

British Propaganda Poster, 1940

Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

April 2024, Volume LIX, Number 2 (#231)

1940: A Comprehensive Review

*A very special issue featuring the stamps of 1940
from the Channel Islands to Czechoslovakia*

Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

April 2024, Volume LIX, Number 2 (#231)

We are shaking things up! Instead of the traditional format, we're looking at the stamps of 1940, a year of great heartache and change. We hope to reflect and record these changes in a very special way. We feature:

The Stamps of Germany, as the Nazi regime begins to raise money for its war machine.

The Invasion of Denmark and Norway discusses both how militarily the Germans succeeded and how philately reflects the changing times

The Battle of France. We show what went wrong for France, with some interesting philatelic items.

The Fall of Luxembourg. We show that brief history and its philatelic changes.

The Continued Breakup of Czechoslovakia. We detail how Hitler bullied his way into Czechoslovakia, breaking up that country into distinct parts. The 1940 stamps reflect the breakup.

We still have *AuctionWatch*, and we made sure a few pages are reserved for the stamps of the of 1940. *Danzig* is still there with a distinctly non-1940 theme for those who are a bit tired of reading about that year, and the *Trivia* is a tough one. Enjoy!!

Help! I aim to keep this website and journal free and accessible for 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 at 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! Email me your articles, scans, or ideas to kolkermd@att.net. Keep calm and keep collecting!

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Year 1940 you were born

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Vice President John N. Garner



Music
Take the A train - Duke Ellington
You always hurt the ones you love - The Mills Brother
Star Dust - The Artie Shaw Orchestra
I'll Never Smile Again - Tommy Dorsey
Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy - Andrews Sister



First Cpt America comic book went on sale for 10 cents in December, book dated for March 1941. Created by Joe Simon and Jack Kirby, released by Timely Comic (later became Marvel Comics).

NYLON STOCKING BEGAN SELLING



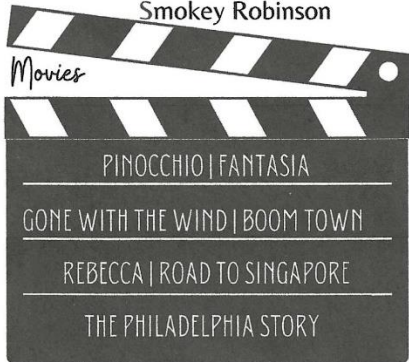
SPORTS
NFL Champs: Chicago Bears
World Series: Cincinnati Reds
NBL (pre-NBA) Finals: Sheboygan Red Skins
Kentucky Derby: Gallahadion
Stanley Cup: New York Rangers

TECHNOLOGY

-Peter Goldmark invents modern color television system.
-The demands of war inspired the production of new substances and materials such as the antibiotic penicillin, the insecticide DDT, and synthetic rubber.

BORN IN 1940

Chuck Norris, Al Pacino, Patrick Stewart, John Lennon, Bruce Lee
Smokey Robinson



Television was still regarded as a fad. It cost a small fortune to buy, and very little money was put into programming due to the war. Radio programs were still popular.

WORLD POPULATION 2.3 BILLION

1940'S SLANG

Honcho-Boss or person w/authority
Bathtub-side car
Lettuce-money
Doll dizzy-girl crazy
Khaki wacky-boy crazy
Pennies from heaven-easy money
Active duty-sexually promiscuous boy
Share crop-sexually promiscuous girl
Killer Diller-good stuff
Fuddy Duddy-old fashioned person

HEADLINE NEWS

-WWII CONTIUES. THE BATTLE OF DUNKIRK WAS A HUGE MILITARY LOSS FOR THE ALLIES HOWEVER, THE EVACUATION, OR "MIRACLE OF DUNKIRK" WAS A SUCCESS.
-GREAT BRITAIN STARTS FOOD RATIONING, AND WINSTON CHURCHILL BECOMES PRIME MINISTER.
-ITALY DECLARES WAR ON FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.
-SELECTIVE TRAINING AND SERVICE ACT SIGNED INTO LAW AS FIRST PEACETIME MILITARY DRAFT IN US HISTORY.

-HATTIE MCDANIEL BECOMES THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN ACTRESS TO WIN AN ACADEMY AWARD FOR 'GONE WITH THE WIND.'

-PRES ROOSEVELT WINS HIS THIRD TERM.

IN STYLE

Women- Shoulder pads, defined waistline, skirts above the knee, wrist-length gloves, victory roll hairstyle.
Men- Zoot suits, knit V-neck vests, Gabardine jackets, Fedora hats, lace-up Oxfords.

COST OF LIVING

Median Income \$1368
Min wage \$0.30/hr
Median new car \$800
Median new house \$2938
First Class Stamp \$0.03
Movie Ticket \$0.25
Gallon of Milk \$0.52
Dozen Eggs \$0.33
1lb of Bacon \$0.23
Loaf of Bread \$0.10
Gallon of gas \$0.11
Dec 31-Dow Jones 131.13

The Editor's Letter

To my esteemed readers:

Let's shake things up! Instead of the same format we've used for the last several years, I thought doing something completely different might be a good idea. We will never grow unless we try new things, and I figure this is as good a time as any to do just that.

With this issue, we will have one overriding theme for the articles. Sure, we will still have Danzig, Trivia, and Auction Watch for those who don't care about the theme. However, all the articles will have the same theme: 1940.

As far as I can tell, this was one of the worst years of human history. Hitler was on the move on several fronts. Consolidating power in Poland, starting and finishing the invasion of France, bowling over Denmark in just a few hours, or conquering Norway in just a few days, the Germans used 1940 to wreck Europe.

To make matters worse, Hitler was able to forge meaningful diplomatic alliances with the Japanese and Italians and, ultimately, even those in Eastern Europe. All of this transpired while the British could only watch and do essentially nothing, and the Americans continued with their isolationist tendencies.

But despite all of the human tragedy, one can see how philatelic items and history intertwine. The year 1940 also had a proliferation of new and different kinds of stamps. Whether it's collectible Cinderellas, new overprints, or newly themed stamps throughout Europe, 1940 also became a transition year for philately.

Because of that, the year 1940 is worth further investigation. We will look at the history of Europe during that time and trace that history not only in more general terms like you would in history class but also at the philately. We'll look at some of the more common stamps, some very rare stamps, and even some of the forgeries that delight and confound collectors even today.

I hope you enjoy the latest *Third Reich Study Group Bulletin* issue. This represents a labor of love, as I'm moving away from the tried-and-true and comfortable to

something new and quite different. Let me know what you think about this new format. If it's successful or even promising, I'll probably continue with it occasionally. I think variety is the spice of life, and I believe it is true even in philately.

If you don't like this format, let me know as well. Perhaps even more importantly, I would like to know if you think of a way to do this better. And if you have an idea for a different theme, especially one where you can contribute some information, I would love to hear from you. A variety of other writers make this publication even better.

Enjoy!

Your editor,

Chris

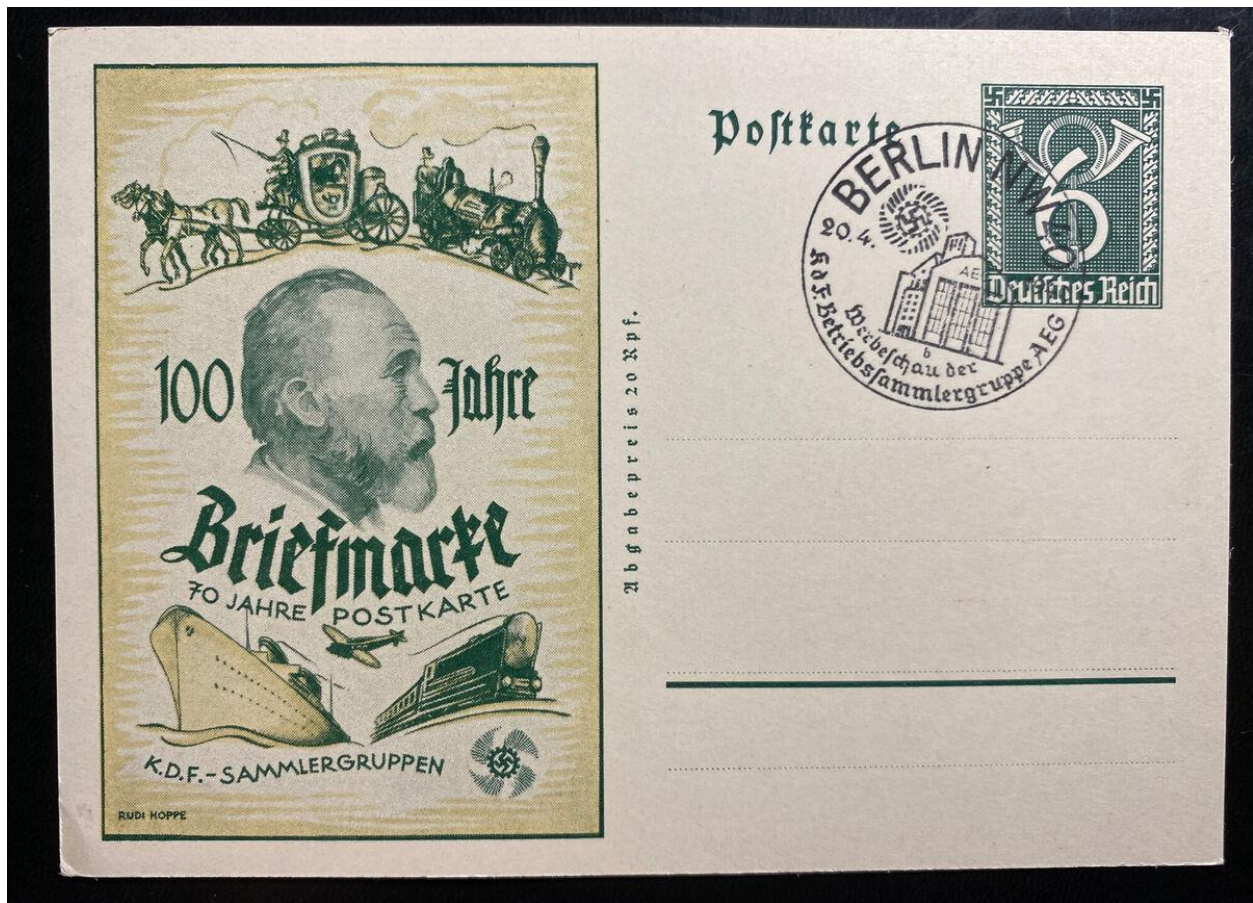


German
Postcard for
a summer
festival,
1940

1940- An Introduction

This issue's format will be straightforward but different from what we usually do. We will start with a brief introduction to the European history of 1940 related to World War 2. Military and political maneuvering will provide the framework. We will then break off into particular areas of conflict during the year and discuss and show the resulting philately. I will discuss standard ordinary stamps that you may have forgotten, along with some rarities and Cinderellas that are hardly seen even at auction, and throw in a few forgeries.

If you have any ideas for improving this, I'm all ears. Please let me know!



A first-day cover, 1940.

1940: Background History

Christopher Kolker MD

It may be too simple to say, but one reason 1940 was not a very good year in world history was that 1938 and 1939 were also pretty rough. Hitler had a way of making that happen.

It wasn't supposed to be that way. As we know, Hitler took power in Germany in 1933. Since then, he had been illegally, at least according to the Treaty of Versailles, rearming Germany for inevitable conflict in Europe.

March of 1938 brought the annexation of Austria into the German fold, known as the Anschluss. Germany had put intense pressure on Austria to hold a referendum, which meant there would be a vote for either annexation or not. Many German-speaking Austrians wanted the annexation. What was being ignored at the time was the systematic destruction of minority rights and the aggressive treatment of Jews and others considered undesirables. With the vote being over 90 percent in favor of annexation, even with its popularity, most believe the Nazis rigged the vote in their favor. After the vote, on March 12, 1938, the Nazis marched into Austria without having fired a shot, and the beginning of the conquest of Europe had begun.

In 1938, Hitler encouraged separatists in the Sudetenland to demand autonomy from Czechoslovakia. The Sudetenland was Czech territory bordered by Germany with predominantly German speakers. This land had been taken from Germany as part of the Treaty of Versailles agreement, and most Germans had never accepted that border. Still, according to international law, it was a naked power grab that should not have happened.

We all know about the famous Munich Agreement. The prime minister of England, Neville Chamberlain, went to Berlin in 1938 to discuss the matter. He was desperate to avoid war, and Hitler knew that. He has quite a bit of disdain for Chamberlain, thanking him for being an out-of-touch elite who did not serve his country in the First World War and was a fundamentally weak man. Within hours,

the Munich agreement was made. Germany would receive the Sudetenland with a promise of no more aggressive acts toward Czechoslovakia. Chamberlain went home briefly as a hero to cheering crowds, as many believed he had solved the problem of growing German aggression. As Chamberlain said, "There will be peace in our time."

The world soon discovered that Hitler's promise didn't mean anything. By March 1939, using ongoing internal Czechoslovakia as an excuse, he moved into the rest of Czechoslovakia. Having made some promises to Czechoslovakia about their defense, England could only stand by and do nothing. Neville Chamberlain's political career took a resounding hit, and with this, Winston Churchill's rise as a valid candidate for English Prime Minister began.

This bold move, taken soon after the recent German Kristallnacht, where Hitler's political enemies were massacred on November 10th, 1938, showed the world Hitler's brutal intent.

The Second World War began on September 1st, 1939, when Hitler invaded Poland. Looking back, this led some to believe things might be okay on the Western Front. France had been preparing for war since 1938, fortifying positions, building walls, and drafting and mobilizing troops anticipating a possible invasion. Luxembourg took the unprecedented step of trying to build a wall across the eastern part of their country. This was done more to appease the populace than to provide a true, capable defense.

However, the Polish invasion led to some rationalizations in France. One thought was that surely the German invasion tied up most of Germany's resources on the Eastern Front, and therefore, a Western invasion into France might not occur at all.

This became known as the Phoney War. The French military and government did prepare for war, but many civilians took it upon themselves to go about their daily lives with little change and with a kind of optimism that today seems quite foolish. That optimism broke in April of 1940 when Hitler simultaneously invaded Denmark and Norway. That's where our story begins.

Germany's Invasion of Denmark and Norway: The Six-Hour War

Christopher Kolker MD

In hindsight, it was evident that Hitler wanted Europe as a personal playground to do what he wanted. But even in January 1940, not everyone agreed. Hitler had invaded Poland, but a growing consensus thought that most of his resources would be tied up in that invasion and occupation. The rest of Europe would be safe.

At least, that was the hope. Hitler needed lots of natural resources. With his existing resources, he could not carry on an invasion of all of Europe at the same time, so went the logic. Hitler needed oil from the Middle East and Southeast Europe and iron to make guns, bullets, and tanks.



Norway and Sweden were excellent suppliers of iron. The problem was that Hitler knew he would never enjoy complete naval superiority. He knew he had to have iron to fuel his war machine and a reliable source near Germany.

While Sweden maintained neutrality, Norway had more resources and proved to be a more complex case. Vidkun Quisling, a local Swedish politician who had fervent ambitions of Swedish power, was a willing participant in any German activity in the area, even though the Swedish populace was deeply anti-Nazi.



Vidkun Quisling at a National Socialist rally in 1936

Quisling and Hitler had discussed the German predicament in ruling Norway in several meetings. Quisler essentially invited Hitler to invade and talked up the pro-Nazi sentiment in Norway, misrepresenting it as a potent political force. He told Hitler that while not everyone supported the Nazis, there was a strong current of pro-Nazi sentiment inside Norway, making occupation possible.

Because Hitler thought that treating Norway as another neutral nation would not be an option, as Norway would ultimately cut off iron imports to defy the Nazis, he knew he had to act. Therefore,

by early 1940, when the weather finally warmed up, he decided that he had to invade early to start that supply chain he would need for the next several years.

So, Hitler did have the invitation to invade essentially from a local politician even as the populace was extremely anti-Nazi Germany. But what about Denmark? Denmark, essentially, was in the way. Hitler knew he would need access to a nearby land bridge that Norway, Denmark, and Germany would offer, exposing his navy as little as possible in the region. He also knew that Denmark was prime for the picking.



King Christian X of Denmark, around 1936

Christian X, the king of Denmark, had been trying to rearm and beef up the armed forces since 1937. In 1940, feeling that invasion might be on the way, Christian ordered troops to move back from the border. He did not want a concocted border confrontation as a pretext for starting the German invasion as had happened in Poland in late 1939. Still, even after years of building up, he had only 14,000 troops.



Also known as Operation Weserübung, this initial crossing of the borders was meant with little resistance as Denmark had abandoned the borders so as not to set off any incidents

Deep on the night of April 9th, 1940, Hitler poured troops across the Denmark border. They started in the south, both launching a naval assault on Copenhagen's island, Zealand, and into Jutland, the land bridge from Germany into Denmark.

They met little resistance along the way. German troops went to the army headquarters in Copenhagen and demanded

surrender without a shot being fired. They then went to the Royal Palace, where a few elite palace guards offered resistance for a couple of hours, but that was it. In five hours, now in the early morning of April 10th, Denmark surrendered.

Why is this sometimes called the Six-Hour War? On the Jutland, where regular Danish troops mustered some resistance, it took about an hour for word to get out that they had already surrendered, making this the Six-Hour War.

The only positive for Denmark is that because there was such little resistance, Denmark was only lightly occupied during the Second World War. As long as they towed the Nazi line, people could go about their daily life and work and be relatively unhampered. Very few German troops were stationed in Denmark, which was not considered a real hotbed of activity during World War II.

Norway had a different course of action, but tragically, the results were very much the same. The British had plans to help fortify and even partially occupy Norway in conjunction with France, which was called R4. It involved



The Danish and Danish Nazi Flag outside the Freemason Headquarters in Copenhagen



Taken from the Warfare Network, this map shows the initial German assaults of Norway with the unsuccessful British counterattacks.

occupying the port cities along the Norwegian coast and providing guarded naval sea routes so that the exportation of iron ore and other natural resources could continue. This was to be implemented slowly, starting in May of 1940.

However, Hitler had a different timeline; he had pulled back his ships and new boats from the North Sea for rearming and repairing in March of 1940, getting ready for the naval invasion of Norway in April of 1940. The ships that left Germany on April 7, 1940, were quickly discovered by the Royal Air Force, and their positions were radioed back to the British authorities. At that time, because the British were felt to have an overwhelming naval advantage, it was generally thought that if there was going to be an invasion, it was going to be only jumping to southern Norway. More than likely, the British thought that any big German naval showing would be to provide a breakout for the German navy out into the open sea of the Atlantic Ocean. Surely, the Germans would not try to invade

central or northern Norway - they did not have the Navy to pull it off.

Therefore, when the British Royal Air Force (RAF) found the German Navy deployed in the southern North Sea, troops and ships were pulled away that the British had already put into some of the ports in Norway and put out to sea in

anticipation of meeting the Germans on the open sea. One person who advised the British Navy to make such a disastrous mistake was none other than Winston Churchill himself.

Of course, we know the Germans didn't go out to sea. Instead, the Germans could simply sail into the Norwegian ports and tank them with relatively little resistance. One place that did resist and resisted well was Oslo, Norway's capital. The Germans took substantial losses but were able to establish a beachhead about 50 miles south of Oslo and work their way up to the capital. The Norwegian king, Haakon VII, escaped, and the German attempt to track him down in central Norway was repelled by both palace guards and volunteers working together to secure a roadblock so that Haakon could make his getaway.

The British did sail their formidable fleet into those Norwegian ports behind the Germans, trying to re-secure them. They did have considerable success around Oslo, but with all of their deployments, they ran into the same problem. The British had no air support and with German troops already on the ground securing the ports themselves, they could not retake them. While there were some successes, overall, it became a futile effort.



British troops lounging about before landing in Norway in 1940.

The Germans could then move troops from those ports into the countryside from the north, central, and South of Norway, trying to use a massive movement to secure the country. Norway attempted to mobilize the six divisions that they had available to them, but they could only correctly mobilize two of them.

The speed of the Nazi invasion left the Norwegian countryside unprotected and ripe for the taking. One of the main reasons was that the call for mobilization was done through the mail and not over phone lines, thinking that that strategy would somehow be more secure.

Those two divisions did fight but were quickly overwhelmed by German manpower and machinery and never had any air support whatsoever. The British did move troops in, but in one of the worst episodes for the British and all of World War 2, most British forces arrived without any aircraft, ammunition, tanks, proper supplies, or even correct maps. The trips that did land essentially had only their rifles as possible weapons—against tanks, artillery, and overwhelming air superiority by the German Luftwaffe. No matter how British troops were deployed, they would never meet with success.

While deployed in three different areas of Norway, the British never saw any success and constantly retreated before finally having to retreat out of Norway altogether. *“So, our fate is that of Czechoslovakia and Poland?”* the commanding general of the Norwegian army, General Rolfe, supposedly said.

And the answer was, of course, yes. Still, most resistance had stopped within a few weeks because of the surprise attack and the overwhelming tank and mortar superiority on the ground and air superiority throughout Norway. While the royal family escaped using British ships, Norway became a vassal state of Germany. The British Navy would fight for a couple of more months at Narvik, winning two naval battles, but had no troops to land and occupy the port. Norway’s fate for World War Two had quickly been sealed.

The Stamps of German-Occupied Denmark – 1940

What we have here is not a comprehensive list, but some of the more interesting stamps and Cinderellas one might find searching for occupied Denmark 1940 stamps.



A Danish National Socialist Party (DNSAP) stamp of 1935, the first the party produced.

The Danish National Socialist Party Cinderella stamp of 1936





A 1938 sticker that advertises a convention in the town of Slagelse.

The Danish National Socialist Party (DNSAP) Christmas sticker of 1940



Watch out!! This is a modern fake of the Danish Socialist Party!



This is also a fake, even though a Danish Nazi Legion did exist. Called the Free Corps Denmark, 6,000 Danes fought for the Germans on the Eastern Front from 1941-3.

A Cinderella stamp used in 1940 with the name of Aage H. Andersen. Considered the leader of the National Socialist in Denmark, he wrote virulent antisemitic material during World War Two.

For his efforts, he spent several years in prison after the war but died a free man in 1968.



Stamps from German-occupied Norway 1940

Some of the more interesting stamps:



This is actually a German overprint of an existing Norwegian stamp, first made in 1941. The V is for victory, and is thought to be a response to Churchill's V for victory salutation.

The Germans believed they were the first to do this and would alternately try to mock Churchill or take claim of the symbol.

This is a Cinderella stamp for the Norwegian Legion. At its peak, it had about 2000 soldiers who fought for the Germans in northern Russia. It was ultimately disbanded in 1943.

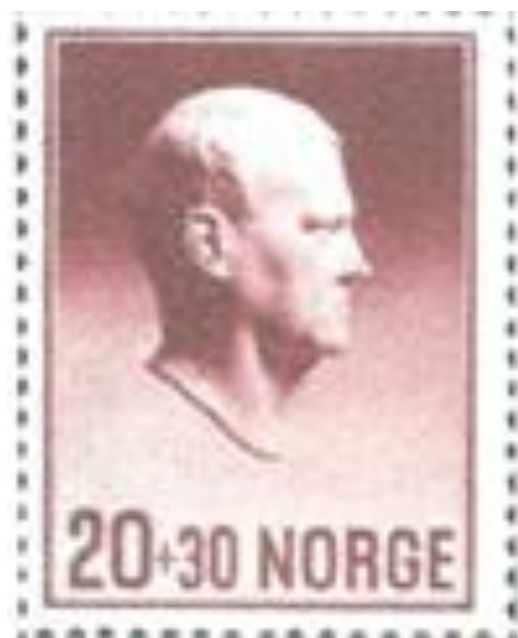




During the war, most of the Norwegian stamps were neutral, since the official government was aligned with Germany while the populace hated the Nazis and the occupation of their country.

However, this is a semi-postal stamp of 1941, with the extra proceeds going to the Norwegian Legion.

A very common Norwegian semi-postal stamp, used extensively during WWII, showing Vidkun Quisling in profile.



The German Issues of 1940

Christopher Kolker MD

One thing that a country bent on world domination needs is money. So many things needed to be done. Not only does Hitler want to invade all of Europe, but he wants a massive museum complex to celebrate Nazism. That's going to cost money as well.

It's no wonder that Germany produced only one regular-issue stamp and 13 different semi-postal stamps in 1940. The extra charge on the stamps went to the National Fund, which was set up to create that museum complex. Most are easy to find today and give a window into German thought in 1940.

Germany made only set of regular issues in 1940, the Leipzig series:



The 3pf shows Johannes Gutenberg and Leipzig's Library; the 6pf shows Leipzig's "High House"; the 12pf depicts Old Town Hall, and the 25pf shows the Leipzig Fairgrounds.



This stamp, issued March 28, 1940, depicts the Hall of Honor at Chancellery in Berlin. It was printed for the 2nd National Stamp Exhibition in Berlin.

Hitler greeting a child, celebrating his 51st birthday, issued April 10, 1940, in time of his birthday of April 20, 1940.





An Armed Warrior,
commemorating May Day,
issued on April 30th, 1940.

A June 30th issue,
commemorating the
annual Blue Ribbon



A July 20th, 1940 issue that commemorates the Brown Ribbon Horse Race in Munich.



These issues commemorate the reunion of Eupen-Malmedy with the Reich, July 25, 1940.





A contemporary map showing the areas of Eupen and Malmedy. These areas, where German is often spoken, were annexed back to Germany by force in May of 1940.



This semi postal celebrates 50 years of Hel(i)goland being part of Germany.

(Britain had ceded the small North Sea islands to Germany in 1890 in the treaty of Heligoland-Zanzibar), where Germany received Heligoland and gave up any rights of colonization in Zanzibar.

German collectors are known for the early stamps Helgoland produced, which were among the most forged in all of philately.

Various buildings around Danzig, Prague, and Germany





Finally, on November 26, two semi-postals commemorate Dr. Emil von Behring, who developed the Diphtheria antitoxin that led to the development of the Diphtheria vaccine.



Lots of activity means lots of stamps- These are employee medical insurance stamps active during 1940.



A disability insurance stamp for two weeks of disability.

A certificate tax for filing a deed. The right side says "certificate tax".



These are revenue stamps for radio use. They had to be paid at the local City Hall. There were always two stamps. One was for City Hall and the other for the user. When they were paid both stamps were canceled, and that's what the one on the far right is. The middle and the far-right stand for the same, except for the cancelation.

Note: Rundfunk means "Broadcast" in English.



Revenue Stamp, The Nationalsozialistische Kriegsopfersversorgung (NSKOV), meaning "National Socialist War Victim's Care" was a social welfare organization for seriously wounded veterans as well as front-line fighters of World War I. The NSKOV was established in 1934 and was affiliated to the NSDAP.

When many think of the catastrophes of early World War II, the fall of France is often cited as the first example. Such a proud and robust country decimated but victorious in World War I fell so quickly. Weren't they ready?

If you ask many today, the reply might be that they weren't ready at all. After all, earlier in this issue, we spoke of the Phoney War, where the French citizenry often had a bit of complacency about the chances of war in early 1940. Many had convinced themselves that the Nazis were occupied with the war in the east and

the subsequent occupation of Poland. Besides, they felt that they had prepared adequately and that the chance of war perhaps was minute.

Most of that disappeared in April 1940. With the spring thaw, the Germans began. As described in this journal, they blitzkrieged through Denmark in only five hours. They remarkably captured most of Norway in just a couple of weeks and sailed there to do that. Even the vaunted British Navy seemingly couldn't stop them.

By the spring of 1940, most had realized that war was inevitable, and preparations were made. A few clung to the belief that the low countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg) thought they might be spared in some quarters, but those governments made provisions as best they could. The Netherlands had mobilized more troops over the winter of 1939 but still only had several thousand available soldiers. Their

military had an elaborate plan to flood many low-lying areas that the Germans might use for advancement, and flooding the troops to keep them at bay was a significant strategy.

Furthermore, they planned to mobilize their forces rapidly and rigged most of the major bridges in the southern and eastern

Netherlands so that they could be blown up to stop German advancement.

Luxembourg even built a wall all along its eastern border. Very few believed this wall would keep people out, but it did seem to appease the citizenry for a little while.

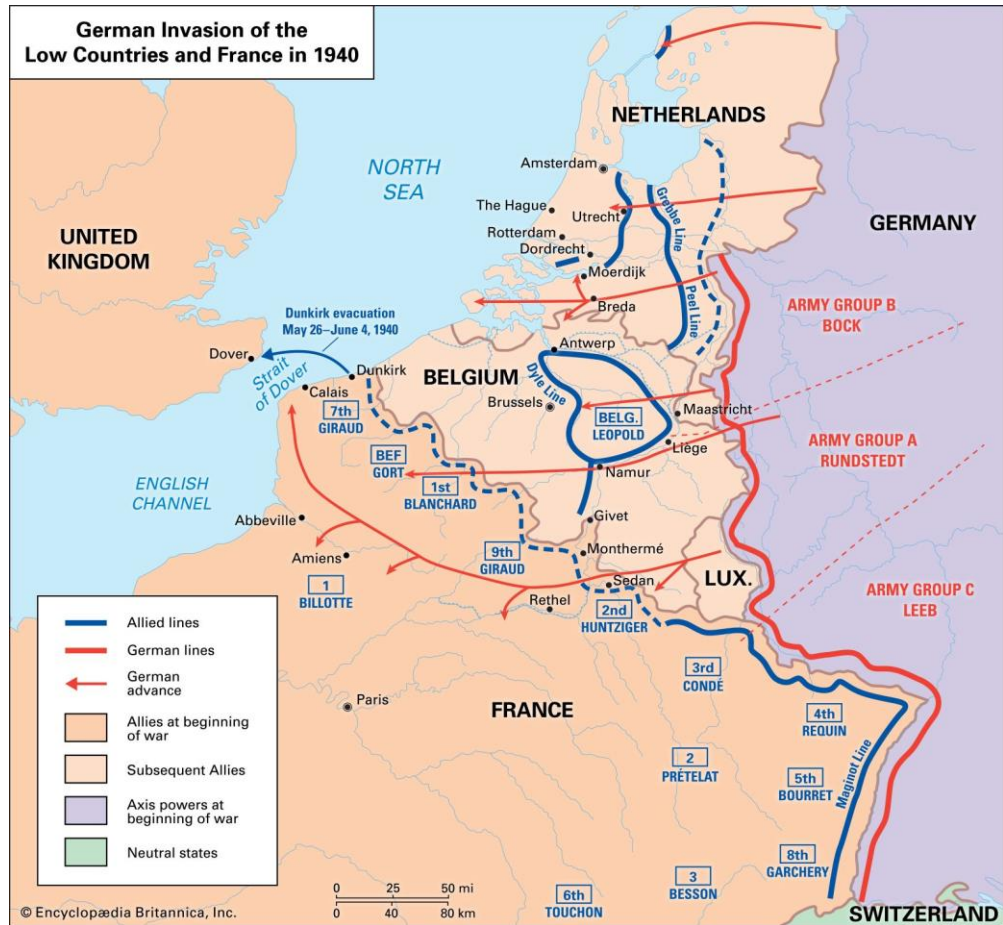
Belgium was the most prepared; hundreds of thousands of Belgian troops had been deployed throughout the area, and a large part of the British Expeditionary Force had been stationed in Belgium in 1939 to help protect them.

But France had prepared itself most of all. The Maginot line, which essentially stretched along the French and German shared border, was remarkably



Troops relaxing during the period of the Phoney War in eastern France.

reinforced. Well over one million troops on the French side were stationed there, nearly the same number as those on the German side. Fortifications were made, defensive positions were dug, and heavy artillery was brought to the area until a German direct attack



Taken from Britannica

through the Maginot Line was considered nearly impossible.

Many thought that the Germans would still use the Maginot line. Previous strategies in World War I and even schematics drawn up before then relied on using central France to get to Paris. By putting such considerable resources into the Maginot line, it seemed impossible that the Germans would directly attack there.

And the French were correct. On May 10th, 1940, the Germans began a full-fledged attack to the north through the Low Countries. This meant going through the Ardennes, the great forested area of western Europe, which was thought at the time to be a natural barrier to easy attack. But still, with the Maginot line being as it was, it seemed that Hitler may not have had a choice.

Inexplicably, the Dutch were seemingly caught off guard. Most of their troops were still stationed at home and could not mobilize quickly. It probably wouldn't have mattered because they had a fighting force of just several thousand. But since they couldn't be deployed quickly, they never could set off the munitions for their defensive floodings. The dams and bridges of southern Holland were never blown up, and the Nazis walked right into the Netherlands unimpeded. The Dutch troops didn't get there in time. The Dutch fell in five days, and Queen Wilhelmina was forced to flee to England at the last second.



Field Marshal Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt

Luxembourg took only a few hours. As previously stated, the wall was perhaps more decorative than substantial. The Luxembourg royal family fled for their life in a matter of hours, although their royal guard also fought to give the royal family a bit more time to escape. However, the King's eldest son stayed in Luxembourg to serve both as a diplomat between the royal family and the new Nazi occupiers and as a servant and inspiration to the Luxembourgian people left behind.

But France and Belgium would not fall so quickly, it was believed. They had to travel through the dense Ardennes Forest and then fight a massive number of French, Belgian, and English troops. How did they accomplish that?

The element of surprise was undoubtedly on the German side, and their Field Marshal Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt knew they should proceed quickly. It also helped that the French were relatively out of position. To defend Paris from a more centralized invasion, they had fewer troops up north and troops under three different commands, with the English Expeditionary Force, the Belgian, and the French all in the area. They also experienced issues with incompetent command, as the French general Gamelin did an abysmal job in the initial days of stemming the tide.

However, perhaps the biggest issue was the nature of the attacking troops. The German panzer tanks were superior to anything that the French had. Their tanks were faster, more mobile, and more durable. They also had a more extended firing range than anything that the French or English had. Because of this, the Germans had mainly tank divisions that troops would support. Simply put, they could drive to wherever they needed to go. Troops might follow behind but could do so quickly because the tanks tended to overwhelm anything in their way. German tanks were strong enough to repel small-arms fire and powerful enough to take out earthen defensive positions.

The French had precisely the opposite mentality. They had a massive number of people in the infantry, who were supported by a few tanks. The French immobilized all available males 45 years of age and younger and had 4.5 million troops available to them. But the French tanks were slow, broke down often, and notoriously difficult to maneuver. They became death traps and could not support their truths.

Because of this, the Germans made massive gains in the first few days. The Germans mobilized about 3 million troops with their panzer tanks to



The blitzkrieg formation, where motorized tanks and jeeps transport troops quickly across the landscape.

sweep through the Low Countries and France. When the combatants first engaged one another on the first few days of fighting, troop strength was nearly equal at the point of battle. However, it became apparent that those troop numbers were misleading and not the most essential thing regarding strategy.

The Germans enjoyed massive air superiority over France. In the first week, they flew nearly 4000 sorties bombing positions, in many cases demoralizing the French or forcing them to pull troops back. Still, they made a stand along the Meuse River in the central part of the German attack front.

However, German preparations made to soften the Meuse line paid off at Sedan, the town and subsequent battle thought most responsible for the fall of France in

such a short time. After massive German aero bombardment of the French line, but by May 13, rumors spread like wildfire through the French ranks that German tanks were already behind them. German tank superiority only took three days to spook the French troops.

German tanks were not behind the French lines at that moment, but the rumor caused the French to start abandoning Sedan. German General Irwin Rommel broke through thinning French lines on May 13 and then started heading not towards Paris but towards the northeast.

Panic ensued. Although massive, French troops became disorganized, and nobody had an answer for German tanks. French lines repeatedly broke down and became nothing more than sitting targets for the superior German panzer tank.

Hitler was surprised and perhaps a little bit afraid of his own success. Thinking his French invasion would be a prolonged war, he was told about Rommel's success and ordered Rommel and von Rundstedt to stop the offensive so that they could reestablish supply lines and consolidate forces.

Both generals openly disobeyed those orders. The Germans had introduced wireless communication onto the battlefield, and so Rommel felt he knew enough about his and the deteriorating French position to proceed. He knew the French Army's disarray would not last forever. He also saw the continued German air superiority and panzer use and decided to strike with the iron fist.

The Germans then began a classic pincer movement. Instead of marching towards Paris directly, Rommel cut the French army in half and trapped the northern half against the North Sea. In contrast, establishing positions to defend Paris would make the southern half irrelevant in the short term. They first trapped Belgian and French troops inside Belgium, where they had no hope of escape. Belgian capitulation came rather quickly on May 28th, 1940.

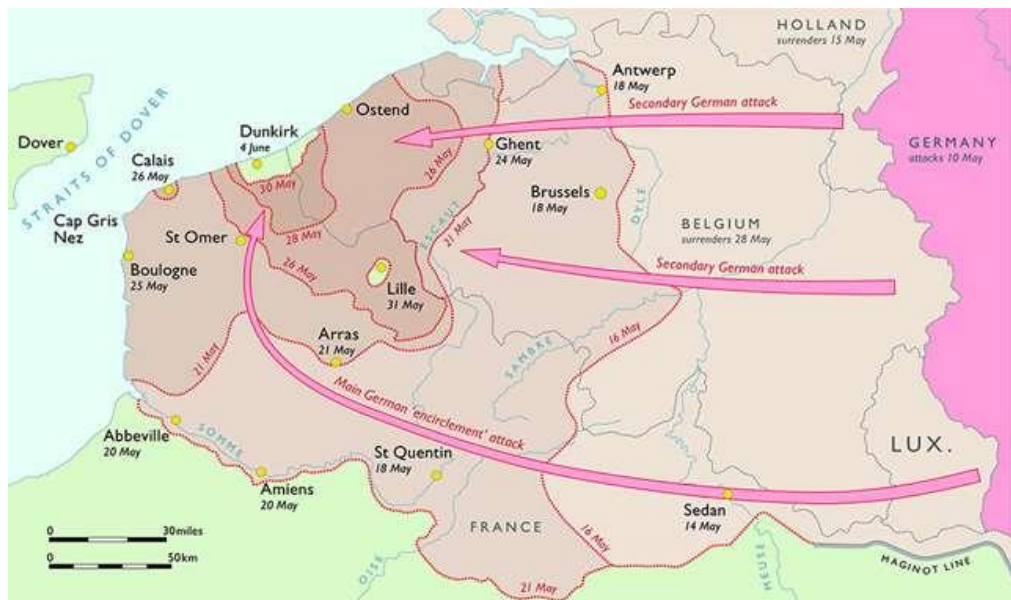
The Germans then headed southwest toward Paris just for a bit but turned to the northeast. By doing so, they could circle the remaining French troops in northern France and move toward the coast of the North Sea once more. This enabled

them to encircle the British Expeditionary Forces against the Atlantic Ocean at Dunkirk.

Allied supply lines were cut because of the adept German maneuvering, and it soon became every man for themselves. The British Expeditionary Force was left without defensive positions, supply lines, or escape routes.

For reasons unknown to history, the Germans stopped short of directly attacking the British; instead, they finished the pincer move. That drove any Belgian forces in the area further to east inside Belgium further to the east, completely isolating the English at Dunkirk. As most know, this gave time for the incredible evacuation at Dunkirk, where ordinary English citizens used their private boats to transport troops from

Dunkirk back over the English Channel to England. Nothing like that had ever been done in history before, and it certainly is something we may never see again.



The Pincer movement of the battle of France, leaving the British Expeditionary Force trapped at Dunkirk

The Germans could think about attacking Paris with French supply lines broken. The French were in a total, disorganized retreat and did not want an engagement with Germany. To make matters worse for the French, the route the Nazis chose to drive toward Paris was further to the north than the French ever thought, so the road to Paris was more open for the Germans than they had believed it would be. Because of poor morale among French troops, the Germans began to spill over the Maginot Line further south. It was all over for the French

On June 25th, 1940, Hitler's forces walked into Paris with no real defensive effort by the French. An Armistice agreement was signed, which called for the immediate disarming of the French army; the French would be allowed to govern south of France, then to be known as Vichy France, while the Germans would occupy Paris and territories to the north and east. Of note is that the Armistice was signed in the same railway car where the Treaty of Versailles had been signed 21 years earlier. The Battle of France was complete, and most of Europe now lay in Hitler's hands.



German Troops marching at the Arc de Triomphe



German Panzer tanks driving through the French countryside

German-Occupied France – 1940 Philatelic Items



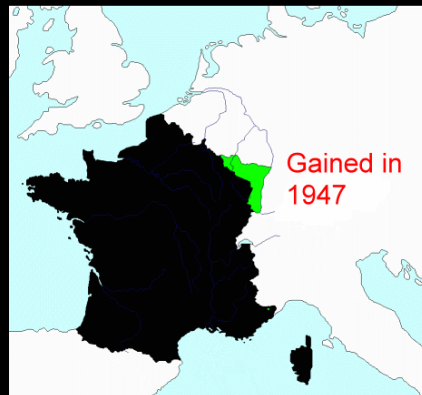
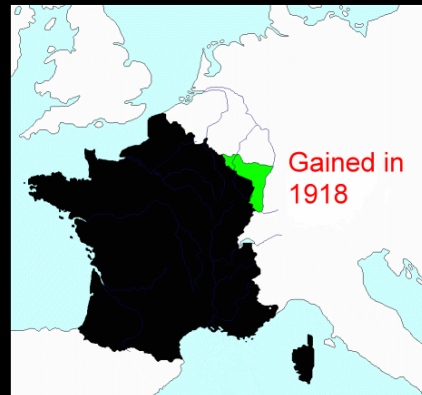
Alsace was a province of far eastern France, and it always featured a large number of German speakers. It was taken by the Germans during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, but then it was stripped away from the Germans after the First World War and the Treaty of Versailles.

The Germans made a concerted effort to re seize this territory during their initial onslaught of France in 1940. This is a common von Hindenburg stamp of the era with the Alsace name in German overprinted.

The provinces of Alsace and Lorraine are infamous for changing hands several times during the 19th and 20th centuries. In 1940, they went back from French to German control yet again.



Alsace-Lorraine be like, "So are we a part of France or not?"



Lost as a result of a disastrous showing in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, Alsace-Lorraine was given back to France in 1918 as part of the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler invaded in 1940, and after the war, the area was returned to France, where it remains today.



Alsace stamps of 1940 are merely Hindenburg stamps overprinted with Alsace in German!



The top represents the proper overprint for Alsace. The forgeries were quite sloppy and fairly easily distinguished from the legitimate overprint. The overprint on the lower half of the image represents a fairly crude forgery. Most forgeries are crudely made. The GPS Manual of Forgeries has another similar example!

The French territory of Lorraine was also taken during the initial onslaught. It too had been seized by the Germans after the Franco Prussian War of 1870, and just like Alsace had been given back to France after the First World War.

The image to the right represents the overprint on the common von Hindenburg German stamp.





The military command at Dunkirk seized a stash of French stamps during their initial push. They over-printed these stamps, as seen to the left, “occupied territory of northern France.”

These were used from July 1st to August 9th 1940.



The overprint has two variations. The top is best seen as having rounded edges, with the bottom as having sharper corners, especially on top. Note the crudeness of both of these overprints. In this case, that cannot be used as a way to detect a fraudulent overprint. That’s too bad, as at least 10 fraudulent overprints of this are known to exist.

This represents an infamous stamp from France. Marshall Petain, who during the First World War was the French general who held Verdun against the Germans. But while still in government during the beginning of the Second World War, he famously cooperated with the victorious Nazis. He became the leader of Vichy France, so named because the area had its seat of government in Vichy. The area was not invaded but was a cooperative satellite for the Germans.

Like Quisling, Marshall Petain became synonymous with a weak-willed traitor.



The Channel Islands 1940

The Channel Islands are the seven small islands in the English Channel between England and France. Despite their proximity to France, they have been controlled by the British since the Middle Ages and have English-speaking citizens.

During the initial Invasion of France, the British knew they had no tactical way of defending the islands, so they were there for Germany's taking.

On June 30th, 1940, the Germans entered the Channel Islands without resistance or bloodshed.

The islands were occupied by Germany for the duration of the war but the citizens hardly appreciated their occupiers. Oppressive policies, limited supplies, and forced labor led to a very difficult occupation for the channel Islanders.

Philately reflects this. Stamps became in short supply on the island, and they were forced to bisect existing English stamps under the occupation in order to continue mail service.

A common Channel Islands' provisional bisected English stamp.





The Channel Islands during World War Two is a hot topic in philately today. The image above reflects that many Channel Islanders got quite creative in designing these bisected stamps.

This design was probably made for future collectors.



These are called the Bigwood essays, locally printed in 1940 on Jersey Island by the Jersey State printers. A few were printed, but they were never officially issued. These two stamps alone might be worth \$5,000 to \$6000.



These are two plate blocks of the very rare Bigwood essays. I could not find pricing, but I wouldn't be surprised if \$20,000 for each plate block would be in order.

Generally speaking, the stamp to the right really does not exist. It is believed that a few proofs were made, but they were never put out for general use and are not in your standard Michel catalog. If you see one of these, it is a fraud until proven otherwise.





Given that almost all of the Jersey overprints with the swastika stamps are fraudulent, the German Manual of Forgeries does admit that the overprint to the right is legitimate. You need to be absolutely certain you know what you're buying before you get it.

Here are three common fraudulent overprints:



Luxembourg's 1940 Demise



Himmler in Luxembourg, 1940.

On May 10, 1940, the Nazi army invaded Luxembourg. Due to the overwhelming force of the army, they encountered little resistance; by the end of the day, most of the country was occupied. The royal family, except for one representative, fled to Western Europe before finally settling in Canada for the duration of the war.



The Nazis quickly used the standard von Hindenburg stamp with the Luxembourg Overprint as their official postage stamp. This became the standard bearer for Luxembourg during the war and is easy to find to this day.



The complete set of the von Hindenburg overprints – October 1940



The Charlotte Definitives and Views- December 1940



One would think such a common stamp would never be forged, but think again. On top is the legitimate overprint, and on the bottom is the overprint in a dark red and a bright red color.

At first glance, this overprint seems to be legitimate, but when you look carefully the first “u” is backwards, and the tail on the “g” doesn’t go far enough to the left. It is a fake. Again, why someone would bother, I don’t know.



The top is the legitimate overprint of the 60 Rpf of the Charlotte Definitive. The bottom is simply an overprint that’s made up. This doesn’t exist in the legitimate printing of Luxembourgian stamps.



Using 1931 to 1933 Luxemburg air mail stamps, this cover was postmarked September 24th 1940 just after the German occupation. This was obviously made for the very famous collector Karl Hennig but it still shows that they were using Luxemburg airmail stamps shortly after the invasion.

The Polish Occupation – 1940



By 1940, the occupation of Poland was in full force. As per custom, at first, overprinted indigenous stamps were used - to the left, the 1939 Polish stamp that is now overprinted with a very elaborate German design. *Note: If the overprint is not as clear as this one, it may be a forgery!*

Another Polish stamp with the same overprint





In 1940, the Germans made new stamps. Their newer versions focused on architecture away from militaristic designs to legitimize their occupation.



These are very common stamps, and although they have the German emblem in the upper righthand corner, the emphasis is away from the occupation and more towards local architecture.



A complete set of the 1940 General Government (AKA Polish) stamps issued by the Nazis.



A semi-postal series that came out in the spring of 1940, with the proceeds to go to the Red Cross. The set represents a transition from military stamps to a renewed emphasis on architecture.



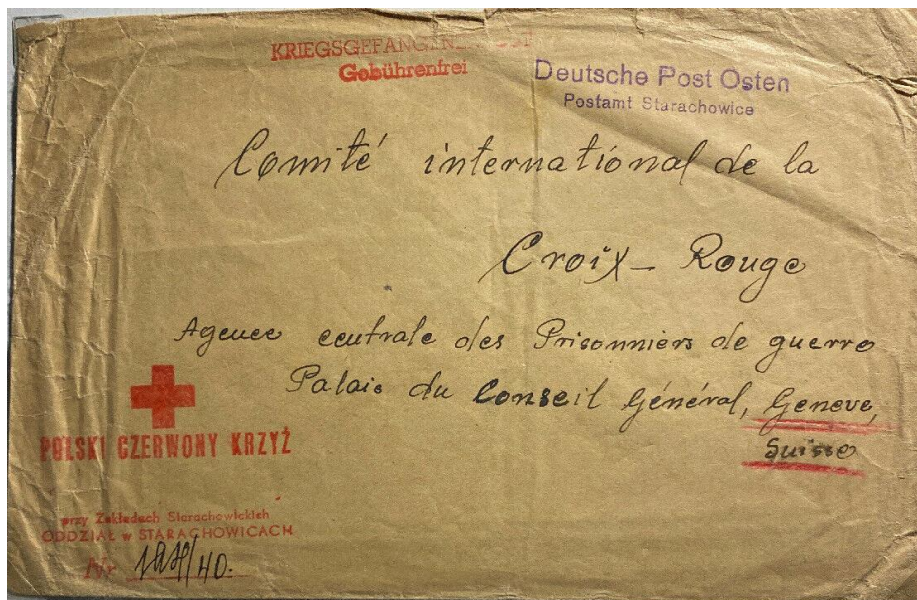
This semi-postal in 1940 for the Polish area represents their best attempt to provide a simple tranquil scene after the Nazi invasion.



These are stamps used for the court system in Poland in 1940.



These stamps are for rural delivery, as that delivery was simply more expensive in Poland, necessitating the production of these stamps.



1940 cover that went through the German system from Poland to Geneva, Switzerland to the general counsel for prisoners of war.



A very decorative and distinct 1940 cover, obviously meant for collectors.



An SS Feldpost cover that does not require any postage was sent from Posen, Poland, to Vienna on March 18th, 1940.

The Dismantling of Czechoslovakia 1938-40

Christopher Kolker MD

Technically, one might say that there was no Czechoslovakian history in 1940. This is because 1939 was such a disastrous year for Czechoslovakia. As most know, the Munich Agreement of 1938 between Hitler and British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain allowed the Germans to occupy the Sudetenland, regions of Czechoslovakia bordering Germany that had a large number of German speakers.

During that time, Poland was allowed to occupy a small area of Czechoslovakia called Trans-Olza (Silesia) on the premise that it protected Polish speakers.

Furthermore, Hungary occupied parts of Carpathian Ruthenia in 1938 and the rest of that area in 1939.

Hitler would always want more.

Czechoslovakia was an industrial area filled with potential for munitions manufacturing and one of the larger economies of Europe. In March 1939, Hitler summoned Prime Minister Emil Hácha to Berlin and essentially bullied him into signing an agreement that allowed for the complete occupation of Czechoslovakia. Hitler had told him that it was either occupation or invasion.

Believe it or not, that was not the only bad news for Czechoslovakia. The country would be split in half. Czechoslovakia became the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia in the west, and starting in 1939, its stamps reflected that. Slovakia



Taken from the US Holocaust Museum website

became its own country, and beginning in 1939, Slovakia started producing its own stamps.

The stamps of what used to be Czechoslovakia of 1940:



The “Linden Leaves” stamps of newly-created Bohemia and Moravia, first issued in 1940.



Two semipostals from Bohemia and Moravia, 1940

Slovakian Stamps of 1940

Slovakia, essentially created by German decree in 1939, immediately began producing stamps to show its newfound independence and legitimacy. In 1940, Slovakia produced a few more new stamps. They also produced official stamps and continued using newspaper stamps, first created in 1939. Stamps like these were produced fairly commonly and consistently until 1945. With Germany's defeat, Slovakia was reabsorbed back into the Czech Republic to once again make Czechoslovakia. Divided again in 1993, and Slovakian stamps restarted once more.



Slovakian stamps of 1940 showing various mountain scenes

The Presidential Palace of Slovakia on a 1940 Slovakian stamp





Slovakian airmail stamps of 1940

Slovakian newspaper stamp of 1939-45



Special Delivery stamps of Slovakia 1940

AuctionWatch

From: R. Maresch & Son

Note: One Canadian dollar = 74 US cents





Luftschiff «Graf Zeppelin»

An Bord O° 58' S - 30° 36' W
11-12-34 - 2³⁵ PM

My dear Pat. -

I thought you might
like to have the Graf stamp
and a cover mailed on board.

I left Friedrichshafen Saturday night Dec 8th at
9:45 owing to headwinds we won't land at Pernambuco
before midnight tonight, then on to Rio tomorrow
morning. I start my return to the States via Pan-
American on Saturday morning, arriving at Miami
on Tuesday evening. I shall probably be in Chicago
right after the first of the year and this time I
hope long enough to pay you and Tom a decent
visit and see what can be worked out if you
have not already been able to conclude something.

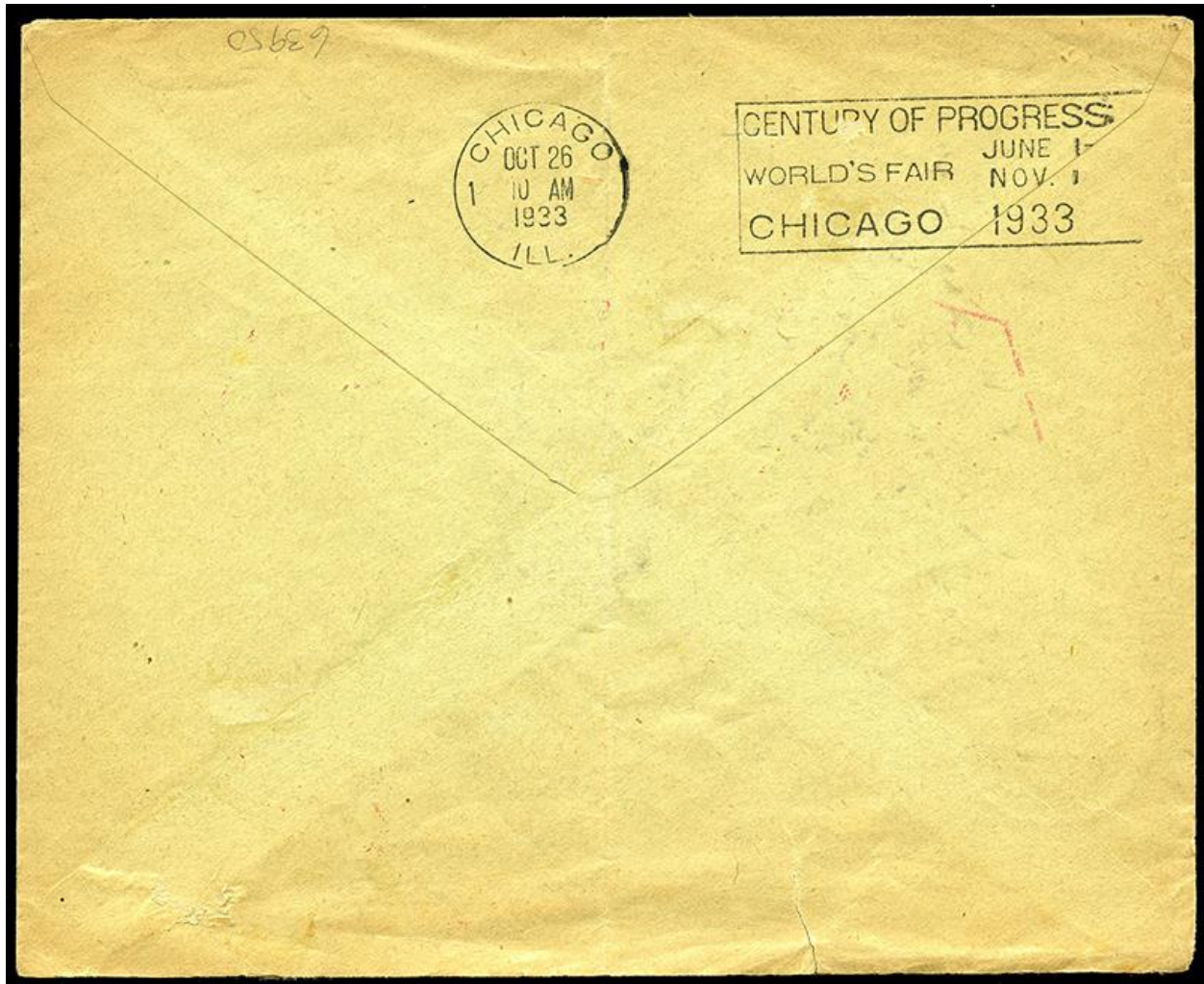
My very best to you

and Tom,

Sincerely
Rex,

GERMANY ZEPPELIN COVERS: C35,C52: 1RM red and 5pf green tied by
11.12.34 LUGTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN cancel, with red South America
flight, and green Christmas flight confirmation cachets, to illustrated Airmail
cover to Chicago USA, plus letter written on Airship stationery, roughly
opened at top. Est. 200+
SOLD for C\$110.00





GERMANY - ZEPPELIN COVERS: C43,C44: 2RM and 4RM tied by Berlin C 13.10.33 19-20 L 2 cancels to Binghamton NY (USA), with red South Africa to Chicago Flight and Berlin- Friedrichshafen confirmation handstamps, 26 Oct 1933 Century of Progress World's Fair June 1 - Nov 1 Chicago 1933 receiver on back, perf faults, tear at top of cover, still attractive. Est. 150+ SOLD for C\$180.00



**GERMAN OCCUPATION -
WORLD WAR II -
LITHUANIA: ALSIEDZIAI
LOCALS: 2k to 1r complete,**
original gum, fine to very fine.
All with Richter backstamp
guarantees, 80k and 1r also
with Dr Dub back stamps. (Mi 1-
10 €9800) SOLD for C\$725.00





GERMAN OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR II - LITHUANIA: ALSIEDZIAI

LOCALS: 1r original gum, never hinged, very fine. Richter and Dr Dub backstamp guarantees. (2018 Mi 10 €5000) SOLD for C\$450.00



**GERMAN OCCUPATION -
WORLD WAR II -
LITHUANIA: TELSIAI**

LOCALS: 80k ultramarine (Scott Russia 779 var) with 'Laisvi Telsiai 1941.VI.26' (type III) **OVERPRINT INVERTED**, used, very fine. J Bocking backstamp guarantee. (Mi 9K €5500)

Dutch Country Auctions



B68 F-VF OSTROPA S/S, unused, w/o gum as valued, no gum staining but broken paper in "O" of strong watermark. Cat. US\$975/ SOLD for \$110.00

Sparks Auctions

(1 Canadian dollar = 0.73 US dollars)



1933 Richard Wagner Semi-Postal Set. The set is accompanied by 4 values of the different perforations. The 20pf has a tiny gum scuff. It is all mint, never hinged, fresh, and fine-very fine. Scott \$ 2,428 – SOLD for C\$250.00



1934 5pf to 3m Airmail Set, mint never hinged, fresh and very fine.
Scott \$ 600 **SOLD** for C\$160.00

Hunt and Company



1935, Michel 575, VF
NH, Pair, "1585"
error with normal
1685 CV \$70.00
SOLD for \$ 30.00



Scott 476 VAR, Michel 620 II (next to
"175" in margin), 620 III (next to "150"
in margin), Very Fine, Never Hinged, In
Block of 10 CV \$386.00

Old Louis Auctions



Alpenvorland Adria, Albania, German Occupation, Germany

Opening US\$ 75.00 **Sold...**US\$ 110.00



1941 60k on 1pf Lyady Leningrad
Region, German Occupation of
Russia, Germany (Mi. 2 b, CV
\$230, MNH)

Opening US\$ 65.00

Sold...US\$ 95.00



12pf Anti-German Propaganda, Hitler-Skull, 'Futsches Reich', American Private Issue Propaganda Forgery of Hitler Issue, Miniature Sheet (PROOF, Blue Green, Imperforate, MNH) Opening US\$ 9.00 **Sold...US\$ 50.00**



54pf + 96pf
Hermann
Goring
Behind the
Bars, Anti-
German
Propaganda,
Propaganda
Forgery
(Corner
Margin, MNH
Opening US\$
14.00
**Sold...US\$
55.00**



1938 (22 Sep) Sudetenland, Germany, Postcard from Rumburk franked with Mi. 1 - 8 (Signed, CV \$480) Opening US\$ 80.00 Sold...US\$ 85.00



1940 50c Dunkirk,
German Occupation of
France, Germany, Pair
(Mi. 2 I, Margins, CV
\$390)

Opening US\$ 70.00
Sold...US\$ 70.00

1940 50c Dunkirk, German Occupation of
France, Germany, Pair (Mi. 3 I, CV \$390)

Opening US\$ 70.00 **Sold...US\$ 70.00**



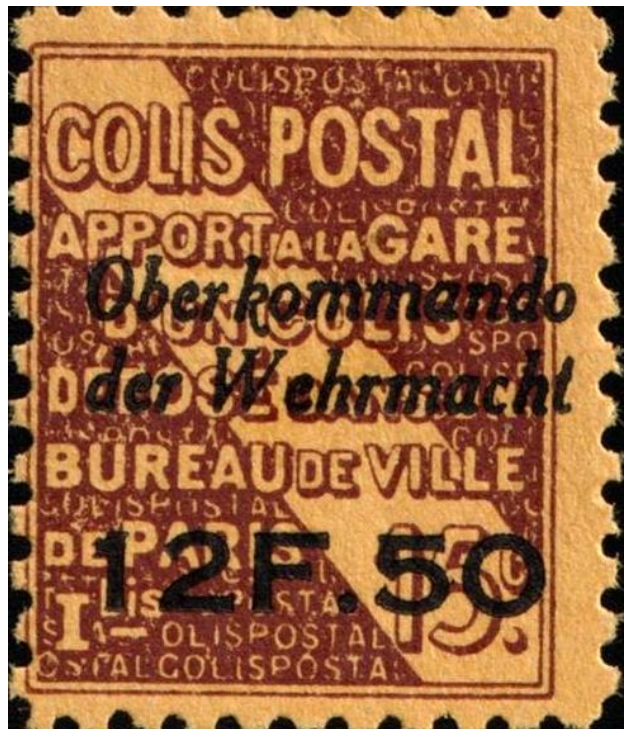


1940 3.50fr 'Oberkommando der Wehrmacht', German Occupation of France, Germany, Colis Postal, Railway Stamp

Opening US\$ 12.00
Sold...US\$ 16.00

1940 12.50fr 'Oberkommando der Wehrmacht', German Occupation of France, Germany, Colis Postal, Railway Stamp

Opening US\$ 12.00
Sold...US\$ 14.00

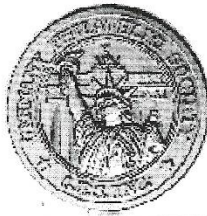




1940 (20 Jul) Dunkirk, German Occupation of France, Germany, Part of
Cover from Dunkirk to Ghyvelde, France (Signed, CV \$1,300+) Opening US\$
230.00 **Sold**...US\$ 250.00

Danzig

Report No.109



- From Prof. Januszajtis - 1000 years of the harbor of Gdansk
- By H.C.Schulz - The Large Mark Values of the Germania Series - a reprint
- Auction No.5-109

Editor: John H. Bloecher

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Oct. • Nov. • Dec.
2000

First Provisional Issue of Danzig Quite Unusual is the Michel 15BK I, Inverted Frame

by Ephraim Day



Figure 1 - The author's copy of Michel 15 BK I, with inverted frame of original German #97B II from 24 January 1916. Overprint with broken "z" indicates that the plate position is **Feld 3**. Perf is 25:17.


Duke Day has been studying and collecting the first 15 issues of Danzig, culminating in this review of the 1920 Freie Stadt stamps, Michel 1 - 15. Here's Duke's story:

Some time in early 1920, the German State Printing Office [Reichsdruckerei] in Berlin received orders to overprint current definitives for use in the Free City of Danzig. It was decided that the overprint would consist of the word **Danzig** in Gothic letters, placed on fifteen values of the Germania series. The overprint ink was to be black. Both the Michel and Scott catalogs numbered these stamps No.1 thru 15. The set is identified as Danzig's First Provisional Issue, with most stamps being issued on 14 June 1920. (Continued on Page 3)

PAID thru
2000

It's that time again!
If an orange thing appears at left, please stop whatever you are doing
and immediately send in the accompanying slip and a check. THANKS - You're wonderful!

Quarterly publication of the DANZIG STUDY GROUP of the Germany Philatelic Society



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In This Report:

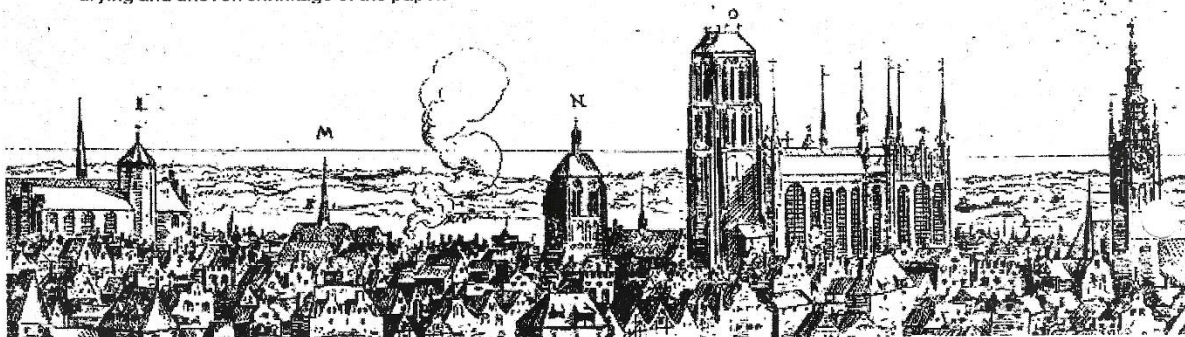
First Provisional Issue of Danzig - Highlighting the 5 Mark, Michel No. 15 (Duke Day).....Page 1, 3-11
 1000 Years of the Harbor of Gdansk (Prof. Andrzej Januszajtis).....12-24
 The Large Mark Values of the Germania Series (H.C.Schulz) Orig. from GPS Specialist.....25-28

A Word about the First Provisional Issues of Danzig:

- After working with Duke and his brilliant article on Michel 15, it became obvious that a few facts should be noted:
- These First Provisionals are complex in nature, in that all doesn't meet the eye in an initial perusal.
 - Each individual stamp of the first 15 has its own story to tell. Don't overlook the basic stamp before receiving the overprint, plate flaws, paper quality, ink makeup, type and line changes, Ks, DDs, etc., etc.
 - Although Duke mentions post cards and two other types of Ganzsachen that had received the Danzig overprint by June 14th, 1920, they technically belong in a future article. However, the editor has included one example of a money order that was converted to Danzig usage, to show the scope of the provisionals.
 - The editor felt the need to include Herb Schulz's article from the Specialist of October, 1952, describing the large mark values of the Germania series. The information included here is essential to a fuller understanding of the subject.
 - The Inflation Study Group of the GPS has created, with David Barnette, an excellent study of the Offset Berlin Post Office Stamps of 1920, which was reviewed in DR-103. This monograph provides a look at just how detailed such a study can be.
 - Soon to be on our 2001 list of studies in this area is an English translation of variations in the early overprints. This monograph shows differences in the width of overprints and other specialties.
 - Please send in your own discoveries of this fascinating area. There's always more to be learned!
 - Isaac Newton said, "What we know is a drop. What we don't know is an ocean."

The Answer is Here.

For some time, the editor has been trying to find time to determine WHY are some of the same stamps made in different widths. We have run into this in previous Reports, and the answer came in the Herb Schulz article starting on page 25, among the answers to a number of questions about the large mark values. The secret: dampening, drying and uneven shrinkage of the paper.



The First Provisional Issue of the Free City - issued on 14 June 1920



Figure 2- The Freie Stadt Danzig's first stamp issue.

On June 14th, a set of eleven stamps from the first provisional issue of 1920 was released. Stamps that were issued at later dates (**40pf.** @ 13 Sept., **1.50 M.** @ 20 July., **3 M.** @ 20 July., **4 M.** @ 21 Dec.) are not included in this study. The groups of both early and late issues received the same black overprints from the **Reichsdruckerei Berlin**. This overprint was known as the **Berliner Aufdruck**.

In addition to the eleven stamps shown above, one **Kartenbrief**, six **Postkarten** were overprinted and one **Postanweisung** (postal money order) were released with the same **Berliner Aufdruck** on 14 June 1920. The later sets of overprinted German stamps were all made at the **Julius Sauer Druckerei** at 69 Fleischergasse in the city of Danzig, not in Berlin. These stamps begin numbering from Michel No. 16 as Danzig starts to show its independence from Germany.

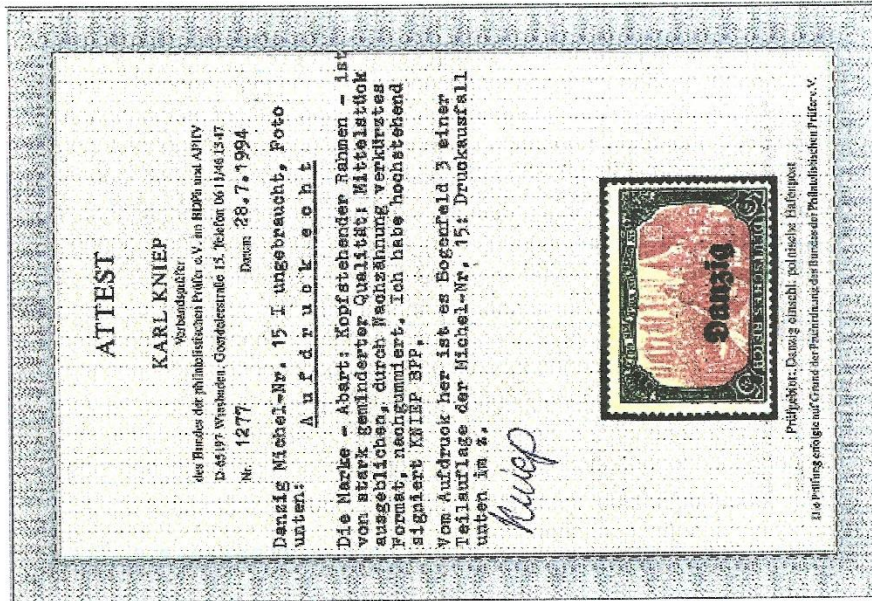
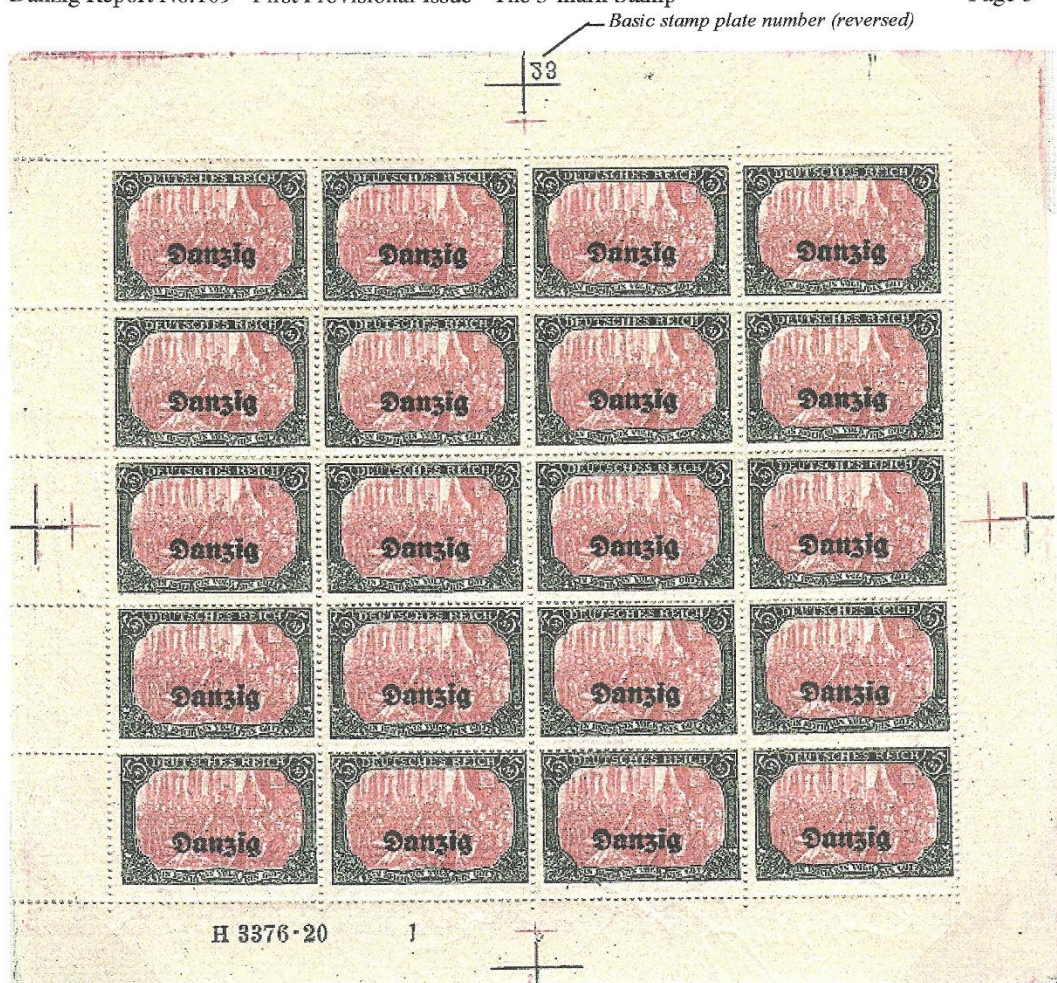


Figure 3 - Michel 15 B DD with 25:17 perfs. Black overprint is printed twice on original stamp 97 B II



Perforation comb left

Figure 4 - Overprint Plate 1 (early stage of wear). So-called "umlaut" over the ä in positions 3, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 19 indicate plates of uneven height. Perforation comb left. Printing House Job Order Number (HAN) is H 3376-20.

Danzig's First 5-Mark Value

The hard-to-find Varieties

This report will concentrate on the most interesting stamp of the issue, the 5-mark value. While the basic stamp is quite affordable, varieties, multiples, and usages command high premiums.

The *Scott* Catalog notes two varieties of the 5-mark: Scott #15a, with the red center and overprint inverted (priced at \$9,250 mint, never hinged), and Scott #15b, with the overprint "Danzig" inverted (priced at \$14,000 used). Even though other varieties are well known, this is the extent of Scott's listing.

As expected, the *Michel Deutschland-Spezial 2000* provides much more detailed information on this



Perforation comb right.

Figure 5 - Overprint plate 2 (later stage of wear) Downward misalignment of overprint plate by several degrees.. Note the difference in elevation of the overprint from position 1 to position 20. HAN Number H 3376 - 20.

stamp. First of all, two distinct perforations are described. The more common of the two is listed as 15B.

For some time now, it has been known that the “Danzig” overprint exists in two lengths. The normal overprint is 15.5 mm in width, while a shorter version, 15.0 mm, has been found on Mi. 15 B, and even on copies of 15 B KI (inverted frame). It is believed that damage or wear during the printing process required the replacement of some of the overprint clichés, resulting in the length varieties. The stamps were printed in sheets of 40 (two panes of 20 that were cut into single panes prior to release).

One of my most prized items is the remains of the wrapper used to ship lots of twenty sheets from the Berlin Printing Office to the Danzig Post Office. (Figure 7).



Figure 6 - Overprint plate 6 varieties:
 1 - a in Danzig misformed
 6 - break under s of Deutsches
 6 - tail of g broken
 10 - h in Deutsches broken
 11 - break under t of Deutsches

Perforation comb right.

Seven Additional Varieties

In addition to 15 A and 15 B, the Michel catalog rewards us with seven additional varieties:

- 15 BK I** - Inverted *Frame*. Unpriced never hinged, DM30,000 mint, Unpriced as Used, Unknown on cover, (20 printed, 12 known).
- 15 BK II** - Inverted *Overprint*. Unpriced for mint or hinged. DM50,000 Used. Unknown on cover.
- 15 BDD** - Double Overprint. DM6,500 unhinged. Unpriced Used. Unknown on cover.
- 15BPL** - Stamp with 2-digit plate number in margin, DM1000 Mint Never Hinged, DM300 Unused, and DM50 Canceled to Order.
- HAN H3374.20** - Unpriced for any category.
- HAN H3376.20** - DM200 Unhinged, DM100 Hinged, not known CTO.
- HAN H4136.20** - DM125 Unhinged, DM65 Hinged, Unpriced as CTO.

Wrapped Up --- From the Reichsdruckerei (Berlin) to Danzig, 25 May 1920

Figure 7 - Markings on this wrapper indicate that it once housed 20 sheets of the 5 Mark stamp that had been overprinted at the Berlin Reichsdruckerei. The HAN Number is listed as B-BH 3376, and the face value of the packed stamps totals 2,000 Marks. Package was mailed to the Oberpostdirektion in Danzig, on the Winter Platz.

Overprint Ink Studies

Scientific examination of the stamp reveals that the ink used for the overprint was a matte black, the same ink as used on all the stamps in the First Provisional Issue, with the exception of Michel No. 14 (the 4-Mark value), which bears a greenish-black hue under high magnification and a keen eye.

I have discovered an interesting situation regarding the three listed HAN numbers (Printing Office Job Numbers). Over the years, I have purchased a dozen H3376.20 panes from various sources, but have not found one sheet of the (cheaper) H4136.20 panes. European writers have also been searching for H3374.20 without luck. Referred to in early literature on the subject, and, indeed, postal records indicate that 3374.20 had been printed, but no one seems to have one. Is it a myth?

Michel reports that 318,600 of the 5-Mark stamps were overprinted and issued on June 14, 1920, remaining valid until Sept, 1922. Originally intended for payment of charges on parcels and special services, by the time of its demise, basic services exceeded five marks. Inflation raised the foreign letter rate from 5 to 10 Marks.



Figure 8 - A good looking cover, but how do we know that it is echt? Registry for the period is two Marks, leaving three Marks for postage. But 3 Marks would carry 500 grams as far as Berlin. Did it weigh that much?

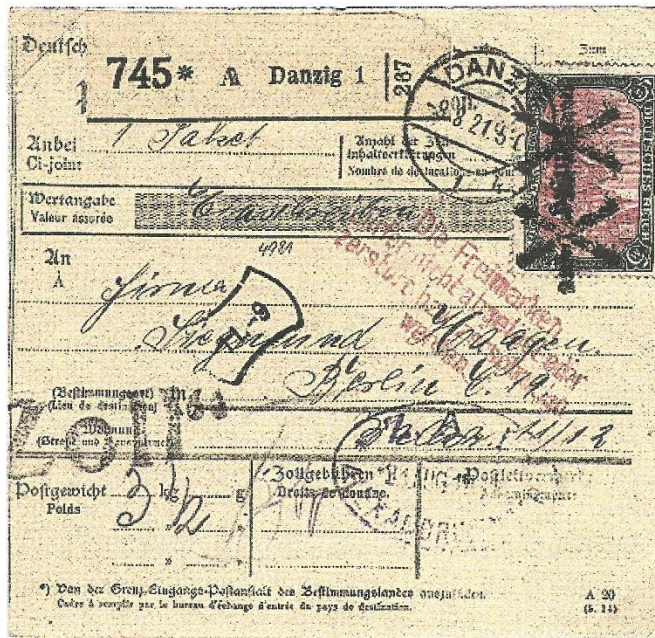


Figure 9 - Five Mark, single franking, on a package card, sent from Danzig to Germany, August 9, 1921. Payment covered weight of 3½ kg.

Conclusion - A Few Final Words

Arguably one of the more attractive and intricate stamp designs of the era is the five-Mark issue of Germany, the top value of the Germania series of that year. In the **Scott Standard Catalogue**, the vignette is identified as "Wilhelm II speaking at Empire's 25th Anniversary Celebration." In the **Michel Deutschland-Spezial**, the vignette is described as "Reichsgründungsdenkfeier im weissen Saale des Berliner-Schlusses".

So ends a brief study of a German stamp, interesting in its own right, that evolved to become a classic provisional issue of Danzig. Hardly a definitive study of this stamp, it was a study illustrating the wide range of material relating to the issue.

The initial 5 Mark issue (Michel 66, Scott 65) was notable as the basic design that would be in use for more than twenty years in Germany, colonies, and areas such as Danzig. The 1900 design was inscribed "REICHSPOST"; the 1902 design becomes "DEUTSCHES REICH", and in 1906, watermark lozenges was added. In 1916, two types were released, differing in the number of perforations. Both the 25:17 and 26:17 perfs were used on this issue, which was adapted for use in Danzig by overprinting in 1920.

It was determined that the Free City of Danzig would utilize then-current German stamps, overprinted for use in the City until locally designed and printed issues could be produced. This "First Provisional Issue" consisted of eleven stamps, as described on Page 3. It is interesting to note that the 40pf was not available until September. It was a necessary addition to pay the Domestic Letter Rate.

The major portion of the provisional set was released to the public on June 14, 1920 and would remain valid for postal services until September 30, 1922. Many color and printing varieties make the First Provisional Issue a worthy subject for study.



Figure 10 - Only the overprint changes position in this used example of Michel 15KII, auctioned in September, 1994, for DM 34,000 with a catalog estimate of DM 25,000. (Now 50,000 in Michel.)

WW II TRIVIA

No rest for the weary: Here are a few quotes that may be new to you. See if you can figure out their source. Good luck!

1. On June 6, 1944, who said, "Never have so few been commanded by so many"?

Gen. Charles de Gaulle

Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery

Maj. Gen. Maxwell Taylor

Field Marshal Erwin Rommel

2. Who said this about what? "I had hoped we were hurling a wildcat onto the shore, but all we got was a stranded whale."

Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery - Normandy's Gold Beach

Maj. Gen. John Hamilton Roberts - Dieppe Raid

General Omar Bradley - Normandy's Omaha Beach

Winston Churchill - the Allied landings at Anzio and Nettuno, Italy

3. Who said, "I do not understand the words, but by God I like your spirit"?

Mao Zedong

Josef Stalin

Chiang Kai-Shek

"Smiling Albert" Kesselring

4. Who said, "It is more likely that the United States ... will be attacked by the not-well-known but very warlike inhabitants of the planet Mars"?

American aviation hero Charles Lindbergh
German Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering
Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo
Italian dictator Benito Mussolini

5. Who said, "[The] British, the Jewish, and the Roosevelt administration [are] the three most important groups ... pressing ... toward war"?

Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo
German Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering
American aviation hero Charles Lindbergh
Italian dictator Benito Mussolini

6. Who said, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning"?

U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt
French Gen. Charles de Gaulle
General Dwight D. Eisenhower
Prime Minister Winston Churchill

7. Who said, "I gave the gift of myself to France ... The fighting must stop"?

French Gen. Charles de Gaulle

French Gen. Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque
French resistance leader Jean Moulin
Marshal Henri Petain

8. Who said, "If the Germans get here, they will never go home"?

Romanian Prime Minister Ion Antonescu
French Gen. Charles de Gaulle
Italian dictator Benito Mussolini
Marshal of Yugoslavia Josip Broz Tito

9. Who said, "All the same, a formidable people, a very great people ... to have pushed this far"? About whom?

Italian dictator Benito Mussolini
French Gen. Charles de Gaulle
General Dwight D. Eisenhower
U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt

10. Who said the following about whom? "His ardor and daring inflicted grievous disasters upon us ... [He is] a great general."

Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery about Gen. Omar Bradley
General Dwight D. Eisenhower about Field Marshal Montgomery
Prime Minister Winston Churchill about Erwin Rommel
French Gen. Charles de Gaulle about Gen. Philippe Leclerc

Answers

1. On June 6, 1944, who said, "Never have so few been commanded by so many"?

The correct answer was **Maj. Gen. Maxwell Taylor.**

Taylor said this when he and his staff of the 101st Airborne landed amid a small group of enlisted paratroopers during the Normandy airborne drop.

2. Who said this about what? "I had hoped we were hurling a wildcat onto the shore, but all we got was a stranded whale."

The correct answer was **Winston Churchill - the Allied landings at Anzio and Nettuno, Italy.**

Maj. Gen. John P. Lucas was in charge of this operation to outflank the German Winter Line. The landings were unopposed, and a jeep patrol even reached the outskirts of Rome. However, Lucas spent days consolidating and planning, which allowed German Gen. Kesselring to move up and surround the beachhead. Lucas was eventually relieved and replaced by Gen. Truscott.

3. Who said, "I do not understand the words, but by God I like your spirit"?

The correct answer was **Josef Stalin.**

During a meeting in Moscow, Stalin said this to Churchill. Stalin, it seems, had insulted the ability of the British to fight. Whereupon, Churchill burst into a torrent of oratory that was so forceful and fast the interpreters were unable to keep up.

3. Who said, "It is more likely that the United States ... will be attacked by the not-well-known but very warlike inhabitants of the planet Mars"?

The correct answer was **Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.**

Mussolini said this in an address to the Italian people on February 23, 1941, denying that the Axis powers had plans to attack the U.S. The Axis powers wanted to emphasize in 1941 that their conquest plans were a European affair and that American intervention was not warranted. His remarks also reflected a bit of realism, as a direct attack on the geographically isolated United States was not a realistic prospect, especially in 1941.

5. Who said, "[The] British, the Jewish, and the Roosevelt administration [are] the three most important groups ... pressing ... toward war"?

The correct answer was **American aviation hero Charles Lindbergh.**

Lindbergh said this during an address in Des Moines, Iowa, on September 12, 1941. This was the worst side of Lindbergh; he later performed valuable and unheralded service as a pilot in combat situations. However, early in the war, his Nazi sympathies were apparent and had tarnished his reputation as the greatest American hero of his day.

6. Who said, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning"?

The correct answer was **Prime Minister Winston Churchill.**

Churchill said this in remarks about the British victory in Egypt on November 10, 1942. With this victory, the Germans would ultimately leave North Africa, providing a much-needed morale-boosting victory for the Allies. The Germans could be defeated.

7. Who said, "I gave the gift of myself to France ... The fighting must stop"?

The correct answer was **Marshal Henri Petain.**

Petain, upon becoming Premier on May 17, 1940, as German troops were overwhelming the French. As mentioned in the text of the Battle of France, he negotiated an armistice with the Germans that allowed German occupation of most of France, with Vichy France being set up in the south.

8. Who said, "If the Germans get here, they will never go home"?

The correct answer was **Italian dictator Benito Mussolini**

Mussolini said this in 1940 while discussing the "advantage" of having German troops on Italian soil.

9. Who said, "All the same, a formidable people, a very great people ... to have pushed this far"? About whom?

The correct answer was **French Gen. Charles de Gaulle.**

Charles de Gaulle, when visiting Moscow. The rest of the quote is, "I don't speak of the Russians; I speak of the Germans."

10. Who said the following about whom? "His ardor and daring inflicted grievous disasters upon us ... [He is] a great general."

The correct answer was **Prime Minister Winston Churchill about Erwin Rommel.**

Churchill's opinion of German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. Rommel's tank divisions in the Battle of France were the spearhead that overwhelmed the French. In North Africa, he inflicted great damage upon the Americans even while retreating. His escape from North Africa became the stuff of legend, as even today, it is not sure how he could escape so quickly and completely. Churchill always defended his controversial remarks, noting that Rommel had correctly guessed that the D-day invasion would be in Normandy instead of Calais and that he ultimately grew to hate Adolf Hitler. That hatred cost him his life, as Hitler ultimately had Rommel executed during the German loss of France on October 12, 1944.

Taken from Funtrivia.com