



THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP BULLETIN

Inside:

- Jim Lewis and Some 'Postal History' History
- A Much-Abused Cover
- Tools and Techniques
- Danzig..... And so much more!!!

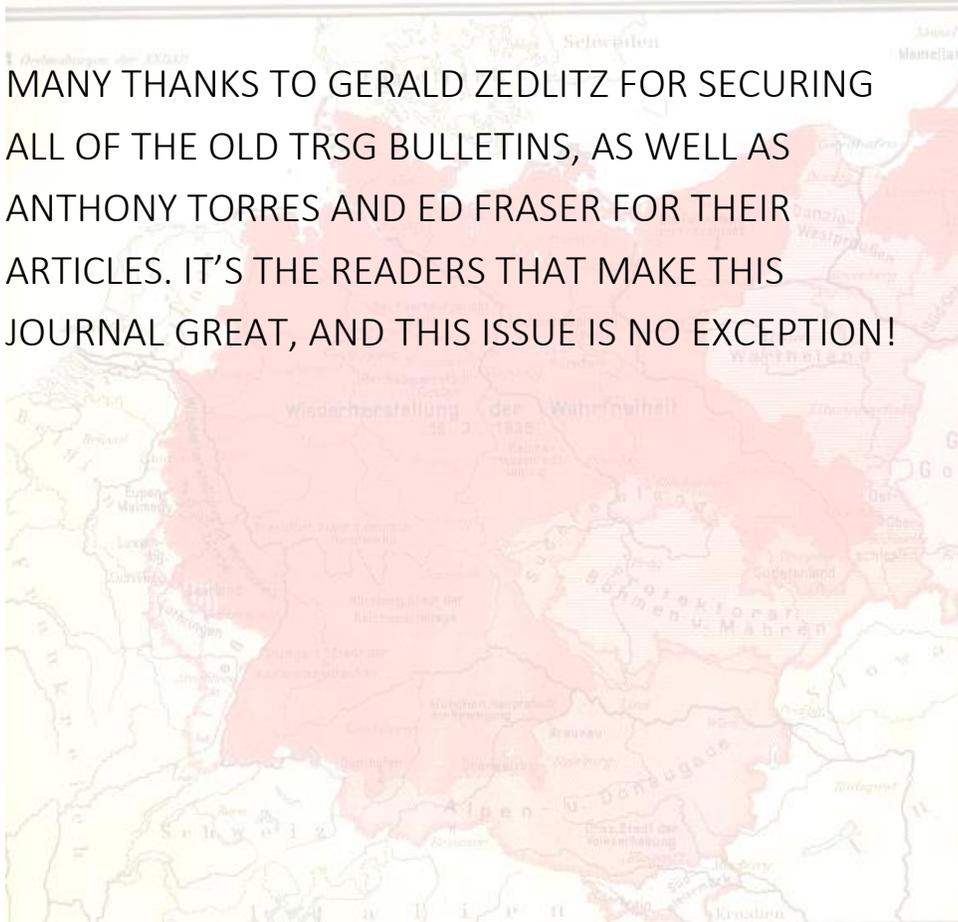
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Großdeutschland als Lebensraum

MANY THANKS TO GERALD ZEDLITZ FOR SECURING ALL OF THE OLD TRSG BULLETINS, AS WELL AS ANTHONY TORRES AND ED FRASER FOR THEIR ARTICLES. IT'S THE READERS THAT MAKE THIS JOURNAL GREAT, AND THIS ISSUE IS NO EXCEPTION!



WELCOME!

We have a great Bulletin! Our wonderful readers have sent in great articles, and now, we will be archiving all of the TRSG Bulletins over the years!

And now, by multiple requests, we will be giving some space to the philatelics of Danzig. More changes, but the same great Bulletin.

Articles! Articles!

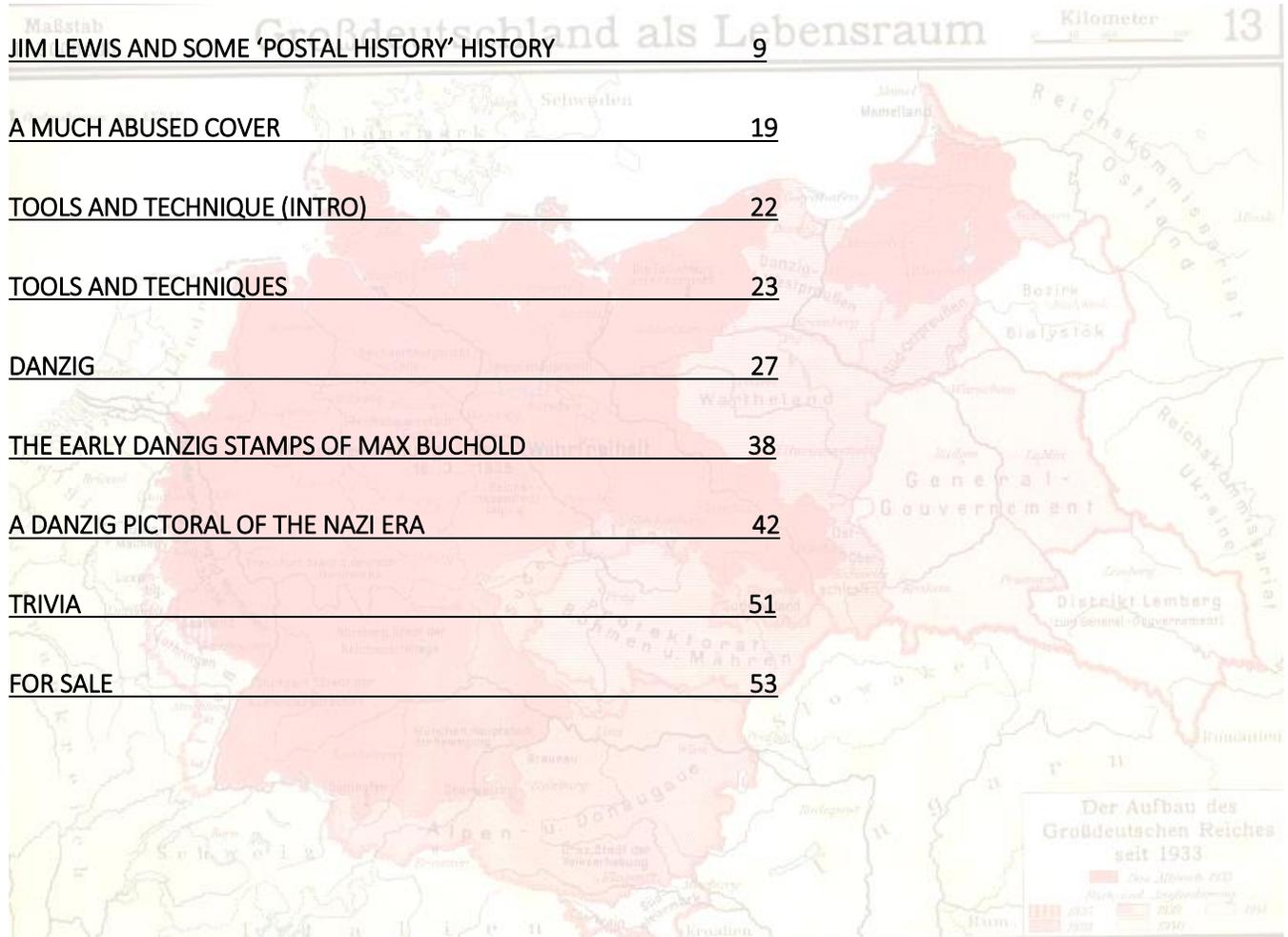
Articles! Send your articles to

ctkolker@mail.com or

Christopher Kolker, 25
Parkwoods Drive,
Norwich, CT 06360

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Website Changes – A New Digital Library

Many of you now are receiving The Bulletin on our website, trsg-usa.com, and so you may have noticed a few changes in that website. But whether you receive the Bulletin electronically, or a printed version through the mail, I have incredibly exciting news.

We have finally found a copy of all the old Bulletins, starting back in 1967. The Third Reich Study Group will be forever indebted to Gerald Zedlitz of Wallace, CA for taking the time and the expense of mailing out every copy he had. This represents well over 4000 pages of wonderful scholarship, about the length of two Bibles! In it is the answer to almost every question anyone might have on our branch of philatelics. Thank you, Gerald!

Others have asked me for a copy of these issues for their own personal collection, but the question simply became: How do I do this? With over 4000 pages, and some of them bound together in various ways, it is not feasible to send them all out individually to people. Yet, many want access to this information, and so just having it sit around doing nothing does a terrible disservice to both author and reader alike.

Since the Study Group has a website, the answer became crystal-clear. We put all the information on the website and create a digital library, so that we all can enjoy them.

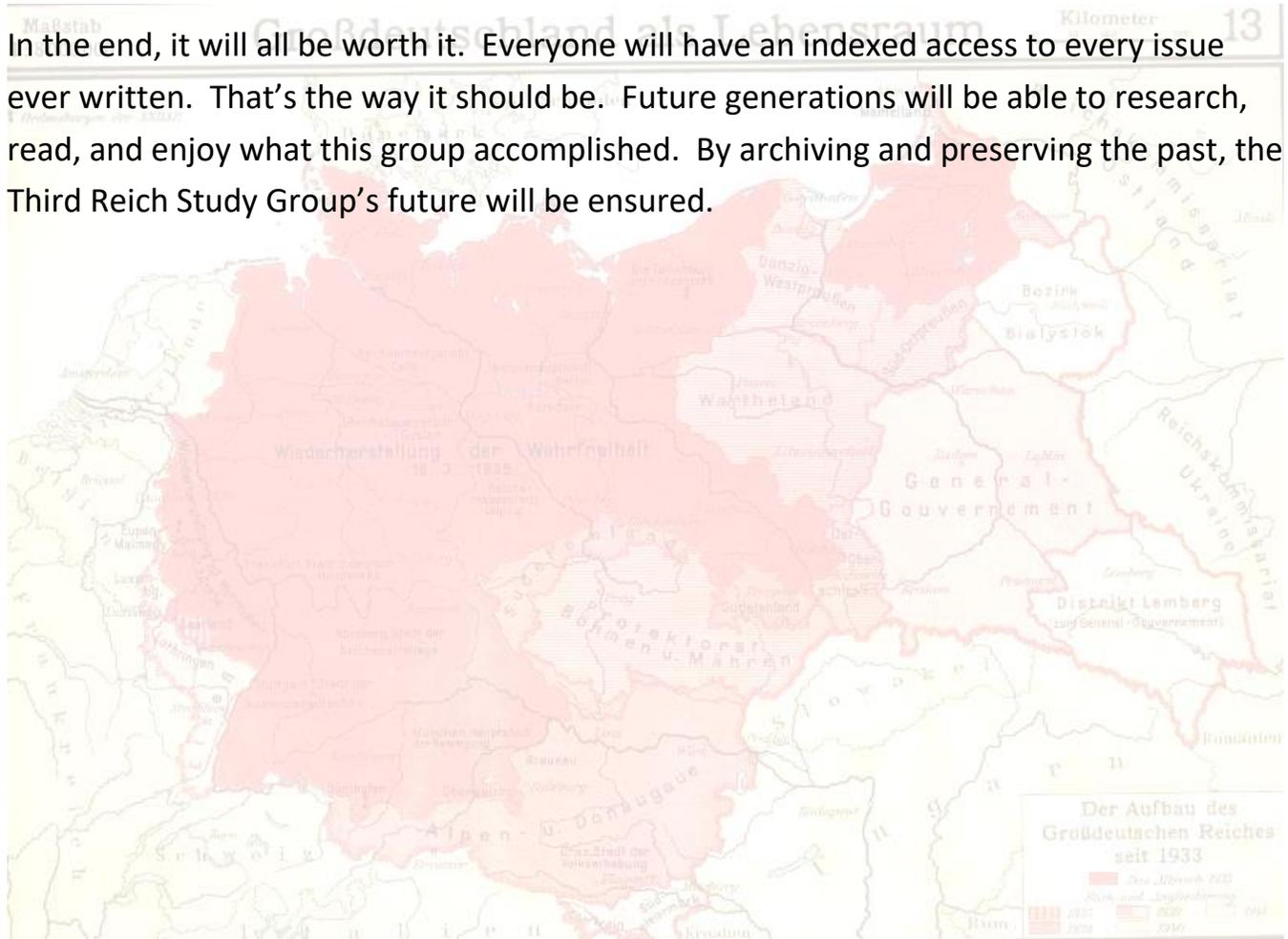
That sounds easy, but it is not. Someone has to scan them in one by one. With over two hundred issues, that is going to take some time. Furthermore, all the information has to be indexed by author, title and a few key subject words. If not, no one will know where to go to get the information they need, and all of this scanning will be for naught.

But it needs to be done, and it will be done. Yes, this will take a great deal of time, and since I have a full-time job, it may take the better part of a year to get it all done. And as that is being done, an index will have to be created, and that may add yet another year or so to get it done right.

But this time is going to pass anyway, so we might as well get started. Once completed, we will have access to all of the knowledge and learning that made this organization so great.

Please be patient as we go through this process. Even as I write this article, some back issues are on the website; many more will follow. Due to my job demands, at times, it may seem like not much is being done, and at times, it will seem that things are progressing quickly.

In the end, it will all be worth it. Everyone will have an indexed access to every issue ever written. That's the way it should be. Future generations will be able to research, read, and enjoy what this group accomplished. By archiving and preserving the past, the Third Reich Study Group's future will be ensured.



From the Editor

I am writing to update you on the workings of the TRSG. As you well know, it seems that a successful transformation from print to digital has been made, all the while still sending out written copies of our Bulletin to those who request this. Because of this, our membership has nearly doubled, and comments have been in general, positive ones.

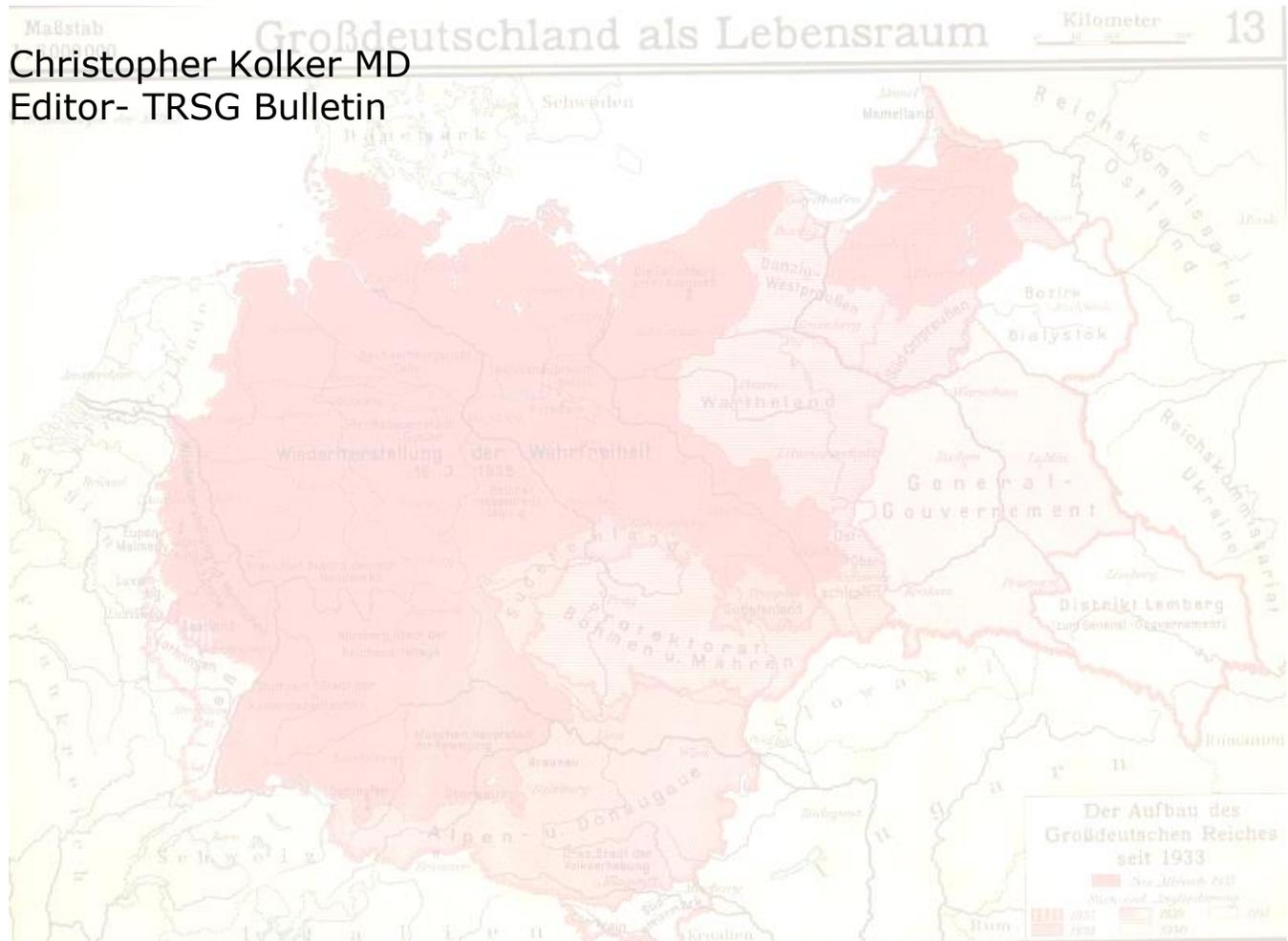
However, we are not done just yet. I have been approached by a couple of people independent of each other about the topic of the Danzig Study group. It has been related to me that at this time, there is no serious interest for anyone to restart this, the thought was to incorporate the topic of Danzig into the TRSG. Perhaps it would be making sure that an article or two in the Bulletin would be on Danzig, and that old copies of the Danzig publications would be available on our website.

This brings me to the next topic. After much searching, I have found nearly every copy of the TRSG Bulletin ever made! When I started this about six months ago, I only had a copy of the last one, so this is a big deal to me. I do plan to methodically scan these in over time on our website, and then donate the originals to either your library or another (like the American Philatelic Research Library) that does not have a copy. I want these out as much as possible so that anyone can access them. I also want them out in a variety of different venues, so researchers can much more easily come across them, wherever they start their research from. This scanning will take place over the coming months. Since it involves roughly 3,000 pages, it will take awhile, but will eventually be completed.

I know I have spoken to you about reviving a study group on the German States philatelics. That still will happen, but I only plan to get started this winter on that, once I have at least one more issue of TRSG under my belt, and the scanning is going well. I have written a few articles for GPS on the subject, but have not pursued publication yet, as I am simply not quite ready for them to start the momentum

for this study group right now. I do envision it to be a digital format, but I do think it gives us the opportunity to have a very dynamic publication. If there are extra copies of old German states study group publication, I would love to have them, as I can begin to build a digital archive there as well (eventually!)

Thank you for your attention in this matter. I would appreciate any advice, as well as your opinion on the Danzig situation.



A Third Reich Study Group Guidebook?

From the Editor

For any organization to remain alive, two very basic things must happen. First, you must keep existing members happy, and second you have to be able to recruit new members.

As you might have guessed, many of the changes I have made have been to try to accomplish both. For instance, publishing in full color is to keep the interest in the group for existing members going, while hoping to appeal to prospective new members.

However, countless color publications exist in the world, and so more must be done to recruit new members. We have a very interesting topic, one that is worth reading on and studying.

The problem isn't that no interest exists. It is that for most people outside of our discipline, many of the topics can be daunting at best, and intimidating at worst. If you don't have prior knowledge about the subject, reading many of the articles can be confusing, and therefore something that won't be pursued.

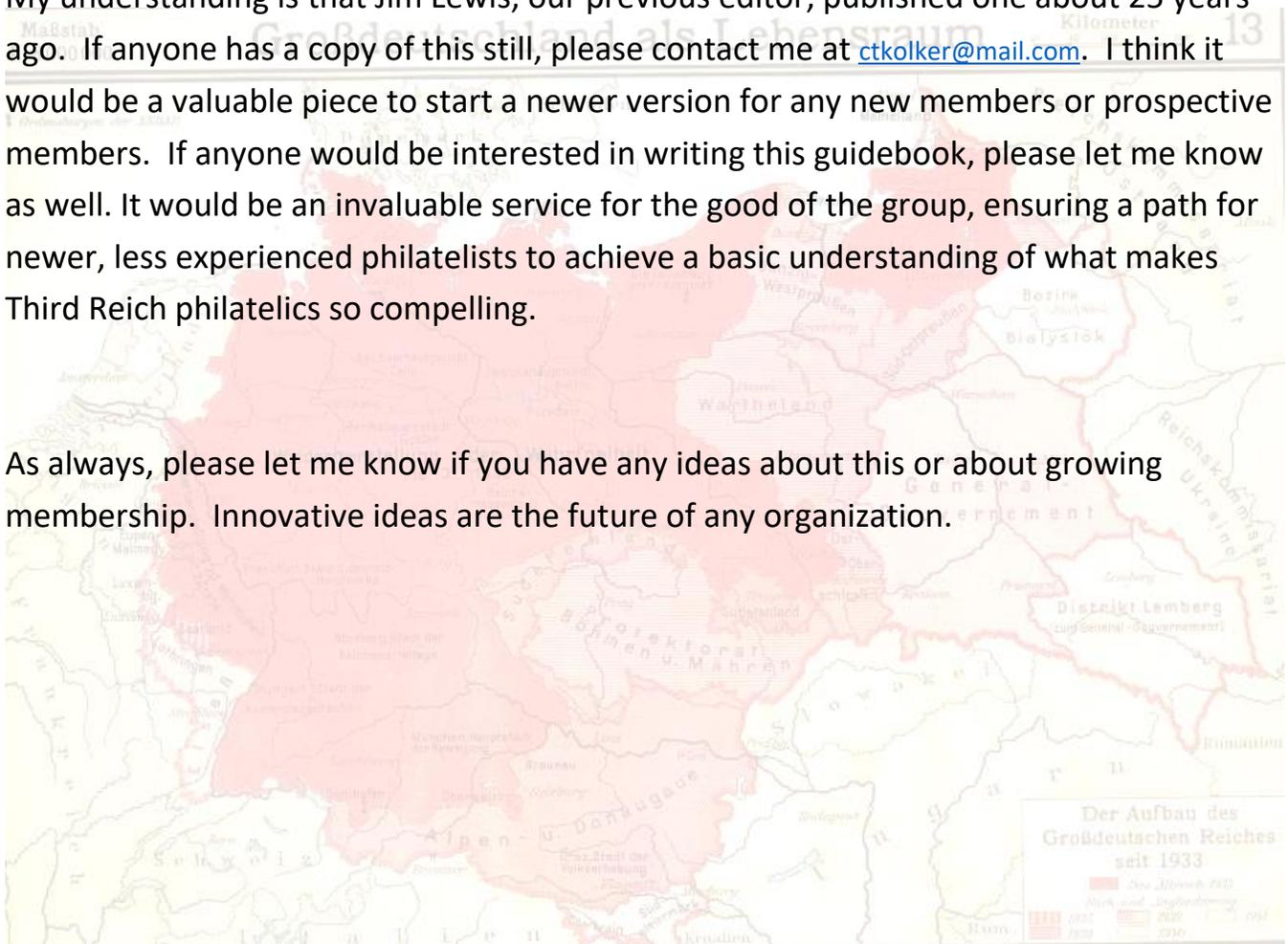
But our articles are of very high quality, and are the lifeblood of keeping existing members happy. We can't and shouldn't "dumb down" articles so that newer members might read them and be a bit more interested. Many existing members would be quickly bored and very unhappy.

What should we do? One answer is that we need to create a new "New Members Guide". In it should be the very basics of stamps collecting in the Third Reich era. No prior knowledge should be assumed in this Guidebook; instead it should be written in a very easy to understand vernacular.

Topic should include a brief overview of the history of that era, with lots of pictures of the main stamps of that era. Also included should be the opportunity for new collectors to find their own niche in this vast topic. This Guidebook should be around 25 pages, short enough to be something that can easily be read. This guidebook should be aggressively distributed to anyone who wants a copy, free of charge.

My understanding is that Jim Lewis, our previous editor, published one about 25 years ago. If anyone has a copy of this still, please contact me at ctkolker@mail.com. I think it would be a valuable piece to start a newer version for any new members or prospective members. If anyone would be interested in writing this guidebook, please let me know as well. It would be an invaluable service for the good of the group, ensuring a path for newer, less experienced philatelists to achieve a basic understanding of what makes Third Reich philatelics so compelling.

As always, please let me know if you have any ideas about this or about growing membership. Innovative ideas are the future of any organization.



Jim Lewis and some “Postal History” History

Ed Fraser

Auction #700 of the Kelleher Auction firm held June 16 & 17, 2017 was an auction offering an accumulation of “collection” lots. (Their catalog is still available on their website: <http://db.kelleherauctions.com/php/home.php>). As described in the front of the catalog, many of the collections were ones assembled by Jim Lewis, the decades-long editor of The Third Reich Study Group Bulletin, the publication that was the mainstay of the Germany Philatelic Society’s Third Reich Study Group out of New Jersey (not to be confused with the identically named but unrelated TRSG in the United Kingdom). For decades, Jim put together different WWII German related exhibits at virtually every NOJEX show. Anyone going into a NOJEX show almost certainly walked past his exhibits! Earlier, it was Bob Houston at this TRSG-NJ who pushed everyone to build a collection theme for postal history exhibiting at NOJEX shows – German related or anything else. Bob and Jim together with some other GPS members heavily promoted the move into postal history exhibiting, beginning before the time I first met Bob in the later 1970’s. I was taken in by his presentation of his collection of Registered German Feldpost in WWII Finland, and looked to meet him. At the time, filling 8 or more frames, it was about the only such collection anywhere. Subsequently, though almost four decades ago now, Bob Houston wrote a series of detailed articles about this material for various publications including for the Scandinavian Collectors Club.

Jim Lewis, lately in failing health which was not evident in his enthusiastic philatelic phone conversations, unexpectedly and sadly passed away last fall. Now, his exhibits, too, have been sold off. This Bulletin then stopped, of course – he wrote most of it. Collectors looked to fill a bit of the void, and now Dr. Chris Kolker in Connecticut volunteered to continue the Bulletin and try to make it something even bigger. A publication with high quality color photos and low-cost Internet digital distribution? Perhaps not unlike the most recent effort of the Third Reich group in the U.K. that is now distributing their quarterly digital bulletin free!

An Understated Cover from Jim Lewis's "Munich Censorship" Exhibit!

An example for this Bulletin's "Undercover Collector's Corner"

Here as Figure 1 is Jim Lewis's example of a Thomas Cook WWII undercover mail scheme cover from Croatia. Croatia is a less common usage, and nice also because it shows the correct 14 kuna rate. Often it seems stamps have fallen off these covers, perhaps from poor gum, I have wondered. Munich is interesting as it was the German censor office that handled mail going to Portugal. Here, though, this cover from Croatia went first to Vienna censorship, which passed it, apparently unopened, onward to Munich after applying their Vienna circled Ag handstamp. Examples like this handling by two different German censor offices are fairly unusual, and being a "Croatia Box 596" cover just adds to that appeal.

Just for comparisons, two additional Croatia Box 506 covers are described below. The cover in Figure 2 comes from the same location in Zagreb – a neighbor or relative, perhaps.

Lastly, the cover in Figure 3 appears to suggest a more involved story. I have hopes that perhaps our readers might be able to add something further.



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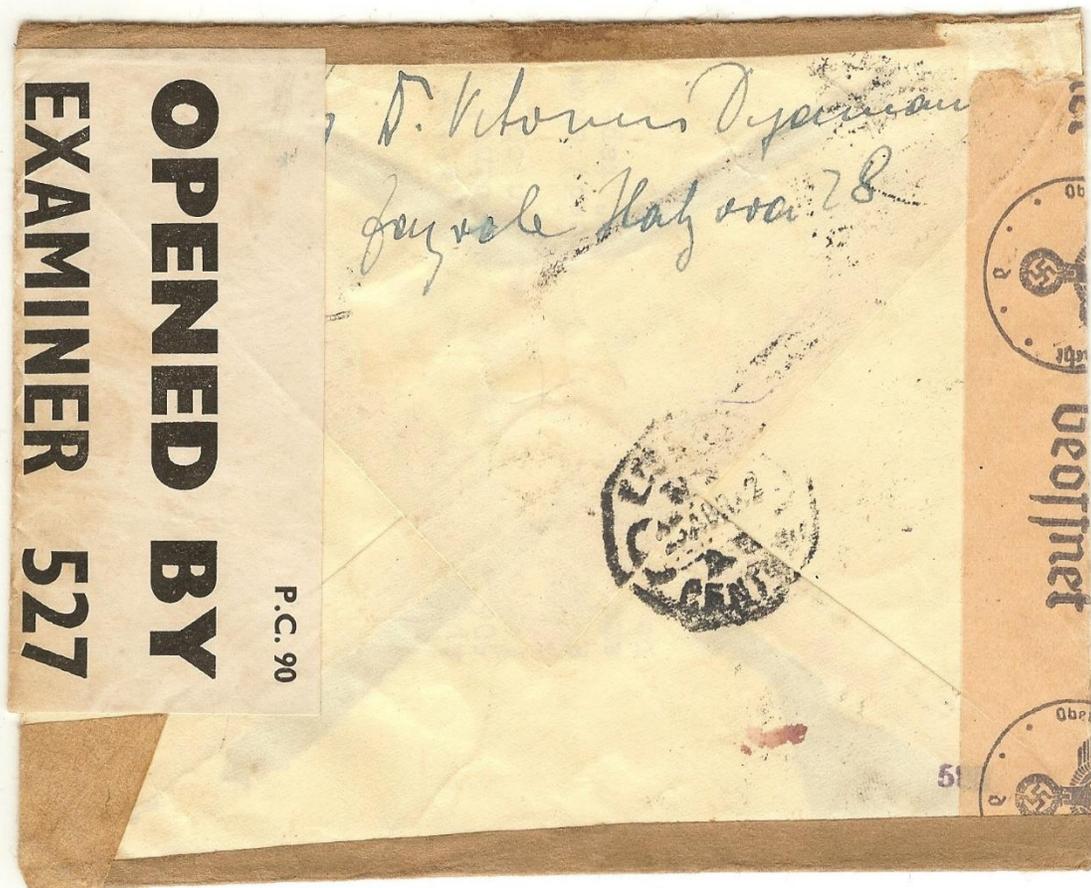


Figure 1

Censored in Munich!

Cover postmarked ZAGREB 16 April 1942 and backstamped Lisboa 25 (or 23?) April 1942, with proper 14 kuna registered mail rate to Portugal. Addressed to “Robert Diamant”, P.O. Box 506, Lissabon, Portugal. Sender (unclear script)... Dijamant , Zagreb, Hatzova 28 . Appears to have been passed unopened by Vienna censorship, applying the circled Ag handstamp. Opened and resealed by Munich censorship with their “d” sealing tape. Subsequently has been opened and resealed by British “P.C. 90” censorship, which would happen on Box 506 mail, typically in London.

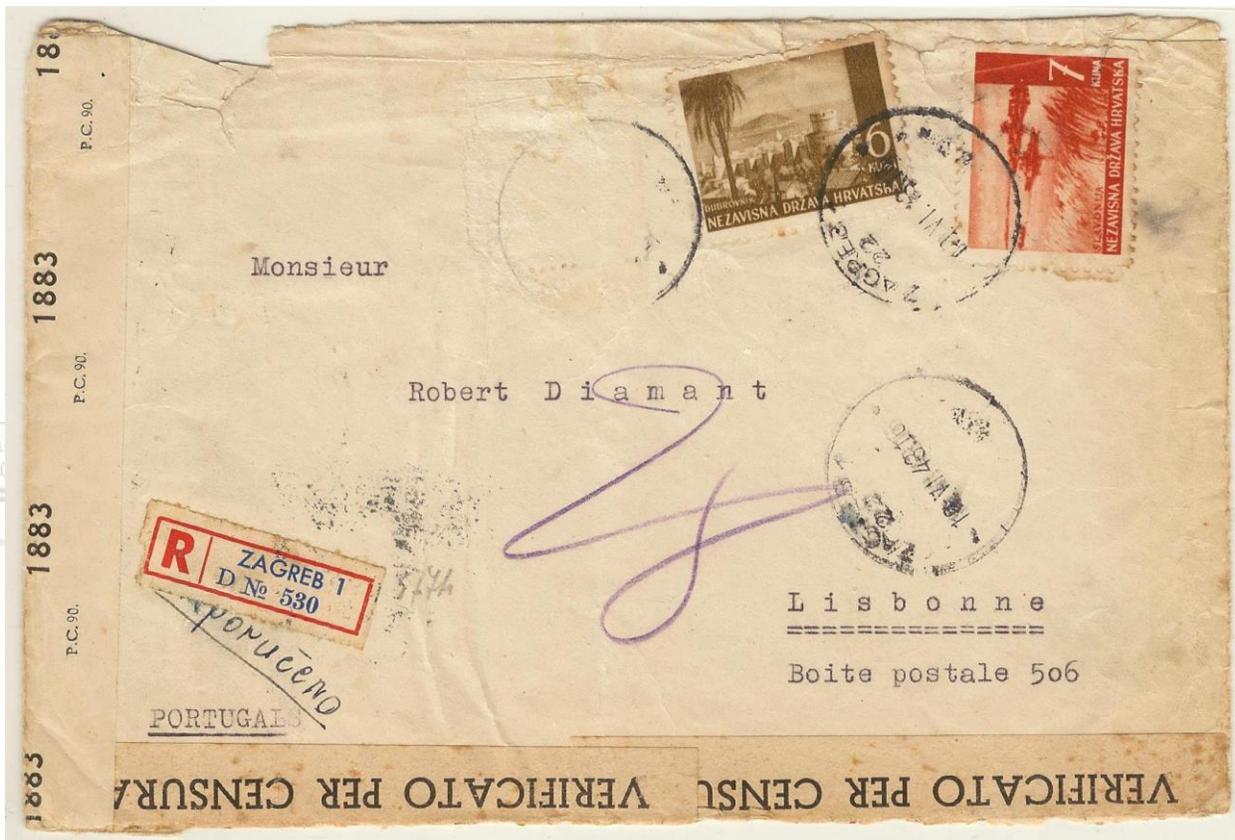


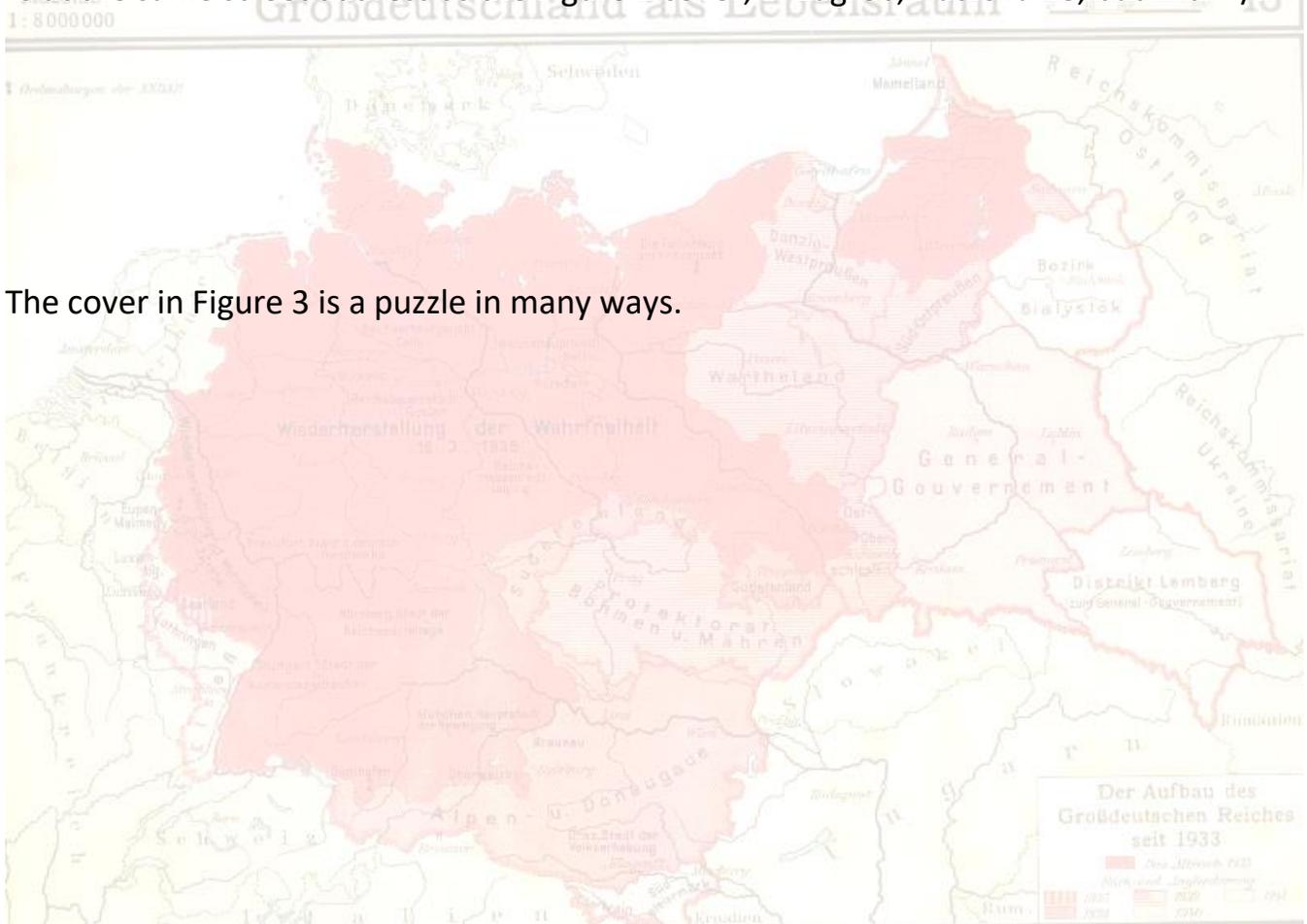
Figure 2

Censored in Italy.

Cover addressed to Robert Diamant, Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal and postmarked ZAGREB
10 June 1943.

Backstamped appropriately LISBOA 30 June 1943. Censorship with Italian and British
resealing tapes.

Shows 13 kuna in postage, apparently a 1 kuna stamp was torn away. Note the sender
is at the same street address as the Figure 1 cover, in Zagreb, Hatzova 28, but with “/II”.



The cover in Figure 3 is a puzzle in many ways.

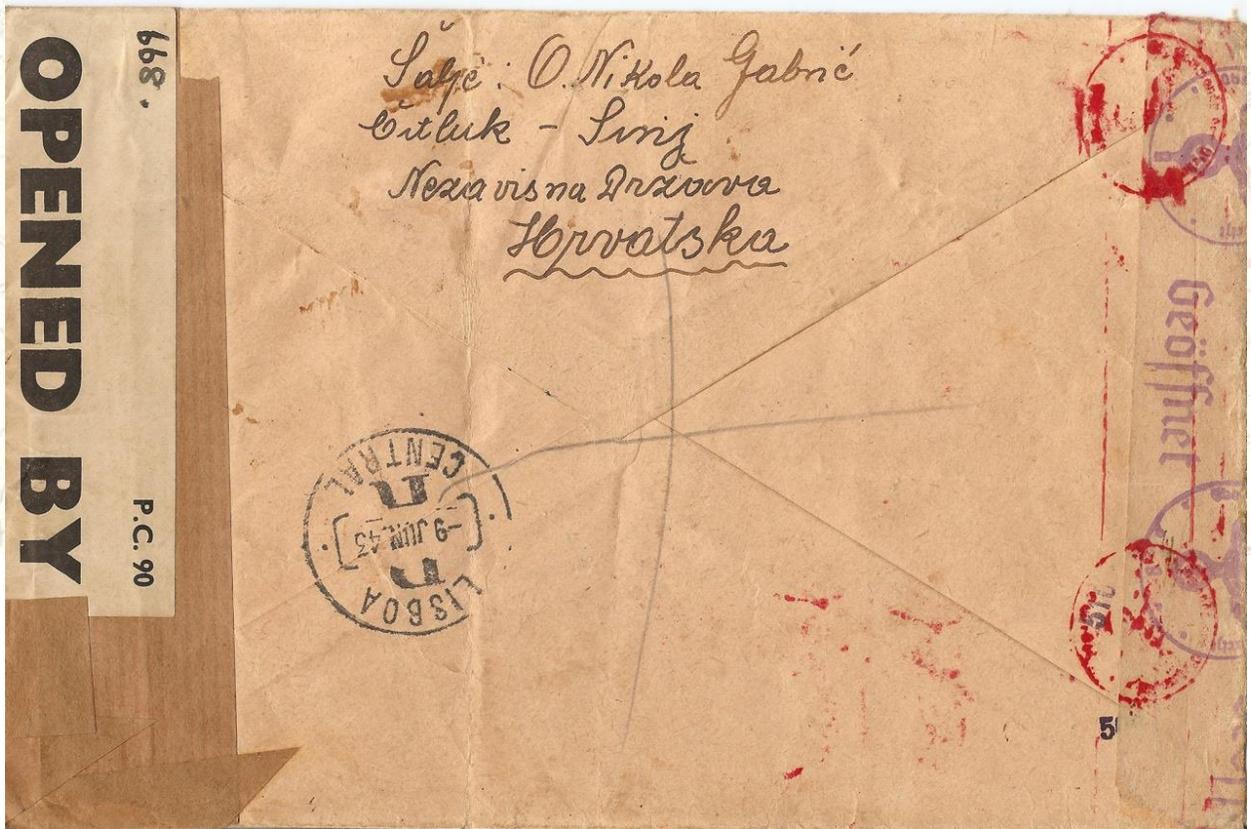
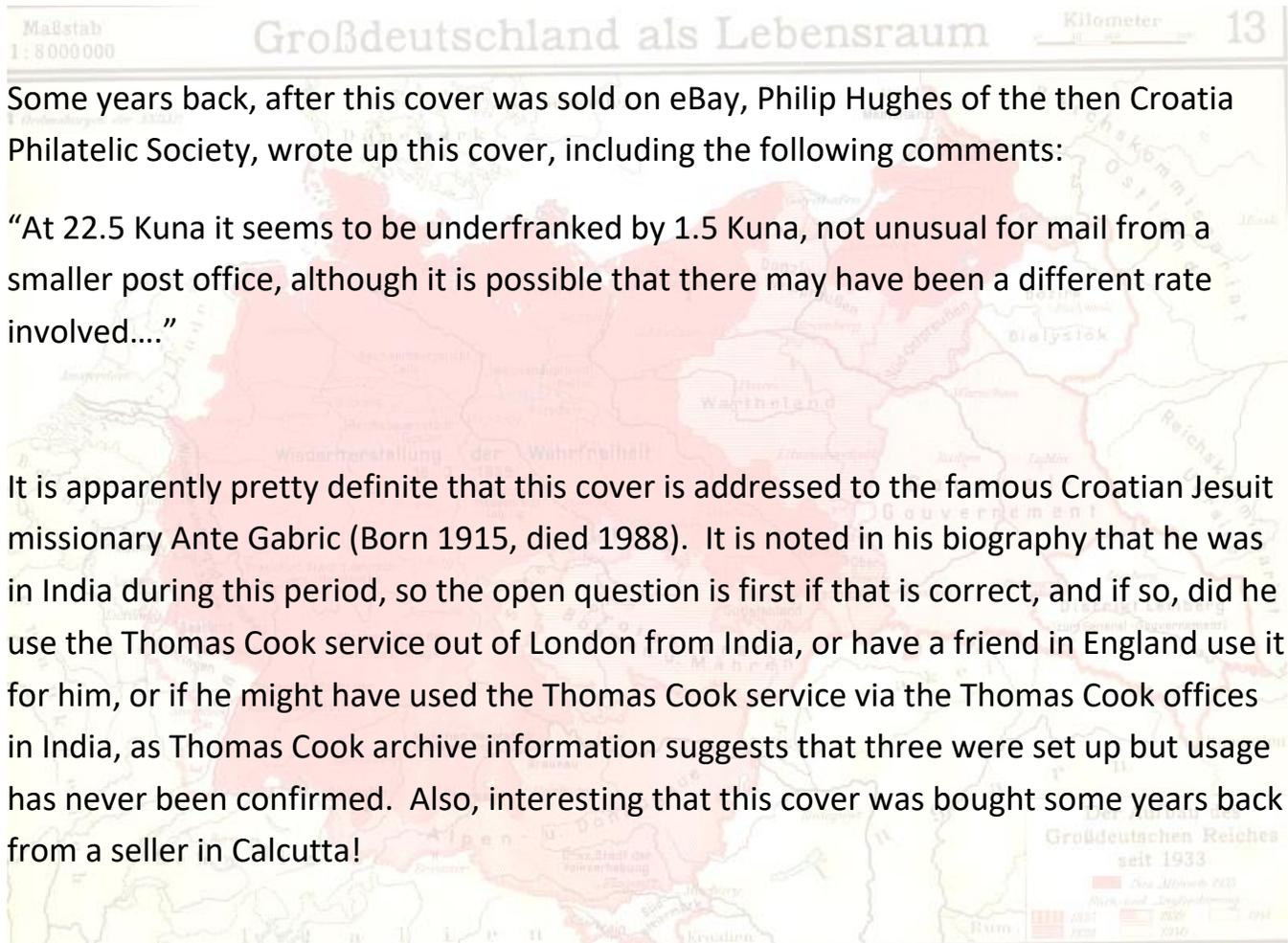


Figure 3

Censored in Vienna.

Registered cover dated SINJ 18 May 1943, backstamped in Lisbon, and addressed to “Father” Ante Gabrić, Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal. Censored by Nazis at “g” for Vienna, backstamped 9 Jun 1943 in Lisbon, and with British PC 90 censorship white and brown tape probably in London. Sent by O. Nikola Gabrić in Sinj, Croatia.



Some years back, after this cover was sold on eBay, Philip Hughes of the then Croatia Philatelic Society, wrote up this cover, including the following comments:

“At 22.5 Kuna it seems to be underfranked by 1.5 Kuna, not unusual for mail from a smaller post office, although it is possible that there may have been a different rate involved....”

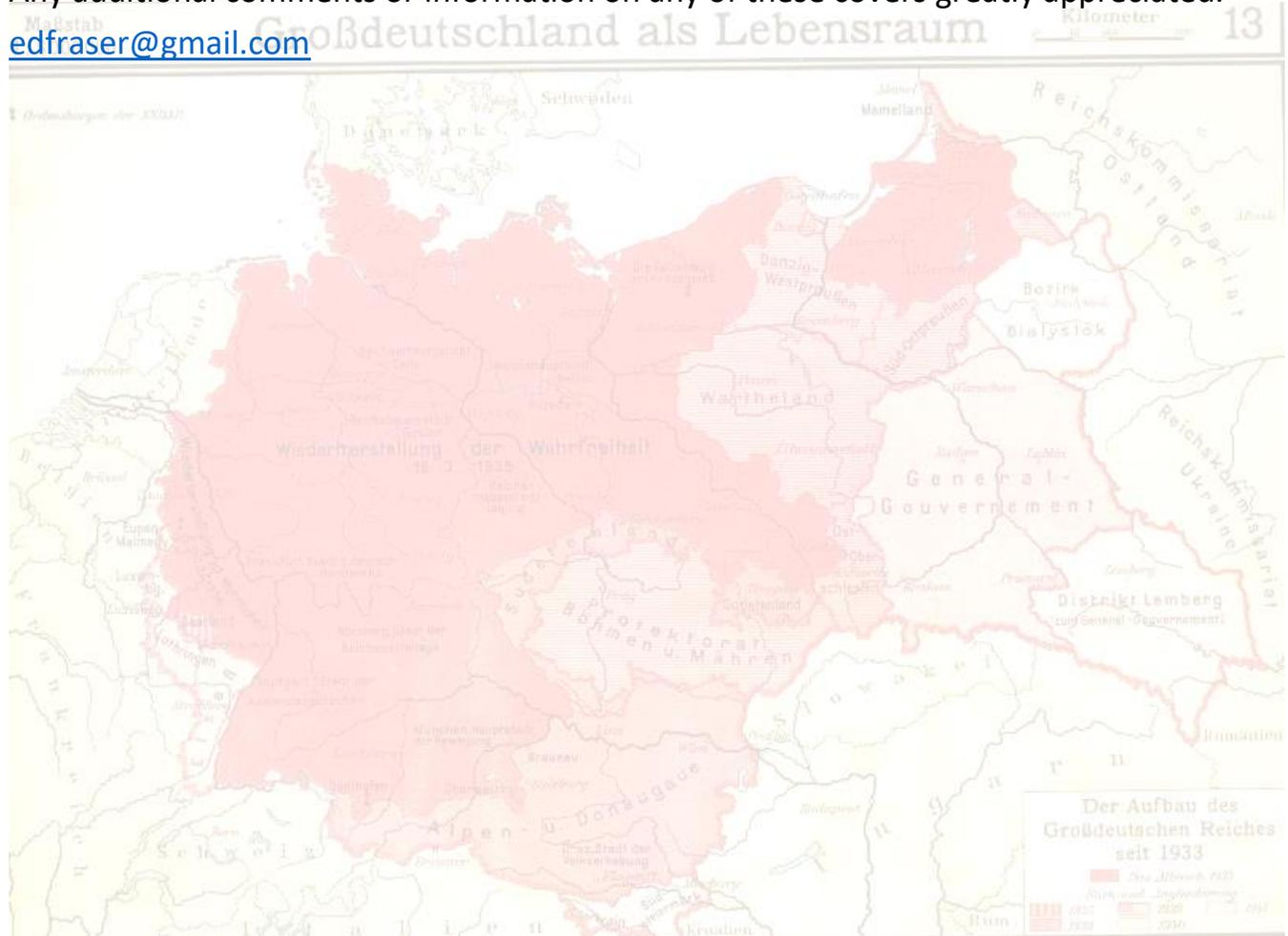
It is apparently pretty definite that this cover is addressed to the famous Croatian Jesuit missionary Ante Gabric (Born 1915, died 1988). It is noted in his biography that he was in India during this period, so the open question is first if that is correct, and if so, did he use the Thomas Cook service out of London from India, or have a friend in England use it for him, or if he might have used the Thomas Cook service via the Thomas Cook offices in India, as Thomas Cook archive information suggests that three were set up but usage has never been confirmed. Also, interesting that this cover was bought some years back from a seller in Calcutta!

The sender, Nicola Gabric, I understand was Father Ante Gabric’s cousin, who was also a Franciscan priest in Sinj, Croatia, at that time. This information comes from Father Antun Volenik, the Jesuit vice-postulator in Croatia for Father Ante Gabric! He relates that Father Ante Gabric wrote “10,000 letters” through the years. This was surely heavily focused on seeking support for the work in India. Much like Mother Teresa (St. Teresa of Calcutta), he worked in the area about 30 to 50 miles to the south of Calcutta apparently for most of his life - from 1937-1988. Mother Teresa was born in

Macedonia, but was raised by Croatian Jesuits and also spoke Croatian, and there are a few known photos on the Internet of Mother Teresa that include Father Ante Gabric. He, too, lived a very austere life, so it seems unlikely he collected or saved “postal history”. Father Volenik does oversee surviving correspondence as I understand it. Unfortunately, I have no clue if the May 1943 letter from his cousin has survived.

Any additional comments or information on any of these covers greatly appreciated.

edfraser@gmail.com



A Much Abused Cover

By Anthony Torres

In the 1980s I helped a dealer friend at local shows. As I was one of the few German area collectors at most of the shows, we regularly had other dealers asking me to help identify German related items. At one of the ROPEX shows one of the dealers I regularly helped identify material for showed up at our table with the cover described below. "I thought you might be interested in this."

Markings

There are literally dozens of markings on the cover, many of which are below the numerous tapes applied. I have not been able to ascertain the covers exact route, so following are the markings I have identified (without loosening the tapes to see all that are underneath).

Initial sending:

5 stamps from the 1939 WHW series:

3+2, 8+4, 12+6, 15+10, & 25+15, Mi. 730, 734, 735, 736, & 737 respectively

Sender: (at top on flap, back photo) from Berlin NW 21

Register label Berlin 87, 126 [front lower left], black script Einschreiben [front upper left]

Cancel: BERLIN NW 87 e, 30.6.40. 8-9 (3 times)

Addressed to: Herrn Albert Ofner, bei Bermüller, G(?)abelobergerstr. 28 I, München

Receiving cancel [back right of center]: oval MÜNCHEN ?? (under tape), 5788, 30.6. 40 (??, under tape)

Forwarding cancel [back center]: oval MÜNCHEN 2BZ, 081, 1.7.40. -14

D.violet boxed "Zurück, -4. JUL. 1940" [front lower left], crossed out in red crayon

Receiving cancel [back left of center] BERLIN NW, 87 k, 10.7.40. 0-1

Receiving cancel [back center] BERLIN C2 Dy, 10.7.40.-11

Red pen [front upper left] "Abs. Erich ?, Sonst nichts ermittelt, Bln.", crossed out in black pen with d. violet rubber stamp -2 Juli 1940

Blue boxed "Zür Ermittlung des Absenders amtlich geöffnet durch die Reichspostdirektion Berlin" labels (2) [back right edge, bottom to top] tied by weak black 35½mm circular "Reichspostdirektion •Berlin•", probably from early July 1940

Blue boxed "Zür Ermittlung des Absenders amtlich geöffnet durch die Reichspostdirektion Berlin" labels (3) [back right edge, 2 top to bottom, 1 bottom to top] tied by 2 weak black 35½mm circular "Reichspostdirektion •Berlin•", overlapping original 2 labels

Weak pencil script [back top – may not show in photo] only legible word is "geöffnet".

D. violet "Postamt 87" and black pen signature below [back left of Absender]

Original address crossed out in blue crayon & assessed "22" in circle postage due [blue crayon front lower right of stamps & pencil "22" [front top center]

Black script "??? ????....., Karlovac (Südslavien), post. Prêt. 11" [back, bottom inverted]

Forwarding address [front bottom center]: "Karlovac, Südslavien"

At this point it was sent to Wien for censoring:

D. violet Riemer G 53a sealing tape, 2 strips, one with 2 eagles, one with 3 eagles [back left side], tied by weak red Riemer G 3c proof Stempel

Black "73429" crossed out in blue crayon [front right of address]

Pencil Prüfer mark "613" [front right of address]

D violet Prüfer marks "788" [center right edge on RPD tape], "1005" [lower right edge on RPD tape]

Weak black receiving cancel, "KARLOVAC, 2?.XII.40.-5, ????OBAH" [Back upper right on censor tape]

Remains of a paste-on label [front on stamps]

Routing

My best guess on the routing is this:

Sent from Berlin NW 21 through post office NW 87 to München

Addressee not found in München

Opened in Berlin to determine sender
Sender no longer in Berlin, so forwarded to Karlovac
As it was out of the Reich, it went first to Wien for censoring, then sent on to Karlovac
Sender not found in Karlovac
Returned to Berlin

I am sure there will be more to the story once the markings under the tapes are identified.
If anyone would like to buy this cover for further investigation, it is for sale by the author
(ajtorres@cablone.net)





Tools and Techniques

by the editor

In philately in general and our area of interest particularly, the taking of measurements is critical. It is not as obvious a task as is commonly assumed. In "Philatelic Measurements" by Carl Werenskiold (from *The American Philatelist* magazine, February, 1980, pp. 140-143/146) a systematic approach was suggested. Since this article's publication, I have searched in vain for supporting references such as ASTM or ANSI standards or recommended practices. (ASTM = American Society for Testing and Materials; ANSI = American National Standards Institute). Following is a synopsis of Mr. Werenskiold's article.

"One customarily would make a few rather perfunctory measurements..., that would not always seem to agree any to well with the figures given in the catalogue. Offhand, making such measurements would seem to be quite a simple and easy matter. This is, however, not quite so. To obtain meaningful and reliable measurements of sufficient accuracy, it is necessary to be aware of the many disturbing factors involved and to avoid all known sources of error."

The type of measurements we usually take are linear measurements. These can be of:

- a) the distance between two portions of the design
- b) the thickness, width, height of an element in the design or the overall design, etc.
- c) angular measurements (example: angle of overprints on German Offices & Colonies)

- d) alignment measurements (example: German WWI Occupation overprints on Germania issue)

In discussions with our various collectors about measuring gauges, the consensus was that:

metric measurements must be used the least useable division is 0.1 mm as anything less than that is almost impossible to use due to coarseness of paper and unsharpness of printed design interfering with accurate measurements.

As Mr. Werenskiold points out, the fibers of the paper are readily observable with even a 5X magnifier. Therefore to measure to the same accuracy as the width of the paper fibers is "fictitiously high accuracy".

Measuring Tools

As most of us don't have access to the very expensive measuring microscopes, a measuring tool must be found of sufficient accuracy. Mr. Werenskiold's recommended tools are an engine divided (not printed) boxwood ruler divided into half millimeters and a 3X and 5X watchmaker's eye loupe. The 5X is used for exacting measurements and the 3X for less exacting. He recommends using the loupe on your "master eye". You will be able to use this eye for the magnifier while still keeping the other eye open. *For the skeptical - it does work and it minimizes eye strain tremendously.* The use of the eye loupe also keeps both hands free as it usually is supplied with a headband. This will also tend to minimize parallax (discussed later). He recommends cementing the

loupe to an old pair of eyeglasses. Another alternate that is supplied by Bausch and Lomb optical is a clip on set of supplementary magnifier lenses. These mount to your eyeglass frames and one or more of the wire supported lenses can be rotated into your path of vision easily.

A reticule is commonly used for establishing the position of portions of the design.

Standardized Measuring Method

Whatever tools you decide to use, a standardized method of measuring is necessary. The basic technique is rather simple.

If the measuring device is not subject to parallax, the "scale" is moved until the zero line on the scale is accurately placed at the starting place. The zero line need not be 0 mm on the scale but any other convenient line such as 100 mm. While keeping the scale from moving, the reading point is scaled and the distance recorded to at least one tenth of a millimeter. Accuracy greater than 0.1 mm is possible if an eye loupe is used.

Parallax

If the measuring device is subject to parallax then a different technique must be used. Parallax is basically the apparent movement of the subject in relation to the reference point (scale or reticule) when the viewing axis is not perpendicular to the reference point. The greater the distance between the subject and the scale the more parallax there is. For example, using a thick ruler and taking care that your eye is directly over the index line on the ruler, position the index line over the subject. Now move your head either left or right and the index line and the subject will no longer be aligned. This is parallax. The same thing can happen with the

magnifying loupes and measuring reticules such as the B&L tool mentioned at the end of this article. If your eye is not directly in the optical axis of the lens then your line of vision is not perpendicular to the reticule. As the reticule is supported some distance above the subject, you will not get good alignment of the zero or reading line or both. The reticules will only read correctly if the eye is in the optical axis. Any other position and the distance read is in error. One trick you can use to minimize parallax problems on this type of magnifier is to make a short black paper tube that you tape around the eye end of the magnifier. This will minimize the angle by which you differ from the optical axis. For the hunter's among us - you've made a "peep-sight" for the magnifier. The only caution is don't make the tube too long or you will not be able to see the whole scale.

For tools that are subject to parallax, you use the same technique as above but must assure that your line of sight is perpendicular to the scale and that the scale has been placed in as close a contact as possible with the subject. This can be done by tipping the scale so that the scale edge touches the subject. If you use a ruler type scale you can actually stand the ruler on edge. You can then sight down the scaled lines to insure you are directly in line with the zero and reading end.

That is the basic measuring technique to get accurate measurements. In order to get reproducible measurements for our uses requires further work. To illustrate the problem consider:

you are given the distance "between" two lines in a design; what does "between" mean? Center to center? The clear space between the two lines (from the right edge of the left line to the left edge of the right line)? From right side to right side? From the edge of one line to the center

of the other? As I said before, it is not as obvious as commonly assumed.

Four Types of Measurements

Mr. Werenskiold's article suggests that we adopt four types of measurements:

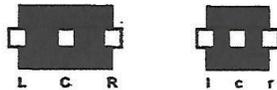


Figure 1.

- A - From center to center. (C to c)
- B - From right side to right side (or left side to left side). (R to r, or L to l)
- C - Between the two inside edges (the white space between the lines) or overall from the outside edge of one to the outside edge of the other. (R to l, or L to r)
- D - From an edge of one color spot to the center of another. R to c, or C to l)

All of these types are subject to the errors discussed later. In addition, differences in inking will affect each of these types differently.

It will have no effect on type A and little or no effect on type B.

Variations in inking causing the printed line to spread or narrow will affect type D and doubly affect type C measurements.

To quote Mr. Werenskiold, "We thus find that:

- type A measurements are most satisfactory
- type B measurements almost as good
- type C measurements (the kind usually found in the literature!) bad, frequently having a double unknown error
- type D measurements also rather unsatisfactory

We should therefore make type A measurements whenever possible, particularly where the elements involved are more or less parallel thin lines." He further suggests using two B measurements (right to right and left to left) and averaging them for thick lines. In addition, "C and D measurements should be avoided, unless the stamp design leaves no choice..."

Whichever type of measurement is made, the type should be included:

- 2.6 mm A
- 3.2 mm B
- 4.7 mm A = (B+B)/2.

Note: The abbreviation is my idea, he only wrote that it should be indicated.

Sources of Error

If you are aware of the following sources of error, you can minimize their occurrence:

- 1) Parallax error has already been discussed and is a common error source.
- 2) Zeroing error is when the line on the scale is aligned incorrectly on the stamp detail. Being able to use both hands to position the scale minimizes this error. It should be noted that the center of the rule or scale lines should be aligned with the subject, not the edges. This is particularly important if the thickness of the ruling lines varies, as it may for major versus minor divisions. See Figures 2 and 3.



Figure 2.

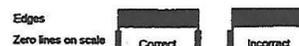


Figure 3.

- 3) Reading error is reading or recording the wrong measurement, i.e., "actual" measurement is 17.5 mm A but is read as 12.5 mm A. Don't laugh! It happens frequently.
- 4) Ruling error is that due to inaccurate ruling or too thick lines on the measuring device. This is generally negligible on quality rulers and scales.
- 5) Paper shrinkage error will yield different measurements of the same elements when taken on dry and humid days. It is due to the different degree of swelling of the paper fibers in the direction the fibers are oriented compared to across the fibers. The fibers swell very little along their length, but do swell appreciably in thickness. This yields greater variations in measurements across the paper fibers than in the same direction the paper fibers are oriented. If the fiber direction can not be seen with a magnifier then the easiest method is the "curl technique". If a stamp is flat under the existing humidity conditions, any rapid change in humidity will cause it to curl into a partial cylinder. Due to fiber swelling, the axis (length) of the cylinder is the fiber direction. Holding the stamp by one corner with tongs close to a bright lamp will dry it out (or for those in dry climates, breathing on it as you do to clean your glasses it will absorb moisture) and cause it to curl within a few seconds. The whole point of this is: don't make measurements across the fibers unless absolutely necessary and then identify it as such so the inherent inaccuracy will be recognized.
- 6) The location of the measurement should be noted. This is particularly important when measuring "parallel" lines. The overall width of a design may not be constant from top to bottom or left to right even if it appears to be. Thus a measurement taken at the top frame line will not be the same as one taken at the mid-point.

Estimating Measurements

Mr. Werenskiold has suggested a system for noting estimate measurements based on a half-millimeter scale. "A bit more than a given dmm (decimillimeter = 0.1 mm) is designated by a dash over the number, halfway to the next dmm by two dashes over the number, and a trifle less than a full number by a dash below it." *Ed. Note: in a letter to me, Carl said this provided a system for very fast averaging of measurements by adding 'above line' and subtracting 'below line' and dividing the net sum by the number of measurements.*

Angular Measurement

Angular measurement has at best limited use. In most cases there is no adequate reference point. With the exception of determining the angle that an overprint is canted, I see little use that a good system of alignment wouldn't suffice.

Alignment

Alignment is basically how one element of a design corresponds with another element. Examples are:
 the "angle" a serif makes on a letter or numeral.
 where the vertical stroke of a letter falls in relation to other design components

"shifts" in the two lines of text. In many issues, the two lines will be "off-center" from each other by greater than the thickness of the vertical strokes.

Mr. Werenskiold gave instructions for an easy to make alignment tool. Using a sharp knife, scribe a very thin line about 30 mm long in a 2 inch square of clear thin plastic. Fill the line with India ink being careful to wipe off any excess. The alignment tool is used by placing it face down (to minimize parallax) on the stamp. I have successfully used this and similar homemade alignment and reticule tools for many years now. A word of caution: Be careful when you choose the portion of the design to align. The same cautions as for linear measurements apply, particularly for overprints where the degree of inking and pressure applied during printing can vary greatly.

A reticule is any transparent support with a series of reference markings on it. They may be used by placing the marked side down on the stamp as for the alignment tool, or incorporated into the optical path of a "fixed" magnifier. The latter may suffer from parallax if the reference markings are not in direct contact with the measured item, the former is relatively free from it. The latter type are commercially produced while the former are generally homemade. (Bausch and Lomb makes a 'measuring magnifier model 81-34-35, with interchangeable

reticules that screw onto the base of the magnifier and are in direct contact with the item to be measured.) Other manufacturers also offer them plus versions with their own lights. The more elaborate they are, the more they cost. Generally these are used for quick reference or "gridding" a design to make it easier to find a design component, but the measuring type are highly accurate measuring tools also.

Of particular note Mr. Werenskiold writes, "For comparisons among stamps to determine whether the designs are, or are not basically different, it is more satisfactory to photograph the stamps and draw a network up on the photographs, dividing the stamps' height and width in each case by suitable whole numbers to provide "squares" of convenient size". I'll go that one better: Draw the reticule on clear plastic sheet or very thin matte polyester drawing cloth and hinge it to the photograph with tape. This way it serves as a reference and can be flipped out of the way for detail checks of the photograph.

Two last minute thoughts. In a future article I would like to discuss measuring tools. If you have a favorite one that you think is sufficiently accurate, please let me know so I can "spread the word". This includes scales, rulers, reticules for magnifiers, perforation gauges, or any of the transparent plastic comparators. Any ideas on these would surely help.



Danzig: An Introduction

TRSG will be taking over the role of promoting scholarship in Danzig philatelics until a permanent editor for the Danzig study group can be found. I would like to start off our stewardship of this subject with an article that answers one simple question: What is Danzig?

Danzig is a port city on the Baltic Sea in what is now western Poland, and now goes by the name of Gdansk. The Danzig area now has a population of 1.4 million, with 460,000 of it residing in the city limits of Gdansk. Danzig as a “free city”, aptly named The Free City of Danzig, existed between 1920 and 1939 with its own philatelic history. That free city consisted of Danzig itself and over 200 surrounding towns in the area.



Danzig had a long history of relative independence. Established in approximately 980 by King Mieszko of Poland, it was a natural place to establish a fort. Situated at the mouth of the Motlawa River, it would be a place where trade would go naturally in and out of the region. However, even with this prime geographic location, Danzig remained a sleepy little town for centuries.

Unfortunately for Danzig, that began to change in the 13th century, when it is thought that Danzig had a population of only 2,000 or so. Under Polish rule in one form or another for approximately 300 years, Emperor Brandenburg of the Holy Roman Empire invaded the region in 1300, prompting the Poles to threaten action if they did not leave, Brandenburg did leave, but subsequently in 1301, the Danes invaded the area. With that, the Poles hired the Teutonic Knights to clear the area.

The Teutonic Knights were successful in doing this, and established Danzig as more of a German state than it had been. Germans had been immigrating for years into Danzig as merchants, a practice that accelerated during the Teutonic Knight reign. With this, one can start to see an emerging pattern for Danzig: it's becoming a city that is tossed around like a geopolitical football, with a Polish past that is becoming increasingly German.

The bouncing continued. After a century of Teutonic rule, the city came under control of Poland with the Battle of Grunwald in 1410. That lasted a year, as the subsequent peace treaty (the First Peace of Thorn) put Danzig back in the Teutonic knight column.

Danzig's independent streak really starts to show during this time. Danzig participated in the Prussian Confederation, an organization dedicated to opposing the rule of the Teutonic Knights. This led to the Thirteen Years' War, where Danzig was annexed by the Crown of Poland.

The glory days of Danzig thus begins. Casimir IV of Poland grants Danzig *Great Privilege*, which means that Danzig had none of Poland's taxes and tariffs, had a free assembly, and had the right to mint its own coin. This kind of arrangement was called Danzig Law.

But good times can never last forever for any geopolitical football. Stephen Bathory, a Hungarian who claimed the Polish crown over Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian II, promptly invaded and laid siege to Danzig for supporting Maximilian during the quest for the crown. The Siege of Danzig of 1577, lasting six months, decimated the armed forces and crippled Danzig's economy. Stephen was never able to penetrate Danzig itself, but he didn't have to: the peace treaty kept intact Danzig law, but forced Danzig to acknowledge Stephen's legitimacy and to pay him 200,000 guildens in gold as an apology. Danzig was broke.

More heartache was to come. With the Great Northern War being fought around Danzig in the early 18th century, plague followed. Since Danzig was reliant on international trade, the strategy was to downplay its significance and continue on with commerce, hoping for the best. While a health commission was established to try to isolate those with plague from others, the lack of coordinated effort aided in the plague's entrance into the city in 1709. Half of Danzig's population died.

More intrigue, more heartache. The Russians ruled Danzig after their siege of 1734, before being annexed by Prussia in 1793. Napoleon came in 1807, once more making the city free as it had been, with this ending with the collapse of the Napoleonic empire in 1814. Prussia annexed Danzig subsequently, and it became part of Germany in 1871, when Imperial Germany was born.

The Free City Reborn

With the treaty of Versailles to end World War I, the Poles had hoped that Danzig would simply be returned to them. After all, Woodrow Wilson in his Fourteen Points had called for an independent Polish state that should have access to the sea. But the reality was that this was now culturally a German town, with 95% of the population now of German origin.

The compromise was the Free City of Danzig. Like most political titles, this one was simply wrong. Danzig was to be governed under the auspices of the League of Nations, with the external affairs governed largely by Poland.

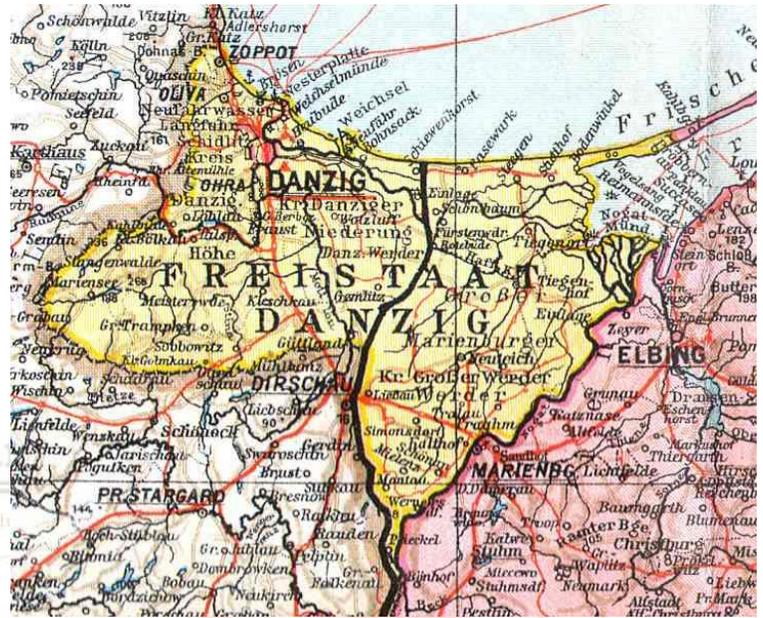
Still, Danzig had much to celebrate in terms of freedom. They had their own constitution, national anthem, and government. They had their own parliament (the Volkstag), currency (the Danzig Gulden), and most importantly for us, their own stamps.

The Territory and its Population

A common and understandable mistake is to suppose the Free City of Danzig is just the city itself. Incorporating the areas around it, the territory covered 252 villages and 63

hamlets, as well as the towns of Zoppot, Oliva, Tiegenhof and Neureich. 759 square miles were covered in totality.

As mentioned previously, according to official census statistics, approximately 90% of the population was of German descent in 1929, with the Polish population being 9.5% of the total. Estimates going into the 1930s suggest that the Polish population stayed either at a similar level or perhaps reached 20%, especially right after hostilities began in 1939.



Politics, Oh the Problems You Bring

The structure of the administration and governance of Danzig was a bit more complex due to the League of Nations. Unlike mandatory territories, who were governed by one of the Allied powers, Danzig was governed under the League of Nation's direct authority. A High Commissioner from various Allied countries was appointed. As one can see, terms were brief, certainly allowing for more autonomous daily governing.

No	Name	Period	Country
1	Reginald Thomas Tower	1919–1920	 United Kingdom
2	Edward Lisle Strutt	1920	 United Kingdom
3	Bernardo Attolico	1920	 Italy
4	Richard Cyril Byrne Haking	1921–1923	 United Kingdom
5	Mervyn Sorley McDonnell	1923–1925	 United Kingdom
6	Joost Adriaan van Hamel	1925–1929	 Netherlands
7	Manfredi di Gravina	1929–1932	 Italy
8	Helmer Rosting	1932–1934	 Denmark
9	Seán Lester	1934–1936	 Irish Free State
10	Carl Jacob Burckhardt	1937–1939	 Switzerland

Day to day governance was by the Senate of the Free City of Danzig. This was elected by the Volkstag for a period of four years. The Head of the Danzig Senate would be considered the head of state.

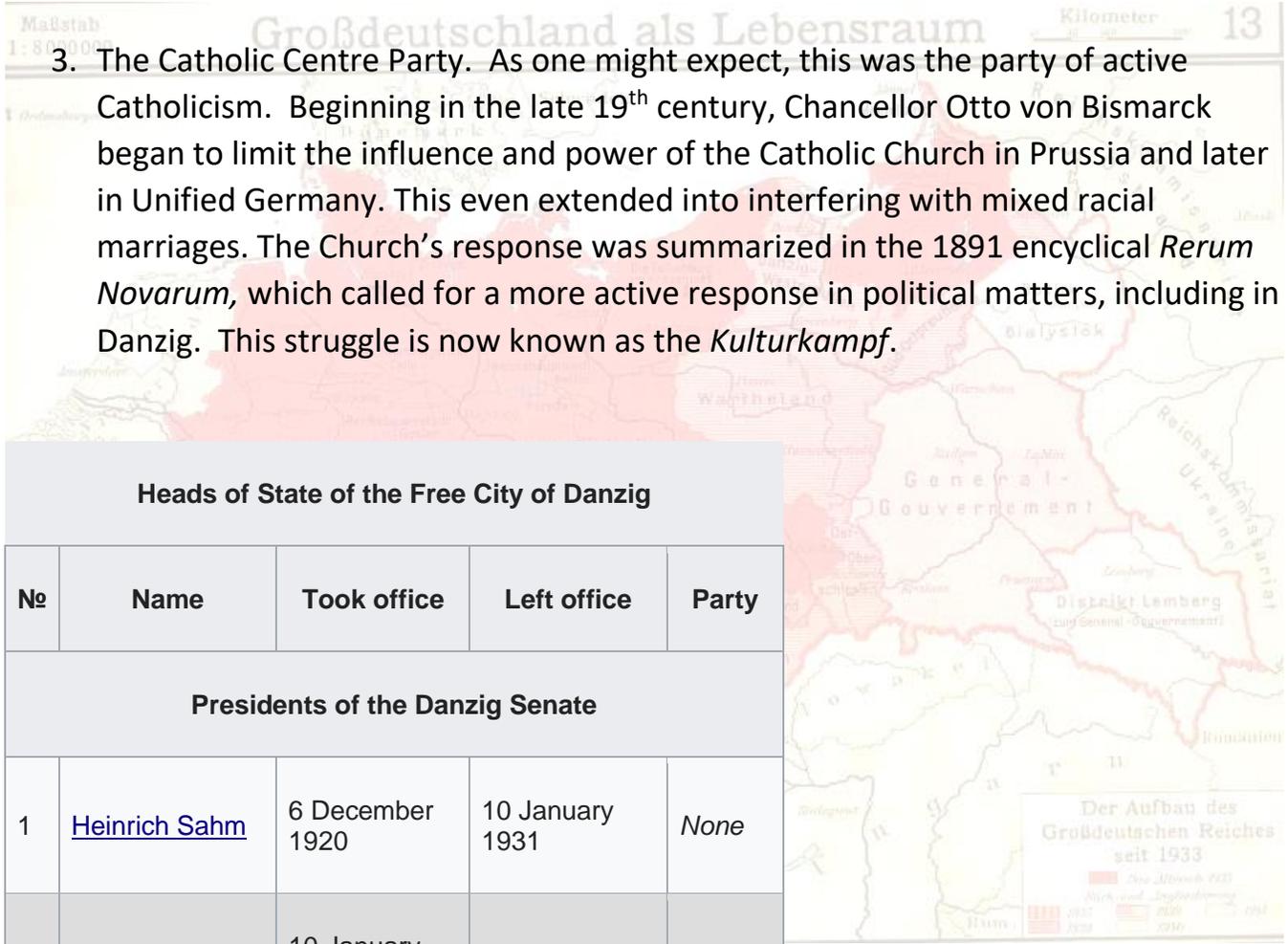
At first political parties were exactly what one would suspect in a German-speaking city. They simply reflected the political parties of the Weimar Republic, the governing institution of immediate post World War I Germany:

1. The German National People's Party (DNVP) – Proceeded by the German Conservative Party, the DNVP was a nationalist party, advocating a return to

monarchy, a rejection of the Weimar Republic, and a repudiation of the Treaty of Versailles. They, along with many Germans, considered that treaty to be a national disgrace, signed only by the traitorous.

- The Social Democratic Party of the Free City of Danzig. This was a branch of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD). While separate from the SPD, the ideological similarities are apparent. This party participated in Socialist activities, but at the same time, did not slide down the path of Communism.

- The Catholic Centre Party. As one might expect, this was the party of active Catholicism. Beginning in the late 19th century, Chancellor Otto von Bismarck began to limit the influence and power of the Catholic Church in Prussia and later in Unified Germany. This even extended into interfering with mixed racial marriages. The Church's response was summarized in the 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which called for a more active response in political matters, including in Danzig. This struggle is now known as the *Kulturkampf*.



Heads of State of the Free City of Danzig

No	Name	Took office	Left office	Party
Presidents of the Danzig Senate				
1	Heinrich Sahn	6 December 1920	10 January 1931	None
2	Ernst Ziehm	10 January 1931	20 June 1933	DNVP
3	Hermann Rauschnig	20 June 1933	23 November 1934	NSDAP
4	Arthur Karl Greiser	23 November 1934	23 August 1939	NSDAP

State President				
5	Albert Forster	23 August 1939	1 September 1939	NSDAP

Tensions

Großdeutschland als Lebensraum

Kilometer

13

Looking back, it seemed that this model was destined for failure, if for nothing else due to the hyper aggressive nature of the incoming National Socialists. For years, Poles in the city were discriminated against in a variety of different ways, with the DNVP being the party in power. The League of Nation's High Commissioner would adjudicate cases that came up between Danzig, a mainly German entity, and Poland, its "overseer". Details of that arrangement had been finalized in the treaty of Warsaw in 1921.

With the outbreak of the Polish-Soviet war of 1919-1921, local dockworkers would refuse to unload the ammunition from Great Britain that was being sent to Poland. The dockworkers, being German, did not want in any way to support any Polish war effort. Because of this, an entire new military dock and depot had to be built at Weterplatte, a peninsula of Danzig territory that was also the sight of some of the first fighting of World War II.

German resentment against this depot always ran high, as it was thought to be the site of a place that ran counter to German interests. That, coupled with the destruction of the economy, led the Nazi party, which scored only 0.8% of the national vote in 1927 to winning 50% of the Volkstag elections in May 1933, taking control of the Senate that June.

RAUSCHNING IN 1933,

Hermann Rauschning, a Nazi, was now the elected President of the Senate. Rauschning broke from the Nazis the following year, eventually immigrating to the United States. Sadly, he was replaced by Arthur Karl Greiser, a devout Nazi, who was one the main architects of the Holocaust in occupied Poland. He was hung after a trial in 1946.



While briefly the Nazi leadership tried to “get along” with Poland, it became clear that any such efforts were to be short-lived. With the Enabling Act and the Nuremberg Laws, existing political parties and trade unions soon were banned. These actions were appealed to the League of Nations, who were increasingly powerless to act.

Things got worse for Danzig after the Munich Conference in 1938, where British Prime Minister Chamberlain permitted Hitler’s annexation of the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia in return for a peace agreement (the infamous “Peace in Our Time”).

Emboldened, the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, Joachim von Ribbentrop, demanded incorporation of Danzig in the Reich. The High Commissioner at the time, Carl Jacob Burchardt, was told by the Poles that any attempt to do so would lead to a military response.

The result was predictable and is widely known: the shelling of Westerplatte began on September 1, 1939. The Post office held out for 15 hours, as they had been trained in small-arms fire. Those who had resisted were ultimately executed.

The military held out for 7 days. Danzig’s fate would be that of the rest of Germany.

The Stamps

One article cannot do justice to all the philatelic history of Danzig. A useful way to look at Danzig stamps in general is to break them down in to three main categories:

1. Freistadt Danzig- These are German stamps, from the Weimar Republic of 1920, overprinted with “Danzig”. A myriad of different types exist, a subject of many a future article.
2. Port Gdansk stamps. Due to the Treaty of Versailles, Poland was allowed to have a separate post office at the port. Poland used their regular stamps, overprinted with “Port Gdansk”. Not as proliferate as the Germans overprints, many different issues were still used from 1925 to 1938.
3. Danzig issues. They can further be generally be broken down to:
 - Regular issues
 - Semi-Postal Stamps

- Air Post Stamps
- Postage Due Stamps
- Official Stamps

The number of different issues number in the hundreds, making Danzig philatelics a fascinating subject.



VERY COMMON, VERY TYPICAL DANZIG STAMPS OF THE 1920S WITH THEIR COAT OF ARMS



VERY COMMON POSTAGE DUE STAMP OF 1921, WITH DANZIG'S COAT OF ARMS



1937 SURTAX FOR WINTER WELFARE - FEATURING, LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM, MADONNA, MERCURY, WEATHER VANE, TOWN HALL, NEPTUNE FOUNTAIN, AND ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON. ALL DESIGNS ARE FROM THE FRIEZE OF THE ARTUSHOF, THE OLD MEETING HOUSE OF THE RICH IN DAYS OF YORE.

The Early Danzig Stamps of Max Buchhold

Below represents what are the stamp designs apparently done by one Max Buchhold, who apparently was one of the more prolific stamp designers of the early Danzig issues. Many of them are below, and represent most of the issues from Danzig in the early 1920s.

This list is from Wikimedia, and admittedly, I cannot independently verify this to be true. However, it does give a panorama of Danzig stamps, so I decided to put it in this issued.

But I need your help. Who is Max Buchhold? Does anyone know anything about him? Write, call, or email me – whatever works for you. Just let me know, so that our readers can know, and we all learn a little something about these stamps.





Maßstab
1: 8000000

Großdeutschland als Lebensraum

Kilometer 13

1. Großdeutsches Reich





Maßstab
1: 8000000

Großdeutschland als Lebensraum

Kilometer 13

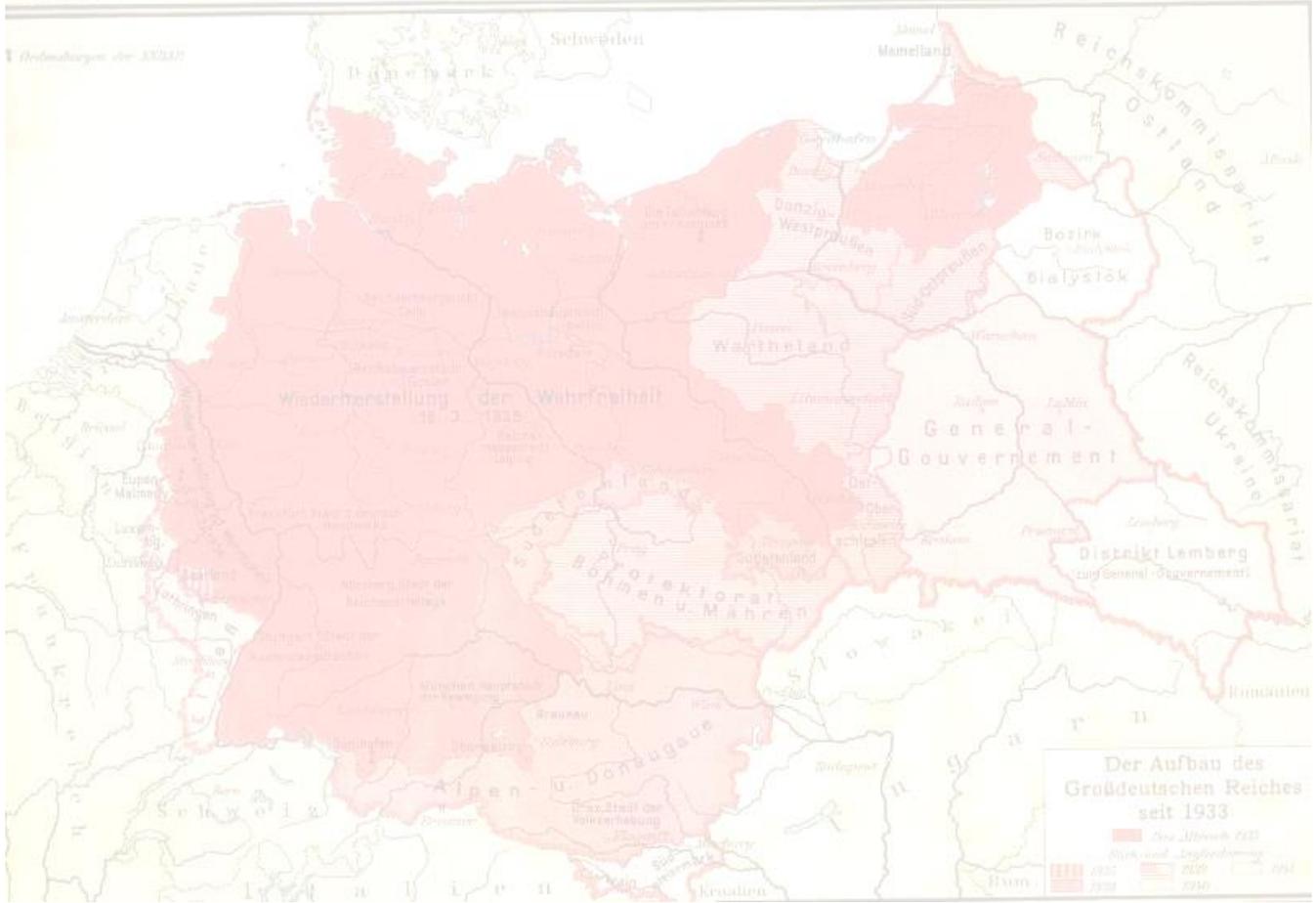




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Großdeutschland als Lebensraum

Kilometer 13



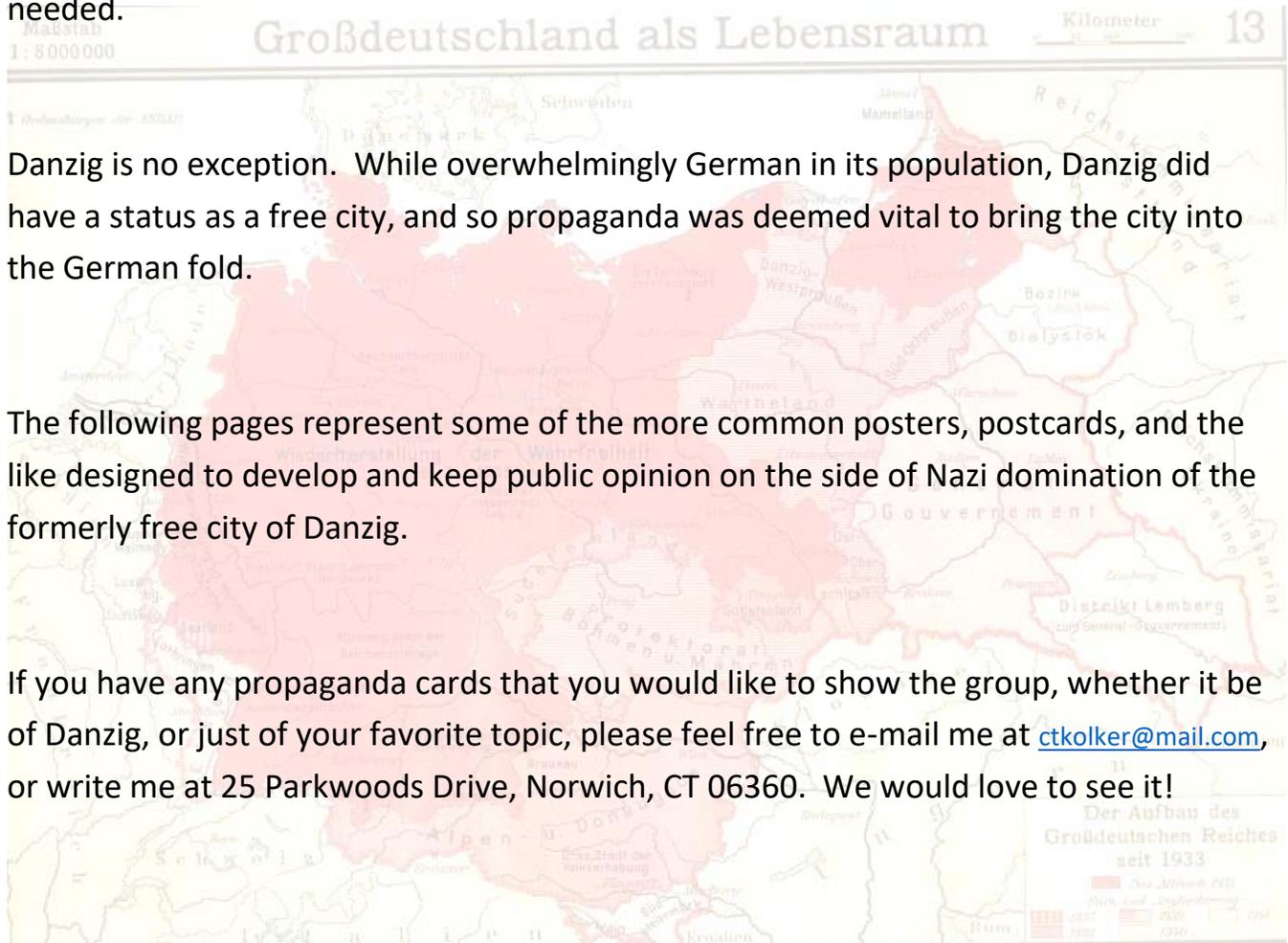
A Danzig Pictorial – Postcards and Propaganda of the Nazi Era in Danzig

Control. That's what it came down to for so much of the diabolical schemes of the Nazi party. Propaganda results where control of the hearts and minds of the citizenry is needed.

Danzig is no exception. While overwhelmingly German in its population, Danzig did have a status as a free city, and so propaganda was deemed vital to bring the city into the German fold.

The following pages represent some of the more common posters, postcards, and the like designed to develop and keep public opinion on the side of Nazi domination of the formerly free city of Danzig.

If you have any propaganda cards that you would like to show the group, whether it be of Danzig, or just of your favorite topic, please feel free to e-mail me at ctkolker@mail.com, or write me at 25 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360. We would love to see it!



Maßstab
1: 8000000

↑ *Ordnungszahlen über 333333*

Kilometer 13

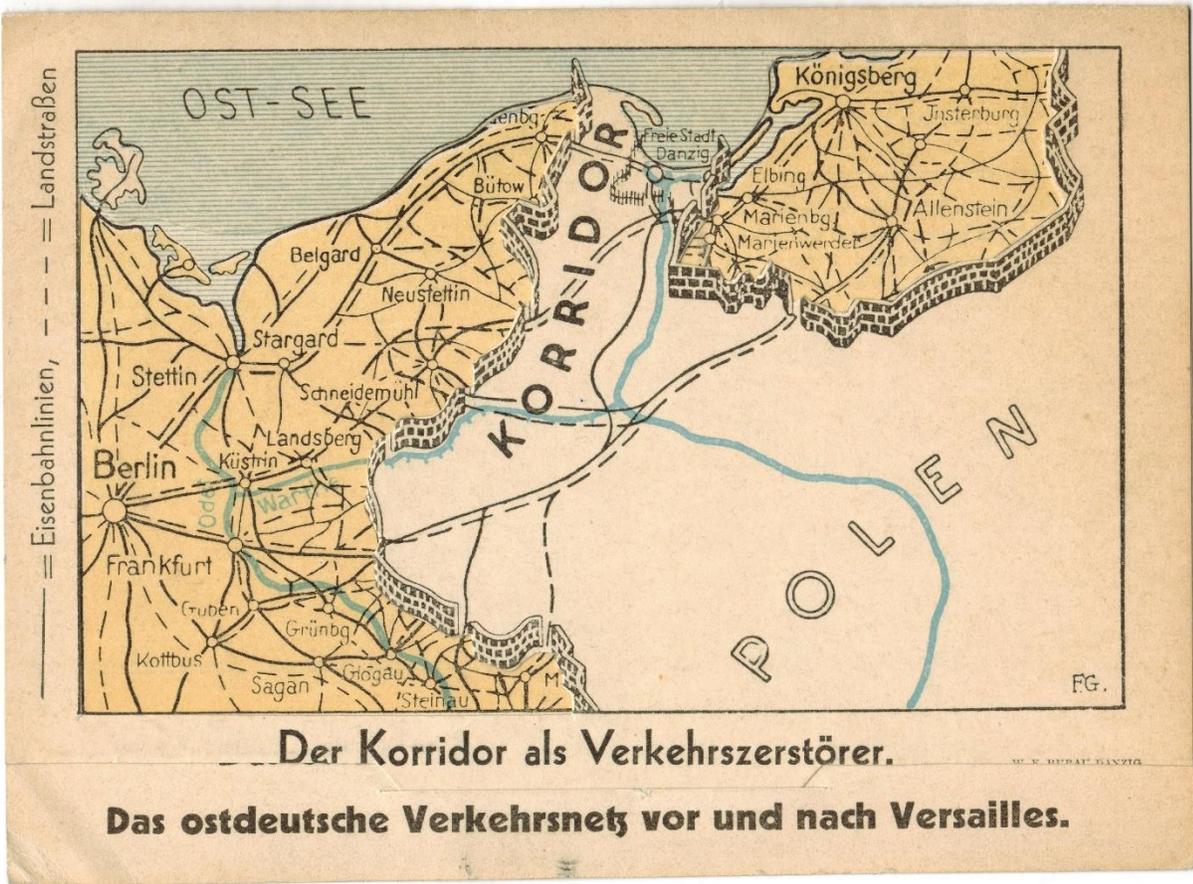


**DANZIG
IST DEUTSCH**

THE PROTOTYPICAL DANZIG PROPAGANDA CARD, "DANZIG IS GERMAN" SUMMARIZES THE NAZI ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CITY.

Der Aufbau des
Großdeutschen Reiches

■	Das Deutsche Reich
■	Neu- und Eingliederung
■	1937
■	1939
■	1941
■	1942

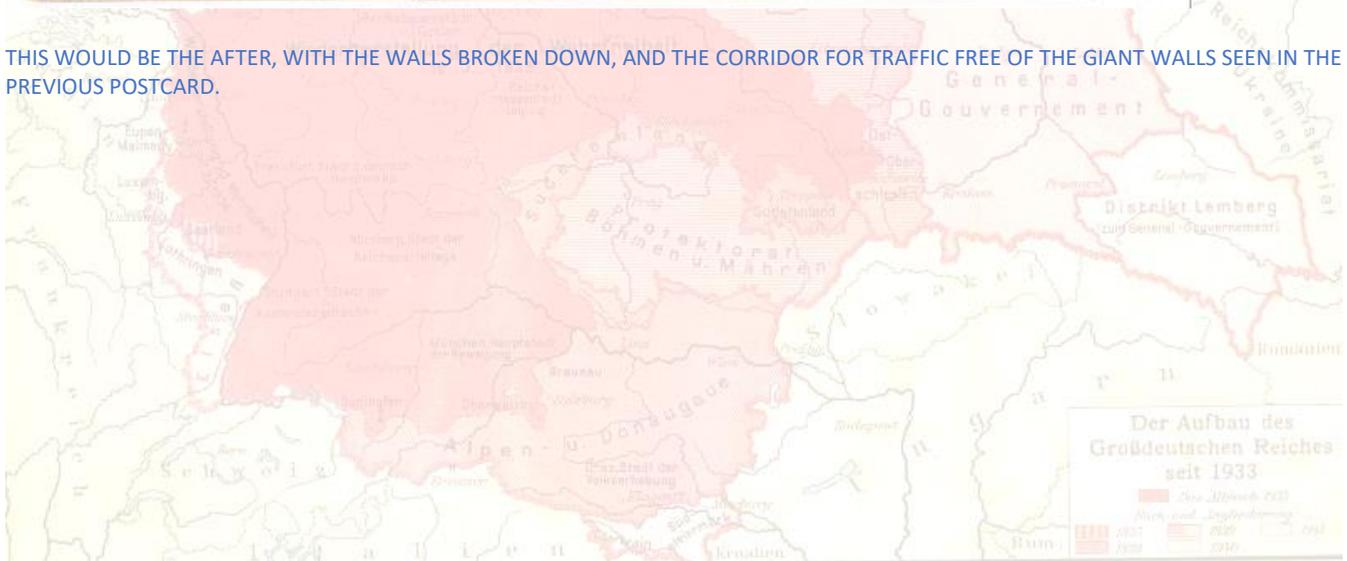


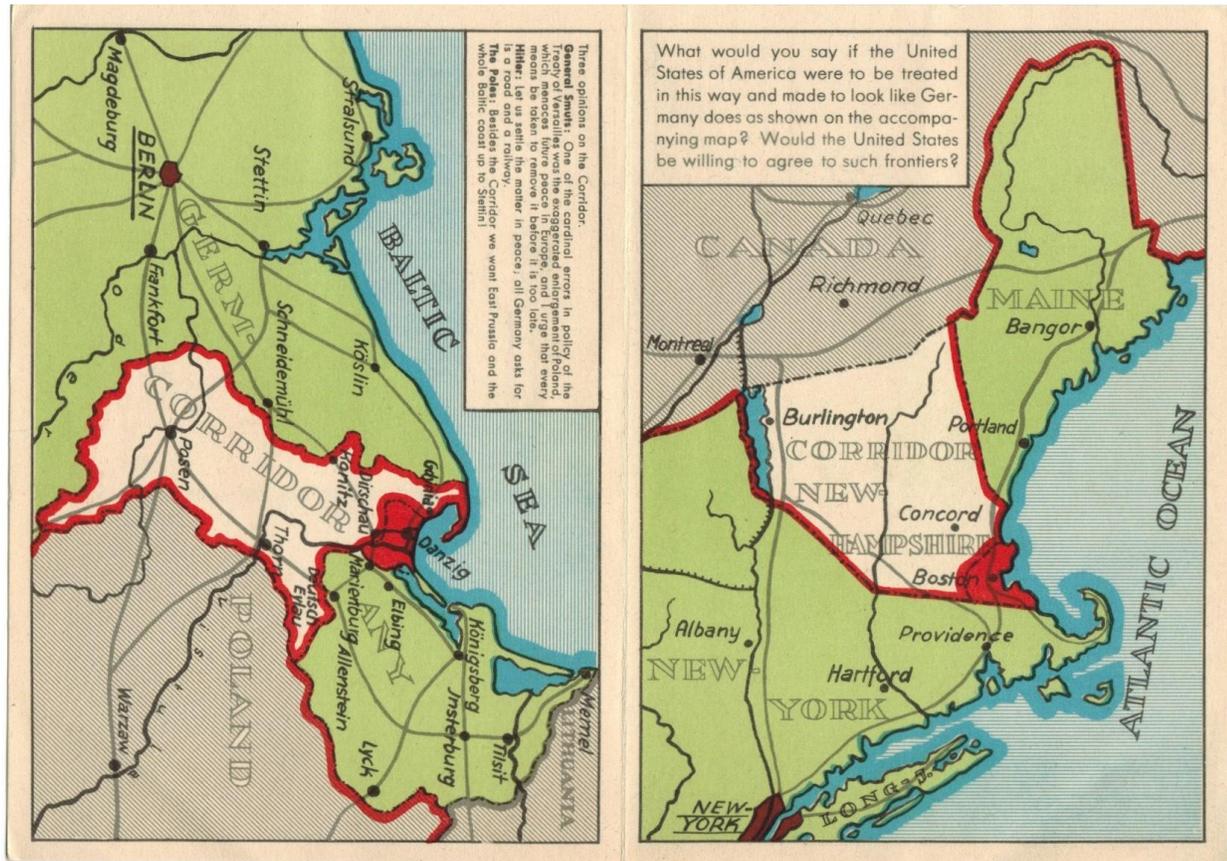
" THE CORRIDOR AS TRAFFIC DESTROYER. THE EAST GERMAN TRAFFIC NETWORK BEFORE AND AFTER VERSAILLES." IT SEEMS THE MAKERS OF THIS POSTCARD DID NOT THINK HIGHLY OF THE TREATY ENDING WORLD WAR I, WHICH CUT GERMANY IN THE NORTHEAST INTO TWO PARTS.

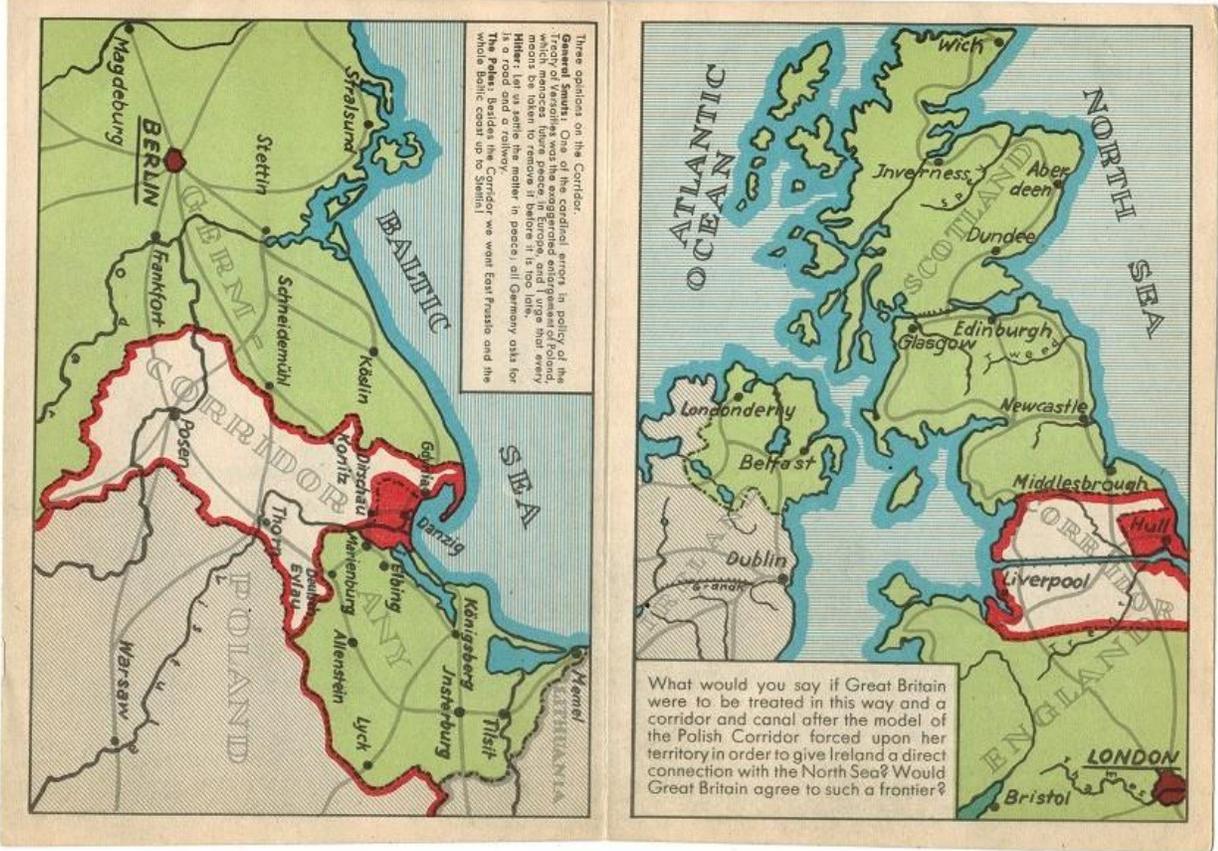




THIS WOULD BE THE AFTER, WITH THE WALLS BROKEN DOWN, AND THE CORRIDOR FOR TRAFFIC FREE OF THE GIANT WALLS SEEN IN THE PREVIOUS POSTCARD.







ANOTHER PROPAGANDA CARD EXPLAINING THAT GREAT BRITAIN WOULD NOT LIKE ITS EMPIRE CUT IN HALF BETWEEN SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND.



Maßstab
1: 8000000

↑ *Ordnungsbogen über 1933/34*

Ansicht von

Bohnen
Eupen
Malmedy
Luxemburg
Aachen
Münster

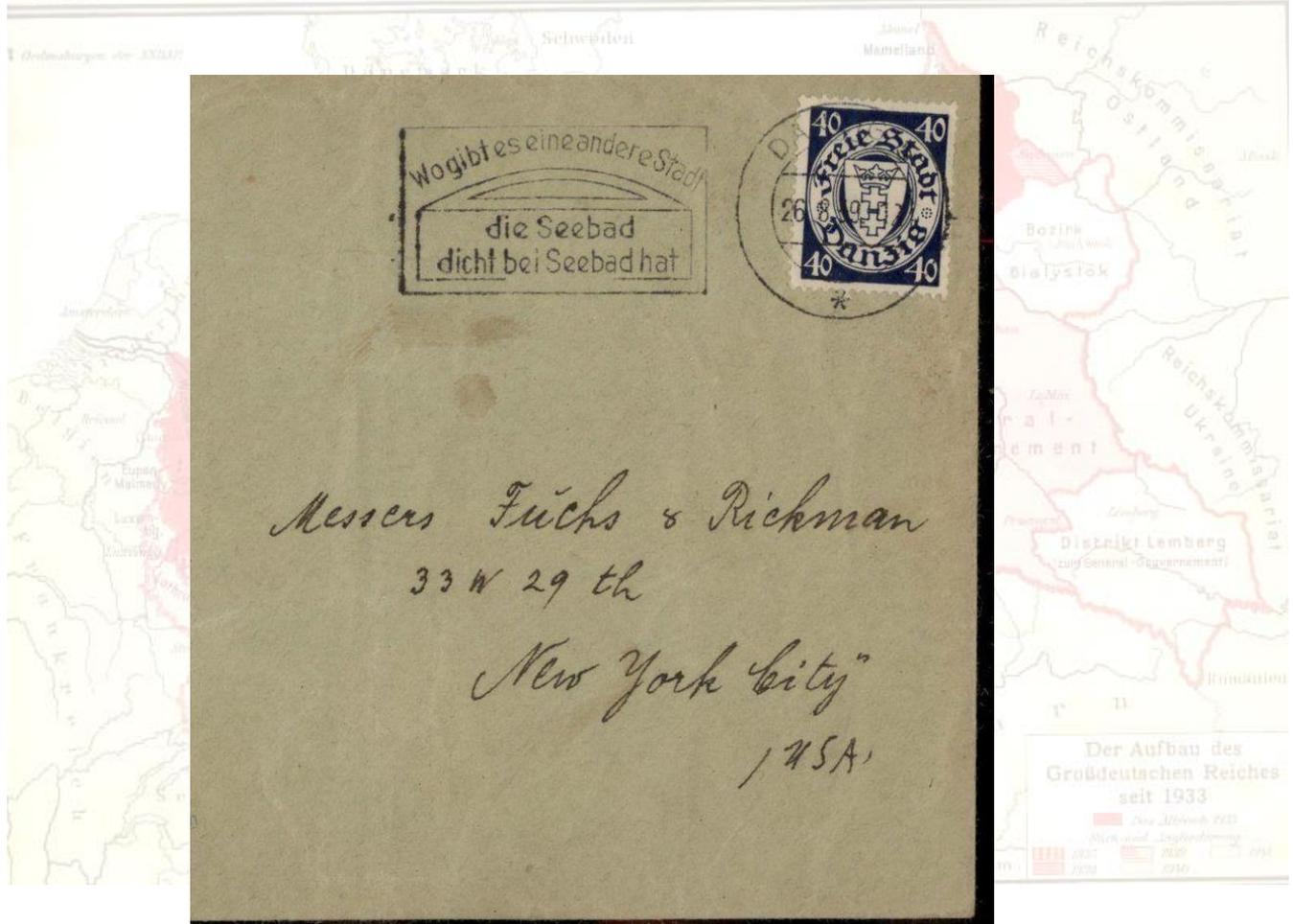


"DANZIG IS GERMAN" (AND APPARENTLY NAZI, BY ALL THE FLAGS ON THIS POSTCARD)

Maßstab
1: 8 000 000

Großdeutschland als Lebensraum

Kilometer 13



A COMMON STAMP ON A COMMON LETTER OF INTERWAR DANZIG, COMMENTING ON DANZIG AS A SEASIDE RESORT.

Maßstab
1: 8000000

Großdeutschland als Lebensraum

Kilometer 13



A LITTLE HELP WITH TRANSLATION WOULD BE HELPFUL. LET ME KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS!!

Maßstab 1: 8000000
Großdeutschland als Lebensraum
Kilometer 13



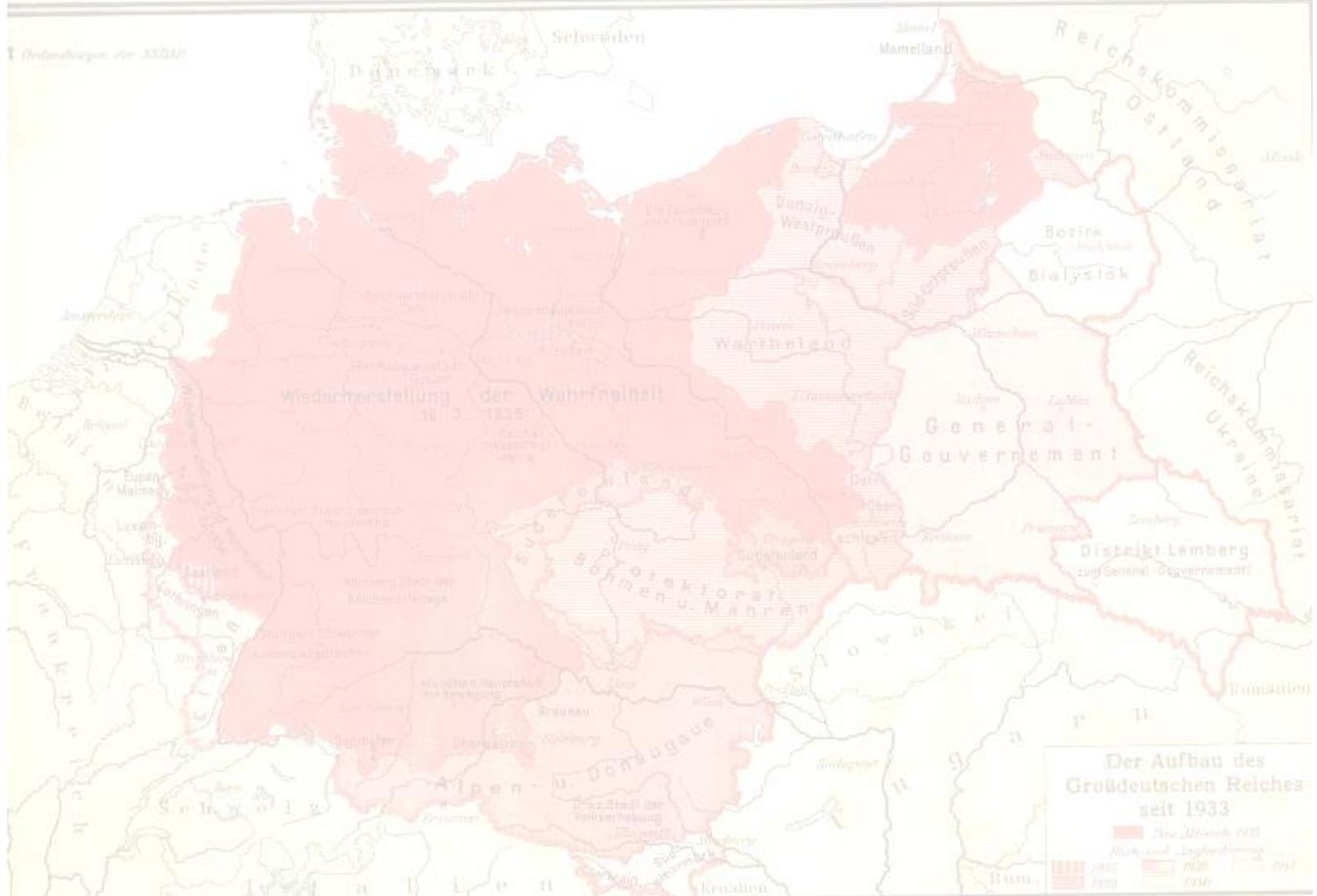
Hitler saluting the re-taking of Danzig. From GermanPostalHistory.com, it is for sale there!!!

Maßstab
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Großdeutschland als Lebensraum

Kilometer

13



Trivia

Here we go again! This last time, the trivia went a bit better, as I checked with different sources before I wrote the questions. Still, trivia at times remains a favorite, judging from the feedback that I get.

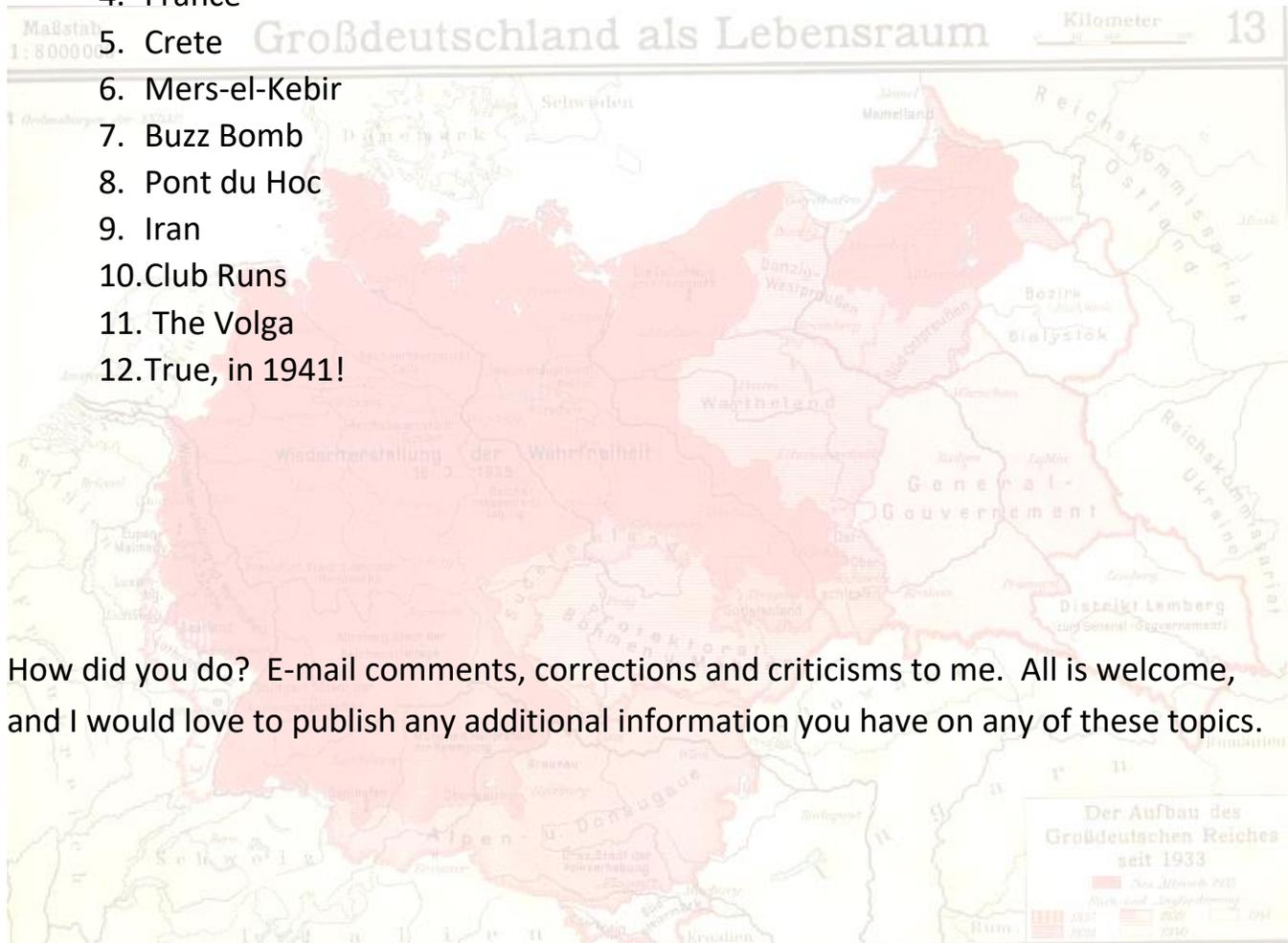
Maßstab 1: 8000000
Großdeutschland als Lebensraum
Kilometer 13

I have some real headscratchers here today, so without further delay, here are the latest questions designed to stump, infuriate, and perhaps even educate a bit:

1. What was the name for Spanish volunteers in the German military?
2. What 3 cities were Hitler's main objectives when he invaded the Soviet Union?
3. What was the name of the small paratrooper unit who landed in Normandy with the objective of destroying the Douve River Bridge? *Hint: They wore Native American war paint.*
4. What country gave Japan its Southeast Asian territories when being conquered by Nazi Germany?
5. On which island was known for having the first major civilian resistance during the war?
6. What was the only battle of WWII that pitted Britain against France (not Vichy France)? *Major hint: Britain was attempting to disable French ships so they could not subsequently be used by Germany*
7. What was the nickname of the V-1 flying rocket that was launched at London in 1944?
8. At Normandy, what was the name of the cliffs that the 2nd Ranger Battalion had to scale while under fire from German troops?
9. What Middle-Eastern country did Britain and the Soviet Union invade in 1941?
10. What was the name of the Allied supply runs to the island of Malta?
11. What was the major river in play during the Battle of Stalingrad?
12. True or False. German ships attacked Australian-controlled islands in 1941.

Trivia Answers

1. The Blue Divisions
2. Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev
3. Filthy 13
4. France
5. Crete
6. Mers-el-Kebir
7. Buzz Bomb
8. Pont du Hoc
9. Iran
10. Club Runs
11. The Volga
12. True, in 1941!



How did you do? E-mail comments, corrections and criticisms to me. All is welcome, and I would love to publish any additional information you have on any of these topics.

For Sale

We do have a few items for sale:

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).

E-mail me at kolkermd@att.net or write to : Christopher Kolker, 25 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360, for orders or for questions.

Thanks!!!!

Maßstab
1: 8000000

Großdeutschland als Lebensraum

Kilometer 13

