

STADTPOST

THE JOURNAL OF THE STADTPOST COLLECTORS GROUP

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EDITORIAL

It took a long time to finish this due to private things and to go through all the material I have found. What I found will be presented here and in following journals. I would like to show all Stadtpost companies in a short summary. This is for all of you to may find something new to collect.

Very silently the collection of Horst Müller was sold. I hoped for a bigger echo in the world of stamps or in the press. But it is a big difference if you sell your collection or if it is sold by someone else.

So I would like to establish a stamp exchange again. Everybody needs something and most have something for exchange. Any ideas how this can be realized?

Small articles are still needed.

Welcome to our new members.

Sebastian Schulze (stadtpostcollector@gmail.com)

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The Journal of a Germany Philatelic Society Study Group

A big thank you.

With the help of many of our members I was able to get every single journal. It will take a little time, but I will put them all on our website www.privatpostmarken.de. There you can download them and print all your missing issues.

Searching and looking.

If you want, you can make an announcement here for things you are looking for. Please write a mail to stadtpostcollector@gmail.com. This also could be anonymous, and we will convey the contact.

I am looking for material from the Berliner Privatpost Spedition A.G. Most wanted are some cancellations on cards or letters.



If you have cancellations on cards or letters, I can send you something similar with another cancellation for exchange.

One great collection gone.

If some of you may noticed the collection of Horst Müller went to auction. It reminds me of 1984 when the big Glasewald collection was auctioned. I always wished to be part in such big moment of Stadtpost philately. To be honest this was not this moment. My moment was when Peter Rogers collection was sold. The catalogue was perfect and there also was a special book for his Leipzig collection and prices were raised to a new level.

Horst Müllers collection was just sold city by city and some pieces were picked out and sold separately. Many rare and unique things stayed in bigger collections, and it seemed that this collection just had to be sold fast.

Peter Rogers could prepare his collection for the auction and see the outcome of all of his work. This is something Horst Müller was not able to do due to his health condition. Maybe this is the difference between both auctions.

Breslau I Hansa Zeitungsspedition und Incasso

The Stadtpost of Breslau is a very interesting area to collect with some rarities. Notable among these are the stamps of the Hansa Zeitungsspedition und Incasso. Strictly speaking, these no longer belong to the classic Stadtpost stamps, as they were banned on March 31, 1900. However, for the specialized collector and historically interested researcher, they cannot be ignored. A Mr. Sperling, the former manager of the Hansa in Breslau, founded this institution as a successor company after the ban on all Stadtpost institutions to continue offering his services. Two stamps were issued, which could be included in any collection with the theme of Breslau.

There are just a few problems. Neither in the Schlaikjer collection, nor in the former Glasewald collection, were any specimens to be found. However, the Schlaikjer collection contains a note indicating that one specimen of each stamp is still supposed to exist. Horst Müller at least found the specimen of the 5 Pfennig. I am now allowed to show this one here.

A very appealing stamp with a beautiful motif. This unique piece was auctioned for only €620 in October 2023. This is a very moderate price for a one-of-a-kind item.



Why Stadtpost?

I would like to dedicate this issue to new collectors and members. Without them, our field of collecting has no future. I stumbled upon the Stadtpost after I had given up my old collecting area. It simply became boring, but I wanted to continue collecting stamps.

Acquiring a small, beautiful Stadtpost collection is relatively easy. However, I was more fascinated by the history behind all the Stadtpost institutions. There is still so much to discover that it could fill several lifetimes.

Maybe someone else would like to share why they collect the classic Stadtpost.

What can we Actually Collect?

A member posed the interesting question of what one can collect after having completed a Stadtpost collection. The answer is not so simple. There are many cities that have hardly or never been explored. Getting a stamp from a Stadtpost is often not difficult and many are satisfied with that. Finding a stamp on a cover is much harder. Many Stadtpost institutions also issued their own postal stationery or postal cards. There are also many catalogs that provide an overview of our collecting area. I would like to show just how far one can go.

Here are the stamps of the Berliner Privatpost Spedition A.G.



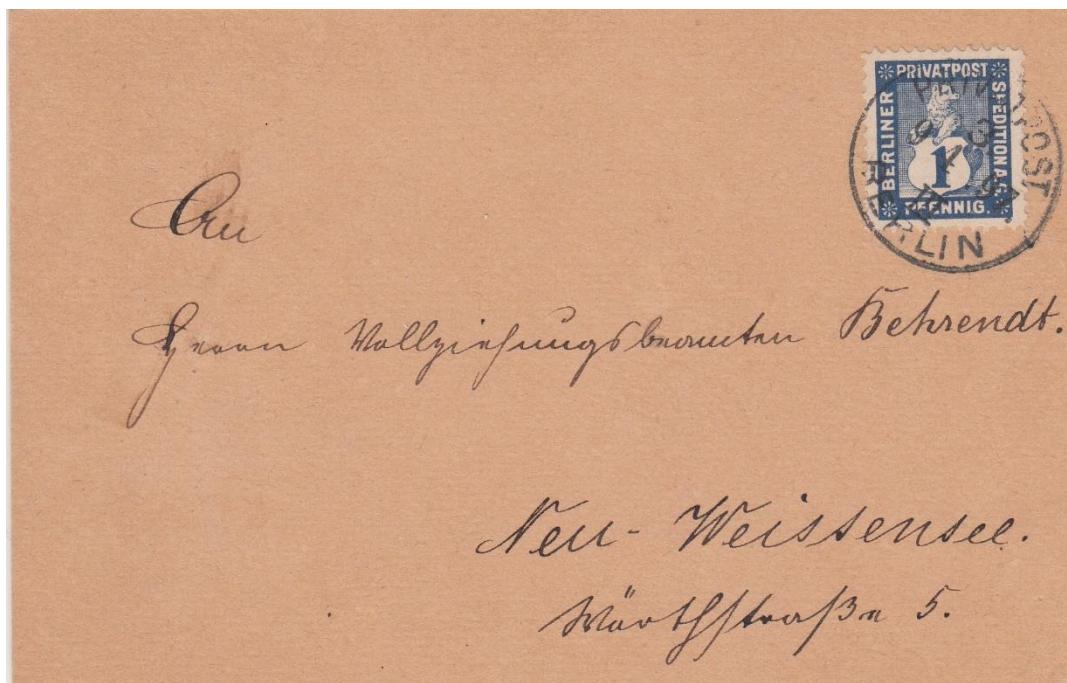
At first glance, this Stadtpost might seem complete. However, this is no comparison to the variety of stamps issued by the Reichspost. When looking at a Stadtpost like this, the question naturally arises of what to collect next or if it's even worth starting a Stadtpost collection.

It's always worth taking a closer look. Not long ago, I noticed something interesting about these stamps. There are different editions.



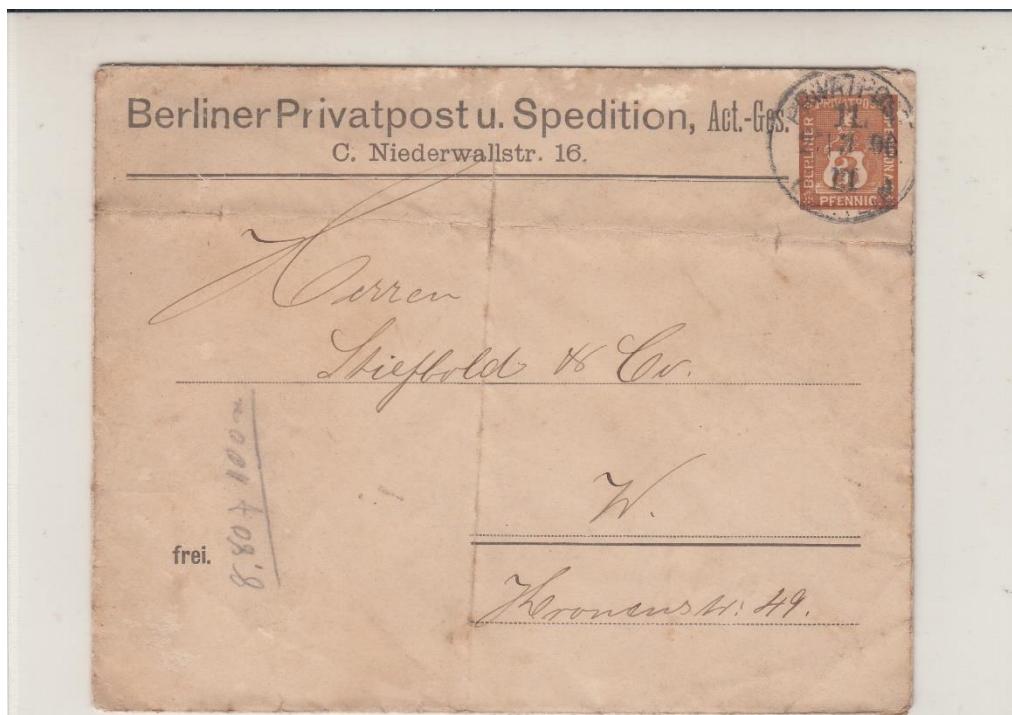
If you look at the upper corners, you can see the difference. Once, there are dots in the circle and once, there are none. Such unnoticed differences can certainly be found on other stamps as well. A catalog is always just a snapshot of the current state of research. Many stamps have not yet been examined in detail. There are still plenty of plate flaws to discover or, as in this case, different printings.

If you want to go further, you can look for stamps on letters.



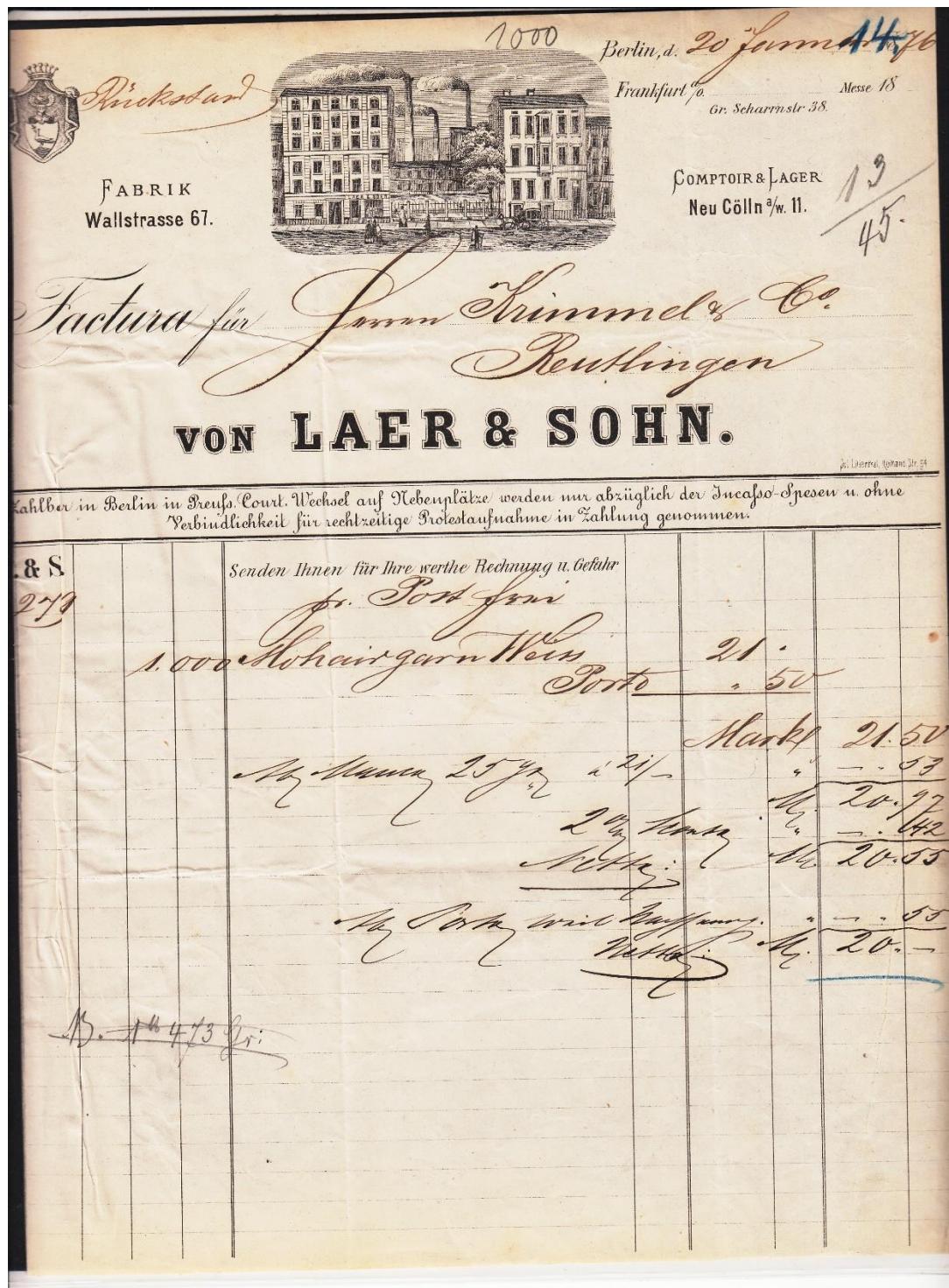
Here is a correctly franked printed matter. Such items tell a story and are indispensable for one's own research.

If you do not limit yourself to stamps, you can continue with postal stationery.



You can also leave the field of philately entirely and add other documents to your collection.

Here is an invoice from the company that sent one of the postal stationery.



I find such items very decorative.

The Stadtpost offers many opportunities to build a collection. There is always something new to discover. In the many publications, you can often find hints about what might still be missing from your own collection.

Where more information can be found?

Personally, it becomes interesting for me where answers are still missing. If you look closely, there are many areas where questions remain open or false information is unintentionally spread.

In the modern Stadtpost, you can ask witnesses or simply visit a branch to get the desired information. For the classic Stadtpost, you can no longer ask witnesses, most documents have been destroyed, and traces are hard to find. Most information can be found in various archives if you know where to look. Old newspapers are a very reliable and scarcely explored source of knowledge. But why most collectors do not even look at them? Simply flipping through thousands of old newspapers and searching each page for information means years of work. There are hardly any tables of contents, and you're looking for a needle in a haystack. But thanks to the digitization, you can conveniently research from home. You can even search for specific terms and spare years of work.

The best source of information I know is in the secret archive of the Reichspostamt. The Reichspost meticulously documented the activities of many Stadtpost offices. In the files, you can even find stamps, rates, and many other interesting things. Witnesses who were actually spying in the offices speak in these documents. Most researchers did not know about this archive, and it is now up to the next generation to rediscover this knowledge.

If you need files, links or anything else, please just ask.

Which Stadtpost offices Exist? Part 1

In the upcoming issues, a complete listing of the known Stadtpost offices will be provided to give our readers an overview of this collecting area. You can't collect what you don't know. This list is intended to provide an introduction to classic Stadtpost and offer ideas for future collections. If you would like more information about individual offices, feel free to email me. If information is available, I am happy to help. A lot of material can also be found in the archive of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Privatpost Merkur e.V.

For this listing, I mostly use secondary literature. Feel free to conduct your own research and point out any errors to me.

Aachen

It is believed that Matthias Degraa opened this office on December 5, 1894, and ceased operations on July 16, 1897. This Stadtpost has a very interesting history that should be further investigated. Here are some stamps from this Stadtpost.



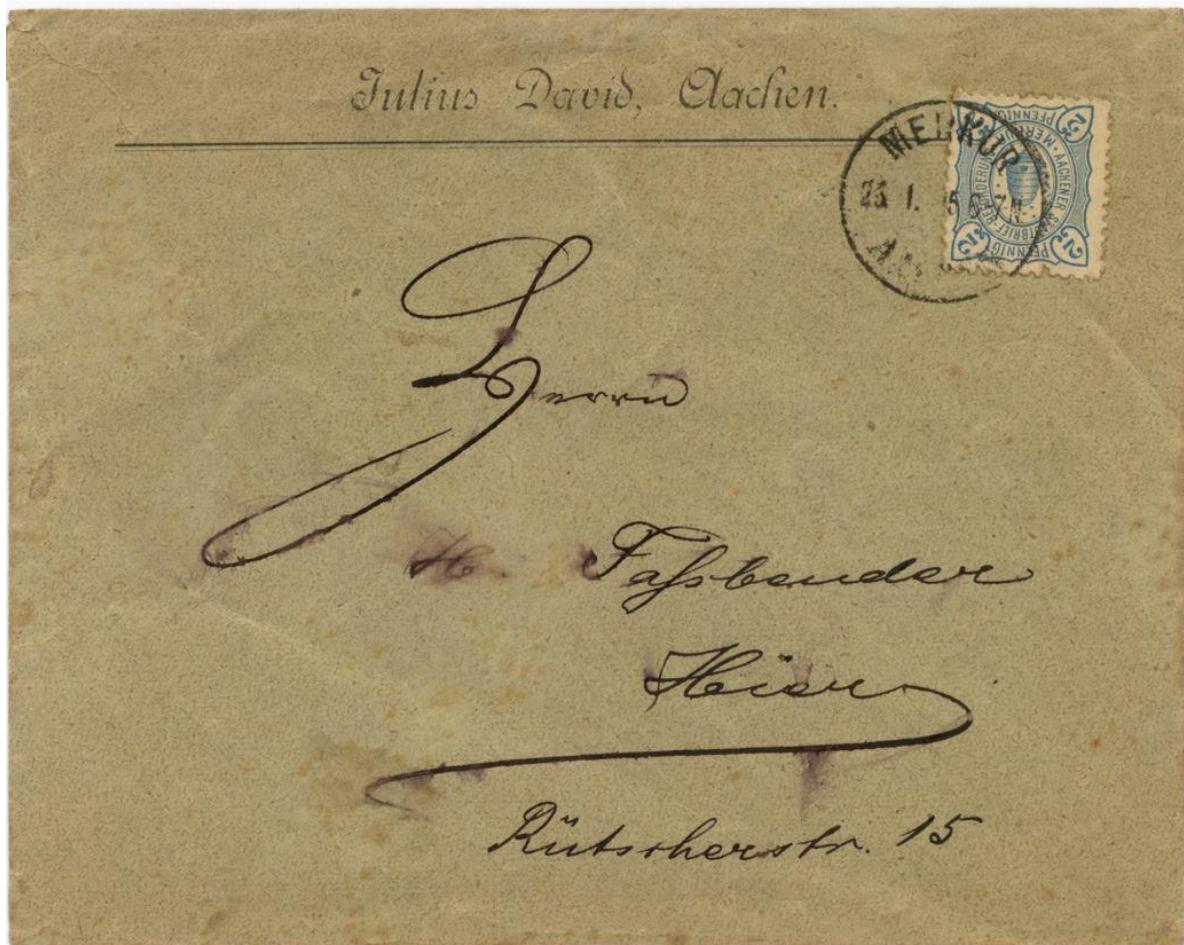
The blue stamp exists in a special variant.
Stamp 1 looks like the other issues.



Stamp 2 has a noticeable dot next to the 2 in the upper right corner.



You also find covers with stamps.



Postal stationery was also issued.



Aachen – Düren

Matthias Degraa established the company in March 1895 as a branch of his company in Aachen. The operation was taken over by Wilhelm Janssen on April 1, just a month later, who was a lithographer responsible for producing the stamps. Therefore, Degraa was the owner for barely a month. Despite the potentially large scope of Janssen's postal operation, it was not profitable, and the company was discontinued in October 1897.

In the beginning stamps from Aachen were used.



15.V.95



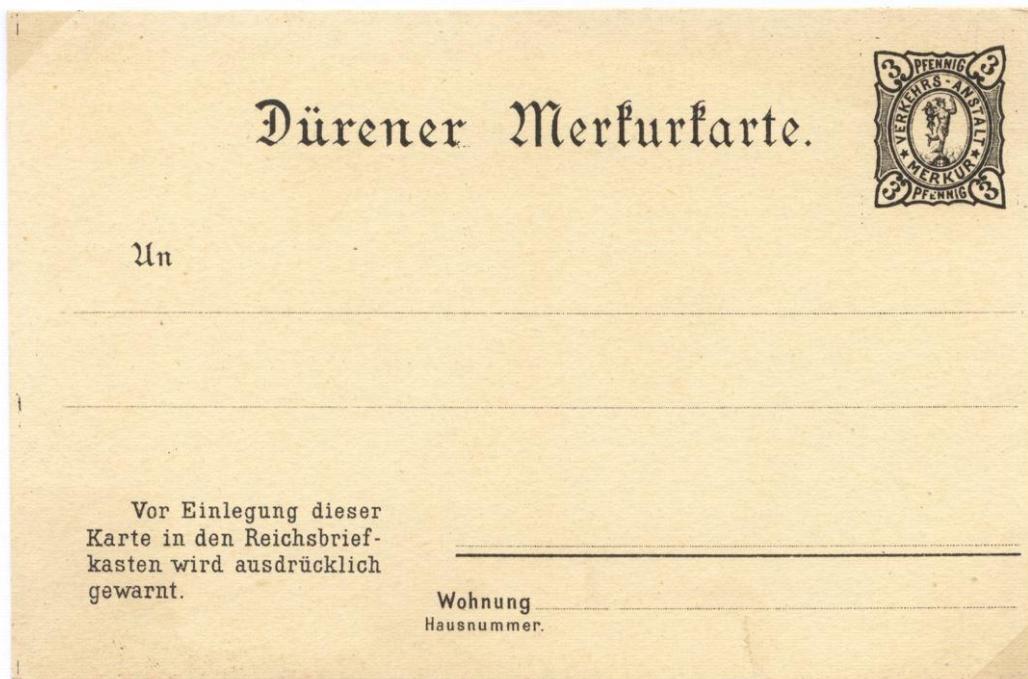
11.VIII.95

Here are the first and second issue of the stamps.



Here is an unused card.

1895. Dürerer Merkurkarte
P 1



Previously uncatalogued imperforate issue.



Aachen – Eschweiler

When Matthias Degraa founded the branch in Eschweiler in August 1896, he had already taken over the main establishment in Aachen from its previous owner. Therefore, this foundation, like the one in Düren, must be seen as an attempt to increase the company's revenue.

Both branches began quite simply by using stamps from Aachen and then received a single denomination, indicating a uniform rate. Eventually, they were sold to local interested parties. In Eschweiler, this buyer was a certain Wilhelm Offermann, who took over the company in April 1897. Little is known about him; he may have been a former messenger or branch manager. He also could not make the branch profitable and ceased operations on June 11, 1897.

A stamp from Aachen that was used in Eschweiler.



Stamps from Eschweiler



A postal stationery item from Eschweiler. One of the very rare genuinely used covers.



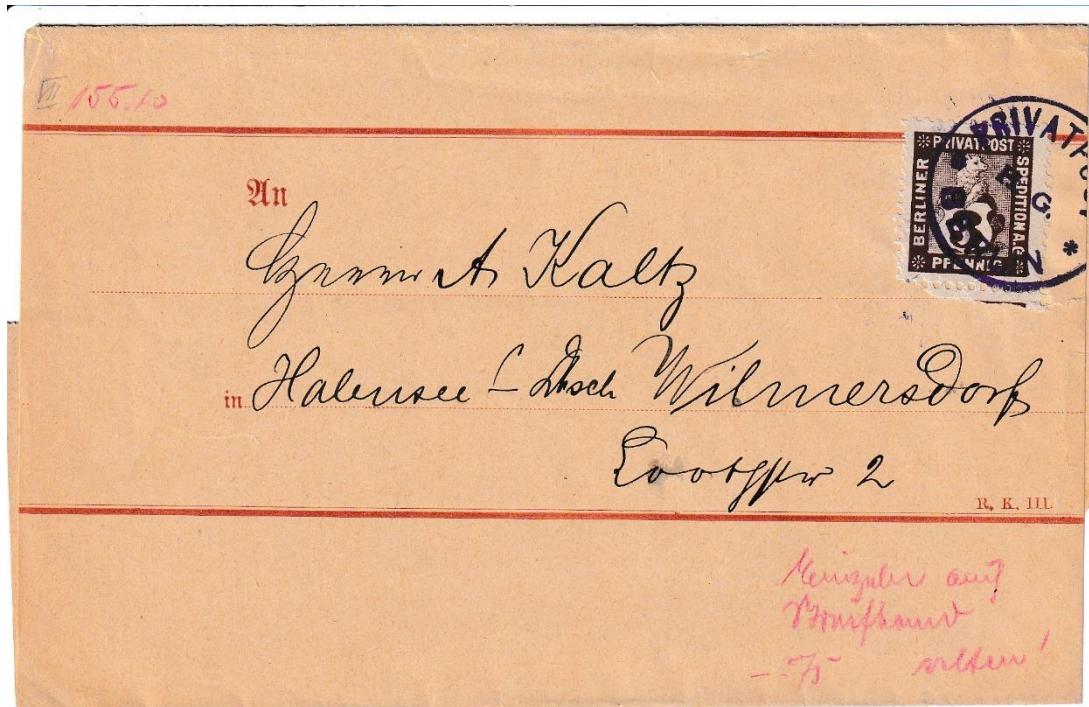
To be continued...

The H.G. Cancellation of the Berliner Privatpost Spedition A.G. Part 3

I hope to complete the work of Peter Roger and Rod Jowett here. It has taken many years to find all the important pieces of the puzzle. Here, I would like to present my research findings and document the long journey to them.

In the *Stadtpost Journal* 114 of 2012, printed matter and newspapers were suspected as key clues to the origin of the postmark. It was speculated that newspaper bundles were brought to a sort of central warehouse of the Berliner Privatpost Spedition A.G. and distributed from there. The main office (Haupt Geschäftsstelle) was the first assumption for the origin of this cancellation.

Attached are the wrappers from my collection.





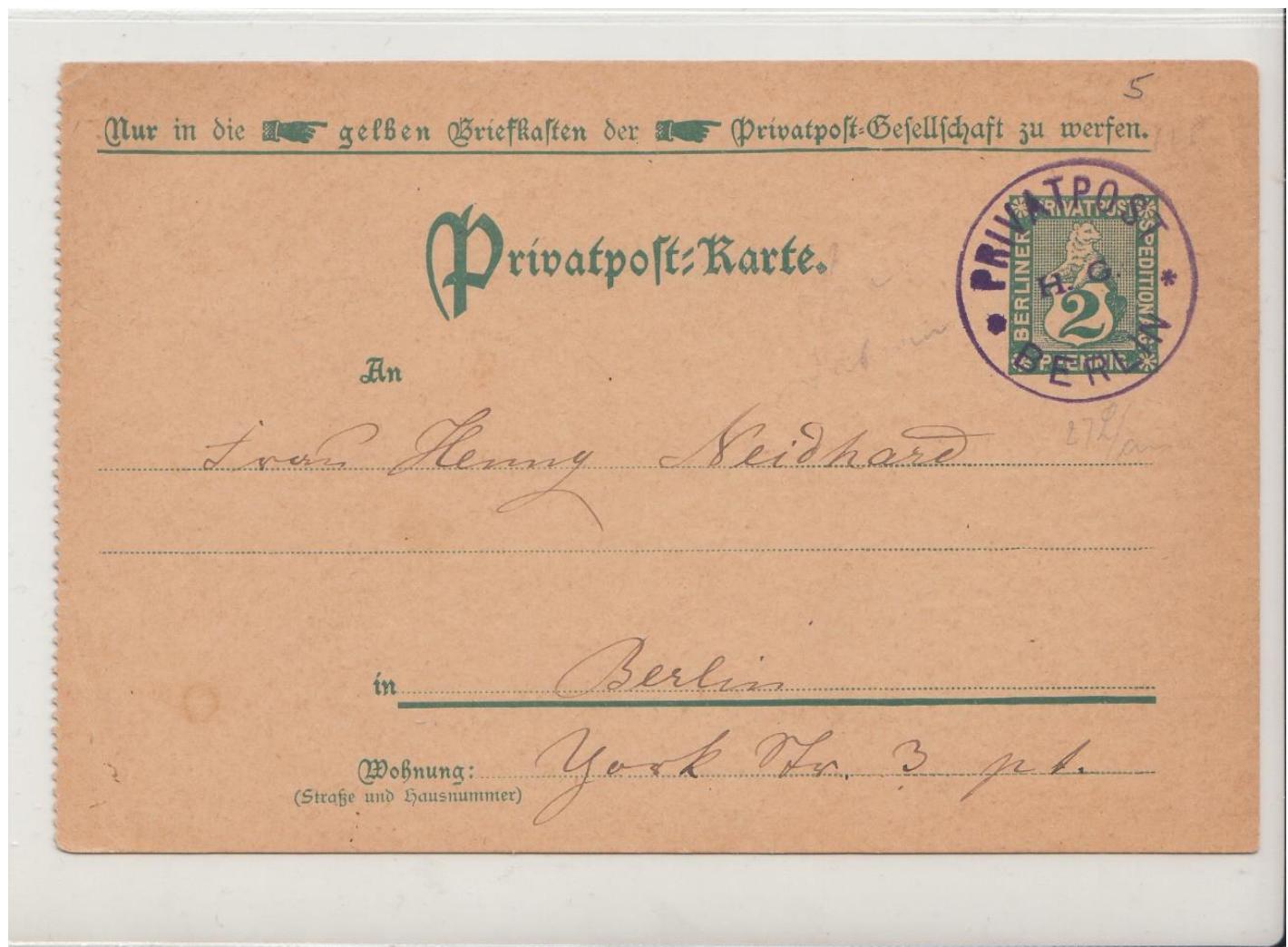
What was sent with these wrappers is unknown. It was not common to put a stamp on such wrappers. Usually a value was printed on them, like below.



Since there are 2 Pf and 3 Pf stamps on the wrappers, printed matter was sent in two weight categories: 2 Pf up to 100 grams and 3 Pf over 100 grams. Fortunately, the two recipients preserved these covers. When looking at these examples, it is very likely that the cancellation has something to do with newspapers.

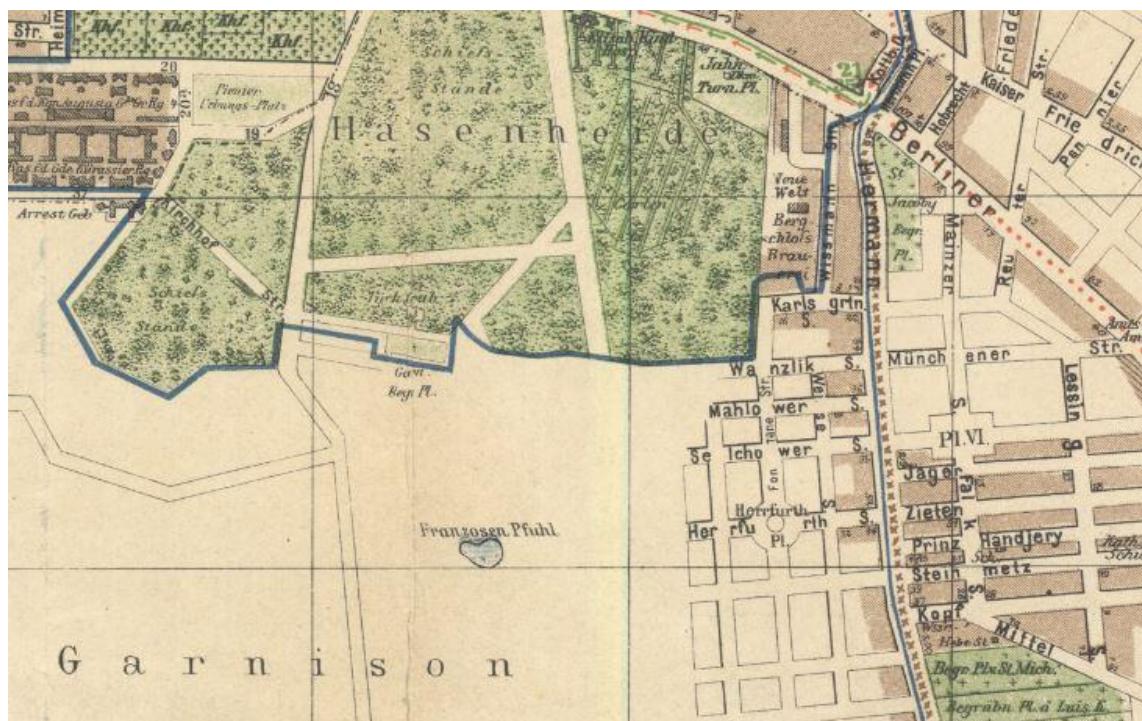
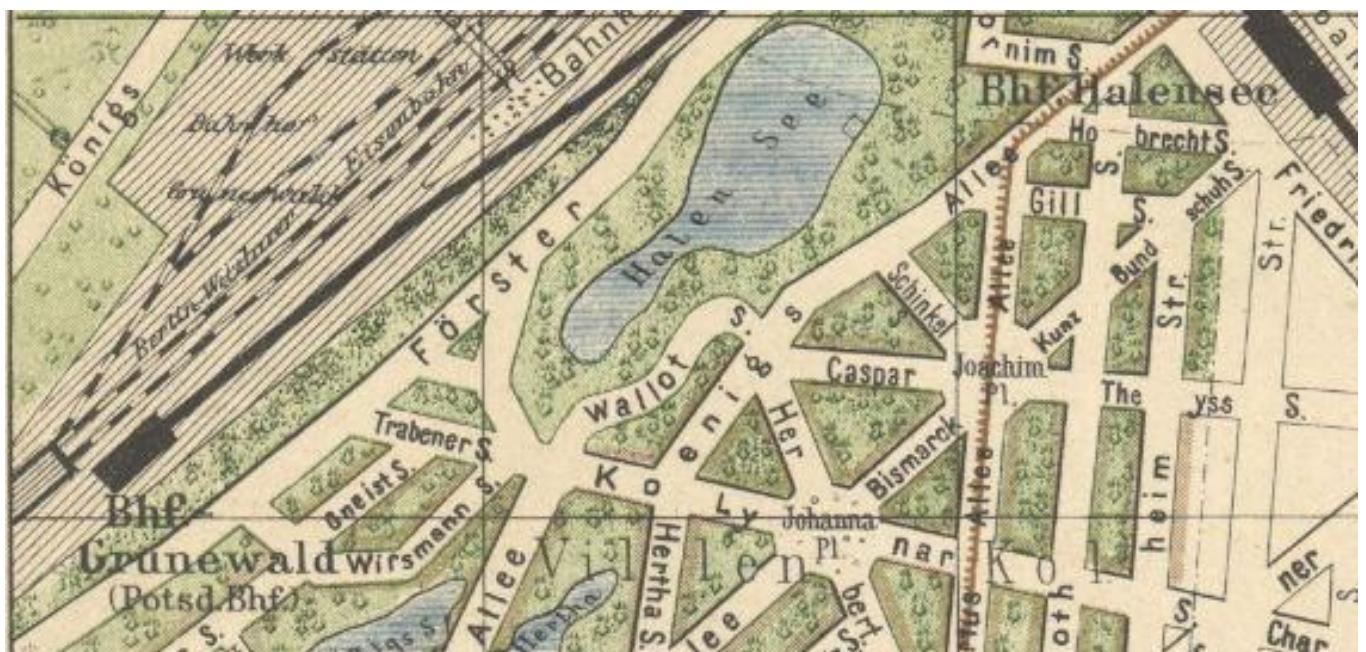
In the Stadtpost Journal 115 This theory was disproved. Horst Müller showed a postcard with this cancellation that had been sent through regular mail. Newspapers, printed matter, and ordinary postcards were sent with this postmark.

Peter Rogers had the idea to simply search for the origin on an old Berlin map and found the answer south of Berlin in Hasenheide. At the time this cancellation was used, there was a garrison located there. The conclusion that H.G. stands for Hasenheide Garrison was very plausible. Why wouldn't the Berliner Privat Post Spedition A.G. have an office in a large garrison?



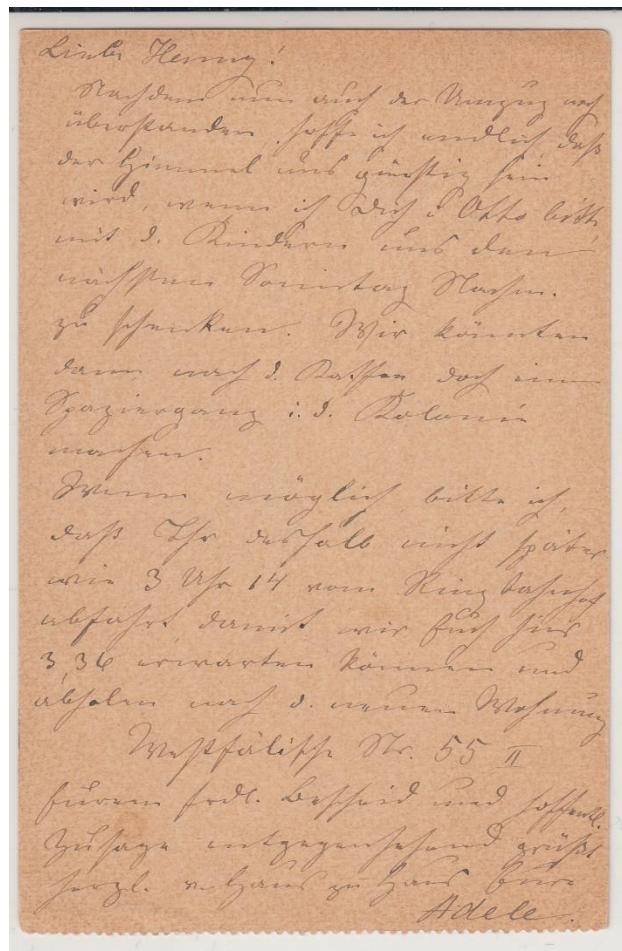
I asked myself this question as well. Unfortunately, with the available material, I could not establish a connection to the army or a type of military mail. So, I also obtained an old map of Berlin to find out more about the recipients.

The wrappers provide a clue pointing towards Halensee. What can be seen here are parts of the Halensee and Grunewald districts. Is there a difference compared to the Hasenheide Garrison?



At first glance, H.G. could stand for Halensee Grunewald or Hasenheide Garrison. Unfortunately, we cannot question any witnesses from that time, or can we?

In 2023, I was able to analyze the back of the postcard. Adele provided me with the crucial clues.



The text should read as follows:

Liebe
Henny

Nachdem nun auch der Umzug ist
überstanden, hoffe ich endlich, daß
der Himmel uns günstig sein wird.
wenn ich dich und Otto bitte
mit d. Kindern uns den
nächsten Sonntag Nachm.
zu schenken. Wir könnten
dann nach d. Kaffee doch einen
Spazierganz i. d. Kolonie machen.
Wen möglich bitte ich
daß Ihr deshalb nicht später
wie 3 Uhr 14 vom Ringbahnhof
abfahrt damit wir Euch hier
3 36 erwarten können und
abholen nach d. neuen Wohnung
Westphälische Str. 5

Eurem baldigen Bescheid und hoffentlich Zusage.
entgegensehend grüßt v. Haus zu Haus
herzl.
Adele

Adele invites friends to take a walk in the colony. That was a common term for the suburb of Grunewald back then. A hint that "G" could stand for Grunewald.

The Ringbahnhof (ring railway station) is not specified in detail, but Westphälische Str. 5 is easily located on the map.

Here we have the sender's address near the Halensee ring railway station. Thus, "H" could stand for Halensee. Adele is the most important witness through her invitation. The Berliner Privatpost Spedition A.G. offered to transport open letters, printed matter, cards, and money orders to and from Halensee/Grunewald, among other destinations. This aligns again with the wrappers. There was no main office there, so no cancellation with a number of a main office existed from this suburb.



Is there another suburb with a cancellation without the number of a main office?



The cancellation from Schöneberg bears a strong resemblance to the H.G. cancellation. Why hasn't anyone noticed this before? This is the problem with many *Stadtpost* offices. The rarity of many items or their complete absence often prevents a good research. These two cards are the only transported and

fully preserved cards that I am aware of. From Schöneberg I heard about more material but have never seen it. The card with the Schöneberg cancellation has never been examined or shown until now. The owner was unaware of its uniqueness and let it disappear into an album with other duplicates. This could also be due to the fact that the album was almost 100 years old and there was much more material available back then.

Here is another card with a main number in the cancellation.



Notable are the missing stars on the right and left of the cancellation.

I would like to present one more piece of evidence. Along with all the other clues, this is another important part that supports my theory. On this postcard from 1901, it actually says "Greetings from Halensee-Grunewald," and it bears a Reichspost stamp with a cancellation from Grunewald.





As long as no one can refute these facts and indications, the question is answered for me: H.G. stands for Halensee Grunewald.

However, this answer raises new questions. Could there be similar stamps from other suburbs that did not have main offices? Considering that approximately 0.01% of the material from this Stadtpost has survived, this is very possible. The fact that these two cards have survived at all is almost a miracle. These items show the necessity of analyzing as much material as possible to find answers. A single item can say a lot but can also lead to a false trail. Together multiple items can answer seemingly impossible questions.

Some thoughts.

If you are interested in some topics, just let me know and I see what I can get. I will give my best to prepare the next journal a little faster than this one. More articles by the community would help with this goal.

My main goal is to publish a book about the Berliner Privatpost Spedition A.G. I could get my hands on the last real big missing piece of this Stadtpost. It's a photo which I could get from one of the last direct relatives of the most important person from this Stadtpost. The photo and the story behind it, will be in the next issue. If you have more material to sell, please just let me know.