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THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This is the fifth Bulletin in the new series. The response to the renewed activity of the Third Reich Study Group has been exceptionally encouraging. Our experience has proven several things. First, a study group can do nicely without offering anything more than information. This is certainly not meant to decry the value of auctions and other sales activities. However, it is good to know that collectors are so anxious to obtain data for writing up their collections. Second, a study group need not depend on a few individuals for its success. I estimate that one out of every four of our members is really active. That is a very high figure in comparison with most organizations. The reader may wonder how I came up with this number. It represents all the officers of the Study Group, the leaders of the subgroups, all those active in research, and those others who expressed the intention of carrying out at least one project for the Study Group. Third, the Study Group has something to offer. A fair number of members have commented on our articles and other contributions and have found them useful. When the Study Group was formed, there were a few who questioned whether we could accomplish anything worthwhile. They assumed that virtually all possible research had been done and that we could not muster enough ability to study the few fields that had not been covered. I believe, that on the contrary, some of our articles and notes have broken new ground, and I say "our", I mean precisely that. Several Study Group members have done a fine job with various articles. Moreover, our contributions have been small in comparison with what is to come. I am not going to dwell on the research projects being conducted. Some will be completed soon enough for everyone to see. Others, equally worthwhile, will require much more work before they are ready for publication. I sincerely hope that all of you like the current Bulletin and think that we are making progress.

Benjamin R. Beede

PHILATELIC PROPAGANDA

by Herbert A. Friedman

This is the first of what we hope will be a long series of articles on the propaganda forgeries and parodies of World War Two.

Perhaps we should preface our attempts with a brief introduction to both the field and this author.

Propaganda forgeries are of course known to have been used during the First World War. No results were gained as far as we can discern, and there is some reason to doubt that the British counterfeits of the stamps of Germany, Bavaria and Austria were ever used philatelically.

With the outbreak of WWII, great numbers of stamps were parodied and forged by both sides, many being found on legitimate postal covers. Among the items known to have seen "mail" duty are the Himmler parodies (types I and II), the Frank parody, the British and American forgeries of the Hitler series, the British-made counterfeits of the stamps of occupied France, etc.

Other items are known on covers that did not see actual postal use. A good example of this type of parody is the "Winter-help" pair produced for use in the Mediterranean area. For this operation, stamps were placed on covers bearing clever propaganda puns, to be dropped over German troops. These were never used, but the stamps are still around today, as well as many of the covers.

Other stamps were produced to be used in a series of pin-prick operations against the enemy. These were not meant to be placed on mail, but were intended to be placed on walls, mirrors, etc., where they could cause embarrassment. A good example of this material is the four varieties of British-made parodies dropped by aircraft over Norway.

Another type of propaganda parody was meant only to be looked at. This type is best exemplified by the eight Germany stamps parodying the issues of Great Britain. These stamps were made simply to be given to philatelists in neutral countries where they hopefully would cause the United Kingdom to be held up to ridicule.

We should also mention that many of today's high-priced parodies are post-war frauds meant to separate the philatelic "fool" and his hard-earned cash. Some of the better examples of this type are the Narvik, Goering and most of the Hitler "skull" issues.

So, I think you will agree that we have plenty of room for discussion in future issues. We would appreciate it if interested readers drop us a line and give us their opinion on what particular issues they would prefer to mention first. We can randomly cover the various issues, take each item in turn in alphabetic or country-of-origin order or just discuss whatever comes to our mind each issue. It is up to you. I say this realizing that 99% of every organization is usually lethargic and hardly about to write a postcard to give an opinion...but perhaps one or two of you will be willing to take the time to express an opinion on the future course of these articles.

Philatelic Propaganda, continued.

We are also interested in your opinions on whether or not to be strictly philatelic in our writings. Besides the forged stamps both sides forged currency, newspapers and aerial leaflets as part of their overall propaganda campaigns. If there is an interest in these fields, we will include mention of the specific items that might be added to certain of the forged stamps to better give a "Whole" outlook to a write-up.

Finally, who is your author? Just another collector, but one who has specialized in this field for several years. I have written a few dozen articles in various publications, including the S.P.A. and A.P.S. journals, Linn's Weekly Stamp News and the British paper "Stamp Weekly". I have won various awards with my collection of propaganda forgeries at exhibitions around the country, most recently a silver plate at the 1968 "Balpex". At "Naspex" in 1966 the collection won a gold medal in the thematic division and also the coveted "best of show". This is probably the only time in history that a collection without a single stamp mentioned in the Scott Catalog ever took such an award.

You now have some idea of my qualifications to write on this subject and what I hope to accomplish. If a few members will be kind enough to make suggestions as to the future direction of "Philatelic Propaganda", we will begin to write in earnest in the next issue of this Bulletin.

PROGRESS REPORT: Third Reich, Printed-to-Private-Order, Postal Cards.

I have mailed memos to approximately 950 members of the leading stamp societies, who are collectors of Germany, and to 163 branches or chapters of the A.P.S., S.P.A., T.M.P.S. and the G.C.P.S.

Replies have come in from collectors the world over. Many do not have this material in their collections, but want to send their best wishes for the success of this project. Many collectors have expressed their desire to obtain a listing of these cards upon completion.

Mr. Fritz A. Beyer, of Germany (Deutsche Bild-Postkarten) who is also working on printed-to-private-order postal cards (Neuer Ganzsachen-Katalog, numbers 120 to 130) promised to send me a listing of these cards which he is publishing in "Die Ganzsachen".

I have about 400 cards in my own collection, but there must be many more printed-to-private-order cards in collectors hands still unrecorded.

I will keep trying to find new leads for material, and I hope our Study Group members can dig through their material and send me a list of their holdings of these cards. Sincerely, Edwin Hope (TRSG).

The object of this study is to determine what organizations, within the period 1933 to 1945, had such stationery prepared, and the description of the designs that were used. All collectors who have holdings of these cards, please send a list to Mr. Edwin Hope, 4114 North 30th Ave. Phoenix, Arizona 85017, according to the suggested format:

Stamp Denomination - Color - Design
Cachet: Color - Design - Text

(Ed.)

OSTARBEITER MAIL: AN INTRODUCTION

by Benjamin R. Beede

Those Russian specialists who spread their nets wide enough to take in World War II occupation material are, of course, aware of the postal stationery produced by the Germans for use in the Ukraine and the Ostland (an area covering the Baltic States and White Russia). Yet, there is another postal card which is much scarcer and which is highly eligible for inclusion in a collection of Russian material. On page 44 of his Neuer Ganzsachen-Katalog, Part IV,¹ Walter Beckhaus lists a reply postal card used by the "Ostarbeiter" with a trilingual imprint in German, Russian, and Ukrainian. The purpose of this article is to tell Rossica readers a little about the Ostarbeiter and their postal service, including the use of the Ostarbeiter postal stationery.

When Nazi Germany attacked the USSR on June 22, 1941, little or no thought had been given by the German leaders to the use of Russian labor in Germany. According to Nazi expectations, the Soviet Union would be conquered quickly, Britain would be invaded or would make an armistice, and the war would be over. As the conflict continued, manpower shortages both in the armed forces and on the home front made it obvious that the Russian population would have to be utilized in some fashion other than labor within the Eastern Occupied Territories (that is, those areas of the USSR occupied by Germany). Hitler preferred to use the Russians as workers rather than as soldiers, although, even so, many Russians had to be put into the Wehrmacht and the Waffen-SS before 1945.²

Large-scale recruitment of Russian workers began early in 1942, and the pace intensified during the spring.³ Recruitment changed into what Reitlinger calls the "slave trade". By the summer one million Russian workers were in Germany and two million a year later.⁴ To denote their status, the Russians and Ukrainians were forced to wear an "Ost" badge. The Ostarbeiter (or Eastern Workers) were in fact regarded as little better than slaves for Germany. The "Ost" badge had considerable significance, for the only other people forced to wear any form of identification were persons of Jewish extraction in all German-controlled areas.

Postal regulations were not overly generous to the Ostarbeiter, but in this respect we are forced to admit that perhaps the limitations the Germans imposed on their mail were partly the result of insufficient personnel to censor letters rather than simply an effort to mistreat the Russians any further. At any rate, a special regulation for Ostarbeiter mail was in effect from November 25, 1942. Each worker could send two

¹ Berlin, Berliner Ganzsachen-Sammler-Vereins, 1959.

² Alexander Dallin, German Rule in Russia, 1941-1945: A Study of Occupation Policies (London, MacMillan Company, 1957), p. 428. Dallin devotes Chapter XX to the Ostarbeiter. Also see Gerlad Reitlinger, The House Built on Sand: The Conflicts of German Policy in Russia, 1939-1945 (N.Y., The Viking Press, 1960), Chapter 8.

³ Dallin, op. cit., 428-9.

⁴ Ibid., 431.

Ostarbeiter Mail, continued.

reply postcards each month at internal German rates, that is paying 6 Pfennigs postage on each card. Small packages of up to 250 grams were permitted, but only for the purpose of returning packing materials. Ordinary postcards were used for this service, but even in 1942 issuance of special cards was predicted.

Cards were given to workers by camp commandants, employers, and factory managers. When cards were written out they were returned to the camp commandant, etc., who would have them mailed at a postoffice, for they could not be deposited through a mailbox. The postoffices were to cancel each card very carefully. Cards to the Ukraine and army-controlled areas directly east of the Ukraine were sent to the Auslandsbriefstelle Berlin (Foreign Letter Office Berlin) for censorship, while letters to the Ostland were forwarded to the Auslandsbreifstelle Koenigsberg. When cards addressed to a particular town amounted to ten or more a special mail bag could be provided. Bags for Berlin were marked "Ukraine" and bags for Koenigsberg were designated "Koenigsberg (Pr.) 5, Auslandsbriefstelle." Individual cards were sent by rail with other foreign mail.⁵

This system did not prove altogether workable; so a new regulation appeared early in 1943. Cards could now be sold directly to Ostarbeiter by the German postoffices, when the purchaser showed his Arbeitskarte (Labor Card) or showed identification from his camp commandant or employer. The fourth page of the Labor card had a space to show the number of cards mailed each month by an individual for an entire year. Workers could pick up cards for an entire camp or factory, provided that they had a request signed by the director or commandant. Such requests contained a statement that the signer was responsible for the proper division of cards and supervision of their use. The regulation also pointed out that mail to towns in Germany, occupied Poland, Bohemia-Moravia, Bialystok, and Galacia did not have to be sent to a censorship office.⁶

Special postcards came into use early in 1943, which were to be used exclusively after March 15, 1943. Delivery of cards to postoffices was to be completed by March 1, 1943, and only the new type (the kind listed by Beckhaus) was to be issued to Ostarbeiter. The regulation cautioned the postoffices that the demand for reply cards of the ordinary type would go down with the introduction of the Ostarbeiter card and that therefore new orders to higher postal authorities should take this changed condition into account. Cards which had attachments, such as photographs, had to be sent to censorship offices which would determine their admissibility.⁷

⁵ Amtsblatt des Reichspostministerium, 568/1942, 20 November 1942, pp. 803-4

⁶ Ibid., 19/1943, 15 Januar 1943, 40.

⁷ Ibid., 96/1943, 23 Februar 1943, 121.

Ostarbeiter Mail, continued.

As a great concession special Easter cards were given to the Ostarbeiter, two to each worker. These cards had a colored Easter picture. They were given out by the Labor Front and the Reichsnaehrenstand (National Food Estate), an agricultural organization. Such cards could be used until the end of May, 1943, against payment of normal postage. Senders at the time of mailing had to show their Labor cards. Large camps received their cards directly from the Labor Front.⁸

Subsequently, the period of validity of the Easter cards was extended until June 15, 1943.⁹ Even in the summer of 1943, violations of postal regulations continued. Many ordinary reply cards slipped through postoffices and reached the censorship offices. All inadmissible cards were to be returned with explanations to the senders. Postoffices were cautioned to ensure that an adequate supply of Ostarbeiter cards was on hand at all times.

Although cards were censored, evidently the censors were fairly liberal, for many cards contained complaints by workers about the treatment they received from the Germans. Some authorities were disturbed by this, for they feared that such statements encouraged the flow of Russians from towns where they were exposed to labor conscription to the woods where they joined partisan bands. In July, 1943, the Propaganda Ministry protested concerning the laxity of censorship.¹⁰

Such is a brief description of the Ostarbeiter mail system in 1942 and 1943. The author has other documents which refer to this matter and will endeavor to prepare another article with additional information in the near future.

⁸ Amtsblatt des Reichspostministerium, 226/1943, 20 April 1943, 243.

⁹ Ibid., 297/1943, 25 Mai 1943, 359.

¹⁰ Dallin, op. cit., 435, 440.

This article was reprinted from the Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately, with the very kind permission of its new editor, Mr. Andrew Cronin. The Journal reached an exceptionally high standard under the direction of the late Dr. Gregory Salisbury. Mr. Cronin is keeping up the good work. Even if you don't specialize in Russia or even German occupation issues in Russia, an inquiry about the Rossica Society might be worth-while. The Journal is truly magnificent!

GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY CONVENTION 1969--20TH ANNIVERSARY! OCT.10-11-12.

Now is the time to get our members into friendly competition with their philatelic holdings. I am sure that the membership of the Third Reich Study Group all received the initial mailing outlining the plans for the upcoming convention in Brunswick, Georgia. Exhibits are being entered from every phase of Germany, but Third Reich. We have 63 members in our group. Let's get some Third Reich exhibits in this show, Feldpost, postal stationery, postal history, censorship, concentration camp mail, Dienstpost, legions, P.O.W., WWII Occupations, Propaganda, etc. How about some support?

* * * * *

FELDPOST NOTES

By Benjamin R. Beede

At times, I am asked how to collect World War II Feldpost material. As a beginning, one might try to obtain the following types of covers, etc.:

1. Items representing various types of services; airmail, registered, insured, special delivery, etc.
2. Covers from different components of the Wehrmacht; Army, police, Organization Todt, Red Cross nurses, business firms using the Feldpost, etc.
3. Types of cancellations found on Feldpost covers. These include Dienstpost, Reichspost, and Feldpost cancels, provisional cancels, etc.
4. Route markings, interpreted broadly to include markings reflecting delays or halts in service, covers returned for insufficient or erroneous addresses, etc.
5. Censored Feldpost covers; civil, Army, Navy, and SS censorship.

Many of these items are scarce. It might take some time to form a well-rounded collection, without even thinking about the rare local admission stamps, such as the Inselfpost complex.

Many kinds of Feldpost covers are rather hard to come by, but often their significance is not recognized, because they are not mentioned in the Clement and other catalogs. For example, the prefix "Sch" sometimes appears before a five-digit Feldpost number. Since the prefix was used only for certain naval artillery and anti-aircraft formations, one would assume that items bearing this prefix are not common. Various types of markings were also used for mail sent to and from merchant ships chartered by the German Navy. Special markings were also used on mail from concentration camp guards. Here again, due to the small number of personnel involved, such items are not found everywhere. A type of cover which interests me particularly is a form of "mixed frank". Remember, first class letter mail was always free for the troops, but certain services had to be paid for. An excellent example would be special delivery. This fee was 40 Rpf. plus the postage charge. A soldier could endorse his letter "Feldpost" and affix a 40 Rpf. stamp. This would mark a kind of "mixed frank", in the same way that "mixed franks" exist from the 1945-48 period, when a cash paid or "Gebühr bezahlt" marking was sometimes used in conjunction with a postage stamp for any one of several reasons.

An interesting form of postal marking found on Feldpost covers indicates that airmail service to a particular unit was not available. It is sometimes suggested that these markings occurred because the recipient of the letter changed to a unit which lacked airmail communications. This may have happened, but I think there is another possible explanation in many cases. One may recall that airmail service was designed to serve troops in Scandinavia, the Balkans, and especially on the Russian Front.

FELDPOST NOTES, continued

Airmail service did not exist to the western occupied countries, Italy, Denmark, etc. What I suspect happened in many instances was this; several members of one family might well be in the armed forces at one time. Let us suppose that the father was on the Eastern Front and used airmail stamps. Let us also suppose that a son was stationed in France. The wife might receive some airmail stamps from her husband. However, she might wish to contact the son quickly for some reason. Not understanding the Feldpost system, she might paste a stamp on a letter to her son. Obviously, this would be marked to show that his unit did not participate in airmail service. This is a theory, but I think it is a good one.

Ben Beede, in his preceding article "Feldpost Notes" in paragraph one, lists (Item 4) route markings, as a possible type of Feldpost material desirable to collect. These "Leitstempel" consist of "Zurück" (return) markings, as well as special rubber stamps prepared for the military airmail service. Paragraph three of "Feldpost Notes" pertains to this form of postal marking on airmail (military) letters. The following type-written illustrations are but three of the several types of route markings that were used.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Einheit nimmt am
Luftfeldpostdienst
nicht teil | Unit no longer
participates in the
Military Airmail Service |
| 2 | Einheit des Empfängers nimmt z. Zt.
nicht am Luftfeldpostdienst teil.
h Luftfeldpostsammelstelle..../.... | Unit of the recipient no longer
participates in the Military Air-
mail Service at this time.
Military Airmail Receiving Center |
| 3 | Einheit nimmt zur zeit
nicht am Luftfeldpostdienst teil
f Luftfeldpostsammelstelle.../... | Unit no longer participates in the
Military Airmail Service at this time
Military Airmail Receiving Center |

Type 1	used on cover	---	18.5.42	(Actual size	52 x 23mm.,	letters	3mm)
Type 2	" " "	---	06.3.44	(" "	66 x 21mm.,	"	2mm)
Type 3	" " "	---	11.9.42	(" "	52 x 19mm.,	"	2mm)

There have been inquiries from some of the Study Group members as to the permit stamps and their usage. In an article prepared for the 1967 COMPLEX Directory, and subsequently appearing in the Nov. 1968 SPECIALIST, I extracted the following from a German military post office directive:

"The Military Airmail Service with the Eastern Front:
In order to give the soldiers on the eastern front and their families in Germany the opportunity to exchange messages twice monthly in a more speedy manner than the usual military mail, a military airmail service has been established and airmail communications will be transported in part by aircraft.

Airmail permit stamps, continued.

Each soldier assigned to the eastern front whose unit has permission to utilize the military airmail service will receive four military airmail permit stamps monthly. The soldier shall use two stamps for two airmail letters to his family and he should enclose the two remaining stamps to his family in order that they can send two airmail letters back to him at the front.

1. Mail is permitted in both directions to and from the front postage free.
 - A. Ordinary post cards and ordinary letters, up to 10 grams maximum weight. The use of commercially available letter sheets is recommended.
 - B. Ordinary official mail from military units up to 20 grams maximum weight."

In June 1943, the military post office issued a new directive:

"After June 1, 1943, military airmail letters will be transported only by the use of two military airmail permit stamps, and military airmail postcards will be permitted through the use of one such permit stamp.

The distribution of the military airmail permit stamps to the soldier on the eastern front is therefore doubled. Military airmail letters stamped with only one such permit stamp are to be returned to the sender, if possible, before cancelling the permit stamp, with proper instructions; if the sender cannot be determined, these military airmail letters are to be directed to the military airmail collection offices (Luftfeldpostsammelstelle) in Berlin, from where they will be delivered further in the usual manner and with proper explanation."

This new directive provided a more equitable means of regulating military airmail shipments, based upon the weight of the item being sent. A soldier could still send two airmail letters home and receive two airmail letters at the front. However, this same soldier could send four airmail post cards home and receive four airmail post cards at the front. It is presumed that this directive was to encourage the use of post cards, thereby reducing the weight of the airmail shipments."

The preceding paragraphs were based upon information from the directives of the German military postal authorities. To date, we have not been able to find postal directives pertaining to the issuance of the "Inselpost" permit stamps, nor to the regulation of their use on airmail letters. These provisional issues first appeared, to the best of our knowledge, in October 1944, in the area of the Aegean Islands, specifically Crete, Rhodes, Leros and Coos, and the surrounding islands.

In order to regulate the number of letters sent to and from the now isolated Aegean Islands, via the few remaining transport aircraft, remainders of the blue Airmail permit stamps and the brown package permit stamps were overprinted with the word "Inselpost".

Airmail permit stamps, continued.

G. Hoffmann-Giesecke, in his book "Deutsche Feldpost 1939-1945" indicated that the isolated troops on the Aegean Islands, received, at first, eight overprinted (Inselpost) stamps monthly. Half of this stamp allotment was supposed to be sent to Germany, to the senders family, so they could use the airmail service back to the islands. (See Bulletin No. 2, April 1969, pp. 15-16). Genuinely used Inselpost covers or stamps can be found with either "Feldpost" or German town cancellations. However, "the generous intention" (of eight stamps per man, monthly) could not last. Lack of aircraft forced the military postal authorities to revise their original directive; each airmail letter must bear two overprinted stamps. It was reported that this information arrived too late for those in Germany receiving mail from the islands, and letters continued to be sent with only one permit stamp.

Any information, additional or corrective, that you may have concerning the preceding subject of permit stamp usage, would be appreciated.(Ed.).

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP INFORMATION BUREAU by Donald L. Boese

Here are a few questions that have stumped our list of experts. Can you help?

1. What is the purpose of a Hindenburg stamp of the 1933 regular issue type, 3 Pf. denomination, green, but only about one-third the size of the regular issue? One person thought it was a part of a child's "post office set" sold in German toy stores in the 30's.

2. Recently, the Bureau received a request for information: a stamp with a portrait of Wagner; purple, no denomination, with the inscription "Stahldruck". Is this an essay and from what period?

3. What is the historical significance of the commemorative cancel from Kaaden (Bochman #1) with the inscription "Sudetendeutsch Blutopfer/ 4.Marz 1919/und Jhr habt doch gesiegt" dated July 22, 1940?

Send any information to Don Boese, 117 Center St., Mankato, Minn.56001.

Welcome to the following new members of the TRSG:

Bohne, Dr. Werner M., P.O. Box 328, Syracuse, N.Y. 13201
 Borden, Robert S., P.O. Box 15, Wollaston, Mass. 02170
 Chilton, Robert J., P.O. Box 12345, Philadelphia, Penn. 19119
 Hammang, Lloyd, 9840 S. St. Louis, Evergreen Park, Ill. 60642
 Kratz, A. Charles, 2328 - 33rd St., San Diego, Calif. 92104
 Ray, Samuel, 3600 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60613
 Szebel, Alfred, 9041 Emerson St., Des Plaines, Ill. 60016

My sincere thanks on behalf of the membership to all those who contributed to the Study Group above and beyond the dollar dues. I would like to give individual recognition to each member, but this would be a list comprising three-fourths of our membership to date. Let me hear of your comments on past articles, new areas of study, or that Third Reich pet project you haven't seen any write-ups presented in the TRSG Bulletin. Above all, search through your material and enter an exhibit in the all Germany (G.P.S.) show at Brunswick. Entries closing date July 31.