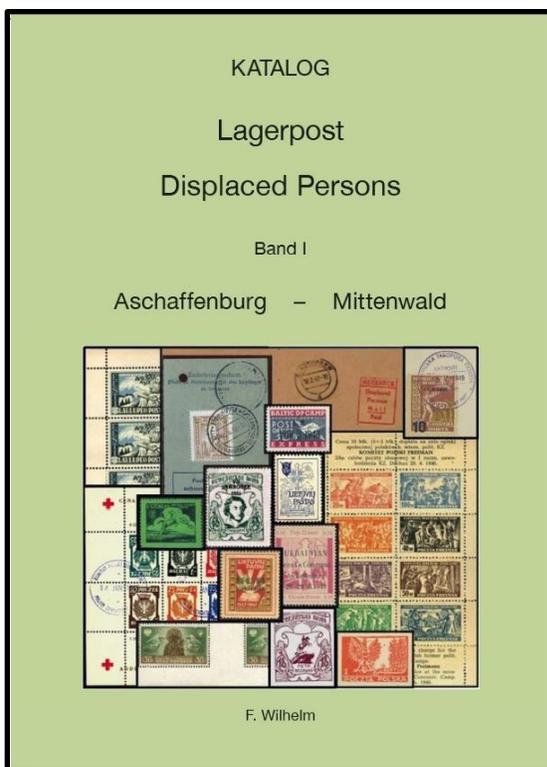
The instructions on the envelope of this September 1941 letter drove up its worth. The “3 d(ays) to pay” based on insufficient postage is a big reason it fetched £80



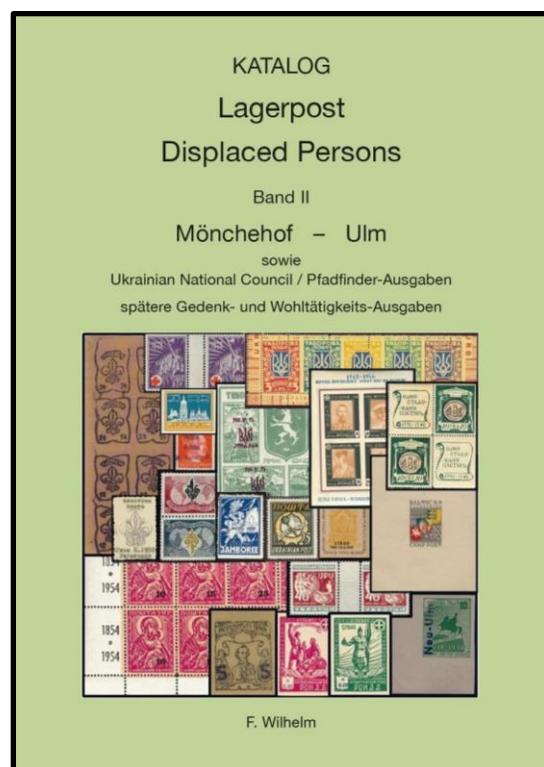
This cover with the complete set of Jersey scenic view stamps got £200 at auction.

CATALOGS: "Displaced Persons"

The collection area "Displaced Persons / Camp Post after World War II" has become very popular and it has been shown that the two catalogs available represent an enrichment for interested collectors in their philatelic work. Above all, this "enrichment" includes a very detailed list with as many illustrations as possible, which gives the collector an overview of this historically very interesting collecting area and also arouses the interest of future "collectors". Prices are also given for the stamps and blocks of the various issues, which represent a basis for evaluation, as is usual with conventional catalogues. Ultimately, however, the market decides on actual prices.



Part I 267 Pages



Part II 287 Pages

both volumes (A 4)

If you have any questions, please contact me at the email – address

dp-catalog@aon.at

The two catalogs list the issues of the DP camps, primarily in Germany, but also two camps in Italy, Rimini and Barletta, and one in Austria, Hellbrunn. Furthermore, the issues of the

"Ukrainian National Council" as well as Ukrainian charity issues etc. are taken into account. Below are a few details from the two catalogs (view reduced by 20%):

FELDMOCHING

8.7.1950: Überdruckausgabe anlässlich der philatelistischen Ausstellung (Pfadfinder-Marken-Ausstellung) violetter Überdruck in kyrillisch: "Philatelistische Ausstellung / Feldmoching / 8.7.50" Nr. 14 und Nr. 15 auch mit neuer Wertangabe in schwarz

			(Aufdr. kyrill. Text) Nr. 13 Ges.Aufg.656	A gez.	
		kleine "5" (3 mm hoch) Papier weiß	Aufdr. auf Mk.	(*)	Auß.:
Denkmal Peter des Großen	13 I	5 schwarz auf 18 pf violett / karmin	7 a A	40	574
		I + II zusammen			656
		13 a II	dsgl. "große 5" (6 mm hoch) weiß	100	82

Wasserzeichen "Wellenlinien" WZ z - steigend
(von der Rückseite aus gesehen)



		(Aufdr. kyrill. Text und Wert "10")	A gez.		
	10 violett auf 12 pf violett / grün	Aufdr. auf Mk.	(*)	Auß.:	
Denkmal Bogdan Chmelnicki	14	10 violett auf 12 pf violett / grün	1	90	400

MÜNCHEN - russ. - R. O. N. N. D.



Brief mit Nr.10 B violetter Stempel vom Erstag 20.VIII.48

20.8.1948: "Hl. Georg" Aufdruck des Nennwertes mit Metallhandstempel in rot; Papier grau, ungummiert; ungezähnt;

		14	rotorange "M-20" in rot	B ungez (*)	Auß.:
		200	250		
		15	dkl.grün "M-20" in rot	200	250

An incredible contribution from Michael Samuels:

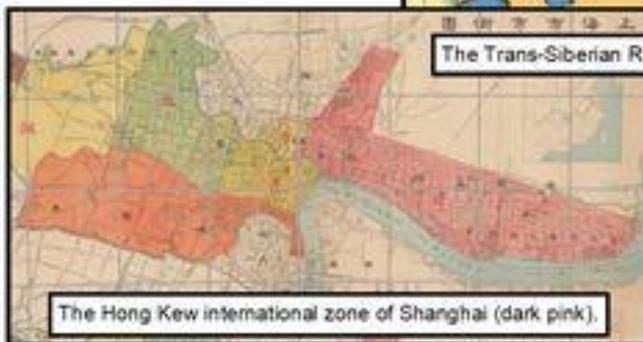
Correspondence to Jewish Refugees in Shanghai from the Third Reich, via Siberia

Since the very beginning of the rise of National Socialism to political power in 1933, the rights and dignity of Jews in the Third Reich were rapidly eliminated— book burning (1933); economic pressures to sell businesses (1933); excluded from military (1934); forbidden to raise German flag (1935); loss of the vote and citizenship (1935-36); expulsion from universities (1935-36); confiscation of radios (1939); confiscation of telephones (1940); and many more. There were over 30 such decrees. In addition there was violence such as the abuse of Jewish people on the street and the horrors of Kristallnacht (1938). For Austrian Jews these abuses started rapidly after the Anschluss (1938). Many Jews held on to the hope that their situation would improve and tolerated their erosion of rights. Many waited until it was too late for their families to emigrate from the Reich. Also, there were the Jews that no longer felt secure in the Reich and decided to emigrate to safety beyond the reach of the Third Reich.

Most countries in the world had immigration quotas, which were rapidly filled, thereby blocking further immigration of Jews from Germany. However, there was also Shanghai in China, which did not have any quotas for immigration into its international zones. There were also a few diplomats (recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations") willing to issue, against the orders of their home countries, large numbers of visas, which would ultimately allow the bearer to travel to Shanghai and relative safety.

Shanghai was the first city to suffer attack by the Japanese Empire (1937) in the Second World War. Because Shanghai had a large international zone, European powers observed the war between the Japanese and Chinese without intervening. This led to a strange situation in which the Japanese slowly gained power across eastern China, but ignored or tolerated the actions of the international community. As the war progressed, the Japanese confined foreigners to the Hong Kew district of Shanghai; even establishing a fortified and guarded perimeter.

Jewish immigrants from Europe mostly traveled to Shanghai via Moscow and then the Trans-Siberian Railroad (TSR), which terminated at the Port of Vladivostok in Siberia, from which a ship could be boarded to a foreign port, such as Shanghai or the Americas. Until 1941, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union observed a non-aggression pact and allowed un-fettered travel for



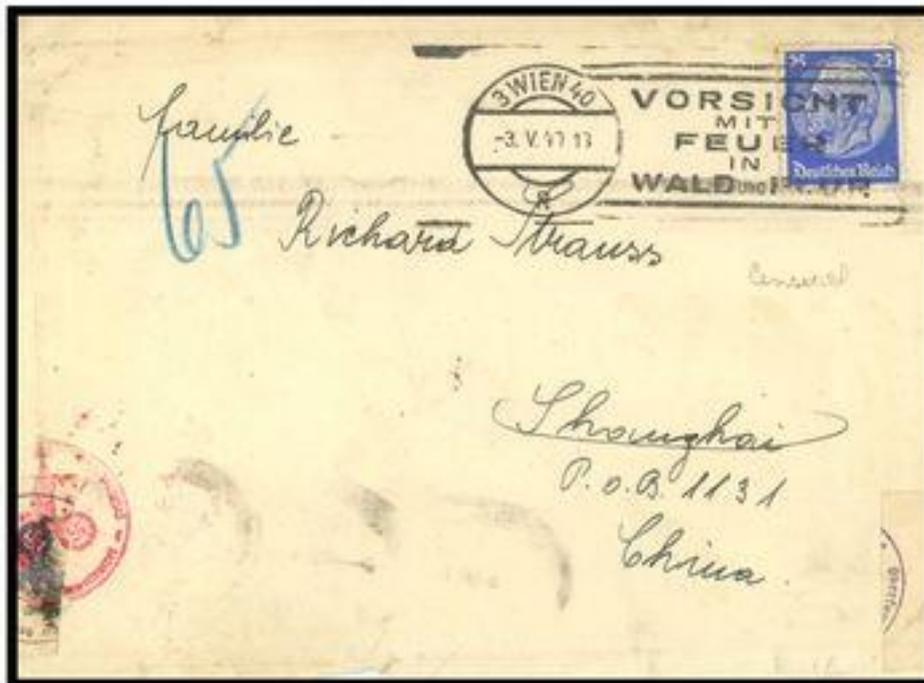
Germans along the TSR. After the Japanese invasion of Manchuria (1935), renaming it Manchukuo, closed the Trans-Manchurian Line to travel, necessitating use of the TSR north of the Manchukuo border. Postal service to and from Germany and Austria also traveled by the same route and are mostly marked, "via Siberia".

27 January 1940 Cover from Vienna to a Shanghai Mail Drop for Refugees



Marked "Via Sibiria" (sic from the German "Sibirien"), this cover traveled by rail from Berlin to Moscow to Vladivostok, and then by ship to Shanghai. The transit time was slightly more than a month. It is addressed to Box 1131, which is a known mail drop for refugees without a permanent address in Shanghai. The recipient was a Jewish refugee from the Anschluss of Austria by the Third Reich. The cover has been censored by the Nazi authorities at the *Auslandsprüfstellen* Berlin, at which they applied the censor tape (Landsmann BV2.2, in use 11.39 to 3.40). There is not a censor's handstamp, which was normal procedure in Berlin until February of 1940. On the reverse there is a Chinese censor handstamp (below right) and on the obverse there is a date stamp for when the cover was received in Shanghai.

3 May 1940 Cover from Vienna to a Shanghai Mail Drop for Refugees

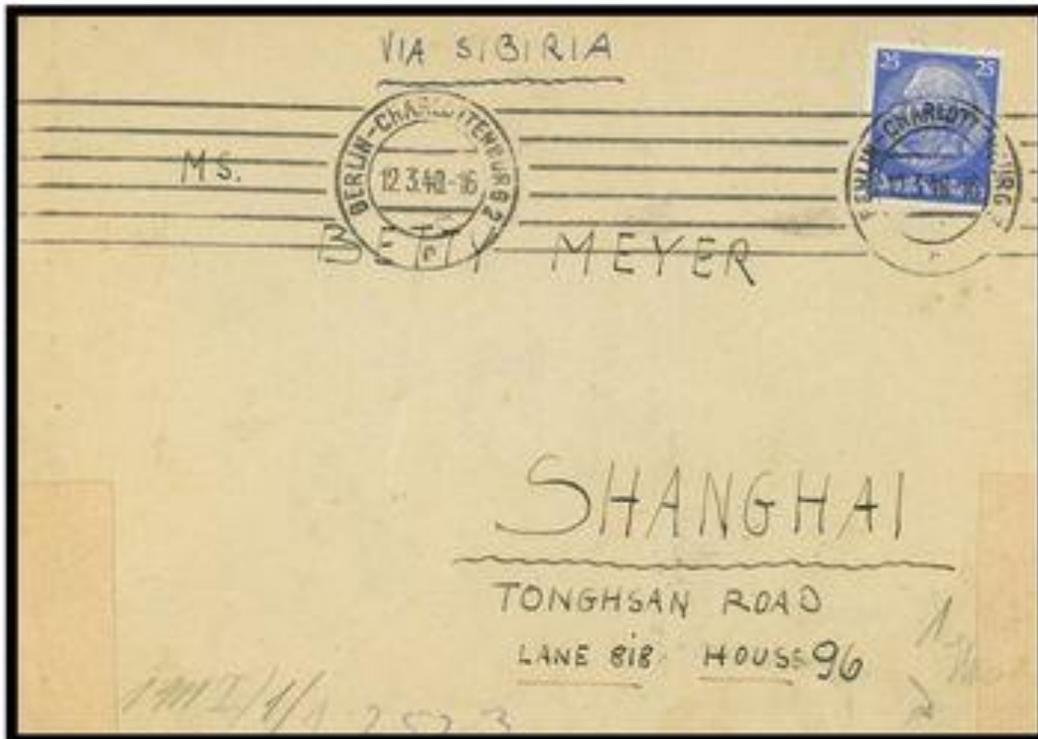


This cover is not marked "via Siberia", but most likely arrived by that route. It is addressed to Box 1131, which indicates that this same Jewish refugee, to whom the previous cover was addressed, still did not have a permanent address. The cover has been censored by the Nazi authorities at the *Auslandsprüfstellen* Berlin, at which they applied the censor tape (Landsmann BV3.1, in use 2.40 to 2.41) and a red censor's handstamp (BP1.3, in use 2.40 to 6.42).

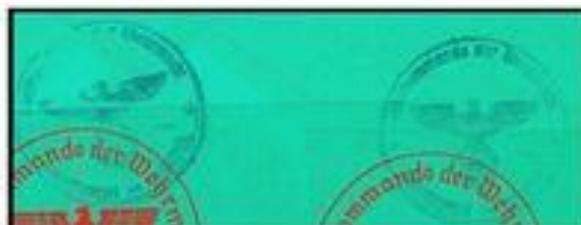
On the reverse there is a Chinese censor handstamp (below right) and a Shanghai received handstamp, which was placed on the German censor tape (see below left, enhanced courtesy of postmark-reveal.com).



12 March 1940 Cover from Berlin-Charlottenburg to Shanghai



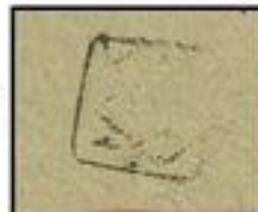
Marked, "via Sibiria" (sic from the German "Sibirien"), this cover, too, found its way from Berlin to Moscow to Vladivostok to Shanghai. The cover is addressed to "Tonghsan Road" (sic), which was in Shanghai's Jewish Quarter. The cover was censored in Germany at the *Auslandsprüfstellen* Berlin where censor tape (Landsmann BV2.2, in use 12.39 to 4.43), and a censor's handstamp (BP1.3, in use 2.40 to (see below right, courtesy of postmark-reveal.com) 6.42). There is not a Chinese censor's mark present. On the reverse, there is a Shanghai received handstamp (see below left, courtesy of postmark-reveal.com).



25 April 1941 Cover from Berlin Nord to Shanghai-Hongkew—
The Shanghai "Ghetto"



Also marked, "Via Sibiria" (sic from the German "Sibirien"), this cover is addressed to Shanghai-Hongkew, which was the Japanese-controlled and guarded international district. The postal route via Siberia would soon close; with the German invasion of the Soviet Union—*Unternehmen Barbarossa*. On the obverse, the cover bears a Chinese postal "chop", which indicates a specific postal route in the city and is applied when the mail is sorted for delivery (see below middle). On the reverse, there is a Shanghai received handstamp (below right, courtesy of postmark-reveal.com). There is not a Chinese censor mark present. The *Auslandsprüfstellen* Berlin applied censor's tape (Landsmann BV3.2, in use from 7.40 to 3.45), and a machine-applied censor's stamp (BPM1.1, in use from 11.40 to 3.42) (see below, courtesy of postmark-reveal.com).



AuctionWatch!

The action seems to be mainly on occupation issues this time around. So, let's go through a few, from the near-ordinary to the sublime. But don't worry, we have a few surprises at the end for you!

Auktionshaus Christoph Gärtner GmbH & Co KG Worldwide Public Auction -
February 20-24, 2023

As of 3/4/23 1 US dollar = 0.94 Euros



1938, Sokol Winter Games 50 H. green and 1 Kc. lilac carmine, two values each on piece of piece clearly stamped "MAFFERSDORF 8.OCTOBER 1938". Short report Brunel "perfect". Mi. 340 €. SOLD for €90.00



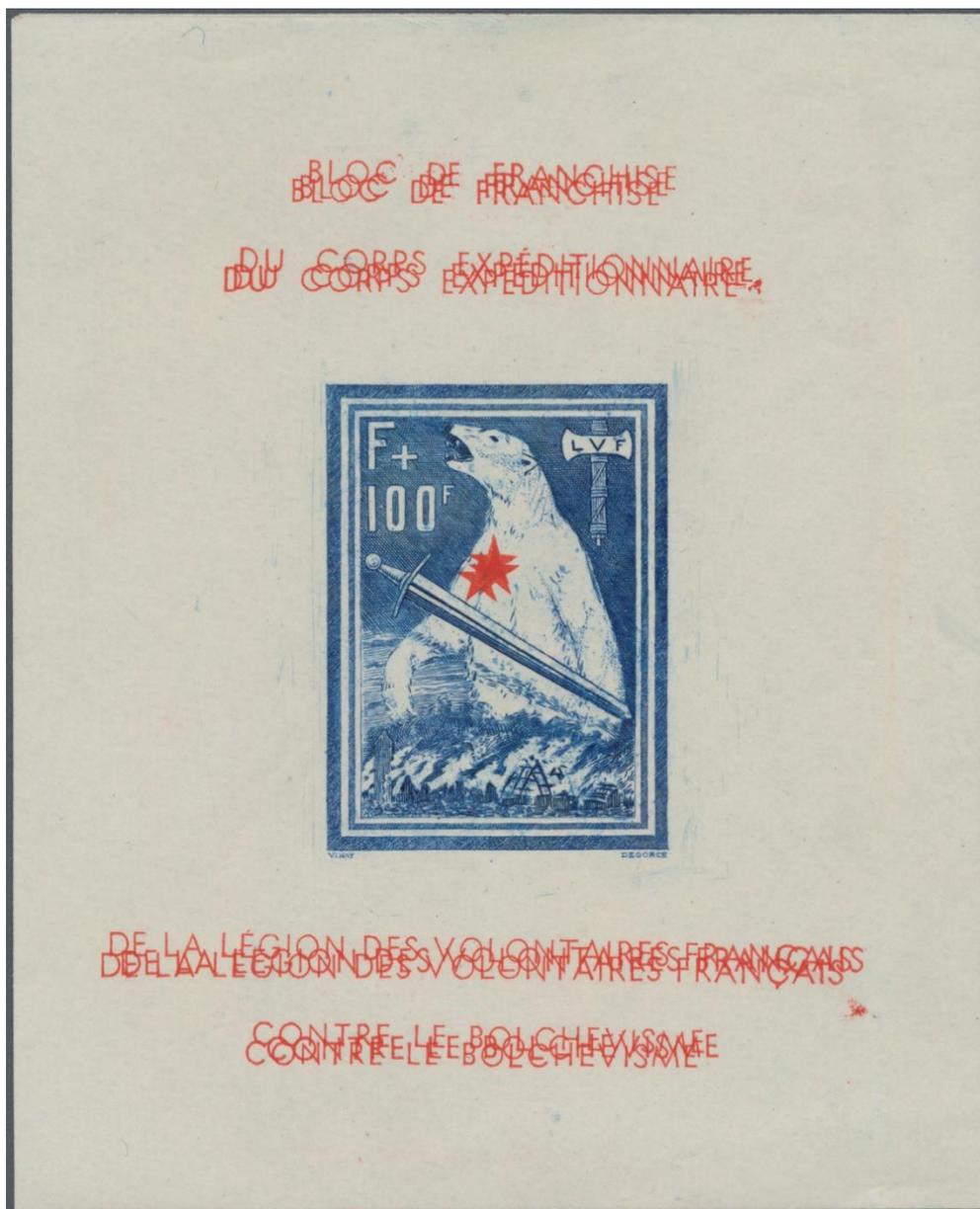
1939, overprints, four values in blocks of 4 together with Czechoslovakia 10 Kc. in the vertical strip of 4 with a blank field attached at the top as an attractive follower mixed franking on airmail R-Express cover front from "PRAHA 26.VII.39" to New York with customs stamps, various traces of transport/needs defects.
 SOLD for €60.00



1941, 3 R black opal green postal stamp "Lenin" from the left edge of the sheet with inverted overprint "Eesti Post", mint never hinged with full original gum in perfect condition. The total circulation of this stamp is only 70 pieces - with an inverted overprint, only this ONE piece is known in mint condition so far. GREATEST RARITY of the German occupation issues in World War II. Signed Keiler BPP and Zierer, photo certificate Krischke, Mi. -,- ÷ 1941, 3 R dark opal green definitive "Lenin" from left sheet margin with INVERTED overprint "Eesti Post", mint never hinged with full original gum, VF condition. Only 70 copies were issued - this stamp with inverted overprint in mint never hinged condition is UNIQUE! GREATEST RARITY of German Occupation Issues in WW II. Expert signed Keiler BPP and Zierer, certificate Krischke, Mi. -,-
SOLD for €1,350.00



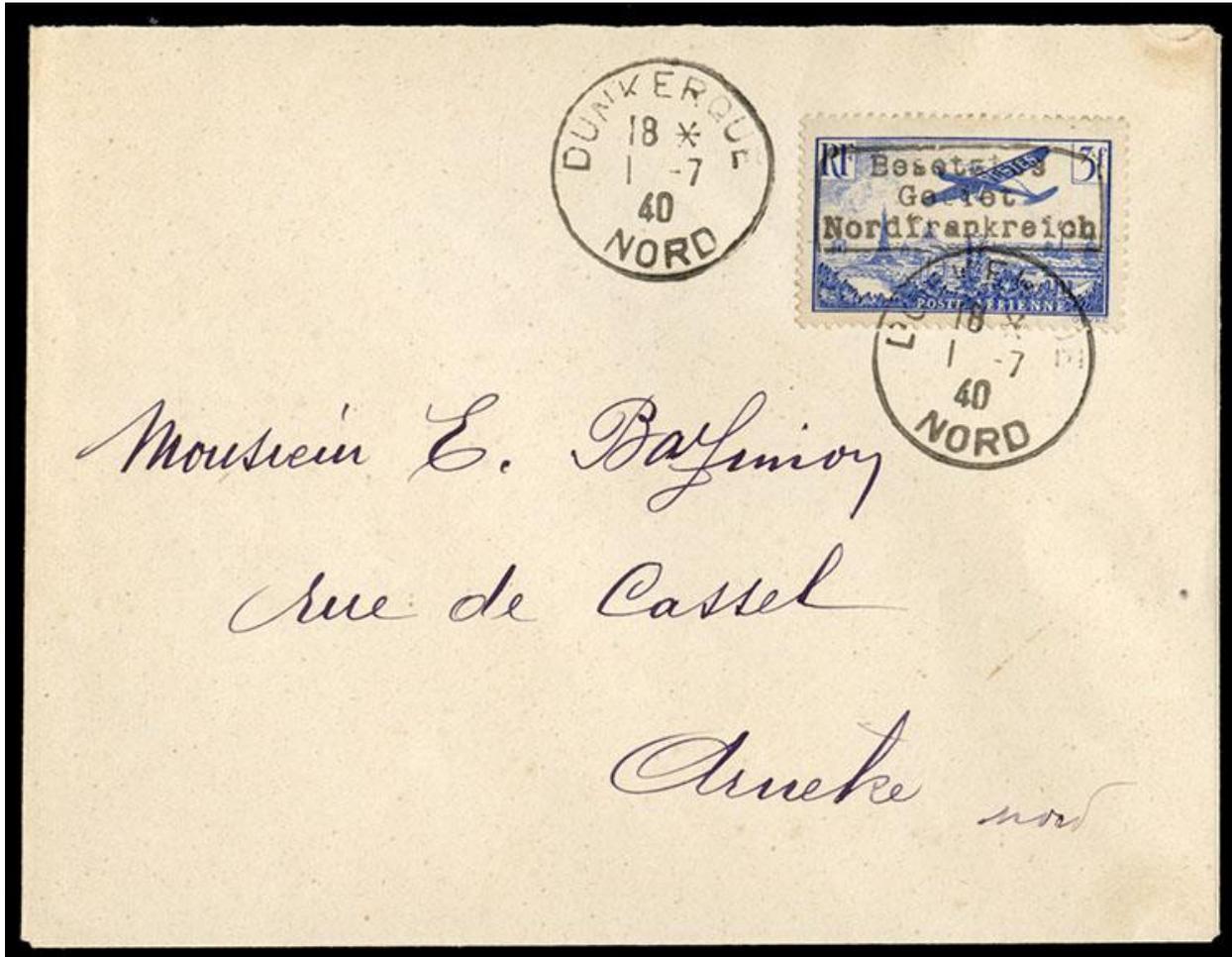
1941, 30 + 30 K. black/violet ultramarine perforated, type I, brightly colored and well perforated example, cleanly stamped "OTEPÄÄ B 25 VII 41" (Hurt/Ojaste 416:4), reverse. black ink, signed Dr.Laur, Nemvalz as well as photo certificate Löbbering BPP "perfect". [Eho Vaher: 3rd printing period Type III (e), so-called "double error" of the stamps originally only printed imperforate on arc fields 1, 5, and 9, subsequently originally perforated on pressure from the German occupation authorities. Edition of 240 stamps imperforated, perforated not known]. SOLD for €160.00



1941, F + 100 Fr violet-ultramarine/red, block of polar bears, block issue of the volunteer legion, threefold printing of the red color, imperforated, unused with production-related rubber folds with remains of a fold in the upper edge of the block. SOLD for €1,160.00

Cherrystone Auctions

February 2023



1940 5fr Air Post, overprinted Type I, used on cover to Anneke, with arrival on reverse, v.f. and scarce, with 2016 Herbst certificate SOLD for \$450.00



1945 Ship, 50c and 2fr, set of two, each used on cover with additional franking, fine-v.f., cat. €1000 (Cat No. Mi.1-2) SOLD for \$375.00



Occupied Montenegro - 1943 25c-5L, nine values, n.h., fine-v.f., signed Ercegovic, with 2015 Brunel certificate, cat. €1000 (Cat No. Mi.10-18) SOLD for \$350.00



1943 1r+2r black and orange, black, orange and green, n.h., v.f., the latter with Brunel opinion, cat. €500 (Cat No. Mi. VIIBbc) SOLD for \$250.00



1944 Inselpost, two singles from a separated pair, cancelled "Teufenbach", v.f., with 2002 Petry certificate, cat. €700 (Cat No. Mi.7A) SOLD for \$280.00



1944 Inselpost, n.h. but with usual slight gum disturbance, irregular perf., otherwise fine, with 2002 Petry certificate, cat. €700 (Cat No. Mi.10AbII) SOLD for \$200.00

R. Maresch & Sons Limited

February 2023

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GERMANY: THIRD REICH: COMPLETE BOOKLETS: MH33: 1933
Hindenburg, nh, very fine. (Mi €900 SOLD for C\$280.00)

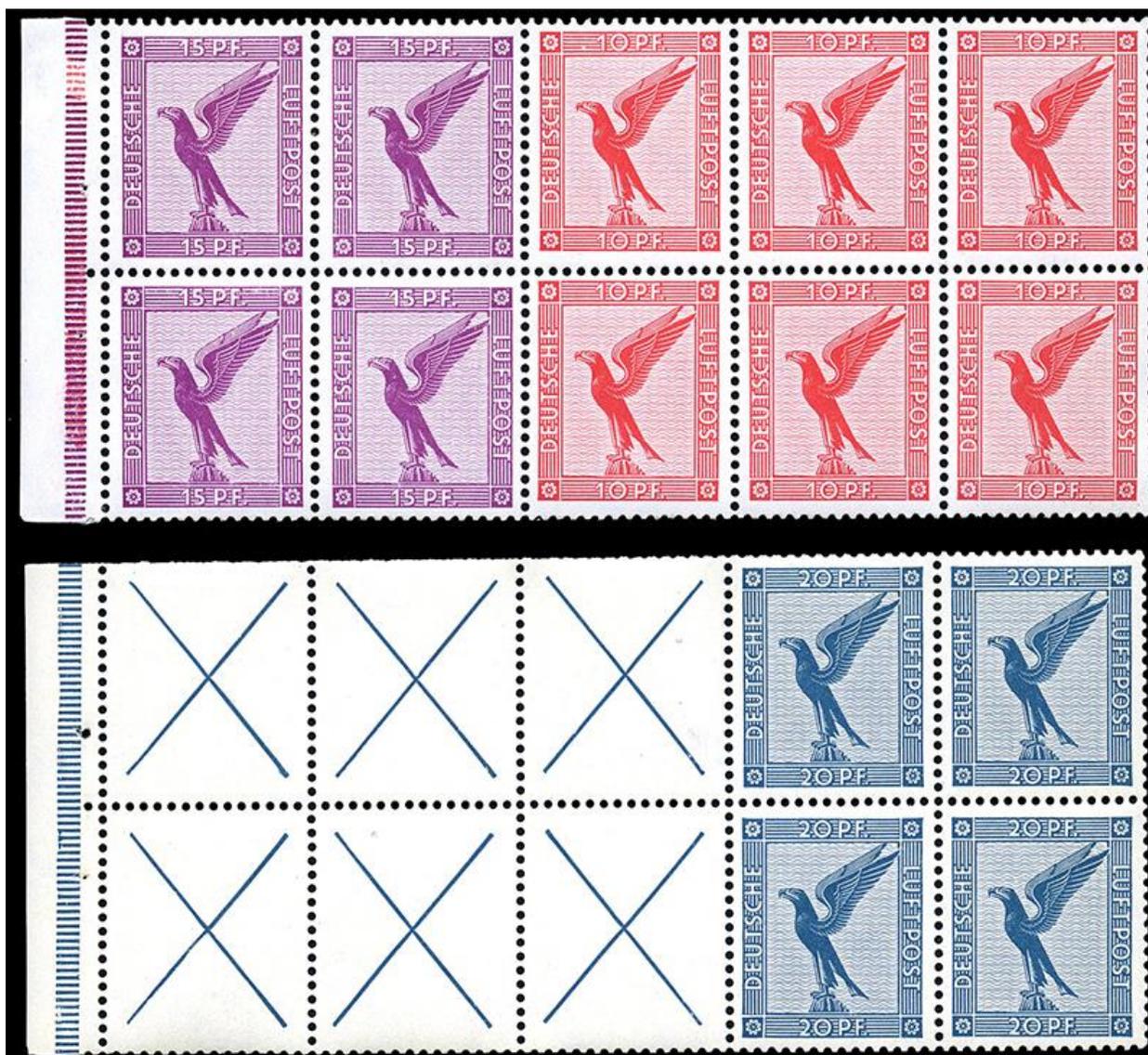


GERMANY: THIRD REICH: COMPLETE BOOKLETS: MH38.1: 1939
Hindenburg #9, nh, very fine. (Mi €250)
SOLD for C\$80.00



GERMANY: THIRD REICH: COMPLETE BOOKLETS: MH40.1: 1934
Nothilfe (Berufsstande), perforated selvedge, nh, very fine. Mi €400

SOLD for C\$180.00



GERMANY: THIRD REICH: BOOKLET PANES: 48B,49B: 1931 Airmail
10pf x 6, 15pf x 4 lh in selvedge, and 20pf x 4 plus 6 labels (from MH 20), nh,
fine. (Mi €800
SOLD for C\$190.00

Nordphila e.K. Sale: 489 – January 2023



1936, "Olympic sailing competitions", 6 Pf. (7 various Kieler special cancel) and 15 Pf. (3 various), mostly superb Sold...EUR 47.00

Danzig

Report No.120
July • August • September 2003



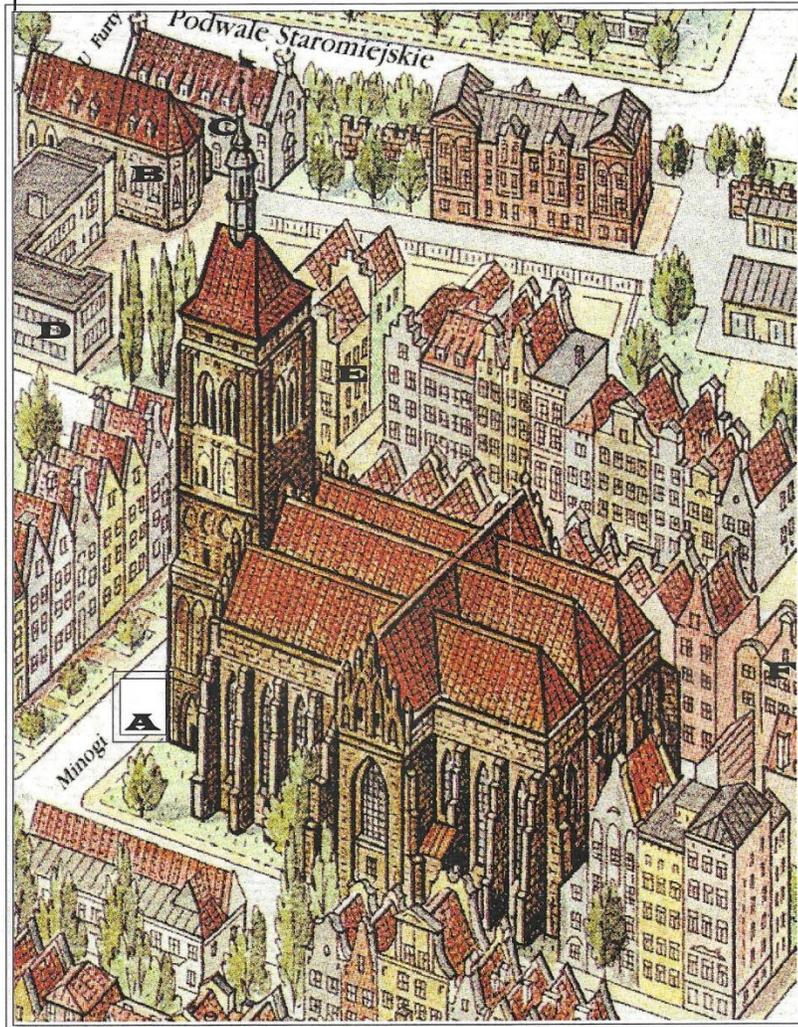
Editor - John H. Bloecher 1743 Little Creek Drive Baltimore MD 21207-5230 USA



Construction in Danzig City Under the Teutonic Rule, 1308-1454

TEUTONIC KNIGHTS

Master Builders of Danzig - Part Three



St. John's Church is today returning to its original condition to when the Teutonic Knights first built the structure. The foundation stone was laid in 1350 and completion was by 1465. Salvaged carvings from 1945 are stored in front yard under **A**. (MAPS & STORY ON PAGES 3 thru 13)
B.C.D. =Heilige Geist Church, H.G.Hospital, H.G.School; **E**=Akrors'House

If an orange dot appears at the left, please send in your dues.
Thanks!

Report No. 120 *Quarterly publication of the DANZIG STUDY GROUP of the Germany Philatelic Society*



**SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$10/YEAR, U.S. & CANADA;
\$15/YEAR OVERSEAS Summer 2003**

Editor: John H. Bloecher, Baltimore MD

Contributing Editors: Ronny van Waardhuizen, Belgium
John L. Whiteside, Leeds, England
Giles du Boulay, Aylesbury, England
Bill Ruh, Port Washington, NY

Historians: Bernard A. Hennig, Chicago IL
Hans Vogels, Poznan, Poland
Ernie Solit, Orleans, MA
Donna Misiuda, Sopot, Poland

Consultant: Prof. Andrzej Januszajtis, Gdansk, Poland
Museum Director Zdzisław Balewski, Gdsk.

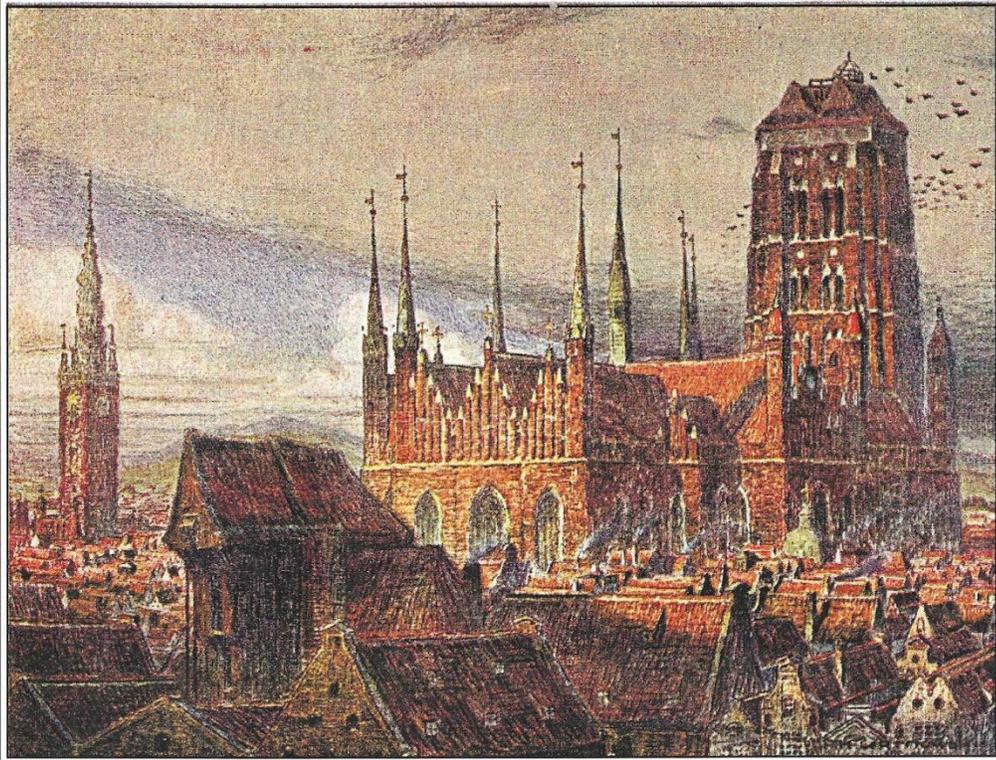
This is the post-summer issue that marks those nice autumn days that are conducive to enjoyable reading. This Report is no different, in that Giles du Boulay has chosen to travel by train to the old city of Dirschau to bring us his Report on the excellent museum which traces the history of those bridges that figured so strongly into Poland's defense in the opening days of World War 2. What is most interesting is that all of the displays are written in three languages: Polish, German and English! For this, we are most grateful.

Next issue, DR-122, we will bring the translation of a German article regarding a study of the first Danzig issues. Future articles call for an introduction to the Kaiser by Blane Taylor and a personal study of the Vistula by Otto Bergman. More on Vorläufers, Speicher Island railways and turntables, and much more on stamps of Danzig. Hope you all will stay tuned! The renewal slip is at the top of the page.

Bob Gibson's tour to Berlin for the Salon has been expanded to include 3 nights in Danzig, 2 nights in Riga, and a side trip to St. Petersburg. Still in the planning stage, let us know if you and Frau are interested.

Right: 3 warehouses are now part of the Maritime Museum. Come join us in May '04!





Construction in Danzig City

INTRODUCTION:

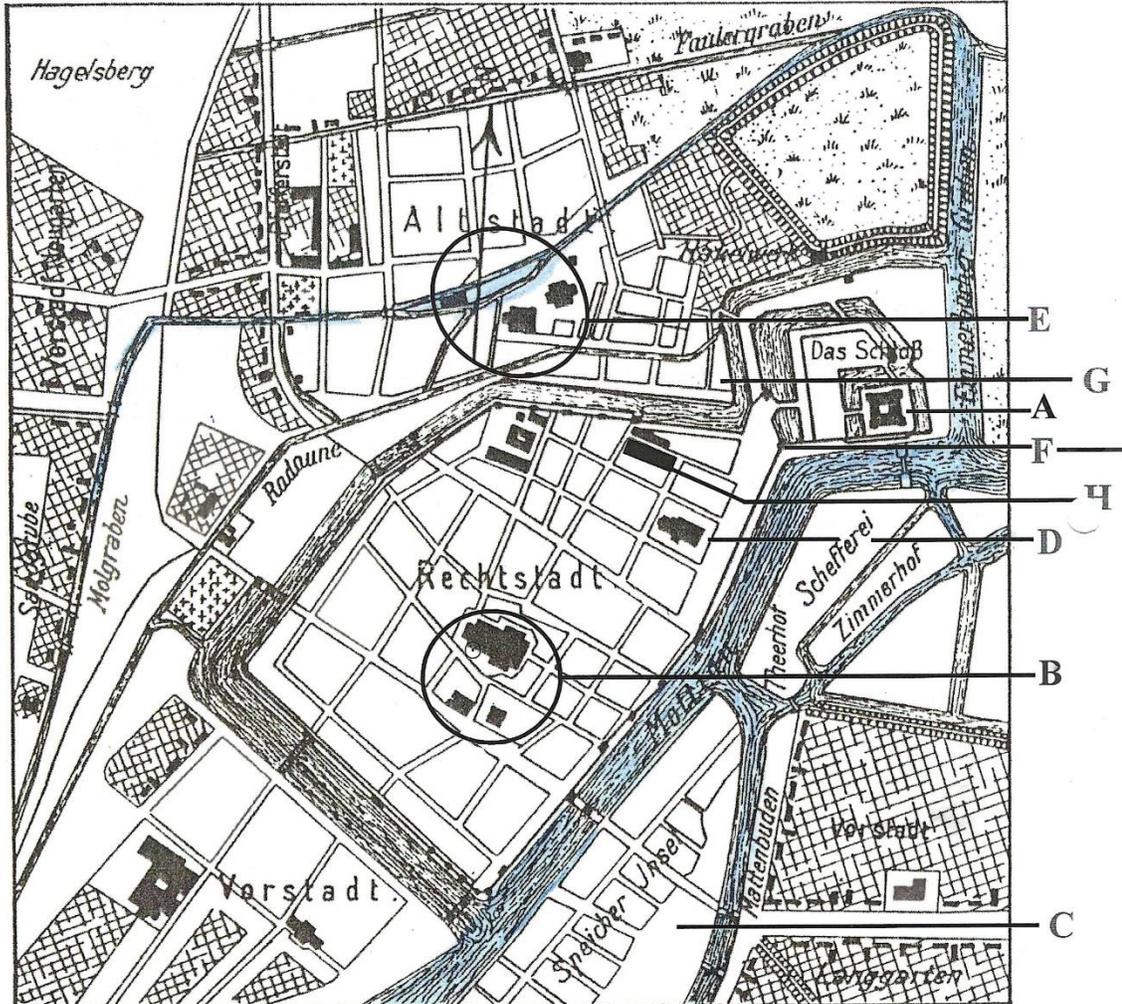
The beautiful etching above, by Theo. Urtnowski, was sold before World War 2 by the Leipzig firm of R. Bolgtländers, as a postcard, for 4.50 marks. Illustrated are three landmarks of the city: the Rathaus tower, the Krantor and the Marienkirche. The Teutonic Knights were responsible for designing and constructing the Crane Gate and the massive cathedral. In the U.S. we consider the skyscraper of the 20th Century to be the epitome of building construction, but an 80-meter-high bell tower such as seen here illustrates what can be done without steel.

But these are not the only projects in Danzig by the Ritterorden. In this Report, we will examine other famous buildings for which the Knights were responsible and study a bit of how this interesting group interacted with the City Fathers and the common folks of Danzig. With so much heavy construction going on, including defensive walls and gates, it would seem that there would be conflicts with the Knights. As the population grew, the walls continued to be pushed outward and the flow of the rivers continued to be modified.

Seemingly allegorical, the above illustration accurately depicts what it is like to be in the city when the summer sun breaks over it, shining in from the Baltic. Set your clock for 4 AM and have the camera ready. It's a sight you'll never forget. Now let's visit the *Ritterorden Bauen*.



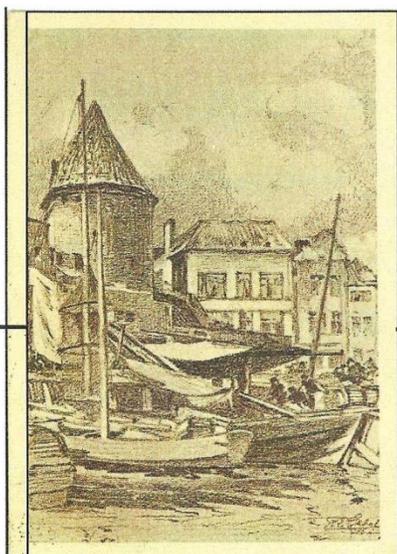
The first step in developing a survey of a single phase of building construction in Danzig is to find various sources that allow us to search the facts, rather than the propaganda which is so prevalent in much of the city's historical chronicals. Preferably, more than one source is the way to go, hopefully cancelling out the slant provided by the opposite historian. We will try to point out these glitches as we go along. Probably, the first thing that you want to know is the location of the Ritterorden Castle within the city limits, so here is a map to help in understanding this point:¹



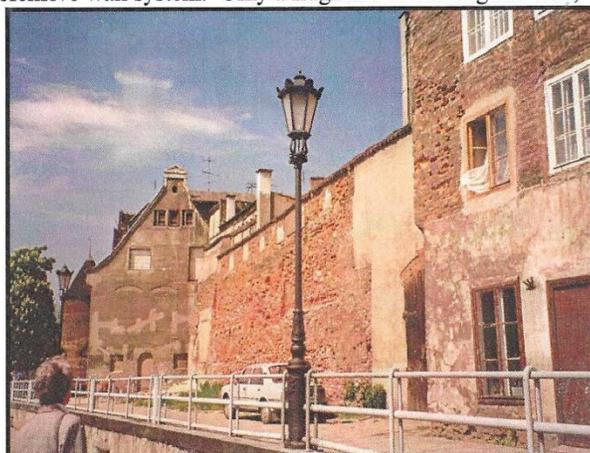
Map showing Ritterorden construction at the end of their occupation, early 1400s. Blue color indicates water courses as they are today. Uncolored canals are filled in and are either made into streets or constructed over with buildings. Familiar construction is shown as: A - CASTLE OF THE TEUTONIC KNIGHTS, DANZIG; B- Trio of Main City buildings; (top) MARIENKIRCHE, (bottom) RATHAUS & ARTUSHOF; C- Warehouse Island; D - ST. JOHN'S CHURCH; E - GREAT MILL (island in Radunia Canal), ST. CATHERINE'S & ST. BRIDGET'S; F - SWAN TOWER: part of ancient wall protecting Ritterordens' Castle; G - The HAKELWERK: the oldest section of Danzig; H - HEILIGE GEIST CHURCH & HOSPITAL.



At the bend in *Die Mottlau*, as it passes the *LangBrucke* and *Krantor*, the *Fischmarkt* sits in the shadow of the Swan Tower, originally built by the Order in the 10th century to protect the castle. The original tower was pulled down in 1454, and the present Swan Bastion was built. The 25-m. hi tower was incorporated into the city's defensive wall system. Only a fragment of the original wall, about 25 meters long, has survived all the bombardments in this area. An old German restaurant that specializes in pigs' knuckles is still located on this side street, facing the river. The Swan Tower is in the background.



Post card with Swan Tower, located @r Fischmarkt



Original brick wall of the Ritterorden Castle [Condition in 1998]

The Swan Tower

The present-day Swan Tower was rebuilt on the quay in 1454, forming part of Danzig's fortifications. The prior tower was from the tenth century, guarding the Teutonic Knights' castle. The bastion is 25 meters high, 11 meters wide, with walls up to 3 meters thick. It looms over the Fish Market, which was authorized by the Knights in 1343. Here were always fishing boats landing fresh flounder, salmon, sturgeon, cod and herring.

Arrival of the Teutonic Order in Danzig ---

A Narrative by Carl Tighe

German settlers and Jewish immigrants -- both of whom king Kazimierz invited in great numbers -- helped to fill the gaps in the Polish social organization. In traditional Polish society there was very little by way of middle class. Poles were either the nobility -- the *szlachta* -- or they were peasants.

Until Poland developed its own money-making middle class, and its own towns and manufacturing classes, this great gulf would remain. It was necessary for the Poles to import those skills, and structures they lacked if they were to evolve a complex many-layered social organization. In areas like Pomerania and Silesia, where the Germans came to massively outnumber the Poles, there was little pressure on the newcomers to become assimilated Poles. Indeed, there was enormous pressure on the Poles to Germanize themselves. The Polish state, just like the Danes, the Germans and the Teutonic Knights, absorbed those people they could make use of -- regardless of language. The struggles were not so much between Germans and Poles, but between competing multilingual societies. In general, Polish rulers do not seem to have thought in terms of national identity, but rather in terms of their territory as a personal income-generating possession. Inevitably, as capitalist organiza-



tion of markets spread across Europe and the accompanying idea of the nation-state developed, this was to change. The question of allegiance to a largely unified, uniform state, to a language and to a particular and much simplified national identity, was to be paramount.

The **Teutonic Knights** were slow to grant Danzig its trading and city rights. It is probable that while they were involved in litigation with the Poles in Rome they saw no reason to hurry. But under the knights there was an impressive series of building projects, and much of the current city layout was established. The knights built a number of streets running away at right angles from the River Motlawa (Motlau), extended the area of settlement into what is now the Glowne Miasto (town center), set up a new town north of the Stare Miasto (old town), and to the south started building in



*St. Catherine's Church, across the street from the Great Mill, was the earliest church in Danzig.
Photo from the Hotel Hevelius, looking south, 1988.*

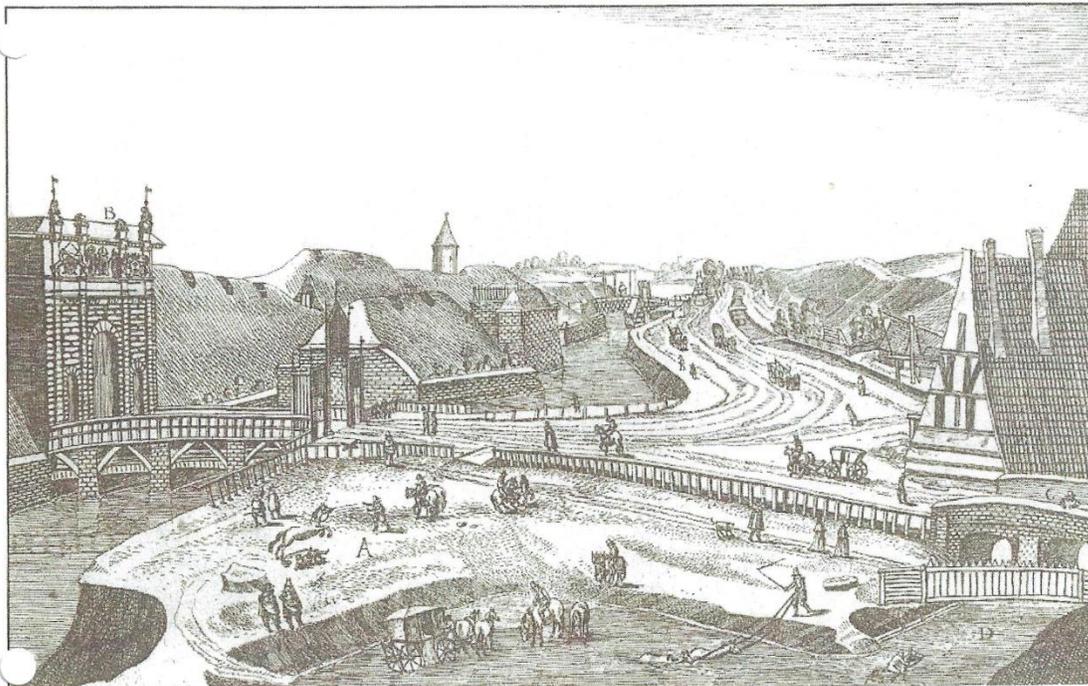


what was to become the Przedmiescie and Spichrzow Island areas. Around 1343, they began to build city walls on the landward side of the city; when these were finished in 1410 they would have 16 gates with drawbridges across a moat and also 20 towers. **The Knights also began construction of the enormous brick Gothic St. Mary's Church, St. John's Church, Artus Court, the original Town Hall, the Church of St. Brigid's, St. Elizabeth hospital, the Crane Gate, St. Mary's Gate, Church of the Holy Trinity, and the Church of St. Catherine. They improved the port and quay facilities. Sawmills, blacksmithing shops, cooperages, tanneries, granaries and ware houses all sprang up. On a small island not far from their castle there appeared the six-story-high Great Mill. Drainage schemes initiated by the Knights dried out much of the surrounding fen, so that the lake that had once protected the southern approaches now disappeared. As trees were felled for the massive building programs, the nearby forests receded, leaving land for development of New Garden, Long Garden and Langfuhr...**

The Teutonic Knights dared not instigate a regime as harsh as that imposed on the growing number of Polish serfs, simply because they would have frightened away the settlers they were so keen to attract. Pomerania under the Knights had to be attractive enough both to bring and to hold the settlers, but this did not mean that relations between the Knights and the citizens were always cordial. There were popular uprisings against the Knights in 1361 and in 1378. Polish historians say:

The Knights' methods of rule had aroused indignation and opposition among the local inhabitants in Prussia and Pomerania, in the towns as well as the villages, and gave rise to a longing for unity with Poland. For such large towns as Torun and Gdansk, ties with Poland meant much more advantageous prospects for economic development.

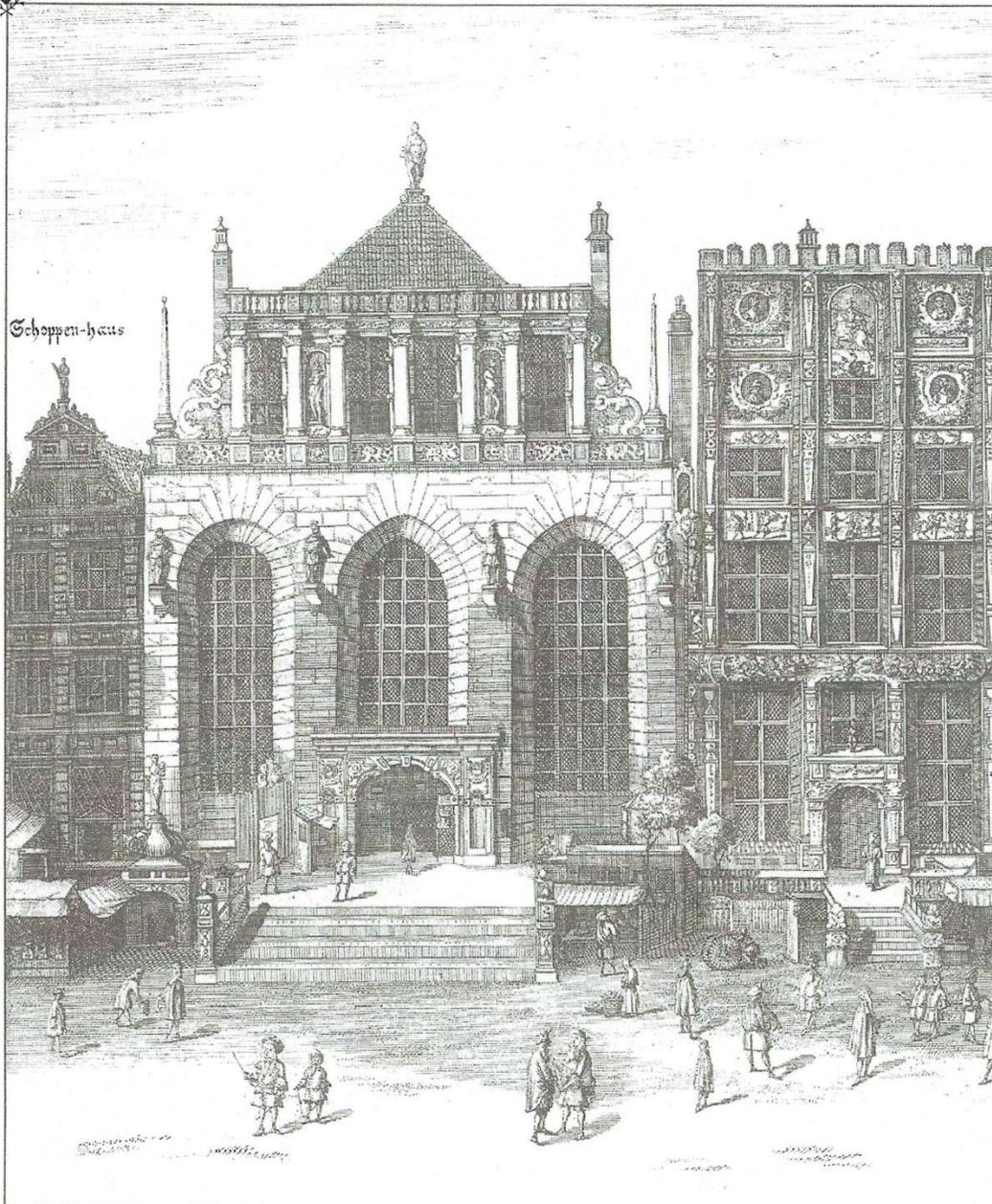
[Tighe's notes refer the reader to Norman Davies' "God's Playground, Volume 1", page 45 for tribal beginnings on the Polish plains.]



Construction near High Gate, shown at left. engraved by I. Dickman years later in 1617. The moats on the western side were present until the railroads appeared in the 19th century. The zig-zagged moat can be seen from this illustration, and it faces any armies that attack by land from the western approaches. The High Gate was the official entrance to the city, has been on street level for a century, and was Danzig's entrance to the so-called Royal Road.



Artushof



An engraving of the Artushof in 1687, by P. Willer, with the future home of the Danzig N.S.D.A.P. at the right. Burgher Houses were built among the official buildings on the Lang Gasse and the Markt Gasse, as shown here. At the left is the entrance to the refreshment hall in the basement of the Artushof. Mercury's statue still guards the entrance today.



The Teutonic Knights' castle was located at the northern tip of the young city, protected in part by the waters of the Motlau River. From that vantage point, one could see the Krantor. Today, aside from archeological digs into the earliest known houses of the first city, only a small section of brick defensive wall is left standing. It is very near a still-open restaurant that specialized in pig's knuckles for the sailor clientele. Otherwise, the fish market had a rich stock of sturgeon, which was its specialty, salmon, perch-pike, herring, and cod were the favorites of the population. Secondary fish consisting of bulltrout, carp, crucian carp, bream, and roach. In the early days, it was known as **Danczig** and its convenient location to the Baltic is what turned it into a fishing center. Many fishing artifacts have been excavated in this area, including a few boats, which the fishermen left to the expert professionals to construct. As we found on our trip to Hel about four years ago, the slightest breeze in the Danziger Bucht runs waves from the Baltic, hitting the boat broadside, causing a large rolling motion. Today, the fish market area is used as a food court for the Dominican Fair.

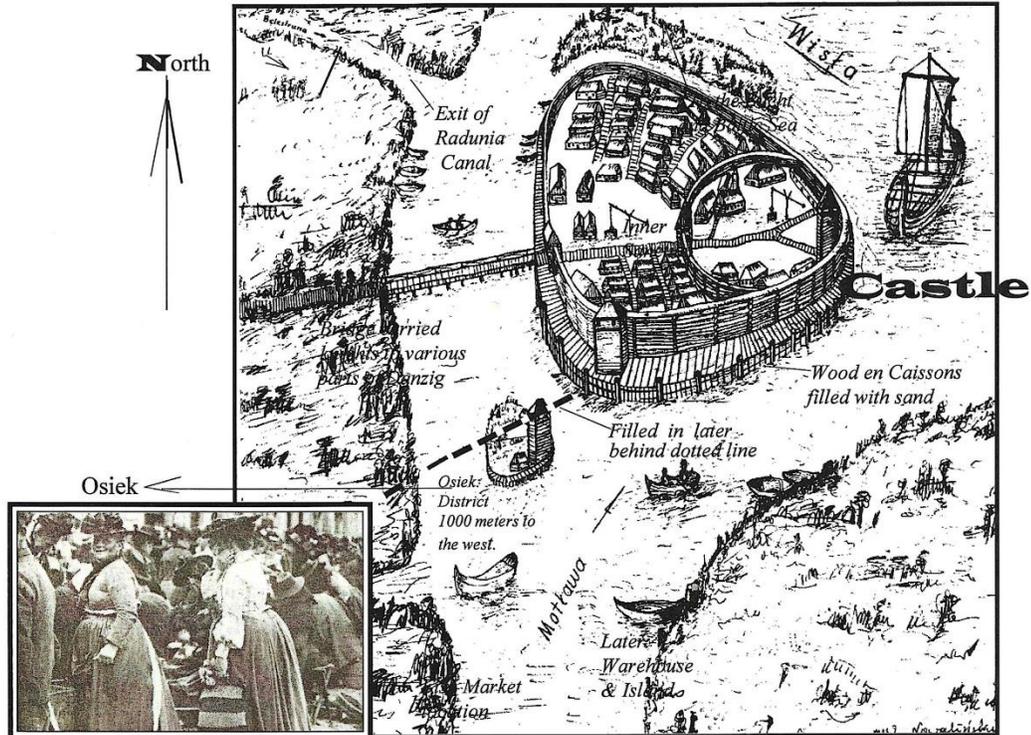
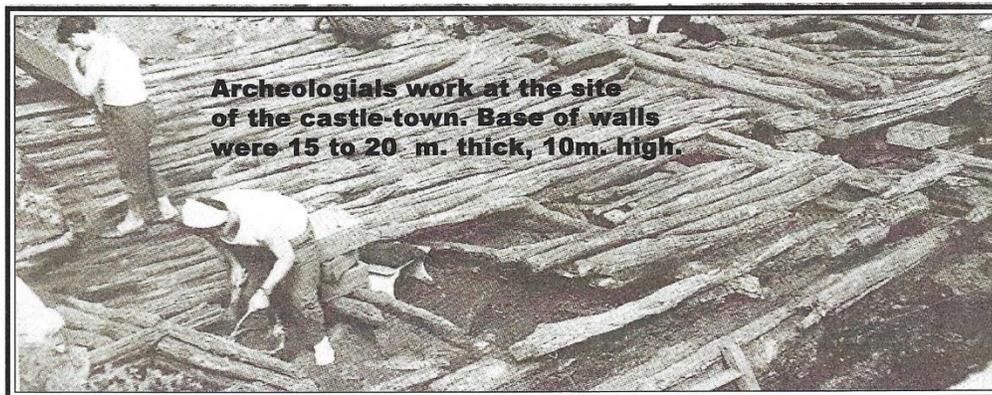


Photo showing Fischfrauen um die Jahrhundertwende; (Above) A drawing by K. Nowalinski of the old Castle Town era.





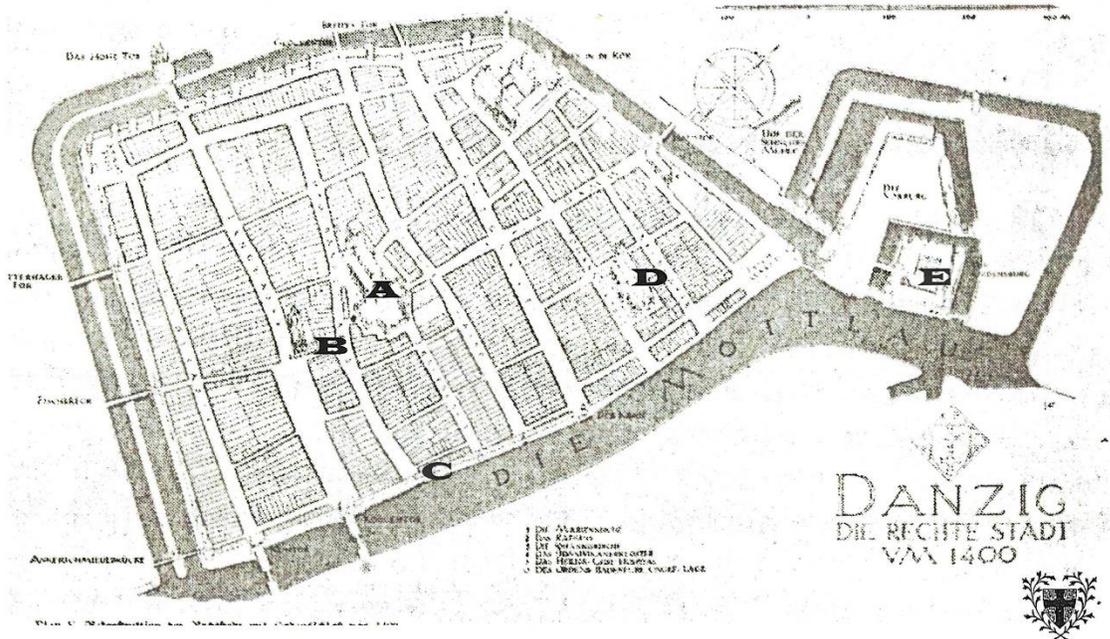
CASTLE TOWN --- Was occupied by the Danzigers from the end of the 10th Century until 1308. From that date until their rout in 1410, the castle-town was occupied by Teutonic Knights. Brick buildings didn't appear until the 13th Century. Those houses built with timber were built by the inhabitants themselves. All wood came from the nearby forests, resulting in their abatement.

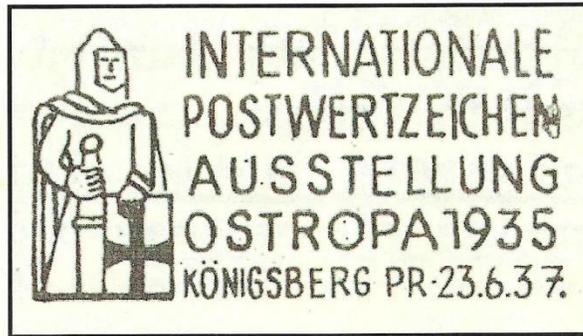
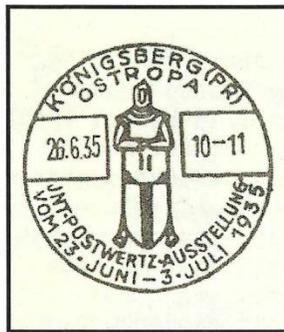
The inhabitant's animals and fowls shared space in the same houses as the people. Worn out equipment and pottery was discarded when the wooden houses needed rebuilding. Many of the artifacts are preserved in the Museum of Natural History. The construction tool of choice was the axe, since saws were unknown.

Osiek was a district formed by Teutonic Knights to house fishermen displaced from the 10th Century Castle Town after 1308. St Catherine's church was one of the earliest and most predominate of the buildings in that district. The area was also named "Suburbs Without the Walls of the Castle-Town" and was finally absorbed into the main town [Rechtstadt] and Langfuhr.

Below is the layout of the walled city in 1400, looking toward the southwest, with a handful of important buildings which are still standing today. The map is taken from Gerhard Schuler's 31-page booklet, "Danzigs Postgeschichte und Poststempel" but has lost some detail in reproduction. However, the following are locations that are significant to this article:

- A- Marienkirche**
- B- Rathaus**
- C- Chlebnicka Gate**
- D- St. John's Church**
- E- Teutonic Knights' Castle Town**



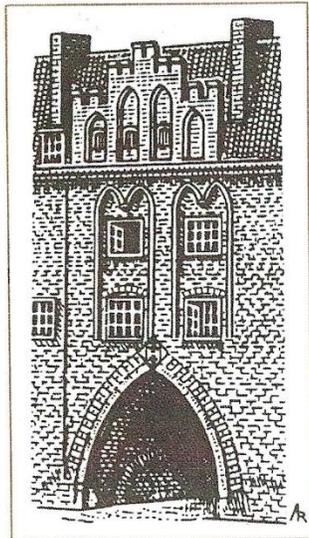


Two of five special cancels for OSTROPA AUSSTELLUNG 1935

Above are just two of the five cancels that are included in the series of special cancels for the stamp exhibition in the important city of Königsberg (Prussia). The exhibition was scheduled for the 23rd of June thru the 3rd of July, 1935. On two, the Knights made an excellent propaganda symbol for the Third Reich. For reasons relived from World War 1, Goebbels celebrated a huge victory over the Russians, with Gen. Paul von Hindenberg taking 80,000 troops by surrender. As can be seen from these cancels, even special cancels for stamp exhibits could not escape the work of the propagandists who drew from every nuance of ancient German influence.

Gen. Erich Ludendorff, originally Hindenberg's chief of staff, was head of the Tannenberg Bund, a right-wing organization of nationalistic veterans of World War I. For many of its members, it was a short hop to Naziism.

Breadmakers' Gate



From the river side

Also known as the Chlebnicka Gate in Polish and Brotbänken Tor in the German language, is one of the earliest water gates of the city, dating from the middle of the Fifteenth century. The name comes from the stalls of bread sellers whose tables once were found along the street from the river gate all the way to the city center. The Teutonic Knights are represented by their Wappen of two crosses without the crown of flowers later approved by the Polish king, Kazimierz Jagiello. Today's form of the Gate is the result of the renovation which occurred in the second half of the 15th century. The Gate is of Flemish style and is characterized by its simplicity of design.

While there were originally two slender defensive towers, only one remains today. Mooring ships from abroad once tied up at the gate, carrying wares from afar. The houses on Chlebnicka street, which were isolated from the Long Dock by the gate house, contained shops and stores which were so successful that the area was often called the "Golden Land". This riverside was the hub of the economic center of the growing city of Danzig.

The Breadmakers' Gate was located one street north of the Green Gate, which means that commercial sailing ships could dock without the Green Gate bridge draw span's requiring to be operated.

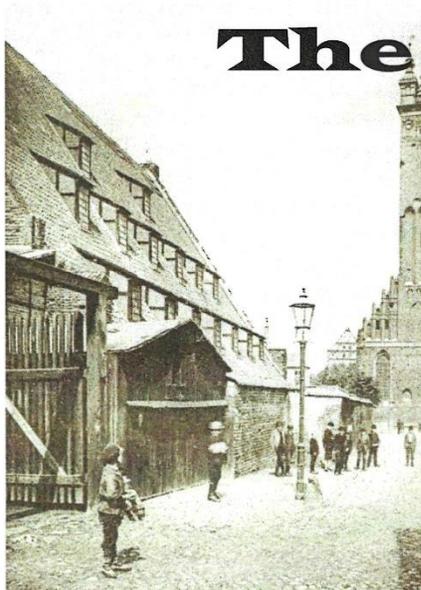
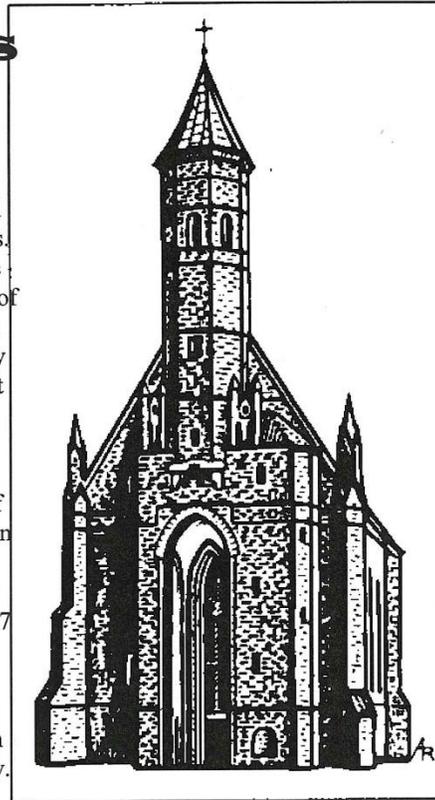


St. Elizabeth's Church

There are a few buildings that have a distinctive shape and are easily identifiable. St. Elizabeth's is one of those special designs that can definitely be identified from other churches.

It was the year 1394 that the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order, Conrad von Jungingen, built this church as a chapel of a great hospital open to the public. At the time, its location was next to the city's main defensive wall. In 1488, the city renegotiated the tax-free status of the hospital and church. It was used by the Calvinists since 1547. After a devastating fire in 1752, the new shape of the church was erected in this new style in 1618. The style was Rococo, under the direction of architect Gottfried Förster & sculptor Krzysztof Styjecki. From 1793 it was used by Protestants as a garrison church. The Seven Years' War brought bad times to the property from 1758 to 1861. The hospital and church were not damaged during Napoleon's siege of Danzig from 1807 to 1813. In 1920, the church belonged to the Free City Union in Danzig.

After the Second World War, the interior was decorated in a modern style with windows created by Zofia Boudouan de Courtenay. The church is used by pallottis Fathers today. A mass for Polish sailors and fishermen is broadcast every Sunday from the church.



The Great Mill

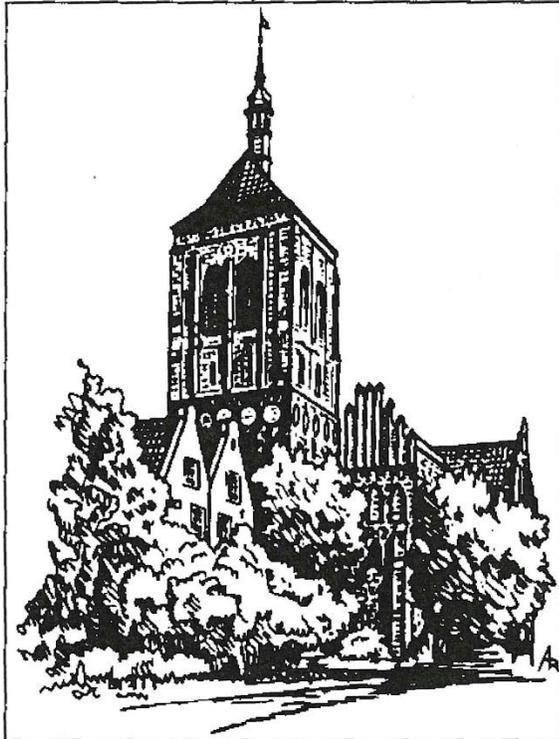
This view of the southern side of the Great Mill conveys some of the size and location of this engineering marvel that was built on an island on the Radunia canal in the year 1350. Responsible for its construction were the Teutonic Knights, credited with building the largest machine installation in the Europe of the Middle Ages. This mighty building measured 26 meters high, and 41 m. long, and is still impressive today. Capacity was up to 200 tons of corn milled every day. Corn and flour were kept in six floors under the massive roof. Years later, a large baking oven was added with its chimney on the eastern wall of the mill. St. Katherine's Church was across the street and often shows in photos taken from the west end of the mill. American steam turbines were installed during modernization in 1836, and, with replacement electrical equipment, the Great Mill was in use until 1945, with its 18 wheels grinding grain.

<[Left] An unusual angle taken of the Great Mill, looking east. That's St. Catherine's church in the background, its northern side partially revealed.



St. John's Church

Dating from the era of the Teutonic Knights, this massive church is in the shape of the crucifix, with its three naves, although not one of the oldest, it is one of the more interesting churches to be seen in Gdansk due to its pure Gothic form. Its steeple is also a distinctive shape, recognizable from afar, and the foundation stone was laid in 1350. It took more than a century of work which culminated in completion in 1465. St. John's church contained many artistic treasures. Its 14th century library had a far-reaching reputation, and its book collection kept growing until the 17th century. St. John's suffered a catastrophic fire at the end of World War II, when the church was robbed of its altars and superb art collection. Fortunately, 80% of the treasures were recovered, with most of them being found in the Marienkirche. Only the largest altar dating to the Renaissance in Poland is still in the church, awaiting renovation. This unit was made in marble and stone by Abraham van den Blocke in 1611. When the wartime rubble was being cleared away in Danzig, all of the historic stone items saved from the ruins were stored in a side yard for future use in the reconstruction of the city. The drawing on Page 1 indicates the location of this "bone yard" at Point A.



Although work is progressing on the reconstruction of the ancient St. John's church, there are still concerns about the soft earth on which its foundation rests.

These are details which the Teutonic Knights' engineers may have overlooked.

The location of St. John's church is close to the Fish Market and the Swan Tower. Most of the drawings and photographs of this part of the city show the steeple towering above the neighboring buildings. The above sketch shows the southwestern corner of the church, close to the yard which houses all of the carved stone work that is to be used in future renovation work.

Next time that you visit Gdansk, walk around the entire perimeter of St. John's and see what a large job this renovation has become. A location map is below.



An Important Correction

Danzig: Vorliufer und Mitliufer - An important correction

By Giles du Boulay

I am most grateful to Ton Hulkenberg for pointing out the silly error in my article in DR118. I stated that a German stamp (or item of German postal stationery) when still used on its own during the 14 June to 19 July 1920 "period of grace" is still called a Vorliufer. I went on to say that the German stamp/postal stationery is called a Mitliufer only when used in conjunction with a Free City of Danzig stamp during this period.

This is of obviously wrong as Michel gives prices for loose German stamps used as Mitliufer (at 100% premium on the Vorliufer prices).

Thus the key point is that during the period of grace when FC Danzig stamps were available any German stamps (or postal stationery) still used are termed Mitliufer.

The description of the second illustrated postcard (posted 7.7.20) on page 4 of DR118 should therefore be changed to Mitliufer.

In order that my error is not perpetuated, may I suggest that all readers now mark their copies of the original article to refer them to this correction. I apologise for giving out bad information.

From page 1288 of ArGe Danzig Rundschreiben Nr. 198

Vor- und Mitläufer

[Anton Auffenberg]

I have not been exercised by the topic of "Vor- und Mitläufer" for some time. It is not that I have any problem with the terms; they are familiar to any Danzig collector.

It is much more to do with the, at times, extremely high prices of the 'forerunners' (*Vorläufern*). To put it into relief: a Mi. No. 95Ba with a Danzig cancellation dated 9.1.1920 is catalogued at just €6 – the same stamp with the same cancellation but just one day later is catalogued at €350, although from 9.1.20 to 10.1.20 nothing has changed postally. The 58 fold premium is simply based on the fact that on 10.1.20 the Treaty of Versailles came into force.

The basis of cataloguing the Danzig 'forerunner' stamps seems rather far-fetched to me. Since the Free City had not yet been constituted at this time, the previously applying postal circumstances remained unchanged. To my mind one should base the value of a stamp purely on postal, not historical, circumstances.

On the other hand there is a quite crucial difference in respect of the 'fellow-travellers' (*Mitläufern*), because from 14.6.1920 specific Danzig stamps were available. From this date the former stamps of the German Reich had to be called in probably under considerable organisational difficulties. Their permitted further use for approximately one month created a special postal relationship that certainly justifies their exceptional valuation.

This 'historically significant' but in no way 'philatelically significant' date of 10.1.1920 does stir up questions therefore on the actual postal circumstances obtaining on this day. Who was responsible for the post? The independent Postal and Telegraphic Administration of the Free City of Danzig was not established until 16.6.1920, this being therefore **after** the appearance of the first autonomous Danzig stamps.

Who was responsible for stamp procurement and postal decisions? The OPD Danzig perhaps? I have found no references to this in the literature (for example in Schüler).

Is anyone in a position to be able to provide any information on this?

Translated by Giles du Boulay

[Thanks to both! --- the editor]



The financially poor citizens of Danzig had no voice in the operation of the city, and they had no organization as even the middle class enjoyed --- the formation of merchant guilds and craftsman guilds. The Council and Benches were the visible forms of authority for this group. As the merchants and workers gained in their importance, the bankers were also lifted into prominence.

A *Willekur* was the agreement drawn up by the Council and the Order to govern their living together, although it didn't help the peace of the community. Outbreaks of violence between social groups occurred frequently. The purpose of the document [there are many in the history of Danzig] were economic, constitutional and political. Things exploded in 1378 when the Guilds rebelled against the Council. This uprising was led by the guilds of butchers, coopers, brewers, and shoemakers led the revolt, supported by other Guild members. Beer figured largely in this action, since the Order allowed competition from breweries in Wismar. Barrels of Wismar beer were smashed by the numerous and wealthy middle class brewers. Some ringleaders of the uprising fled the city and those who remained were executed.

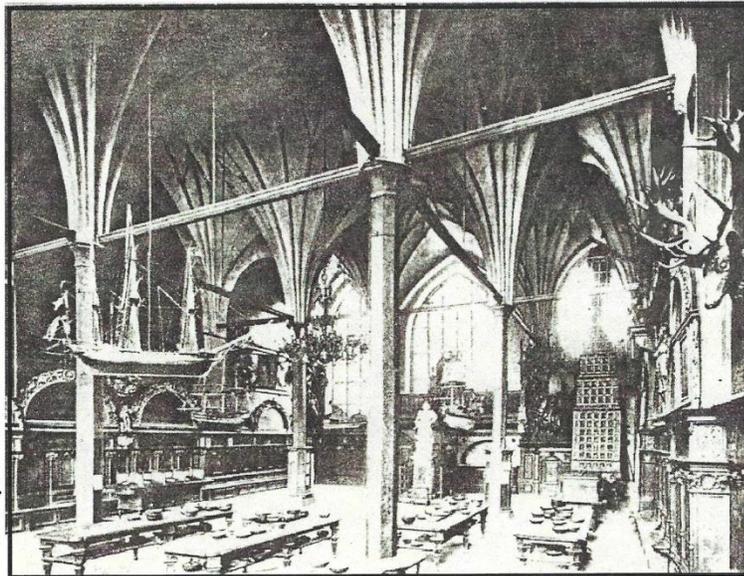
The Danzig craftsmen avoided another encounter for a long time, although the roots of the problem still existed. On the contrary, trouble brewed at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries when the merchant patriciate strengthened their influence and completely debarred city craftsmen and the smaller merchants from local government posts. This ran against existing Chelumno Law.

Rebellious groups took advantage of the presence of the Teutonic Knights and often looked to them for protection. The victorious poor and merchants and craftsmen failed to agree on a course of action. Tighe thinks that the large German population of the major cities may have seen advantages in closer trade with Poland. Serfdom's lower level of social and economic development among the Poles was a deterrent, however. To the Slav population of Pomerania Poland was an alien place which had not controlled Pomerania directly since about 1138. Trade restrictions and excessive taxation was one thing, but a union with Poland was neither good business sense nor good political sense. After the Danzig-Lithuanian victory at Grunwald, the Danzigers were quick to sense the new power on their doorstep, and elected to pay tribute to the Poles. As soon as the Knights identified the civic leaders responsible for the decision - a local councillor and the two mayors, Leczkow and Hecht - they had them assassinated.

At the right:
Interior of the main
floor of the Artushof.
Early photo
showing the various
guild benches.

From
book,
Danzig von Arthur Lindner
Verlag von E.A.Seemann
Leipzig, 1913

As an added reason to visit Gdansk in May, 2004, after the Salon in Berlin, the philatelists are arranging an exhibit, probably on the second floor of the Artushof. Great covers will be seen from the postal archives. More later.





*POLISH STAMPS COMMEMORATING THE
BATTLE OF GRUNWALD*



The 25DD in Question, Enlarged

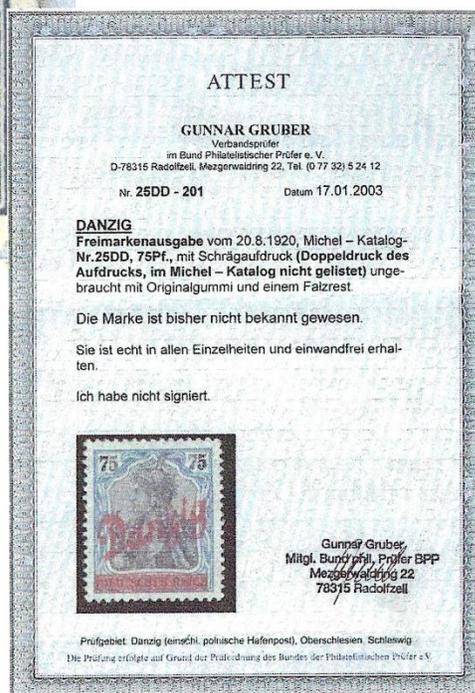
Out of a violent snowstorm at the G.P.S. convention over Valentine's Day, several members of the Danzig Study Group looked over a stamp and an expertizer's certificate. Outside, the Columbus air was thick with flying snowflakes, but the stalwart philatelists mused over the fact that at least 100 stamps had to be in that sheet of double overprint. The plot thickened; a letter from The Man, Klaus Wolff, gave reason that ALL varieties are not printed in the Michel catalog. Marcel Jaffe, Lou Ricker, and possibly other co-conspirators who were privy to this incident went underground (under snow, that is) and are asking for help from fellow Danzig philatelists such as yourself, to unravel this mystery.

Who has seen such a phantom Briefmarken? Just think of what this means if you hold one of the stamps from this sheet. If it is, indeed, the only sheet of 2500 on this planet! Not even e-bay has heard of this scarce animal. Let's go, men. Who will be the first to announce finding the second stamp in this *selten* item? Send in the results of your finds to the editor so that they may be published in the near future.

FUN IN COLUMBUS

25DD?

Questioning the Experts



The Gruber certificate

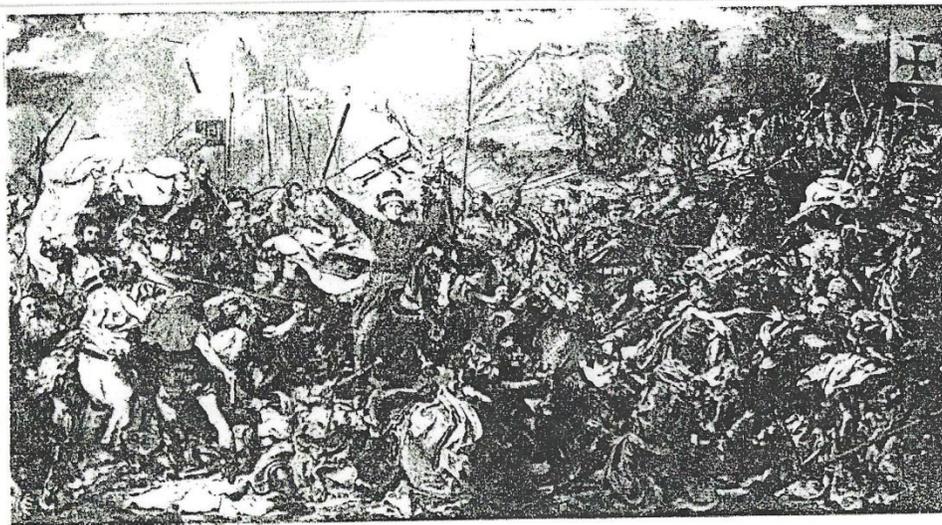
Danzig WINS GOLD!

Ephraim "Duke" Day upheld the tradition for Danzig by winning the gold for 1-frame exhibit at Columbus G.P.S. convention.

Way to go, Duke!



GRUNWALD --- INSPIRATION FOR POLISH STAMPS



Bitwa pod Grunwaldem
La victoire des Polonais sur l'ordre Teutonique à Grunwald en 1410
The victory of the Poles over the Teutonic order at Grunwald in 1410

Peint. Jan Matejko (1838—1893)

Oryginał w Zachęcie w Warszawie

Source of the stamp below.

Commemorating the Battle of Grunwald

of 1410 Many Danzigers probably lay in bed at night, dreaming of ways to rid themselves of the Teutonic Knights, finally deciding upon a military pact with old rival Lithuania. After a victory over the Order, the Lithuanian-Polish coalition decided on no protracted war due (as Tighe says), their gentry was too depleted and tired, broke, and their armies too diverse and dispersed to follow up on additional victories. So they decided on the next best thing.



Polish stamp with Matejko painting in basic design.

They settled in 1411 to receive the duchy of Stupsk, giving Pomerania, the Vistula delta, and port of Danzig, (leaving the knights sitting astride the grain route). Norman Davies has called it “a very tame treaty for such a famous battle”. After the Battle of Grunwald, Danzig and other Prussian cities swore allegiance to the Polish king Wladyslaw Jagiello and rebelled against the domination of the Order. After this action, the Hanseatic League, with such towns as Lubeck, Wismar, and Rostock hurrying to offer financial and military aid to the Order (which had all of the Hanseatic privileges and liberties in matters of trade, and, in exchange acted as unofficial protector of the League.) According to Edmond Cieslak in “History of Gdansk” *...one of the most important roles of the [Hanseatic] League, the defense of the member cities against the feudal order (liege lords) seemed to have been fulfilled only to a very small extent if one bears in mind the defense of the interests of the Prussian towns vis-a-vis the Order.*



Trivia

I am going to go easy on you – instead of the usual tortuous and humbling questions, below represents a few questions that may actually be doable. Enjoy!

1. This Nazi, who from July 1941 was in charge of 'Jewish Affairs' and chaired the Wannsee Conference, was assassinated in Prague in 1942 by members of the Free Czechoslovak Army,

- Karl Wolff
- Heinrich Himmler
- Erwin Rommel
- Reinhard Heydrich

2. This person was seen as Himmler's 'golden boy', but executed in Berlin almost at the very end of World War II for being associated with him and going AWOL.

- Hermann Fegelein
- Mohnke
- Himmler
- Weidling

3. This leading Nazi was addicted to morphine.

- Alfred Jodl
- Reinhard Heydrich

- Hermann Göring
- Adolf Hitler

4. This man was Hitler's propaganda minister and was loyal to the Führer to the very end. He was in the bunker when Hitler committed suicide.

- Mohnke
- Keitel
- Erwin Rommel
- Joseph Goebbels

5. This man was originally in charge of 'Jewish emigration' but succeeded in expanding his role till he was in charge of transporting Jews to concentration camps. He became in effect the 'manager' of the Holocaust. He succeeded in escaping to Argentina after the war, but was later tracked down by Mossad, taken to Israel and made to stand trial.

- Fegelein
- Hitler
- Eichmann
- Göring

6. This man with a pince nez, sometimes referred to by Allied propaganda as 'Pale Henry', spent a short time working on a farm as part of 'back-to-the-land' movement before joining the SS in the 1920s. Hint

- Hitler
- Heydrich

- Karl Wolff
- Himmler

7. This Nazi, nominally Deputy Führer, flew to Scotland in May 1941, hoping to negotiate peace with Britain just before the start of Operation Barbarossa.

- Himmler
- Hitler
- Hess
- Göring

8. This man was Hitler's armaments minister from 1942-1945.

- Heinrich Himmler
- Speer
- Keitel
- Hermann Göring

9. This man was Commandant of Auschwitz from its foundation in May 1940 till November 1943 and again later.

- Adolf Eichmann
- Ernst Kaltenbrunner
- Rudolf Höss
- Otto Skorzeny

10. This man was satirized by Charlie Chaplin in the film "The Great Dictator", released in October 1940. In the film this person is

ruthlessly portrayed as a thoroughly grotesque, squalid and evil little man. He was none other than ...?

- Heinrich Himmler
- Adolf Hitler
- Hermann Göring
- Albert Speer

Answers

1. This Nazi, who from July 1941 was in charge of 'Jewish Affairs' and chaired the Wannsee Conference, was assassinated in Prague in 1942 by members of the Free Czechoslovak Army.

Answer: **Reinhard Heydrich**

By 1942 Heydrich had amassed several offices in the Nazi regime, including those of deputy head of the SS, head of 'Jewish Affairs' and acting governor of Bohemia and Moravia. He was an SS-Obergruppenführer (roughly equivalent to lieutenant-general) at the time of his assassination.

Two members of the Czech resistance escaped from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia to the UK, where they were trained by British Special forces. They were later sent back to Bohemia to assassinate Heydrich. On the day of the assassination, one of the pair attempted to shoot him with a machine gun, but it jammed, and then the other threw a grenade, fatally wounding him. He was rushed to hospital, and then went into a coma, after several days he died of blood poisoning.

The team was betrayed by a local member of the resistance. The Nazis were led to the Orthodox church in Prague, which was being used as a hiding place by the team. At the end of a spectacular shoot-out in the church the assassins committed suicide. The damage done by the betrayal was enormous, with the Nazis discovering several safe houses. Savage reprisals followed.

2. This person was seen as Himmler's 'golden boy', but executed in Berlin almost at the very end of World War II for being associated with him and going AWOL.

Answer: **Hermann Fegelein**

Before Himmler left for Lubeck, he informed his adjutant, Fegelein, of his plans to negotiate a surrender with Eisenhower. Fegelein remained silent about this. However, when Hitler found out about these plans, he ordered the execution of Fegelein, Himmler's 'Golden Boy'. Fegelein was found AWOL and in bed with his wife drunk. He was taken outside the bunker and shot.

3. This leading Nazi was addicted to morphine.

Answer: **Hermann Göring**

Hermann Göring was for a long time seen as #2 in the Third Reich and in 1941 was designated as Hitler's successor, but at the very end Hitler stripped him of all ranks and offices: Göring in effect proclaimed himself Führer (on the grounds that Hitler was surrounded in Berlin and unable to carry out his functions) - an act that Hitler regarded as treason.

He was addicted to morphine and when taken to Nuremberg, he brought many jars of tablets with him!

Sentenced to death by the Nuremberg Tribunal, he committed suicide the night before he was due to be executed.

4. This man was Hitler's propaganda minister and was loyal to the Führer to the very end. He was in the bunker when Hitler committed suicide.

Answer: **Joseph Goebbels**

He also committed suicide in the bunker, along with his wife, who also poisoned their five of their six children. (One was not in the bunker at the time of the poisonings).

5. This man was originally in charge of 'Jewish emigration' but succeeded in expanding his role till he was in charge of transporting Jews to concentration camps. He became in effect the 'manager' of the Holocaust. He succeeded in escaping to Argentina after the war, but was later tracked down by Mossad, taken to Israel and made to stand trial.

Answer: **Eichmann**

He was found by Israeli intelligence, taken to Israel, given a major, highly publicized trial, convicted and hanged for his crimes.

6. This man with a pince nez, sometimes referred to by Allied propaganda as 'Pale Henry', spent a short time working on a farm as part of 'back-to-the-land' movement before joining the SS in the 1920s.

Answer: **Himmler**

Himmler joined the Nazis very early and participated in the Beer Hall Putsch (November 1923). He was an ardent believer in Nordic paganism and an equally ardent racist.

In 1925 he joined the SS and rose rapidly, becoming head of the SS. By 1936 at the latest he was in charge of the entire Nazi terror apparatus and turned it into a formidable lobby.

Towards the very end of the war Himmler tried to negotiate with the Allies. Hitler stripped him of all offices and ranks (like Göring) and expelled him from the NSDAP. Shortly after being arrested by the British in May 1945, he committed suicide.

7. This Nazi, nominally Deputy Führer, flew to Scotland in May 1941, hoping to negotiate peace with Britain just before the start of Operation Barbarossa.

Answer: **Hess**

Rudolf Hess's real position was much less influential than the title of Deputy Führer would suggest.

He was found and gave his name as Alfred Horn, then taken to hospital. The Home Guard alerted the authorities and the next day it was reported in the media.

8. This man was Hitler's armaments minister from 1942-1945.

Answer: **Speer**

He was first introduced to Hitler for a design and soon became quite close to the Führer and sometimes also dined with Göring, Himmler and other Nazi leaders.

9. This man was Commandant of Auschwitz from its foundation in May 1940 till November 1943 and again later.

Answer: **Rudolf Höss**

Höss was arrested in April 1946. He appeared at the Nuremberg Tribunal as a witness for the defense(!) and was then sent to Poland for trial. While awaiting trial he wrote his memoirs, which reveal an archetypal authoritarian personality (as postulated by Adorno).

In April 1947 Höss was tried in Warsaw, convicted, sentenced to death and hanged at Auschwitz, just inside the former camp, facing the notorious sign inscribed 'Arbeit macht frei'.

10. This man was satirized by Charlie Chaplin in the film "The Great Dictator", released in October 1940. In the film this person is ruthlessly portrayed as a thoroughly grotesque, squalid and evil little man. He was none other than ...?

Answer: **Adolf Hitler**

Hitler, as is well known, promised Germany a better future, more jobs and the restoration of "German honor", but brought Germany into disrepute as nobody else has ever done.

More Trivia!!

This time we have more general WWII trivia questions. But don't worry, they are still tough!!

1. What did the resistance fighters Nancy Wake and Edward Yeo Thomas have in common?

- They were husband and wife
- Both were in the RAF
- Both were citizens of Australia
- Their Gestapo names began with "White"

2. Who was the Wimbledon Tennis Champion who was arrested by the Gestapo, imprisoned in a concentration camp, then a castle and heroically helped American and German troops defend the castle in Austria?

- Jean Borotra
- Henri Cochet
- Gottfried von Cramm
- Don Budge

3. During WWII the Academy Award Oscars that were presented were made of what material?

- Painted plaster
- Painted stone
- Painted wood
- Painted glass

4. During 1939-1945, Nazi Germany only declared war on one country. Who was this country?

Hint

- USA
- Poland
- Britain
- Soviet Union

5. Stanislaw Leszczynska has a number of hospitals, organizations, streets and a museum named after her. What was her achievement?

- Delivered over 3,000 babies in Auschwitz
- She was a civil engineer
- Polish resistance fighter
- Editor of an underground newspaper

6. Nazi Germany landed and set up a station on North American soil. Where was this station known as "Kurt"?

- Georgia
- Alaska
- Labrador, Newfoundland
- Baffin Island

7. The mass escape from Stalag Luft III was depicted in the movie "The Great Escape" (1963) starring Steve McQueen (Virgil Hilts) and James Garner (Robert Hendley) as American airmen. What was different about the movie and the actual event?

- The event never happened
- They portrayed actual servicemen
- No Americans were in the mass escape
- Virgil Hilts tried escaping in a car not a motorbike

8. Princess Elizabeth, who was to be the future Elizabeth II, was involved in the war effort. What did she specialize in during the war?

- a mechanic
- an air raid warden
- a nurse
- a fire fighter

9. The four Bielski brothers played a significant role in Belarus in WWII. What did they do?

- Commanded four concentration camps in Belarus
- All joined the RAF as pilots
- Fought in the Polish Air Force
- Protected over 1,200 Jews

10. What did the owners of the USA "Bicycle" playing card company and the British "Monopoly" board game company do during WWII to assist the war effort?

- Used their products as maps and escape routes for POWs
- Closed factories for employees to assist in war effort
- Their premises became military factories
- Used wood instead of paper in their products

Answers

1. What did the resistance fighters Nancy Wake and Edward Yeo Thomas have in common?

Answer: **Their Gestapo names began with "White"**

Nancy Wake and Edward Yeo Thomas were both flown into occupied France during WWII and although they operated separately were known by the Gestapo as the "White Mouse" and the "White Rabbit" respectively.

Nancy Wake (1912-2011) was born in New Zealand but moved to Sydney, Australia as a very young child. She became an Australian citizen. She was married to a French industrialist and living in France when the country was invaded by Germany. She worked as a French resistance courier and after being betrayed she made her way to Britain where she joined SOE (Special Operations Executive) and was parachuted back into France and remained in France working with the resistance until the end of the war. She is reputed to have killed a SS sentry with her bare hands and was a very accurate shot with a rifle.

Wing Commander Edward Yeo Thomas (1902-1964) born in London, also joined SOE and was parachuted into France to work with the resistance. He was eventually betrayed and after torture was sent to Buchenwald Concentration camp. From there he escaped, but was recaptured and passed himself off as a French national and was sent to Stalag-XXB. He was an important witness at the Nuremburg Trials.

The books "The White Rabbit" (1952) and "The White Mouse" (1985) tell the stories of these two heroes.

2. Who was the Wimbledon Tennis Champion who was arrested by the Gestapo, imprisoned in a concentration camp, then a castle and heroically

helped American and German troops defend the castle in Austria?

Answer: **Jean Borotra**

Jean Borotra (1898-1994) was a French Basque winner of 18 Grand Slam titles (4-singles titles including Wimbledon 1924 & 1926, 9-doubles and 5-mixed doubles) was arrested by the Gestapo in 1944 and originally imprisoned in a German concentration camp and then in Castle Itter in northern Austria until May 1945.

He played a heroic role at the Battle for Castle Itter when American and German troops fought side by side to defend the castle against a SS Panzer Division. It is the only instance in WWII where the Allies and the Axis fought side by side.

Henri Cochet (1901-1987) from France won Wimbledon in 1927 and 1929 and a total 15 Grand Slam titles. For a brief period during WWII he was imprisoned but was later released and unable to leave the country.

Gottfried von Cramm (1909-1976) was a pre-war German tennis player who won two singles Grand Slams (French) and was runner-up at Wimbledon three times (1935-37).

Don Budge (1915-2000) was an American champion who won six Grand Slam singles titles including two at Wimbledon.

3. During WWII the Academy Award Oscars that were presented were made of what material?

Answer: **Painted plaster**

Due to the shortage of metal all Oscars given out during WWII were made of painted plaster. After the war recipients did receive the "real" ones as replacements. Oscars used to be made of bronze but nowadays they are made out of Britannia metal, a pewter-type alloy, which is then plated in copper, nickel-

silver and finally, 24 carat gold. Only once has an Oscar been made of wood and that was in 1938 when the ventriloquist Edgar Bergen received a wooden Oscar for his dummy, Charlie McCarthy.

4. During 1939-1945, Nazi Germany only declared war on one country. Who was this country?

Answer: **USA**

Germany only declared war on the USA - on 11th December, 1941. All other countries in which Germany was involved against during WWII were invasions, without any declaration of war.

5. Stanislaw Leszczynska has a number of hospitals, organizations, streets and a museum named after her. What was her achievement?

Answer: **Delivered over 3,000 babies in Auschwitz**

Stanislaw Leszczynska (1896-1974) was a Polish midwife who was imprisoned in Auschwitz concentration camp in 1943. Until her liberation in 1945 she delivered over 3,000 babies in the Women's Work Camp in Auschwitz II. She was under orders to kill every baby she delivered, but did not kill one single baby as she would hide the new-born under scraps of material under the mother's blankets. Sadly, a large percentage perished under the terrible conditions and some with blue eyes were sent to German foster homes.

In 1970 she attended a reunion in Warsaw where she met some of the mothers and their grown-up child that had survived the concentration camp. She is an official candidate for canonization by the Catholic Church.

6. Nazi Germany landed and set up a station on North American soil. Where was this station known as "Kurt"?

Answer: **Labrador, Newfoundland**

In October 1943, the submarine U-537 made the only German armed landing on North American soil in WWII. The landing was at Martin Bay on the northern tip of Labrador. On board ship was the scientist Dr. Kurt Sommermeyer and consequently the weather station was known as "Kurt".

The purpose of the station was to send out weather reports to the Nazi submarines operating in the North Sea. The story only became known during the 1970s and it was not until the 1980s that the site was actually discovered.

The site was then dismantled and is now on display at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

7. The mass escape from Stalag Luft III was depicted in the movie "The Great Escape" (1963) starring Steve McQueen (Virgil Hilts) and James Garner (Robert Hendley) as American airmen. What was different about the movie and the actual event?

Answer: **No Americans were in the mass escape**

There were no Americans in the planned escape although they were in the camp and were used as lookouts while the tunnel was being dug. They were also moved to a different part of the camp while the tunnelling was in progress.

There were many mass escapes made by Allied POWs during WWII but this one from Stalag Luft III had by far the greatest number of escapees. The plan was for 200 men to escape but the tunnel was discovered during the escape itself. A total

of 76 made the breakout, 23 were returned to custody and only 3 made it successfully to safety. 50 were executed by the Gestapo to set an example for further POW breakouts. Of the 50 that were executed they comprised of 13 different nationalities including airmen from as far as Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina.

Only three were successful - two Norwegians and one Dutchman. All three had a very good command of German. All of the nationalities involved in the escape were members to the Royal Air Force (RAF).

8. Princess Elizabeth, who was to be the future Elizabeth II, was involved in the war effort. What did she specialize in during the war?

Answer: **a mechanic**

When she turned 18 in 1944, she joined the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service. She was known as Second Subaltern Elizabeth Windsor. She was issued with a pair of overalls and trained as a mechanic and truck driver. To this day she remains the only female member of the Royal family to have joined the armed forces and the only living head of state who served in WWII.

9. The four Bielski brothers played a significant role in Belarus in WWII. What did they do?

Answer: **Protected over 1,200 Jews**

The four brothers Tuvia (1906-1987), Asael (1908-1945), Alexander (1912-1995) and Aron (b. 1927) protected 1,236 Jews in the forests of Belarus making it one of the most remarkable rescue missions during the Holocaust. For over two years they hid in the forests setting up schools, medical stations and various workshops to help the partisan movement.

As the pendulum swung against the Germans many fought with the Soviets

against the Nazis and after the war Tuvia and Alexander emigrated to the USA and set up a successful trucking business in New York.

Their escapades were immortalized in the 2008 movie titled "Defiance" starring Daniel Craig and Liev Schreiber.

10. What did the owners of the USA "Bicycle" playing card company and the British "Monopoly" board game company do during WWII to assist the war effort?

Answer: **Used their products as maps and escape routes for POWs**

During WWII both companies used means to print escape routes and maps on their products. Both companies joined forces with American and British intelligence agencies to create special products that were sent as gifts through the Red Cross for POWs.

The playing cards had a map between the two layers of card paper and by soaking the card in water the two pieces of paper came apart and revealed a map which could be used for escape purposes.

The Monopoly game served various purposes as foreign currencies were hidden below the monopoly money, maps were concealed between the board itself and compasses and files were disguised as playing pieces.

(Taken from funtrivia.com)

For Sale

We do have a few items for sale. They have recently been rebounded and redone. They look great and are definitely worth the price:

Mail Surveillance under the Third Reich by R.J. Houston. 35 pages. \$15.

German Feldpost Operations in the West 1940-1944 by John Painter. 2004. 60 total pages. \$20.

The War of the Springing Tiger by Jeffrey Markem, about Azad Hind stamps and the fight for India's Independence. \$10.

Composition Listing of Organic German Military Units, 1980. \$15.

Each of these are expertly written, filled with details that obviously took scores of hours to research. All proceeds go only to Third Reich Study Group. It is first come /first come serve, and if we get down to one copy, I will get more printed (but that could delay shipping by a week or so if it happens).