THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

A Study Group of the Germany

Philatelic Society

GERMAN POSTAL RATES

January 30, 1933 – May 8, 1945

By

Bob Ferguson

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INTRODUCTION

The present Monograph has been compiled to present an easy-to-access publication which includes all the basic postal rates used in the Third Reich between January 30, 1933 and May 8, 1945.

These Postal Rate Tables were originally published in the ***Third Reich Study Group Bulletin*** in Issues No. 162 – 164, during 2006, and were compiled by Bob Ferguson.

There are certainly other compilations of German Postal Rates available, and there may be one that is even more complete. An earlier article on this subject prepared by Jim Lewis, and appeared in Issue No. 66. In my examination of that article, and comparison with this one by Bob Ferguson, I found a few places where the dates when rates changed were reported differently. It further appears that Ferguson's article has some additional rates for mail classes not included in Jim Lewis's article. As a result, I chose to make it simple for anyone interested in rates to access this initially published article, which is included following the primary article.

Shortly after Bob Ferguson began his series on Third Reich Postal Rates, Ben Beede prepared a short article for the January 1998 (Whole No. 126) issue of the Bulletin in which he described the resources he had used, and to complete the present publication, this article is appended to the end of this monograph.

A Bonus Feature

While visiting the German Philatelic Society website, I happened to discover a file which included a summary of postal rates used in Germany for the years 1918-1923, the period of inflation immediately following the Great War. In the hopes that information may be useful to others who might collect other periods of German postal history, I will attempt to provide directions to access this file, as I was unable to determine how to access the file directly.

The file is found under the section for the Minneapolis/St Paul, MN Chapter of the GPS, which is found at the following link.

http://www.germanyphilatelicsocietyusa.org/chapters/tc/screen1366.html

I was unable to find a link from the GPS home page through their Chapters section, so this link is important.

At the left of this page is a black box with a series of options. One of these is titled **Postal Rates.** When you select this feature, you will be directed to a page with these Rates. There is an option to download the rates in a PDF file. As I have no experience with this area of German postal history, I cannot vouch for the accuracy or completeness of these rates, but offer them as a service to the collecting community. If you discover that there are errors, please feel free to being them to my attention, but more importantly, contact the operator of the website so they can revise and correct their source document.

November 2018. I went ahead and added a PDF version of this set of German Postal Rates to the present Monograph.

Mike Ludeman
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November 2018

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German Postal Rates from January 30, 1933 to May 8, 1945

by Bob Ferguson

I. Internal Rates (Part 1)

1.) **LOCAL LETTER**

30 January 1933 – 30 November 1933
to 20 gm -------- 8 Pf
20-250 gm -------15 Pf

1 December 1933 – 8 May 1945
to 20 gm -------- 8 Pf
20-250 gm -------16 Pf
250-500 gm -------20 Pf

15 May 1938 – 8 May 1945
1 Kg -------- 30 Pf

2.) **INTERCITY LETTER**

30 January 1933 – 30 November 1933
to 20 gm -------- 12 Pf
20-250 gm ------- 25 Pf
250-500 gm ------- 40 Pf

1 December 1933 – 8 May 1945
to 20 gm -------12 Pf
20-250 gm -------24 Pf.
250-500 gm -------40 Pf

15 May 1938 – 8 May 1945
1 Kg -------- 60 Pf

3.) **POSTCARD**

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945
Local -------- 5 Pf
Intercity---------6 Pf

4.) **PAID REPLY POSTCARD**

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945
Local --------10 Pf
Intercity---------12 Pf

5.) **SHIP MAIL**

Mail posted aboard a ship received a special ship's cancel and was turned over to the regular postal system for dispatch when the ship reached port. Inland or foreign rates applied according to the location of the addressee.

INTERNAL RATES (Cont.)

6.) **PRINTED MATTER *(DRUCKSACHEN)***

LETTER

30 January 1933 – 31 July 1933

to 20 gm--------4 Pf
20-50 gm ------ 5 Pf
50-100 gm ------ 8 Pf
100 –250 gm-------15 Pf
250-500 gm ------30 Pf

1 August 1933 – 30 November 1933

to 20 gm--------4 Pf
20-50 gm ------ 4 Pf
50-100 gm ------ 8 Pf
100 –250 gm-------15 Pf
250-500 gm ------30 Pf

1 December 1933 – 12 August 1944

to 20 gm--------3 Pf
20-50 gm ------ 4 Pf
50-100 gm ------ 8 Pf
100 –250 gm-------15 Pf
250-500 gm ------30 Pf

POSTCARD

30 January 1933 – 12 August 1944

3 Pf

POSTCARD WITH REPLY CARD

(with advertising on reply card)

30 January 1933 – 30 November 1933

4 Pf

1 December 1933 – 8 May 1945

3 Pf

7.) **BRAIL** (*BLINDENSCHRIFT*)

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

Local --------10 Pf
Intercity--------12 Pf

INTERNAL RATES (Cont.)

8.) **INSURED MAIL** (*WERTSENDUNGEN*)

I.) WAX SEALED LETTERS AND PARCELS

(30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945)

to 20 gm -------- 8 Pf

20-250 gm -------15 Pf

Rate = Basic letter or parcel rate

+ Handling fee (*BEHANDLUNGSGEBUHR*)

+ Insurance fee (*VERSICHERUNGSGEBUHR*)

Handling fee = 40 Pf (Declared value to 100 RM)

50 Pf (Declared value over 100 RM)

Insurance fee = 10 Pf for each 500RM od declared value

II.) PARCELS WITHOUT WAXED SEALS (*Unversiegelte Wertpaket*)

Limits of declared value to be eligible for insurance without waxed seals:

30 January 1933 – 14 April 1937 ---- 300RM

15 April 1937 – 12 March 1945------ 500RM

13 March 1945 – 82 May 1945------- 300RM

30 January 1933 – 31 July 1933

Rate = Basic parcel rate

+ 10 Pf (Handling fee)

+ 10 Pf (Insurance fee)

1 August 1933 – 8 May 1945

Rate = Basic parcel rate

+ 10 Pf (Insurance fee)

(Handling fee rescinded 31 July 1933)

9.) **POSTAL CHECK LETTER** (*POSTCHECKBRIEFE*)

30 January 1933 – 30 November 1941

Rate = 5 Pf

(No charge after 30 November 1941)

Required preprinted yellow envelope available from Postal Check Office (*Postcheckamt*)

10.) **POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK LETTER** (*POSTSPARKASSENBRIEF*)

1 January 1933 – 31 January 1942

Rate = 5 Pf

(No charge after 31 January 1942)

Required preprinted blue envelope available from Post Office Savings Bank (*Postsparkasse*)

INTERNAL RATES (Cont.)

11.) **CIRCULARS** (*POSTWURFSENDUNGEN*)

Distributed by the post office to an entire class of addresses rather than individual addresses

I) PRINTED MATTER

30 January 1933 – 31 July 1933
to 50 gm -------- 2 Pf
1 August 1933 – 30 November 1933
to 20 gm -------- 1-1/2 Pf
20-50 gm ------- 2 Pf
1 December 1933 – 30 June 1936
to 20 gm --------- 1 Pf
20-50 gm ------- 2 Pf
1 July 1936 – 26 September 1939
to 20 gm -------- 1-1/2 Pf
20-50 gm ------- 2 Pf

II) MIXED SENDING

30 January 1933 – 31 July 1933
to 20 gm -------- 5 Pf
1 August 1933 – 28 February 1935
to 20 gm -------- 4 Pf
1 March 1935 – 26 September 1939
to 20 gm -------- 4 Pf
20-100 gm ------- 8 Pf

12.) **MIXED SENDING** (*MISCHSENDUNGEN*))

Packet containing a mixture of printed matter, samples and business papers.

30 January 1933 – 31 July 1933
to 250 gm -------- 15 Pf
250-500 gm ---------30 Pf
500-1000 gm --------40 Pf
1 August 1933 – 121 August 1944
to 100 gm ------- 8 Pf
100-250 gm ---------15 Pf
250-500 gm ---------30 Pf

13.) **SMALL PARCELS HANDLED AS FIRST CLASS MAIL** (*BRIEFPOST*))

I.) Briefpackchen: Weight to 1 Kg
Rate = 60 Pf (30 January 1933 – 14 May 1938)

II.) Packchern: Weight to 2 Kg
Rate = 40 Pf (15 May 1938 – 12 August 1944)

INTERNAL RATES (Cont.)

14.) **BUSINESS PAPERS** (*GESCHAFTSPAPIERE*))

30 January 1933 – 31 July 1933
to 250 gm-------15 Pf
250-500 gm ------30 Pf
500-1000 gm ----- 40 Pf

1 August 1933 – 12 August 1944
to 100 gm------- 8 Pf
100-250 gm ------15 Pf
250-500 gm ----- 30 Pf

15.) **SAMPLES** (*WARENPROBEN/MUSTER/PROBE*)
Rates same as for business papers

16.) **PARCEL POST** (*POSTGUT*)
Postgut was introduced on 15 January 1933 for bulk transport of packages. Fees were lower than for ordinary parcel post and effective 1 October 1934 green packetcards (Postgutkarten) were used.

30 January 1933 – 14 February 1933

		1 Zone	2 Zone	3 Zone	4 Zone	5 Zone	
		- 75 Km	-150 Km	-375 Km	- 705 Km	+ 705 Km	
	to 5 Kg	0.35 RM	0.45 RM	0.45 RM	0.60 RM	0.65 RM	
	to 6 Kg	0.40 RM	0.55 RM	0.55 RM	0.80 RM	0.90 RM	
	to 7 Kg	0.45 RM	0.60 RM	0.65 RM	1.00 RM	1.20 RM	

15 February 1933 – 12 August 1944

		1 Zone	2 Zone	3 Zone	4 Zone	5 Zone	
		- 75 Km	-150 Km	-375 Km	- 705 Km	+ 705 Km	
	to 5 Kg	0.30 RM	0.40 RM	0.40 RM	0.50 RM	0.60 RM	
	to 6 Kg	0.35 RM	0.45 RM	0.50 RM	0.60 RM	0.80 RM	
	to 7 Kg	0.40 RM	0.50 RM	0.60 RM	0.70 RM	1.00 RM	

RATE = FEE FROM TABLE

Note: Part 2 of this article will appear in TRSG Bulletin 163

German Postal Rates from January 30, 1933 to May 8, 1945

by Bob Ferguson

I. Internal Rates (Part 2)

17.) **ORDINARY PARCEL POST**

30 January 1933 – 12 August 1944

	1 Zone - 75 Km	2 Zone -150 Km	3 Zone -375 Km	4 Zone - 705 Km	5 Zone + 705 Km
to 5 Kg	0.30 RM	0.40 RM	0.60 RM	0.60 RM	0.60 RM
6 Kg	0.35 RM	0.50 RM	0.80 RM	0.90 RM	1.00 RM
7 Kg	0.40 RM	0.60 RM	1.00 RM	1.20 RM	1.40 RM
8 Kg	0.45 RM	0.70 RM	1.20 RM	1.50 RM	1.80 RM
9 Kg	0.50 RM	0.80 RM	1.40 RM	1.80 RM	2.20 RM
10 Kg	0.55 RM	0.90 RM	1.60 RM	2.10 RM	2.60 RM
11 Kg	0.65 RM	1.05 RM	1.80 RM	2.35 RM	2.90 RM
12 Kg	0.75 RM	1.20 RM	2.00 RM	2.60 RM	3.20 RM
13 Kg	0.85 RM	1.35 RM	2.20 RM	2.85 RM	3.50 RM
14 Kg	0.95 RM	1.50 RM	2.40 RM	3.10 RM	3.80 RM
15 Kg	1.05 RM	1.65 RM	2.60 RM	3.35 RM	4.10 RM
16 Kg	1.15 RM	1.80 RM	2.60 RM	3.35 RM	4.40 RM
17 Kg	1.25 RM	1.95 RM	3.00 RM	3.85 RM	4.70 RM
18 Kg	1.35 RM	2.10 RM	3.20 RM	4.10 RM	5.00 RM
19 Kg	1.45 RM	2.25 RM	3.40 RM	4.35 RM	5.30 RM
20 Kg	1.55 RM	2.40 RM	3.60 RM	4.60 RM	5.60 RM

RATE = FEE FROM TABLE + 15 Pfg DELIVERY FEE (*Zustellgebühr*)
Maximum weight accepted after 30 september 1942 = 15 Kg

13 August 1944 – 8 May 1945

	Nahzone - 75 Km	Fernzone + 75 Km
to 5 Kg	0.30 RM	0.60 RM
6 Kg	0.35	0.80
7 Kg	0.40	1.00
8 Kg	0.45	1.20
9 Kg	0.50	1.40
10 Kg	0.55	1.60
11 Kg	0.65	1.80
12 Kg	0.75	2.00
13 Kg	0.85	2.20
14 Kg	0.95	2.40
15 Kg	1.05	2.620

RATE = FEE FROM TABLE (Delivery fee was rescinded on 12 August 1944)

INTERNAL RATES (Cont.)

18.) **C.O.D.** (*NACHNAHME*)

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

Rate = Basic rate
+ Presentation fee
PRESENTATION FEE (*VORZEIGEGEBÜHR*) = 20 Pfg.

19.) **POSTAL COLLECTION ORDER** (*POSTAUFTRAG*)

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

Rate = Basic letter rate
+ Registration fee
+ Presentation fee
PRESENTATION FEE (*VORZEIGEGEBÜHR*) = 20 Pfg.

20.) **NEWSPAPER PRINTED MATTER.** (*ZEITUNGSBRUCKSACHEN*)

Rates available only to certain senders (e.g. newspaper and magazine publishers) in mailings to customers

1 May 1939 – 8 May 1945

to 50 gm - 3 Pfg.
50 to 100 gm - 4 Pfg.
100 to 250 gm - 8 Pfg.
250 to 500 gm - 15 Pfg.
500 to 1000 gm - 30 Pfg.

(From 30 January 1933 – 30 April 1939 printed matter rates applied)

21.) **REGISTRATION** (*EINSCHREIBEN*)

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

Fee = 30 Pfg.

22.) **STREETCAR DISPATCH** (*STRASSENBAHN*)

The streetcars in Hamburg had mail boixes attached to their back platforms. Mail deposited in these boxes, rather than conventional street boxes, assured that an item of mail would be delivered to the main postoffice (HAMBURG 1) when the streetcar completed its circuit. The special cancel showing both hours and minutes included the word: "*STRASSENBAHN*". Available for letters, postcards, printed matter, samples, business papers and mixed sendings.

30 January 1933 – July 1943

Rate = 5 Pfg. + Basic fee
(Prepayment required)

INTERNAL RATES (Cont.)

23.) **AIRMAIL LETTERS AND CARDS**

Rate = Basic rate + Airmail surcharge

Airmail Surcharges

30 January 1933 – 31 July 1938

to 20 gm - 10 Pfg.
20 - 50 gm - 20 Pfg.
50 - 100 gm - 40 Pfg.
100 - 250 gm - 80 Pfg.
250 - 500 gm - 125 Pfg.
500 - 1000 gm - 250 Pfg.
1000 - 1500 gm - 375 Pfg.
1500 - 2000 gm - 500 Pfg.

1 August 1938 – 8 May 1945

to 20 gm - 5 Pfg.
Each additional 20 gm- 5 Pfg.

24.) **AIRMAIL PARCEL POST**

Rate = Basic parcel rate + Airmail surcharge

Airmail Surcharges

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

to 1 Kg ----- 100 Pfg. to each of Zones 1 through 5
to 375 Kg --- each additional 0.5 Kg = 20 Pfg (Zones 1, 2 & 3)
over 375 Kg --- each additional 0.5 Kg = 40 Pfg (Zones 4 & 5)

25.) **ZEPPELIN**

30 January 1933 – 10 May 1934

Letter (to 20 gm) ---- 150 Pfg.
Card -------- 75 Pfg.

11 May 1934 – Auhgust 1939

Letter (to 20 gm) ---- 100 Pfg.
Card -------- 50 Pfg.

26.) **PNEUMATIC MAIL** (*ROHRPOST*)

(Berlin, Munchen and Wien)

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

Rate = Basic rate + Rohrpost fee (10 Pf.)

Allowed for letters to 20 gm (to 100 gm from 15 July 1938) and postcards. From 18 September 1939 also printed matter, money orders and registered letters and postcards.

INTERNAL RATES (Cont.)

27.) **VERIFICATION OF ADDRESS** (*AUFTRAG ZUR PRUFUNG EINER POSTANSCHRIFT*)
Obtained by sending a postcard to the responsible post office.

30 January 1933 – 27 March 1945
Fee= 3 Pfg.

28.) **BULK NEWSPAPER DISPATCH** *(BAHNHOFSZEITUNG)*
Used by publishers for dispatch of newspapers to railway book shops and newspaper distribution centers. From 14 December 1943 allowed for dispatch to retailers.
30 January 1933 – 28 February 1935

to 100 gm - 5 Pfg.
100 to 250 gm - 10 Pfg.
250 to 500 gm - 20 Pfg.
500 to 1000 gm - 30 Pfg.
1000 to 2000 gm - 60 Pfg.
each additional 1000 gm to 20 Kg - 20 Pfg.

1 March 1935 –8 May 1945

to 100 gm - 5 Pfg.
100 to 250 gm - 10 Pfg.
250 to 500 gm - 20 Pfg.
500 to 1000 gm - 30 Pfg.
1000 to 1500 gm - 45 Pfg.
1500 to 2000 gm - 60 Pfg.
each additional 500 gm to 20 Kg - 10 Pfg.

29.) **DELIVERY TO ADDRESSEE IN PERSON** *(EINGENHANDIG)*
1 August 1933 –8 May 1945
Used for registered or insured mail or money orders.
Fee= 10 Pfg.

30.) **DOCUMENT DELIVERY** *(ZUSTELLUNGSURKUNDE FÜR BRIEF)*
Used for legal documents which required address's attention and then were returned to sender
30 January 1933 – 31 May 1943

Rate = Basicletter rate
+ Delivery fee (30 Pfg.)
+ Letter rate for return of document to sender.

INTERNAL RATES (Cont.)

31.) **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT** *(RUCKSCHEIN*

Used for parcels, registered mail and insured mail.

27 August 1927 – 8 May 1945

Fee =30 Pfg.

32.) **SPECIAL (EXPRESS) DELIVERY FOR PARCEL POST**

From 12 September 1941 through the end of the service on 12 August 1944, the special delivery fee was collected from the recipient since the Reichspost could not guarantee the service in advance due to manpower shortages.

1 August 1927 – 11 September 1941
Local delivery - 60 Pfg.
Non-local delivery - 1.20 RM

12 September 1941 – 12 August 1944
Local delivery - 45 Pfg.
Non-local delivery - 1.05 RM

33.) **POSTAGE DUE** *(NACHGEBÜHR)*

Postage due can arise from underfranking, as a forwarding fee or in connection with certain official mail. For underfranked mail, postage due was the deficit plus a penalty of 50% of the deficit. For forwarded mail, only the deficit (if any) was due.

34.) **PRIORITY DISPATCH FOR PARCELS** *(DRINGEND)*

Available for ordinary parcel post, postgut and non-wax sealed insured parcels.

1 August 1927 – 12 August 1944

Fee =1 RM.

35.) **LATE FEE**

27 August 1927 – 8 May 1945

Fee =20 Pfg.

INTERNAL RATES (Cont.)

36.) **GENERAL DELIVERY/POSTE RESTANTE** *(POSTLAGERND)*

Storage Fees for Parcels

30 January 1933 – 31 March 1933

Fee per day = 15 Pfg.
Maximum fee - 4 RM

1 April 1933 – 31 August 1943

Fee per day = 10 Pfg.
Maximum fee - 2 RM

(No storage fee for letters)

37.) **DELIVERY RECEIPT FOR PARCELS** *(EINLIEFERUNGSSCHEINE)*

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

Fee = 10 Pfg.for each item (50 Pfg. maximum for a multiple sending)
(No charge for Registered, Insured Fees or C.O.D. Mail)

38.) **FEE FOR UNDELIVERABLE MAIL** *(UNZUSTELLBARKEITSMELDUNG)*

Required for undeliverable parcels, money orders and insured mail.

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

Fee = 30 Pfg.

39.) **FEE FOR SPECIAL CANCEL** *(SONDERSTEMPEL)*

On 26 January 1943 a stamp (Mi. # 830) was issued whose primary purpose was to pay the 3 Pfg. fee for application of special cancels. The fee went to the Fuhrer's Kulturfond.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The balance of this article detailing Foreign Postal Rates will appear in TRSG Bulletin 164

German Postal Rates from January 30, 1933 to May 8, 1945

by Bob Ferguson

II. FOREIGN RATES

1.) **LETTER**

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

to 20 gm -------- 25 Pfg.

each additional 20 gm ---------15 Pfg.

2.) **LETTER TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

Bohemia & Moravia (to 15 March 1939) Slovakia (to 31 August 1942)

to 20 gm -------- 20 Pfg.

each additional 20 gm -------- 15 Pfg.

3.) **LETTER TO HUNGARY**

(to 20 June 1942)

to 20 gm -------- 20 Pfg.

each additional 20 gm -------- 10 Pfg.

4.) **POSTCARD**

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

15 Pfg.

5.) **POSTCARD TO HUNGARY**

(to 20 June 1942)

10 Pfg.

6.) **POSTCARD TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

Bohemia & Moravia (to 15 March 1939) Slovakia (to 31 August 1942)

10 Pfg.

7.) **PRINTED MATTER**

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

to 50 gm -------- 5 Pfg.

each additional 50 gm ---------5 Pfg.

8.) **BUSINESS PAPERS AND SAMPLES**

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

to 50 gm -------- 5 Pfg.

Minimum rate---- 25 Pfg. (Business papers)

10 Pfg. (Samples)

9.) **REGISTRATION FEE**

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

30 Pfg.

10.) **SPECIAL (EXPRESS) DELIVERY FEE**

30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945

50 Pfg.

FOREIGN RATES (Cont.)

11.) **AIRMAIL SURCHARGES FOR EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS**

30 January 1933 – 30 April 1934: 20 Pfg. per 20 gm.
1 May 1934 – 31 July 1938: 15 Pfg. per 20 gm.
1 August 1938 – 8 May 1945: 10 Pfg. per 20 gm.

12.) **CATAPULT (OR ADVANCED FLIGHT) DISPATCH** (*SCHLEUDERFLUG/VORAUSFLUG*)

Mail posted on board the steamships "Bremen" and "Europa" could be flown from the ship to port in advance of the ship's arrival: Approximately 400-500 Km from destuination (either New York or Southampton) a small aircraft was catapulted into flight ((*SCHLEUDERFLUG).* Al lsuch mail received a seperate flight cancellation. Catapult flights were made as follows:

1933 – May through October
1934 – May through September
1935 – May through October

The last such flight was on 9 October 1935 from the "Bremen" to Southampton.

Catapult Mail Surcharge (*Vorausfluggebuhr*)
1933/1934 –50 Pfg.
1935 –25 Pfg
RATE = CATAPULT SURCHARGE + BASIC FEE

13.) **SUPPLEMENTARY FLIGHT** (*NACHBRINGEFLUG*) **SURCHARGES**

Provided airmail service (from Koln) to the steamship at Cherbourg for subsequent surface dispatch.

to October 1934 ---------- 30 Pfg. for each 20 gm.
May 1935 – May 1938------- 15 Pfg. for each 20 gm
June 1938 – October 1939---- 10 Pfg. for each 20 gm.

(Note: These rates do not coincide with airmail surcharges to France)

14.) **GENERALGOUVERNMENT**

From 1 April 1940 German internal rates were used for mail to the Generalgouvernment.

15.) **BOHEMIA & MORAVIA**

For mail to the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia, German internal rates were phased in over a period of time during 1940:

1940 Date	**Type of Mail Service**
1 April :	Letter, Postcard
17 July :	Express Delivery, Business Papers, Printed Matter, Insured Mail, Parcels, Samples, Braille
1 October:	Delivery in person, Acknowledgement of Receipt, Delivery Receipt for Parcels,Registration, C.O.D.

FOREIGN RATES (Cont.)

16.) RATES TO OCCUPIED AND ALLIED COUNTRIES

Some rates for mail to the following countries were reduced to German internal rates on the dates indicated:

ALBANIA	1 April to 10 September, 1943, then 1 April to 29 December, 1944,
BELGIUM	1 January 1943 to 26 September 1944
BULGARIA	1 September 1942 to 15 September 1944
CROATIA	From 1 July 1943
DENMARK	From 1 June 1942
FINLAND	1 April 1942 to 29 September, 1944
FRANCE	25 August to 12 September, 1944
HUNGARY	From 1 July 1942
ITALY	From 1 January 1942
LUXEMBURG	From 10 May 1940
NETHERLANDS	From 1 January 1942
NORWAY	From 1 September 1942
ROMANIA	15 July 1942 to 12 September 1944
SAN MARINO	From 1 April 1943
SLOVAKIA	From 1 September 1942

Note: Not all postal services were available to all of the above countries.

17.) FRONTIER RATES *(GRENZVERKEHR)*

When the straight line distance from the place of posting to destination did not exceed 30 Kilometers, special rates (approximating internal rates) applied to letters and postcards dispatched to Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands and Switzerland.

Letter Rates # 1		Letter Rates # 2	
To 20 gm	12 Pfg.	To 20 gm	12 Pfg.
20 - 40 gm	25 Pfg.	20 - 40 gm	24 Pfg.
40 - 60 gm	36 Pfg	40 - 60 gm	36 Pfg
Each additional 20 gm	12 Pfg.	Each additional 20 gm	12 Pfg.

Letter Rates # 1	Letter Rates # 2
Belgium -------- to 30 November 1933	1 December 1933 to 31 December 1942
Denmark ------- to 30 November 1933	1 December 1933 to 31 May 1942
Netherlands --- to 30 November 1933	1 December 1933 to 31 December 1941
Switzerland---- to 30 November 1933	1 December 1933 to 8 May 1945

18.) RATES TO PRE-ANSCHLUSS AUSTRIA

1 April 1933 to 12 March 1938

Same as German internal rates

19.) SURCHARGES FOR AIRMAIL FROM NEW YORK

30 January to 30 April 1933:	25 Pfg. per 10 gm.
1 May 1933 to 30 April 1934:	20 Pfg. for first 5 gm, 10 Pfg. for each additional 5 gm
1 May 1934 to 31 July 1938:	15 Pfg. for first 5 gm., 10 Pfg. for each additional 5 gm
1 May 1938 to 15 December 1941:	10 Pfg. for first 5 gm.

(Service suspended from 1 September 1939 to 5 October 1940)

Postal Rate Corrections

by Rex A. Dixon

The following are comments/corrections to Bob Ferguson's 3-part article in Bulletins 162-164

Internal Rates

1.) Omitted is the 250-500 gm local letter rate for the first period which is the same as for second period.

7.) The Braille rates are incorrect. The Brail rate was 3 Pf for up to 5 Kg.

8.) I.) The two lines "to 20 gm...8 Pf" and"20-250 gm...15 Pf." are spurious and should be deleted.

24.) "375 Kg" should read "375 Km" (twice).

26.) Omitted is requirement that until 14 July 1938 pneumatic mail required the express delivery fee to be paid as well as the Rohrpost fee.

32.) Until 11 Sept. 1941, the fees quoted include 15 Pf normal delivery fee. After that date, the 15 pf normal fee was still payable so the reductions in fees quoted are more apparent than real. Also, express delivery fees for letter post were omitted. They are:

30 January 1933 - 12 August 1944
Local delivery - 40 Pf.
Non-local delivery - 80 Pf.

37.) An *Einlieferungschein* is a Dispatch Receipt (certificate of posting) not a Delivery Receipt .

Foreign Rates

3.) & 5.) The end date for these rates to Hungary should be 30 June 1942, not 20 June.

7 - omission.) Inland rates for printed matter applied to Hungary throughout period stated up to the internal weight limit of 500gm.

14.) Internal rates to the General Gouvernment applied from 1 March 1940 not 1 April.

15.) Dates for mail service should read "1 April 1939"; "17 July 1939" and "1 October 1940"

16.) Reduction to Luxembourg (correct English spelling) from 10 May 1940 is misleading. Inland rates applied for the whole period under consideration, from before 30 January 1933 - see below.
The use of German internal rates to the listed countries, excluding Luxembourg, for the listed dates applied, at most, to basic rates for dispatch. It did not apply to ancillary fees such as express delivery, COD, insurance, etc. The exception is the airmail fee from 1 April 1943

18 - omission.) This statement re use of German internal rates to pre-Anschluss Austria also applied to the Saar (until 28 Feb. 1935), to Lithuania including Memel (until 31 Jan. 1936), to Danzig & Luxembourg.

From Ye Olde Ed. Many thanks to TRSG member Rex Dixon for providing these corrections and comments to Bob Ferguson's very fine article on postal rates. While we did not retain Bob's original manuscript, I'm quite certain that some of the errors are due to typos or faulty transcribing by the editorial staff. The only important thing is to provide our membership with the most accurate information possible

Some Literature on Third Reich Postal Rates

by Ben Beede

In my estimation Bob Ferguson's series on "Third Reich Postal Rates" is a welcome addition to our Bulletin. His series may encourage more of our members to collect covers that document particular rates. Building a postal rate collection, especially one which includes the many types of combination covers, i.e. covers showing payment of postage foe several services, is a major challenge.

Tackling postal rates requires a good deal of information about the rates and the services they represent. Sometimes, careful study is required to understand what is meant by a given rate. Hence, the rate collector has a real need for appropriate literature. One might question what we need other than the Lütgens book. Rainer E. Lütgens' study of postal rates *Deutsches Reich Postgebührenkatalog 1923 bis 1945* is an excellent work. Its thorough documentation makes this book even better.

There are other useful references for Third Reich postal rates, however, which is why I decided to write this article. The major limitation to the Lütgens book is that it is confined to domestic German postal rates. Reinhold Schwarzer's *Die Luftpostgebühren für deutsches Briefsendungen nach dem Ausland (1928 – 1945)* importantly complements Lütgens catalog. To the best of my knowledge, Schwarzer's work has never been reviewed in either the German Postal Specialist or the Third Reich Study Group Bulletin. The book lists virtually every postal rate for German airmail services for the years indicated. It is thoroughly based on archival and other research, although the individual postal rates are not foot noted. A great deal of information is included which would be very difficult to locate elsewhere. Many fine covers are illustrated as examples of postal rates. There are other features, such as the inclusion of many pertinent dates and a number of clear outline maps. If you collect Third Reich airmail covers, you need a copy of the Schwarzer book!

Another helpful listing is Paul-Jürgen Hüske's *Deutches Reich: Die Gebühren im Deutschen Reich 1933-1945* issued by INFLA-Berlin in 1989. A considerable amount of information is contained in the fifty pages of this slim book. It is based on official publications, like the Lütgens and Schwarzer books, but individual rates are not documented. While there is an extensive presentation of domestic rates, it is the foreign rate coverage which make this book especially worthwhile for me. About half the book is devoted to foreign rates but not all countries are detailed, just those seventeen European countries with which Germany had agreements authorizing reduced rates. An interesting page contains a table showing which types of mailed items could receive special services such as registration.

In addition to these fine postal history studies, a rate collector may also find much valuable information in publications of the Reichspost during the Third Reich era and other contemporary books and articles. A very useful official publication in my postal history library is the Postbuch issued by the Reichspost in 1934. This 167-page booklet discusses postal, telephone and telegraph rates in considerable detail. For my purposes, it fills the gaps left after using the sources mentioned earlier. It has information bout all foreign rates, not just airmail fees or rates to a few countries.

A book that has come to my attention very recently is *Gebührentafeln für Packets* issued in 1940. What I obtained is Abteilung B of a two-part work, the first section is apparently a commentary on package services. Abteilung B is a highly detailed rate book for packages in international mail service running from pages 97 to 286. This listing goes country by country and a great deal of information is included in addition to rates. The section also includes an intriguing table showing how German currency was converted to gold francs, the international currency concept used by the Universal Postal Union and its members for calculating postage due charges. An interesting feature is that for a number of countries there are statements of current (wartime) postal routes and the post-war routes that were planned. No doubt in 1940 it was still possible for the Germans to be optimistic about the outcome of the conflict!

Two privately published items from the Nazi era deserve some attention in this article. As I noted in the Specialist several years ago, Haddenbrock's *Taschenbuch fur Post ünd Telegraphie* (mine is the 1943 edition) is a very fine source of rate information. The listing for each rate contains a reference to the appropriate section(s) of the Postordung of 1929, which is also reproduced in the book along with other key postal documents. K. Timm's study *Tarifwesen und Tarifpolitik der Deutschen Reichspost* published in 1939 is an entirely different kind of work. Timm discusses the principles that underlay decisions on what to charge for postal, telegraph and telephone services. The book also contains a good deal of information about the structure of the Reichspost in the 1930s.

Athough it was not issued during the Third Reich, H. Hellmuth's *Die Betriebswirtschaftslehre der Deutschen Reichspost im Grundriss*, which appeared in 1929, also contains much material on the setting of rates by the Reichspost. Various other books that contain rate information could be discussed, such as the general rate booklets from 1932 and 1935 that I have, but this article is intended to tell TRSG members about a few useful publications.

To conclude, I want to mention an item that can be utilized effectively in the study of postal rates. *Zahlen-Spiegel der Deutschen Reichspost* was published in 1942 by the Deutschen Institute für Wirtschaftsforschung with the cooperation of the Reichspost. Its statistical tables and charts provide answers to questions about how much mail was actually sent in various rate categories, such as registered mail and C.O.D. mail. Although some statistics are provided back to 1871, the emphasis is on the years 1933 through 1941.

My rate collection, by the way, centers so far on examples of covers bearing stamps from the Hitler definitive series. A Third Reich rate collection cannot be built solely around the Hitler series, however, because some services ended at the outbreak of World War II.