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## EUROPEAN CLASSICS

### IX. BRUNSWICK

The duchy of *Brunswick*, "Herzogthum Braunschweig" in its native German tongue, was one of the smaller of the Old German States. It covered a territory of little more than 1400 sq. mi. with a population of about 270,000 in 1852 and of 300,000 in 1867. Located in the central region of Germany, it was divided into three main parts, which in turn divided the Kingdom of Hanover into two parts. The northern part of the duchy contained the capital Brunswick (Braunschweig), which had a population of almost 38,000 in 1852 and of more than 50,000 in 1867, and the principal towns of Wolfenbüttel and Helmstedt; the western part the principal towns of Holzminden and Gandersheim, and the eastern part the principal town of Blankenburg. There were furthermore six small enclaves in the adjacent territory of Hanover and the Prussian province of Saxony. Due to this peculiar geographical position, Brunswick was bounded on the north and south by the kingdom of Hanover, on the west by the Prussian province of Westphalia as well as the principality of Waldeck, and on the east by the Prussian provinces of Brandenburg and Saxony, as well as the principality of Anhalt.

The *history* of Brunswick is rather colorful. The territory was first settled by the Chauvi and Angrivarii, old Germanic tribes, at the beginning of the Christian era. It was conquered in the 4th century by the Saxons, another Germanic tribe, which took possession of all north-west Germany during the 6th century and partly passed over to the British islands, which they, joined by the Angles, conquered completely in the 7th century. Late in the 8th century, they were subdued in Germany by Charles the Great and their territory incorporated into the Frankish Kingdom. The Saxons established

the Old Saxon Duchy as a member of the Frankish Empire, which after partition of the latter became part of the East Frankish Kingdom. In 1181, under the rule of Henry the Lion, who had been one of the important vassals of Frederick Barbarossa but was placed under imperial ban for attempted rebellion, the Old Saxon Duchy was dissolved and the name "Saxony" passed over to an entire different region. Henry the Lion, who remained in possession only of Brunswick and Lüneburg, founded the House of Brunswick-Lüneburg, which from then on ruled over the region, with several interruptions. In the 13th century, the city of Brunswick, which had been founded about 860 by Bruno, son of Duke Ludolf of Saxony, from whom it took its name, became one of the most important cities in northern Germany and one of the first cities of the Hanseatic League. It played a leading role as a trading center but in the following centuries lost its importance and after the Thirty Years' War became a city of secondary importance. Beginning with the 13th century, the country was the object of a bewildering succession of partitions and reunions, mostly through treaties and marriages and was combined several times into larger political entities, especially with the neighbor Hanover, which was ruled by another branch of the same family, and with England, which was bound to Hanover and

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Brunswick by a close relationship between the ruling houses. During the Napoleonic Wars, Brunswick was occupied by the French in 1806 and was incorporated in 1808 into the Kingdom of Westphalia, a French satellite state and the leader of the Confederation of the Rhine. After the liberation of the country in 1813, Brunswick in 1815 joined the German Confederation. In the same year, a regency was established, with King George IV of Great Britain as regent. In 1823, Duke Charles Frederick (Carl Friedrich) ascended the throne, but was ousted by a revolution in 1830. By act of the German Confederation, his brother William became Duke Wilhelm I in 1831 and his reign lasted until his death in 1884. In 1867 Brunswick joined the North German Confederation and in 1871 became part of the German Empire, of which it is still a part.

The *postal history* of Brunswick has its beginnings in the courier service which the Hanseatic League had created in the middle of the 14th century. During the 15th century, the first mail routes by the Taxis family started to operate in transit through Brunswick. Such mail service was first tolerated but in 1569 Brunswick created its own mail service, the "Landespost", and the first postal law was published in 1586. When, shortly later, the family of Taxis established the "Reichspost" and also started to operate in 1616 directly on Brunswick territory—its first postal agency was established at the city of Brunswick in 1645—this soon led to friction. During the 17th century, several mail services operated on Brunswick territory. Aside from the "Landespost" and the "Reichspost", Brandenburg also had a post office at the capital Brunswick and several mail lines operated by the city and private ventures had their agencies there. But the main competition developed between the "Landespost" and the "Reichspost". The "Reichspost" tried to have the "Landespost" suppressed. Several times the abolition of the latter was ordered by the authorities of the German Empire, but the Dukes of Brunswick resisted all such efforts successfully. In 1748, the quarrel came to a temporary end, the duke having given official permission for the opening of a "Reichspost" office at the city of Brunswick. But the old conflicts soon flared up again and the duke placed all possible difficulties

in the way of the "Reichspost". Eventually, after Hanover had cancelled all prerogatives of the "Reichspost" in June 1790, Brunswick followed suit quickly. By ducal order, the post office of the "Reichspost" was forcibly closed on July 1, 1790, and all mail service taken over exclusively by the "Landespost". During the French occupation, which followed soon thereafter, the postal service was taken over by the kingdom of Westphalia, but no major changes were made and the "Landespost" was able to take over again after the liberation in 1813 without much difficulty. Close postal relations existed with Hanover and by a special treaty, for seven years, from 1835 to 1842, the Hanover postal administration also conducted the postal service in the duchy of Brunswick. On December 1, 1838, the first railroad, from Braunschweig to Wolfenbüttel, was opened and from January 1, 1839, was used for carrying the mails. On July 1, 1850, the railroad and postal service were combined into one organization which henceforth was conducted by a "Herzoglich Braunschweig-Lüneburgische Eisenbahn- und Postdirection". From 1835 to 1850, Hanover maintained a postal agency on Brunswick territory at Bodenburg, which was an enclave in Hanover territory. On January 1, 1852, Brunswick became a member of the German-Austrian Postal Union. Its separate postal service was dissolved on December 31, 1867, and was taken over by that of the North German Confederation on January 1, 1868.

The number of *post offices* in Brunswick was always relatively small. In 1830, there were 30 post offices and their number increased only to 47 until the end of the pre-stamp period on December 31, 1851. During the stamp period 10 post offices were opened and 5 closed; therefore there were 52 post offices in operation on December 31, 1867, when the separate postal service of the duchy of Brunswick came to a close. The main post office at the capital of Brunswick was called "Hof-Postamt", of the others only five were full post offices, while the balance were postal agencies with somewhat reduced service. Special *city mail service* existed at Braunschweig and Wolfenbüttel from about 1845. A *rural mail service* was introduced in 1853. No *travelling post offices* operated by Brunswick existed on railroad trains, but such post offices operated by Prussia and

Hanover travelled through the country. The mail service developed very favorably during the stamp period; there were 2,160,000 domestic letters in 1854 and about twice as many, 4,276,000, in 1866.

Brunswick had several *post offices on foreign territory*, but only during the pre-stamp period. A post office at Goslar, on Hanover territory, was closed in 1804, when that city came temporarily to Prussia. A mail service from Brunswick to Hamburg was opened as a private enterprise in 1706, which acquired the name "Kitchen Mail" because it also carried the food supplies for the ducal household. It was taken over by the "Landespost" in 1732, and the postal agency at Hamburg became a "Fürstlich Braunschweigisches Postamt". In 1835, this mail service was taken over by Hanover and the Brunswick post office at Hamburg ceased to exist in 1836. A post office at Oebisfelde, which existed on Prussian territory just across the border and which facilitated the transit of mail, was also closed a few years later, on August 31, 1839.

Brunswick had the same *currency* as Hanover, namely 1 thaler (th) of 24 gute groschen (gg), one gute groschen divided into 12 gute pfennig (gpf). For the mail service to foreign countries, the currency of the other neighbors was in use, 1 thaler equivalent to 30 silbergroschen (sg), one silbergroschen divided into 12 silberpfennig (spf). Therefore, 10sg were equivalent to 8gg and 10spf to 8gpf. On January 1, 1858, the domestic currency was put in line with this silbergroschen currency, by introducing a new currency, 1 thaler equivalent to 30 groschen (g), the groschen now being identical with the silbergroschen, but still retaining some individuality by making 1 groschen equivalent to 10 pfennig (pf). On the same day, this new currency became the basis for domestic and foreign mail rates. The unit of *weight* was the pound of 32 loth (one loth equivalent to about  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce), from 1858 the metric pound of 500 grams, which was divided into 10 new loth, one loth being divided into 10 quint (= 5 grams). For *distances*, measurements were made in miles, equivalent to about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  km.

The *postal rates* were rather simple. For domestic letters, 6gpf ( $\frac{1}{2}$ gg) was charged for single letters (1 loth) in the rural mail service and up to 5 mi., 9gpf ( $\frac{3}{4}$ gg) for more than 5 mi. to 10 mi., and 1gg for more

than 10 mi. City letters paid 3gpf. The registration fee was 1gg, the receipt fee  $\frac{1}{2}$ gg, the delivery fee 3gpf, but this fee was not collected for city letters. When the new currency was introduced on January 1, 1858, the single letter rates became 3pf for city mail, 6pf for rural letters and letters up to 5 mi., 9pf from 5 up to 10 mi. and 12pf over 10 miles. The registration fee was now 12pf, the receipt fee 6pf and the delivery fee 3pf. From Jan. 1, 1863, all domestic letters paid 1g without regard to the distance, within the rural delivery zone 5pf. City letters now were charged 3pf up to 15 loth. The registration fee was 1g and the receipt fee 5pf, while the delivery fee was entirely abolished. From January 1, 1865, a reduction of the rates for bulk city mail took place. Single letters continued to pay 3pf, but for 10 letters only  $2\frac{1}{2}$ g, more than 10 and up to 20 letters 5g, more than 20 and up to 50 letters  $7\frac{1}{2}$ g and more than 50 and up to 100 letters 10g was charged in cash, so that when 100 city letters were mailed the postage for each was only 1pf. Domestic money orders, which were introduced on June 1, 1865, paid 1g up to 25th and 2g for over 25th to 50th. To the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union, the letter rates for each loth were 1sg up to 10mi., 2sg over 10 to 20mi. and 3sg over 20mi. Printed matter paid  $\frac{1}{2}$ sg for each loth; the registration fee was 1sg. From January 1, 1858, the same amounts in groschen of the new currency were charged. Mail to other foreign countries paid rather complicated rates, but frequently postage was paid to the border only, the postal administration which took care of the mail in transit through their own postal territory accounting for the remaining fees with the postal service of the country of destination.

Brunswick's first *Postage Stamps* were issued on January 1, 1852, on which day the treaty provisions of the German-Austrian Postal Union became effective in Brunswick. *Envelopes* were issued on August 1, 1855, *Money Order Cards*—for domestic service only—on June 1, 1865. Some kind of Postal Stationery was even in use many years before the first postage stamps were issued, namely *Receipts*, which were issued to the sender for registered and money letters as well as parcels and later also for money orders. Such printed receipts which were issued from as early as 1751, are first known

with a stamp showing the receipt fee from 1836. By decree of Nov. 24, 1844, special *Envelopes for City Mail* at Brunswick City were introduced. A special handstamp was applied to letter sheets or envelopes, presented by the public in quantities of twelve or multiples thereof. It is claimed that later also envelopes with the same handstamps were sold by the Brunswick post office, but this seems rather doubtful. As the same handstamp was also used as postmark to mark all city letters posted at the Brunswick post office against payment in cash, the character of these envelopes and letter sheets as postal stationery is somewhat uncertain. But they are certainly at least postal stationery manufactured on private order. There existed also *Official Money Order Cards* for use by government offices, as well as *Official Receipts* for official mail.

The use of stamps was originally not obligatory; postage and registration to the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union could from Jan. 1, 1852, either be paid in stamps or in cash. But unpaid letters paid an additional 1sg for each loth. The use of stamps became obligatory on Aug. 1, 1855, when the postmasters were instructed to apply the necessary stamps themselves on all letters to countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union, for which postage was paid in cash at the post office. Postage on domestic and other foreign mail at first continued to be paid in cash, but the use of stamps for domestic mail was permitted if they covered the rates, for example a 1sg stamp for the  $\frac{3}{4}$ gg domestic rate. Only on March 1, 1856, postage stamps were introduced for all fees on domestic mail and their use became obligatory. On the same day, also stamps for printed matter to the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union, for which postage until then was usually paid in cash—although use of stamps, if the rates could be covered, was also permitted—were introduced. For other foreign countries, the use of stamps was first not permitted, but later gradually introduced to all destinations; it never became obligatory. The delivery fee, which was usually marked on the letters in pen, could be either paid by the addressee in cash or, from March 1, 1856, by the sender in stamps. Originally, stamps and stationery were not sold singly, but only in strips or batches of 10. This rather unusual regu-

lation was abolished only after more than  $7\frac{3}{4}$  years, by decree of Oct. 14, 1859.

The first postage stamps issued on Jan. 1, 1852, to be used to the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union, were 1sg, 2sg and 3sg, conforming to the three main letter rates. The envelopes, first issued on Aug. 1, 1855, also featured only the same three values. The first additional values were issued on March 1, 1856, a  $\frac{1}{3}$ sg (=4spf), for printed matter to the above countries, and a  $\frac{1}{4}$ gg (=3gpf) for the domestic service. On March 1, 1857, the  $\frac{1}{4}$ gg stamp, which had proved impractical for higher frankings, was replaced by a  $\frac{4}{4}$ gg stamp, which was specially designed to be divided into four parts of 3gpf each, in this way providing all domestic rates. From Jan. 1, 1858, when the new currency was introduced, the stamps for foreign mail inscribed "Silbergroschen" were sold for the same amount in "Groschen" and, from Jan. 1, 1863, after the domestic letter rate had been reduced to 1g, also generally used for domestic mail. After introduction of the new currency in 1858, the  $\frac{4}{4}$ gg became something of a liability as it did not fit into the new rate schedule. The strips of 10 were sold in the new currency for 12g 5pf, equivalent to  $12\frac{1}{2}$ pf for each stamp, which made it usable for the  $\frac{1}{4}$ g rate only. To use up the stamp, from Nov. 1, 1859, simultaneously with the start of the sale of single stamps instead of strips of 10, the face value of the single stamp was reduced to 12pf, so that one quarter now was again 3pf and the stamps could be used for all domestic rates. On Dec. 16, 1862, a new  $\frac{1}{2}$ g stamp, equivalent to 5pf, was issued for the new reduced rate for rural mail from Jan. 1, 1863. It was this the first stamp with value indication in the new currency. It was supplemented from September 1865 by new stamps of  $\frac{1}{3}$ g, 1g, 2g and 3g, which replaced the previous stamps of  $\frac{1}{3}$ sg, 1sg, 2sg and 3sg. New envelopes of 1g, 2g and 3g were issued at the same time, replacing the 1sg, 2sg and 3sg envelopes of 1855. The money order cards consisted of two values, 1g and 2g. The city envelopes had no value indication; they were not stamped singly but only by the dozen for 3gg, from 1858 for 3g 6pf, therefore they cost 3gpf and 3pf a piece. The receipts cost first  $\frac{1}{2}$ gg, from Jan. 1, 1858, 6pf, and from Jan. 1, 1863, 5pf.

The *designs* of all Brunswick stamps feature the coat of arms of the country, a leaping horse, with the ducal crown above. The only exceptions to this rule, which includes the envelope and money order card stamps, were the 4/4gg stamp of 1857, which, due to the small size of the four quarters of which it is composed, shows on each quarter the crown only, as well as the handstamp on the city envelopes. The stamps on the receipts also show the leaping horse but with a posthorn instead of the crown above. All postage stamps, except the 4/4gg of 1857 and the envelope stamps of 1855, have as only inscription BRAUNSCHWEIG and value indications. The 4/4gg of 1857 shows "Postmarke" instead of the name of the country and the envelope stamps of 1855 have no indication except that of the value. The first design of the postage stamps was an original one, an oblong rectangle, with BRAUNSCHWEIG in a ribbon at the top, the coat of arms in an oval in the center, the value indication in letters in a band below, and the figure of value, in a small oval, at left and right. Only on the first three values, 1sg, 2sg and 3sg in that design, the figures of value correspond to the value indication in letters. On the others this indication reads DREI PFENNIG on the ¼gg, VIER SILB. PF. on the ⅓sg and FUNF PFENNIG on the ½g. The latter stamp has the coat of arms, especially the crown, slightly changed compared with the other values in the same design and furthermore has "½" only at the left, but "Gr." at the right, both colorless on solid ground. The design of the 4/4gg of 1857 was divided into four quarters with a common frame, so that it could easily be divided into four quarters of ¼gg (=3gpf) each. Each quarter showed the figure of value in an oval, with the ducal crown above and "Gutegr." below. "Postmarke" and "3 Pfennige" is repeated four times in the border, the former above or below, the latter at left or at right of each quarter. The design of the envelope stamps of 1855, for which the design of the envelope stamps of the Prussia issue 1851 served as model, shows the arms colorless on solid ground in the center of a guilloched upright oval frame, 26 x 29mm. in size. It had no country name but the value indication in letters at top and the figure of value, in a small circle, colorless on solid ground, at bottom. The guilloched ground

is different for each of the three values. The design of the 1865 issue of postage stamps, envelope stamps and money order card stamps was derived from the design of the 1855 envelope stamps but the upright oval is smaller, 19½x22½mm. BRAUNSCHWEIG is at top, GROSCHEN at bottom and the figures of value at left and right, in small circles. The guilloche is the same for all values, but differs slightly on the postage stamps from that of the envelope stamps and money order stamps. Except for the arms in the center and the country name, the design of the 1865 issue was almost identical to the design of the Prussia issue of 1861 and the Oldenburg issue of 1862, which obviously served as models. The handstamp on the city envelopes was a single circle, 20½mm. in diameter, with "ST.P." (= Stadt-Post) at top and "Fr." (= Franco) at bottom. The stamps on the receipts were small upright ovals (12 x 16 mm.) and had the leaping horse, with a posthorn above, in the center, POST-SCHEIN, from 1858 POSTSCHEIN above and the value indication below. The official money order cards had no stamp, only the inscription "H. D. S. portofrei" in the text, while the official receipts obtained a red handstamp, with "H. D. S. PORTO FREI" in an upright oval (12 x 16mm.). "H.D.S." stands for "Herzogliche Dienst-Sache". The design of the first postage stamps was the work of Carl Petersen of Brunswick, who also cut the dies. The design of the envelope stamps of 1855 and of the 1865 issue was provided by the engraver, E. Schilling.

The *envelopes* were manufactured and issued simultaneously in two different sizes, the "small" size, 147x84mm., and the "large" size, 148x115mm. All three value of both issues exist in both sizes, but some varieties come only in one of the sizes. There were also other special features of the postal stationery. The envelopes had a diagonal *overprint* across the corner in which the stamp was printed, at top left on the 1855 issue and at top right on the 1865 issue, but identical for both. This overprint, two lines in small letters, read EIN (ZWEI, DREI) SILBERGROSCHEN POST-COUVERT in endless repetition and extended to the upper and one of the side flaps on the back of the envelopes. It was identical to the overprint on the 1851 envelopes of Prussia. Although the currency of the 1865 issue was "gro-

sehen" and the overprint read "silbergroschen", no change was made and the old overprint, now incorrect, continued to be used. The upper flap of the envelopes had an *embossed seal*, which comes in two kinds. The first one, of 18mm. diameter and with a circle of pearls as border, was used for Brunswick envelopes only and, therefore, is called "Brunswick seal". It was used for all envelopes of the 1855 issue and for part of the first printing of the 1865 issue. The second one, of 16mm. diameter, with a single line border and a star in the center, had previously been used for the Prussia envelopes and for most of the contemporary and later envelopes of other Old German States which had them manufactured by the Prussian State Printing Works. It is called "Prussian seal" and was used for part of the first and all other printings of the 1865 envelopes. The *city envelopes* had, aside from the stamp, no other printing. The *money order cards* had extensive forms printed on both sides and there were several changes in the text for the various printings, which are of no great importance. The *receipts* were forms, first oblong about 200x80 mm. in size, with the stamp at left, then, from 1848, upright, about 100x175mm., with the stamp at top center. There were two different kinds of such receipts, for general use, without the name of the post office (Form "Nr.50", later "F 110a"), and for use at the capital, with "Hof-Post-Amt" printed on (Form "Nr. 50a" later "F 110"). There were a number of changes in the text during the 33 years of use of stamped receipts, of which only the inclusion of the words "Deutscher Postverein" at left and right of the stamp, from 1861 and abolished again in 1865, has major significance.

The *original dies* of the six values in the first design of postage stamps were all cut separately in wood by Carl Petersen of Brunswick, therefore each design—aside from the intended improvements made in the design for the last-issued value of  $\frac{1}{2}g$ —has small differences in respect to the other values, especially in the number of vertical lines in the coat of arms, the curves of the ribbons with the inscriptions, etc. The design of the  $\frac{4}{4}g$  was also entirely cut in wood by Petersen, the four quarters of the design, especially the crown and the value indication, showing marked differences. For the postage stamps of 1865, a master die,

without the figures of value, was cut in steel by E. Schilling of Berlin. The dies for the four values were obtained from the master die by way of working dies, in which the figures of value " $\frac{1}{3}$ ", "1", "2" and "3" were cut in the circle on both sides. For the 1855 envelope stamps, the center with the arms was cut in steel by E. Schilling. The oval frame was cut in steel for each value separately—very similar to the Prussia envelopes of 1851—with a different *guilloche* for each value. By transferring the center with the arms from the master die to the dies of the frames, the original dies of the three values were obtained. For the envelope and money order stamps of 1865 the dies of the corresponding values of the postage stamps were not used, but a separate master die, without the figures of value, cut in steel by E. Schilling. Therefore these stamps differ in many small details of the design from the postage stamps. The original dies for the three values were obtained by way of working dies, in which the figures of value "1", "2" and "3" were cut. There were two such dies for the 1g value, which differ in small details of the figures of value. The counter dies for both envelope issues were obtained by *embossing* the original dies in soft steel, which was later hardened. The designs of the stamps for the city envelopes and for the receipts were cut by an unknown engraver in brass; in the latter case, a new die was prepared for each change of value. The overprint for the envelopes as well as the embossed seals for them were cut in steel, the former on the circumference of cylinders, the latter in single dies with counter dies, to produce the *embossing*. In both cases, the same printing material as used for the contemporary Prussia envelopes was partly used. The forms for the money order cards and the receipts were type-set.

All postage stamps of Brunswick were *typographed*, the issue 1865 combined with *embossing*, which latter method was used for all envelope and money order card stamps. The stamps on the city envelopes were hand-stamped, those on the receipts first hand-stamped separately, and from 1856 *typographed* together with the receipt forms. The overprint on the envelopes was printed separately with the help of cylinders, which printed endless rows of the text. The seal on the flap was also embossed in a separate

operation. The forms of the money order cards and receipts were all typographed.

The postage stamps in the first design and the 4/4gg of 1857 were printed from *settings* of single stereotypes of type metal. They were obtained by way of copper matrices and manufactured by the printers, the Printing Works of Meyer Brothers, from 1853 Joh. Heinrich Meyer, at Brunswick. The settings consisted of 120 clichés, in twelve horizontal rows of ten, for the 4/4gg of 100 clichés, in ten rows of ten. Spacing was rather irregular and varied in the same setting from 1¼mm. to 2½mm., occasionally even 3mm., horizontal as well as vertical. There was, as far as is known, no margin print of any kind. It is probable that, during the more than thirteen years of use of this design, there were several settings of the various values, as well as replacements of single clichés and other changes, but due to the scarcity of multiples no concrete statements in this regard are possible. The postage stamps of the 1865 issue were printed from *plates* of 120 (12 horizontal rows of 10) which were manufactured by the printers from the original dies by way of electrotyping. The counter plates were made of a soft material, probably cardboard. The stamps were spaced rather wide apart between 2mm. to 3½mm., horizontally as well as vertically. The stamps as well as the seals on envelopes and money order cards were *printed singly* with single die and counter die, on the city envelopes and on the early printings of the receipts until 1856, handstamped from single dies. From 1856, copper clichés, obtained by stereotyping from the die of the handstamp for the receipt stamps, were inserted in the printing forms of the receipts and printed with them. The settings for the text of the money order cards and of the receipts consisted of several units each—those of the money order cards probably of 8 or 16 units—each type-set separately, so that they exist in a number of types. The settings were renewed several times and also more or less conspicuous changes were made in the type-set text, which are recognized by specialists as types or even separate issues. The year date on the receipts was changed after the passing of each decade, the first ones had "183.", later ones consequently "184.", "185." and "186.", but forms with "18." also exist.

No major *plate varieties* exist of the post-

age stamps. Plate flaws, which exist for several values, although partly constant, are of little significance. It is interesting that the plate flaws which exist on the 1852 issue have not been found on the 1853 and later issues, and vice versa. Of the overprint of the 1855 envelopes, several "errors" are reported in the literature, but we have not seen them, namely POST-COUVERT twice, on the 2sg and 3sg, and DRIE instead of DREI on the 3sg. On the money order cards, setting errors "Nechnung" instead of "Rechnung" and inverted "v" in the text on the face are reported.

All postage stamps were *printed* by the Printing Works of Meyer Brothers, from 1853 Joh. Heinrich Meyer, at Brunswick, on letter presses. The envelopes were all printed by the Prussian State Printing Works at Berlin. The forms of the money order cards and later the receipts were printed by Meyer but the stamps on the money order cards were applied by the Prussian State Printing Works at Berlin, where the forms were sent for this purpose. The handstamps on the city envelopes and probably also on the early receipts were applied at the Brunswick city main post office. There exist no major printing varieties of the postage stamps except of the 3sg rose of 1862, which is reported in a copy with double print, the second print somewhat weaker than the other. Several envelopes as well as money order cards are reported with stamps in colorless embossing; of the latter, copies are also known regularly used. Of the money order cards errors are known without stamp, with inverted stamp at bottom left, with stamp on the back and with two stamps. They are probably all printers waste, which was sold with the remainders. The 3sg envelope is reported with double—four lines—overprint; several envelopes are also reported with double seal. The postage stamps were rather unevenly printed which is most obvious on the 1852 issue, which comes in fine and clear printings, which are appreciated by connoisseurs, as well as in more or less blurred printings. For this varied appearance the quality of the make-ready used was mainly responsible. Later the wear of some clichés became noticeable and real fine prints can no longer be found on the 1sg, 2sg and 3sg stamps, while the first printings of the new values, especially of the ½sg, partly produced remarkably fine prints. The

embossing of the 1865 issue is usually more or less flat. In contrast thereto, the envelope and money order stamps, which were printed singly, show rather sharp embossing.

The paper of the 1852 issue was machine-made, white to yellowish white, without watermark. From March 1853, Brunswick started to print its stamps on watermarked hand-made paper and at the same time to change from colored printing on white paper to black print on colored paper, a combination which at that time was favored by all its neighbor countries and most other Old German States. The change was induced by reports—the first one as early as March 1852—that postal forgeries were manufactured to defraud the post office—no such postal forgeries are actually known—and the watermark combined with the colored papers should provide better protection. The change was nevertheless considered of so little importance that it was not announced and not even the post offices were notified. The first stamps of this new issue are known of middle of April, 1853. For the 1sg a buff, for the 2sg a blue and for the 3sg a rose paper was chosen. The new values of  $\frac{1}{4}$ gg and  $\frac{1}{2}$ sg of 1856 were printed on brown and white paper respectively. When in 1857 the  $\frac{1}{4}$ gg was replaced by a 4/4gg stamp, the brown paper was taken over by the latter. The new  $\frac{1}{2}$ g value of 1863 was printed on green paper. In 1861—the earliest dated copies are of April—the color of the paper of the 1sg was changed to yellow, because the stock of the previous paper had been exhausted and a new delivery contained only paper in this changed color. No announcement of this change was made. As early as 1862, a move in the other direction started and the 3sg, in 1864 also the 1sg, were again printed in color on white paper, rose and yellow respectively. Again no announcement was made and the post offices not notified of the change. The first known copies of the 3sg are of September 1862 and of the 1sg of July 1864; the latter was the first stamp issued rouletted. The 1865 issue, which followed and for which again unwatermarked white machine-made paper was used, was also printed in colors. While the white papers, used for the first and last issue, were of good quality and even thickness, the colored papers were partly of inferior quality and varied considerably in thickness, from very thin, almost pelure paper, to very

thick paper up to 0.13mm. in thickness. The watermark of the colored papers and the white paper of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ sg, which were manufactured by the paper mill of Ferdinand Flinsch at Leipzig, covered the printed part of each sheet completely. It consisted of horizontal and vertical lines which formed 120 boxes in the size of single stamps, with a posthorn in the center of each box. The posthorns, individually manufactured of wire, show small differences in size and form. Normally, each of the 120 stamps of the sheet had one such posthorn as watermark, but due to inaccurate registry, the watermark sometimes comes more or less shifted, even with parts of two or four watermarks on the same stamp. This latter occurrence is a regular one for the 4/4gg stamp of 1857 because this stamp was of another size and was printed in sheets of 100 and the watermark, therefore, did not fit. Margin stamps sometimes show only part of a watermark but we have never seen stamps entirely without watermark, except quarters of the 4/4gg. In some cases, especially on thick paper, the watermark is rather indistinct and this may have led to reports of stamps without watermark. The regular position of the watermark was with the mouth piece of the posthorn to the right, if observed on the stamps from the back. Only one case is known, where another position was used for a large number of sheets, namely for the first printings of the 1sg on buff, which had the posthorn with the mouth piece to the left. This reversed position occasionally comes also on other values and is then scarce; it is known on later printings of the 1sg on buff and on the 2sg of 1853. With inverted watermark, which is rare to very rare, we know the 2sg of 1853, 4/4gg of 1857 and 3sg of 1862. The colored papers come in a number of shades, especially the 1sg, which was first pale buff, later became more or less distinctly brownish yellow and brownish orange, with a number of intermediate shades, partly due to later accidental changes by chemical influence. The yellow paper of the 1sg comes lighter and darker, sometimes with a greenish tint. The blue paper of the 2sg can be found in lighter and darker shades, with a rather distinct light blue variety, which is scarcer. The rose paper of the 3sg tended to fading, almost to white; stamps in distinct rose color are sought for by connoisseurs. The green paper



of the 1/2g is rather sensitive and changes under the influence of chemicals easily to bluish and yellowish shades, so that it cannot be determined if there were any shades from the outset. The brown paper of the 1/4gg and 4/4gg was of rather inferior quality and frequently shows foreign matter in its texture. It can be found in distinctly light brown shades with a yellowish tint which is scarcer. The paper of the envelopes was always machine-made and white to yellowish white, without watermark. The money order cards were printed on card of various thickness, rose for the 1g and light blue for the 2g, with considerably lighter and darker shades. The official money order cards were on white. The postal receipts were first on buff, bluish white to blue gray and gray, later, from 1856, light buff to yellowish white and white. Their paper is also known with a papermaker's watermark. The city envelopes come on all kinds of paper without any system, as these envelopes were provided by the public.

The printing color of a great number of Brunswick stamps was black, with little variation to grayish shades. Of the postage stamps in colored printing, the 1852 issue shows only very slight shades, of which the brighter ones are sought because they are much more attractive than the usual pale ones. The 3sg of 1862 also usually comes in rather pale rose shades and bright carmine rose shades which come less frequently are more popular. The 1sg of 1864 comes in brownish and olive shades but most of them seem to be the result of accidental chemical influence. The colors of the 1865 issue, which were chosen in accordance with the color scheme of the German-Austrian Postal Union, show greater variety, the 1g from pale rose to a rather bright carmine rose, the 2g from a pale blue to blue and ultramarine, and the 3g from pale brown to dark brown. The stamps on postal stationery were always printed in colors. For the 1855 issue of the envelopes, colors similar to those of the paper of the contemporary adhesives were chosen, namely yellow orange for the 1sg, blue for the 2sg and rose for the 3sg. All come in slightly lighter and darker shades, the 2sg first in blue, from 1862—concurrently with the color change for the Prussia stamps and envelopes—in ultramarine, the 3sg from pale rose to rose carmine. The overprint on these envelopes

was usually in a Prussian blue shade, in some cases lilac blue and, on the 2sg, also ultramarine. On the 1865 issue of envelopes and money order cards, which also conformed to the color scheme of the German-Austrian Postal Union, the 1g was light rose to carmine rose, the 2g ultramarine and the 3g light brown, with a few shades; the overprint on these envelopes was in Prussian blue. The text of the money order forms was printed in black. The stamps on the city envelopes were handstamped in brick red, with rather strong shades towards dark red, even with a blackish tint. The stamps on the postal receipts were also first handstamped in brick red on the forms which were printed in black or red on the letter press. From 1856, the stamps were letterpress printed together with the forms, in pale carmine to brick red.

The gum used for the Brunswick stamps and envelopes was a vegetable glue, applied with brushes by hand. On the postage stamps of 1852 it was rose to bright red and brownish rose. On the 1853 and later issues the gum was yellowish until about 1862, from then on colorless, sometimes slightly brownish. The envelopes had first "short" gum (20 to 30mm.) on the upper flap, from 1863 "long" gum (85 to 95mm.), a change started by Prussia on its envelopes one year earlier.

All Brunswick stamps until 1864 were *imperforate* and separated usually by means of a pair of scissors. In August 1863, probably influenced by the use of rouletted stamps by Bremen, experiments for *rouletting* of stamps started for which in September 1863 a number of sheets of the 1sg black on yellow and the 3sg rose were used. For these trials two rouletting devices of brass lines were used, applying a roulette of short dashes. One of these devices provided a roulette 17, requiring two operations for each sheet, first applying the rouletting in one direction and then in the other. The other device, providing a roulette 12, rouletted a sheet in a single operation. The result of these trials was that the sheets of the new 1sg yellow, about to be issued, were rouletted 12 with the second device and were issued in July 1864. In the meantime, as the result of an inquiry answered by G. Hunkel, the printer of the Bremen stamps, trials with a wavy line roulette similar to the roulette used from 1861 for Bremen stamps, were started, for which several



Fig. 35

sheets, among them a few of  $\frac{1}{2}g$  black on green and  $1sg$  black on yellow, were used. The brass wavy lines used for this rouletting—which also required two operations, one for the vertical roulette and one for the horizontal—were broken up, by treating them with file and knife, into small segments of circles, which provided a wavy line roulette 16 (Fig. 35). As the regular roulette of the  $1sg$  yellow did not satisfy—the stamps were still cut with scissors, because the roulette was not suitable for easy separation—the definite order for rouletted stamps, given early in August 1864, called for the wavy lines roulette. Only four values,  $\frac{1}{3}sg$ ,  $1sg$  yellow,  $2sg$  and  $3sg$  rose, were issued in larger quantities with this roulette, beginning late in August 1864. At the same time, so it seems, the sheets with trial rouletting were also delivered to the post offices and sold with the regular stamps. Therefore, aside from the regularly issued stamps— $1sg$  yellow, roulette 12, and  $\frac{1}{3}sg$ ,  $1sg$  yellow,  $2sg$  and  $3sg$  rose, wavy lines roulette 16—also five trial roulettes— $1sg$  black on yellow and  $3sg$  rose, both roulette 17,  $3sg$ , roulette 12, as well as  $1sg$  black on yellow and  $\frac{1}{2}g$ , both wavy line roulette 16—are known regularly used, but they are rare to very rare, because only a few sheets of each—except of the  $\frac{1}{2}g$  of which the quantity must have been somewhat larger—were made. The 1865 issue was issued rouletted only. The same wavy lines roulette was used for that issue, but now a rouletting form was assembled and the sheets rouletted in one single operation. The vertical roulettes run through, the horizontal ones are broken up in pieces of the length of a stamp. The rouletting was generally done from the face of the sheets, but exceptions are known in which it was applied from the back. The trial roulette 17 was usually applied to the back of the sheets. The position of the wavy lines is characteristic for the 1864 roulettes; all combinations, possible by the four positions in which the sheets were rouletted, exist. Usually the crests of the waves are

directed vertically to the left and horizontally to the bottom, the opposite combination, vertically to the right and horizontally to the top, is scarcer; the two other possibilities—to the left and to the top, as well as to the right and to the bottom—can be found only occasionally. Irregular positions, for example with the wave crests to the left on the left side of a stamp and to the right on the right side, or to the bottom on the top side and to the top on the bottom side, which can be also found occasionally, were caused by insertion of single rouletting lines in the wrong direction. Double roulette has been reported of the  $1sg$  yellow and the  $2sg$ . On the 1865 issue, which was always rouletted from the face, both possible combinations of the roulette can be found, usually as for the 1864 roulette vertically to the left and horizontally to the bottom, scarcer to the right and to the top. No irregular positions are known for this issue. All four values exist imperforate, which come from entirely or partly imperforate sheets found in the remainders; they are known unused only, except the  $1g$  of which one copy with Seesen cancellation is reported.

The sheets of all Brunswick stamps were issued to the post offices unseparated, but originally the stamps were sold to the public only in horizontal strips of 10. This regulation, which was abolished only by decree of Oct. 14, 1859, is responsible for the rarity of the early issues in vertical multiples. It also seems that the sheet margins were cut off or removed of all issued sheets because used copies with sheet margin are very rare and also come unused more frequently only of those stamps of which remainders existed.

All Brunswick stamps and envelopes were used up, except the last issue and the  $\frac{1}{2}g$  of 1863, the use of which ended with the discontinuation of the separate postal service of the country. When new stamps and envelopes were issued, the old stamps of the same denominations were not withdrawn and not demonetized, but remained valid, until all Brunswick stamps and stationery were demonetized on Dec. 31, 1867.

Only the first issues of postage stamps, envelopes and money order cards, as well as new values ( $\frac{1}{4}gg$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}sg$ ,  $\frac{4}{4}gg$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}g$ ) were issued on fixed dates, while change of color or separation and the new issue of 1865 were issued after the previous stamps or envel-

opes of the same face value had been used up. Therefore, *first day covers* can be collected only of the former while of the latter *earliest known dates of use* are sought by specialists. Of the receipts, when the fee was changed, the forms with stamps of the old fee were first used up before forms with stamps of the new fee were issued. The using up of replaced issues took quite a while, for example for the 1852 issue which we can find rather frequently used until 1854, less frequently in 1855 and as exception even in 1856 and 1857. Last day covers or cancellations, dated Dec. 31, 1867, can be found of all values of the 1865 postage stamps, envelopes and money order cards, the  $\frac{1}{2}g$  stamp of 1863, the city envelopes and the receipts.

When the separate Brunswick postal service ended on Dec. 31, 1867, there were left over large *remainders* of the 1865 issue of stamps, envelopes and money order cards, as well as smaller quantities of previous issues, especially the 2sg of 1853, imperforate and rouletted, the  $\frac{1}{2}g$  of 1863 (imperforate only), the  $\frac{4}{4}gg$  of 1857, and a small number of a few other older stamps and envelopes. The remainders of envelopes were almost entirely used up in 1868, when they were again issued, after pasting on 1g stamps of the North German Confederation. This operation was done at the State Printing Works at Berlin and a square overprint applied, tying the affixed stamp to the envelope to make removal obvious. About 200,000 Brunswick envelopes of the 1865 issue—only 500 of them the 3g in large size—were used up in this way; they were issued by the large post offices in Brunswick only, from early in November, 1868. The balance of envelopes, about 20,000, as well as the remainders of the postage stamps and money order cards were sold from 1868 on in small quantities to the public, especially to various stamp dealers at 1g a piece, until in 1876 the entire balance of remainders of stamps, envelopes and money order cards was purchased for 450 marks by a dealer, A. Beddig of Wolfenbüttel. The remainders included a large number of an *unissued stamp*, a  $\frac{4}{4}gg$  in the same design as the  $\frac{4}{4}gg$  of 1857 and obviously printed from the same settings, but yellow brown on white water-marked paper. It is claimed that these stamps were printed in error due to a misunderstood printing order, but no official

data concerning the actual history of this unissued stamp are known. While the 1865 issue unused is plentiful and even full sheets are rather easily available—except the  $\frac{1}{2}g$ , which is harder to get—of the other issues only the imperforate  $\frac{1}{2}g$  of 1863 and the  $\frac{4}{4}gg$  of 1857 are rather common in unused blocks and a number of full sheets were also preserved. They are easily found with original gum. Of the other values, only the imperforate 2sg of 1853 is found frequently unused and is available even in blocks, while the other values are scarce to rare and usually are without gum. All three values of the 1852 issue in mint condition are great rarities, as this issue was used up completely; also some of the rouletted values are very rare, especially the 1sg black on yellow, of which in both roulettes only a few mint copies are known, and the  $\frac{1}{2}g$ , of which no undoubtedly genuine unused copy is reported.

Except for those stamps of which remainders were sold, all Brunswick stamps are more common *used* than unused. The exceptions are especially the 1865 issue, which is considerably rarer used than unused, the  $\frac{4}{4}gg$  of 1857 and the  $\frac{1}{2}g$  of 1863. Used multiples are scarce to very rare of all Brunswick stamps, the most frequent being  $\frac{1}{2}sg$  and  $\frac{1}{4}gg$  of 1856, as well as  $\frac{4}{4}gg$  of 1857. Vertical pairs and strips of the early issues are considerably rarer than horizontal ones, but they are known of all values. Of some values multiples are scarcer than of others; for example, all 2sg multiples are comparatively much rarer than those of other values. There seem to be no used blocks known of the 1852 issue, of the 2sg not even a larger multiple than a pair. Of the 1853 issue, the 3sg is the most frequent in used multiples and blocks, while the 2sg is rare, but strips of 5 and a block of 10 are known; of the 1sg strips of three seem to be the largest known used multiples. Of the  $\frac{1}{4}gg$  of 1856, used strips and blocks are the least rare (Fig. 36)—a used block of 13 is reported as the largest multiple—while of the  $\frac{1}{2}sg$  only strips of 3, used for 1sg, are frequent. Of the  $\frac{4}{4}gg$  of 1857 used blocks are not rare, the largest known seems to be a block of 10. Of the 1sg on yellow of 1861, used strips are rare and blocks very rare, but a block of six is known. Used strips of the 3sg rose of 1862 are also rare, but blocks, up to a block of 10 are known.



Fig. 36

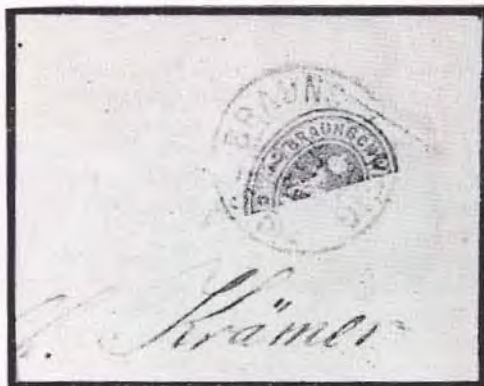


Fig. 39

The  $\frac{1}{2}g$  is rather frequently found in used pairs, as 1g rate. Used strips and blocks are also known but are rare. Of the rouletted stamps of 1864, no used blocks seem to exist, but pairs are known of all and strips of 3 of most of them. The 1865 issue comes in used pairs and strips rather frequently, but blocks are very rare.

Among the *envelopes*, there are some real rarities, namely of the large size envelopes of 1855, the 1sg with short gum, unused, and the 3sg with long gum, unused and used. Only 1,500 copies were printed of the latter. Of the large size envelopes of 1865, the used ones are rare and the 3g is a great rarity. Generally, the envelopes of the 1855 issue with short gum are scarcer unused than used, while those with long gum are of about equal rarity unused or used. Of the 1865 issue, the small size envelopes are about of the same value unused and used; the large size is much scarcer used than unused. The *money order cards* are all rather common, unused and used, because the used forms which had been retained by the postal administration, were sold in 1872 and thereafter. The *city envelopes* are many times rarer used than unused, but this may partly be due to the fact that many reprints are sold unknowingly as originals. The *postal receipts* come almost exclusively used, unused copies with handstamped or typographed stamp being rare.

There are no real cover rarities among the Brunswick stamps, because none are considerably rarer *on entires* than off cover. Several values are scarcer in single frankings, especially all  $\frac{1}{3}sg$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}g$  and  $\frac{1}{4}gg$  stamps. The rouletted stamps are much more valuable on entires, not because they are much rarer on such, but because only stamps

in untampered condition in their original state on entire give full security in regard to the genuineness of the roulette. Multiple frankings are not very frequent, except for the  $\frac{1}{3}sg$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}g$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}g$  and  $\frac{1}{4}gg$  values, which were often used to make up higher rates. Especially of the  $\frac{1}{4}gg$  of 1856, large frankings exist, for which in part the back of the letters was used, and this was expressly permitted by the decree which announced the introduction of this stamp. Combination frankings of two or more different values are also not plentiful, while mixed frankings between the different issues, especially 1852 and 1853-57, as well as 1864 and 1865 are decidedly scarce. A special case are the various frankings for which the  $\frac{4}{4}gg$  of 1857 was used. One quarter paid the local letter rate and the delivery fee, two quarters paid the letter fee up to 5 mi., the rural delivery fee as well as the receipt fee—the latter usually on receipts, but also on the back of money letter or letters joined to parcels—three quarters paid the letter fee from 5 mi. up to 10 mi. and four quarters the letter fee over 10 mi. From three quarters up, the division was frequently made in such a way that the quarters of two or more stamps were used to obtain strips of 3, 4, 5 and more quarters. After the face value of this stamp was reduced on Nov. 1, 1859, in the new currency from  $12\frac{1}{2}pf$  to 12pf, there were very interesting possibilities of its use. The use of five quarters for the  $1\frac{1}{2}g$  (= 15pf) fee was ordered on Dec. 16, 1862, for all letters requiring this fee and accepted at the post offices against payment of the postage in cash, to help to use up the remainders. Of the other fractional frankings, the single quarter frankings are the scarcest.

Of special interest are all *frankings* of letters to foreign countries with the stamps for domestic mail ( $\frac{1}{4}$ gg and  $\frac{4}{4}$ gg), and vice versa of domestic letters with stamps for foreign mail ( $\frac{1}{3}$ sg, 1sg, 2sg, 3sg). In many cases, such frankings either constituted an overpayment or an underpayment; in the latter case the deficiency plus 1sg was collected as postage due from the addressee. Mixed frankings between stamps in gute groschen and silbergroschen currency, which are scarce, are appreciated by connoisseurs. Additional frankings on envelopes or money order cards, for postage or delivery fee, are rather frequent but are often quite attractive.

A special case was the payment of the *delivery fee* of  $\frac{1}{4}$ gg (3gpf), which from March 1, 1856, could be paid by the sender in stamps, by affixing a  $\frac{1}{4}$ gg stamp in addition to the postage on the letter or money order card. Payment by the addressee was also permitted and regularly collected in cash. But in some cases, post offices used the  $\frac{1}{4}$ gg stamps also for collecting the delivery fee from the addressee, by affixing and cancelling such stamps on the back of arriving letters and collecting the amount from the addressee. In these cases, the  $\frac{1}{4}$ gg stamps were used as postage dues, being one of the earliest known cases of provisional use of regular postage stamps for collecting postage due.

Brunswick stamps were not only used for franking purposes but also for other *postal fees* and *fees on telegrams* and other items handled by the postal service. Such use for accounting of postal fees has erroneously been called "fiscal use" by some authors. It can be found especially on receipts, where the fee was often paid by two  $\frac{1}{4}$ gg stamps or two quarters of the  $\frac{4}{4}$ gg or a  $\frac{1}{2}$ g. The stamps used in this way are usually cancelled.

Quite a number of *emergency frankings* have been recorded of Brunswick, part of them obviously not only tolerated by the postal authorities, but in all probability created by the postmasters themselves. The use of *bisected stamps* seems to have been to a large extent the result of shortages of needed values, especially the 1sg and 1g values. Therefore, most bisects concern the 2sg and 2g values, which are known bisected of all issues (1852, 1853, 1864 and 1865). The bisecting was usually done diagonally,



Fig. 37

as exception vertically and, still more unusual, horizontally. The bisect of the 2sg of 1852, which is attached to a full 2sg stamp for the 3sg rate and which is unique, is vertical (Fig. 37). The 2sg of 1853 is known from a dozen places, the rouletted 2sg of 1864 is much rarer and the 2g of 1865 (Fig. 38) the rarest. The 2sg of 1853 is known either singly used for the 1sg rate or, far rarer, with a full 2sg for the 3sg rate. The 1sg and 1g values of the issues 1853, 1861 and 1865 are also known bisected either for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ sg or  $\frac{1}{2}$ g letter rate or rural delivery fee or—the 1853 and 1861 stamps only—also with a full stamp for the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ g rate. All 1sg bisects are much rarer than the contemporary 2sg bisects, the 1g bisect of the 1865 issue seems to be unique. Two-thirds of a 3sg 1852 are also known on piece of cover, but it cannot be ascertained if it was actually used for 2sg postage or is simply a 3sg stamp used in mutilated condition. It seems that no regulation forbidding the use of bisects existed and it is, therefore, surprising that bisecting was not used more often and all bisects are rare to very rare.

Another kind of emergency franking was the use of *envelope cut squares* for postage, although some such use may have been due to ignorance or even to fraudulent intent. The use of cut squares for postage must have been tolerated at first, but it is nevertheless very rare. The further use was expressly prohibited by a regulation of Sept. 16, 1858, which abolished the cancellation of the envelope stamps and, therefore, increased the danger of fraudulent use of cut squares. Cut squares of the 1sg and 2sg envelopes of 1855 are known used for postage, in a few cases only. The use of *cut squares of the receipt stamps*— $\frac{1}{2}$ gg, 6pf and 5pf—on letters was not an emergency measure, but should show payment of the receipt fee by the sender or, on official letters, give notice that the receipt fee should be collected from the addressee. But it seems that the receipt stamp cut squares in a few cases were also

used for payment of the delivery fee on rural mail or money letters. They can usually be found on the back of letters, but their use is rare.

Another interesting *provisional* exists of the *receipts*, which was a result of the change of the fee for receipts from 6pf to 5pf on Jan. 1, 1863. As a rather large quantity of 6pf receipts was available, they were continued in use but accounted for 5pf only. In most cases the post offices changed the figure "6" of the stamp in manuscript into a "5". Both kinds of receipts, without and with "Deutscher Postverein", were used for such "home-made" provisionals.

(To be continued)

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

● *The next issue* of the *MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL* is scheduled for *September, 1953*.

● *Nos. 2 and 15* of the *MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL* are completely *sold out* and these issues are requested to complete volumes. We would appreciate return of any copies which are not needed or are surplus.

● *Our Office* again will *remain open this summer on a five-day basis*. From June 29 until Labor Day, *business hours* will be from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. Beginning June 1, and until Labor Day, our office will be *closed on all Saturdays*.

● *Ex-King Carol of Romania*, who died in April 1953, was an ambitious stamp collector. His collection of Romania was one of the most valuable ones and included a number of unique items. When the collection was shown in the Court of Honor of the London International Philatelic Exhibition 1950, Carol was a steady visitor of the show, where he could be seen every day, inspecting the exhibits or discussing philatelic problems with other philatelists.

● *At Venice, Italy*, big philatelic events are taking place. A *European Philatelic Exhibition* is held from May 7 to 17, 1953, and in connection with it an *International Stamp Dealer's Bourse*. At the same time, several other *International Philatelic Congresses* are scheduled, namely of philatelic experts, philatelic writers and editors of philatelic catalogs. Of more local interest are the 28th Italian Philatelic Congress and an exhibition of a design competition for new Italian postage stamps.

● *An International Philatelic Exhibition* will be held under the name *IFABRA* (Internationale Frankfurter Briefmarken-Ausstellung) from *July 29 to August 3, 1953*, at *Frankfurt am Main*. The exhibition, which is the first large philatelic exhibition in post-war Germany, is organized by the National Federation of German Stamp Clubs and recognized by the *Fédération Internationale de Philatélie*.

● *An International Philatelic Exhibition* is scheduled for *1954* in *Sao Paulo (Brazil)*, in connection with the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the city.

● *Topical collecting* has in some respects proven an effective medium for propagating philately. Articles on the subject-matter in the designs of stamps seem to appeal to those who like to consider stamp collecting a playful pastime rather than a serious hobby. Such articles, written by topical collectors, have been published in many non-philatelic magazines and in this way have drawn attention of non-philatelists to stamp collecting. A recent article in "The Sunray News", published by the Sunray Oil Corporation of Tulsa, Oklahoma, "You can now own Private Oil Wells on postage stamps", is a fine example of an article which may induce some oil man to get interested in stamp collecting.

● *The "Ballons Montés" Book* by *J. Le Pileur*, which has been the best guide for the collectors of Balloon Mail from Paris 1870-71, is scheduled to be published in a *new, greatly enlarged edition*, which will contain numerous new research and also a catalog with prices compiled by the leading experts in the field. The new book will be published by *J. Robineau* (20, Rue Drouot, Paris), but only if sufficient subscriptions are secured in advance to cover the costs.

## the philatelic AUCTIONEER

● *Our Special Auction Sale* of the collection of *Imperforate European Classics*, formed by *Dr. Otto Hopfinger* of New York City, on March 19, 1953, brought remarkable prices. Almost fifty collectors or their agents were bidding on the floor and mail bidders from 24 countries, in Europe, Latin America and Africa, participated. The sale proved that outstanding material always

that they will have a hard time selling even these few copies and they want to reduce the manufacturing costs as much as possible. Frequently, the author chips in and contributes not only his work free of charge but also pays part of the costs to induce a publisher to print the book. It is not surprising that under such conditions the crop of independently published philatelic books is extremely small. If the yearly output were not supplemented by articles which are first published as serials in philatelic magazines and then republished as brochures—they account for at least 90% of all philatelic books published in recent years—it is obvious how poor our hobby would really

be in respect to new philatelic books. There are philatelic organizations in many fields, to sponsor exhibitions, congresses, etc., but there is no active body which has as its main objective the creation of a fund to be used for the publication of worthwhile philatelic books. Such a fund, built up by membership fees, gifts and bequests, could do a great deal of good for philately. Would it not be a fitting tribute to the genius of a man, who has done so much for philatelic writing, to call such a fund "Dr. Herbert Munk Fund"? Such a venture could initiate the resurrection of philatelic book publishing and provide philately with good and useful publications for the benefit of all.

## EUROPEAN CLASSICS

### IX. BRUNSWICK\*

The first *postmarks* on Brunswick territory were introduced by the Thurn & Taxis mail service, the "Reichspost", in Brunswick City. The first such postmark, a straight line BRAUNSCHWEIG, without date indication, the "B" larger than the other letters, is known from 1784. The use of this postmark ceased with the closing of the Thurn & Taxis post office in 1790. For a number of years, no postmarks were used in Brunswick. Only in 1797, the first postmark of the "Landespost" appeared in Brunswick City, a straight line BRAUNSCHWEIG, with all letters of the same height. It is known used until 1805. From 1804, another straight line postmark, "DE BRUNSVIG", is known. It may have been a postmark of the "Landespost" for foreign mail, but possibly was an origin marking used by a foreign postal administration for letters originating in Brunswick. The French occupation curiously enough produced no postmarks with French town names, but the "Landespost", which was taken over by the postal administration of the Kingdom of Westphalia, started to introduce postmarks with the German town names in 1808, first in the capital only, and from 1809 also at the other post offices. They were again straight lines without date, all letters of the same size. Some of them seem to have been assembled from type, which accounts for the great variety in size and

spacing. Most of these postmarks were in Roman capitals; only one was in italics—the Braunschweig postmark of 1808—and one in script letters. The French influence nevertheless was noticeable in the additional markings, "FRANCO", "DEBOURSE", and "CHARGE". Several towns used straight line postmarks, which had "FRANCO" in one line and below it the town name.

The first postmarks which included the *date* were introduced at Brunswick City in 1819 and at Wolfenbüttel in 1823. The former was a large single circle of unusual design with the date in the center, but the town name and a rosette (at the bottom) outside the circle. The latter was a rectangle, with the town name and date. In 1830, all post offices were ordered to add the date to their postmarks. A number of post offices obtained new postmarks, with the town name curved and the date in the center of the curve; Brunswick City used such a postmark from 1828. Most post offices did not obtain new postmarks but added the date in manuscript to their straight line postmarks. During the period in which the Brunswick postal service was administered by Hanover (1835 to 1842) a number of double circle and single circle postmarks similar to the contemporary Hanover postmarks were created, with space for the date in the center, which usually was inserted in manuscript. A few fancy types such as the box of Gandersheim, which had an annex with the date at the bottom, and the oval Holzminden, with the date in a separate

\* Concluded from page 38.

oval included at the bottom (Fig. 37), were also introduced during the same period. In 1842, Brunswick City started to add the *hour* of the day to its postmarks. A small oval, indicating the hour, was introduced and from then on added regularly to the curved and sometimes also to the dated straight line Brunswick postmarks. There existed 27 different markings of this kind, each for a different half-hour period between 6½ A.M. and 8 P.M., for example "10½-11". The periods from "6½-7", "7-7½" and "7½-8" which occurred twice during that period, in the morning and in the evening, were distinguished by "M" (Morgens) for the A.M. and "A" (Abends) for the P.M. hours. A few years later, in 1846, the larger post offices introduced postmarks which also included the hour. They were double circles of various sizes, 25 to 30mm. in diameter, rather similar to the contemporary Hanover postmarks, which had the date in the center and the hour, for example "2½-3", at the bottom. They were the last new type introduced during the pre-stamp period.

There were a rather large number of *additional markings*, such as "FREI" or "FRANCO" for paid letters, the latter probably on foreign mail only, "CHARGE" and later "RECOMMANDIRT" for registered mail, "Nach Abschluss der Post" or "Nach 8 U. Abds." as "Too Late" markings, and several others. During the Cholera epidemic of 1831, disinfected letters were hand-stamped "H.B. Sanitäts/Stempel".

*Arrival markings* are known from as early as 1813, used only at Brunswick City; they were the earliest such markings used on German soil. From 1839, Wolfenbüttel also used arrival markings. They were first of varying design, with the date only, without town name, then double or single circles with "AUSGABE" and number, with or without date.

Until 1850, *black ink* was used exclusively for all postmarks, except the DE BRUNSVIG postmark of 1804 which is also known in red. From 1850 on, *blue ink* was introduced, but black ink continued to be used occasionally. For some additional markings, especially the registration markings, red ink was also used.

The Hanover postal agency at Bodenbug on Brunswick soil which functioned from 1835 to 1850—its official name was "Köni-

glich Hannoversche Post-Collection"—seems to have had no postmark, as only manuscript markings are known. It was closed before stamps were introduced at the Hanover post offices.

No postmarks have been identified as having been used by the Brunswick post offices at Goslar, Hamburg and Oebisfelde, which operated during the pre-stamp period.

When postage stamps were introduced on Jan. 1, 1852, the existing town postmarks were also used as *cancellers*. Therefore, we can now find many of the curved lines, double and single circles, as well as the fancy types of Gandersheim and Holzmin-den used as cancellers. The small "hour" postmarks of Brunswick City can be also found not infrequently used as cancellers. From 1853, a new type of postmark, obviously influenced by the contemporary Prussian postmarks, was introduced and used henceforth as cancellers, rectangles with the town name, the date and hour, with a star between, in a second line. A few such postmarks without hour, or with "Nachm." or "V.M." instead, also existed. A decree of April 17, 1856, ordered the introduction of *special cancellers*, a move also obviously influenced by the practice in neighboring countries. They were squares formed of 16 diagonal bars, with a number in the center (Fig. 36). The post offices were numbered alphabetically, from Badenhausen to Zorge, and each post office obtained a canceller with the appropriate number, 1 to 48. Only one additional number, 49, was used for a newly opened post office in 1857; otherwise, the numbers of closed post offices were sufficient for assignment to the few new post offices. The last such assignment was made in 1865. Several post offices in railroad stations, which were opened in 1866 and later, did not obtain numeral cancellers of their own. It seems that in such cases the numeral canceller was transferred from the post office in the town to that in the railroad station and the stamps on the letters collected by both post offices were cancelled there. The only two post offices, which were opened after 1865 in towns where no other post office existed, also obtained no numeral cancellers. They were Bisperode (opened July 1, 1867) and Lesse (opened Oct. 1, 1867); only town postmarks are known from both of them. Two numbers, "9" and "36", exist in two distinct types due to renewal of worn



cancellers; therefore, there exist 51 different numeral cancellers, from 1 to 49; higher numbers have proved to be fakes. The special cancellers were stamped on the stamps and the town postmarks alongside of the stamps on the letters. But this regulation, which was in force until the end of the use of Brunswick stamps, was not strictly observed and rather frequently we can find, increasing in number in later year, cancellations with the town postmarks.

In 1859, the addition of the *year date* to the postmarks was ordered and in the following years a new type of postmarks, double circles with the town name at the top, the date with year in the center and the hour at the bottom was introduced at almost all post offices (Fig. 38). This was the last type of Brunswick postmarks; it was used by a majority of post offices when they were taken over by the postal administration of the North German Confederation.

Of *additional postmarks*, the use of "Franco", "Recommandirt" and "Too Late" markings was continued. A marking "Aus dem Briefkasten" can also be found. For the rural mail service, special double circles with LAND-POST-BOTE and a number in the center were introduced, but are rarely found. The special arrival postmarks were continued at Brunswick City, where new types included date and hour, as well as at Wolfenbüttel. As rarities, some of these additional markings can also be found accidentally used as cancellers on stamps of all issues.

The *ink* used for the town postmarks was generally blue, black postmarks are exceptions, although not very rare ones. This is understandable, because for the special numeral cancellers the use of black ink was regulation and mistakes were made rather frequently. For the same reason, the numeral cancellers can also be found in blue, but they are generally much scarcer in that color. Greenish shades, which can sometimes be found, are the result of the use of spoiled yellow varnish for the preparation of the blue ink. Red ink was only used for some additional markings, but a few town postmarks and even some numeral cancellers ("7", "25" and "45") are also known in red, all as rarities.

In regard to the *use* of the different types of postmarks as cancellers on the various issues of postage stamps, the 1852 issue

comes regularly with town cancellation in blue, as an exception in black. The rectangular boxes are scarce on this issue, because they were introduced only in 1853. All three values of this issue are known, in a few copies from late use, with the numeral cancellers; they are extremely rare. The issue of 1853 first came also only with town cancellations, in blue, much rarer in black, from the middle of 1856 with numeral cancellers in black, but also, considerably scarcer, in blue and, as rarities, in red. From then on, town postmarks come, although this was against the regulations, occasionally used as cancellers, in blue or black, but they are, except on the  $\frac{1}{2}g$  of 1863 and on the 1865 issue, where they are much less scarce, considerably rarer than numeral cancellations. Some values are really scarce with town cancellation, especially the  $\frac{1}{4}gg$  of 1856, the  $\frac{4}{4}gg$  of 1857 and the  $3g$  of 1862, others can be found more often. On the 1865 issue, we still find predominantly the numeral cancellers but town cancellations are generally much more frequent than on the previous issues. Mostly the double circles with year date can be found, while other types are scarcer, especially the rectangular boxes which were rarely used as cancellers on this issue. Manuscript crosses or lines were frequently added to insufficient regular cancellations and are usually of no special significance. But there are cases known where the manuscript cancellation was applied in precisely the manner provided by the regulations for envelope stamps, namely by a pen line through the figure of value. It seems that such manuscript cancellations were the result of a misunderstanding of the regulations by some postmasters and are, therefore, of particular interest. All such pen cancellations, as well as the few manuscript town markings, are scarce but are usually not appreciated by most collectors, except on letters. Foreign cancellations on Brunswick stamps are accidental, except those of the Prussian and Hanover travelling post offices on railroads passing through or near Brunswick territory. Such Prussian straight lines BERLIN MINDEN and MAGDEBURG LEIPZIG and Hanover straight lines HANNOVER CASSEL have been found on Brunswick stamps; they are rare.

The use of Brunswick town postmarks was continued after the postal service had been

taken over by the *North German Confederation*; the double circles with year date, as well as the much rarer rectangular boxes, can be found on the groschen stamps of the Confederation as well as the Prussia 10sg and 30sg stamps which were used up after 1867, first in blue, later in black. A number of these postmarks survived the North German Confederation and can be found on the stamps of the *German Empire*; the last ones are recorded as late as 1894. The numeral cancellers were officially withdrawn on Dec. 31, 1867, but a few small post offices continued to use them for a short period in 1868. They are known on the groschen stamps of the North German Confederation and—as rarities—on the Prussia 10sg and 30sg stamps.

For the *envelopes*, special cancelling regulations existed, which changed several times. First, when the envelopes were introduced in 1855, the regulations provided, that the stamp should be cancelled by a pen stroke and the postmark stamped alongside of it on the envelope. But after a short period this was changed and the regular postmarks were also to be used as cancellers for the envelope stamps. When the numeral cancellers were introduced in 1856, a new change took place; now the figures of value were to be crossed by ink strokes and the town postmark stamped on another place on the envelope. In September 1858, the cancellation of the envelope stamps was dispensed with entirely—at the same time the use of cut squares for postage was expressly forbidden—and from then on, the only postal cancellation of used envelopes was the town postmark on the envelope, alongside of the stamp. Finally, to make it impossible to use cut squares for postage, in May 1866, the cancellation of the envelope stamps with regular town postmarks was again ordered. It is not surprising that these frequent changes in the regulations led to many irregular cancellations of the envelope stamps, even with the numeral cancellers. Some post offices became especially confused when additional postage stamps were affixed to envelopes and we even can find manuscript town cancellations on such stamps. The money order card stamps were usually not cancelled at all, the town postmark being stamped on another place on the form. The city envelopes always show a postmark of Brunswick City, either the

curved postmark with the small additional hour marking, or the double circle with year date alongside of the "St.P.Fr." handstamp. The stamps on the postal receipts were not cancelled; the postmark usually was stamped on another place on the form.

There are a few known cases of the use of *precanceled stamps*, obviously following the example of several post offices in Hanover. The "39" numeral canceller of Seesen is known used on 1sg stamps of 1853 and 4/4gg stamps of 1857, to mark them in advance, before they were pasted on letters.

No official *reprints* were made of any Brunswick stamps or stationery, but a few original clichés fell into private hands and unauthorized reprints were made from them. They concern only the 1/2sg of 1856, 1g and 2g of 1865, as well as the city envelope. The private reprints of the postage stamps are on white unwatermarked paper, imperforate and un gummed. There also exist private reprints from several dies of proofs and essays, partly in designs similar to those of the issued stamps, for example, of the 1/2sg 1856 with period after "VIER" and of the 1g and 2g 1865 with a little ornament below the leaping horse. Of the handstamp for the city envelopes, numerous private reprints were made on all kinds of pieces of paper but supposedly never on full envelopes. It is claimed that the Brunswick City main post office even before 1868 supplied favor prints of the handstamp on pieces of paper to collectors and dealers who requested them as "souvenirs". If this was really the case, it would seem to be impossible to distinguish between such favor prints and cut squares of original envelopes. The reprint cut squares are generally more neatly printed than the originals and are always light brick red. According to reports in the contemporary philatelic press, all clichés and dies used for the reprints were given in 1893 to the Berlin Reichspostmuseum, but this statement has been challenged, at least as far as the handstamp for the city envelopes is concerned.

Of almost all Brunswick stamps exist *forgeries*, many of them made by Fournier-Geneva and rather easy to spot. Dangerous imitations are known of all three values of the 1852 issue and of the 1/2g of 1863. Forgeries of the handstamp of the city envelopes, of which only one genuine type existed, are found rather frequently. Some fancy

varieties of the envelopes are suspected to be the product of the famous forger Fouré of Berlin, who is claimed to have had access to the original dies of the envelopes, but no positive statement in this respect is possible. Of the fakes, which are rather numerous, three main groups can be distinguished. The most dangerous are faked roulettes of the 1864 issue which exist of all values except the 1sg yellow, which does not exist imperforate. Of course, the rare trial roulettes of all three kinds were the principal subjects of the fakers, but they did not bypass the cheaper values either. While it is in many cases extremely difficult even for the expert to give a valid opinion regarding the genuineness of the roulette, this task is made practically impossible by the fact that of the wavy line roulette two of the original brass wavy rules came into private possession and were misused for a great number of faked roulettes, which to a large extent practically cannot be distinguished from stamps rouletted in 1863 and 1864. It is reported that the brass wavy rules in question were later given to the Reichspostmuseum but the damage they had wrought in previous years has left its stigma on the rouletted Brunswick stamps. Conscientious experts for many years have refused to render an opinion concerning any rouletted Brunswick stamps, except when they are on piece or, better yet, on original cover in untampered condition, meaning in this case especially that they had never been soaked off the letter and subsequently replaced. Only in such case can an expert render a valid opinion, while in 99% of all other cases any opinion given is more or less of a guess. We strongly advise collectors to be very careful when acquiring rouletted Brunswick stamps of the 1864 issue. This is especially true for all used stamps off cover and still more so for unused copies, because of the trial roulettes only a few unused copies, if any, can have survived. We would not buy any of the rare roulettes, except on original cover in untampered condition and with the certificate of an expert committee. Such expertizing is very necessary, because stamps on pieces or covers were favored by the fakers, who soaked them off, applied a faked roulette and then reattached the stamp. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ g of 1863 is even known perforated 12, a separation which does not exist genuine. As a general rule, all rouletted stamps on pieces

or covers, which had been soaked off and re-attached, should be suspected as being faked, and the same cautious approach to all unused or used copies off cover of the rare rouletted stamps is also essential, because only a very small percentage of them may prove to be genuine, if such proof today is possible at all. Aside from this most deplorable chapter, the two other groups of fakes are practically of minor importance, although faked cancellations are rather dangerous. But they concern few values only, namely the  $\frac{4}{4}$ gg of 1857,  $\frac{1}{2}$ g of 1863, all four values of the 1865 issue and some of the large size envelopes, as well as the city envelopes. Caution in acquiring these items in used condition is advisable. Rare cancellations have also been faked, among them numeral cancellers with higher numbers than "49", for example "50" and "57" which do not exist genuine. In the reverse direction, of pen cancelled copies, especially of the 1852 issue, the cancellation has often been removed and a faked gum applied, to enable their sale as the rare unused copies; so the collector also has to be alert in this regard. The last group of fakes is of less general importance, because it concerns envelopes only, which were transformed by fakers from one variety into another—for example short gum into long gum or vice versa—or errors with double stamp or seal manufactured. All in all, the collectors of Brunswick stamps and envelopes have been quite harassed by the fakers, but this may provide just the challenge for some ambitious collector to enter the field. He will in any case have a hard time in separating the good from the bad.

The collector who starts to collect Brunswick stamps has to cope with 25 main numbers in the Scott Catalog of which four are trial roulettes. These he may leave alone, if, considering the statements concerning faked roulettes, he lacks the fortitude of coping with this problem. Including these four trial roulettes, singles of all Brunswick stamps, unused or used, the cheapest kind are priced at about \$1100; without these four items the prices add up to a little over \$300. Only eight stamps are priced unused cheaper than used and this accounts for the fact that the unused prices add up to more than \$3200, the used prices to roughly \$1200, but without the trial roulettes to \$1900 and \$375 respectively; the latter are therefore

certainly within the reach of a collector of moderate means. The most expensive unused stamp, priced at \$750, is not a trial roulette but the 1g of the 1852 issue, while the highest priced used stamp is a trial roulette, at a price of \$350, compared with \$75 for the most expensive regular used stamp. The lowest prices are 12c for unused and \$1.00 for used, both concerning the 1g of 1865. Among the postal stationery, there are a few rarities among the regular envelopes, but only one is rare unused as well as used, while the others are either considerably cheaper used than unused or vice versa. Compared with their relative rarity, the elusive items of the envelopes can usually be bought for very reasonable amounts when they come into the market, due to the much smaller demand than for equally rare adhesives.

In regard to *condition*, the imperforate issues were sufficiently widely spaced to be available with margins all around and there is not much difficulty to obtain full-margined copies. But the rouletted issues are a great problem for the condition-conscious collector. Most of the rouletted stamps—the 1864 issue almost exclusively—were not separated with the help of the roulette but people continued to cut them apart with scissors as they were accustomed to doing with the imperforate stamps. Therefore, the roulette is usually cut off on one or two sides and stamps which are cut in such a manner that the roulette has been preserved on all four sides are very rare exceptions (Fig. 35). In the few cases where the stamps were separated with the help of the roulette, the stamps, due to the unsuitable rouletting, are almost always torn and more or less defective. Stamps of the 1864 issue which have the roulette perfect on all four sides should be looked upon with great suspicion because the roulette has in all probability been faked. The collector who does not want to make concessions in regard to condition, had better forget the rouletted 1864 stamps but even of the 1865 issue he will not find it easy to obtain perfect copies in used condition.

The *philatelic literature* which deals with

Brunswick is not very extensive and is practically all in German. The monograph by Ludwig Berger "Die Postwertzeichen des Herzogthums Braunschweig" (1893) is still the most comprehensive source of information, although based only to a small extent upon the study of the files of the postal administration, which were destroyed as early as 1881. For the envelopes, Carl Lindenberg in his "Die Briefumschläge von Braunschweig" (1893) gives accurate and complete information, based on the files of the Prussian State Printing Works. A booklet by W. Herzog "Die Poststempel auf den Braunschweigischen Marken" deals completely with the postmarks and cancellations. A great number of articles concerning Brunswick in German philatelic magazines, especially by W. Schrader, provide additional information and describe some new discoveries. The Kohl Handbook on 14 pages and one page supplement did an excellent compilatory job and brought some system into the muddled story of the roulettes. The specialized Germany catalogs of Michel and Kricheldorf are useful, especially for the prices they give for the varieties. In English there exists no important literature about Brunswick; to date, not even the Kohl Handbook has been translated. A collector who does not read German will experience difficulty if he wants to specialize or do research work in the field. But Brunswick is a field which is not only attractive but also rewarding for its interesting frankings and cancellations. It is, with its two dozen stamps and only about 50 post offices, a rather small field and even the modest collector can achieve results in it. The lack of English literature is certainly a serious handicap and it is responsible for the great ignorance of many collectors so far as information concerning Brunswick stamps and stationery is concerned. Brunswick would be an almost ideal field for a collector of moderate means, if the roulettes did not spoil the fun. But the collector can easily disregard them—at least the expensive trial roulettes—and be well contented with the balance of the stamps and stationery.

(Next: X. Denmark)

If you want information not connected with business matters, please enclose a franked self-addressed envelope.