

THE GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.
THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

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Study Group Notes

Today we provide you with issue one for 1976. As discussed in issue two for 1976, we had decided to issue that bulletin out of numerical sequence due to the problems discussed in the letter accompanying this bulletin. This issue now restores the numerical sequence and the next issue you shall receive shortly will be issue three. This is going to be so confusing, we'll probably regret having done it. Please bear with us.

The response to the Pidun article on the Spanish Blue Division has been overwhelming and our stock was quickly depleted. We decided to provide Xerox copies to those who ordered late. If you are unsatisfied with the Xerox substitution we'll refund your money. Remember all proceeds do go to our treasury.

I have received several complaints concerning a former small Georgia dealer. The dealer is now trying to reestablish his trade after a short hiatus. I have written to several of you concerning your dealings with the unnamed individual. If any of you have complaints about commercial transactions that can be substantiated by documentary evidence we would like to hear them.

Due to Bob and myself alternating responsibility for the bulletin we have decided it is easier to abandon sequential numbering of pages through the year as was done earlier. Therefore each issue will start with page one.

Flash: I just received a letter from Bob stating he is busily at work on the next bulletin and that Fred Stengel will have an auction in that issue. Bob also informed me that Jim Lewis has volunteered to be back issue manager. Watch the bulletin for details on this service.

* * * * *

Book Reviews
by
Myron Fox

There have been quite a few books of interest to the TRSG the last few years and we thought we would take the opportunity to bring the membership up to date. The prices quoted are usually in the currency of the publishing country. The prices may not be current. We recommend an inquiry before transmitting any funds. If you can not pay in the foreign currency we would recommend payment by international money order. If you pay by US check you should allow for currency conversion and other service charges. In Germany this is as much as 3,00DM (\$1.20 in August 1976) Many of these items are also available from US literature dealers.

The Postal History of Austria -Keith Tranmer

A publication of the Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain by the well known Austrian specialist. In 1973 this was available from Mr. Tranmer at 8 Billet Lane, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 1XP, England for \$8.50 postpaid. I have seen other references at \$7.20 and 2.7 Pounds. With the decline of the Pound relative to the Dollar inquiries before payment are advised.

This work is stated by the author to be "A study of the stamps and postal markings used in Austria during the period of the German occupation and the subsequent allied occupation together with estimated valuations..."

In one of the better sections of the book the author lists all known commemorative cancels. His section on POW camps in Austria lists all camps and locations. However plenty of room remains for some researcher to expound on the various censor markings used at the camps. There is a chapter on the Mauthausen (Gusen) concentration camps, including post-war related issues. The section is not as complete as Simon (See next review). However two cachets of guard mail are shown which are not covered by Simon. The section on military mail is quite incomplete and is possibly based on Clement. More complete lists could be obtained from the literature e.g. Tessin. The author admits that he is not providing a full treatment, but he does not really emphasize this enough. For example he illustrates and lists 2 Dienstsiegels with LGPA Wien without pointing out how many of these could exist (Thousands?) The rest of the book deals with postwar issues not usually of interest to the TRSG. Conspicuous in its absence is a treatment of mail censored in Vienna, e.g. code "g". The book is well illustrated. My copy did not hold together well despite rather infrequent use. In summary I would say the book is useful to the generalist or Austrian specialist, but offers little for the specialist in the individual areas covered.

Handbook of the Mail in the Concentration Camps 1933-45-Sam Simon

Since its appearance in 1973 this work has slowly become the standard international reference in the field. Richly illustrated and hard bound. Most types of items are pictured and evaluated in a point system. There is much collateral material pictured including camp maps and pictures, forms, money, etc. There are companion sections on Ghetto and labor camp mail. The 1973 price may appear steep. However the information provided in this work may allow you to reevaluate what you thought was a \$1.00 cover and more than recoup your funds. Available from Mr. Simon at 80 Bruce Ave., Yonkers, N.Y. 10705.

German Occupied Poland-Alf Harper

This is a companion to earlier volumes "Postal Stationery of the Third Reich" and "The Stamps of the Third Reich" and has the same style of reproduction. (Like GERMANIA, if you are familiar with it). To those of you with access to Schultz's Dienstpost series, there is little new here.

Book Reviews (Continued)

The author does appear to have gathered together this information from various sources into an English publication for the first time.

The introductory sections are on the Polish campaign and the establishment of postal service in German occupied Poland, and is similar to Schultz. The chapter on postage stamps is similar to Michel. The author has supplemented this with good historical not readily available in English and similar in style as his earlier works. A page on the Frank propaganda stamp is well done. The article on changing town names could have benefited by a listing of German/Polish name equivalents. (Later in this review we shall discuss the source of such a list) The listing of Dienstpost and German Post Osten is like Schultz's. As are the sections on provisional postmarks, registered labels, TPO, V slogans and special postmarks. The section on notes on the special postmarks provides good supporting data not in Schultz. The postal stationery section is available in Michel. The section on semi-official and souvenir cards is not in Michel. The section on Ghetto post is good and similar to treatments by Kahn and Simon who are referenced. The book is concluded with a section on the Polish Government in exile which is usually not of interest to the TRSG. A bargain at \$3.00 as are his earlier works. (See SPECIALIST for author's address and latest adlets)

Über die Lokalisierung der Deutschen Feldpostämter 1939-1945-G. Fuchs

This book by the well known German Feldpost authority is an update of a more austere section in Clement's classic work. The author states that he has had the advantage, over earlier expositions, of being able to utilize official records. Even so he admits there are still holes in our knowledge.

The book starts with an excellent treatment of an introduction to the Feldpost system of WWII which is well illustrated with actual covers. It then provides for each Kenn number those letters known to have been used in the cancel, e.g. "b" or "Bl", recorded dates of use, and operational area noted e.g. Balkans, West. Finally all covers are rated on a 6 point system with 1 point equal to 2DM and 6 points equal to 20DM.

This book, in my opinion, is disappointing in that it provides little new information. It is a good check list and the periods and places of use are helpful. However it is unfortunate that the author some 30 years after the war has chosen not to provide more information about the units that used the Kenn numbers Painter, Houston, and myself in this country have been able to unravel the mysteries of many of the Kenn's with a more limited access to data that we would believe exists in Germany i.e. covers and historical sources, and you have seen some of this in the bulletin. Truscott in England and Kannapin in Germany have also been hard at work at unraveling the many mysteries. Much headway has been made though unfortunately errors have crept in to some published reports due to the rush to get to print. However I believe it is better to make mistakes and learn than wait to publish the ultimate research piece. Life is too short sometimes. Perhaps some of the reluctance to expose this data in Germany is indicated by the author's statement in the book under review that "Der Herr Bundesminister der Verteidigen hat mit Aktenzeichen VR III 2-11-25-05-49 vom 16.2.71 und 15.3.71 der Veröffentlichung dieser Arbeit in Vorliegender Fassung zugestimmt". The general tone of which is that the German Minister of Defense has authorized the release of this information. I have seen similar attitudes in other quasi official agencies. For some reason there is still real or imagined secrecy in this area even though the source material is often readily available outside of Germany.

The work is a publication of the Verlag Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde, 846 Schwandorf, Brennerstr. 1 for 18DM. Even with what I view as shortcomings it is a must for Feldpost collectors.

Book Reviews(Continued)

Sudetenland Poststempel Katalog-Philatelische Sammler-Vereinigungen Sudetenland

This work provides a listing of all known cancel forms from all places of the Sudetenland from the period of the first postage stamp till the wars end in 1945. According to the publisher 5798 offices and sub-offices are listed. Each listing provides the period of use, country, city name, type of cancel, and date postmark was seen(?). My copy measures 2 3/4 inches high of 8 1/2 x 11 inch pages. The work published at 60, DM must have taken a lifetime to compile. According to a notice in issue 8 of Der Sammler-dienst for 1976 it is sold out but a supplement is in the works. Inquiries should be sent to the leader of the Sudetenland study group, E. Haman, Wilbrandstr. 3, Bielefeld, BRD.

Recommande-Charge-Eingeschrieben-H. Turk

This work appears to be merely a writeup of sections of the author's collection "one hundred Years of Registry Labels". The 176 pages is quite weak in III Reich and not recommended. Available for 18 DM from the author at Richard Wagnerstr. 2, 60 Mannheim 11.

Post Offices List of Polish Territories Administered by Prussian Germany prior to 1944-T.M. Gordon

III Reich collectors will be interested in this listing of German names and their Polish equivalents. Specialists are quite interested in these German/Polish cancels on stamps and covers. Available in the US from Roger Koerber, 605 Northland Towers West, Southfield, Michigan 48075. Price \$4.00

Die Postzensur in Finnland-Hans G. Moxter

This is a very excellent treatise on the censored items of Finland including WWI, post WWI, WWII Finnish, as well as German related. 270 illustrations and a pricing system are presented. Though the basic text is in German, a 2 page dictionary of principal terms in English, Finnish, Danish, Swedish, and Spanish is provided. The illustrations are such that you could do well without a knowledge of German in most cases. There is an interesting philosophical discussion on the factors involved in pricing censored covers which is worthy of its own exposure some time. Seven pages are devoted to German censored Feldpost largely in relation to Legion mail. There are 28 illustrations of censor markings and "Leitstempel" most of which I have not seen in print before. Must for general censorship or Finnish collector. The German specialist must weigh the \$6.00 cost against his interest in the German material presented. (7 pages cited). Available from the author at Im Langenfeld 4, D-6201 Oberjosbach. (The author states he will accept US checks for \$6.00)

Gli Stranieri Voluntari Nella Guerra Del Terzo Reich-E. Mazzuchetti & C. Gianetti

This is a 1973 Italian study of the volunteer Legion area. Richly illustrated it is similar to the series by Beede, Painter, Harper et. al. that ran in the Specialist several years ago. While many obviously philatelic items are illustrated such as the commemorative cancels on sets of stamps, there are also photos of some nice genuine items. The listing of French Volunteer Legion items had appeared earlier in Germany. Some Norwegian Feldpost numbers are provided. As could be expected the book is strongest in the Italian area. Many nice covers are illustrated and a nice listing of Italian Feldpost numbers is provided. Paper bound, I recommend it at the low price of 4000 Lira (\$4.80 in August 1976). I do not believe that language is a formidable barrier here, but admittedly I have not tried any in depth reading. Available from Rag Giorgio Migliavacca, Corso Porto Romana, 20100 Milano, Italy

Die R-Zettel der Protektoratpost Böhmen und Mähren-Dr. Hans Apelt

This is the second expanded edition by this prolific author printed in 1974. It starts with a discussion of label types and periods of use. It then starts an in depth analysis commencing with the former Czechoslovakian labels used in the "Protectorate". This section is aptly illustrated with 11 covers. The next topic is the use of the bilingual red, white, and blue labels of which only nine are known to have been used and of which three are illustrated. Dr. Apelt takes issue with the common belief that these were withdrawn because they used the former national colors. The next topic covered is the second issue with printing in black. Several covers and pieces of multiple registry labels are illustrated. The text then goes on to illustrate the localities that used the various labels. Most appear to have illustrations of the actual labels. The third issue with its red, white and black printing is then treated in a similar manner. Then a discussion of the registry labels of the train postoffices as well as a section on provisional labels is provided. The final section on postwar use of these labels compliments the entire presentation. These labels were apparently printed in sheets just like stamps and the book concludes with several pictures of full sheets. The reproduction process is apparently Xerox, but is more than adequate to keep the 119 pages a bargain at 10, DM when I purchased it. Inquiries should be sent to the author at Frankfurterstr. 22a, D-6242 Kronberg/TS.

Die Feldpostnummern der deutschen Kriegsmarine 1938-1945

Seestreikräfte-Norbert Kannapin

Land Streitkräfte-Olaf Steckel

These two companion volumes are an update and expansion on Kannapin's earlier volume which we reviewed in the September 1972 issue of this bulletin. Many of the shortcomings in my earlier review have been corrected including a listing of references, mainly the Feldpostübersichter, and inclusion of more data relative to fate of individual ships etc. when known. The authors have had access to FFU Teil III Band 10, reprints 6 and 11. To the best of my knowledge only the 7th printing has been available in Washington. The volume on sea forces includes many numbers from U boats for the first time. Though I have been told there are some errors I have not detected any in my frequent use of these volumes. Finding errors was no problem in the earlier version. Both volumes are reduced in size from the earlier 8 1/2 by 11 inch format. The current 5 3/4 " by 8 1/4" format is quite handy for fitting in a suitjacket pocket while attending courses etc. The works still must be supplemented by historical sources if one is to really specialize in this area in order to be able to 100% identify a units identity or location. The best such volume I know of is by Lohmann and Hildebrand and is reviewed later in this Book Review section. The Sea volume by Kannapin is available for \$10, and the Land volume costs \$8.00. In addition postage per volume of .70DM (\$0.30) for shipment by sea and 2,70DM (\$1.00) for shipment by air should be allowed. Available from Norbert Kannapin, 221 Itzehoe, Karolingerstr. 5. This reviewer has also agreed to receive US orders for his correspondent Herr Kannapin and forward them so as to help with the currency exchange problem.

Die Deutsche Kriegsmarine 1939-1945-W. Lohmann and H. Hildebrand

The first installment of this work appeared in 1956 and the 17 th in 1962. Published by the military publishers Podzun Verlag, Bad Nauheim its three volumes cover the navy composition and locations throughout the war in extreme detail. Numerous organizational charts and some maps are provided. Throughout the work the commanders name, rank, and period of command are provided. The chapter on sea units gives similar data on the organization of the fleet. Capsule operational histories are provided for the larger

ships e.g. cruisers,battleships,destroyers.For the smaller ships,such as torpedoboats,the composition of the various fleets are given and the disposition of each boat noted e.g.sunk May 5,1941 or transferred to Norway at end of war.A complete history of each "Hilfskreuzer" better known in the US and England as raiders is also provided.A capsule history of each U boat similar to the torpedo boats etc. is also provided.

The second volume provides the detailed composition of the home units,e.g.Admiral North Sea,as well as the detailed command structure of the occupied areas.Separate sections allows one to determine locations of land based units such as coastal artillery,FLAK etc.The third volume provides biographies of all commanders listed in the book and provides data sometimes useful in tracing a cover.The books are available from Kurt Vowinckel Verlag, 6903 Neckargemünd for 168,60 DM.A steep price unless you really are a specialist.A catalog of other military books is available from Vowinckel for 7,00DM

Germany Philatelic Society -Reference Manual of Forgeries -Dr.Werner M. Bohne

Issued in installments this review was written after receipt of the fourth installment.An attractive small size loose leaf binder is provided with 20 index dividers for various areas of coverage similar to the Michel Specialized but not exactly the same.Third Reich collectors would be most interested in the sections entitled Germany 1871-1945,Memel,Sudetenland,German Occupation 1939-1945,German Military Issues 1939-1945,and Propaganda and Espionage Forgeries.Many of you are no doubt aware of the existence of Sudetenland or INSELPOST forgeries.What fascinated me was the existence of forgeries of some rather inexpensive items such as the Hitler issues overprinted Ostland or Ukraine or the General Government issues.The beginner would more than recoup his costs by reading the treatment of issues generated strictly to take the collector such as the Goering sheet,OSS forgeries,Feld post fantasies,and Channel Island "Mache".These items show up over and over again in auctions.The more advanced collector will be interested in the treatment of the Theresienstadt,Feldpost#5,Sudetenland,the Polar Bear sheet, as well as some subtle cover fabrications.

A slight shortcoming in the earlier edition mechanics has been rectified with the inclusion of better identifying information on each new page.

The author points out that the book is not intended to be a substitute for expertisation.An obvious "labor of love" by the former GPS President,longtime Chairman of the GPS Expertisation Committee,and an internationally known philatelist and a worthy addition to any German philatelist's library.See German Postal Specialist for ordering details.

Catalogue Prix-Courant Des Obliterations Provisones Alsace Lorrain-J.Heckler

This book was actually published in 1945.However it is new to me as I stumbled across it in an auction about 2 years ago.I never remember seeing it referenced and yet it appears to have information of interest to us.The use of the French "provisional",train,normal French and German normal cancels in this region are typed and priced and in some cases even illustrated.I still believe this to be a must work for the occupation specialist.Does anyone have a more recent reference?For the record the author in 1945 was listed as living at 48 Rue Stanislaw,Nancy,France and the book in paper pamphlet form sold for 48 1945 French Francs.

Comments on any books reviewed here are always welcome.

* * * * *

The Fox's Den
by
Myron Fox

The last edition of this feature appeared in 1972. I had accumulated numerous notes on prizes won, review articles, etc. since that period. Many of these are rather stale by now. Therefore I have decided to only present the more pertinent historical data and largely concentrate on only the 1975-1976 time frame.

Potpourri

INTERPHIL

I was indeed fortunate to be able to mix business with pleasure and catch the last two days of INTERPHIL on the way to an appointment in Washington. This was my first attendance at an international event and I must say it was quite an experience. My only regret was that I could not have been there longer. As could have been expected there appeared to be a strong US flavor to the exhibits. However, even though I have not saved US since I was a youngster, I found the exhibits quite stimulating and exciting to view.

As you know it was the GPS Spring convention also and many GPS'ers were present. In addition many of the key figures running INTERPHIL, or at least doing the work, were the same faces we saw at the last GPS convention in Philadelphia. Names that come to mind are Bob Stets and Paul Panamerenko. Jim Duffy was quite active being a regional representative from the US. In fact the only real time I could get to talk to Jim was while he and I were stripping masking tape from the exhibits after the last day so that their owners could remove them. It was quite a sight with Jim going down one set of frames and myself on the other and talking all the way. Bob and Jill Houston were present and we had a good talk while Bob manned the War Cover Club booth. Joachim Pidun made it in from Berlin and it was as always our pleasure to discuss Feldpost with him. We had not seen him since Toronto and as usual he was a fountain of information.

Bob Houston showed his registered Feldpost frames. The collection illustrates the various usages of Kenn numbers, registry labels, etc. and much of the material is seldom seen. Bob achieved a large silver for his efforts. This is quite an achievement in an international competition considering the esoteric nature of his subject matter. One European visitor commented to me he would like to take that back and show it. Jim Duffy showed his Feldpost Admission stamp collection highlighted by #14 on piece. He too was awarded a large silver. Other winners that I recognize in the STAMPS article are Paul Panamerenko, Arthur Engel, and Henry Hahn. In addition George Blizil received a silver in the literature competition. Good work gentlemen!

The only disappointment in the event was a personal one for me. I went out of my way to arrive Saturday morning in time to attend the GPS convention. I checked into the Sheraton and took the bus across town to the Civic Center only to find that the meeting time and place was changed and that I had missed it. I still do not know all the details, but I was using advance publicity from the philatelic press as my information source.

By the way these international events would only occur in the US about every ten years. However next years will be in Toronto and many US collectors will be able to attend. Our old friend and study group member Gus Snels is very active in the planning for it. Those of you that remember our last Toronto convention and Gus's role know it shall be a success.

Stamps Caught Eichmann?

Linn's for April 1973 quotes a Reader's Digest story, "The Man Who

Will Not Forget" by Joseph P. Blank (February 1973).The story states that the well known Nazi hunter,Simon Wiesenthal,was advised by his physician to take up stamp collecting as a means of relaxation.According to the article it was a chance discussion with a fellow collector concerning some letters received from Argentina that led to Eichmann's discovery and eventual kidnapping in Argentina.

Scanning the Journals

Deutsche Feldpost 1939-1945 Arbeitsgemeinschaft im BdPh

We are pleased to see the revival of this long dormant group under the guidance of the well known German Feldpost authority Günther "Feldpost" Fuchs.If the first two issues are an indication of the quality of the Rundbriefe,I say they will become a welcome addition to the Feldpost collectors reference library.Hopefully this reincarnation of the old group will kindle a new spirit of international cooperation which will help put the Feldpost "jigsaw puzzle"together.Dues are 24,DM A YEAR.Membership inquiries etc. are handled by Adolf Knauf,Grebenstr. 24,D-3501 Fuldata1.The Rundbrief,RB, is scheduled to be issued three times a year.

Rundbrief 7,January 1976

The RB numbering scheme continues from #6 issued in 1956.This first issue of the new group first provides a list of sources and prices for those Feldpost books that are still available.A.Knauf,at the above address,will provide a Xerox copy of the Clement classic for 22,00DM.

The first article is by Fuchs on the 1937 "war game" cards.His research in the military archives has led him to discover that the numbers in the cancels were not in fact Kenn numbers,but were the tactical numbers of the Division etc.He was also able to allocate the numbers used to "friendly","enemy" and "neutral" forces.He then discusses in detail the relative rareness of the individual numbers based on his knowledge of some 200 cards.He then asks for further registrations from collectors.He is interested in knowing the "Kenn" number,letter type in cancel e.g. "a",date of postmark,Feldpost number,Leitstelle,and printing of the card e.g.4162.37 IID or 5409.37 IID.This reviewer would be glad to receive your registrations to forward to Herr Fuchs as an indication of the TRSG'd willingness to cooperate with our friends across the sea.

The second article in this issue is also by Fuchs and analyzes the Brussels Feldpost machine cancellation.24 different types of the cancel are presented and illustrated.A registration campaign is encouraged.

The third article by Fuchs discusses the Luftfeldpost Osten.Fuchs enumerates the possibilities of saving this issue on and off cover depending on the type of stamp,period of use,and postal markings.There are some nice photos of the various examples.

The final article in this issue deals with a discussion of the HAN numbers used with the Feldpost admission stamps Michel #1 and #2.The author,G. Fuchs, asks for a registration of holdings.Again we are willing to receive your data for forwarding to Germany.

Rundbrief 8,May 1976

This issue starts with a follow up on the previous issue on HANS including pictures of types of selvedge etc.The second article is a fine tutorial on Feldpost.The importance of postmark dates in determining an identification is illustrated by a few photographic examples.Fuchs points out the difficulty in publishing much of the identification data due to the number of pages that would be required.He also points out the scarcity of identifying numbers used in 1938-39.

The next article on the "Feldpostsammelstelle der Deutschen Reichpost 1939-1945" is said to be an update of an earlier article, also by Fuchs, which appeared in the IBRA 1973 catalog. The article is richly illustrated with all known types. The final article is an exposition on the Funknachrichten cards by the specialist Karl Heiman. It is said to be an expansion on his article in Der Sammler-dienst. I have not had time myself to compare the two. Mr. Heiman would like registration of cards from current owners. (I would like to be the owner of one).

Deutschland-Sammler(DS)

This fine publication is available from Dr. Heinrich Wittmann, Postfach 860844, 8 München 86 for 20, DM per year and appears more or less monthly. There appears to have been some problems during the past year with late/combined issues. This publication accepts no advertising and we hope that economics do not force it to go the way of Die Sammler-Lupe.

DS # 7 for 1976

"Neues aus Atlantik Festungen"-W. Tust

This article presents a day by day discussion of information pertinent to collectors about supply and mail traffic to and from the isolated "fortresses" as gleaned from unit histories and the daily diaries. The article covers the period from August 20, 1944 to January 30, 1945 since official sources are absent after this date.

DS#4/#5 for 1976

"Die Funknachrichten Karten aus dem umgeschlossenen Atlantik und Kanalfestungen 1939-1945"-Karl Heiman:n

This article is similar to that referenced in earlier ARGE Feldpost review, and January 1976 article in Der Sammler-dienst.

DS#3 for 1976

"Das Rommelgedenkbblatt" -Erich Baier

This is an overview of the Rommel commemorative folder allegedly inspired by the well known Austrian philatelist Kosel. He discusses the so called "Tobruk" commemorative issue of which only eight copies are known. He says buy the latter only if signed Ludin, if at all. There does not appear to be much new here over Kosel's earlier article in the November 1955 issue of the Austrian Philatelist except for an indication of the role played by Herr Kosel in the issue.

DS#9 for 1975

"Interessante Dokumente"

Author not stated, but probably Dr. Wittmann. Two photos of documents relating to postal traffic in occupied France are shown. One by a German Sonderführer authorizes the resumption of mail service. The other is a copy of the postal administrations orders to the subordinate postoffices. The author states that since these orders did not invalidate explicitly earlier stamps of France that they were allowed to be overprinted at the postoffice windows and this accounts for the wide variety of valid overprinted issues.

"Ganzsachen in deutschbesetzten Frankreich in Nord Frankreich 1940 und die Atlantikfestungen"-W. Tust

The authority on these issues states that postal stationery is rare and not listed in Michel. He gives rationale for why he believes that they belong in the catalog and shows photos of a couple of such items.

DS#8 for 1975

"Postschlüsse in der Festung Lorient" -W.Tust, Bundesprüfer

Author presents results of data gathered from actual covers including postmark date, control marking date, and destination. From this data he arrives at conclusion concerning mail shipments and post office closings. He also states that the majority of the mail seen comes from Lorient and only a little from the Island of Groix or Belle Ile. (This would be expected due to relative sizes of places, but is still worth having such documentary evidence)

"Neues bei den Besatzungsausgaben Frankreich 1940-45" -W.Tust, Bundesprüfer

Author reports on new varieties in Michel Specialized. He discusses items that he has expertised that are still not listed. He says he has had difficulty accomplishing this since he does not have the original material. He prices them and corrects some catalog errors.

DS#6 for 1975

"Oberkommando der Wehrmacht: Aufdruck auf französischen Packetmarken" -W.Tust

Herr Tust notes that Michel states that these are an unofficial issue. He then presents the various issues and argues that Michel should be changed to state that these issues are strict "Mache" or fabrications. (Michel has still retained this wording in my Michel 1976 version-M.Fox)

DS#2 for 1975

"Deutsches Reich Nr.793 Hitler 25 Pf. Blau"

Dr. Wittmann discusses areas of specialization possible caused by war time shortages and improvisations in this low cost Hitler issue. Thus there are five gum varieties and numerous color shades. It is stated that a pure blue variety has been discovered of the 25Pf. value. The specialist Rieder is then stated to be looking for registrations of color varieties for comparison with his FDC.

GERMANIA

GERMANIA is the journal of the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society of England. It is a must for those specialists that are not fluent in German. The US representative is GPS member Fred Scheuer, 2215 East Alpine Ave., Mesa, Arizona 85204.

GERMANIA June 1976

"Feldpost Airmail Service" Rainer Lütgen

The author provides an approach to collecting WWII Feldpost covers. He first gives background of the air service, routes, etc. The discussion of the various varieties is similar to Fuch's article referenced earlier.

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"Stamps and Postal History of the Saar Plebiscite" - Mrs. D.M. Green F.R.P.S.I

The author provides the historical background of the plebiscite. The presentation is strong in the discussion of the Feldpost of the participating countries with illustrations, pictures of slogan cancels etc. There are 14 pages of text and illustrations.

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"The Danzig Postcard" - Reg Auckland

This article is about a propaganda card distributed in England a few weeks before her entry into WWII. The card gives the German view of the Polish corridor to Danzig and is illustrated in the article. It is not clear how the card arrived in England or how it was dis-

tributed.No reference is made to the card in the press of that period but the author conjectures that may be due to censorship restrictions.

GERMANIA June 1975

"TRSG Study Group Report" -John Rawlings, Study Group Leader

This is a report on the current status of the English III Reich Study Group's research.The group now has 35 members.Results to date on the Nuremburg rally cancel usages and earliest dates of use of various postcards is reported.The group is very active in areas that compliment our studies.George Lewis has been appointed as liaison between the two groups.We hope to be able to present some of their research to you in the future.

"Forgeries:A Report on the latest Spate" -Oskar Winter

Discusses two forger rings broken up by German police. The forgeries attributed to a Mr.Bahrs of Cuxhaven are stated to have included town, police and party seals mostly from the Hitler period; Feldpost cancels 1944-45; INSELPOST overprints; and occupation cancels.The second ring operating out of Berlin by B. an K. Friederich and L.Novak. Winter states that the official police notice includes 14 pages of false cancels including Jersey 1941.The article illustrates numerous of the forgeries including items from the Sudetenland, Krakau, Saar, and even the relatively low cost commemorative cancel for the Hitler-Mussolini meeting.

GERMANIA April 1975

"Danzig Postmarks of the Small Offices"-J.L.White side

As the title indicates the article excludes the metropolitan cancels which include Danzig in the name and are thus readily identifiable.Based on Michel and other references a classification system is provided and the types are illustrated.The dates of use are not given ,according to the author, partly due to lack of space and partly due to insufficient reference material from which to draw conclusions.Of interest to the specialist trying to determine and categorize stamps/covers used in Danzig which is now part of Poland.

"An Approach to Collecting World War II Feldpost Covers"-R.Ldtgens

An article I had always intended to write.The author discusses ways one can categorize and collect Feldpost covers.First he starts with a tutorial on the components of a Feldpost cover.He then presents a discussion of the Dienststempel, cancel types, the routing scheme, and finally instructional markings such as "Zurück".Good introductory material which could still be expanded on.

GERMANIA December 1974-February 1976

"LZ-130'Graf Zeppelin'" -Aleyn Jordan

Detailed study of the postal history and background of the LZ 130 told in several well illustrated installments.I found the discussions of its use in 1938 as a radio listening device during a Sudetenland flight and later against the British radar installations quite fascinating.The author states that he still has great difficulty in England, even to this day, in getting data from official sources on these events.

Der Sammler-dienst(SD)

Available from Verlag Karl Ihl, Postfach 683, 8630 Coburg.
There are 26 issues a year and the annual subscription is 44,00DM

SD Issue 9 and 10 1976

"Die Maschinen-Werbestempel des Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren"-E.Haman
Mr.Haman is the leader of the ARGE Böhmen und Mähren and presents the article under the ARGE's byline.The article deals with the machine slogan cancels of the "Protectorate".Two categories are presented:A,those issued under the"Protectorate" and B,the Czeck types used inthe"Protectorate".Cancels are ordered according to place of use with illustrations.A fine article though the author admits to it being "just a beginning".

SD Issue 8 1976

"Neues Falschstempel des Generalgouvernement" - ARGE Polen und Gebiete BdPh
A short illustrated article of forgeries that have come on the market of the 4 year commemorative cancels.

SD Issue 6 1976

"Maximaphilie in Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren"-E.Haman
Another article under the byline ARGE B&M by its leader. Author describes and illustrates B&M items that he feels legitimately fall into the maximum card category.

SD Issues 3 and 4 1976

"Die Anfangs-und Enddaten einiger Marken des Protektorats Böhmen und Mähren und der Michel Katalog anhand amtlicher Unterlagen"-Dr.H.Apelt
Author discusses dates of issue and use based on his research .

SD Issue 1 1976

"Die Funknachrichten Karten aus den eingeschlossenen Atlantikfestungen"
K.Heimann
Survey article concerning rare cards used to forward messages to recipients which were received via radio from isolated "Fortresses" e.g.Channel Islands,Lorient.The cards are illustrated and described.

SD Issue 21 1975

"Die Postgebühren ablösung in Österreich bis 1945"- Dr.H.Apelt
Under byline of Wr. Briefmarken Spiegel.This portion of a larger article deals with the postal rates at the time of the Anschluss.

SD Issue 9 1975

"Die Viktoria Stempel des Protektorats Böhmen und Mähren"- E.Haman
Again under the byline of the ARGE B&M the group leader presents research into "V for victory" cancels used in B&M.Richly illustrated with recorded usage dates,cities used,and color.

"Lokalausgaben in dalmatinischen Raum" -K.Heimann
Concerns Yugoslavian stamps overprinted Korcula or Hvar which have appeared on market.Author has researched 118Jäger Division history and war diary and concludes that after April 24,1944 the island of Hvar was not occupied by German troops.He discusses phased withdrawals and concludes that there was no need for these issues and they must be considered issues of questionable validity.

SD Issue 3 1975

"Wohin gehören die Marken CSR Michel 406 und 407?"-Dr.H.Apelt

The author logically develops a case as to why these pre-war Czechoslovakian issues should be considered Böhmen und Mähren "Forerunners" ("Vorläufer") and thus belong in the B&M section of Michel.

SD Issue 24 1974

"Wertlose Legionsbelege"-Norbert Kannapin

Our study group member warns of the suspicious nature of various SS Legion covers now on the market. The covers have valid stamps unit markings, and censor markings from the SS. He states that he has seen hundreds of such covers that have not been opened under the sealing strip, are from the same sender, to the same address, and mailed at the same time. Kannapin says the creator of the material is obviously familiar with the details of this type of material. He conjectures that the origin may be from a former SS member who had retained some of the implements. He concludes the covers are "Mache".

SD Issues 5 to 16 1974

"Das amtliche Verzeichnis aller Postämter, Poststellen, und Nebenstellen von Litauen lt. UPU-(WPV-) Unterlagen aus Bern, Stand 1935"-Compiled by
W. Frauenlob, Bern

List names in alphabetical order by postoffice types of Lithuanian towns before the war. Unfortunately the heading types are in Lithuanian, though I suspect they follow the categories presented in the German title. The last installment also provides a list of Lithuanian names versus German Dienstpost cancels as well as some Bahnpost.

Gilde Rhein Donau-Gildebrief Februaury 1976

"Freimarken Stempler"-Alfried Ludtke

This article was originally published in the pre-war predecessor of the "Gilde". Though not in my area of expertise, I found the 4 page article quite interesting. The devices discussed were first used to any extent in 1936 and were largely used by large mailers. The user would place a stamp on his letter and run it through this machine to cancel it. This cancel usually included the date, city name, an advertisement, and an unique set of three double horizontal wavy lines. The middle line was broken and in the early usages included a circle which later became 4 points. A number was also present which represented the number of the device which cancelled the stamp. It is said about 1200 devices were in use. The mail treated in this way could bypass the cancelling process in the postoffice and thus speed up the delivery process. (This is an interesting cross between meter and precancel mail). The author in 1940 points out the scarcity of these items. (I would assume they eventually gave way to meter mail which is more efficient). In a note supplementing the article a new book by the ARGE Vorausentwertungen is mentioned. This book, "Vorausentwertungen des Deutsches Reiches und Bundesrepublik", by Max Brugmann has 69 pages and 22 are illustrated. Available from Verlag Neues Handbuch der Briemarkenkunde, 8460 Schwandorf, Brennerstr. 1 for 12,50DM

Nuove Il Corriere Filatelo

Published by Societa di Studi Filatelei e Storico Postali in a.s. Via Cavour 18,50129 Firenze,Italy.The per issue price is stated to be 1000 Lira.A card enclosure states the subscription overseas is 10,000 Lira per year for 6 issues.I stumbled across this magazine at the War Cover Club booth at INTERPHIL where there were several complimentary copies.The article that caught my eye was in Anno II,Numero I,for February 1976.It was called "Timbri di Censura Dei Campi di Concentramento Germanici Nella II Guerra Mondiale" by Gianfranco Mattillo.This richly illustrated article discusses the POW camps in Germany during the war.A detailed presentation of censor markings and cancel types is presented.I found the picture of a card from Ostland to a POW as well as the POW card with a Feldpost cancel interesting.A listing of camps and Feldpost numbers used in some camps is given.

Postal History Journal

The October 1975 issue of this prestigious journal has an article by Henry Hahn , "Concentration Camp Parcels-Theresienstadt Label Forms".This well illustrated article describes and illustrates the technical differences of the various forms issued by the Jewish Council of Elders in Prag to potential senders of parcels to Theresienstadt. These forms would allow the recipient to receive one stamp for sending a parcel to the camp.(Inmates were allowed 1 parcel every 2 months.

STAMPS

The May 17,1975 issue has an article "30th Anniversary of January March from Camp Woldenburg OFLAG IIC" by Henry Zembrowski. Good background on OFLAG IIC and evacuation of Polish prisoners from camp towards end of war.Also discusses stamps printed by OFLAG VIIA, Murnau,commemorating the event.Mr.Zembrowski is a leader of the Polish POW and DP camps Philatelic Study Group.This group has many former Polish WWII military veterans and former POW's amongst its membership who have been responsible for numerous articles in STAMPS and elsewhere.

Auction Results

This is an area that is difficult to get material for since not all houses supply prices realized.I somehow appreciate those houses that do better for it.I am presenting some results that I find interesting.I am not always able to make profound statements on the results since not all comments are in my areas of interest.I would like to caution you that the presentation of data from an auction firm is not intended to necessarily be an endorsement of the firm.It does mean that I have access to their catalogs and prices realized and sometimes buy from themThere are plenty of good firms that do not meet all the above stated criteria.This would be especially true of a heavily stamp oriented auction firm since I save only covers.We are still in a "Caveat Emptor" world and there is no substitute for getting any items that cost you a reasonable sum expertised.

The descriptions are either quotes or my paraphrasing of the catalog description.At times descriptions are vague especially when lots are involved.Realizations of such lots are hard to generalize since an on-site bidder may get a better appraisal of a given lot.

Dr.Wittmann Spring Auction May 11-13,1976

This is presented in 3 columns.The first gives the catalog value(cat.),the second the starting bid(Ausruf),and the last is the price realized(Real.).All prices are in DM.To the realization must be added 15% to be paid by the successful bidder living in Germany.(Slightly less for overseas bidders since Mehrwertsteuer is deducted).Normally I have chosen not to list results on stamps if they realized 70 to 80 % of Michel.This is a sometimes rule of thumb often quoted.The results shown here that this rule is really poor and very much issue sensitive.Wittmann also does not appear to be as dogmatic about offers less than the Ausruf as some German houses are as the results will show.It is also interesting to see those items that do not sell(Usually because of too high an Ausruf).

	Cat.	Ausruf	Real.
Feldpost#5a rare good centering,perfs. no gum	90,	50,	85,
" " used on piece "Bei der Feldpost .."	500,	400,	520,
" 6 corner piece Luxus colored photo	3300,	2600,	2750,
" 6 on piece	3000,	2400,	2550,
" 6DD Double overprint with HAN.Unique only one sheet known.Light gum "bug"	3300,	4900,	4600,
" 7A mint	450,	300,	500,
" " perforation fault	450,	80,	110,
" " used	300,	180,	340,
" " on piece with "bug"	300,	100,	NS
" 7B Mint "Luxus" block of 4.Color Photo	13,200,	14,500	NS
" 8B Hinge remainder	120,	60,	NS
" " on piece with Feldpost(FP) cancel	85,	60,	85,
" 8B cover front/home	220,	140,	180,
" 9 mint	400,	270,	380,
" 9 hinge trace	400,	140,	180,
" 10Ab used.Picture shows blurred cds	750,	450,	NS
" 10Bb on piece over 2 Luftfeldpost stamps Evidently cover was pre-prepared with 2 ordinary admission stamps and Inselpost stamp was affixed over it.Cancel 01.12.44 We shall try to illustrate this at right.	--	100,	160,



Note items are usually signed by recognized expert-iser for piece.Not indicated usually to save space.

NS means not sold .FP means Feldpost.CDS means cancel.

" 11A "Bug"	2000,	900,	NS
" 11AIII Used FP cancel	1000,	1500,	1150,
" 11BI Almost black overprint unused	600,	270,	290,
" iiP Type II on brown package stamp roul-eted.Trial printing.Very rare only few known.Some paper affixed to rear.	---	1800,	1950,
" 12 Type I mint	300,	150,	260,
" " " used	300,	75,	110,
" " " on cover	500,	320,	650, (!)
" 12 I and III on piece RODI cancel	800,	480,	500,
" 12 Type IV used	900,	500,	470,
" 13b Mint "Pickenpack"	250,	150,	200,

	Cat.	Ausruf	Real
Feldpost 13 "Kab.Piece" FP cancel	1200,	800,	960,
13 private cards mint for war cemeteries	--	40,	40,
376 Registered FP covers.Some large.All with FP cancels.Many cancel types,labels,plus Fuchs's book	--	880,	1000,
Collection of 317 FP covers with former city cancels excised.("Stumme")	--	760,	NS
Propoganda issue 785Pf ² mint with "Shraffur"(Hatching?)	350,	250,	NS
Lot of Propoganda leaflets at Ausruf around 17DM each did not sell			
11 USA leaflets Eifel Front	--	200,	150,
" " " West	--	220,	150,
499-507 mint	650,	400,	560,
" " mixed high values(20,25) hinged	480	250,	250,
" " hinged	300,	150,	150,
" " used	270,	150,	140,
499-507A used up er right corner pieces	361,	220,	NS
499-507A and B both types "Very Clean" used	450,	240,	240,
505A Mint	400,	240,	420,
Block 2 slight hinge trace	900,	780,	920,
" " Mint	900,	580,	920,
" " slight hinge marks.slightly yellowed corners	900,	480,	720,
573Y Perfins on "Bedarfsbriefe" and same stamp nor- mal watermark on letter.	500,	200,	200,
529-39X Mint	250,	140,	NS
556-64 Mint	220,	140,	180,
556-64 Mint (same as last lot?)	220,	120,	NS(!)
Block 3 without gum	480,	260,	400,-
576-579 used each on cover	345,	180,	190,
586Y Inverted Watermark signed PESCHL	600,	400,	840,(?)
588-597 Mint	80,	50,	NS
609-16,671 2 sets mint	260,	140,	120,
5 registered letters "Brown Band" 1936-42 each with stamps 621,649,671,747,815	200,	120,	190,
716-29 on piece	100,	65,	85,
799U	350,	170,	170,
Letter from KZ Grossrosen with contents	--	50,	80,
50 letters/cards.25 registered with good stamps	450,	220,	300,
70 items concerning Jewish persecution including "J" ID card,KZ mail,SS Feldpost, "with very rare pieces"	--	960,	960,
W47/K20 Wagner setenants 15 values compl.unused	360,	120,	200,
Karlsbad 2,3,5-9 unused	220,	110,	130,
" 51,52 "	635,	320,	320,
" 57,59 "	435,	220,	220,
Nikalsdorf #1 on piece	365,	290,	290,
" #2 " "	365,	290,	290,
" #3 " " Foto Attest	850,	780,	NS
" #5 " " "	1200,	1100,	NS
" #11 " " "	1300,	1200,	1550,
" #13 " "	60,	50,	60,
" #14 " "	140,	125,	125,
" #15 " "	45,	40,	50,
" #45 Large piece with Befreiungs cancel	800,	700,	1000,(?)
" #93 On piece	475,	400,	NS
Reichenberg 45A unused inverted overprint	380,	190,	NS
" 55-63 Mint	450,	195,	195,
" 113-115 Unused	810,	390,	400,

Cat. Ausruf Real

Rumburg 1-18 Mint	471,	220,	NS
Albania 13K Mint	600	350,	NS
Belgium Flemish Legion Mint I-XX	895,	550,	500,
Estonia 4-9 on registered cover	--	50,	50,
Gen.Gouvernement Überroller card 30.8.39 delivered after battle by DP Osten."Zurück" and postage due	--	50,	70,
Litzmannstadt Ghetto Corner block of 4	1480,	900,	NS
Chan el Islands British#130 bisect on cover	230,	170,	230,
" " " #157 " " "	200,	130,	190,
Kotor Mint 1-6	350,	170,	170,
Kotor I-VI Pr. Trial printings.Mint	--	500,	500,
Lithuania 10-18 on registered letter	930,	480,	480,
Pleskau 3 registered letters 11X,14-15B,16B	270,	200,	NS
Pleskau Madonna mint 12ax,bx,by(Previously unsold)	140,	70,	70,
Serbia Mint Block 1-2	140,	80,	80,
" 54-57,I/IV,56-57K mint	1238,	390,	NS
" 68I mint	550,	360,	NS
Sarny 4A sheets of 25 with allvarieties mint	2000,	1500,	1550,
Zara 2K mint	220,	120,	NS
" 5K mint	500,	340,	420,
" 53 counter values mint	3900,	2400,	4100(!)
Gen.Gouv. 54 cards/covers in album registered etc.	400,	240,	260,-
200 covers/cards 1939-45.Several cat as stamps	800,	300,	500,
140 1937-42 Setenant Hindenburg on cover.Most Bedarf.	--	140,	270,
150 covers/cards from occupied regions G.,B&M,Alsace,	--	250,	520,(!)
Lorraine.With censorpost,S..Most to Official offices			
Gen.Gouv 35-39 postage due 25 of each in partial sheets	1500,	700,	NS
Feldpost Stamps 500 pieces mint Luftfeldpost&Packet	217,	60,	60,
Feldpost circle cancel 8.4.41 ,"Vergiss nicht,.."	--	50,	50,
Clement 522b (500 points)			

Wittmann Winter Auction November 1975

Though this data is a little old ,I am presenting certain items largely in the Feldpost area that are seldom seen at auction

Spanish Civil War.Specialized collection of German Navy.			
29 Official covers,9 photos,12 other items,3 with Spanish	-	700,	1450,
stamps and censor			
1937 Wehrmacht Maneuver Cards 13 different	-	240,	420,
1938 Austrian campaign-12 cards.Some blank	-	100,	120,
1938 Sudetenland FP 4 covers/cards	-	70,	85,
1939 Czeck campaign-16 cards/covers	-	120,	120,
Complete full package address with Zolfrei Label March	-	160,	185,
1941 with 20 Pfg.Hind."Bei Feldpost Eingeliefert"			
Similar item	-	150,	180,
Feldpost Money Order.3 stamps plus Kenn 838 1945	-	90,	130,
FP Danzig I 3.11.39 Gen Kdo. Danzig	-	90,	130,
" " II 10.11.39 Polizei Hundertsen	-	180,	250,
" " IV Lazarettsschiff Robert Ley	-	60,	100,
Letter to Switzerland from Berlin with OKW censor returned by censor with rectangular marking unknown in Riemer	-	35,	90,(!)
55x 70 mm with "Privatdrucksachen nicht zulässig"			
Similar lot	-	35,	40,(?)
Similar censored cover "Gefühterte Briefumschlag unzulässig" 30,		65,(!)	
1944 card to Holland,also letter to Begium.Each with different markings "Zurück weil nicht am Schalter aufgeliefert"	40,	90,(!)	
3 letters 6.5.40 to Holland,"Zurück/Postverkehr eingestellt"	35,	35,	

	Cat.	Ausruf	Real
FP letter with label "...amtlich geöffnet durch die General-Postkommissar Ostland/Riga". Numerous other remarks as well as stamped cover Petseri, Estland	-	45,	65,
4 Luftfeldpost covers "...nimmt nicht teil"		40,	45,
Registered cover "Nur für Dienstgebrauch" and 2 FP letters Reichseigentum or Dienstsiegel mangelt		30,	25,
Luftfeldpostbrief 27.12.42 to #27376. Said to be Stalingrad with markings "Zurück Unzustellbar". (My records confirm 376 ID at Stalingrad)		40,	110, (!)
2 letters "Zurück an Absender. Empfänger Vermisst"	-	25,	35,
3 cards "Gefallen auf dem Feld d Ehre"	-	25,	25,
3 registered FP covers with dead or missing notices	-	90,	90,
4 letters with handwritten remark or cancel "Gefallen für Grossdeutschland"		60,	60,
5 covers with machine cancel FP Brussels	-	40,	NS
3 covers with FP censor strips	-	50,	50,
5 registered FP covers and 4 cover envelopes or labels with Kenn's 274a, 443, 843a, 964b	-	60,	60,
4 covers "In Ermangelung eines Dienst Stempel"		60,	NS
4 different "Vorbildzettel" Berlin, Dresden, Wien (Not clear from description if FP and/or PSST)	-	40,	40,
Cover Viersen 30.11.44 to Trier with Box marking "Weiter - lauf durch Kriegsverhältnisse/verhindert" Similar letter Ballenstedt to Plauen 23.3.45 "Unzulässig Zurück"		80,	180, (!)
Mint Heeresnachrichtendienst labels	-	25,	NS
8 Luftfeldpost covers	-	30,	35,
Rommel Sheet	250,	150,	200,
Spanish Civil War 1937-38 over 40 most actually used pieces of Condor Legion and orivate sender as well as Spanish pieces with numerous censor markings, Blue Division about 50 pieces (Very difficult to tell from description true nature of contents.	-	450,	1350,

Peter Kenedi Harper, Woods, Michigan

The firm alternates between Michigan and California in its auction sales. (It has facilities in both). The price is given as estimated catalog value with the actual realizations in parenthesis. April 30, 1976.

SS Official cover Holland. Cachet Ordnungspolizei, Zwolle cds	\$20. (\$25.)
Kurland Michel FP#16. "Tied to Addressed cover". Accompanied by Dr. Dub Certificate. (It is readily apparent that the item did not go through mails from photograph e.g. no cancel	700DM (\$100.)
Luxemburg 1941-44 "Over" 25 cards / covers on annotated pages plus (?) 12 unused pieces	\$60. (\$72.)

January 11, 1976

55 Nazi period cov. cards. Almost all diff. inc. money order transfers	
Hitler semi-postal franking, Souvenir sheets	\$90. (\$60.)
WWII FP: 7 covers covering broad spectrum of units, few Luft post, SS. Many from occupied territories "Clean, valuable... generally vf."	\$175 (\$96.)
SS Feldpost cover from Buchenwald	\$50. (\$24.)
GESTAPO Cover	\$30 (\$17.)
Hitler Death head propaganda forgery, unsevered tete-beche gutter block of 8 tied to unaddressed cover by 11.1.45 cds Hohlenstein. "Rare" (Cancel appears not to touch stamp. Quite suspicious item!)	\$150. (\$38.)
Churchill card with 4 Hitlers plus 1941 commem cancel (Commemorative cancel usually means disputed reprint card)	\$20. (\$20.)
Alsace Lorraine 60 pieces on annotated pages. Wide variety	\$240. (\$75.0)

Dr. Richard Sorge-The Story Behind the Stamp

by
Myron Fox

As we all know today is the era of the topical collector. A collection of stamps could very well be made with a Third Reich theme. The obvious choices would be many of the stamps issued by Germany from 1933-1945 for use in greater Germany and the occupied area. Another source would be supplied by the postwar remembrance issues by the various participating countries. A less obvious source is provided by some of the issues of the Deutsche Democratic Republic (DDR), East Germany, with a little research. Today's note is about such an issue.

Early this year there appeared a new issue announcement in the general philatelic press for a DDR stamp commemorating the awarding of the Hero of the Soviet Union award to a Dr. Richard Sorge. The official release by the East German government gave no indication of the identity of Dr. Sorge, or why he received the prize. As we shall later this is apparently deliberate.

There were three major Soviet intelligence rings in WWII. The Lucy ring in Switzerland and the "Red Orchestra" of Leopold Trepper in western Europe are two that perhaps we shall cover some other time. The third was run by no one other than Dr. Sorge in Tokyo. Reference one was the main source of the following synopsis of Dr. Sorge and his work.

Dr. Sorge was an ardent Communist. In fact his grandfather had been Karl Marx's secretary. In 1931 he was already directing a Russian spy ring in Shanghai. Somehow this background eluded the German counter-espionage forces and he next shows up in Tokyo in 1933 as the Far East correspondent for the Frankfurter Zeitung. Here he became a confidant of the German ambassador and even acted as the press attache for the ambassador. He thus had access to information sources within the embassy as well as in the Japanese social circles via an elaborate spy ring.

He is credited with two major intelligence feats. One, he was able to warn Stalin that Germany was planning to violate the non-aggression pact with Russia. (The same information was also reported by the Red Orchestra ring. However in one of the interesting paradoxes of WWII, Stalin chose to ignore the warnings because of his apparent belief in Hitler's word). The second feat attributed to Sorge was his determination that Japan's war policy would concentrate on the Pacific for some time. This allowed Russia to remove a large portion of its troops from areas where they were defending against possible Japanese attacks and send them to the western front. These troops are said to have turned the tide at the battle of Moscow. Sorge was eventually betrayed by one of his agents and executed by the Japanese.

Some of the reasons for the innocuous press releases may be obtained from reference 2. Here Gilles Perrault says of the treatment of news about members of the "Red Orchestra" by the East German authorities, "The East German authorities hide the true nature of the work carried out by Schulze-Boysen and his friends for fear of reviving the legend of the 'stab in the back' with which German nationalists sought to explain the defeats of 1918". (Boysen was a leading member of the "Red Orchestra").

Heinz Höhne states further (Ref.3) that before 1960 Russian awards to such individuals were always to "freedom fighters". Only after that point did they talk of agents.Höhne also states that the East Germans continued to downplay the spying aspects of these groups until after 1967.

The stories of these rings and their accomplishments are quite fantastic.I am surprised that Hollywood has not yet,to my knowledge,produced any films on these events.In many ways the stories of these brave men and women,no matter what your political opinions, are more exciting than much of what the mass media wishes to provide today.

References

- 1.Kahn,David:The Code Breakers.McMillan&Co.,New York,1967.
- 2.Perrault,Gilles:The Red Orchestra.Simon & Schuster.New York 1969
(Translated from the French)
- 3.Höhne,Heinz:Codeword Direktor.Coward,McCann,and Geoghegan Inc.
New York,N.Y. 1971
(Translated from the German)

* * * * *

Feature items from Wittmann Spring Auction



Niklasdorf #11
 Catalog 1300DM
 Realized 1550,DM plus 15%



Niklasdorf #45
 Catalog 800,DM
 Realized 1000,DM Plus
 15%

* * * * *



Germany Philatelic Society, Inc.

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP
Devoted to the Study
of the Postal History
of Germany 1933-1945

PO Box 283
Needham Heights, Mass. 02194
August 25, 1976

An Open Letter to the TRSG Membership

I live in an area which is fortunate to have access to Educational television as provided by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) through a local affiliate. We enjoy it and support it. However sometimes we tire of what appears to be continuous usurping of the airwaves in lieu of commercials in order to raise operating funds. So I can appreciate how many of you must feel about our constant apologies for the tardiness of our bulletin etc. However as I shall explain this letter is quite necessary.

I am writing this letter to explain the state of affairs of our group. I am writing it separate from the main bulletin since I believe such matters should be separated from the philatelic. We are on the surface a very dynamic growing organization, with a surplus in the treasury, in an exciting growing philatelic field. However beneath this veneer we have a potentially serious problem. We have that classical volunteer organizational problem of too few people carrying the workload.

Now admittedly volunteers in such organizations get something out of such chores or they would not be there. However their reward is normally quite intangible and no doubt different people have different motivations. However we too have demanding jobs, families to raise, homes that always need, work, gardens to care for etc., just like the rest of you. We can not continue to carry the ball by ourselves. We are in dire need of help in putting out the bulletin. Jim Duffy has done an outstanding job over the years. However his job has become more and more demanding as has his commitments to organized philately. Originally Jim had to organize, type, run off and mail the bulletins. Also as often happens in such a job he was too often forced to improvise articles in order to get a bulletin out. After Bob and I finally realized how much work was involved we pitched in to take over much of the correspondence, distribution, and providing sufficient articles etc. When we realized the extent of the distribution function we were glad to have George Lewis volunteer to take it over. However even with this help, Jim's workload caused him to ask out last year. Jim graciously volunteered to stay on till we found a suitable replacement. Meanwhile we have been unable to find a replacement. Bob and myself have agreed to take over from Jim and alternate at putting out the bulletin till we have a more permanent solution.

The membership form indicates that many of you are willing to help. Unfortunately the few of you that I have contacted personally have not really been available. I'd like to talk or write to each of you personally. However this also would take valuable time which I do not have in abundance. I have tried below to sketch out "job descriptions" for the various areas we could use help. You won't find these jobs listed in any newspaper. There are no monetary rewards. You will receive many complaints from those who can always do better. However once and a while you will receive some praise and even a thank you.

1. Reproduction. We need someone with access to a low cost, high quality,

reproduction facility. The process should do a creditable job on reproducing cover detail. I personally do not believe that it has to be the ultimate process. Or we could print the text one way and illustrations another. Or we could hire the whole process out as this bulletin was. Many of these could end in a raise in dues. Perhaps one of you could tie in with the reproducing facility of some other group. I've tried to make these contacts myself unsuccessfully. Perhaps you know something/body I don't?

2. Editor. We need an editor. I believe that we can establish our editor's tasks to be largely managerial in nature. His job would be to see that the bulletin is issued in a timely and effective manner. This requires that he obtain the copy, get it reviewed, formatted, edited, typed, and then sent to the reproduction and distribution functions. In many organizations the editor provides the reproduction and even the distribution function. While more "efficient", I do not believe it is necessary. I believe it is better to distribute the work load and get it done. I also do not feel that our editor has to be a knowledgeable III Reich expert. We shall be able to provide him with the necessary technical support. Ideally the editor should have access to a good quality typewriter/typist for making the final manuscript. This could be hired. However I must believe that some member could volunteer his services.

3. Associate Editors These take on tasks delegated by the editor. Tasks include editing a members submittal to make it more readable. Hopefully we could grow the next editor from the Associate Editor pool.

4. Source Material. We need articles. Jim, Bob, and myself have a heavy interest in military oriented mail. When asked to provide articles this is what we find easiest to supply. Surely in a group with as diverse interests as ours there must be people who can describe their interests. There are two benefits from writing an article. One, you benefit the membership by providing them with an insight into your specialty. Two, you often benefit yourself by the contacts you make providing new source data etc., in your area. The article need not be a Ph.D. thesis. A short note or inquiry is just as helpful. Of course we would like to retain the high quality of our articles which have been the original research in some areas.

5. Contacts with other Groups. There are many other philatelic organizations which from time to time have articles that would be of interest to our membership. Often it does not pay to belong to a particular group unless we have a major interest in the group's area. I can think of such groups as the Czech, Croatian, Scandinavian, Rossica, Judaica, societies. We would like some of you who belong to these or similar groups to volunteer to be our liaison with them. Your job would be to inform me with a synopsis/review of an article you thought may be of interest to our group. Or you could send a Xerox copy. If an article looks worth printing in its entirety we would ask you to arrange for permission to republish. We could also use similar help relative to the general philatelic literature here and overseas. I have access to most of the military oriented societies in the US, England, and Germany. I also have access to much of the general press in the US and Germany. However I know from time to time excellent articles have appeared in Italian and French sources, which I normally do not have access to. In this bulletin's Fox's Den you will get a better idea of some of the sources I see.

6. Secretary/Treasurer. Bob has done an outstanding job in this role. His international reputation has reflected quite favorably on our group and helped recruit many new members. However the role of Secretary/Treasurer could be assumed by one with perhaps less philatelic background than Bob. Bob is willing to stay on. However I approached him at INTERPHIL with the idea of phasing him out of this task so he could be able to devote more time to generating research articles and helping with the overall group management. The job

requires maintaining the membership role and providing same to the distribution function. It involves receiving member applications and dues, maintaining the financial records, and settling the expense accounts of the various Study Group functionaries.

Please note most of what I have described does not require you to be a world class philatelist. The prime prerequisite is a desire to supply some of your time and energy. We are at the crossroads of an important step in the evolution of the TRSG. Are we to go the route of so many other volunteer organizations which have had their demise due to similar problems as ours? You the membership shall decide!

Sincerely, *Myron Fox*

Myron Fox

In what transpired above I apologize for perhaps an overdramatic approach. I talked about the few times volunteers get praise. I would like to publicly thank some of you not mentioned earlier for your efforts. George Lewis has proven to be an innovative distribution manager in his handling of the automation of the mailing list, elimination of the mailing envelope and associated costs etc. Fred Stengel, as Auction Manager, has made the auction one of the main drawing points of our organization. He was one of the auction originators who convinced the skeptics and managed to overcome the burden of erratic bulletin deliveries. If you have not tried participating in our auction you are missing something. Those of you that know Fred know he is not bashful. It is his prodding that often keeps many of us going. This letter is the result of such encouragement. Finally there are those of you that have provided articles and helpful comments. We thank you all for your efforts.

We have talked about providing free adlets or otherwise for the membership. I have received several requests over the past year for such announcements. Only one as far as I can tell was from a member of the TRSG. I decided to use the remaining unused space on this page with this request and other odds and ends.

A special III Reich postcard and colored stationery catalog is available from member Werner Helms. It is stated to consist of 160 pages, hard bound, 615 black and white and 32 colored illustrations. Printed on Glossy paper it is presented in English, French and German. Available from Mr. Helms at 11925 Ringwood Ave., Norwalk, California 90650

GPS Chapter 27 in Denver Colorado is hosting the 1978 Spring GPS Convention. They are soliciting articles for the show catalog. Who can help here?

Your officers are often called upon to service inquiries from our membership and the membership at large. Some are simple requests for membership information, others are introductory questions on III Reich philately, while others are quite involved technically and require much research. We do not mind doing this if you are willing to be patient and do not ask for an unreasonable task. In fact we rather enjoy excursions into unfamiliar areas caused by inquiries. (My article on Channel Island Feldpost was initiated by such a request.) We do ask that you enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope (SAE) to show your seriousness. The ultimate case of bad philatelic manners occurred when such an inquiry was recently received with no SAE and the sender's request that the stamp on the envelope be returned to the sender. (Remember overseas members can always use International Reply Coupons.)

Belated congratulations to Jim Duffy for his being awarded the Newbury award as the Chicago philatelist who has contributed the most to philately over the years. (Awarded annually)