

# Made in Switzerland: Foreign Cancelers Manufactured by Güller of Hüttikon

## Purpose of Exhibit

This frame introduces collectors to cancelers created for foreign postal administrations by the small company of Güller & Sons in the village of Hüttikon, near Zürich.

## Scope of Exhibit

This is a survey of cancelers made for use in Europe, Latin America, and Africa. Not all countries found in the Güller proofbooks are represented in this exhibit. Early on, circa 1870, Swiss PPT told Güller & Sons they could manufacture for other countries, but the cancelers had to differ in appearance from regulation Swiss cancel design. Evidence shows the rule was not always followed. Examples in this exhibit emphasize the variety of styles chosen by, and made for, Güller's customers, their common feature being rotating date wheels invented by Güller in 1865.

## Chronology of Frame

The frame is sequential by date. The first cancelers were sent to Württemberg in 1872. The pages progress through the turn of the century, and conclude with a canceler sent to Iceland in 1976.

## Research

Some cancelers in the Güller proofbooks were obviously one-off samples sent to postal administrations. Other devices functioned as regular postal date stamps for more than twenty years. This level of performance proved a major selling point for Güller. A few postal administrations copied Güller devices after receiving the initial samples making it impossible to identify these copies without the proofbooks for comparison to the originals.



Examples of international cancels found in the Güller proof book, listed by Güller number. D - DeCoppet mechanism.

## Rotating Date-Wheel

The rotating date wheel canceler was adopted by the Swiss PTT in 1866. Güller's efficient design prevented clerks from losing date slugs and allowed the changing of dates and hours, in mere seconds. This technical design was the basis for foreign interest in these Swiss made steel cancelers.

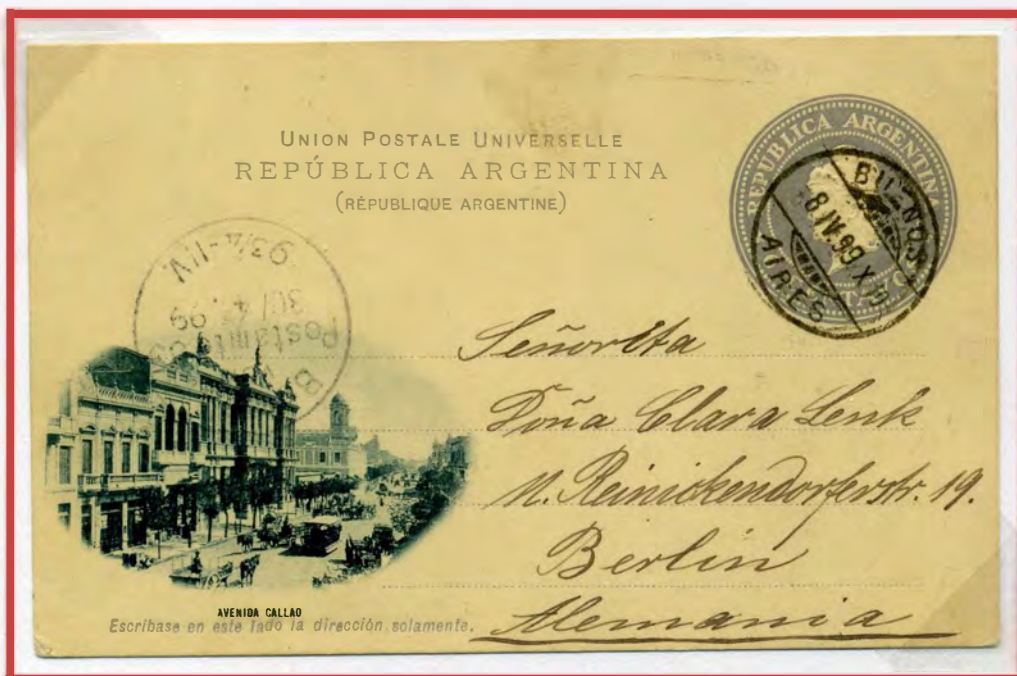
## Argentina 1899



Buenos Aires  
#12163

25 February 1899, Güller sent this sample canceler to Buenos Aires. Argentina did not order any other cancelers from Güller until 1912 when only three were delivered.

There are no other known postally used copies of this canceler.



8 April 1899 to Berlin, Germany.



Prior to 1880, cancel proof dates in Güller Volume I are not set to the actual shipping date, but are set at random. After 1880, the Swiss proofs match the shipping dates and are sequential on the pages, making it possible to infer the foreign shipping dates.

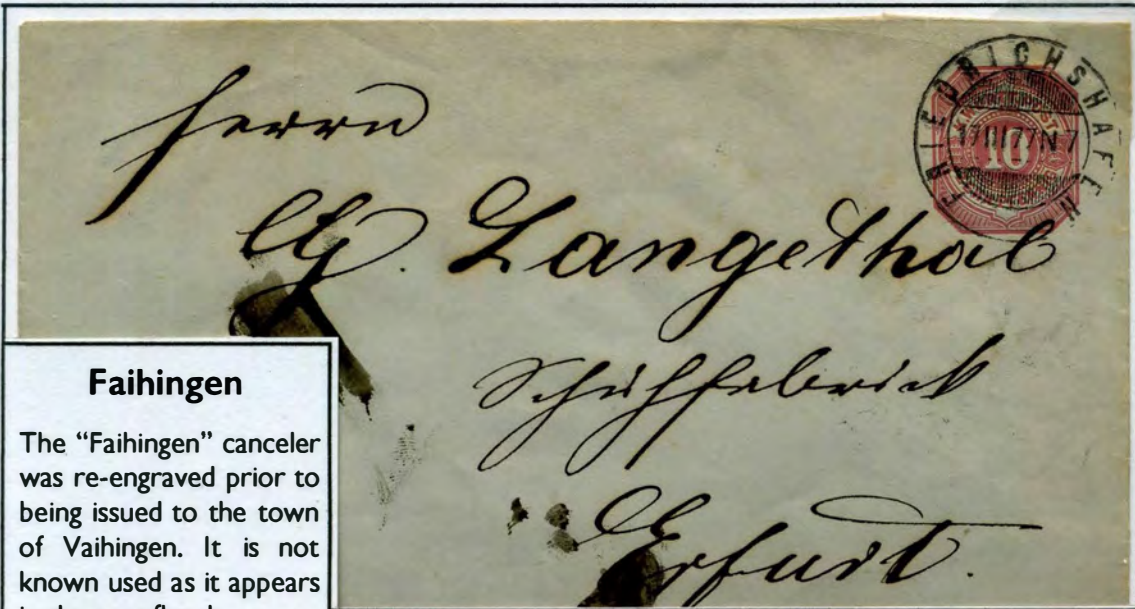
# Württemberg 1872



**Friedrichshafen**  
#1235

17 March 1877  
to Erfurt.  
Domestic letter.

Large diameter cancelers were made in two styles, eight had fine hatchures, twenty-three had none.



## Faihingen

The "Faihingen" canceler was re-engraved prior to being issued to the town of Vaihingen. It is not known used as it appears in the proofbook.



#1350



## Vaihingen

26 September 1876  
to Altenrieth bei  
Nürtingen.  
Domestic letter.



**Stuttgart Postamt. II.**  
#1486

13 July 1876  
to Limbach bei Chemnitz.  
Domestic postal card.



In October 1878 Güller shipped three cancelers for the Sydbanen (southern railway), one for Bergen, and one for Christianssand. Most subsequent Norwegian cancels look like Güller's samples. These samples must have been copied. Switzerland had no patent office to protect its inventors/manufacturers until 1888.

Norway  
1878/1888

**Christianssand  
#3647**

10 September 1884  
to Hamburg, Germany.  
Upgraded domestic postal card.



**Bergen  
#3648**

5 April 1894  
to Aue, Saxony, Germany.  
International postal card.



**Kristiania  
#7806**

2 July 1891  
within Kristiania.  
Domestic postal card.





The 1881 rounded-rectangle date bridge is similar to a canceler sent to Habana in 1878. This design was adopted by Portugal in 1882 for all its post offices. The double circle canceler (lower example) copied the date bridge style chosen by Spain in 1881.

**Cuba**  
**1881/1884**



**Habana**  
**#4149**

12 April 1884  
to Livorno, Italy.  
International  
printed matter.  
(Lower corner cut,  
unsealed envelope)



**Habana**  
**#5898**

29 July 1893  
to Paris, France.  
International  
letter.

This canceler is identifiable by the right star being lower than the left star.  
(The stars on the eight cancelers shipped were oriented in a different manner, thus each is identifiable.)

Four double circle cancelers were shipped in October 1883, four more followed in August 1884.  
These were labeled "Carteria Mayor" or "Correos" ( Total = four each).



Spain  
1879/1882



Congreso Correos  
#3755



Correo Central  
#3760



26 April 1882 to retired Inspector of Telegraphs. The crowned date stamp was used on Official letters from the Spanish Congress.



After making 31 "trebol" date slug cancelers (1878) followed by 242 octagonal ambulant (1878), Güller prepared a double-ring design that became the standard Spanish canceler for many years. It was first used in 1881.



Vergara #5083



Toledo #4493

7 May 1885 Toledo to Vergara. Domestic letter.



Portugal first received 68 cancelers in May 1881. Before the century was over Güller delivered hundreds of cancelers for Portugal, all with the rounded-rectangle date bridge.

# Portugal 1881/1896



**Melgaço  
#4789**

24 September 1882  
Melgaço to Vianna.  
Domestic letter.



**Lisboa Central 2A Secção  
#11029**

20 May 1898 within Lisbon.  
Domestic postal card.



**Abrantes  
#4276**



**Lisboa  
#3971**

30 September 1884 to Lisbon.  
Domestic postal card.



Güller cancelers were sent to the Autonomous Regions of Madeira in 1885 and the Azores in 1891. These cancelers were in the style of all other Portuguese devices.

## Canary Islands 1885



Funchal  
#5717  
Island of Madeira  
Canary Islands

Lisboa Central  
2A Secção  
#11029

24 September 1908 from Tangier, Morocco; via Gibraltar 25 September; via Lisbon 28 September; received 1 October 1908. International postcard.

In February 1892 Güller shipped eighty-seven cancelers of the style below. The tiny text apparently did not ink well, and nearly all cancelations seen by this exhibitor are mostly illegible. It is not known why this colony did not choose the bold Portuguese design of the 1880's.

## Angola 1892



Ambrizette  
#9696



St Antonio do Zaire  
#9762

3 June 1899 from Basel to Muculla, Portuguese Congo; via St Antonio do Zaire 19 July; via Ambrizette 24 July. International postcard.



Valparaiso received two different cancelers in 1883. Three more were shipped in 1890, including two for Santiago. An additional four were shipped in 1896; and a set of six large diameter ornate cancelers were ordered in 1898/99 for Valparaiso.

# Chile 1883/1899



Valparaiso  
#5460



7 April 1884  
from Hamburg, Germany.  
International postal card.



Valparaiso  
#12252

4 May 1902  
within Valparaiso.  
Domestic postal card.



During the late 1880s, Mexico placed large orders of this design. The first group of 225 cancelers was shipped June-August 1888. Later a group of 100 was shipped March 1890, another 100 in July 1890, and finally a group of 150 was sent in 1893.

## Mexico 1888



Villa de la Encarnacion  
#7543

23 November 1895  
to Emsiedeln, Switzerland.  
International postal card.

On Güller Proof Book 2 page 345, is an unengraved canceler labeled "probestempel", where only the date wheels are shown. An order for fifty-nine devices was shipped 11 August, ninety-nine were shipped 23 September, one hundred-one on 15 November, with the last eighty-six on 30 November. Total: 345.

None are shown engraved, therefore, the shipping date of individual cancelers can not be determined. The devices were logged as groups, i.e. 12310 - 12369. I have determined these were made for Mexico and engraved later by the Mexican postal authorities in the style of this cancel.



## 1899



"Probestempel"  
#12285

Sucursal B.  
Mexico. D.F.

22 June 1902  
to Stuttgart, Germany.  
International postal card.



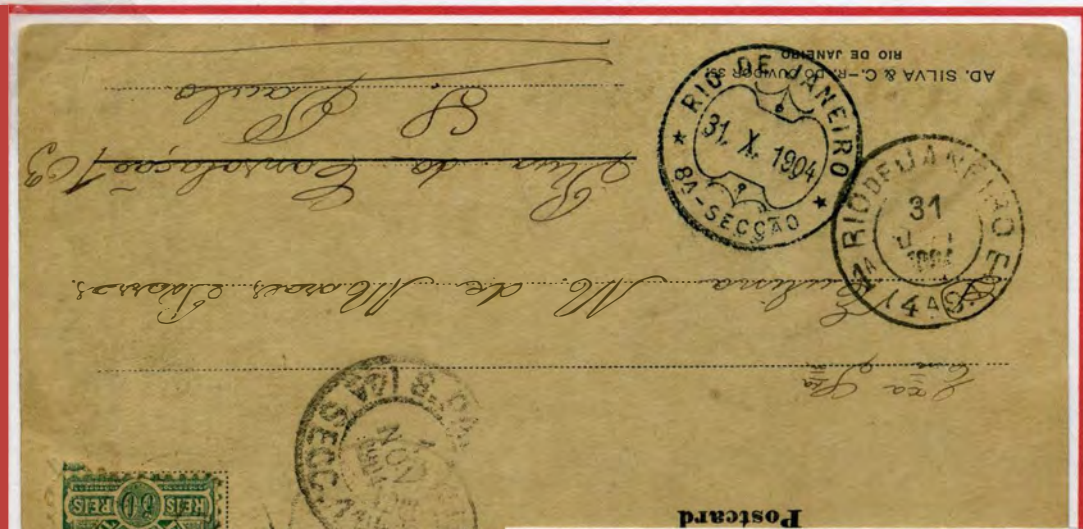
Brazil

1904/1907/1913

Rio de Janeiro  
#D61



Unidentified post office  
31 October, via Rio de Janeiro,  
to Sao Paulo 1 November 1904.  
Domestic postal card.



Postcard

Above was the first foreign canceler made using the deCoppet flexible-head mechanism. Brazil's first significant order comprised of 64 devices in 1907 (center) followed in June 1913 by another 100 for Rio de Janeiro District Offices (lower).



BUREAU POSTAL

Rio de Janeiro  
#D396



13 June 1908 from Paraty,  
via Rio de Janeiro 17 April 1908;  
to New York.

Uprated domestic postal card.

(The month wheel is inverted.)

Lo. Da Lapa, Rio de Janeiro  
#D1355



9 January 1915  
to Soure, Portugal.  
International letter.





Güller made a series of ambulant cancelers in 1904, but the "star" design of 1908 / 1909 was the most important, becoming the Italian standard for over 30 years. Thirty-five 25mm cancelers were shipped in February 1908 (top cover). In April 1908, three larger 28mm samples with a date bridge were sent for approval, after which 1,350 cancelers were shipped to Italy prior to January 1910 (lower cover).

## Italy 1908/1909



**Genova Ferrovio  
#15802**

31 March 1908  
from Genova  
to Bradford, England.  
International letter.



**Bologna Ferrovio  
#17573**

21 January 1910  
from Bologna  
to Geneva, Switzerland.  
International postal card.



**Belgium  
1905/1907**

Güller sent Belgium a test canceler engraved Bruxelles Depart in September 1905 (right). In November 1906 Anvers received a test canceler of a different design, which was approved. Two months later nine cancelers, all for train stations, were delivered. (below)



**Brussels #D166**

15 May 1907,  
Local within Brussels.  
Domestic postal card.

**CARTE POSTALE**



Correspondance.

Adresse du Destinataire.

*Je vous envoie  
un de  
semaine  
prochain*

*Madame Servais  
rue Bordaux 70  
Bruxelles.*

FRANCE



**MESSIEURS CHAMPY PÈRE & C<sup>IE</sup>**

PROPRIÉTAIRES

**BEAUNE**

(Côte-d'Or)



**Namur Station  
#D278**

30 May 1907 to Beaune, France.  
International letter.



**Mons Station  
#D280**

14 October 1907  
to New York, USA.  
International postal card.

Union postale universelle. — Wereldpostvereniging

BELGIQUE. — BELGIE.

(Conté réservé à l'adresse. — Zijde voor het adres alleen.)



Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur. \* Naam en adres van den afzender. \* Indication facultative. — Cieschriftelijke opgave.

*Monsieur Joseph Jülich  
501 E 78th Str.*

*Etats-Unis New-York*

(\* Cette inscription peut être biffée. — Dat opschrift mag doorgesloopt worden.)



A single canceler was sent to Addis Abeba in October 1900. Eight were later ordered in 1911 for the post offices at Harrar, Diré-Daoua, and Arada-Addis-Abbeba.

# Ethiopia 1911



**Harrar #20089**

23 March 1914  
from Rio de Janeiro;  
6 April Funchal, 10 April Las Palmas,  
24 April Lagos, Southern Nigeria,  
19 June Harrar.  
International post card.



**Arada-  
Addis-Abbeba  
#20096**

24 June 1914  
Unaddressed post card.



**Diré-Daoua  
#20093**

24 July 1912 from Constantinople,  
via Alexandria 29 July.  
Received 13 August.



This is one of the few Güller-made foreign designs that was a direct copy of current production Swiss cancelers. Twelve fleuron cancelers were shipped in 1911 to Tunis. Early in 1912, another ten went to the towns of Bizerte, Gabes, Kef, Kairouan, Sfax, Sousse, and Bab-Menara.

**Tunisia  
1911**



**Bizerte  
#D928**

16 July 1917  
to Lausanne,  
Switzerland.  
International  
registered letter.



**Tunis  
Chargements IV  
#D857**

27 April 1931  
to Küsnacht, Switzerland.  
International registered letter.



(This canceler had been in use for 20 years, one reason foreign postal administrations liked Swiss made devices.)



Güller sent ten devices to Montevideo in January 1928, with four service identifications: Interior, Exterior, Sucursal and Recomendadas. All were of de Coppet's flexible-head design.

# Uruguay 1928



Exterior  
Montevideo  
#D2237

30 August 1930,  
transit Paris,  
to Altona, Germany.  
International air mail.



Recomendadas  
Montevideo  
#D2334

1 January 1934  
to Colonia, Uruguay.  
Domestic registered letter.



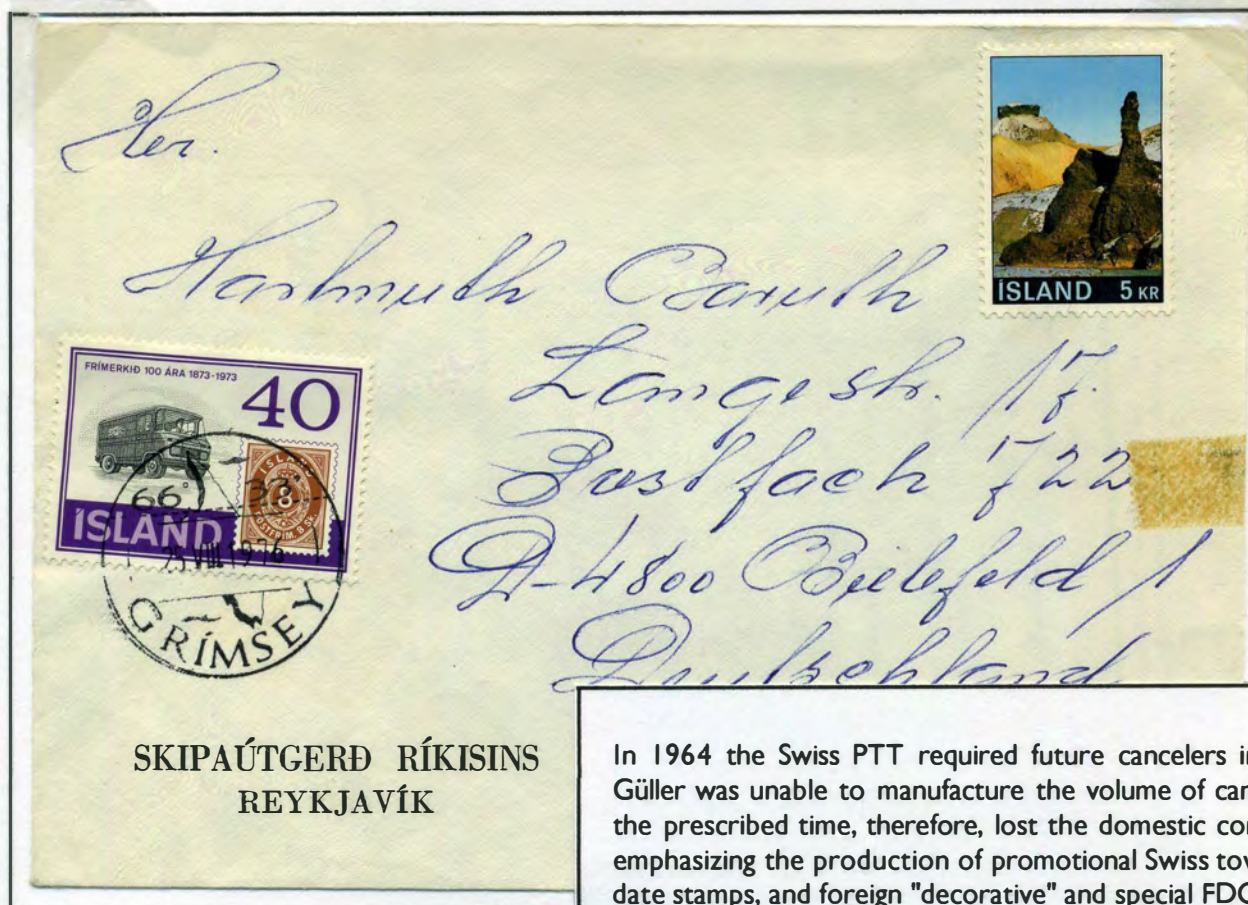
In 1936, Güller sent four cancelers to Venezuela, one for Maturin (33mm diameter), the other three to Maracaibo (27mm diameter). The Maracaibo cancels all appear to be used on outgoing international air letters and are indistinguishable.

## Venezuela 1936



Maracaibo  
#26916

4 March 1938  
to Augsburg, Germany.  
International air letter.



## Iceland 1974



Grimsey  
#D9016  
(Population 86)

25 August 1976  
to Bielefeld,  
Germany.

In 1964 the Swiss PTT required future cancelers include the post code. Güller was unable to manufacture the volume of cancelers required within the prescribed time, therefore, lost the domestic contract. Güller adapted emphasizing the production of promotional Swiss town cancels, non-postal date stamps, and foreign "decorative" and special FDC type cancelers.