



# Third Reich Study Group

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

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News Sheet 196

Group Leader: Tony Hickey

January 2025

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For membership and enquiries please visit [www.germanphilately.org](http://www.germanphilately.org)

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## From the Editor

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Welcome to the latest edition of the TRSG News Sheet. Due to the sad passing of editor Bob Jones the news sheet has been 'off the shelves' for over a year now. Bob's creative work will be missed yet we hope to keep his spirit and enthusiasm alive in the design and content offered here now.

You will see that the contents are designated with icons and I trust you can find something of interest within each category... and indeed add to them!

Currently, running down from the **Editorial** you will find **News** - If you find anything of interest to the group then please let me know; **Cover Story** - You'll find this type of feature in other publications. A brief synopsis of a stamp, cover or document that tells a story not immediately apparent on first inspection; **Main Feature** - Longer articles which, dependent on length, may be serialised over a couple (or more) news letters; **Research Enquiries** - A stalwart of the news letter, with those doubts, conundrums and brain teasers that require answers from the wider TRSG community; **Literature** - What paper based books and pamphlets do you use? Tell us and send an image... 'we can all learn by sharing'; **Research Links** - The internet can be heaven or hell, what do you think? Are there diamonds residing in the grass? If so we want to know about them! What sites do you use to aid research? We'll list them here; **Membership** - We will no longer be listing members names and addresses (as in earlier editions - the world is a judgemental place and privacy is key), instead we shall use this section for announcements pertinent to what we are and what we do. Finally the **G&CPS** - Our beloved parent! The Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society is our governing body for which we have much to be grateful for. The Society offers much by way of membership and this should be celebrated. Need I say more about our superb publication *Germania*, the journal that all collectors of German philatelic material should receive.

So, over time, and as appropriate, more categories may appear and some may disappear. We shall see...

The news sheet has always been a quarterly publication. There are many reasons for this but primarily time and content are the driving forces... If however, there is time and enough content, the news sheet may arrive earlier than expected. Members may find this useful, especially if there are answers to enquiries. Therefore, either a full publication or supplement may be produced.

The TRSG in its modern form has been active for over 50 years. Its aim has changed little and it's quite astonishing the amount of new material that appears year upon year. As philatelists we engage in the 'stamp', and when that stamp has a unique design we research the meaning, and if that stamp appears on a envelope or document we endeavour to discover its social history. All in all we can proudly state we are historians.

Therefore:

**Be free to comment on TRSG articles as well as contribute your own material and research as applicable. If you do have suitable material then please send it to [carl.buck01@btinternet.com](mailto:carl.buck01@btinternet.com). Ideally this needs to be unformatted, raw text, that can then be manipulated to fit the space required. Scans at 200 dpi (preferably your own material). Add editorial instructions as required.**

Finally, thank you all in advance for taking the time to read the articles, to participate as required, and understand the importance of what we do... we are the collectors, we are the benefactors, and we are the custodians. The historic period this newsletter covers should never be forgotten. We are the people that say 'remember'.

Carl Buck





## News

Please find below the editorial welcome from Guy Thomas of *Stamp Magazine* here in the UK. In their **December 2024** issue they printed a concise article on Nazi propaganda stamps from 1933-1945 by Alastair Gunn. The editorial not only outlines the articles contents but also emphasises the need for historians (as we are) to ‘study the unpalatable with their eyes open, rather than shy away from it with their eyes shaded’. As philatelists we aren’t what we collect and as historians our research is both essential and appropriate.

Guy Thomas’ editorial reads as follows:

*It was unusually difficult selecting images for the top story on this month’s front cover. We’ve chosen to study how Nazi propaganda infiltrated German stamps during the time of the Third Reich, but we didn’t want to contribute to Adolf Hitler’s monstrous personality cult or have the magazine emblazoned with disquieting swastikas. This can still be an uncomfortable theme. Even when your focus is on philately, you are all too aware of the undercurrents of despotism, persecution, aggression, war-mongering and genocide. But I’ve always been of the opinion that historians, including postal historians, should study the unpalatable with their eyes open, rather than shy away from it with their eyes shaded. Our feature analyses the stamps of the period and the way they were used, to assess the extent to which they were infused with state ideology and party propaganda. The short answer, as you might expect, is ‘quite a lot’. There are blatant examples from the mid-1930s, including stamps commemorating the annual Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg, celebrating Hitler’s birthday and hailing paramilitary organisations. Arguably more sinister are the subliminal designs asserting German military strength and illustrating scenic views of cities and regions which had only recently been occupied by force of arms. In retrospect, it’s surprising that the definitive stamps did not portray the Führer until as late as 1941. But the commemoratives could leave no-one in any doubt as to the militarism of the regime, and the way it dominated political and social life.*

**Thank you to Guy for allowing us to reprint his comments here.**



**From November 2024.** Canada Post is unveiling its latest stamp, which commemorates the annual Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, also known as the “Festival of Lights.” This year’s Hanukkah stamp features an ornate 19th century hanukkiyah (also referred to as a menorah) with a remarkable past. Originally created in Poland, the silver-plated object is believed to have been rescued from a burning synagogue in Germany in November 1938 – around the time when widespread violence erupted in Nazi-occupied territories. “In the aftermath of World War II, military authorities recovered a vast amount of Jewish cultural and religious items,” explains Louis Charbonneau of the Aron Museum at Montréal’s Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, which houses the spectacular menorah featured on the stamp. It was one of a number donated to the museum after the Second World War as part of the effort to redistribute recovered cultural and religious items to Israel and to Jewish communities around the world. *Source: canadapost-postescanada.ca*

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**If you have any announcements that should be seen as ‘newsworthy’  
then please send your article to [carl.buck01@btinternet.com](mailto:carl.buck01@btinternet.com)**

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## Cover Story

'He died for freedom and justice'

*By Carl Buck*



The message, in part, 'Dear Christel and Hans, Today Dietrich flew to London in a big plane. Hence this card. How are you? Is the weather better now? Thank you, dear Christel, for your long letter. We are very pleased that Anne (?) is so lively. We are all doing very well... Greetings from your Rüdiger'.

The postcard introduces us to three members involved in the plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler in what became known as the 20th July Plot, orchestrated in part by Claus von Stauffenburg in 1944...

An innocuous postcard purchased for a mere £4 from the on-line auction site Delcampe and described as 'German Reich 1931 - postcard from Berlin'. The postcard lay outside my collecting remit of 1933-1947, however, the image depicted a Junker's G38 aircraft. The Luft Hansa passenger plane would be used during the 3rd Reich period and therefore found legitimacy within the collection.

Well that's literally one side of the story... It immediately came to my attention that the addressee had a 'v' preceding his surname. From previous experience I realised that this denotes a 'von' and is often worthy of a brief investigation. And so, with the help of the internet and Twitter, the postcard revealed itself. The message is one that could have been written on a million postcards (see above). But by piecing all this together we find we have the following players that participated, in one from or another, in the 20th July Plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler.

Whilst this is obviously pre-3rd Reich and 13 years away from the 1944 assassination attempt it still brings together a group of people who's fate would forever be seen as heroic in the face of such adversity.

The card is written by **Rüdiger Schleicher (1895-1945)**, a German legal academic. By 1935 Rüdiger was working for Hermann Goring in the Ministry of Aviation. If the revolt against Hitler were to be successful he was to be responsible for the re-organisation of air travel. Rüdiger was sentenced to death in February 1945 and executed in April...

Rüdiger writes his message to **Christel** and **Hans von Dohnányi (1902-1945)**. Dohnányi, a German legal scholar worked for Reich Ministry of Justice. By the time of the assassination attempt he was already under arrest, and his involvement in the plot was later discovered. Dohnányi was executed in April 1945. Christel (née Bonhoeffer), his wife, was also arrested in 1943, however, she was later released and survived the war.

And finally, Christel's brother is mentioned. The 'Dietrich' who is travelling to London is most likely **Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)**. Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian and anti-Nazi. Hans Dohnányi had brought Bonhoeffer into the German Abwehr (Intelligence Organisation) as a means of keeping him safe amongst co-conspirators. Despite this Bonhoeffer was arrested in 1943. Following the discovery of his involvement in the 20th July Plot he was sentenced to death and executed at Flossenburg Concentration Camp on 9th April 1945... 'He died for freedom and justice...'






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**Hitler's Release from the Fortress Prison of Landsberg am Lech 20<sup>th</sup> December 1924**  
**A re-enactment on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1934**  
*By Tony Hickey*

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**The Entrance to The Fortress Prison of Landsberg am Lech**

*Published by Heinrich Hoffmann, Munich. Card No. 377*

This photograph was a re-enactment of Hitler's release from prison, as although Hitler's photographer Heinrich Hoffmann was there at the time, taking of photographs in the grounds was prohibited during the Weimar Republic era.



After the abortive Munich Putsch Hitler fled to the nearby house of a friend, Ernst Hanfstaengl (1887-1975), where he was reportedly talked out of committing suicide. He hid in Hanfstaengl's attic for two days but was arrested on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1923. Accused of high treason Hitler was tried on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 1924 and sentenced to five years in Landsberg's Fortress Prison. Hitler's popularity increased during his trial as his defence speeches were printed in the newspapers. He served less than a year of his sentence, obtaining a release on parole on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1924.

Landsberg was a relatively comfortable prison intended for inmates who were considered misguided rather than dangerous. Hitler was allowed to receive visitors as well as fan mail from admirers. Assisted by his deputy Rudolf Hess (1894-1987), Hitler produced the first volume of his political autobiography, "Mein Kampf" ("My Struggle") while there. The book was first published in 1925 and dedicated to his early mentor Dietrich Eckart (1868 – 1923).

*Heinrich Hoffmann. Card No. 589*



*Hitler's Release from the Fortress Prison of Landsberg am Lech 20<sup>th</sup> December 1924*

Hitler expected to be released on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1924, and in September was negotiating with Jakob Werlin, a “Benz”\* dealer in Munich, to buy a 7000 mark second hand Benz II/40 car for his departure. Although he didn't have the money, he promised to pay after his book was published in 1925. The deal didn't materialise and it appears that it was Werlin and Hoffmann that were there on his departure in the December. \* Note that the Benz Motor Company became Mercedes Benz in 1926.



Hoffmann's original photograph taken of Hitler leaving Landsberg Prison by the Bayertor, an old entrance to the city, as the prison authorities would not let him take the photograph by the prison gates.



In this card Hitler is seen walking by the Fortress Walls along with his adjutant Julius Schaub and Emil Maurice Hitler's first chauffeur. Both of these men took part in the abortive Putsch and were incarcerated with Hitler in Landsberg. The other two are prison officials. *Heinrich Hoffmann. Card No. 586*

Inscribed on the reverse of each of Hoffmann's cards above it reads: *'Der Führer besucht am 8. October 1934 12 jahre nach seiner entlassen die festungschafanstalt.'* ('The Führer visits the fortress institution on 8. October 1934, 12 years after his release' - this of course should be 10 years).





*Hitler's Release from the Fortress Prison of Landsberg am Lech 20<sup>th</sup> December 1924*



**The Fortress Town of Landsberg a. Lech. The Führer in the Cafe Deible.**

*(After visiting the Fortress, Hitler and his entourage visited the Kaffee Deible in Landsberg where he had a book signing session.)*

Inscribed on the reverse: *'The Führer visits the fortress institution on 8. October 1934, 10 years after his release.'*

*(Note amendment from 12 to 10 years). Published by Hoffmann. Card No. L 2*



**The Führer departs from the Cafe Deible in Landsberg am Lech.** *Heinrich Hoffmann. Card No. L1*

Landsberg am Lech is in southwest Bavaria, about 65k west of Munich. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich period it was also known as the town of the Hitler Youth. In the outskirts of the town a concentration camp was built where over 30,000 victims were imprisoned under inhuman conditions resulting in the death of around 14,500. After the war it was the location for one of the largest displaced person (DP) camps for Jewish refugees. During the Allied occupation the US Army designated the Fortress as War Criminal Prison No. 1 to hold convicted war criminals, of which more than 150 were executed. It was run and guarded by personnel from the United States Army's Military Police.

Sources: *Hitler's Motor Cars* by John Starkey, Google, Hoffmann cards from authors own collection.




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## The Volkssturm and Party Formation stamps of Germany 1945

### New Evidence

*By Peter Bradford*

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## INTRODUCTION

The reason for this article is not to rake over what has already been said or documented about the last stamps of the Third Reich listed in the postal decree of January 1945. The subject has been well and truly expressed by all and sundry.

However, eighty years after the event I have recently found new information regarding the designs and delivery dates which I would like to share with the TRSG.

Over thirty years ago I submitted articles to the TRSG, news sheets numbers 102-104, about the last stamps of the Third Reich; these were the Volkssturm issue and the Party Formation set of four; both are mentioned in the Official Postal Decree of January 1945. With scant information available to me then I knew that this would not be the end to this subject.

At the same time two gentlemen; Hans-Jochim Walch and Wolfgang Strobe of Germany produced a booklet titled *SA/SS letters are post-war productions* which proved that the cancelled covers with SA and SS stamps never went through the official postal system. Their little booklet revealed that envelopes and single stamps with Berlin postmarks were in fact produced by stamp dealers after the war and sold as genuine covers.

These findings were then discussed and expressed clearly by John Rawlings in the 2007 TRSG news sheets, numbers 129 and 130, along with a statement by Hans Georg Schlegel and a final reassessment by John.

Now, after all these years new documents and designers essays regarding the last stamps of Germany have come to light. Items *acquired* just after the war from the State Printing Works in Vienna and the Propaganda Ministry in Berlin, which incidentally held all of the approval material for the Third Reich stamps, are now finding their way onto the philatelic market.

Hans-Joachim Schwanke of Hamburg informed me this year of a publication, *THEMA 3. REICH* 2017 by Wolfgang Jakubek which I now have in my library. This man who has recently died at the ripe old age of 94 was one of the leading authority on Third Reich Philately.

The two books, priced at €275; though expensive is a must for any Third Reich collectors. It is in German/English and contains stunning images of presentation cards, over thirty artists designs and more importantly new reliable information regarding the Volkssturm and SA/SS stamps, their production and delivery to Berlin in February and April of 1945.

Next year, May 2025 Schlegel Auction House Berlin will put on sale a large collection of Third Reich material from Wolfgang Jakubek's estate such as proofs, essays and presentation cards which have not been seen before.

I will present this write-up, first with an introduction, then parts one, two and three which will cover only new information regarding the Volkssturm, SA, SS, NSKK and the NSFK stamps mentioned in the Official Postal Decree of January 1945.

*Please note: Hans-Joachim Schwanke has kindly allowed me to use images and references from the THEMA 3. REICH for this article.*





*The Volkssturm and Party Formation stamps of Germany 1945*

## Official Decree

<b>Ausgabe A</b>		31
<b>Amtsblatt des Reichspostministeriums</b>		
<b>Bekanntmachungen der Deutschen Reichspost</b>		
Erscheint wöchentlich zweimal. Bezugspreis halbjährlich 2,00 Reichsmark		
Zu beziehen durch die Post. Einzelnummern auch durch den Vorlag: Postzeitungsamt, Berlin W, Dossauer Str. 3-5		
Jahrgang 1945	Berlin, den 30. Januar	Nr. 10
<b>Inhalt</b>		
<b>Verfügungen</b> Allgemeines Nr. 31. Neue Sondermarken ..... S. 31 * 32. Verlust von Dienststegen und -stempeln. * 31 Personal- und Kassenwesen * 33. Kostenerstattungen zwischen Behörden. * 32 * 34. Rentendienst; Notzahlungsanweisungen der Rentenrechnungsstelle Köln. .... * 32	Nr. 35. Versorgungsrenten; Jahresbescheinigung für das Rechnungsjahr 1944. .... S. 32 <b>Mitteilungen des RPM</b> ..... S. 32 Inland. Nr. 1007. Verlust von Gesprächsblättersendungen. Nr. 1008. Zeitungsdienst mit Köln. Nr. 1009. Filmverzeichnis der Reichspost-Filmstelle. <b>Nachrichten</b> ..... S. 32	
Die mit *) bezeichneten Verfügungen usw. sind bei den Poststellen (D) in Umlauf zu setzen.		

Year 1945. 30<sup>th</sup> January, Berlin. Number 10

(Hamburg - 1<sup>st</sup> of February, 1945.)

### \*) Nr. 31/1945. Neue Sondermarken

Der Reichspostminister gibt zum 30. Januar 1945 vier Sondermarken zu 12 + 38 *Rpf* mit sinnbildlichen Darstellungen von Gliederungen der Partei (NSFK., NSKK., *W* und SA.) heraus.

Der NSFK.-Entwurf stammt von der Graphikerin H. Zeiler, Berlin-Charlottenburg,

der NSKK.-Entwurf von Kunstmaler Theo Matejko, Berlin, gezeichnet von dem Graphiker W. Wieland, Köln,

der *W*-Entwurf von Kunstmaler E. Meerwald, Berlin-Wilmersdorf,

der SA.-Entwurf von Kunstmaler René Ahrlé, Berlin-Wilmersdorf.

Außerdem gibt der Reichspostminister aus Anlaß des durch Führererlaß am 25. September 1944 aufgerufenen Volkssturms eine Sondermarke zu 12 + 8 *Rpf* heraus. Der Entwurf stammt ebenfalls vom Kunstmaler Meerwald.

Die bei der Staatsdruckerei Wien in Bogen zu 50 Stück hergestellten Rastertiefdruck-Marken haben roten Farbton und die Größe 27,5 × 32,8 mm.

Abbildungen der Marken in  $\frac{3}{4}$  natürlicher Größe s. unten.

Die Marken werden nach Eingang bei den Postämtern der Gruppen A bis F bis zum 15. März abgegeben, an die Dauerbezieher jedoch erst, nachdem sämtliche 5 Sorten vorliegen.



Number 31, 1945. New Commemorative Stamps.



*The Volkssturm and Party Formation stamps of Germany 1945*

## Translation

### NR.31/1945

On the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> of January the Post Master General will issue four stamps of 12 + 38 Rpf showing allegorical designs representing institutions of the Party: N.S.F.K., N.S.K.K., S.S. and the S.A. The design for the N.S.F.K. is by the graphic artist, H. Zeiler of Berlin-Charlottenburg. The N.S.K.K. design is by the graphic artist W. Wieland of Cologne, after a painting by Theo Matejko. The S.S. design is by the painter E. Meerwald of Berlin-Wilmersdorf and the S.A. design by painter René Ahrlé of Berlin-Wilmersdorf.

The rotogravure stamps are produced by the Vienna State Printing Office in sheets of 50, red in colour and 27.5 x 32.8 mm in size.

In addition, the post minister will also issue a special stamp at 12 + 8 Rpf on the occasion of the Volkssturm, called for by the Leaders decree on of the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, 1944. The design is also by the artist Meerwald.

The start of the delivery must be announced at the counter and in the press. The stamp display boards must also be completed. The stamps will be issued after receipt at the post offices in groups **A** to **F** by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March but will not be issued to permanent subscribers until after all five varieties have been received.

**Note:** what is not clear in the decree is *groups A to F*; this refers to the actual size of the Post Office; those who ran it and the number of workers employed within.

An example being; **A**, over 1,000 employees then then down to **F**, 50 to 80 employees. It is not possible to identify which Post Offices were to receive these stamps.

**A - Chief Postmaster**

**B - Senior Postal Councillor**

**C - Postal Councillor**

**D - Senior Postmaster**

**E - Postmaster**

**F - Junior Postmaster**

This grouping system ceased by mid-March when the Allies begun their push into the heartland of Germany, disrupting the road and railway infrastructure.

Civilian post soon stopped as district after district were overrun, by April the German postal system had collapsed.



*The Volkssturm and Party Formation stamps of Germany 1945*

## PART ONE

### Der Volkssturm

The story of the Volkssturm stamp can be traced back to a decree by Hitler dated the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 1944. Hitler authorised the District Party Leaders to form Militia Units within in their regions to support the Armed Forces.

**This decree lays out the reasons why the volkssturm was formed and what function it was to have within Great Germany.**

# Reichsgesetzblatt

Teil I

1944	Ausgegeben in Berlin am 20. Oktober 1944	Nr. 53
Tag	Inhalt	Seite
25.9.44	Erlaß des Führers über die Bildung des Deutschen Volkssturms	253

### Erlaß des Führers über die Bildung des Deutschen Volkssturms.

Vom 25. September 1944.

Nach fünfjährigem schwerstem Kampf steht infolge des Versagens aller unserer europäischen Verbündeten der Feind an einigen Fronten in der Nähe oder an den deutschen Grenzen. Er strengt seine Kräfte an, um unser Reich zu zerschlagen, das Deutsche Volk und seine soziale Ordnung zu vernichten. Sein letztes Ziel ist die Ausrottung des deutschen Menschen.

Wie im Herbst 1939 stehen wir nun wieder ganz allein der Front unserer Feinde gegenüber. In wenigen Jahren war es uns damals gelungen, durch den ersten Großeinsatz unserer deutschen Volkskraft die wichtigsten militärischen Probleme zu lösen, den Bestand des Reichs und damit Europas für Jahre hindurch zu sichern. Während nun der Gegner glaubt, zum letzten Schlag ausholen zu können, sind wir entschlossen, den zweiten Großeinsatz unseres Volkes zu vollziehen. Es muß und wird uns gelingen, wie in den Jahren 1939 bis 1941 ausschließlich auf unsere eigene Kraft bauend, nicht nur den Vernichtungswillen der Feinde zu brechen, sondern sie wieder zurückzuerufen und so lange vom Reich abzuhalten, bis ein die Zukunft Deutschlands, seiner Verbündeten und damit Europa sich ernder Friede gewährleistet ist.

Dem uns bekannten totalen Vernichtungswillen unserer jüdisch-internationalen Feinde setzen wir den totalen Einsatz aller deutschen Menschen entgegen.

Zur Verstärkung der aktiven Kräfte unserer Wehrmacht und insbesondere zur Führung eines unerbittlichen Kampfes überall dort, wo der Feind den deutschen Boden betreten will, rufe ich daher alle waffenfähigen deutschen Männer zum Kampfeinsatz auf.

Ich befehle:

1. Es ist in den Gauen des Großdeutschen Reichs aus allen waffenfähigen Männern im Alter von 16 bis 60 Jahren der Deutsche Volkssturm zu bilden. Er wird den Heimatboden mit allen Waffen und Mitteln verteidigen, soweit sie dafür geeignet erscheinen.

Reichsgesetzblatt, Jahrgang 1944, Teil I

2. Die Aufstellung und Führung des Deutschen Volkssturms übernehmen in ihren Gauen die Gauleiter. Sie bedienen sich dabei vor allem der fähigsten Organisatoren und Führer der bewährten Einrichtungen der Partei, SA., *ff.* des NSKK, und der III.
3. Ich ernenne den Stabschef der SA., Schepmann, zum Inspekteur für die Schießausbildung und den Korpsführer des NSKK, Kraus, zum Inspekteur für die motortechnische Ausbildung des Volkssturms.
4. Die Angehörigen des Deutschen Volkssturms sind während ihres Einsatzes Soldaten im Sinne des Wehrgesetzes.
5. Die Zugehörigkeit der Angehörigen des Volkssturms zu außerberuflichen Organisationen bleibt unberührt. Der Dienst im Deutschen Volkssturm geht aber jedem Dienst in anderen Organisationen vor.
6. Der Reichsführer *ff.* ist als Befehlshaber des Ersatzheeres verantwortlich für die militärischen Organisationen, die Ausbildung, Bewaffnung und Ausrüstung des Deutschen Volkssturms.
7. Der Kampfeinsatz des Deutschen Volkssturms erfolgt nach meinen Weisungen durch den Reichsführer *ff.* als Befehlshaber des Ersatzheeres.
8. Die militärischen Ausführungsbestimmungen erläßt als Befehlshaber des Ersatzheeres Reichsführer *ff.* Himmler, die politischen und organisatorischen in meinem Auftrage Reichsleiter Bormann.
9. Die Nationalsozialistische Partei erfüllt vor dem Deutschen Volk ihre höchste Ehrenpflicht, indem sie in erster Linie ihre Organisationen als Hauptträger dieses Kampfes einsetzt.

Führer-Hauptquartier, den 25. September 1944.

Der Führer  
Adolf Hitler

Der Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei  
M. Bormann

Der Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht  
Keitel

Der Reichsminister und Chef der Reichskanzlei  
Dr. Lammers

### Translation

After five years of the heaviest fighting, as a result of the failure of all our European allies, the enemy stands on several fronts near or on the German borders. He is mobilising his forces to smash our State, to destroy the German people and its social order. His ultimate goal is the extermination of the German people.

As in the autumn of 1939, we are now once again facing the front of our enemies all alone. Back then, in just a few years, we had succeeded in solving the most important military problems through the first major deployment of our German people's strength, securing the existence of the State and thus of Europe for years to come. While the enemy now believes that he can strike the final blow, we are determined to carry out the second major deployment of our people. We must and will succeed, as in the years 1939 to 1941, relying exclusively on our own strength, not only to break the enemy's will to destroy, but also to throw them back and keep them away from the State until a peace that secures the future of Germany, its allies and thus Europe is guaranteed.





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*The Volkssturm and Party Formation stamps of Germany 1945*

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***Translation (cont.)***

We oppose with the total commitment of all German people the desire of our Jewish international enemies to annihilate us.

In order to strengthen the active forces of our armed forces and in particular to wage a relentless struggle wherever the enemy wants to enter German soil, I therefore call upon all German men capable of bearing arms to fight.

I order:

1. The Volkssturm is to be formed in the districts of Great Germany from all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60. It will defend the homeland with all weapons and means, insofar as they appear suitable.
2. The district leaders are responsible for the formation and leadership of the Volkssturm in their district. In doing so, they will make use above all of the most capable organisers and leaders of the proven institutions of the Party, SA, SS, NSKK and HJ.
3. I appoint the Chief of Staff of the SA, Schepmann, as Inspector of Rifle Training and the Corps Commander Kraus of the NSKK as Inspector of Motor Training of the Volkssturm.
4. Members of the Volkssturm are soldiers within the meaning of the Military Service Act during their deployment.
5. The membership of the Volkssturm in non-professional organisations remains unaffected. However, service in the Volkssturm takes precedence over any service in other organisations.
6. The SS leader, as commander of the reserve army, is responsible for the military organisation, training, armament and equipment of the Volkssturm.
7. The combat deployment of the Volkssturm will be carried out according to my instructions by the SS leader as Commander of the Reserve Army.
8. The military implementation regulations will be issued by SS Himmler as commander of the reserve army, the political and organisational regulations on my behalf by Party leader Bormann.
9. The National Socialist Party will fulfil its highest duty of honour to the German people by using its organisations as the main carriers of this struggle.

The leaders Headquarters, 25<sup>th</sup> September 1944

The leader  
Adolf Hitler

Head of the Party  
M. Bormann

Supreme commander of the Arm Forces  
Keitel

Minister and head of the chancellery  
Dr. Lammer



*The Volkssturm and Party Formation stamps of Germany 1945*



Unadopted essays by Von Axster-Heudtlass.  
(Signature vAH in the top left corner)

This card from Vienna shows colour trials for the Volkssturm issue.

The card is dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January and was written from central Berlin, W 66 (Mauerstrasse). The signature is “on behalf of” the State Minister Wilhelm Ohnesorge notifying the authorities at the Vienna printing office to begin production of the number 1 colour trial marked as **X** on the card.

The Vienna printing office records state that printing began on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1945 and was completed by 31<sup>st</sup> of that month.

The first batch of stamps were dispatched on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. No records of later dispatches were recorded.







*The Volkssturm and Party Formation stamps of Germany 1945*

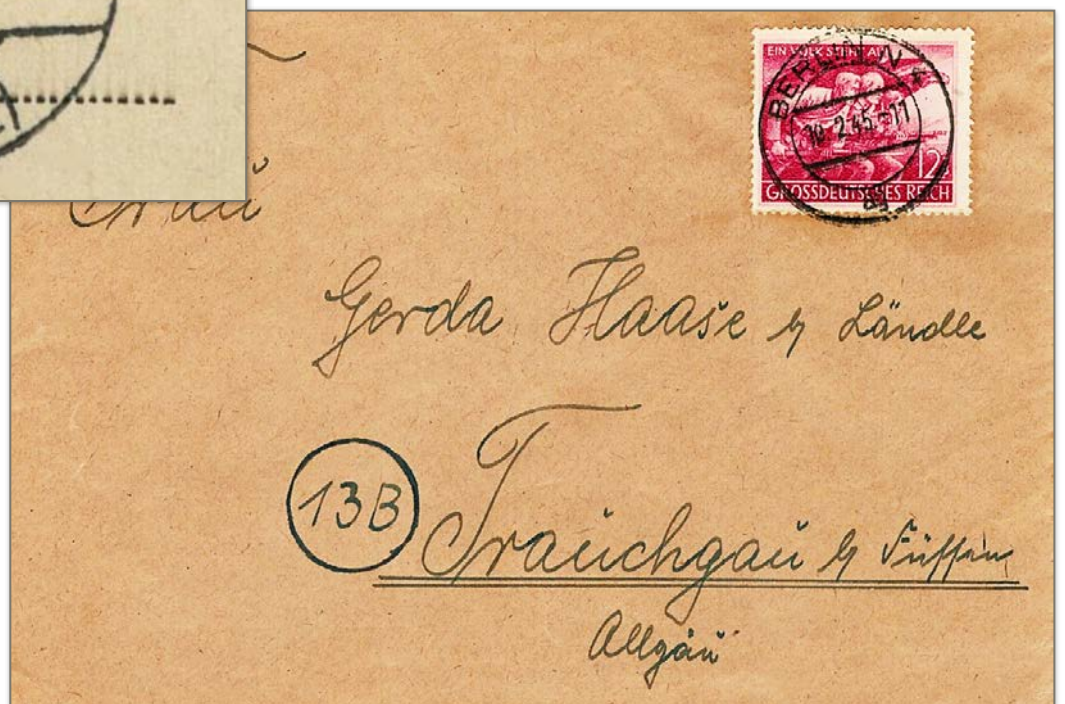
**Photo essay.**

Volkssturm – People’s Army.  
Three generations, armed and in front of  
the German Eagle.

Above – *EIN VOLK STEHT AUF* –  
A people rise up.



LORCH – WÜRTTEMBERG – 3. 2. 45 - 18  
This cancellation is on a postcard and was produced at  
the Vienna Printing Office.

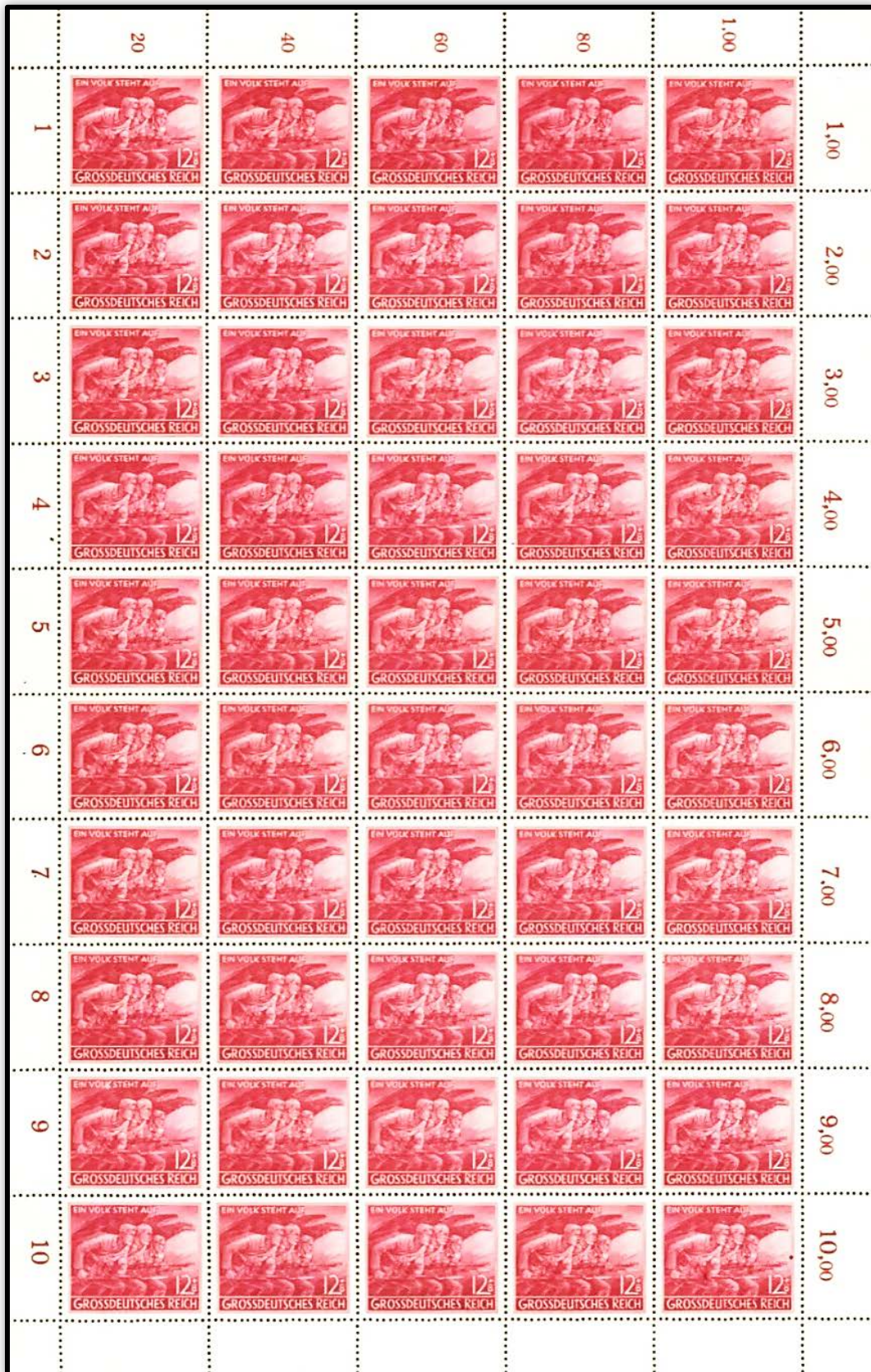


This early cancelled cover dated **10. 2. 45** and posted from Berlin N4 to Bavaria is from my collection.





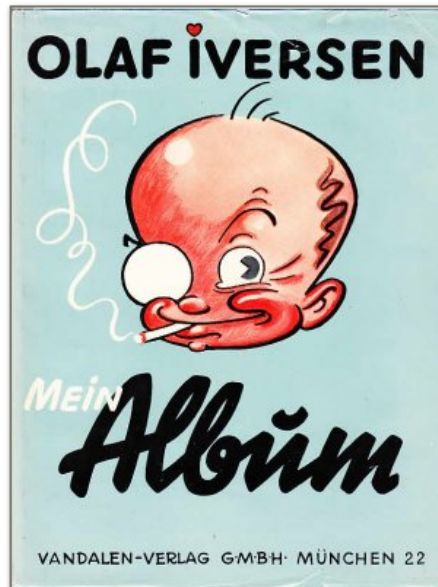
*The Volkssturm and Party Formation stamps of Germany 1945*



***PART TWO WILL CONTINUE IN NEWS SHEET 198***



Field Post Humour Postcard Artists.  
Olaf Iversen. 1902 – 1959.  
*By Keith Lillywhite*



*A self caricature of Olaf Iversen from the cover of his book "Mein Album"*

Olaf Iversen was a Danish-German artist and Illustrator born August 1902 in Copenhagen however he lived in Munich for the rest of his life. After attending art school he worked for a number of publishing houses as an illustrator and produced a number of books, second-hand copies of which are still available for sale on the internet. In the late 1930's Iversen was commissioned to produce a number of Military Heer themed humorous postcards which were published by Horn – Special Publishing in their Series Soldaten Humor Karten - 20 Water Colour Drawings by Olaf Iversen.

The style of his work was different to that of Barlog in so much that he used pen and ink and colour wash which produced a more attractive finish.

The purpose of these postcards, one can only presume was to lighten and bring humour into the serious situation where by recruits were basically being trained to fight and kill their opponents.



*Translation "When I am in the city I have one on every finger"*



Field Post Humour Postcard Artists. Olaf Iversen. 1902 - 1959.



Translation:- "I need a new locker soon because pain is lurking if more room cannot be found in it"



Translation:- "Man, what kind of theatre is that all the way around"



Translation:- "If I only drop one bomb daily I am doing fine"

After the war he worked for the München Illustrierte and Illustrierte Revue. In 1954 he brought out a new edition of the satirical weekly *Simplicissimus* for which he used well known caricaturists. Olaf Iversen died in 1959 at the age of 57 and was buried in Munich.





# Research Enquiries

## Deutschland Ibero-America 1936

Since the first news sheet in May 1974 there have always been 'enquiries'. The first, enquiry 1/74 was a request for the earliest dates for the stamps and postal stationery cards of the Third Reich. Much of this is now catalogued but a few postal issues remained undated, these include Mi.894-895 Exhibition of Reich labour Services and Mi.908 'The Volksstrum'. Perhaps this will be revisited another day... in the meantime, if you have any queries regarding your collection please send them, along with images if possible, to [carl.buck01@btinternet.com](mailto:carl.buck01@btinternet.com). Hopefully one of the many experts amongst us will have an answer!

Here's one from the *Brief History* collection to get the ball rolling in 2025... A 'homemade' stamp, appearing to be contemporary but to what purpose? A souvenir item? The spelling of America uses the 'C' rather than 'K'? The postcard is dated 2nd January 1937 and to the foot there is a small label covering the printed text 'KAFFEE-GROSSROSTEREI/ EDUSCHO BREMEN'. Can anyone help... **Enq. 1/2025**



## Breslau spot the difference



This Albert Klickow advertising postcard sent out to their customers has a subtle difference... the Breslau 'Deutsches Turn- u. Sportfest 1938' cancel date stamp. The day numeral 23 was issued both in the horizontal and vertical plane. The vertical cancel is lesser seen. According to the Julius Bochmann catalogue (Nr.4 p.177), the vertical date is listed as 31st only. Does anyone else have a this vertical date from other days (the cancel was used between the 23rd - 31st July 1938). **Enq. 2/2025**



## Research Links

*'... and these are the websites we use...'*

The world has moved on from the stereotypical dusty library with a distant ticking clock, faded rugs, crackling fire, chesterfield settee's and wing-back chairs. I for one would vote them back instantly! However, nowadays you are more likely to find a philatelist (and indeed most collectors) sat, at one point or another, in front of their computers either researching or buying items they wish to own or know more about. Welcome to the 21st century. Could be better, could be worse.

The idea that the internet is there for developing and sharing knowledge is at once noble and ridiculous. However, we plough through the ignorance and well-meaning misinformation to reach our goal.

So, if you have struck gold amongst the detritus, please let your fellow collector know and share in your good fortune. Likewise, have found a site that should not be used? The results will be printed here. Thank you.

Old German professions. Ideal for those who wish to research social history in connection with postal stationery

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~romban/misc/germanjobs.html>

International Postage Meter Stamp Catalogue

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International\\_Postage\\_Meter\\_Stamp\\_Catalog](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog)

German postage stamp variations. This site may help.

<https://worldstampsproject.org/>

Information held by the CIA regarding our period of collecting.

<https://www.cia.gov/>

Official report into the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games (in English)

<https://digital.la84.org/digital/collection/p17103coll8/id/15825/rec/14>



For those of you who are members of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society (and why wouldn't you be?), remember there is a library... See *Germania* for details.



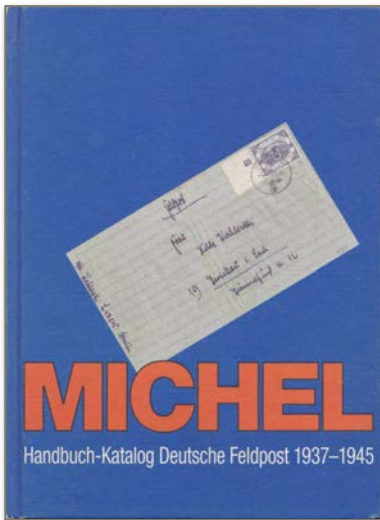
## Literature

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

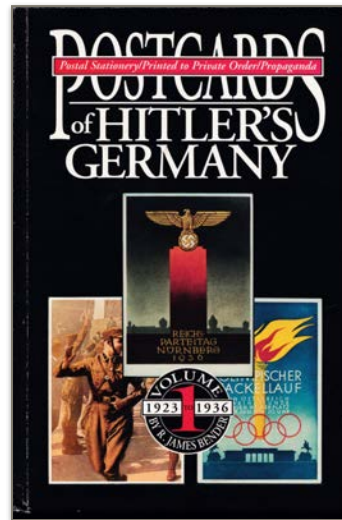
We would like to know which books you use to assist in taking your collection that one step further when it comes to research and knowledge. Please send a scan of the cover with a brief description and print details.

*Disclaimer: First-hand knowledge means you have seen it; ‘second-hand knowledge’ means it has been told to you.*

### Philatelic



**A**



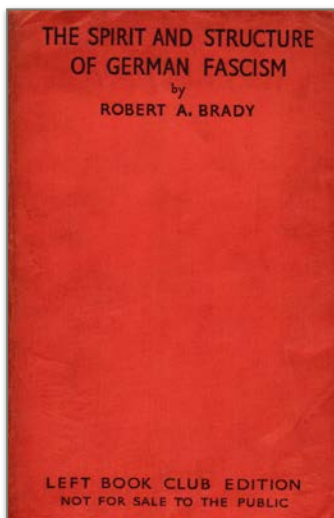
**B**



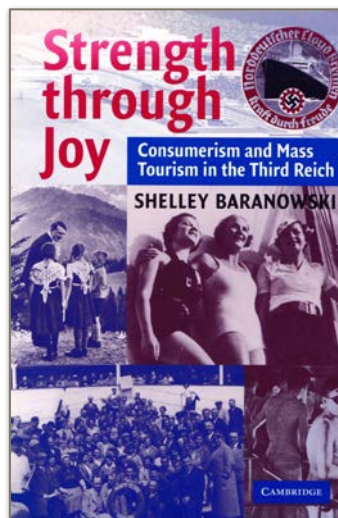
**C**

- A.** Michel. A comprehensive catalogue of most things ‘feldpost’. German text. Schwaneberger Verlag, 2002  
**B.** Postcards. Volume 1 of 3 books. Charting the propaganda postcard from 1923 to 1945. R. James Bender Publishing, 1995  
**C.** Michel. The English text version of this 2-volume catalogue. Essential to collectors. Schwaneberger Verlag, 2015

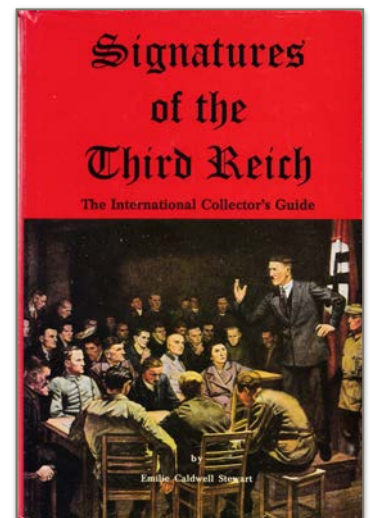
### Non-Philatelic



**D**



**E**



**F**

- D.** ‘...Spirit and Structure...’ Critical and contemporary. A view of Nazi Germany by Robert A. Brady. Left Book Club, 1937  
**E.** The KdF organisation. An academic view of state ideology mixing leisure with propaganda. Cambridge University Press, 2004  
**C.** Signatures of the 3rd Reich. 258 pages of authentic signatures from the leading Nazi individuals. Emile Caldwell Stewart, 1996





## Membership

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### **The TRSG welcomes all of its Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society members to their meetings in 2025**

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 13:00 - 16:00

The meetings will be held on the following dates:

**19th April 2025**

**20th July 2025**

**19th October 2025**

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](mailto:hickey_anthony@hotmail.com)

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### **This News Sheet is sent to over 160 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 [carl.buck01@btinternet.com](mailto:carl.buck01@btinternet.com)

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## The G&CPS

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### **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), a Postal Auction, discount on publications and philatelic accessories. There is also a Members Forum (on the website).

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

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**

For membership details please visit [www.germanphilately.org](http://www.germanphilately.org) and click 'JOIN' on the red toolbar

