



Third Reich Study Group

The largest and most active study group of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society (UK)

News Sheet 200

Group Leader: Tony Hickey

January 2026

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For membership and enquiries please visit www.germanphilately.org



From the Editor

Please note that I have a new email address for enquiries.

The previous email is still valid but I notice that some replies, queries and articles were not getting through. If you have previously replied or sent any article to the TRSG news sheet then please consider resending it.

The new address is: carlthestamp@gmail.com

Welcome to the 200th issue of the TRSG news sheet!

A happy and prosperous new year to all our members on this 200th edition of the Third Reich Study Group News Sheet. A special thanks must go to our hard-working editor Carl Buck for his outstanding work in producing this high quality magazine. I would also like to thank all of those that have contributed in making these quarterly issues such an excellent, informative and interesting read. Tony Hickey - Group Leader

It was in the October 1973 issue of *Germania* (Vol.9 #5) that Mr.D.J.G. Smart wrote in the Members Forum, *'I have recently joined the Society and, being a collector of Nazi and Occupation issues, would like to know whether there are sufficient members with the same interest to form a Study Group.'* It appears that a Study Group had already been formed but was in need of resurrection. The earliest copy I have of *Germania* with reference to this is from October 1967 (Vol.4, #1). The inside back cover states that the Third Reich Study Group was headed by Keith Dixon of Liverpool.

Obviously, the group would have its roots previous to 1967 and I would like to invite the senior members of the TRSG and the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society to cast their minds back to these early days with recollections of the TRSG's formation.

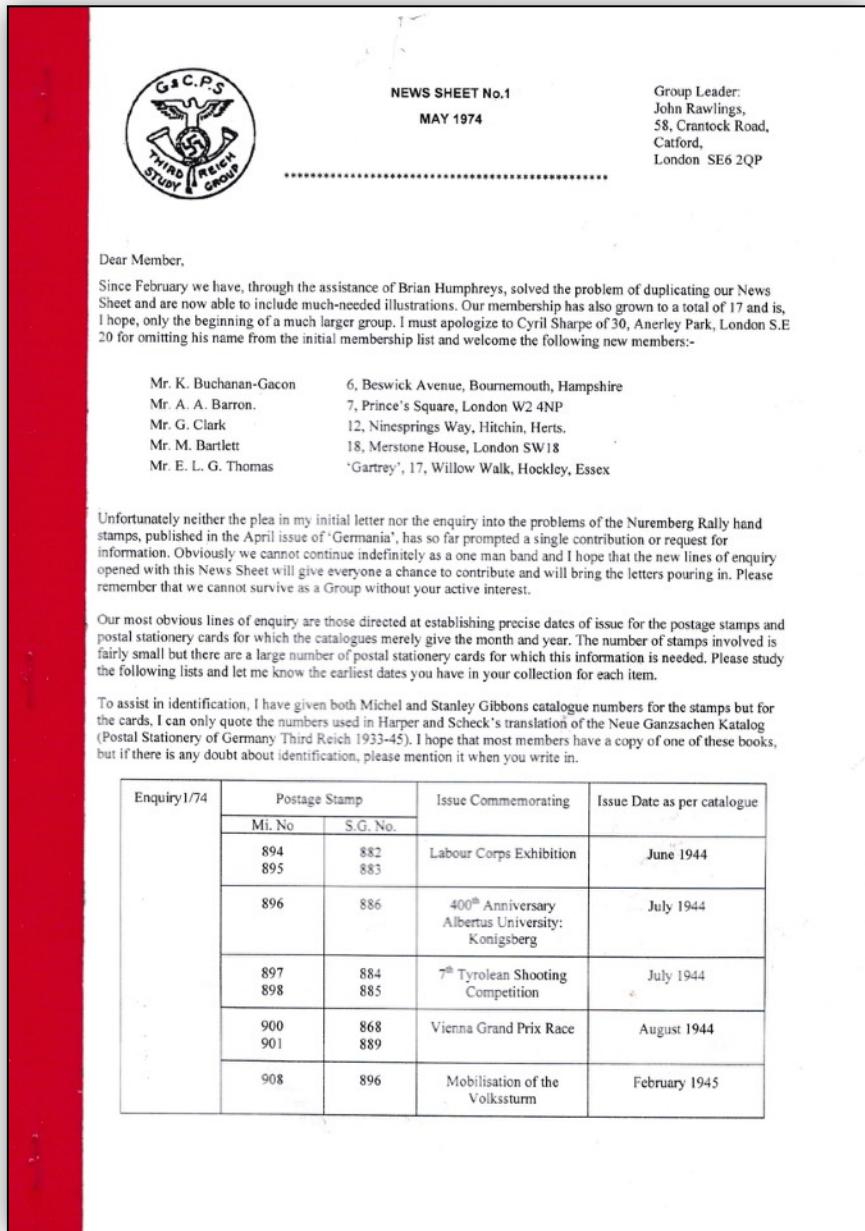


How it all started. *Germania*, with its distinctive blue and black cover. The letter from October 1973 requesting the TRSG resurrection. The Study Group page from February 1974 (Vol.10 #1) which states, in part, *'In response to Don Smart's suggestion in the October 1973 edition of the magazine, a 'THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP' has been formed under the leadership of (or should we say 'Führerschaft'?) of John Rawlings'*. Consequently, appearing in *Germania* of April 1974 (Vol.10 #2) there is the first of the TRSG articles, written by John, and concerning 'The Problem of the Rally Handstamps', a subject that epitomised John's expertise and tenacity.



From the Editor

One month later the first TRSG News Sheet had been produced and was being distributed. The cover of this amazing publication is shown below (red binding added by the owner). It consisted of three A4 photocopied pages being sent to 17 members. The articles presented being issue dates of stamps and postal stationery, together with a preliminary list of Luftwaffe feldpost numbers.



Whilst John remained Group Leader, he passed over the reins of the news sheet to Bob Jones and Steve Clark in March of 2017. Unfortunately, John is no longer active within the society yet there is no doubt his contribution within the G&CPS (as well as the wider philatelic community) has been immense. His 42 years as the editor of the TRSG news sheet and his numerous articles within bear testimony to his unfaltering hard work and studious nature.

I trust that the news sheet continues to uphold John's high standards and that the advancement of philatelic study is as important now as it was in 1974. There are many challenges ahead but with a strong and productive membership I know we can look forward to celebrating many milestones to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous editors, John Rawlings, Bob Jones & Steve Clark, as well as our current Group Leader Tony Hickey, G&CPS Chairman Giles du Boulay, and *Germania* editor Rex Dixon, for all their past, present and future guidance in making the TRSG what it is and will be. Best regards, your current editor, Carl Buck.



Cover Story

Addressed to... Erich Meerwald

By Rex Dixon



Erich Meerwald (1895-1973) is known to Third Reich collectors as the designer of numerous postage stamps. An article in news sheet 36 by Colin Faers gives us his biography and a list of the postage stamps and postal card indicia that he designed.

Amongst the stamps he designed was the 1943 Tag der Briefmarke (Day of the Stamp) depicting a postcoach and printed by the Reichsdruckerei in Berlin. The stamp was a combination of yellow and brown recess-printing for the coach and its background and blue-grey offset-printing for the frame, an expensive technique.

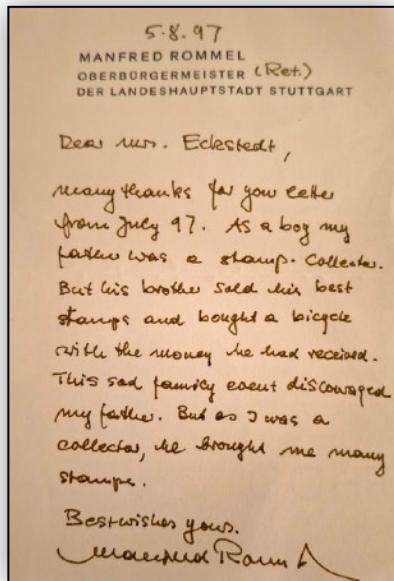
A single example is used on this underpaid letter. The 12 Rpf inland letter rate required two of these 6+24 Rpf stamps, but it got through without the underpayment being penalised by the Reichspost.

Of particular interest is that it was addressed to Kunstmaler (graphic artist) Erich Meerwald, the designer of the stamp. It was simply addressed to him at Berlin-Wilmersdorf, information that may have been available to the sender from the Amtsblatt decree announcing this stamp. He was sufficiently well-known to the postal officials in Wilmersdorf that they were able to add the address of his studio: 'Kreuznacherstr. 46'. It also received a purple cachet reading: 'Verspätet zugestellt, | weil Straße und Haus- | nummer fehlen.' (Delivery delayed as the street and house number are lacking.)



Rommel the Stamp Collector

By Carolyn Ekstedt



A big thank you to Carolyn for sending in details of her correspondence from 1997... Carolyn informs us, *'I wrote Manfred Rommel a letter in July 1997 (from my home in San Francisco), enclosing an international stamp token and envelope, and asking if it was true that his father was a stamp collector.'*

Carolyn became the recipient of the following reply (seen here on the left)...

'Many thanks for your letter from July 97. As a boy my father was a stamp collector. But his brother sold his best stamps and bought a bicycle with the money he had received. This sad family event discouraged my father. But as I was a collector, he bought me many stamps. Best wishes yours, Manfred Rommel'

An amazing document that I am sure will interest the Rommel collectors amongst us! Indeed does anyone have more information regarding Rommel Snr or Jnr as stamp collectors? Email me and I can pass that on to Carolyn.



A Unique German Censor Notice Slip

By Larry Nelson



The front and reverse of Robert Mellon correspondence



Censor notation E~2.4 (59 x 23mm). *Evaluated in Landsmann as 'F', meaning rare, with only one to three known examples. This is the 'one'!*

A POW cover sent on 5th June 1942 from San Francisco to Ensign Robert Mellon. He was captured at Guam in December 1941 and a month latter sent to the Zentsuji POW camp in Japan. The cover arrived there on 31st August 1943. On its way the cover was censored in New York and went via the Red Cross in Geneva. The Germans then censored it in Frankfurt and enclosed what appears to be a 'unique' censor notice slip which translates: 'The Cutting/Shortening of this Envelope did not happen here'. Note that the right side of the envelope, about one inch, has been cut off. The notice slip is listed in Horst Landsmann's German censorship books as EZ2.4. The back of the cover and notice slip have a faint '88W' written in pencil. Based on an email from Horst, my cover and notice slip, is the only example he has seen.

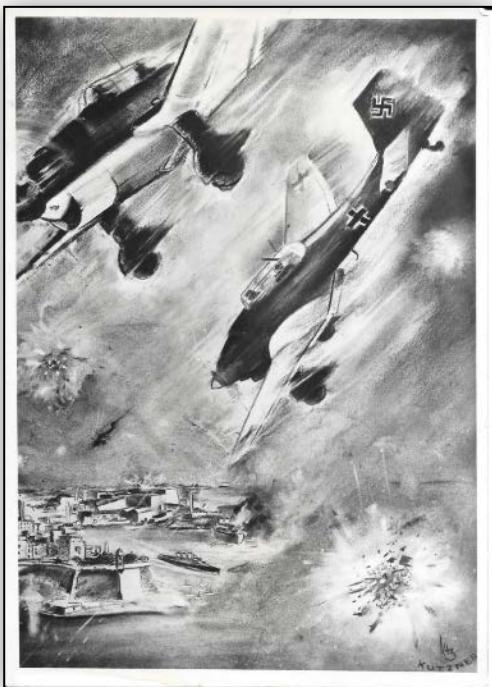
If any of our readers have other examples, please send me a scan. My email is censorship@comcast.net



The Siege of Malta

11th June 1940 - 20th November 1942

By Tony Hickey



Above: Published by Scherl-Bilderdienst, Berlin, with the description on the reverse: *Stukas over Malta. Several successful attacks by German Stukas on the military installations of Malta have already been reported. Here, our artist depicts the combat experience of a Stuka attack on the naval base of Malta. PK (Propaganda Company) drawing 21.2.41 by Kutzner.*

The siege of Malta which took place between June 1940 and November 1942 was a fight for the control of the strategically important island of the British Crown Colony of Malta. It pitted the air and naval forces of the Kingdom of Italy and Germany against the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. The opening of a new front in North Africa in June 1940 increased Malta's already considerable value. British air and sea forces based on the island could attack Axis ships transporting supplies and reinforcements from Europe. Fighting in North Africa started with the British raids on Italian Libya on 11th June 1940 a day after Italy's entry into the War on the German side. On the 14th June, the British crossed the border from Egypt into Libya and captured Fort Capuzzo. This was followed by an Italian counter-offensive into Egypt and the capture of Sidi Barrani in September. The British recaptured Sidi Barrani in December during Operation Compass in which the Italian 10th Army was destroyed leaving Mussolini no other option than to request help from Hitler. In response to Mussolini's plea, the German Afrika Korps was formed on the 11th January 1941 under the command of General Erwin Rommel, de facto field commander of Panzerarmee Afrika, and was hastily dispatched to North Africa in February 1941 in Operation Sonnenblume, to reinforce the Italians and prevent an Axis defeat. Rommel recognised Malta's importance quickly. In May 1941 he warned that 'Without Malta the Axis will end by losing control of North Africa'.

Battles for control of Libya and Egypt followed, with advances and retreats until the Second Battle of El Alamein in October 1942 when the Eighth Army (Lieutenant-General Bernard Montgomery) defeated the German-Italian Panzerarmee Afrika and forced its remnants into Tunisia. After Operation Torch, the Anglo-American landings in North-West Africa in November 1942 against Vichy France forces (which then changed sides), the Allies trapped about 250,000 German and Italian personnel in northern Tunisia, forcing their surrender in May 1943. Malta had held out.

The Axis had resolved to bomb or starve Malta into submission, to soften it up for invasion by attacking its ports, towns, cities, and Allied shipping supplying the island. The island was one of the most intensively bombed areas during the war. The Luftwaffe and Italian Regia Aeronautica flew a total of 3,000 bombing raids over two years, dropping 6,700 tons of bombs on the Grand Harbour area alone. Their success would have allowed a combined German-Italian amphibious landing (Operation Herkules) supported by German airborne forces.

Two Nations, One Victory (In Italian and German)

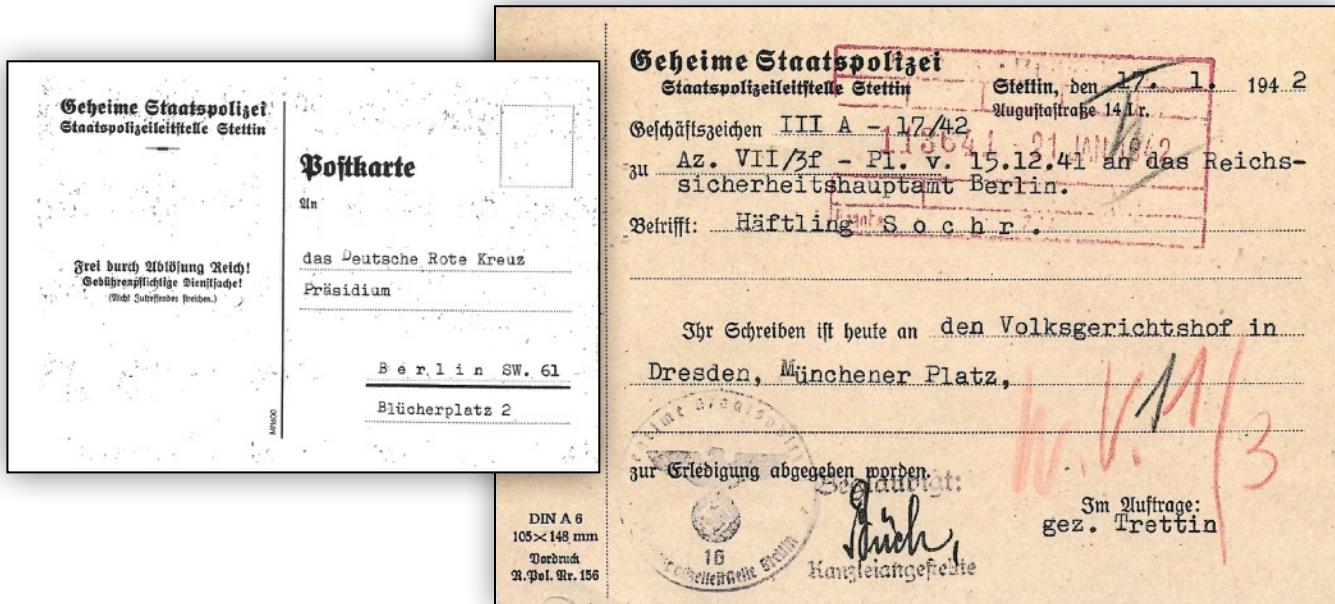
Left: A postcard sent by field post on 9th October 1941 from Tripoli, Libya to Milan by G Bellini, a postal worker assigned to Air Group 'Italo Balbo' in Tripoli. In 1933 the famous aviator Italo Balbo was made Governor of Italian Libya. Hostile to antisemitism, he was among a minority of leading Fascists to oppose Mussolini's alliance with Germany. In June 1940 Balbo was killed by friendly fire when his plane was shot down over Tobruk by Italian anti-aircraft guns who misidentified it as British.





Geheime Staatspolizei Postal Stationery Card

By Tony Quinn



A postal stationery card sent on 17th January 1942 from the state police sub-station in Stettin to the German Red Cross Präsidium in Berlin.

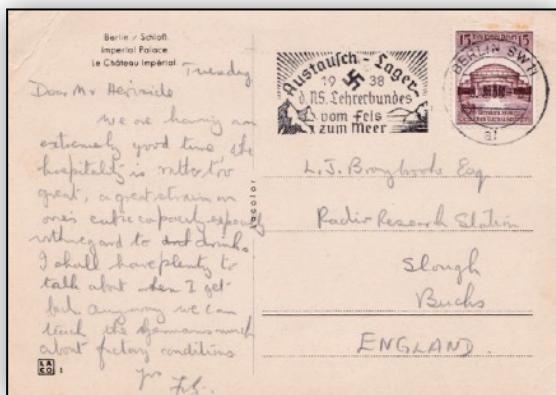
Subject: Prisoner Sochr

This is a reply to an enquiry letter from the German Red Cross to the Main State Security Office (RSHA) in Berlin dated: 15th December 1941, regarding information on the prisoner Sochr. The local Gestapo Station in their reply has referred the Red Cross to the Volksgerichtshof (People's Court) in Dresden.

Although there is no postal cancel the DRK note the receipt of the card is shown by the red cachet 21st January 1942.

Research Enquiries

Radio Research Station



Purchased for its clear and bright cancellation, this postcard was about to be filed in the usual manner when I noticed the address and subsequent correspondence. It reads, 'We are having an extremely good time, the hospitality is rather too great, a great strain on one's cubic capacity especially with regard to drinks. I shall have plenty to talk about when I get back. Anyway we can teach the Germans much about factory conditions.' Sent to the Radio Research Station in Slough, I have since discovered that the Station was instrumental in developing technology that would lead to the Chain Home radar system. Can anyone help with further research into the Radio Research Station, L.J. Braybrook or the challenging reason why British technicians were in German factories during 1938? Thank you, Carl Buck. Enq. 1/2026



Launching the Day of the Stamp

By Rex Dixon

The Day of the Stamp (Tag der Briefmarke) was the idea of German philatelist Hans von Rudolphi and was first celebrated in Austria in December 1935. Its purpose was to draw attention through exhibitions, special stamps, etc. to the importance of stamps for both the postal service and the general public.



The Winter Relief set was issued on 11th November 1935 and was valid for all but a year.

Germany chose 7th January as the date to celebrate Day of the Stamp as it was the birthday of Heinrich von Stephan (1831-1897). This first Day of the Stamp on 7th January 1936 also marked the inauguration of the Reichsverband der Philatelisten (Reich Federation of Philatelists). Very soon it was renamed Reichsbund der Philatelisten (same translation).



Special postmark and registration label for the 1st Day of the Stamp and the inauguration of the Reichsverband der Philatelisten.



Launching the Day of the Stamp



This card comes both with and without the inscription '7. Januar 1936' on the address side.



Reverse of the card.

B/W image of coloured card with additional text on address side for H. Treitel. It also comes with other similar inscriptions.

I'm aware of only one town other than Berlin that marked the Day of the Stamp in 1936: Aschaffenburg.



Reverse of the card alongside its front, depicting view of the electoral city of Aschaffenburg after an old engraving by W. Grossmann

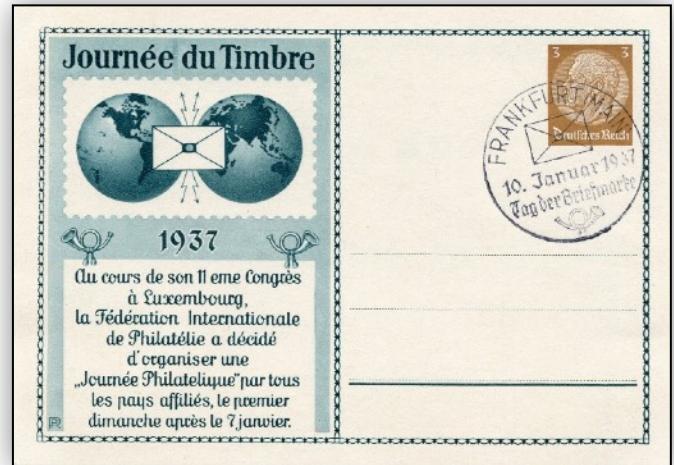


Launching the Day of the Stamp

The 11th Congress of FIP, the International Philatelic Federation, in Luxembourg agreed on 29th August 1936 to the proposition of the German Federation of Philatelists: 'Day of the Stamp for all countries is the Sunday next after 7th January.' For the 1937 Day of the Stamp there were special postcards with the text of this resolution, one card with the text in German, the other in French.



German-language card with four address lines, with postmark for a Publicity exhibition, 9th to 11th January, in Stuttgart. It also comes with three address lines.



French-language card with three address lines and a straight-topped '3' in '1937', with general 'Tag der Briefmarke' postmark used in 14 towns.

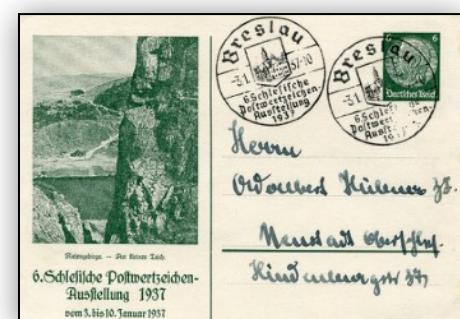
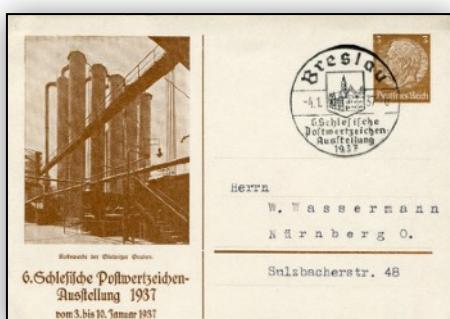


French-language card with four address lines and a rounded '3' in '1937', with postmark for the 6th Silesian Postage Stamp Exhibition, 3rd to 10th January 1937, in Breslau.



Reverse of a German-language card with inscription for the 2nd publicity stamp show of the Berlin Central Stamp Collectors Society (Briefmarken Sammlerverein) 1906 in the Berlin District Association of the Reich Federation of Philatelists.

Many towns issued special postcards with associated postmarks for events held in conjunction with the 1937 Day of the Stamp, of which the following are a selection.



Three cards for the 6th Silesian Postage Stamp Exhibition, 3rd to 10th January 1937, in Breslau, with pictures of the coking plant at the Gleiwitz mines, Breslau Town Hall, and the Small Tarn in the Riesengebirge.

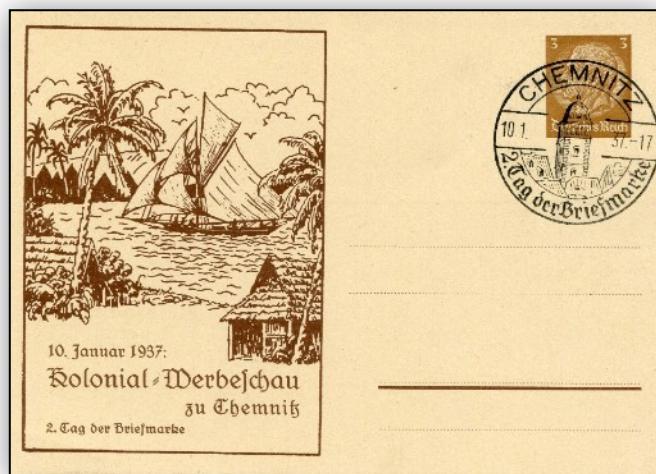
Launching the Day of the Stamp



Card for the postage stamp exhibition in Erfurt Town Hall on 10th January 1937, with a view from the Dämmchen, on an island in the River Gera, to St Aegidia's church.



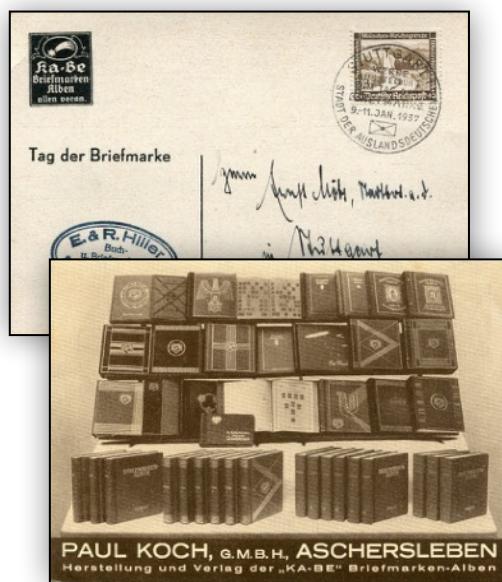
Card for the first stamp exhibition in Halle (Saale) held in conjunction with the 'Strength through Joy' leisure organisation, 9th & 10th January 1937, with a view of the Moritzburg.



Card for the colonial publicity show in Chemnitz held in conjunction with Day of the Stamp, inscribed '2. Tag der Briefmarke'. This can also be found in green without an imprinted stamp. There are other postal stationery cards and special postmarks for this colonial show but without any clear link to the Day of the Stamp.



Card for the Exchange group (Tauschverbindung) of the Munich Stamp Collectors. 'Collectors united on the Day of the Stamp / 10.1.1937 / by joining the Reich Federation of Philatelists'. The card is marked as 'Replacement for the official festive postcard, which is already sold out'.

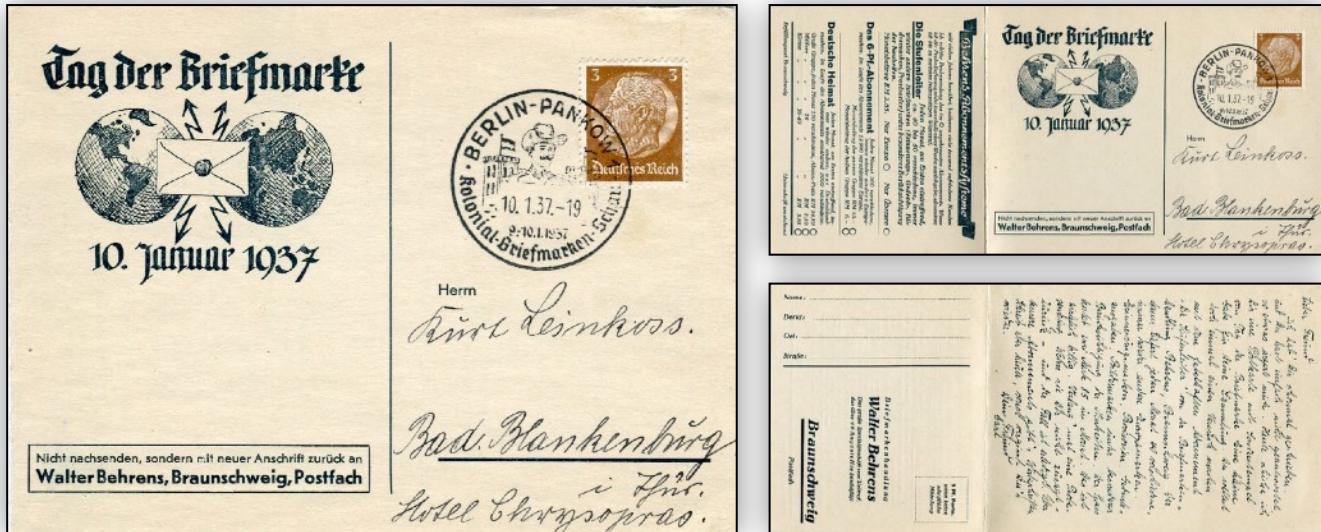


Paul Koch GmbH of Aschersleben, producers of the 'Ka-Be' stamp albums, apparently thought that a stamp should be produced to mark Day of the Stamp. They overprinted 3,000 sheets of the 3 Pf Hindenburg Head, blacking out every other stamp as in a chequerboard. The Reichspost was not amused and quickly rushed through legislation to prevent it happening again.

A general advertising card for Paul Koch but with an additional inscription on the reverse for 'Tag der Briefmarke'.

Launching the Day of the Stamp

Walter Behrens, stamp dealers, produced a folded publicity card in conjunction with Day of the Stamp.



Both sides of the card shown opened out.

Further resolution of the International Philatelic Federation

The 12th Congress of FIP in Paris agreed simply that affiliated federations should celebrate 'Day of the Stamp' each year, no date being specified.



Switzerland decided in early December.



Austria celebrated on 5th December 1937, the same day as Switzerland.

The special exhibition was held in Vienna's Museum for Art and Industry and ran from 5th December, the 'Day of the Stamp' itself, to the 12th, the first day of issue for the pair of 'Congratulations' stamps.

That brings the story to the end of 1937.



Tag der Briefmarke 1937... a postscript.

By Rex Dixon

Tag der Briefmarke

1937

Der 11. Kongress der Fédération Internationale de Philatélie in Luxemburg am 29. August 1936 beschloß auf Antrag des Reichsbundes der Philatelisten: "Tag der Briefmarke für alle Länder ist der Sonntag nach dem 7. Januar"

DAS ALBUM FÜR POST- UND FREISTEMPEL

wurde noch während der Vorbereitung verbessert und erweitert, so daß sein Wert beträchtlich gestiegen ist. Es wird daher im Interesse aller Sammler daran erinnert, daß Schlußtermin für den

VORZUGSPREIS VON 10,- RM DER 10. DEZEMBER 1936

ist. Nach diesem Tage eingehende Bestellungen können nur zum gewöhnlichen Verkaufspreis von 11,50 RM ausgeführt werden. Voreinzahlung auf mein Postscheckkonto Bln. 193 41 oder Nachnahme. Die Auslieferung erfolgt in den ersten Dezembertagen. Bilderprospekte stehen noch auf Anfordern zur Verfügung.

ALFRED METZNER VERLAG, BERLIN SW 61, GITSCHINER STRASSE 109

One might think that this postal card for the 1937 *Tag der Briefmarke* (Day of the Stamp) would have become available on, or only shortly before, the actual day, 10th January 1937. However, this card shows that the Alfred Metzner publishing house had a stock of them already in November 1936.

They've printed an advert on the reverse and posted it to a gentleman in Saal an der Donau on 25th November 1936 during the Continental Advertising Congress in Berlin, which ran from the 24th to the 28th of that month. The nature of the advert indicates that this must have been a true date of posting, rather than being back-dated. The advert is requesting the recipient to place an advance subscription to an extended and improved album for post office and company meter marks, with a closing date of 10th December 1936, a full month before the Day of the Stamp.

This postal card comes in several variants, with three or four address lines, in German or French, or on thinner cream-coloured or thicker white card. The illustrated card had four address lines, is in German, and is on thicker white card. All I've shown is that this one variant, at least, was available well in advance.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I – Propaganda labels

By Radu Dănilă

(First published 2016)

PART II: GERMAN COLONIES - AFRICA

Introduction

Germany was a latecomer to the club of countries with overseas possessions and was a rather harsh administrator of some of its colonies. And this temporary colonial empire was confiscated from it immediately after its defeat in World War I. Unlike other European states, Germany did not play a direct role in the expansion of European influence abroad, starting in the early 16th century. Fragmented by dynastic and confessional differences into tiny feudal states of the Holy Roman Empire, suffering a relative economic decline after the fall of Constantinople and the rise of the Atlantic trade routes, and then destroyed by the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), Germany did not emerge as a modern unitary state until 1871. By that time, the lion's share of colonial territory in the Americas, Africa, Asia, Australia, and Australasia had been divided among the English, Dutch, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. Minor exceptions were a series of short-lived mercantilist initiatives by German princes, of which only the successes of Friedrich Wilhelm, Elector of Brandenburg (called the Great Elector, 1620-1688), in securing the trading post of Gross-Friedrichsburg on the coast of present-day Ghana and the outposts of St Thomas in the West Indies for the triangular trade are worth mentioning. Even these minor possessions were sold to the Dutch in 1717. This is not to say that individuals from various German states did not contribute to European imperialism; quite the contrary. German sailors, cartographers, naturalists, missionaries, physicians, merchants, bankers, and mercenaries participated actively in various imperialist actions. Likewise, German farmers and craftsmen were present in quite a few colonial communities, especially in British North America (e.g., 'Dutch' Pennsylvania). Indeed, by the 19th century the flow of German immigrant settlers to America, in particular, had reached massive proportions and prompted efforts within German aristocratic and bourgeois circles to create autonomous colonies of German settlers in the United States (Texas) and Brazil, in order to attract this population to Germany's side. Such proposals were considered in detail by the liberal revolutionaries of 1848 led by Heinrich von Gagern (1799-1880) as part of plans for a unified German state. However, in the absence of a naval force, these plans remained speculative at best, and the subsequent collapse of the Frankfurt National Assembly in May 1849 definitively ended not only the dream of a German colonial presence, but also of a liberal democratic German state. The failure of the 1848 revolution and the continued strong population growth led to the acceleration of German emigration, which led to no less than 6 million Germans settling in the United States before 1914 [3].

The origins of Germany's colonial expansion

After the wars for the German unification in 1864, 1866, and 1870-1871, Chancellor Otto von Bismarck was acutely aware that the new German Empire had disrupted the traditional European balance of power, and that maintaining this unstable status quo required careful diplomacy to prevent a hostile reaction to the formation of the Reich from European states. Of these states, France was perhaps the least pleased, given its defeat 1871, which had resulted in the payment of heavy reparations and the loss of Alsace and Lorraine. The isolation of France and the maintenance of an alliance with Russia became the cornerstones of German foreign policy under Bismarck; all other goals were subordinated to them. To this end, Bismarck made efforts to emphasise that Germany was territorially content and committed to stability in central Europe. The precarious fiscal structure of the imperial government - the Reich could not levy direct taxes—also severely limited German foreign policy [3].

Despite this unpromising start, the late 1870s and early 1880s witnessed the effervescence of German pro-colonial interests and actions. They began to articulate a complex of ambitions that reflected a particular set of anxieties about Germany at a time of major economic change and migratory flow. Among the most important and influential publicists and organisers of this movement were Friedrich Fabri (1824-1891), Lutheran pastor and missionary, Wilhelm Hribbe-Schleiden (1846-1916), a lawyer and former diplomat from Hamburg, theorist Ernst von Weber (1830-1902), journalist Hugo Zöller (1852-1933), and the explorer, writer, and radical nationalist Carl Peters (1856-1918). These men shared an acute awareness of Germany's lateness in becoming a nation-state and of the danger of losing what remained of the few opportunities to establish an overseas presence. This awareness was marked, explicitly or implicitly, by the ambition to create a colonial empire that could rival that of Great Britain. Colonial ambitions were perceived by the Germans as a 'school of the nation', which should have contributed to the fulfilment of a great national destiny and which would have brought them the prestige and status enjoyed by their British cousins.



 Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part II

Like their predecessors during the revolution of 1848, the Germans were also concerned with the social implications of rapid population growth and the need to 'capture' the important flow of emigrants heading to the Americas to the colonies founded by emigrants from Germany. Therefore, colonial expansion was perceived as a way to defuse the internal political tensions fuelled by the rise of a large industrial working class and the revolutionary Social Democratic Party [4].

Another theme that united some of these 'Advocates of Colonialism' was the perceived need of the Germans to transform the colonies into sources of tropical products, raw materials and—above all—to make them become an outlet for German industry which—at that time—was suffering from significant competition, excess capacity and falling prices. That said, the emphasis was placed on the creation of commercial colonies, but which did not necessarily imply the presence of colonists [6c].

In the 1870s, colonial ambitions shifted from the more traditional territories of German colonial aspirations (America, Asia, and the Near East) to the African continent. Increasingly expansive and utopian dreams were projected onto West Africa by men like Hribbe-Schleiden and others like him, who envisaged the creation of a 'German India'. Colonial associations were established to promote these goals. Friedrich Fabri, Wilhelm Hribbe-Schleiden, and Hugo Zöller were active in the West German Colonisation and Export Association (co-founded by Fabri in 1879). Prominent members of the German business world, including industrialists, bankers, shipping magnates, and owners of trading companies, founded the German Colonial Association in 1882, while Carl Peters created the German Colonisation Society in 1884. These last two organisations were merged in 1887 into the German Colonial Society, which became the most important of the German pro-colonial organisations. Even so, the cause of colonialism was never the exclusive preserve of these or other societies with a colonial character. An extraordinary variety of nationalist organisations were created during the 1880s and 1890s which made the German colonies a cause in their own right and distinguished them from the already established colonial bodies by their even more strident expansionist aims, their violent language, and their broader base that included the middle class. One of the most important of these was the Pan-German League, founded in 1894. These groups, like others, expressed grave concern about the rapid industrialisation and urbanisation of Germany, and the threats that these posed to rural life and thus to German identity and political culture. The already formed colonies became a central, panacea-like solution to these shortcomings as well as other ills of modern life and—just as importantly—as a means of spreading German influence across the planet [3].

Given what is known about Bismarck's consistent rejection of colonial ambitions, his entry on to the colonial scene in the spring of 1884 constituted a sort of puzzle that historians have tried to piece together piece by piece for more than a century. Most agree that a German colonial gambit was made possible by the very favourable external circumstances of 1884, particularly the tensions between Russia and Britain over Afghanistan, as well as the Franco-British disputes over Egypt. Germany's involvement in Africa, therefore, worked to further distract the attention of the great European powers, especially France, from central Europe. Some have suggested that Bismarck's strategy was calculated to lead to some kind of understanding or even alliance with France. There is also evidence to suggest that Bismarck was increasingly concerned with strengthening traditional German export markets and peripheral commercial interests in a climate of economic depression, rising protectionism and possible exclusion from colonial markets. The Anglo-French Sierra Leone Agreement of 1882, which gave French and English traders reciprocal rights within their respective colonial spheres, and the extension of French and Belgian interests along the entire Congo River, made such fears credible. There was particular concern about access to West Africa and, to a lesser extent, South-West Africa, New Guinea and Samoa, where north German traders were active. Even so, Bismarck's initial ambitions were modest: he imagined at most self-financed and self-administered colonies in various overseas outposts, transformed into protectorates of the Reich according to a model of autonomy in which trade followed the flag. Bismarck's vision was not based on any grand strategy of colonisation; he never thought for a moment of establishing settlements of German colonists, but only of the smallest possible financial commitments [6c].

Domestic political calculations also seem to have played a role in Bismarck's decision. While he was undoubtedly receptive to the rise of pro-colonial sentiment in Germany, he saw it more as an opportunity to exploit it to his own advantage in the Reichstag elections of the autumn of 1884, which provided an opportunity to isolate the Progressive Liberals and Social Democrats by appealing to middle-class support for the colonial question, which both parties opposed on principle. At the same time, he sought the cooperation of the National Liberals, many of whom were supporters of colonialism.

It is debatable whether this constitutes evidence of a deliberately sustained 'social imperialism' as a ploy to spread domestic tensions and channel working-class support away from the conservative policies useful to the Junker elite. Even Bismarck's contradictory statements about the purposes the colonies would serve add some clarity to this question. Like many other Bismarckian episodes, the colonies constituted a political opportunity to simultaneously address several, not necessarily connected, issues. The image presented by the thesis of 'social imperialism', although suggestive, is too monolithic an image, which does not adequately take into account the multitude of forces and interests existing in the process of creating colonies [3].

Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part II

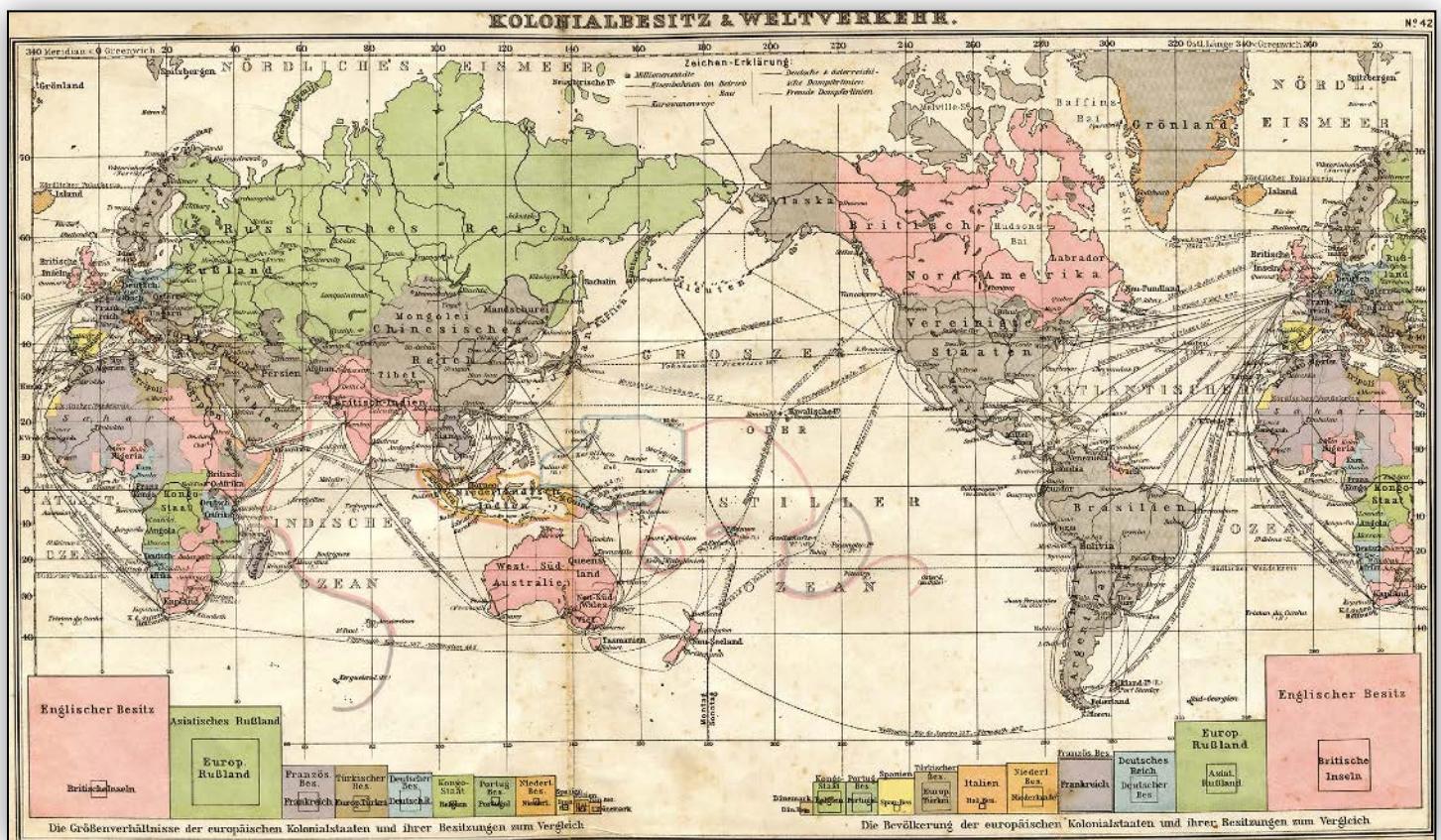


Fig. 19. Map of the colonial possessions and protectorates of the German Empire between 1883-1920, confirmed by international treaties and agreements or purchased (source: Bibliothek allgemeinen und praktische Wissens für Militäranwärter Volume I, 1905)

Formation of the German Colonial Empire

Former German colonies [6a]:

- **Colonies that depended on Brandenburg and Prussia**

- o **In Africa:**

- Groß Friedrichsburg (in Ghana), 1683-1717
 - Arguin (in Mauritania), 1685-1721
 - Whydah (now Bénin), c. 1700 (this Brandenburg 'colony' was only a minor foothold, just a few houses in an area inhabited by the British and Dutch)

- o **In North America:**

- Saint Thomas (in the Virgin Islands). – Leased by Brandenburg from the Danish Company of West Indies, 1685-1720
 - Vieques (Crab Island) (Krabbeninsel in German) in the Caribbean, now part of Puerto Rico.
 - Annexation of Brandenburg in the Danish West Indies, 1689-1693
 - Tertholen (in the Caribbean), 1696. Occupation.

- **Colonies of the Habsburg monarchy:**

- Banquibazar & Cabelon (1719/23-1744/50)^[1]
 - Nicobar Islands (1778-1783)^[2]
 - Tientsin Concession (1901-1917)



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part II

- **Colonies of the German Empire:**

- ***In Africa:***

- German East Africa (Deutsch-Ostafrika): Tanganyika. It was placed under British mandate by the League of Nations in 1922. It became independent in 1961 and in 1964 it united with the former British protectorate of the Sultanate of Zanzibar to form what is now Tanzania.
- Ruanda-Urundi (1885-1917) — was placed under Belgian mandate by the League of Nations, then attached to the Belgian colony of Congo — now Rwanda and Burundi
- Wituland (1885-1890) — included in Kenya since 1890
- Kionga Triangle — included in Mozambique (a Portuguese colony) since 1920
- German South West Africa (Deutsch-Südwestafrika) — currently Namibia (except for Walvis Bay) and part of Botswana (Südrand des Caprivi-Zipfels)
- German West Africa (Deutsch-Westafrika) — existed as a single territory for only two or three years, then it split into two distinct colonies, due to distances:
- Cameroon (1884-1914) — after World War I, separated into a British zone, Cameroons, and a French part, Cameroun, which became the present-day state of Cameroon. The British zone was later divided into two, one of which was annexed to Nigeria and the other to Cameroon. (Cameroon, Nigeria-Ostteil, Tschad-Südwestteil, Zentralafrikanische Republik-Westteil, Republik Kongo-Nordostteil, Gabun-Nordteil)
- Togoland (1884-1914) — after World War I it separated into two parts: one British (Ghana-Westteil), which united with Ghana, and a French one, which became Togo.

African colonies: Deutsch-Ostafrika (German East Africa)

A brief, but no less interesting, history of this colony is described in the work [3], from which we reproduce the following excerpt:

'Next in importance among the German colonies was German East Africa, which included territories now included in Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. For a time, German Hanseatic merchants were active in Zanzibar and on the African coast of this region, but the protection initially granted by the Reich to what became German East Africa was not extended until the independent exploits of the adventurer Carl Peters. A man of pathological ambition, animated by the reports of the explorer David Livingstone (1813-1873), Peters succeeded in obtaining — through dubious treaties — in February 1885 a vast network of inland coastal waterways. Although with some reluctance, Bismarck offered this territory the protection of the Reich. Then, also in February 1885, Peters founded the German East Africa Company (Deutsch-Ostafrikanische Gesellschaft, DOAG), which later gained sovereign rights to operate and administer the territory. In the following years, Peters continued to expand his territory, claiming to want to create a 'German India' extending from Somaliland to Mozambique, much to the annoyance of Bismarck, who did not see Germany's relations with Britain threatened by such reckless moves and revoked the letter giving Peters the power to act safely. As it turned out, the DOAG company conducted its affairs brutally and created friction with the traders on the Arabian coast, leading to a major revolt in 1888-1889 that the DOAG was powerless to suppress. Troops had to be dispatched from Germany, and in 1891 the territory came under the direct control of its first German colonial governor, Julius von Soden (1846-1921).'

German East Africa had a complex ethnic composition that included Arab and Indian traders, Swahili populations, and some Bantu and Tutsi, which made the attempt to subjugate them a much less effective economic exploitation with considerable effort. Indeed, the Reich had to bear the brunt of extensive military campaigns between 1891 and 1897 were only intended to pacify the territory, with much of the eastern part of the region remaining under indirect or ungoverned rule. The area around Mount Kilimanjaro was particularly turbulent in this regard, due to the influx of white settlers in the 1890s. The DOAG and the colonial government sought to develop large-scale profitable plantations and systematically exploit the colony's human and natural resources. Rural cotton production was made compulsory and traditional hunting was banned or restricted. Land was expropriated and native labour was conscripted, often forcibly, to work on the plantations. Crushing hut and head taxes were imposed and collected with great brutality by Askari mercenaries employed by the Germans. Most often, these taxes were paid in the form of extensive labour services sold to plantation owners. Major railway projects were undertaken, linking the coastal area with the Kilimanjaro region, and the shores of Lake Tanganyika were also occupied. The native social structure changed dramatically as a result of policies of recruitment for plantation labour and the construction of railways, a process that led to the destruction of rural agriculture and the abandonment of many villages. At the same time, missionary activities threatened traditional customs and sources of authority.'

In these circumstances, it was not surprising that German East Africa was the scene of a major native uprising in 1905. The Maji Maji people were the spearhead, supported by the Ngoni, Pangwa and other southern Bantu peoples, united by traditions and religious cults, and tried to restore the previous order that had been destroyed by the colonial presence. The uprising was met with a harsh response, costing the lives of about 75,000 natives and almost wiping out the Pangwa population. Post-war punitive measures resulted in the killing of even more natives. But the uprising, which coincided with the Herero and Nama wars, shook the colonial administration to its core and had echoes as far as Berlin.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part II

Under his leadership with Bernhard Dernburg at the Imperial Colonial Office and the new governor of East Africa, Albrecht von Rechenberg (1861-1935), a dramatic policy shift began that aimed to restrict settler and plantation activities in the interest of encouraging native peasant agriculture. To this end, Rechenberg prohibited whites from purchasing native land, reformed taxes, banned compulsory cotton cultivation in villages, restricted corporal punishment, and reformed local government to include native interests. These progressive reforms reduced tensions and greatly increased native agricultural production, particularly copra, coffee, and rubber. In reality, the new government's achievements in restoring native agriculture were limited by the changes that led to constraints in colonial life and the deep hostility of the white settlers to Rechenberg's policies. Despite the gains made by the planters based on exported crops, it is important to note that before World War I, German East Africa had a substantial trade deficit with Germany and, like almost all of the Reich's colonies except Togo, was unable to support itself. At the end of the war, German East Africa was divided between Great Britain, Belgium and Portugal.'

Post offices:

- the first German post office in East Africa was opened in Lamu, on 22nd November 1888. The franking was done using imperial stamps in the following periods [1]: -
 - 22nd November 1888 - 31st March 1891, MiNr. 39-44, with denominations of 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 Pf.
 - 1890-1891, MiNr. 45-50, with denominations of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 Pf.
 - the following imperial postage stamps were used by the Zanzibar post office [1]: 27th August 1890 - 31st July 1891, MiNr. 37 and 45-50, with denominations of 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 Pf.
 - there were other post offices in East Africa where imperial stamps were used, during the early period of German colonisation: Dar es Salaam, Tanga, etc. [1].

Issues:

- in 1892 the first postage stamp for East Africa appeared, with a face value of 5 cents. It was issued for the benefit of a private maritime post of the company Schülke & Mayr, under a contract with the imperial governor. When it expired, the contract was not renewed and the private stamps ceased to be used [1].
- the first official issue intended for this colony was issued in 1893 and was an overprint of the imperial stamps MiNr. 45-48 and 50. The black overprint was applied to the bottom of the stamps and contained the value in Pesa (2, 3, 5, 10 and 25 P). They circulated until 30th September 1901, and their print run is unknown.
- the second official issue dates from 1896 and is also an overprint of the imperial marks MiNr. 45-48 and 50. This time the black overprint is applied diagonally, in 3 rows and contains the nominal value, the Deutsch-Südwestafrika (German Southwest Africa) inscription and the name of the Pesa currency. The nominal values are the same as in the first issue, the print run is unknown and the circulation limit date is 30th September 1901.
- Fig. 20 shows the 'Krone' type stamp (from the 'Krone/Adler' series Deutsches Reich, MiNr. 45-48 and 50), with black diagonal overprint on three lines, nominal value in Pesa (1 Rupie = 64 Pesa). From MICHEL Deutschland Spezial 2011, vol. 1, p.660, Deutsche Kolonien (Deutsch-Ostafrika—today Tanzania).



Fig. 20. Deutsch-Ostafrika MiNr. 7, overprinted 3 Pesa on 5 Pf (MiNr. 46c)

- the joint colonial issue of 1901 with the illustration of the imperial yacht *Hohenzollern* had, for East Africa, nominal values of 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 40 P (Pesa) and 1, 2 and 3 R (Rupies). MICHEL prices are only for Rupie values, reaching 100 EURO for the value of 2 R and 550 EURO for the value of 3 R, cancelled. For uncirculated stamps with perfect gum, quotes can reach up to 1,000 EURO (dark carmine red/greenish black variant of the stamp MiNr. 21, 3R). Beware Michel overpricing! Ed.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part II

- there were two more German issues for East Africa, both with the same designs as for 1901 (the imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*) and with values in Rupies (R) and Heller (H).
- the issue from 1905 in circulation until the end of 1917, with the exception of MiNr. 29, valid until 31st March 1912. The values were 2½, 4, 7½, 15, 20, 30, 45 and 60 H. The print run is unknown.
- the last issue, from 1905/1920, was the only one printed on paper with a diamond watermark (Rauten) and circulated until the end of WWI, with the exception of MiNr. 30-36 and 38-39, valid until 31st March 1912. The denominations were 2½, 4, 7½, 15, 20, 30, 45, and 60 Heller and 1, 2, and 3 Rupies. The print run is unknown.

Figures 21 and 22 depict the images of two vignettes of the ‘mourning labels’ type (see Part I of this article, published in the previous issue of the news sheet) with reference to the loss of this colony by Germany as a result of the Treaty of Versailles.



Fig. 21.



Fig. 22.

African Colonies: Deutsch-Südwestafrika (German South-West Africa)

For the description of this colony, here is an excerpt from the work [3], published in 1900-1914.

‘German South-West Africa, declared a German protectorate in April 1884, proved to be Germany’s most important colony in terms of economic value, destination for settlers and collateral impact on German society. It extended over what is now Namibia, one of the driest countries in sub-Saharan Africa and which had enjoyed little interest from European powers before 1875. A German missionary presence had been active along Angra Pequena (Lüderitz Bay) and Walvis Bay, on the coast and in Windhoek inland for several decades, but the region did not attract the attention of German officials until the actions of Adolf Lüderitz (1834-1886), a Bremen tobacco merchant and arms dealer, who managed to amass a vast territory in the region through self-guided expeditions, financed and negotiated questionable treaties. Lüderitz was looking for gold and diamonds, but he spent his personal resources and successfully lobbied for Reich protection of these lands in 1884. A year later he sold it to the newly formed Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft für Südwest-Afrika (German Colonial Society for South-West Africa, DKGSA). As a concessionary company, it was entrusted with the administration of the colony, increasing capital investment and—as hoped—bringing in profits, while the Reich provided a commissioner, a few civilian administrators and, despite initial reluctance, a small defensive force (Schutztruppe). Initial hopes for South West Africa were, however, quickly dashed by the realities of this arid territory, of which only 1% was suitable for arable agriculture and which required heavy port and rail investment before any mineral rewards could be exploited. It quickly became apparent that the DKGSA was unable to meet these costs on its own and the Reich was forced to break off the financial agreement.

Thinly populated, South-West Africa numbered about 200,000 indigenous people in 1884 and included the tribes Owambo, Herero, Nama and Orlam (Hottentots), and San (Bushmen), of whom the pastoral Herero and Nama populations of the central and southern parts of the country respectively were the largest groups. In typical imperial fashion, tensions between the Herero and Nama were exploited to consolidate the occupation, with the Germans playing the Herero against the Nama who still hoped to retain tribal self-government. Matters were further complicated by the migration of German settlers to the colony in 1890, a move that had neither been planned at the creation of the protectorate nor encouraged by the Colonial Section of the Foreign Office. This highlights both the unpredictable dynamics of the colonies and the relative autonomy of colonial circulation in Germany, which received increasing support from radical nationalists and conservative circles in the 1890s. Between 1891 and 1904, for example, the white population of South-West Africa grew from 539 to 4,500. This influx of settlers produced a series of tense episodes with the natives over cattle and grazing, and undermined the administration’s goal of preserving tribal integrity and self-government. Railway investments increased tensions by accelerating land expropriation and undermining the traditional structures of the Herero and Nama tribes by using indigenous labour. A catastrophic rinderpest epidemic in 1897 then destroyed ca. half of all indigenous cattle and forced a portion of the Herero population to work for wages or to depend on loans from German colonists. These internal changes led to even more land loss and the creation of reservations. Legal insecurity and abusive colonial justice greatly increased these problems.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part II

Tensions with the German population over land and the resulting loss of autonomy led to a revolt organised by the Herero chief Samuel Maherero (1854-1923), and the massacre of 123 white farmers in January 1904. The rebellion caught the colonial administration off guard and precipitated the replacement of Governor Theodor Leutwein (1849-1921) with the authoritarian Friedrich von Lindequist (1862-1945) as well as the mobilisation of military reinforcements from Germany. The commander of the reinforcement forces (Schutztruppe), General Lothar von Trotha (1848-1920), a veteran of other colonial wars, campaigned against the Herero people with notorious ferocity, defeating the main enemy force at Waterberg in August 1904 and driving the survivors into the arid Omaheke steppe, where most of them died. The war against the Herero people culminated in von Trotha's infamous 'Extermination Decree' of October 1904, which placed a bounty on Maherero's head, refused peace negotiations, and declared that every Herero man, woman, and child was to be exiled or shot. Meanwhile, the Nama people under Hendrik Witbooi (c.1830-1905) were also waging a war against the Germans. Better armed and trained than the Herero, they were able to continue the fight until March 1907.

The consequences of this war of extermination were catastrophic for both peoples. Those Herero who managed to survive ended up in a system of camps and forced labour under conditions that killed almost half of the remaining population. By 1911 their pre-war population had been reduced by 75-80 percent, while the Nama suffered losses of almost 60 percent. Tribal structures were dissolved, land confiscated, and indigenous populations were subjected to draconian legal restrictions and penal exile. On the German side, the war cost about 1,500 lives and 585 million marks. It also had a negative impact on Germany as a humane, civilised, and just colonial power. Indeed, the brutality of von Trotha's campaign, as well as the length and high costs of the war, drew harsh criticism from the Social Democrats, the Catholic Centre Party, and the left-wing liberal parties in the Reichstag. This led to a crisis of confidence in the entire colonial effort in 1906 and new early elections in 1907.

For obvious reasons, it was tempting to see the genocidal war waged against the Herero and Nama populations, and the camp system developed to control and exploit what remained of these populations, as an important precedent for the murderous policies of the Nazi regime less than forty years later.

As suggestive, so are the continuities in German military thinking that enabled this first of the three 'merciless wars' of the 20th century. At the same time, comparative studies have highlighted a disturbing pattern of 'frontier genocide' with many features in common between the Herero experience and, for example, the destruction of the Tasmanians in Australia and the Yuki Indians in California. Thinking this way, it is more accurate to interpret the war with the Herero and Nama as both being waged according to a historical model and, in its scale and brutality, setting a disturbing precedent for 20th century genocide.

Following the 1907 Reichstag elections, the director of the newly created Colonial Office, Bernhard Dernburg (1865-1937) began a reform aimed at better treatment of indigenous populations, favouring indigenous agriculture and a rational, more scientific and economic approach to the development of the colonies. The expansion of railways played a central role in this new thinking. Numerous railway lines were completed in South-West Africa between 1907 and 1909 and allowed for much more intensive mining activity for copper and diamonds. By 1913 these two minerals alone accounted for over 90 percent of the value of South-West Africa's exports, and the colony's economy accounted for no less than 65-75 percent of the total colonial trade with Germany. But, compared with the enormous administrative and military expenses as well as the enormous state investment in railways, the colony remained a net loss for the Reich until its loss after the First World War. After that it was administered by South Africa under a League of Nations mandate.'

Post offices:

- the first frankings with imperial postage stamps took place from 16th July 1888 to March 1891, at the post office in Otyimbingue. The stamps MiNr. 39-44 were used (face values of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 Pf as well as 2 M). In the period 1891-1892, MiNr. 45-50 were used, with face values of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 Pf. Due to the multiple transfers of postal transports, the stamp with the name 'Otyimbingue' was used not only in that locality, but also in various other places [1].

- in the period 1892-1899 the imperial postage stamps MiNr. 37 and 45-50 were used. The prices given by the MICHEL catalogue are for MiNr. VS 37 with the 'SWAKOPMUND' cancel (MiNr. 37) and for MiNr. VS 45-50 primarily for the 'WINDOEK' cancel and also partly for the 'OTJIMBINGUE' and 'SWAKOPMUND' cancels.

Issues:

- there were two issues with overprinting over imperial stamps, as follows:

- first issue, in 1897, with oblique overprint 'Deutsch Südwest-Afrika' on two lines, with denominations of 3, 5, 10 and 20 Pf on MiNr 45-48 stamps
- second issue, in 1898, with oblique overprint 'Deutsch Südwestafrika' on two lines, with denominations of 3, 5, 10 and 20 Pf. MiNo. 45-48 stamps.
- the joint colonial issue of 1901 (Figure 23, the imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*) included all 13 denominations provided: 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and 80 Pf, as well as 1, 2, 3 and 5. MiNr. 11-23. Valid until 9th July 1915 with its print run is unknown.



 Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part II

- the last issue dates from 1906 and includes the stamps MiNr. 11-14, 16 and 20-23 reprinted on paper with watermark 1 with diamonds (Rauten).



Fig. 23. Deutsch Südwestafrika, MiNr. 19.

Extract from MICHEL Deutschland Spezial 2011, vol. 1 page 672, Deutsche Kolonien (Südwestafrika):

'MiNr. 29 B, 30 B, 31 B sowie MiNr. 32 B wurden nur am Sammlerschalter in Berlin verkauft; echt gebraucht nicht möglich!'

That is: *'Stamps MiNr. 29 B, 30 B, 31 B as well as MiNr. 32 B were only sold at post offices in Berlin; they never really circulated.'*

The identification is based on the fact that the 32 B stamp has a type 1 watermark (Rauten) and 25 perforations (Zähnungschlöscher) on the horizontal side. It was printed under wartime conditions (Kriegsdruck), in 1919.

This means that the cancel 'WINDHOEK' on the stamp in Figure 24 below is fake!



Fig. 24. Deutsch-Südwestafrika, MiNr. 30B.

Figures 25 and 26 depict two vignettes of the 'mourning labels' type (see Part I of this article, published in the previous news sheet) related to Germany's loss of this colony after the First World War.



Fig. 25.



Fig. 26.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part II

African colonies: Togo

Some historical elements of this colony extracted from the work [3]:

'Both Togo and Cameroon were seized for Germany in an extraordinary moment of gunboat diplomacy in July 1884. Merchants from Bremen and Hamburg as well as German missionaries had established a presence in both of these West African territories but, given the pace of Belgian, British and French annexations along the Congo, Niger and Volta rivers, concerns grew about the eventual exclusion of Germany from the area. Togo was brought under German imperial protectorate by the treaties of 4th-6th July 1884 to secure the interests of the pious Vietor merchant family of Bremen, involved in the lucrative palm oil trade, and to protect the German Mission in the north. The Togolese Ewe population had been in contact with European missionaries and traders for generations and did not violently oppose the German presence. Bringing the northern peoples of Dagomba, Kabre, Konkomba and Tykossi, among others, under German administration proved much more difficult and led to an indirect form of administration.'

'In marked contrast to other African colonies, the colonial history of the Togo region was punctuated by major uprisings or harsh treatment of the native population, although the Togolese, like other populations under German colonial rule, were subjected to a rigid colonial justice system that made extensive use of corporal punishment. The Vietor family and the missionaries opposed the alcohol and arms trade on principle (though unsuccessfully) and, together with Governor Julius von Zech (1868-1914), successfully resisted large-scale plantation enclosures through land reforms that secured indigenous property, with the intention of protecting and promoting traditional agriculture. Togo had a large number of missionary schools and the highest school attendance and literacy rates in West Africa. However, the economy was dominated by the export of palm nuts and oil (76% of exports in 1911), which represented less than 8% of German colonial trade before World War I. Remarkably, Togo was the only German colony able to support its own administrative expenses. Following World War I, Togo was divided between France and Britain'.

Post offices:

- the first local cancellations of imperial postage stamps date from the period 1888-1891, and the known cancellations are 'KLEIN-POPO' and 'LOME'. Between 1888-1891, imperial stamps MiNr. 37 and 39-44 (with nominal values of 2, 3, 5, 120, 20, 25 and 50 Pf) were used, so that in the period 1889-1900, stamps MiNr. 45-50 (nominal values of 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 Pf) circulated.

Issues:

- there was an overprint series, issued in August 1897 and circulated until 30th September 1901. The overprint 'Togo' was applied diagonally, in a single line. Imperial stamps MiNr. 45-50 were used and the print run is unknown.

- the common colonial series (Figure 27, the imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*), issued in November 1900 and including all 13 provided denominations (already mentioned above, for German South-West Africa). It had circulation power until 26th August 1914 and its print run is unknown.

- there was a reprint of this series in August 1909, on paper with a watermark 1 in diamonds (Rauten), only for the denominations of 3, 5, 10 Pf and 5 M. The denominations of 5, 10 and 23 Pf were first issued during peacetime, respectively in 1909, 1913 and 1915, and then there was also a wartime issue for the denominations of 3 Pf (1918) and 5 M (1919). The latter was perforated in two versions, with 26/17 and 25/17 horizontal/vertical.

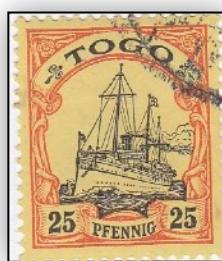


Fig. 27. Togo, MiNr. 11.



Fig. 28.



Fig. 29.

Figures 28 and 29 illustrate two 'mourning labels' that borrow the graphic theme of the imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part II

African colonies: Kamerun (Cameroon)

Peter N. STEARS mentions the following in his paper [3]:

'Cameroon became a protectorate of the Reich by a treaty with the Duala people on 14th July 1884, just a few days before it was annexed by the British. This move was made to secure the interests of the C. Woermann company, a major exporter of spirits to West Africa. The German colonial activities were largely confined to the coastal region, with some incursions into the immediate south resulting in battles with the Bakoko, Bane, and other peoples, who took years to subdue. Indeed, fighting and uprisings of all kinds were a constant theme in Cameroon's colonial history, and its eastern area was only indirectly ruled by the Germans. In fact, many of the colony's export products, such as rubber and ivory, were collected by the indigenous peoples and then transported to the coast. Unlike Togo, however, large plantations became important in the Cameroon economy with many of the same abuses already listed for German East Africa. Also, of note here is the plantation of The Victoria West Africa Company, the only major plantation company to operate in Cameroon and a favourite of the colonial governor Jesko von Puttkamer (1855-1917), who was a shareholder. With the complicity of the colonial government, the company systematically expropriated land from indigenous people in the highlands of Cameroon, destroying village life and removing the natives from reservations or turning them into plantation workers, subject to coercion and cruelty. Complaints about Puttkamer's abusive and corrupt regime increased considerably during the series of colonial crises that ravaged Germany in 1905-1906, and in 1907 he was replaced by Theodor Seitz (1863-1949). Like his counterpart von Rechenberg in East Africa, Seitz attempted to make life easier for the native population by reforming the administration and improving working conditions on the plantation, although with rather modest success. The main raw materials exported from Cameroon's were rubber, cocoa, palm oil and ivory, in that order of importance, but they ran trade deficits with Germany and relied heavily on Reich subsidies to finance its administration. Cameroon's territory was divided between France and Britain at the end of World War I.'

Cancellations on imperial stamps:

- as in the case of the Togo colony, between 1887-1889 imperial stamps MiNr. 37 and 39-44 were used, so that between 1890-1900 MiNr. 45-50 were used.

Issues:

- in 1897 a series with diagonal overprint 'Kamerun' was issued on stamps of the Empire (MiNr. 45-50). It circulated until 30th September 1901 and its print run is unknown.
- the common colonial issue series (Figure 30, the imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*) included all 13 denominations, issued in November 1900 and circulated until February 1916. Its print run is unknown.
- the last issue was a reprint of the common colonial series, on paper with watermark 1, 'Rauten' type, of which there were variants in peace and war print, with different numbers of perforations on the horizontal side for values of 1 and 5 M (25 or 26 perforations).



Fig. 30. Kamerun, MiNr.



Fig. 31.



Fig. 32.

Two of the 'mourning labels' type for Kamerun are illustrated in Figures 31 and 32.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part II

Table 1 presents an excerpt from the work [7]: the population of German settlers in the colonies (data from 1910).

Table 1. Colonial territories and their German population, 1910 (after an article by Erik GRIMMER-SOLEM)

Colonised Area Inhabitants	Area (km2)	German
South-West Africa	835,100	9,283
East Africa	995,000	2,384
Cameroon	495,600	986
Togo	87,200	300
New Guinea	240,000	549
Caroline, Palau, Mariana and Marshall Islands	2,470	236
Samoa	2,570	270
Kiaochow	0,50	1,412

Source: Kaiserliches Statistisches Amt, ed, Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich, 1910 (Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht, 1911), p.

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The author is grateful for the help brought by the editor, Carl Buck, in modifying what has been initially translated from Romanian into a near-AI English, conferring it a decent level of language and a more than decent general aspect and distribution of the information in the material.

With Carl's help, once again, the author will be offered the possibility of presenting in issue 201 (April 2026) the final part of his study, 'PART III: GERMAN COLONIES - ASIA-PACIFIC'.



Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei. *Kraft Durch Freude* Cruise Mail & Ephemera...

By Keith Lillywhite

KdF cruise ships *Sierra Cordoba* and *Wilhelm Gustloff*: Forwarded Mail.

Mail addressed to passengers travelling on the longer KdF cruises to the Atlantic and the Mediterranean could be forwarded, through the ship's agent, to await collection at the next appropriate port of call.



Fig. 2a. 'Wilhelm Gustloff' at Palermo.

Fig. 1. Cover to the 'Sierra Cordoba'.

The cover was sent by airmail for collection at Funchal, Madeira, by a holiday maker aboard the *Sierra Cordoba*. The card bears Stuttgart postmarks dated 22nd April 1938 and was back-stamped Funchal 25th April 1938.

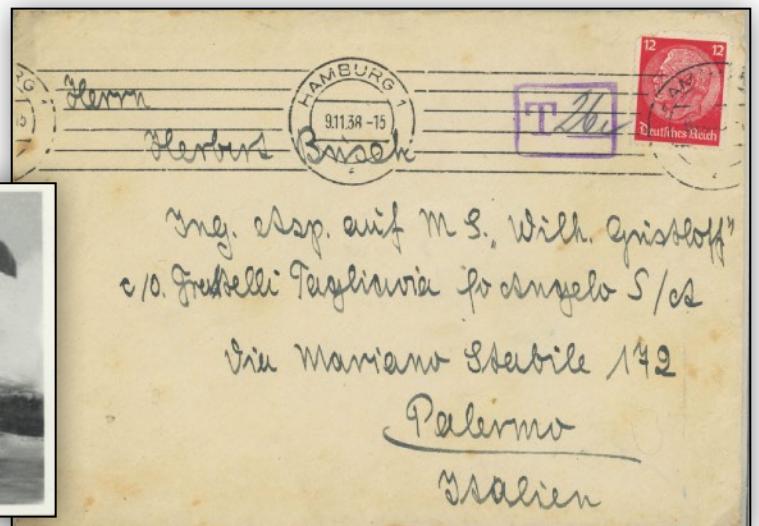


Fig. 2. Mail forwarded for collection at Palermo for an engineer on board the 'Wilhelm Gustloff'.

The cover bears a Hamburg 1 machine cancellation dated 9th November 1938 and a postage due cachet for an additional 26c. With the help of Society members the author can establish that the cover was sent to Palermo in Sicily to catch the *Wilhelm Gustloff* when it called there on 19th November 1938, was franked at the inland letter rate of 12 PF instead of the 25 PF foreign surface letter rate. It was, therefore 13 Pf under-franked so the Hamburg post office applied the postage due hand-stamp telling the addressee that he would have to pay on collecting his letter. Internal rates would have been one and a half times the deficit, but the foreign rate was double the deficit. Thus the addressee had 26 Pf to pay. This was converted to 26c (UPU currency) by the Hamburg post office, but there is no indication whether this fee was ever collected. Under-franked forwarded mail to the *Wilhelm Gustloff* is quite unusual, the author understands.

KdF cruise ship *Oceana*: Radio Message pamphlet

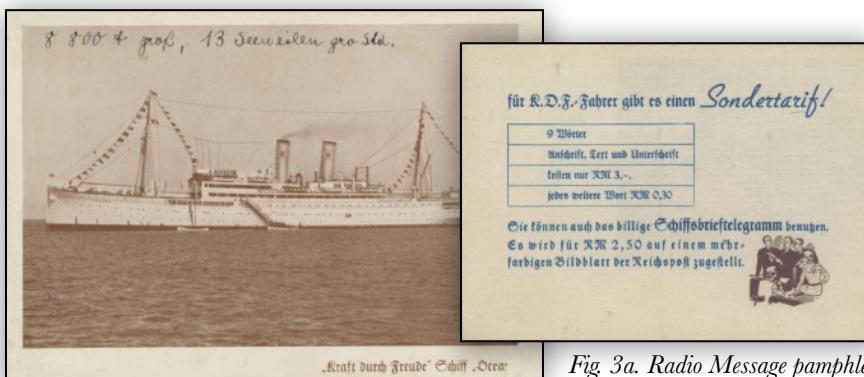


Fig. 3a. Radio Message pamphlet.

Fig. 3. KdF Cruise ship 'Oceana'.

On many of the KdF ships it was possible for passengers to send an express message home via the ship's radio room. The *Oceana* was one such ship and had a publicity card inviting passengers to the ship's radio room, where for a fee of 3 Reichmarks tourists could send a nine-word message which could be radioed back to Germany, typed on a standard form and sent to the recipient through the internal post.

Kraft Durch Freude Cruise Mail & Ephemera...

KdF cruise ship *Oceana*: Travel tickets



Fig. 4. & 4a. Travel tickets for the 'Oceana' cruise to Norway, 8th-14th June 1938.

KdF cruise passengers



Fig. 5. A postcard depicting a group of passengers onboard the 'Monte Sarmiento' enjoying what appears to be a Mediterranean cruise.

The KdF cruises were available to all party members and as such ordinary public members were joined by Nazi Party activists as 'Resiseleiter' (Cruise Leaders) to supervise onboard activities.

Dampfer *Bayern* - Hamburg-America Line (HAPAG): NSDAP Norwegian Cruise July 1933.

It would seem that the forerunner to the first KdF cruises in 1934 was the cruise to Norway by the HAPAG Dampfer *Bayern* in July 1933 which was organised by the NSDAP.

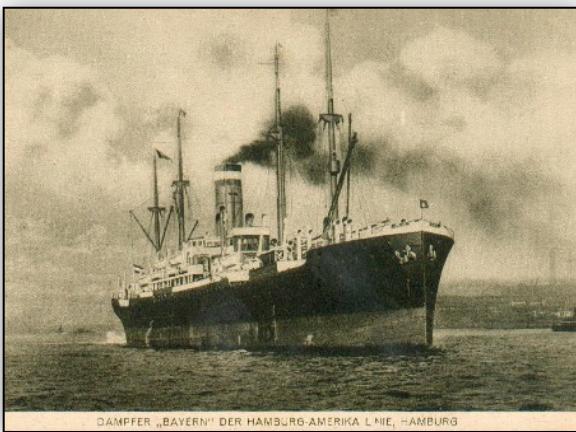


Fig. 6. Dampfer 'Bayern'



Fig. 6a. Postcard from the Dampfer 'Bayern' featuring a special cachet.

The above postcard posted in Norway bears a Loen Nordfjord postmark dated 17th July 1933 and the special circular cachet 'Norwegian-Fahrt der NSDAP / D. BAYERN / 8.-20. Juli 1933' designed for the cruise which is considered an interesting item of forerunner mail.

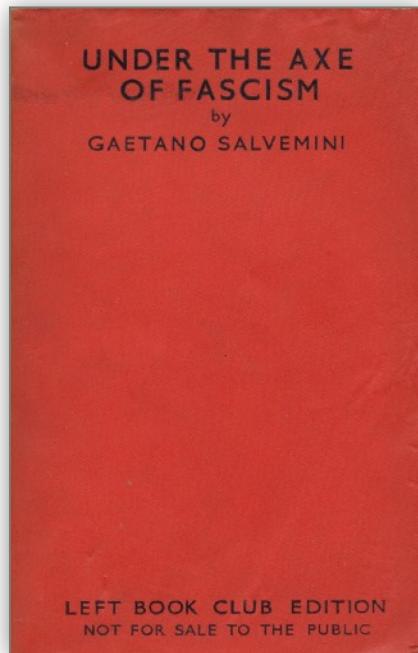
Authors note: The illustrated items are taken from the authors collection compiled over many years. Today's market for similar items is quite healthy with any letters, postcards and ephemera associated with the ill fated *Wilhelm Gustloff* fetching premium prices, when they can be found.

Acknowledgements: Rex Dixon & John Rawlings.



Literature

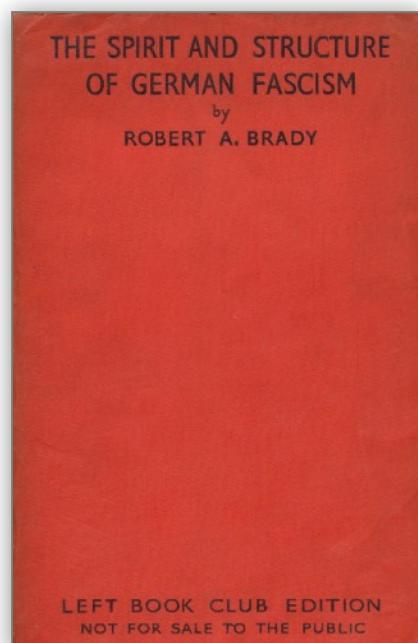
‘... and these are the books we read...’



1936

In this issue we highlight the books published by Victor Gollancz under the title ‘*Left Book Club*’ (LBC). These now collectable editions, published in the United Kingdom between 1936 and 1948, promoted a left-wing view of world events in books that were issued once a month. Subscribers to the LBC were given the opportunity to purchase books not available in the shops (at the time of publishing) as well as a newsletter. The concept proved popular and influential, with membership reaching 57,000 at its peak.

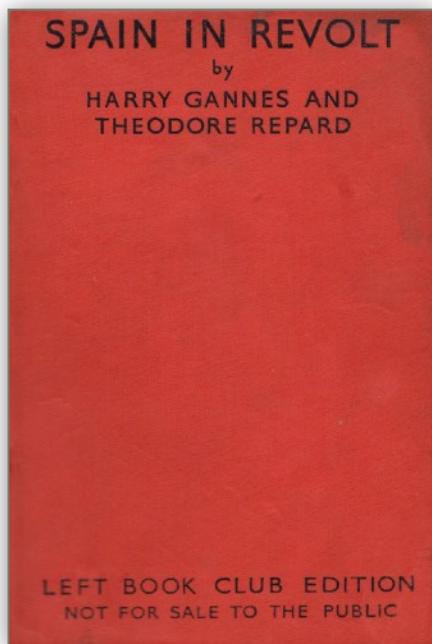
The early publications (1936-1938), featured a distinct orange paperback cover, whilst later copies (1938-1948), were bound in red hardback covers. The editions mostly consisted of contemporary thought and commentary from science, history, and fiction, as well as a range of other subjects. The titles depicted in this article have been useful whilst researching attitudes to the events unfolding in Spain, Italy and Germany. In particular, Robert A. Brady’s *The Spirit and Structure of German Fascism* (depicted below) has proved most helpful in deconstructing the organisations that helped Germany flourish in the pre-war years. It is noted that Brady’s book is available to read on-line at <https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.217806>/mode/2up



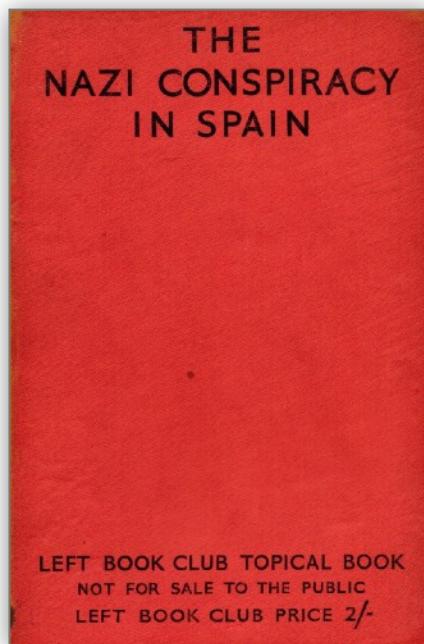
1937



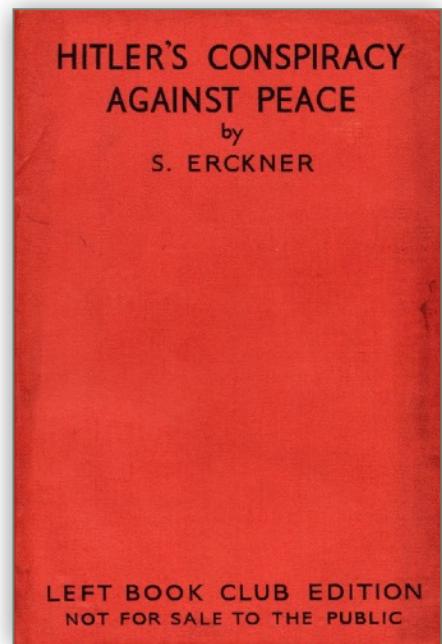
 Literature



1936



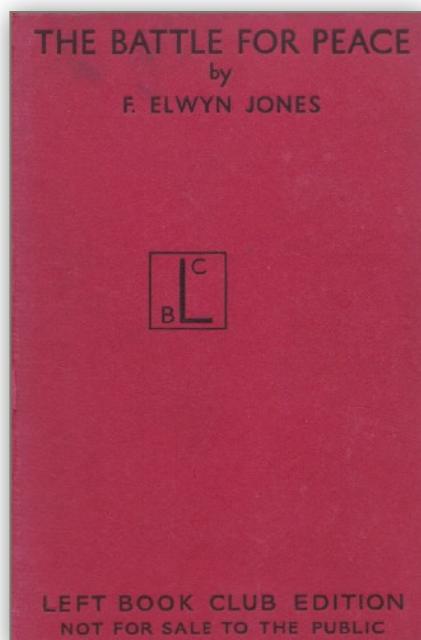
1937



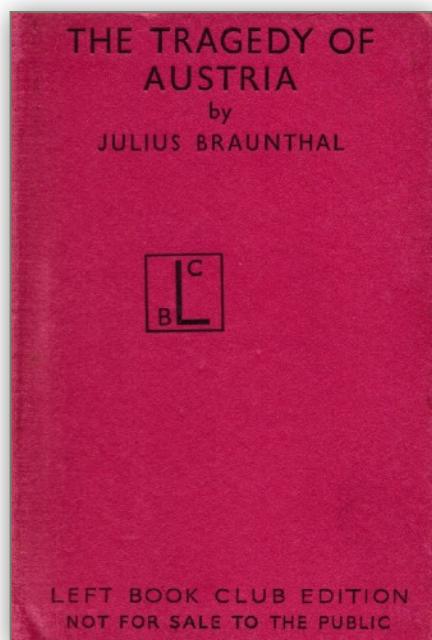
1937

Other notable editions include *Hitler the Pawn* (1936), *Spanish Testament* (1937), *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937), *Soviet Democracy* (1937), *Red Star over China* (1937), *Soviet Policy and its Critics* (1939), *War Aims* (1939), *Swastika Night* (1940), *Europe, Russia and the Future* (1941), *Production for Victory not Profit* (1941), *Guilty Germans?* (1942), *The Unity of Europe* (1942), *Need Germany Survive?* (1943), *Will Germany Crack?* *A Factual Report on Germany from Within* (1943), *Report from Germany* (1945), and *Struggle for Germany* (1947). Many of these titles are available on-line. Links can be found via Wikipedia.

A total of 257 titles were published, with eight of the authors going on to become part of the Labour government in 1945. There is no doubt that the LBC was left-leaning with accusations of it being under Soviet influence. As an antidote Christina Foyle (of Foyles bookstore), established the *Right Book Club* in 1937. The RBC published significantly fewer books and fell away at some point in the early 1950s. Interestingly, amongst Christina's personal correspondence there can be found a letter from Adolf Hitler responding to Christina's complaint about Nazi book-burning.



1938



1948



Research Links

‘... and these are the websites we use...’

Following recent research into the copyright of images I came across this website full of useful information regarding Ross Verlag. This can be found at www.rosspostcards.com

**ROSS VERLAG MOVIE STAR POSTCARDS
AND OTHER VINTAGE
EUROPEAN POSTCARD PUBLISHERS**

Ross Verlag was a German postcard publisher, renowned for the production and distribution of high quality movie star postcards throughout Europe of both American and European performers from 1919 to 1944. Celebrity images were licensed directly from Hollywood Studios or obtained from many of the European glamour photography studios of the time. Many of these photos quite possibly were never published anywhere else.

This website contains an image archive of as many of the thousands of Ross Verlag postcards as we have been able to find. It also details as much information as I have been able to obtain related to the history of Ross Verlag, and its founder, Heinrich Ross.

As an added bonus, this website also contains images of postcards from many other European postcard publishers, and a little bit of information regarding them.

I am responsible for gathering the historical information regarding Ross Verlag, with the help of many, many individuals. Jean Ritsema is behind locating the images of the Ross Verlag postcards, obtained from various sources. Jean also worked to create the other European image archives, along with Torsten J. Anklaam. We are grateful to both of them!

Be sure to check out the acknowledgements at the bottom.

The website introduces itself, in part, stating, *Ross Verlag was a German postcard publisher, renowned for the production and distribution of high quality movie star postcards throughout Europe of both American and European performers from 1919 to 1944. Celebrity images were licensed directly from Hollywood Studios or obtained from many of the European glamour photography studios of the time. Many of these photos quite possibly were never published anywhere else.*

Whilst this website is dedicated to film and theatrical artists of the time, I found the information regarding Ross Verlag as a business (and its subsequent entities) useful when adding time-lines to postcards I have, in particular Heinz Guderian wearing his Knights Cross. This card was published by Film-Foto-Verlag (its R-Series) which I find was previously Ross Verlag. There are numerous designs, coding and colours that this web site can assist collectors with their cataloging. Some examples of these differences are below.



*‘Ross Verlag’
(On ‘white’ card. Post-1928)*



*‘Ross Verlag’
(‘A-Series’. Pre-1941)*



*‘Film-Foto-Verlag’
(‘R-Series’ post-1941)*



Membership

The TRSG welcomes all of its Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society members to their meetings in 2026

Three meetings will be held at the The Civil Service club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HJ

The meetings are held on Saturdays and start at 12 noon with an informal lunch and bourse (when required), with displays from 13:30 pm onwards

The meetings will be held on the following dates:

18th April 2026

25th July 2026

17th October 2026

If you have any questions regarding the meetings or wish to participate with a display then please contact Tony Hickey at
hickey_anthony@hotmail.com

This News Sheet is sent to over 170 addresses globally.

If you no longer require the News Sheet or wish to add a name and address to the emailing list then please contact Carl Buck at
carlthestamp@gmail.com (new email address).



The G&CPS

The Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society welcomes new members.

The Society is open to all age groups and currently has a memberships spanning most continents of the world. Major areas of interest to current members include Pre-Philately, the German States, the period between 1871 -1918, the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich, the Allied Occupation, the Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic, Colonies & Foreign, Private Posts, and Revenues etc...

Benefits of membership include an Exchange Packet (UK only), a Lending Library (UK only), and a Postal Auction.

There is also a Members Forum (on the website), Zoom meetings and a Social Media presence.

The Society also holds Regional meetings, Study Group Meetings and an AGM weekend.

Members of the G&CPS are reminded to make a date in their diary for the 2026 AGM.

This will be held from 2nd -4th October 2026 at the Feathers Hotel, Ludlow.

Details of the event and a booking form will be available in February's edition of *Germania*.

The Society's journal '*Germania*' is published quarterly and contains over 60 full colour pages of expert articles on various aspects of German philately and Postal History.

JOIN TODAY

