

THE ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT ISSUE OF GERMANY, 1945

By ROBERT ZACHARIAS

Before World War II had ended, the Allies had begun discussions on various occupation issues, and the postal system was one of these topics. It was decided that no stocks of stamps of the previous regime would be overprinted and used as postage. It was agreed at that time to produce one issue of stamps, that would be used in all four of the occupation zones (American, British, French and Russian).

The original design of this issue was a drawing made by William A. Roach of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, USA. The design featured a large "M", standing for Military Government. The "A M POST" inscription at the top of the stamp stands for "Allied Military Post". This design was used in the three different cities that printed these stamps - Washington, London, and Brunswick. The stamps were printed from separate plates that were made in the cities where the stamps were produced. The same basic colors were used for the various face values, regardless of which location printed the stamps (i.e. the 5 pfennig stamp's color was green, no matter which city the stamp had been printed in).

On April 5, 1944 the design was accepted and approved. The engraving was made by Edward H. Helmuth. The stamps were printed in sheets of 400, which was divided into 4 panes of 100 stamps each. The first delivery was made on April 5, 1944. There were nine different denominations

printed - 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15 and 25 pfennig face values. These denominations were the ones that would be the most used.

For the Washington printing, the plate



numbers are in the upper right corner blocks for the top two panes, and in the lower right blocks on the bottom two panes. An example is shown in Figure 1 of the plate number from the lower right sheet of the 8 pfennig stamp. The position of the plate number inscription varies in relation to the stamps on the sheet in all cases. By looking at where the plate number



is compared to the stamps, it can be determined which of the four panes of 100 that particular plate block came from.

On the top marginal tabs of the two top panes, and on the bottom marginal tabs of the

continued on page 4



The Buffalo

PUBLICATION OF THE
WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Western Canada's Oldest Stamp Club
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The Buffalo is published monthly except in July and August. Deadline for article submissions and advertising copy is the 15th of each month preceding the month of issue.

WEBSITE: WWW.WPS.MB.CA

COMING EVENTS

7:00 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thursdays
(except Jul. & Aug.). Visitors always welcome.
Main Floor, Deaf Centre Manitoba, located at the corner of 285 Pembina Hwy. & Nassau St.

2002

March 7 - Business Meeting
- Auction

March 21- Business Meeting
- Presentation

April 4 - Business Meeting
- Auction

April 18 - Business Meeting
- Presentation

May 2 - Business Meeting
- Auction

May 3-5 - Stampshow '02
Ramada Marlborough
Hotel

The first meetings of each month reserved for Auctions.

The second meetings of each month reserved for formal programs.

THE W.P.S. IS ONLINE

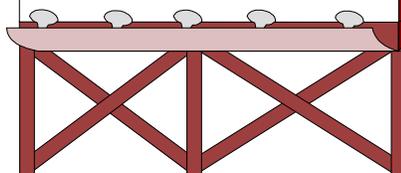
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MEMBERS' ADLETS

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Stamp Bourse
Charterhouse Hotel**

**March 10
10:00am - 4:30pm**

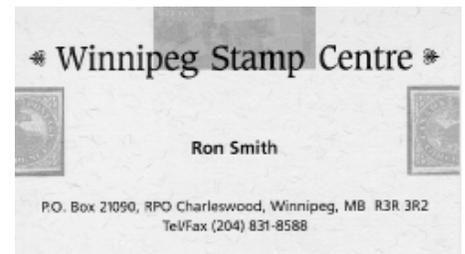


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-up to 30 words
[counting an average of 5 characters per word]:

1 issue -	\$1.00
5 issues -	\$2.00
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EDITOR NOTES...

As I prepare content for each edition I look at many sources, most of them philatelic. However, a few weeks ago I found a good comment on collecting in the *Globe and Mail*, part of a "Facts and Arguments" essay written by Doug Watling of Fredericton. He is a coin collector; the following paragraph, reprinted with his permission, also applies to us:

"I miss that sense of tunnel vision and total involvement. I admire those people who stick with their hobbies, no matter how marginal, and turn them into life callings and careers or just all-consuming pastimes. Those fortunate few hang onto a special part of themselves, despite distractions like girls and the Rolling Stones, and despite the pragmatism that informs most of our decisions."

• • • • •

I have recently read a review of a new book, *Stamp Collecting for Dummies*, a Reference for the Rest of Us. The review was not positive, it pointed out a number of errors in the book. Thanks to a fellow WPS'er I have now had a chance to look at the book myself, my reaction is positive, for what it's worth.

The title works for me, I assume that stamp collectors are not part of "the Rest." Richard L. Sine, a former *New York Times* stamp columnist, wrote the book, and gives information that all beginning collectors would find valuable. But those of you who are more than beginners would also benefit from looking into this resource. I have suggested that we buy a copy for our Library.

• • • • •

The United States Postal Service, as a result of anthrax having gone through the mail recently, has begun irradiating all non-commercial, non-bulk mail. The process kills anthrax spores but also can damage contents such as collectors' postage stamps. *Linn's* recently published pictures showing some of the effects, with stamps discoloured, gum damaged, and stamps stuck to glassines and mounts. Some dealers are now using private services to distribute stamps to collectors. I have not bought stamps from the US lately, now wonder if I should. And the USPS has seen a decrease in the volume of its mail, as many companies switch to courier service.

• • • • •

Consignia, the firm that once was the British Post Office, recently went to court in order to claim damages "for infringement of its exclusive privilege to distribute mail." As in a number of countries, private firms are attempting to break the old monopoly for mail distribution. Consignia was unsuccessful; the courts ruled that "A privilege did not give rise to an entitlement on the part of those enjoying the privilege to exclude anyone else from the privilege."

• • • • •

We all value the stamps, covers and other material in our collections. The Indian government also sees value in stamp collections, so much so that it covers those that are more than a hundred years old under the Indian Antiquity Act, which prohibits the export of any Indian stamp that is more than 100 years old. A collector recognized classic Indian stamps in an auction catalogue in England and notified Indian authorities.

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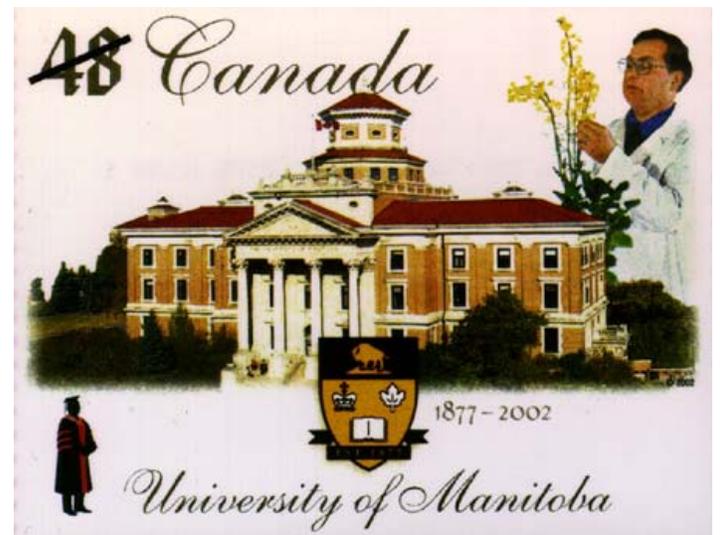
"The normally placid, gentlemanly world of stamp collecting has been rocked to its foundations by allegations of massive fraud." Thus said the BBC recently as they reported on the stamp fraud a number of USA dealers were allegedly involved in. Some of the accused have settled: in a plea agreement with the government executed on January 28, Earl P.L. Apfelbaum Inc., received a fine of \$130,000 and was ordered to pay restitution of at least \$150,000. John Apfelbaum, who is executive vice president of the company, was personally fined \$20,000. (reported by *Linn's*)

• • • • •

Bring your money, be ready to raise your bidding hand, Saturday March 16, 1:00 PM. RZ has again organized another auction. He reported at our last meeting that he had about 300 lots in, there should be many good items for all of us to chose from. Come out and put his crew to work, and add some good items to your collection.

• • • • •

Alf Brooks: ocharon@shaw.ca



THE ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT ISSUE OF GERMANY, 1945

continued from page 1

two bottom panes is the inscription “Allied Military Postage Stamps - Germany # Pfennig”, where “#” is the face value of the stamps in the sheet. Figure 2 shows four different values with the inscription, all with various flaws - a misshapen “g” in “Pfennig”, a small “s” in Stamps (the most spectacular of these errors), two dots under the “a” in “Military”, and a line through the “p” in “Stamps”. There are 14 flaws of this nature that were made in this inscription.

The issue printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington was lithographed, and perforated 10¾ x 11. There were three different papers used for this issue - a thick, smooth white paper with bright ink used for the printing, a thin, smooth white paper with a bright ink, and a thick porous, grayish or yellowish paper with duller colors used for the ink. Quantities printed range from about 40 million for each of the three and four pfennig stamps to about 205 million for the 12 pfennig value. In total, about 800 million stamps would be produced. The first shipment containing 35,400,000 stamps were stored in Brussels, Belgium in November, 1944. Before the post office was re-opened in Germany, another order was placed with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for 103 million stamps, of which almost 70 million were to go to the British Zone.

Allied postal service was first started around the Aachen area on March 19, 1945. Postal service was started in the British Zone in Mecklenberg as early as June, 1945, at that time still part of the British Zone. Limited postal service was started in Hannover on June 20, 1945. It was restricted to government correspondence, business correspondence, and any postcards at first, gradually adding various services as time went on. When the postal system was re-opened, it was being used at a greater rate than was envisioned. The need for more stamps was seen fairly quickly. A printing of these stamps from London was ordered. These stamps were already starting to be printed in July, 1945.

In just the British Zone in July, 1945, 160 million stamps were distributed. In July, an order for 480 million additional stamps was made. About 55 million of those were printed and

delivered in October, with the rest of the order completed in December. The stamps that were being printed in Washington could not meet the demand, which by October had increased to 70 million stamps a week.

These stamps were also to be used in the French and Russian occupation zones. The French authorities had insisted that the stamps have a French inscription. Since they did not, the French decided to print their own stamps for their occupation zone. The Russians also had a similar grievance, and did not like the “Allied Military Post” wording as well. They also issued their own stamps for their occupation zone. This news was not unwelcome to the American and British authorities, as now they did not have to worry about having stocks of stamps for those two occupation zones.

The London printing has essentially the same design as the one used for the Washington printing, but has a few small differences in some of the numerals and letters. It was printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd. from a set of new plates. Six different face values were produced - 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 12-pfennig denominations. Two different plate layouts were used. One contained 400 stamps, with four panes of 100 each. The second was only used for two denominations - plate 5 of the 4 pfennig value and plate 2 of the 12 pfennig value.

The stamps were printed by photogravure on unwatermarked paper. There are many perforation combinations that were used, ranging from 14 x 14 to 14½ by 14½. The three major paper types found on this issue are a white paper with thick gum, a thin, transparent white paper with yellow, smooth gum, and a thin, white transparent paper with white gum that is not completely smooth. The differences in perforation can easily be seen by comparing a stamp from the Washington printing (Figure 3) with one of the London printing (Figure 4). In total, about 500 million stamps were produced.

SOURCES:

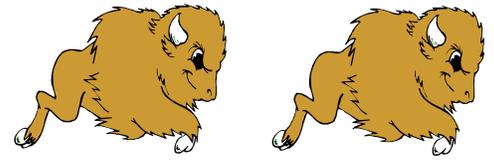
American Philatelic Congress,
Various issues of the German Postal Specialist, journal of the
Germany Philatelic Society

(Part II of this article will be printed next month)





BUFFALO CHIPS



Recently a number of nations have issued stamps for Saint Valentine's Day. Those from France in the last few years have been fancy and artistic, so you would be excused for thinking that the 2002 issue pictured here was one that an artist had designed following the trend of past years. Try again.

The stamp, issued in January, reproduces an aerial photograph taken by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, who has been involved in a project named "Earth From Above", sponsored by UNESCO. It is a photo of a clearing in a mangrove swamp near Voh, New Caledonia.

• • • • •

Once again eBay has withdrawn a lot from auction. This time it was 'stamps' picturing Harry Potter. The stamps were detected by eBay software and Warner Brothers, who owns the rights to the Harry Potter character, was notified. They were supposedly stamps of Tadjikistan. However, recent stamps of the former Soviet republic have spelled it "Tajikistan," and from 1992 through mid-1995, the spelling used was "Tadzikistan." (Thanks to *Linn's*)

• • • • •

This August the US Postal Service will issue a commemorative honouring the memory of poet Ogden Nash. Remember him and his light verse? How about this one?

REFLECTIONS ON ICE-BREAKING

Candy is dandy;
But liquor is quicker.



A collector in Italy who collects worldwide is looking for someone in Canada to trade with.

Adriano Fusari
Via s. Antonio N. 69
25065 Lumezzane
Brescia, Italy

• • • • •

this year, using the lame excuse that they were printing lots of the one for her Jubilee. Maybe it's the same problem, the Queen's too busy. So I have a solution: my wife! People always say she resembles the Queen, she could do it! Then everyone would be happy with having a new definitive stamp, my wife would be thrilled to be on a stamp and I would be happy, maybe Canada Post would pay a bit for my wife's portrait. Who would I contact? Maybe you and some influential WPS members could help me out?

Excited

Dear Excited,

We will submit your suggestion to Canada Post where it will, I am sure, be given serious consideration, as are all suggestions they receive from helpful members of the public such as yourself.



Dear Phil,

Hey, this is crazy!
I read in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* that in 1901, when Queen Victoria died, of course they had to have new stamps. The King, Edward VII, would only sit once for a portrait,

the artist was desperate, he needed another session, the King refused. So he (the artist, of course) is travelling in Germany and spots this guy who's an exact double for the King! And this guy, a Herr Gehrlich, sits for the portrait! So the image on the stamps was the King and this German guy!

Anyway, I got to thinking about this and the people who are unhappy with Canada Post not doing a definitive of the Queen

Stampshow '02

May 3 - 5, 2002

Ramada Marlborough Hotel
331 Smith Street

FROM MY COLLECTION

BY ALF BROOKS

When one collects stamps considerate friends visiting foreign countries often mail you postcards with stamps they think might interest you. A few months ago a friend was visiting New Zealand and sent me a postcard with what was an attractive stamp. When I received it I could barely see the stamp, as it was covered by a label, as the accompanying illustration shows.

Research on the Web led me to the site of Universal Mail New Zealand. Universal Mail has its own post boxes and its own stamps; the one under the label sold at NZ\$1.50, cheaper than the Post Office rate. The mail is collected by a contractor in New Zealand and forwarded to Singapore for a company to turn the mail over to Singapore Post, who then mails it at a cheaper price than if it were to be mailed directly from New Zealand. The logo of Universal Mail, taken from their website, is also illustrated.

If anyone reading this can tell me more about this New Zealand company, or of similar companies in other countries, I would appreciate receiving the information.



Universal Mail New Zealand

- Stamps
- Postcards
- First Day Covers
- Souvenir & Collector Stamp Products
- Personalised Stamps & Postcards

Winnipeg Art Gallery Stamp Sale

Wednesday, April 3: 11:00-5:00, 6:30-9:00

Thursday, April 4: 11:00-5:00

Friday, April 5: 11:00-5:00

Saturday, April 6: 11:00-4:00

MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 07/02

BY JUDY LIPSEY

- Meeting called to order by Gord Turnbull at 8.00 p.m.

GUESTS AND VISITORS:

Eleanor Epp

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Sid Kroker: The Red River Stamp and Coin will be held at the Charter House Hotel, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2002, 10 a.m. © 5.00 p.m.

- Alf Brooks: "Philatelic Computer Study Group" for any one interested in using the computer for their hobby, such as creating lists or pages for display.

- Clark Grierson: Show meeting: about 12 dealers are confirmed. Reminder to members that they may show. Ads., etc are in the works. The show theme will be U of M. and the chancellor has been asked to be present at the opening ceremonies, which will be held before the actual opening of the doors. Volunteers: people will be asked to help out. for 1. set up. 2. take down. 3. during at entrance table, security, youth table.

- Robert Zacharias: Deadline for items to make the list of the next big auction is the next meeting, Feb. 21. The auction is March 16, Saturday, 1-5 p.m.

- Rick Penko: new issues, there will be 2 launches of the U of Manitoba stamp. There will be one on Feb 11, with the artist, but the official one will be Feb. 28, at the University.

- Gerry Babij: Junior Stamp Club meeting Sun. at 2.00 p.m. 175 Colony, All Saints Church, Osborne and Broadway.

- Next meeting will be a presentation by Don Fraser of the Small Queens used between Canada and France, letter mail to France 1870-1897.

DRAW

Ron Dewitt, Bob Elias, Alex Swaggers, Bill Knutsen, Emil Orobko

- Meeting adjourned at 8:20

MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21/02

BY JUDY LIPSEY

- Meeting called to order by Gord Turnbull at 8.00 p.m.

GUESTS AND VISITORS:

Herb Warkentin, Robin Harris

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Michael Zacharias: the last auction realized sales of \$520.00, which means the club earned \$52.00. Maybe we should limit the number of lots per person to 20-25 because lately the auctions have been running overlong.

- Robert Zacharias: There are already close to 300 lots for the big auction to be held March 16, Saturday, 1-5 p.m.

- Rick Penko: Official launch of the University of Manitoba stamp will be Feb. 28, at the university.

DRAW

Alf Brooks, Bob Stanley, Raymond Guenette, Joseph Ranger.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

- Presentation by Don Fraser on the Small Queens.

Winnipeg Philatelic Society Auction

Saturday, March 16, 2002

Deaf Centre, 285 Pembina Hwy.

Time: 1p.m. - 5 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA STAMP UNVEILED

Once again Canada Post has issued a stamp with a Manitoba subject. Last Thursday, February 28, as part of the University of Manitoba's 125th anniversary celebrations, we first saw a handsome stamp. Produced by artist Steven Slipp, its central image is a picture of the Administration Building; the stamp also shows the university's logo and a portrait of a scientist with a sprig of canola in his hands.

The late Baldur Stefansson, formerly a University professor, pioneered research that turned a minor crop called rapeseed, used primarily as an industrial oil, into canola, one of the world's most popular food oils. This summer as you visit rural Manitoba you will see many fields of the yellow crops of flowering canola, bright against blue skies. It is a crop that is important in our province's economy.



University of Manitoba President Eموke J. E. Szathmáry and Vivian Albo, Chair of the Board of Canada Post, pose beside the artwork for the stamp commemorating the University's 125th anniversary.

SPOT THE VARIETY 7



Attention all you flyspeckers!! Get your magnifying glasses out and compare the two stamp images below. Find eight different changes on the right stamp compared to the left. Good Luck!!



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