

AMG GERMANY ... POSTAL CARDS

the

1945 "M" Design

EXHIBIT OBJECTIVE

The exhibit objective is to explore and present all aspects of the 1945 AMG "M" design, postal card. This will include characteristics of the basic card, paper types, paper thickness, paper colors, printing flaws and errors as well as major variants and the broad fertile field of usage. Usage is not limited to the cards as issued but is expanded to all possible uses including various up-rating methods and combinations required by the destination and Postal Rate Period in which they were used. In some cases, there are uses beyond the demonetization dates of the cards.

INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

At the end of the War in Europe in 1945, the postal service was reinstated in Germany starting in July of 1945. The initial "allowed method" of correspondence was a single sheet open letter or post card. The limited format was done to expedite censorship review of all mails and not having to open envelopes.

Definitive Postal Cards with "a design" indicia were released in both the American and British Zones in late 1945. Both Zones issued cards with 5 pfennig and 6 pfennig values to satisfy the "in-city" and "inter-city" (out of town deliver) rates respectively. These values satisfied the 1st Postal Period Rates which were a carry over rates from the 3rd Reich. Foreign delivery rates were not required at this point as such services were not restarted until later.

Two designs were released in the American Zone and one design was release in the British Zone. One of the American Zone designs and that of the British Zone used the "M" design in the indicia design almost identical to the AMG Germany stamps that had been put in place. Each Zone issued 5 & 6 pfennig value. As postal rates changed these cards saw continued use through various methods of up-rating which ranged from adding adhesive stamps of the time to hand and machine stamping which indicates the amount of postage added to gain the intended delivery.

Quality of printing was also highly variable due to shortages of the times. There is a wide range of variation in paper colors, printing flaws, paper types and thicknesses. Coupled with the combinations of postal uses and up-ratings, these issues and Types within issues, offer a fertile, challenging subject of study.

EXHIBIT ORGANIZATION

The exhibit is organized as follows:

1. Introduction
2. American Zone ... Introduction
 - 5 Pfennig (green)
 - 6 Pfennig (violet)
 - Introduction
 - Type I
 - Type II
 - Type III
 - Type IV
3. British Zone ... Introduction
 - 5 Pfennig (green)
 - 6 Pfennig (yellow)

Within each Value and Type where applicable, examples of paper color variation, paper thickness, paper types and indicia color variations are included. Where known or discovered, examples of errors and printing flaws are shown. Proofs or essays are not know and therefore not shown.

Usages for each Card are shown in the order of Postal Period and delivery intent. This includes examples of the different methods of up-rating if applicable and also includes any unique marking requirements such as censorship if required. Postal Rate Periods included are the 1st and 2nd for each with a few examples beyond demonetization.

The "Zone Introduction" pages and the first page of each value or Type provide specific printing details, issue quantities and release dates.



6 Pfennig indicia is the same design except for value.

SIGNIFICANCE of MATERIAL

In general, finding a mint example of each printing and value is quite easy. The challenge for this field is assembling examples of the paper types for each, the major errors and a cross section of the minor printing flaws. Even a greater challenge is finding postally used examples for each type from the first two Postal Periods. Also, when used in other postal periods or for the 5 pfennig cards to be used on out of town mails in the 1st period offers even greater challenges. Later mails allowed foreign deliveries and these cards, by up-rating, could also be used for this purpose. Up-rating of the 5 & 6 pfennig was accomplished through many methods ...addition of stamps, hand stamp and machine applied overprints with hand written values filled in and cut squares from other cards. Additional auxiliary markings such as Censorship Marks, Postage Due marks and “return or forwarding” marks.

When reviewing this exhibit you will find many examples of these “hard to locate” items. Most difficult are the “print date and format designation” print varieties of the 6 pfennig Munich Print, foreign deliveries, “Gebuhr Bezahlt” hand stamps (tax paid), cut square up-ratings and paper thickness varieties. Also presented is the “missing bracket” variety from the 6 pfennig Type II and the partial oval frame missing from the 6 pfennig Type I.

These examples have been assembled over a period of twenty five years and literally have been acquired from around the world. Good used examples are extremely difficult to find as most were discarded by the nature of their brief use.

ORIGINAL WORK

Original work falls in two areas. **First**, much literature has been reviewed to determine the existence of specialized types, scope and varieties that have been recorded. Basic sources are below under references. This research formed the structure and content of this exhibit. **Second**, there was a wide variety of paper/card stock used for these issues. The exhibitor as created a page for each Type reporting thicknesses varieties. This is a result of personally measuring many, many samples of each value with an Ames Gage to determine thickness. Comments regarding the paper types are also included on these pages.

POSTAL CARD RATES

The following table outlines the postal rates by usage and Postal Rate Period for the Postal Cards shown in the exhibit. To meet the various up-ratings a wide variety of adhesives, hand stamps and meter applied stamps were used. Examples of the various combinations are represented.

POSTAL USAGE	1 st Postal Rate Period From September 1945	2 nd Postal Rate Period Effective 1 March 1946
In-City	5 pfennig	10 pfennig
Inter-City	6 pfennig	12 pfennig
Foreign Delivery	15 pfennig	45 pfennig (1 April 1946)
Drucksache (Printed Materials)	3 Pfennig Cards would be over franked	5 pfennig ... in-city 6 pfennig ... inter-city

REFERENCES

The following are key references used in assembling the material for this exhibit

- Borek ...Ganzsachen_Special-Katalog, Deutschland ab 1933, Essen, Germany ,August 1980
- Bush .. Various catalog sheets, album sheets and price lists. J.V.Bush, Bonita, CA
- Higgins & Gage ... Section 7, Germany, 1976 amend 1983, Huntington Beach, CA
- Michel .. Ganzsachen-Katalo-Deutschland, 1997,2002,2005 Editions , Munich, Germany
- Michel ... Postgebühren-Handbuch Deutschland, Munich Germany 2001 (Postal Rates)
- Stich ... Post War Years of Germany, 1945 – 1948, Dr. H.F. Stich, Vancouver, BC
- Wagner ... The allied Military Govern’ Postal Service, Richard Wagner, Emporia State, 1977
- Wilcke ... The AMG Story, Harry W. Wilcke, U.S. Possessions Philatelic Society, 1994
- Other ... Miscellaneous specialized dealer and auction catalogs, trade publications, GPS literature

SYNOPSIS

AMG GERMANY ... POSTAL CARDS the 1945 “M” Design

OBJECTIVE

The exhibit objective is to explore all aspects of the 1945 AMG “M” design, postal card, to include characteristics of the basic card, paper types, paper thickness, paper colors, printing flaws and errors as well as major variants and characteristics.

Further and just as challenging if not more so, is the broad fertile field of usage. Usage is not limited to the cards as issued. It is expanded to all possible uses including various up-rating methods and combinations required by the destination and Postal Rate Period in which they were used. In some cases, there are uses beyond the demonetization dates of the card. Uses include “in-town”, “out-of-town” and foreign deliveries.

INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- The postal service was reinstated in Germany starting in July of 1945.
- The initial “allowed method” of correspondence was a single sheet open letter or post card.
- The limited format was done to expedite censorship review of all mails.
- Definitive Postal Cards with design indicia were released in the American and British Zones in late 1945.
- Each Zone issued cards with 5 and 6 pfennig values for “in-city” and “inter-city” rates respectively.
- These values satisfied the 1st Postal Period Rates, carry over rates from the 3rd Reich.
- Foreign delivery rates were not required as formal service was not restarted until later.
- Both American and British Zone used the “M” design in the indicia design.
- The indicia are almost identical to the AMG Germany, Washington Print, stamps.
- As postal rates changed these cards saw continued use through various methods of up-rating.
- Up-rating methods ranged from adding stamps to hand stamping in the amount required for delivery.
- Quality of printing was also highly variable due to shortages of the times.
- There is a wide range of variation in paper colors, printing flaws, paper types and thicknesses.
- Combinations of uses, up-ratings and Types within issues, offer a fertile, challenging subject of study.

EXHIBIT ORGANIZATION

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- Within each Value and Type where applicable, examples of paper color variation, paper thickness, paper types and indicia color variations are included.
 - Where known or discovered, examples of errors and printing flaws are shown.
 - Proofs or essays are not known and therefore not shown.
 - Card usages are shown in the order of Postal Period and Delivery Intent as well as some exceptions outside of normal practices.
 - Examples of the different methods of up-rating are shown including adhesives, hand stamps and glued on cut squares.
 - Included are auxiliary marking requirements such as censorship, forwarding and return to sender.
 - Postal Rate Periods included are the 1st and 2nd plus a few examples of uses beyond demonetization.

SIGNIFICANCE of MATERIAL

Finding mint examples of each printing and value is quite easy even though they are now over sixty years old. The challenge for this field is assembling examples of paper types for each, the major printing errors and a cross section of the minor printing flaws. An even greater challenge is finding used examples for each Type from the first two Postal Periods particularly for the 5 pfennig cards used for “in town” mails in the 1st period i.e. used before 28 February 1946. Later mails allowed foreign deliveries and these cards, by up-rating, could also be used for this purpose. Up-rating of the 5 & 6 pfennig was accomplished through many methods ...addition of stamps, hand stamp and machine applied overprints with hand written values filled in and cut squares from other cards. Additional auxiliary markings such as Censorship Marks, Postage Due marks and “return or forwarding” marks.

When reviewing this exhibit you will find many examples of these “hard to locate” items. Most difficult are:

- The “print date and card format designation” printing varieties of the 6 pfennig Munich Print,
- Foreign deliveries and POW mails
- “Gebuhr Bezahlt” hand stamps (tax paid) and cut square up-ratings
- Paper varieties such as paper thickness, color and texture varieties.
- The “missing bracket” variety from the 6 pfennig Type II
- The partial oval frame missing from the 6 pfennig Type I.
- Cards “forwarded” and “returned to sender” examples
- Cards written in English providing insight to the plight of the times

POW mails sent to camps outside of Germany after the War are included. These carry various postal rates and were processed before foreign delivery services were resumed. They show the 15 pfennig pre-war rates or 6 pfennig “out of town” rates. It is believed that they traveled in the Military Mail System which was in place.

All examples have been assembled over a period of twenty five years and literally have been acquired from around the world including countries in Europe, the Middle East, Malaysia, Japan, South America and Japan. Unique used examples are extremely difficult to find as most were discarded by the nature of their brief use. This has become truer in recent years as the interest in the area grows.

ORIGINAL WORK

First, much literature has been reviewed to determine the existence of specialized types, scope and varieties that have been recorded. Basic sources are below under references. This research formed the structure and content of this exhibit.

Second, there was a wide variety of paper/card stock used for these issues. The exhibitor as created a page for each Type reporting thicknesses varieties. This is a result of personally measuring many, many samples of each value with an Ames Gage to determine thickness. Comments regarding the paper types are also included on these pages.

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