

AMG GERMANY ... POSTAL CARDS

the 1945 “M” DESIGN

OBJECTIVE

To explore and present aspects of the 1945 AMG Germany “M” design Postal Cards from the American and British Zones. This will include basic card and design characteristics, paper types and thicknesses, paper colors, printing flaws and errors and major varieties within each type. Usage is to be a key element and will not be limited to usage at the issued rates. Various usages beyond the first postal period and methods of up-rating are to be considered along with auxiliary markings such as forwarding, return to sender, postage due and censorship.

BACKGROUND

Postal Service was reinstated in Germany in July 1945 using the rates from the War period. The initial “allowed” form of correspondence was a “single sheet open letter” and “postal cards” which facilitated the censorship process. The temporary cards issued by the American and British Zones were soon replaced by 5 and 6 pfennig definitive cards using the “M” Design of the Washington Print stamps for the indicia. The balance of the card layouts were similar for each Zone. Quality of printing was highly variable due to the shortages of the times. There is wide variety of paper colors, paper thicknesses, printing flaws and layout variations within the four issued types. As postal rates and services expanded additional postage needs were accomplished through up-rating. Stamps, hand-stamp and machine stamps were used to achieve the require postage for the broader uses. Auxiliary hand stamps and markings were also used to indicate “forwarding”, “postage due”, “return to sender” and censorship.

EXHIBIT ORGANIZATION

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

SIGNIFICANT MATERIAL

Finding mint examples of the four base issues is not difficult. The challenges for these 60 year old cards is finding examples with paper differences, print flaws, design types and usages for each issue. Key examples included herein are:

- The four printing Types 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, Munich Print.
- The partial oval frame missing from the 6 pfennig Type I, Munich Print.
- Cards “forwarded”, “returned to sender” and censored.
- Cards written in English providing insight to the plight of the times

ORIGINAL WORK

Original work falls into two areas. **First**, extensive literature and specialized catalogs has been reviewed to determine the existence of specialized types, possible rate and use combinations and printing varieties. **Second**, there was a wide variety of paper / card stock used for these issues. The exhibitor has included a page for each issue on which the various thicknesses of paper stock are represented. This is a result of personally measuring many, many samples of each value, type and issue with an Ames Gage to determine card thicknesses for each major type. Results are shown with each Type page.

POSTAL CARD RATES

The following table outlines the basic postal rates by usage and Postal Rate Period for Postal Cards shown in the Exhibit. These rates may be reached by use of the base cards described and then up-rated as required for the service.

POSTAL USAGE	1 st Period ... from September 1945	2 nd Period ... from 1 March 1946
In-City Delivery	5 pfennig	10 pfennig
Out-of Town in Country	6 pfennig	12 pfennig
Foreign Delivery	15 pfennig	45 pfennig (1 April 1946)
Drucksache (Printed Materials)	3 pfennig	6 pfennig

Note: POW mails sent from Germany to foreign camps traveled by different methods and rates. See exhibit examples.