

AMG GERMANY ... POSTAL CARDS

the 1945 “M” DESIGN

OBJECTIVE

To explore all aspects of the 1945 “AMG Germany “M” Design” Postal Cards issued in the American and British Zones. This includes basic card and design characteristics, paper types and thicknesses, paper colors, printing flaws and errors and major varieties within each type. Usage is also a

key element and is not limited to usage at the issued rates. Usages beyond the first postal period and different methods of up-rating are considered along with various auxiliary markings such as forwarding, return to sender, postage due and censorship markings.

BACKGROUND

Postal Service was reinstated in Germany in July 1945 using the rates from the 3rd Reich period. The initial “allowed” form of correspondence was a “single sheet open letter” or “postal cards” which facilitated the censorship process. To satisfy this need, temporary cards were issued in the American and British Zones. These were replaced in late 1945 by definitive 5 and 6 pfennig cards, four of which used the “M” Design of the 1945 ‘AMG’ stamps for the indicia. The overall card layouts were similar for each Zone. Quality of printing was highly variable due to the shortages of the

times. These issues show a variety of paper quality, colors, paper thicknesses, printing flaws and layout variations within the four issued cards. As postal rates increased and services expanded, additional postage needs for cards were accomplished through up-rating. Stamps, hand-stamps and machine applied postage were used to achieve the required rates for the broader uses. Auxiliary hand stamps and written markings were also used to indicate forwarding, postage due, return to sender and censorship. All of these variants and usage for each of the cards is the basis for this exhibit.

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)
 - C. 5 Pfennig Aufbrauchsausgabe

SIGNIFICANT MATERIAL

The challenges for these 65 year old cards is finding examples of paper differences, print flaws, design types and usages for each issue. Key items and topics herein are:

- The four printing Types of the 6 pfennig Munich Print.
- Domestic and Foreign deliveries as well as POW mails.
- Examples of Gebühr Bezahlt (fee paid) and cut-square “up-ratings”.
- Paper characteristics 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.
- Card written in English providing insight to the plights of the times
- Postal Administration Up-Rating to use up excess 5pfennig supplies.

Note: Items in the exhibit of particular importance or that are difficult to locate have been framed in blue.

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. A page for each value and issue showing the various

thicknesses of paper stock are represented. This is a result of measuring many samples of each value, type and issue with an Ames Gage to determine card thicknesses for each major type. Care was taken to normalize all similar cards to the same ambient conditions to assure comparative data. Results are shown with each Issue and Type.

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 desired 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 Delivery	6 pfennig	12 pfennig
Foreign Delivery (Re-start 1 April 1946)	15 pfennig (not official)	45 pfennig (effective 1 April 1946)
Drucksache (Printed Materials)	3 pfennig (not applicable)	6 pfennig

Note: POW and other mails sent from Germany to foreign camps and military locations before April 1946, traveled by different methods and rates. See exhibit examples. Additional comments for postage due and other special service rates are made with the exhibit examples.