

## EUROPEAN CLASSICS

### XVIII. HANOVER

The Kingdom of *Hanover* — spelled Hanover in German — one of the Old German States and a member of the German Confederation, was situated in the northwest corner of Germany. It covered a territory of 14,800 square miles, with a population of 1,820,000 in 1852 and 1,940,000 in 1866. The country's borders were rather complicated because it was divided into three parts which were separated by the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg and the Free City of Bremen on the one hand and the Duchy of Brunswick on the other hand. The outside borders were to the north the North Sea, to the west the Netherlands, to the Southwest Prussia (Province of Westphalia), Schaumburg-Lippe and Lippe-Deimold, to the south Hesse and Prussia (Province of Saxony), to the east Prussia (Province of Brandenburg) and to the northeast the Elbe river, with Meeklenburg-Schwerin, Lauenburg, Hamburg (including Bergedorf) and Holstein on the opposite bank.— The *capital* was the city of Hanover (Hanover), which gave the country its name, derived from the German "Hohenufer" which means "high bank". It had almost 50,000 inhabitants in 1852 and 74,000 in 1866.

The early *History* of Hanover is merged with that of Brunswick — see page 25, volume III — and only in the 16th century was the nucleus of the later Hanover formed, when in 1512 the Guelph duchies of Calenberg and Göttingen were united; they passed in 1634 to the house of Brunswick-Lüneburg and in 1636, the city of Hanover became the capital. Duke Ernst of Calenberg became an elector (Churfürst) of the German Empire in 1692 and through marriage established a claim to the throne of Great Britain. In 1714, Duke Georg Ludwig under the name of George I became King of Great Britain and ruled both countries. From then on Hanover was governed by the Hanoverian Chancellery in London, but actually the king preferred Hanover as place of residence. Several small additions of territory were made but, during the Napoleonic wars, Hanover was a favored target of the French, who in this way wanted to hit at Great Britain. The country was occupied several times by the French and Prussians alternately. In

1807, the southern part was added to the kingdom of Westphalia and in 1810 the northern part was incorporated into the French Empire, where it was divided up and integrated into no less than six French départements, namely 123 (Ems Occidental), 124 (Ems Oriental), 128 (Bouches de l'Elbe), 129 (Bouches de Weser), 130 (Ems Superieur) and 131 (Lippe). After the liberation, the country became independent and was made a kingdom, with territorial gains. The personal union with Great Britain remained intact, the kings of Hanover being also kings of Great Britain. This lasted until 1837, when King William IV died without male heirs. By the laws of Hanover no woman could ascend the throne, therefore William's daughter became Queen Victoria of England, but in Hanover Ernst August, Duke of Cumberland, a son of George III, became king. Hanover had joined the German Confederation in 1815 and participated in the wars against Denmark in 1848 and 1864. A constitution was adopted in 1819, but two revolutions (1830 and 1848) were necessary to liberalize it and put it into effect. King Ernst August died in 1851 and was succeeded by his son, King Georg V. In 1866, Hanover joined Austria in the fight for the hegemony in Germany. Although victorious on the battlefield, the country had to capitulate after the defeat of Austria and was annexed by Prussia on Oct. 3, 1866, becoming a Prussian province.

The *Postal History* of Hanover is strongly interwoven with that of Brunswick. An organized postal service for private mail existed from 1682, when the first postal regulations were established. The postal service of the "Reichspost", conducted by the Thurn and Taxis family, frequently encroached on the postal rights of Hanover but only in 1748 were the first Thurn and Taxis post offices established on Hanover territory. They were for the foreign mail service, while the domestic service remained unchanged. At that time, it worked under the name "Königliche und Churfürstliche Post", but after the union with Great Britain, the name "Königliche Grossbritannische und Churfürstliche Braunschweig-Lüneburgsche Post" was adopted. In 1790, together with Brunswick, Hanover closed

the post offices of the Reichspost and took over all postal service. A "General Post-Directorium" was established in 1800. During the troublesome years of the Napoleonic wars, with their frequent changes of authority, the post offices were greatly affected, especially during the French occupation, when the postal service was reorganized along the lines of the postal service in France proper. Part of the post offices now belonged to the kingdom of Westphalia, part to various French departments. When the independent kingdom was established in 1815, a complete reorganization of the postal service took place; it now took the name of "Königlich Gross-britannisch-Hannoversche Post", which was changed in 1837, when the personal union with Great Britain was abolished, to "Königlich Hannoversche Post". Two kinds of postal establishments existed, post offices ("Postamt") and postal agencies ("Postspedition"), the latter under the supervision of the former. When postage stamps were introduced on December 1, 1850, there existed 23 post offices and about 190 postal agencies. While the number of post offices increased only by one, a number of new postal agencies were established and several closed in the following years, so that on Sept. 30, 1866 there were 24 post offices and about 230 postal agencies in Hanover. A rural mail service had been organized soon after 1815, but only in 1853 was it consolidated by the establishment of letter collecting agencies, of which until 1866 about 200 existed. At Hanover, a railroad post office was established, which supervised travelling post offices on the Hanover-Geestemünde, Hanover-Osnabrück-Emden, Hanover-Harburg and Hanover-Cassel railroads. From June 1, 1851, Hanover was a member of the German-Austrian Postal Union.

Hanover had a number of *post offices on foreign soil*. On Bremen territory, Hanover post offices existed at Bremen from 1677, at Bremerhaven from 1848 and at Vegesack from January 1, 1852. These post offices were closed on December 31, 1866, after they had been taken over by the Prussian mail service on July 23, 1866. On Hamburg territory Hanover post offices operated at Hamburg from 1684 and at Ritzebüttel from January 1, 1852. Both post offices were taken over on June 16,

1866 by the Prussian mail service and were consolidated with the Prussian post offices soon thereafter. There were also Hanover post offices at Lubeck and Bergedorf, but they were closed in 1845 and 1846 respectively, as well as in Bodenburg on Brunswick territory (closed in 1850) and Hagenburg on Lippe-Deimold territory (closed on September 30, 1859). Fieldpost offices existed during the Napoleonic wars as well as in 1848-49, 1858, 1864 and 1866.

There also existed a few *private mail services*, but they were of little importance. At Stade, the city council organized early in the 19th century a regular mail service to Hamburg, the "Stader Stadtbothen". They had several agencies at Hamburg and in addition to mail also carried passengers and freight. The service later was leased to the guild of ferryboat captains and about 1843 was taken over by the government. In the same period, a private mail service existed from Stade to Freiburg in Kehdingen, the "Kehdinger Landesbothen"; this functioned until the Sixties.

The Hanover *Currency* was the Thaler (th), which was divided into 24 Gutegroschen (gg); one Gutegroschen was in turn divided into 12 Gutepfennig (gpf). For the foreign mail service, the Thaler was divided into 30 Silbergroschen (sg), each equivalent to 12 Silberpfennig (spf). On October 1, 1858, the separate Hanover currency was abolished and the Silbergroschen currency was adopted, one Thaler now being 30 Groschen (g), one Groschen 10 Pfennig (pf). — The unit of *weight* was the Hanover Pound, equivalent to 467.7 grams. It was divided into 32 Hanover Loth, each equivalent to about 1½ ounce. From Oct. 1, 1858, there was introduced the German Pound, divided into 30 Loth. One German Loth was equivalent to 1⅓ Hanover Loth. *Distances* were measured in Hanover Miles, each equivalent to 7419 meters.

The only *Postal Stamps* which were introduced in Hanover were *Postage Stamps*, for the *domestic service* on December 1, 1850, for the *foreign service* on July 21, 1851. — Of *Postal Stationery, Envelopes* were introduced on April 15, 1857, both for domestic and foreign mail. *Money Order Cards* were introduced in August 1865. For *City Mail*, special *Letter Sheets* came into use on May 15, 1849 and *Envelopes* on December 16, 1850. The private mail services

did not use any stamps or stationery.

The *postal rates* were complicated by the fact that until September 30, 1858 the domestic rates were figured in Gutegroschen currency, while the foreign rates were established in Silber Groschen currency. Definite rates were introduced on October 1, 1850, just before the first adhesives were issued. In the *domestic service* — which included the Hanover post offices abroad — letters paid 1gg up to  $1\frac{1}{8}$  Han. loth, 2gg from  $1\frac{1}{8}$  up to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  Han. loth, 3gg from  $2\frac{1}{4}$  up to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  Han. loth and 4gg from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  up to 9 Han. loth. Letters over 9 Han. loth paid 1gg for each additional  $1\frac{1}{8}$  Han. loth. For samples, the same fees were charged, while for printed matter a reduced rate of  $\frac{1}{4}$ gg for each Han. loth was in force. The registration fee was 1gg, the fee for a return receipt also 1gg. The delivery fee was 2gpf. City mail paid only 3gpf without regard to weight and in 1853 a reduced rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$ gg (6gpf) was introduced, for local mail to and from the rural districts. When the change of currency took place on October 1, 1858, a completely new rate scale was introduced. Letters paid now 1g for each German loth. For samples a reduced rate was charged, namely 1g to 2 German loth, 2g to 4 German loth, 3g to 8 German loth, etc. Printed matter paid 3pf for each German loth. Registration and Return Receipt Fees now were 1g; for mailing receipts  $\frac{1}{2}$ g was charged. The Delivery Fee was 2pf, for registered letters 5pf. City mail paid 5pf regardless of weight, while for local mail 5pf for 1 German loth, and 1g above this weight were now charged. There were several small changes in the rates later on, of which only the reduction to 5pf for each 2 German loth for printed matter, which came into force in 1863, was of importance. For *foreign mail*, the rates of the German-Austrian Postal Union were introduced on June 1, 1851, to the countries of the Union. Letters paid for each loth  $\frac{1}{30}$ th (1sg) up to 10 miles,  $\frac{1}{15}$ th (2sg) up to 20 miles and  $\frac{1}{10}$ th (3sg) over 20 miles. Samples paid the same rates as letters, while printed matter cost  $\frac{1}{3}$ gg for each loth. Registration fee was  $\frac{1}{15}$ th. From October 1, 1858, the same rates remained in force, but were now figured in the new Groschen currency, which involved no change as one Groschen was equivalent to one Silber Groschen. The rates

to countries which were not members of the German-Austrian Postal Union varied greatly; they were rather complicated and often resulted in amounts involving one-half or even one-quarter Groschen.

The *denominations* of the Hanover stamps fit the existing rates. Therefore, separate stamps for domestic and foreign mail were used until September 30, 1858. For the domestic service, actually only one value, 1gg for the letter rate, was issued on December 1, 1850, to which a 1gg envelope was added on April 15, 1857. For the foreign service, stamps for the three letter rates,  $\frac{1}{30}$ th (1sg),  $\frac{1}{15}$ th (2sg) and  $\frac{1}{10}$ th (3sg) were issued on July 21, 1851 and envelopes in the same denominations on April 15, 1857. Only one other value was issued before the currency reform of October 1, 1858, namely a 3gpf ( $\frac{1}{3}$ sg) value for domestic and foreign printed matter. When the change of currency occurred, the 1gg value became obsolete and the stamps and envelopes originally issued for foreign mail ( $\frac{1}{30}$ th,  $\frac{1}{15}$ th,  $\frac{1}{10}$ th) now became valid for all kinds of mail, being sold for 1g, 2g and 3g, respectively. The 3gpf stamp was now sold for 3pf ( $\frac{3}{10}$ sg). On Feb. 15, 1859, definite stamps of 3pf, 1g, 2g and 3g, as well as, a few weeks earlier, envelopes of 1g, 2g and 3g in the new currency were issued. New values were added twice, on April 1, 1860, a  $\frac{1}{2}$ g, for the local mail service letter rate and as additional value for foreign mail, and on March 1, 1861, a 10g to facilitate payment of high rates on foreign mail. On December 1, 1863, the printed matter stamp appeared with corrected value indication, 3pf ( $\frac{3}{10}$ sg) instead of 3pf ( $\frac{1}{3}$ sg). When *money order cards* were issued in August 1865, two values were introduced, namely, 1g and 2g, to cover the fees for this service. The *city mail letter sheets* and envelopes were issued in the necessary denominations, 3pf on May 15, 1849, and 5pf on Nov. 4, 1858.

The fact that the two value indications on the 3pf stamp did not exactly conform to each other created a number of franking curiosities. The stamp issued on April 15, 1853 had the value indications 3(g)pf and  $\frac{1}{3}$ sg. But 3gpf was only  $\frac{1}{96}$ th, while  $\frac{1}{3}$ sg was  $\frac{1}{90}$ th. This difference became even greater, when from October 1, 1858, the 3gpf stamp was sold for 3pf, which was only  $\frac{1}{100}$ th. This led to rather serious shortages

in the postage when payment of other than printed matter rates was made with 3pf stamps. For example, the 1/30th rate could be paid with three 3pf stamps ( $3 \times \frac{1}{30}$ sg), for which the user actually had to pay 9gpf, which was only 1/32th. From October 1, 1858, three 3pf ( $\frac{1}{3}$ sg) stamps were accepted for the 1g (10pf) rate, so the post office obtained only 9pf instead of 10pf. This led eventually, on December 1, 1863, to a change in the inscription of the 3pf from  $\frac{1}{3}$ sg to 3/10sg, which prevented further exploitation of this discrepancy.

The first stamp, the 1gg for domestic mail, was sold by the post offices beginning November 30, 1850, although it became valid for postage only on December 1, 1850. No premature use is known.

The use of stamps commenced for domestic letter mail on December 1, 1850. But the use of stamps was not obligatory, postage could be paid in cash at the same rate either by the sender or by the addressee. On letters weighing 9 Han. loth or more, postage had to be paid in cash and use of stamps was not permitted. From October 1, 1858, the use of stamps became obligatory and the addressee was charged a 50% surtax on unpaid letters, but for letters weighing 15 loth or more payment of postage had to be made in cash. On foreign letter mail the use of stamps started on July 21, 1851 to the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union and was obligatory; for unpaid letters, the addressee had to pay a surtax of 1sg. To other foreign countries, use of stamps does not seem to have been compulsory and payment in cash continued to be permitted. For printed matter, the use of stamps started on April 15, 1853 and was obligatory; for unpaid printed matter the letter rate was charged to the addressee. For city mail, the city mail letter sheets or envelopes had to be used, which use was obligatory. On local mail, the use of stamps started only on April 1, 1860, as until then no  $\frac{1}{2}$ g stamp was available. The delivery fee generally was collected in cash, but the  $\frac{1}{2}$ g fee on receipts sometimes was paid in stamps.

The post offices received all stamps in full sheets of 120, but the sale to the public was to be made in strips, namely the 1gg and 3pf in vertical columns of 12, the 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th in horizontal rows of 10. The envelopes were also sold in

packages of 12(1gg) or 10(1sg, 2sg, 3sg). Only when the new currency was introduced on October 1, 1858, was this made uniform and all stamps were now sold in horizontal rows of 10 and the envelopes in packages of 10. Of course, smaller quantities were also available and especially the mail carriers had single stamps for sale, for which service they were entitled to charge  $\frac{1}{2}$ pf extra for each stamp or envelope. The 10g value, issued in 1861, seems to have been sold by most post offices but only by few postal agencies, as it is known used from only about 40 different places. The city mail stationery was used in the city of Hanover only and was not sold singly, but only in packages of 12 for 3gg (letter sheets) or 4gg (envelopes). After the new currency was introduced, the city mail envelopes were sold in packages of 10 for 5g.

All stamps and postal stationery of Hanover were used up. When a new issue appeared, the previous one was not withdrawn but remained in use until the supplies were exhausted. The only exception were the 1gg stamps and 1gg envelopes, which became useless by the new rates of October 1, 1858 and therefore were withdrawn from further sale the previous day, on September 30, 1858. They remained valid for postage and were demonetized only together with all other Hanover stamps and stationery, one month after Prussia, on October 1, 1866, took over the postal service and introduced its own stamps. Therefore, all Hanover stamps and stationery were withdrawn from the post offices on September 30, 1866 and lost their validity for postage on October 31, 1866. There are known cases of posthumous use, especially from Hamburg, where the using up of Hanover stamps seems to have been tolerated by the Prussian post office during November and December 1866.

The designs of the Hanover stamps and envelopes show more variety than those of most other Old German States, as several kinds of designs were used. The first stamps of 1850-51 had a numeral design, in which the value indication on a shield — on the 1gg without currency indication, on the 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10 with currency indication — formed the center, with the arms of Hanover above and ribbons with the inscriptions forming the frame on the

three other sides. The inscriptions consisted of HANNOVER at bottom, FRANCO at left and the value indication — EIN GGR. for the 1gg, EIN SGR., ZWEI SGR. and DREI SGR. for the 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th respectively — at right. The new 3pf value also had a numeral design, with the value indication 3 PFENNIGE, HANNOVER and crown in a shaded oval in the center, and EIN DRITTEL SILBERGROSCHEN in a ribbon above. Beginning late in 1855, the current stamps were issued with a network underprint. First a narrow network was used, for the 1/10th only, then a wider one, with which 3pf, 1gg, 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th exist. The stamps in the new currency featured the head of King Georg V to the left, in a circle of pearls; the shaded frame shows the value indication at top and HANNOVER at bottom. The 1/2g stamp featured a posthorn, with the crown above, HANNOVER at top and 1/2 Groschen at bottom. The design of the 3pf was changed in 1863; the inscription in the ribbon is now DREI ZEHNTEL SILBERGROSCHEN, the other parts of the design remained unchanged. For the envelopes, an embossed oval was used with the head of the king to the left. The design was a copy of the envelope stamps of other German States, which were also manufactured by the Prussian State Printing Works. It has HANNOVER at top and the currency indication at bottom. The figure of value first was once in a circle at bottom, on the envelopes in the new currency twice, at left and right. On the money order cards, stamps were imprinted in the design of the contemporary adhesives. For the city mail letter sheets and envelopes, first no design at all, only a simple handstamp "Bestellgeld-frei" was used on a printed form. In 1850, the same wording was used in a circular handstamp with a posthorn in center, also on a printed form. On November 4, 1858, an embossed die with the same inscription was introduced. It has a shamrock and a posthorn in the center, the shamrock being the arms of the city of Hanover. These two symbols were replaced in 1861, when it was intended to extend the city mail service to other towns, by a leaping horse, which is part of the arms of the country. It has been proved that the design of the first 1gg was the work of the painter Anton Jürgens of

Hanover; it was adapted for the three values 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th by the engraver. The head of the 1859 issue was designed by the engraver Brehmer of Hanover, who was obviously strongly influenced in his work by the contemporary stamps of France. It is not known who designed the 3pf and 1/2g stamps. The head for the envelope stamps is also the work of Brehmer. The designer of the stamps on the city mail stationery is unknown.

All adhesives of Hanover were *letter-press printed* from *typographed* plates. The envelopes were printed from single dies which combined typography with *embossing*. On the city mail stationery, the stamps first were *handstamped*, from 1858 on printed from single dies by typography combined with *embossing*, all on letter-press printed type-set forms.

For the adhesives, the *original dies* were cut in steel. For the 1850-51 stamps, as well as the new values of 3pf and 1/2g, a separate die was made with the complete design of each value by the engraver J. Friedrich Fickenscheer of Hanover. For the 1859 issue, the die of the head was executed by the engraver Brehmer of Hanover, while the frame again seems to have been the work of the engraver Fickenscheer. As far as could be ascertained, only a master die without figure of value was made for this issue. The change in the inscription of the 3pf was made by way of a working die; the ribbon with the old inscription was removed and the new ribbon and inscription were engraved in a matrix taken from that altered die. For the envelope stamps the head was executed by Brehmer, the frames were the routine work of an engraver of the Prussian State Printing Works. A separate die was made for the frame of each value and new dies for each value were made when the change of currency occurred in 1858. The handstamps for the city mail stationery were manufactured at Hanover, the dies for the envelope stamps of 1858 and 1861 cut in steel by an engraver of the Prussian State Printing Works.

To obtain the *printing material* for the adhesives, a copper matrix was made of each original die by the Royal Mint of Hanover and was delivered to the printer, Culemann's Printing Works at Hanover. For the 1859 head issue, for which only

a master die existed, a copper matrix was made for each value and the figure of value was engraved in its proper place. The printers made from each copper matrix as many stereotypes in type-metal mounted on a lead base as were needed for a setting of 120 plus a number of replacement stereotypes, assembled them in settings of 120 (10x12) each, and used these for the printing of the stamps. While the first stamp, the 1gg of 1850 had no margin printing of any kind, all other stamps had marginals and some also other margin inscriptions. The position of the marginals on the sheets of the various values depended upon whether the sale by the post offices was to be made in horizontal rows of 10 or vertical columns of 12. The marginals — 1 to 12 — were on the left and right margin of all sheets of the 1gg and 3pf, of the last printing (1858) of the 1/30th and 1/10th, as well as of all values of the 1859 issue (Fig. 84, 85, 86, 87). Marginals on the top and bottom margin — 1 to 10 — had the earlier printings (1851 to 1857) of the 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th (Fig. 88, 89). Of most values, there were several settings, for which to a large extent the same stereotypes plus a number of replacements were used, so that the same stereo can be found in various positions in the settings.

The stereotypes of the settings were spaced rather regularly but the spacing differed for the various values. The rows of the 1gg of 1850 were spaced  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3mm, the columns  $1\frac{3}{4}$  to  $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm., while the 1gg of 1851 as well as the 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th were spaced 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. between the rows and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  to 3mm. between the columns. The marginals, depending upon the various settings, on the sides were between  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and 6mm. away from the designs, at top and bottom 2 to 5mm. The network issue generally had narrower spacing, which became still narrower in the last settings, 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. between rows,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2mm. between columns. The marginals were here still closer to the design of the margin stamps, only 1 to 3mm. The 1859-61 issue was spaced 2mm. horizontally and vertically, only the 3pf was closer between columns, namely  $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The marginals were 2 to 4mm. away from the margin stereotypes.

Late in 1855, when it was decided to replace the colored paper by a colored *underprint*, separate settings were assembled

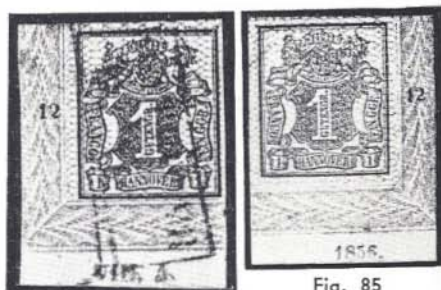


Fig. 85

Fig. 84 for the underprint, which exists in two kinds, narrow and wide. Both consist of a network of interlaced horizontal wavy lines, each wave 5mm. long, which were made — probably by the Royal Mint — with the help of a guilloche machine. On the narrow network, the wavy lines are 0.6mm. apart and each one shifted sideways in respect to the neighboring lines half of a wave length. On the wide network, the wavy lines are 1mm. apart and also shifted sideways half of a wave length. The narrow network was used first and for the 1/10th only, while with the wide network all values current at that time exist, namely, the 1gg, 3pf, 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th. The printing material was made of type-metal, partly with a copper coating; it consisted for the narrow network of four cliches, mounted on a wooden base,  $105\frac{1}{2}$ mm.x145mm. For the wide network, 120 stereotypes were made, each in the size of a stamp; these were obtained from a die, cut in steel and reproduced by means of a copper matrix; they were assembled to a setting of 120 (10x12). Each setting of the network underprint was enclosed in an ornamented frame, which showed a system of wavy lines broken by an arrow-type design. The frame was put together from pieces and the type-set inscription KÖNIGLICH HANNOVERSCHE FRANCO-MARKEN. placed above it at the top margin (Fig. 90).



Fig. 86



Fig. 87

Beginning with the network issue, the printer put markings on the bottom sheet margin, signifying the various printings and the year of printing. The network issue had these markings type-set in  $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm. letters in the setting which printed the network, therefore they are always in the color of the network. First, in 1855 and 1856, the indication of the printing was put in the left corner, for example "III. A.", with "A" standing for "Auflage" meaning "printing", while the year of printing was in the right corner (Fig. 84, 85, 89). In 1857, the year date was also moved to the left corner and the inscription now read, for example, "V. A. 1857", while there was no inscription in the right corner. In 1858, the printing indication was eliminated and the year date alone remained in the left corner, while the right corner was without inscription (Fig. 86). This method was continued for the 1859 issue, but the year date, still at the left corner of the bottom margin, was now printed with the stamps themselves and in figures of  $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm., from 1862  $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. in height (Fig. 87).

A survey of the known printing numbers and year dates, as well as the position of the marginals seems to be useful. We know the following:

*1851-53 issue:* No printing numbers and no year dates. Marginals at left and right (1gg, 3pf) or top and bottom (1/30th, 1/15th, 1/10th).

*1855 issue (narrow network):*

1/10th: II. A. at left, 1855.56 at right (marginals at top and bottom)

*1856 issue (wide network):*

1gg: VIII. A. at left, 1856 at right (marginals at left and right)  
1858 at left (marginals at left and right)

3pf: III. A. at left, 1856 at right (marginals at left and right)

V. A. 1857 at left (marginals at left and right)

1858 at left (marginals at left and right)



Fig. 88, 89

1/30th: III. A. at left, 1856 at right (marginals at top and bottom)

V. Aufl. 1857 (?) at left (marginals at top and bottom)

1858 at left (marginals at left and right)

1/15th: IV. A. at left, 1856 at right (marginals at top and bottom)

1/10th: IV. A. at left, 1856 at right (marginals at top and bottom)

1858 at left (marginals at left and right)

*1859-64 issue* (all marginals at left and right, year date at bottom left)

3pf rose: 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862

3pf green: 1863; rouletted 1863, 1864, 1865

$\frac{1}{2}$ g: 1860, 1862; rouletted 1863, 1864

1g: 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863; rouletted 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866

2g: 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863; rouletted 1864, 1865,

3g yellow: 1859, 1860, 1861

3g brown: 1861, 1862, 1863; rouletted 1864, 1865

10g: 1861

It seems that in some printings the setting was taken apart, cleaned and re-assembled or replacements of stereotypes made, so that different settings exist with the same printing number or year date. The year dates, especially for the 1859-64 issue, give only the year in which the sheet was printed and do not refer to the printing; therefore



Fig. 90

several settings may exist with the same year date.

The *envelope stamps* were printed from single electrotypes obtained from the original dies of each value. A printing form contained four envelopes, which were cut to the desired shape and pasted after the printing. The form for the money order cards was type-set and the stamps included in the setting; the settings probably consisted of 8 cards. The cards were printed on both sides and come in two main versions of the printing on the reverse side, where "Post-Casse" was changed to "Postkasse" in 1866. For the city mail stationery, the notes on the reverse side were type-set — possibly stereotyped — and letter-press printed. The ornamented frame which was added to the front of the letter sheets and the envelopes, as well as the ornaments on the reverse side of the envelopes were also type-set, probably stereotyped. The settings consisted of two letter-sheets or envelopes. On all these the stamp was added by a handstamp. From 1858, the ornaments on the envelopes were eliminated and the stamp applied in typography combined with embossing in settings of four. The notes on the back were again type-set, possibly stereotyped, and added in a second printing, probably in sheets of two envelopes. The forms for the city mail stationery until 1858 were printed by the Berenberg Printing Works of Hanover, the handstamp applied by the Hanover post office. From 1858 on, the city mail envelopes also were manufactured by the Prussian State Printing Works. We have no information who printed the money order cards.

The *city mail stationery* generally can be found in two types, owing to the use of printing forms which contained two letter sheets or two envelopes. The differences between the types are small, mainly noticeable in the notes on the reverse side. The frame of the letter sheets and envelopes of 1850 showed the ornaments different in each corner. But sometimes in 1857, when the settings were taken apart for cleaning, the top right corner ornament of the letter sheet frame of one setting was exchanged for the top left corner ornament of the envelope frame of another setting. This produced in the next printing two distinct types for the letter sheet as well as the envelope, one being as before, with four

different corner ornaments, the other with two ornaments identical, namely the bottom left and the top right.

As the printing material consisted to a large extent of the rather soft type-metal, numerous *plate flaws* can be observed, caused by damages to stereotypes. As almost every cliché had more or less conspicuous defects, it would seem easy to plate the stamps, inasmuch as multiples are not too difficult to obtain. But the fact, that after each printing — and possibly even during some printings — the setting was taken apart, the clichés cleaned and re-assembled, nevertheless makes the task extremely difficult. Except for the margin clichés — for which the marginals, for the network issue also the ornamented frame and the margin inscriptions are of considerable help — the attempts to plate these stamps were all unsuccessful. Some stamps with conspicuous plate flaws were found in three or four different positions in the sheet. A few such flaws have achieved catalog status simply by reason of the fact that the defect has created a easily describable peculiarity, for example the "2" of the 2g of 1859 with curved tail, which can be found on all sheets of the imperforate and in the early settings of the rouletted stamps; it is known first in position 111, later 103 and eventually 76. Many similar plate flaws exist in all issues but they are less conspicuous and therefore not sought after.

It is claimed that there exist several "*retouches*" in the frames of the 1859 issue, the best known one being that in the bottom right corner of the 10g, which shows an oval-shaped spot considerably heavier lined than the other parts of the frame. We are told that these "*retouches*" occurred when a cliché became so worn that parts of it did not print properly. The printer then put a drop of molten type-metal on the spot in question, filling out the recessed parts of the design and raising the surface again to the proper height, in which then the obliterated parts of the design were recut. A study of such "*retouches*" has convinced us that they result not through retouching but through another occurrence. We believe that when the electrotypes were mounted on a base, in a few cases foreign matter adhered to the reverse side of the electrotype and this raised its surface in the peculiar spots when the electrotype was



pressed on the base. The result was that in these places the design printed heavier and produced a variety which may look like a retouch but which we consider extremely unlikely to be one\*).

In some printings the electrotypes became quite worn and produced unsatisfactory prints. When a new setting from such worn clichés was assembled, only the worst ones were replaced by new clichés, thus creating quite a contrast. Pairs and multiples exist in which some stamps show fine, others worn print and such multiples are sought as examples of the particular printing conditions.

The *printing* of all adhesives was done on hand-presses. For the network issue, the colored print was always done first. Therefore, for the 3pf stamps the designs and marginals, for the other values the network with the frame, as well as the margin inscription at top and the printing number and/or year date at bottom, were printed first. The black print — network for the 3pf, stamp designs and marginals for the other values — was added in a second printing operation. The printing was rather even, but deteriorated somewhat for later printings of each issue. Of the 1859 issue, distinctly fine and coarse prints exist which in all probability were the result of more or less careful make-ready, as they come on imperforate as well as on rouletted stamps. Some shades come only in fine prints, others only in coarse ones, which proves that the differences characterize certain printings.

No major *printing varieties* are known of the adhesives, but of the envelopes, copies with colorless embossed stamp are known, as well as with double embossed

\*) We have always been rather sceptical in respect to all reports about retouches made on typographed clichés, for the purpose of adding something. The process described is a difficult one and is so crude that it never can lead to satisfactory results, so that no good printer will attempt such retouching. We always suspect, as in the present case, that the so-called retouches actually are varieties, which a philatelic student calls "retouches" because he does not know better and it seems the easiest explanation. The printers of the Hanover stamps used to replace defective clichés of the settings by new ones and there seems to be no explanation why in some cases they should have resorted to the much more complicated retouching.

stamp, one colorless. Frequently the envelope stamps show a strong offset on the reverse side. Of the city mail stationery, the circular handstamp is known double, the second strike inverted at top right. A used copy of the letter sheet of 1850 is also reported without handstamp. The embossed stamps on the city mail envelopes of 1858 and 1861 are known colorless, the latter also double, one on the reverse side of the envelope.

The *paper* of the *adhesives* was procured by the paper mill of G. W. Quirll & Co. of Osnabrück. The paper of the first issue was hand-made and colored, except for the 3pf which was on white paper. It had a watermark, consisting for the first 1gg (on blue paper) of 120 rectangles in stamp size, which were formed by 11 vertical and 13 horizontal watermark lines across the sheet. For the other stamps, the rectangles were slightly enlarged, due to the larger size of the stamps and a wreath watermark, consisting of two crossed oak branches, inserted in each rectangle. In this way, each stamp had its individual watermark. As the watermarks were hand-made of wire, each watermark has its peculiarities, but these are too indistinct to be of any help for the plating. Shifted watermarks can be found, but strongly shifted ones are rare exceptions. Inverted watermark is known of all values, the rarest one being the 3pf, the least elusive the 1/30th on crimson. The paper varied in thickness; copies on rather thin paper can be found and some values, especially the yellow 1/10th, come on rather thick paper. The paper of the network issue and the issues from 1859 on was white and without watermark. The earliest of all printings of the network issue may still have been on hand-made paper, but later printings and all of the 1859 issue, imperforate and rouletted, were on machine-made paper. Copies with stitch watermark, which proves the use of such paper are known of the 1859 issue. The paper of the *envelopes* was white, often with a yellowish, grayish or bluish tint, and machine-made. For the *money order cards*, first the card was rather thick; from 1866 a thinner card was used. Both were colored through. The *city mail stationery* was printed on colored machine-made paper; differences in thickness can be found.

Insofar as colored papers were used, there are some variations, but they are partly due to the influence of the gum or later changes especially as far as the first 1gg is concerned. More conspicuous shades of the paper, which must be attributed to differences in the coloring of the paper pulp by the paper mill, can be found for the 1/10th, which varies from yellow to deep orange yellow, and for the second 1gg, which was first grayish green and later became light green and yellowish green. The colored paper used for the city mail stationery also shows shades, but of minor importance.

The color scheme adopted for the stamps of Hanover was a rather constant one and few changes were made. The stamps for letter mail until 1859 were printed in black, first on colored paper, then on white paper, but with colored network underprint. The first 1gg was on blue paper, but when the stamps for foreign mail were issued, this was changed in August 1851 to green paper, to avoid confusion with the 1/15th. The foreign mail stamps were on salmon (1/30th), blue (1/15th) and yellow (1/10th) paper, but the paper of the 1/30th changed in February 1855 to crimson, presumably to avoid confusion with orange shades of the paper of the 1/10th. On the stamps with network underprint, the underprint had the same color as the paper of the preceding issue, therefore it was green (1gg), rose (1/30th), blue (1/15th) and yellow (1/10th). For the envelopes, issued in 1857, the same color scheme was used. The additional 3pf value was printed in color, rose on white paper; it received in 1855 also a network underprint, in black, which was found impractical and changed to gray in September 1857. The 1859 stamps in the new currency were all printed in color on white paper. The color scheme was the same as for the corresponding values of the preceding issue, rose (3pf and 1g), blue (2g) and yellow (3g). Of the new values, the 1/2g was black and the 10g green. The color regulations of the German-Austrian Postal Union necessitated two color changes, the 3pf became green on December 1, 1863 and the 3g brown in November 1861. The envelope stamps had the same colors as the contemporary adhesives, the 3g also became brown late in 1861. On the money order cards, the

stamps were printed with the text of the forms in black on colored card, which was rose for the 1g and blue for the 2g. The city mail stamps were handstamped in blue, while the embossed ones from 1858 on were printed in green; they were all on colored paper, first blue, from 1850 yellow and from 1858 buff.

The inks used for printing the first stamps were regular black printer's ink, lamp black with a base of varnish. The prints generally were not deep black, but black tending toward gray black shades. The first stamp printed in color, the 3pf, was distinguished by pale rose shades, only for later printings more vivid shades were used, often with a pronounced lilac tinge. The network issue, except the 3pf, had the network printed in colors and due to the light design the shades are not readily distinguishable. Only darker and lighter shades are perceptible. An olive yellow shade, which can be found for the 1/10th with narrow network, is an unissued variety which is known only unused and as such much more common than the stamp in the issued shade. The network of the 3pf, still the only value with the design printed in color, was first black; it underwent a change to gray in 1857, but no other color variations of importance exist. The 1859 issue excels in shades. The green 3pf lacks shades in the perforated issue, but comes from light to darker green in the rouletted one. Few variations exist of the black 1/2g. The most variations can be found for the 1g, from pale rose to lilac rose, with deep shades of the later, sometimes somewhat misleadingly called claret. The latter shade exists in a scarce printing in conspicuously fine print. The 2g can be found in all possible shades of ultramarine and toward blue, with a deep shade being the rarest one. The 3g was first yellow to orange, then changed to shades of brown, with grayish to blackish tints. The 10g, of which supposedly only one printing was made, nevertheless records various deviations from its regular green color to grayish, yellowish and olive shades. A great variation of color also can be found for the envelope stamps, similar to the 1859 issue of the adhesives. In 1863 the color of the 2g envelope stamp underwent a permanent change from blue to ultramarine.

The gum on the early Hanover stamps

was an animal glue with added dextrin, sugar, etc. and was colored red. This coloring supposedly was done to facilitate checking whether the sheets were gummed and whether the gum was sufficiently and evenly applied. As an added benefit, it permitted easy spotting of those cases where stamps fell off franked mail. The gum was applied by hand, with brushes, and was first dark red, becoming brownish when aged. Later the gum became tinted with yellow so that it sometimes can be called orange red. All stamps of the first issue as well as the network issue had this colored gum without exception. When the 1859 issue was introduced, all values had red gum, but the new  $\frac{1}{2}g$  value of 1860 was issued with white gum. Simultaneously with the introduction of rouletted stamps late in 1863, a change in the gum took place, probably because the animal glue was impractical for the separation of the stamps by a roulette. The new gum consisted mainly of gum Arabic, dextrin and sugar and was colorless. The red gum seems to have been used up indiscriminately and that seems to be the reason why the imperforate  $\frac{1}{2}g$  early in 1864 also was issued with red gum. Part of the first printing of all values of the rouletted stamps had red gum, except the 2g which is not known with genuine red gum. Of the rouletted 3g with red gum, only a small quantity must have existed, as it is much rarer than the stamp with white gum, especially used. The white gum remained in use until the end of the Hanover stamps.

The first issues of the adhesives were issued *imperforate* and the introduction of a special means of *separation* was considered only in 1863, probably following the example of Bremen, as a similar kind of separation help was used. It was decided to apply a roulette to the sheets of adhesives, consisting of semi-circular cuts, of which there were 16 to a length of 2cm. To apply the roulette, two operations were necessary for each sheet, one for the 11 vertical and one for the 13 horizontal lines of roulette. The rouletting was always done from the face of the sheets, with handpresses, in which the sharpened rouletting lines were assembled in a form similar to a printing form. Generally, on the vertical lines, the tops of the semi-circles point to the left, in the horizontal

lines to the top. Two rouletting forms can be distinguished, the first one, known used until the middle of 1865, had the semi-circles of the last line at bottom with the tops pointed to the bottom. The second one, used from the middle of 1865, had the vertical line before the last line at the right with the tops pointing to be right. Therefore, the normal position of the roulette on all stamps is with the tops of the semi-circles vertically to the left and horizontally to the top. But there exist stamps (from the last row of Form I), which have the horizontal roulette at the bottom with the tops of the semi-circles pointing to the bottom, and others (from the ninth and tenth column of Form II) which have either on the right side (column 9) or on the left side (column 10) the top of the semi-circles pointing to the right. There also exist stamps which show other combinations of the roulette, but they are said to be from proof sheets, which were also found among the remainders and not only show the use of another rouletting form but were also partly rouletted from the reverse side.

The rouletting generally was done with care and the stamps are well centered, but in a number of cases a strongly shifted roulette can be found which resulted in badly centered stamps. Especially the 3pf can be found in copies where the roulette runs through the design and a number of such badly rouletted sheets were also found among the remainders. The 3pf is scarce in well centered copies, while such copies of other values are not difficult to obtain. Several values are known with double roulette, vertically or horizontally, the 1g also with horizontal and vertical double roulette. There exist imperforate sheets of the rouletted issue, claimed to be unfinished remainders, but some of them seem to be proof sheets which were preserved, especially the 3pf on thin paper.

Before official introduction of the roulette some cases of *private rouletting* are reported from early 1863. We have seen a line rouletted 1g, used in Bremen in May 1863 and other similar cases exist, also from other post offices, but their status seems to be rather questionable.

The *postal stationery* had special features. The *envelopes* had the *stamp* first in the top left corner and, from middle of 1861,

in accordance with the regulations of the German-Austrian Postal Union, in the top right corner. But in the spring of 1863, the stamp was again moved to the top left corner, supposedly due to the demand by the public which found this position more convenient when writing the address. The envelopes first were issued in two sizes, small (147x84mm.) and large (148x115mm.), but the large size proved so unpopular that from middle of 1857 the further manufacture of large size envelopes was abandoned. The envelopes were printed in sheets of four and different knives used for the cutting but the differences are insignificant. All envelopes received a diagonal corner overprint in green, in the same corner as the stamp. This overprint, in pearl type, reads EIN GUTERGROSCHEN (or EIN, ZWEI, DREI SILBERGROSCHEN) POST-COUVERT, in endless repetition. It was applied with a roller in a letter-press; two different kinds of rollers were used for each value, varying in length and spacing. The green color varies from bluish green to yellow green, characterizing the various printings. On the upper flap of all envelopes, a colorless seal was embossed, which showed a posthorn in a circle, surrounded by 18 guilloche ornaments. The gum on the flap was first short (20-30mm.), from late in 1862 long (85-95mm.). The first envelopes with the stamp at left always have short gum, as have those with the stamp at right, except the 1g, which comes also with long gum. The last envelopes, with the stamp again at left, always have long gum. — The city mail stationery has its own features. The forms, due to the printing from settings of two, each come in two types. They had notes printed on the reverse side and the position of these notes is characteristic for the various printings. On the 1849 letter sheets, the notes were first inverted at top, later upright at bottom in respect to the handstamp on the face. The 1850 letter sheets first had the notes inverted at bottom, from 1852 upright a top. The size of the 1850 envelope, which was un-gummed, was 153-155x87-89½mm. The city mail letter sheets were abolished in 1858 and the envelopes printed from then on by the Prussian State Printing Works. They had peculiarities similar to the regular envelopes printed there. The stamp was first at top left, then from the middle

of 1861 at top right and from late in the spring of 1863 again at top left. They had the same seal on the upper flap as the regular envelopes. The gum was first short, from the spring of 1863 long; the 1861 issue exists with short as well as long gum.

(To be continued)

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

- The next issue of the *MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL* is scheduled for December, 1957.
- Harry L. Lindquist, the president of the National Federation of Stamp Clubs, Publisher of "Stamps", etc., and a very old and good friend of ours, is this year's recipient of the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award*. Our heartiest congratulations to him.
- The 9th National Postage Stamp Show, organized by the *American Stamp Dealers Association*, will be held this year on Nov. 22, 23 and 24 at the 71st Infantry Regiment Armory, Park Avenue and 34th Street in New York. We are sure it will again prove a big attraction and the commercial highlight of the season.
- The *Friedl Expert Committee* (522 Fifth Avenue, New York 36, N. Y.) resumed its work late in July and is again holding its meetings once or twice a week, which fact assures quick service, usually within ten days; if certificates are required service can be rendered within two weeks. Only foreign stamps are expertized, in regard to genuineness and condition. New expertizing terms have been in force since July 1, 1957. They stipulate, among other things, that everyone who submits items for expertizing should state the value for which he wants them insured. Return of all items below \$200 value is made by unregistered mail, privately insured. Compliance with this provision frequently saves the expensive registration fees, as shipments for which no insurance value is stated are returned in the same way in which they were received.
- The *Catalog of the Imperforate Classic Postal Stamps of Europe* was delivered to all subscribers in June and July and considering the letters we have received, has found practically unanimous acclaim. New orders are coming in steadily and Europe has proven an especially fertile ground for

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## EUROPEAN CLASSICS

### XVIII. HANOVER\*

As stated previously, all stamps of the 1850, 1851 and 1855-56 issues were used up and therefore there existed no *remainders* of these issues. Most *unused material* available to collectors comes from purchases contemporary dealers made from the postal administration, which seems to have accommodated these dealers further by keeping a small quantity of obsolete issues and selling them at face value even several years after they were no longer available at the post offices. But these quantities were rather small and were almost entirely cut up into singles. The years have depleted even this stock of singles and careless handling has played havoc with their condition so that fine mint copies of the issues up to 1855-56 are getting scarcer and scarcer. Mint copies of the first stamp, the 1gg of 1850, always were rare and now belong among the rarest mint stamps of Old German States. But the 1/10th of the 1855-56 issue, with narrow network and still more with wide network, have also proven very elusive and are really rare stamps. The 3pf of 1853 and 1856 also are scarce stamps in mint condition, as is the 1/10th of 1851. But even the least scarce ones, the 1gg of 1851 and 1856, today are far from plentiful, although they catalog only a few dollars each. The conditions are entirely different for the stamps issued from 1859 on. When Prussia occupied the country, there were in the hands of the postal administration large remainders of the rouletted 1864 issue and in part also of the imperforate 1859 issue which run into millions of copies. These were sent to Berlin and were destroyed there, but a small quantity of sheets was retained for sale to dealers and they were gradually disposed of. This fact alone would make these issues far more

*\*)Continued and concluded from page 160.*

plentiful than the preceding ones but in 1908, rather large additional quantities of several values which had originally been overlooked — mostly sheets returned by post offices — were found in Hanover and two years later were sold at a public auction. This material contained a number of sheets of the imperforate 1g, 2g and 3g brown, 13 sheets of the scarce 10g of the same issue as well as a small quantity of sheets of the rouletted 3pf, 1g and 3g, while there were only parts of sheets of the rouletted 2g. Neither the 3pf rose nor the imperforate 3pf green and no 1/2g imperforate or rouletted were included among these final remainders. Therefore, there are sufficient stamps of these issues available of the 1g, 2g and 3g brown of 1859, as well as the 3pf, 1g and 3g of 1864, while only few — the imperforate 3pf green, 1/2g and 3g yellow, as well as the rouletted 1/2g with both kinds of gum — are more elusive. Only the rouletted 3g with rose gum, which was obviously used up, is really scarce. Of the postal stationery, which was also used up and of which no considerable number of remainders were sold, almost all of the earlier envelopes are much rarer unused than used, especially all small sizes of the 1857 issue and the large size 1sg and 3sg of the same issue. All 1859 and 1862 envelopes also are much scarcer unused than used and only for the 1863 issue is there little difference. Of the city mail stationery,

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the letter sheet of 1849 unused is a great rarity but used it is even rarer. The 1850 letter sheet and envelope are almost equally rare unused and used. Only the 1858 to 1863 5pf envelopes, although not common, are more plentiful unused, and so are the money order cards.

*Mint multiples* are, in accordance with the explanations in the preceding paragraph, rare to very rare or even unknown in the case of the 1850 to 1855-56 issue and rather easily obtainable for most stamps of the 1859-64 issues. Pairs or strips are great rarities of the 1850, 1gg, and the 1856, 1/10th with wide network. We know no mint multiple, not even a pair, of the 1/10th with narrow network; all such items reported or in collections have proved to be the unissued stamp (or proof) with olive yellow network. Mint blocks of the 1gg of 1850 are unknown as well as of the 1/10th of 1855-56 with both kinds of network. Of the other values, mint blocks are known; except for the 1gg of 1851, 1gg, 3pf and 1/15th of 1856, which are rare, they are very rare or unique. Of the 1859 issue, pairs and strips of the 1g are common, scarcer of the 2g, 3g brown and 10g, really scarcer of the 3pf rose, 1/2g and 3g yellow and rare of the 3pf green. Of the rouletted stamps, 3pf and 1g are plentiful in pairs and strips, the 2g and 3g are scarcer and the 1/2g is scarcer. In mint blocks, all values are known, except it appears the rouletted 3g with rose gum. Rather readily available are the imperforate 1g, 2g and 3g brown, as well as the 10g, the rouletted 3pf and 1g.

More difficult to obtain are the imperforate 3pf rose and the rouletted 2g and 3g, while mint blocks of the imperforate and rouletted 1/2g as well as of the imperforate 3g yellow are rare and of the imperforate 3pf green very rare.

Most Hanover stamps are considerably more common *used* than unused. A few are of about the same rarity unused and used and only the 10g of 1859-61 as well as the rouletted 3g with rose gum, are considerably rarer used than unused. Of the envelopes, only the 1gg and 2sg of 1857 in large size are much rarer used than unused and so are both values of the money order cards. Of the city mail stationery, the great rarity is the 1849 letter sheet, but it is almost equally rare unused. Of the city mail envelopes, all 5pf envelopes 1858 to 1863 are rarer used than unused.

As far as *used multiples* are concerned, pairs are known of all values; they are scarce only of the 1/10th 1855 with narrow network, the 10g of 1859 and the rouletted 3g with rose gum. Strips are in some cases more elusive, especially of the 1/10th of 1855 with narrow network; no used strips seem to be known of the 10g of 1859 and of the rouletted 3g with rose gum. It is, by the way, noticeable that of the 1850 to 1856 issues those values which were sold by the post offices in vertical strips of 12 (3pf, 1gg) are mostly found in vertical pairs and strips, while the other values (1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th) which until 1858 were sold in horizontal strips of 10, come more frequently in horizontal pairs

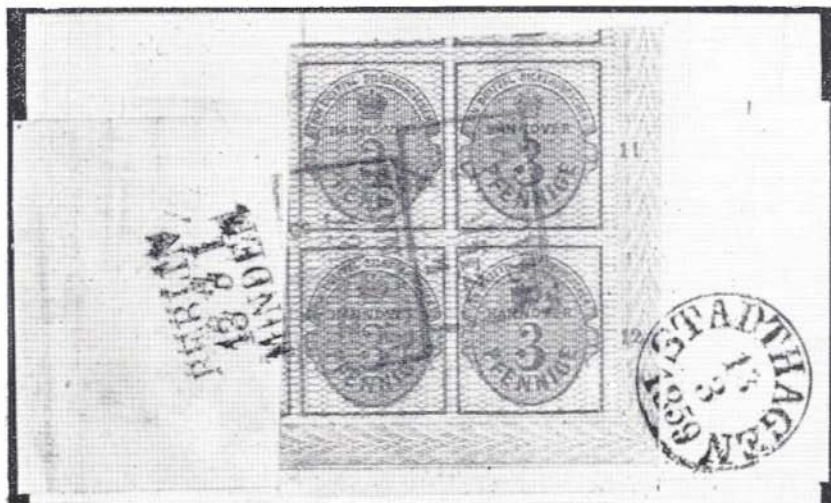


Fig. 91

and strips. Used blocks are rarities for all values of which they exist. We do not know used blocks of the 1/30th (in both colors), the 1/15th and the 1/10th of 1851, the 1/10th of 1855 (narrow network) and the 1/15th of 1856. The various 3pf — except the imperforate 3pf green — are the least elusive in used blocks (Fig. 91), followed by the 1gg of 1851 and 1856, as well as the 1g of 1859 and 1864. Rather common are used blocks of the 3g yellow of 1859, as full sheets of 120 existed and in part still exist cancelled at Hanover, supposedly used there for accounting purposes. Blocks used in other towns are rare. Very rare are used blocks of the 1gg of 1850, the 1/10th of 1856 (wide network), as well as of the 1/2g, 2g and 3g of 1859 and 1864. Used blocks of the imperforate 3pf green and of the 10g of 1859 are great rarities.

All Hanover stamps are relatively easy to find *on entires*, with one exception, the 10g of 1859-61, which on cover deserves a considerable premium, especially alone, without additional franking. There are a number of frankings which are scarce and deserve special interest, namely the stamps for domestic service used on mail to foreign countries and vice-versa. The use of domestic mail stamps on letters to foreign countries was expressly forbidden; the 1gg stamps rarely can be found on such covers and then almost always in mixed frankings with 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th, on letters to foreign countries not belonging to the German-Austrian Postal Union. The odd rates to such countries sometimes could best be paid by such frankings. The use of the foreign mail stamps 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th on domestic letters before Oct. 1, 1858, was a rare exception, but after that date became a regular feature, as the foreign mail stamps were now sold for 1g, 2g and 3g respectively and were valid for domestic and foreign mail. The 3pf stamp, which was issued for postage on printed matter, before Oct. 1, 1858 was used only in rare cases for postage on letters and therefore is rare to very rare in frankings with other values. A special premium is also deserved by 3pf stamps used on city letters, which use — possible only outside of the city of Hannover — was rare. After Oct. 1, 1858, the 3pf comes rather frequently also on letters to foreign countries and usually in combination with other values. As no Hanover

stamps were demonetized before Oct. 31, 1866, mixed frankings between the different issues are not difficult to find, but frankings with the same value of two different issues, for example 1gg 1850 plus 1gg 1851, or 1/10th narrow network plus 1/10th wide network, are, of course, very rare. The various and often colorful frankings to be found on Hanover covers are one of the main attractions for the cover collector of the country.

Of *mixed frankings* with the stamps of other countries only those with Prussia stamps in the period between Oct. 1 and 31, 1866 are of special interest, because they were authorized after the Hanover postal service had been taken over by Prussia. Actually, the use of Prussian stamps in Hanover had been tolerated even before Oct. 1, 1866 and, on the other hand, post-humous use of Hanover stamps for a short period after Oct. 31, 1866 is also known. In all these cases mixed frankings between Hanover and Prussia stamps resulted occasionally. Usually they are between the groschen values of the Hanover issue of 1864 and the silbergroschen values of the Prussia issue of 1861; they are scarce to rare, but mixed frankings which include pfennig values are considerably rarer. Mixed frankings with the stamps of other countries are also known, but they are rare and irregular exceptions, based upon no regulations, possibly with the exception of those between Hamburg and Hanover stamps on mail posted in Hamburg letter boxes after Jan. 1, 1865. All such frankings are very rare and are greatly sought after.

Of *emergency frankings*, there exist various splits used for postage as well as envelope cut squares, used on covers. There is no indication that splits were ever permitted for postage, but they exist from quite a number of post offices and must at least have been tolerated. Cut squares were expressly forbidden to be used for postage, which is not surprising because the envelope stamps were not cancelled when the envelopes were used.

Of no less than twelve values we know *splits*, namely biseets and thirds, and four more are reported, certainly a record for an Old German State. Few splits occurred before Oct. 1, 1858 and they were all made to pay for the odd rates on mail to foreign



Fig. 92

countries. The 1/30th crimson of 1851 and the 1/30th of 1856 in this way come bisected together with a whole 3pf, to pay for a printed matter rate; the bisected 1/30th salmon of 1851, probably from a similar franking, is only known on piece. Before 1860, to pay for the 1/2g in foreign rates, the 1/30th of 1856 and the imperforate 1g of 1859 are both known bisected, usually on covers to France, to pay the needed 1/2g in 3 1/2g and 4 1/2g rates. Such frankings can be found occasionally also in later years (Fig. 92). All these bisects on foreign mail are rarities. The splits on domestic mail are also rare but they come from several post offices and are more frequent. They are all from the period after Oct. 1, 1858, when the change to the new currency took place. There must have been in 1859 and 1860 an urgent need for a 1/2g value — which was introduced only on April 1, 1860 — as well as temporary shortages of the now most needed 1g value. All known bisects were applied to make up one of these two rates. For the 1/2g rate,

the 1/30th of 1856, the imperforate 1g of 1859 and the rouletted 1g of 1864 were bisected. They are known from a number of post offices. The imperforate 1g bisects, as used at Wittmund, are especially interesting, because they are always cancelled by a large rate marking "2" which otherwise was not used as canceller (Fig. 93). To make up the 1g rate, three different methods were used. The 1/15th of 1851 and 1856 — the former a late use (Fig. 94) — as well as the 2g of 1859 and 1864 were bisected and in this way paid for the 1g rate. One third of the 3g yellow of 1859 served the same purpose. The 3pf of 1859, as well as the imperforate and rouletted 3pf green are all known used for the same purpose, by paying the 1g rate with three whole 3pf stamps and one half or one third of a 3pf stamp (Fig. 95). These seem all to be unique, the imperforate 3pf green known only on piece. Some other bisects have also been reported, for example, bisected 1gg and 1/10th of 1851, as well as 1/2g of 1860, which latter would not have fit any rate, and two-thirds of the 1g of



Fig. 93



Fig. 94



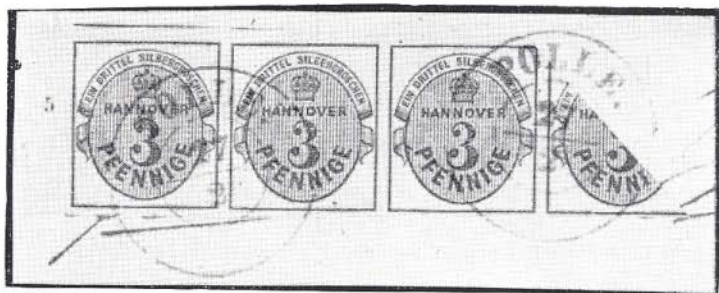


Fig. 95

1859, supposedly paying for a 6pf rate. We have not seen the first three and the last is probably not more than a copy cut badly through accident. All these splits are rare to very rare; of several of them only a few examples are known or else they are unique.

*Envelope cut squares* used for postage are known of the 1sg of 1857 and of the 1g, 2g (in both colors) and 3g brown of 1859-61. They are all very rare or unique.

A so-called *provisional*, supposedly used at Leer, is known on the 3pf rose of 1859-63, with a handwritten red "6" over the figure "3" of the stamp. Although this provisional is acknowledged in the Kohl Handbook and considered authentic by specialists in the field, the copies we have seen look highly questionable and we have grave doubts that they are either really "provisionals" or are at all genuine.

The *condition* of most Hanover stamps would be generally above average except for a peculiarity connected with the red gum used until 1864 causing many stamps to be in inferior condition. Due to ample spacing, most stamps have good margins, cut-into stamps accounting for only a small percentage. This percentage is larger for the network issue; the network, which also filled the spaces between the stamps, seems to have confused the users and made them cut the stamps more irregularly, rather frequently touching or even cutting the frame line. But the main damage to Hanover stamps was caused by soaking the red gum off the stamps, as only expert handling could prevent damage to the paper in this process. The red animal glue stuck so tenaciously to the paper that most methods of removing it cause the top layer of the paper on the back of the stamp to come off along with the gum. This usually causes a more or less pronounced thin spot which is made more conspicuous because it is color-

less while the parts on which the gum remained are rose. To alleviate this, in some cases the gum and with it the top paper layer were completely removed, so that the stamps appear "skinned" and no trace of the rose color of the gum is any longer noticeable. It is usually claimed that such thinnings do not constitute a defect — the German use the expression "hannoverhell" for such stamps — but we would grant this only for multiples and exceptional items which are practically unavailable in other condition. As far as single used stamps are concerned, the stamps thinned by removing the gum should be subject to a considerable discount compared with such stamps as have been so expertly treated that they have no thinnings.

*Essays* and *Proofs* exist of a great number of Hanover stamps and envelopes, but most of them are reprints and of the few for which this cannot be proven several are nevertheless suspected to belong in the same category. Real color proofs seem to exist of the 1/10th of 1851 in seven different colors and of the same value in the same seven colors but with wide network underprint in gray; they are claimed to have been made by the printer in 1855. The 3pf, 1gg, 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th in original colors, but with narrow network, are also considered original proofs, made in 1855. They exist with horizontal network (3pf, 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th, the latter also with olive yellow network, the so-called "unissued" color), as well as with vertical network (1gg and 1/30th). The 1/10th proof, especially that with olive yellow network, is often offered as original; it is much commoner than the latter. But the large majority of all so-called proofs are *proof reprints*, which were made in small quantities with the regular reprints of 1863-65. The adhesives were printed in black and in various colors, on white and on different colored papers. Such

proof reprints exist of all values of the 1851 issue (1gg, 3pf, 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th) and of several values ( $\frac{1}{2}$ g, 1g, 2g and 3pf with changed inscription) of the 1859-63 issue. There exist also a large number of different bi-colored proof reprints of the 1851 issue (1gg, 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th), made in the same period, the shield with the value indication in one color and the frame in another. Of the 5pf city mail envelope stamps of 1858 and 1861, proof reprints in various colors on strips of paper were made in 1864. When Hanover ceased to exist as an independent country, a new issue was in preparation, with the head of the king to the left, in a frame similar to that of the 1863 issue of Saxony. Original essays as well as reprints exist of them.

Hanover is rich in *Re-issues* and *Re-prints*, which exist of the adhesives as well as of the stationery. In addition to officially ordered new printings for collecting purposes which were made before 1866 and therefore must be considered re-issues because they were valid for postage — although we have never seen any actually used for such — there were numerous private printings made after 1866, — of the stationery especially by the famous faker Fouré — which must be classified as re-prints.

The *Re-issues* were all made between 1863 and 1865, officially ordered by the Hanover Postal Administration and manufactured by the same printers as the originals. It is curious that of the re-issues of the adhesives only very small quantities — supposedly only 100 copies each — were manufactured while the orders for the envelopes ran into the thousands, actually between 400 and 6000 copies. It must be supposed that the re-issues of the adhesives were only made for official exchange purposes with other postal administrations and for members of the royal family who are reported to have been collectors, while those of the envelopes were destined mainly for sale to collectors and dealers. Of the adhesives, re-issues exist of the 1gg of 1859 — on gray instead of gray blue paper — and of all values of the 1856 network issue. While the first was printed from a new setting of 6(2x3), the latter were printed from a setting of only 4(2x2), all without any print on the sheet margins.

These re-issues are rather easily recognizable by the fact that they are printed on paper without watermark and that they have colorless gum. Of the envelopes, in June 1863 a re-issue of the 1857 issue, 1sg and 3sg in small size, was made and in February 1864 of the 1859 issue, 3sg yellow in small size. All these are rather similar to the original envelopes, but have long gum instead of short. Of the city mail envelopes, re-issues of the 1858 issue were made in January 1863. They also have long gum instead of short. All together, there exist re-issues of six adhesives, three envelopes and one city mail envelope.

Beside re-issues of entires, there also exist printings, officially ordered in rather large quantities, of the 1858 and 1861 city mail envelope stamps on strips of paper. Although they were made as early as April 1863 and up to January 1865, they were not valid for postage and are therefore only reprints. They were made in the Prussian State Printing Works by printing from a single die on yellow paper, first a row of ten stamps and then another such row in tete beche position, so that a sheet consisted of 20 stamps, equivalent to ten vertical tete-beche pairs.

The *Reprints* were privately made after 1866 and must all be considered unauthorized, as there no longer existed any Hanover postal administration which could have granted an authorization. But it is a fact, that the dealers involved in most of the reprinting of the adhesives (Pfaff-Hanover, Goldner-Hamburg, Cohn-Berlin, Gerste-Hanover and Eggersglüs-Dresden) all had original printing material at their disposal. These reprints were all made between late in 1882 and about 1895 and exist of eight adhesives. The 1/10th of 1851 and the 1/10th of 1856 were printed in tete-beche rows, they are rather dangerous but have colorless gum. The 3pf rose of 1859 is from a re-engraved electrotype which shows differences in the ribbon and has rosy-colored modern gum. The 3pf was also printed in green but with the inscription of the 3pf of 1859 reprint, this being scarce. Of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ g of 1860, several printings were made, one of which contained three tete beches; these are dangerous and can often be determined only by checking with the ten clichés of the reprint setting, because the stereotypes used for this setting all had

small plate flaws. The 3g yellow of 1859, as well as the 3g brown of 1861 and 1864, were made from a defaced and reconstructed electrotype in a print more or less coarse, of which the rouletted variety — which also comes with rose colored gum — is rouletted 13 instead of 16. The reprints of the envelopes were made by Fouré as early as 1869-70; the 1sg, 2sg and 3sg of 1857, and the 1g, 2g and 3g of 1859, 1861 and 1863, are known all in small size only, and these can be recognized by the long thinly applied gum, by a different cut of the envelopes, as well as by a new type-set overprint, which has a period after POST-COUVERT. Several known "errors", for example 1gg of 1857, small size, with the overprint of the 3sg, also belong to these private reprints. The reprints of the money order cards exist of both printings (with "Post-Casse" and "Postkasse"); they show the design of the stamp much coarser than on the originals. Of the city mail stationery, unpasted remainders of the 1850 envelope without handstamp, with the price indication 4gg in the note on back, received posthumously, about 1863, the handstamp and were offered as letter sheets; the originals of the letter sheets always have the 3gg price indication. The 1858, 1861 and 1863 envelopes were also reprinted in 1869-70; the stamps are weakly printed, they have long gum and the notes are from a new setting or are omitted.

It was one of the greatest concerns of the postal administrations in the early years that *postal forgeries* — imitations made to defraud the postal service of postage — would remain undetected and would impair their revenues. Hanover was in this respect no exception. Shortly after the 1851 issue appeared, a printer in Hanover presented the postal administration with an imitation of the 1gg on green paper which, though rather well executed, led to no action. Only in 1860, shortly after the 1859 issue was introduced, the postal administration claimed that it had detected imitations of the 1g and published a circular, with a picture of the supposed imitation alongside of one of a genuine stamp, to alert the post offices. Actually this seems to have been one of these scares of which other postal administrations also became victims, when their printers did not recognize their own badly printed products and

declared them to be imitations. As a matter of fact, no copy of this supposed postal forgery was ever found — all copies claimed to be such forgeries proved to be only badly printed originals — and we are of the opinion that no postal forgeries actually existed.

With *forgeries and fakes*, however, Hanover is rather well supplied and the collector must be alert to avoid them. There exist *forgeries* of all adhesives, but except for the ½g of 1860, the 10g of 1861 and the 3pf of 1863, of which good imitations exist, they are all crude and are not dangerous. Of the 1849 city mail letter sheet an imitation exists on white (instead of bluish) paper, with the handstamp 31½mm. instead of 27mm. long and with a period after "Bestellgeld-frei", which was made as early as 1864, supposedly on official order. Much more deceptive are some *fakes* which cover a large field. The most frequently found is the 1gg of 1850 made from the 1gg of 1851 by changing the color of the paper from green to blue, a rather easy chemical procedure. The fake, of course, can be easily recognized by the wreath watermark, but in recent years even serious students have claimed that actually the first 1gg on blue also exists genuine with the wreath watermark. Aside from the fact that the copies on cover presented as proof come from various years and printings between 1851 and 1855, the color of the 1gg of 1851 is so easily changeable that even the gum influenced by fumes in an unsuitable storage place may accidentally have played the trick. There are many reasons why the existence of genuine 1gg on blue with wreath watermark is extremely unlikely and until much more substantial proof is provided we must refuse considering such copies other than accidentally or purposely made chemical changelings. There exist also rather crude chemical changelings of the 2g blue of 1859 in green and changing of the figure of value, to create the scarce 10g. Stamps with faked roulette exist of the 2g and 3g of 1864, made from the imperforate stamps of 1859, to manufacture rouletted stamps with rose gum, of which the 2g is not known genuine and the 3g is a scarce stamp. On the other hand, the rouletted 3pf green is frequently found clipped to simulate the scarce imperforate 3pf green. The colorless gum of

the 2g and 3g of 1864 sometimes is artificially colored rose to fake the rarer varieties and various reprints are similarly treated to make them resemble the originals. Another way of trying to increase the value of some envelopes consists in refolding large size envelopes to make small size ones; this has been practised for the unused 1gg and 2sg envelopes of 1857. Some adhesives, which are considerably rarer unused than used, especially the 1gg of 1850, come with pen or pencil cancellation removed and are offered as unused. On the other hand, the rarer used 10g, and in few cases also the imperforate 3pf green and the rouletted ½g exist with faked cancellations. This attempt to increase the value is more often practised on the stationery, where some envelopes (1857, 1gg and 2sg in large size), the money order cards and the city mail envelopes of 1858, 1861 and 1863 can be found with faked cancellations; in some cases, genuine postmarks which came into private possession were used for that purpose. Faked cancellations also can be found on reprints of adhesives and especially of envelopes.

The history of the *postmarks* of Hanover is a rather short one as the general use of postmarks extends over less than sixty years. There exist a few 18th century postmarks from Hanover territory, but they were either used by the "Reichpost", the Thurn and Taxis mail service at their post offices, or by the same post offices after they had been taken over by Hanover's own postal service in 1790. As in a number of other countries, the French occupation during the Napoleonic period, from 1806 to 1813, led to the general introduction of postmarks by the occupying postal service, similar to those used in France proper. After the liberation, these occupation postmarks, partly after appropriate changes, were continued in use, together with new postmarks of similar type, now supplied by the country's own postal service.

Generally, Hanover's postmarks are more uniform and show a greater continuity than those of most countries because almost all postmarks were centrally made. An engraver in the city of Hanover manufactured them for the postal administration, which in turn delivered them to the postmasters of the various postal establish-

ments. Each type of postmark was manufactured during a specific period and was usually discontinued when another type was adopted for general use. A few special types of postmarks were supplied to the large post offices only. Very few postmasters had their postmarks manufactured locally and as a result used postmarks which deviate somewhat. These facts make it rather easy to reduce the Hanover postmarks to a system but it is also the reason why only few "spectacular" postmarks exist.

The earliest postmarks on Hanover territory, used by the "Reichspost", appeared in 1787 and are known only from three post offices, namely Goslar, Hannover and Hildesheim. They were dateless straight lines in Roman capitals. On the last two, the town name was preceded by "VON" or abbreviated "V.", meaning "From". The Hannover postmark is remarkable because it used the English spelling "Hanover". When the "Reichspost" offices were taken over in 1790 by the Hanover postal service, the use of part of the equipment was continued. Of the postmarks, we find that of Goslar also after 1790 — the last year of use known to us is 1794 — but for the other two post offices new postmarks, again dateless straight lines, but without "VON" or "V.", were introduced in 1790. They were in Roman capitals, but Hannover also had one in script type. Only from the three post offices taken over from the "Reichspost" are such postmarks known and their use seems to have stopped before the turn of the century, as the last known year of use is 1799. From all other post offices no postmarks are known from that period and from 1799 until the French occupation no postmarks seem to have been used at all on Hanover territory. All 18th century postmarks are known only in black.

After the French occupation had started in 1806, the majority of the post offices — about 130 out of the 145 existing on Hanover territory — came to the kingdom of Westphalia. After the reorganization of the postal service, the introduction of postmarks started in 1808; they were uniform dateless straight lines with the town name in Roman capitals. From about 30 post offices such postmarks are known but it is probable that all 75 post offices which belonged to Westphalia until 1813 had such postmarks. On paid letters, a straight line

FRANCO was added. Black ink was used exclusively.

When in 1810 part of the kingdom of Westphalia was incorporated into the French departments 128, 129 and 130, about 55 post offices were affected. To these came the 15 Hanover post offices, which did not belong to Westphalia and now came to the French départements 123, 124, 130 and 131, so that together about 70 post offices were in the new French départements and 75 remained in the kingdom of Westphalia. In the French départements, French type postmarks were introduced without much delay, the first ones appearing early in 1811. They were dateless straight lines in Roman capitals, with the département number above the town name. It seems doubtful whether all post offices received such postmarks, as they are known only from about 30 post offices. It seems that at least some offices continued the use of the Westphalian postmarks and no new postmarks were introduced. Separate postmarks existed for paid letters, with the letter "P" before and after the département number. We have not seen any postmarks with the special marking "DEB." standing for "Déboursé", used on forwarded letters, such as are known from other post offices in French occupied territories. The French occupation postmarks were mostly black, but red ink was used not infrequently and the postmarks for paid letters are mostly stamped in red.

When the occupation ended and the mail service was again taken over by the Hanover postal administration, the use of postmarks was continued. The Westphalian postmarks required no change, while from the French département postmarks the département number and also the P.P. was removed and the postmarks continued in use. Only those postmarks which had a French spelling of the town name (Embsen for Emden, Lunebourg for Lüneburg, Papenbourg for Papenburg, etc.) were quickly replaced by new postmarks with the German spelling. The dateless straight line postmarks with the town name in Roman capitals remained the standard type of postmark and in the Eighteen Twenties practically all post offices had such postmarks in use. As exception, there were a few postmarks in italics or in script letters. Only a small number of the larger post offices

had postmarks with the date — Hanover also the year — in a second line and several of these dated postmarks were framed, either by single lines or by wavy lines. A few oval postmarks, with or without date indication, were also in use. A decree of May 22, 1816 ordered the addition of the date to all postmarks, by way of a separate date handstamp at the post offices and by manuscript at the postal agencies. The date handstamps introduced accordingly were circles of about 17 to 20 mm. in diameter, in two lines showing the day in figures and the month in Roman capitals; a few showed day and month in figures. They were used by all post offices and a number of the larger postal agencies. In 1828, the first generally introduced postmarks in which the date was an integral part, started to appear, namely small single circles of 17 to 21½ mm. in diameter, with the town name in Roman capitals and the date in figures — day and month — in the center. Only about 15 large post offices received such postmarks during the pre-stamp period. In a few cases, the circle wore away and a curved dated postmark resulted. A few small double circles, with the town name in Roman capitals, date in figures — day and month — in the center and hour below, also were in use at large post offices in the last years before introduction of postage stamps. All postmarks of the period between 1814 and 1851 were black, only from about a dozen post offices the use of red ink is known as a scarce exception. The date markings usually had the same color as the town postmarks; they were therefore red with red postmarks, but a few cases are known where the town postmark is black and the date marking red.

Of *fieldpost markings* of the pre-stamp period a straight line HANNOVERSCHE FELDPPOSTSPEDITION, used in 1815, and a straight line KON. HANNOV. FELDPPOST of 1848-49, both in two lines, are known.

The *post offices abroad* used the same types of postmarks as the domestic post offices.

*Special markings* used during the pre-stamp period were "Chargé" — a remnant of the French occupation period — and "Reecommandirt" for registered letters, as well as "Franco" for paid letters, a remnant of the Westphalian period and used

after 1813 only as an exception. Rate markings usually were in manuscript, but a few post offices used handstamps, usually "1,5"; "1" and "2" also are known. Letters collected from letter boxes received a marking "BK" (abbreviation of "Brief-Kasten"), sometimes in a circle, and in Hannover also with an added number, 1 to 8. For rural mail, the Hannover post office from 1820 used a single circle "LANDBOTE", with date in figures — day and month — and added time of the day, "M" (Morgens), "N" (Nachmittags) or "A" (Abends). Jorek also had a special oval postmark in use for a short period in 1838, inscribed IORCK LB. For disinfected mail, a boxed GERAUCHERT (meaning fumigated) was in use in 1830 and 1831. There were no special arrival markings; the post offices put the circular date handstamps which on outgoing letters they added to the town postmarks, alone on the reverse side of arriving letters or, in lieu of such marking, applied the date in manuscript. The special markings generally were applied in black, but red ink was used for them occasionally, by some post offices even regularly.

When postage stamps were introduced on Dec. 1, 1850, the large majority of post offices used dateless straight line postmarks, with added printed or manuscript date marking. Only a few post offices had dated postmarks, namely boxed, small single circle or small double circle postmarks. All these postmarks, which generally had the town name in Roman capitals, were now used as cancellers. The regulations provided that the town postmark had to be put twice on each letter, once to cancel the stamp and a second time alongside, for better legibility. This rule was generally observed until it was abolished in 1859. When new postmarks became necessary, first dated boxed postmarks as well as small single circles or small double circles, all with Roman capital town names, were provided by the postal administration, as in the pre-stamp period. The pre-stamp straight line postmarks are known on stamps from almost all post offices, boxed dated postmarks from about 40 post offices — those of the city of Hannover in part also showed the year date or the hour, — small single circles from about 30 towns and only a few small double circles, all with Roman

type town names. In the second half of 1851, a new type of postmark was introduced, large double circles — 27 to 28½mm. — with the town name in Roman capitals and the date in figures — day and month — in the center; a few had the hour at bottom between the circles, partly with added "Abends" or "Nachts". Until the middle of 1855 all new post offices and almost all which already existed were supplied by the postal administration with this new type of postmark, so that it exists from almost all post offices. Middle of 1855 a general change in the postmarks started to take place. The impractical Roman type postmarks — which accumulated ink around the serifs of the letters and therefore were difficult to clean — gradually were replaced by postmarks with inscriptions in sans-serif type. The first such postmarks were small single circles, varying in diameter from 18 to 24mm.; they had the date in figures — day and month — in the center, in a few cases with added hour or "Nachts". About 30 towns received this type of postmark which was followed late in 1857 by small double circles of 22½ to 24mm., with the town name in sans-serif letters. These double circle postmarks had the date in figures — day and month — in the center and the hour at bottom between the circles, or they had small circles or other ornaments instead of the hour indication; a few had the indication "Nachts" between ornaments. From the cities of Hannover and Hildesheim there exist such postmarks with "B" at left and "K" at right ("Brief-Kasten" = "Letter Box"), from the former also with "N" and "K" (probably standing for "Nacht-Kasten" = Night Box). About 80 post offices used this type of postmark. Two double circles, inscribed GEESTE-MUNDE\*ZOLLVEREIN\* and GEESTE-MUNDE\*FREIHAFEN\*, with date and hour in center, also belong to this group. About 1860 there appeared at a small number of post offices a conspicuous type of large boxed postmark, 50mm. long, with the town name in sans-serif letters and the date in figures — day and month —, sometimes with added hour. Less than 20 post offices received such postmarks and they seem to have been in use only for a short period, which is not surprising in view of their unhandy and disproportionate

size; they are all scarce to rare.

A few postmasters had their own ideas about the cancelling of stamps and, obviously influenced by foreign examples, used special cancellers of their own. Such cases are known from Freden and Norden (single circles without inscription), Soegel (3-ring without inscription), Melle (7-ring without inscription), Bunde (negative seal with arms on a shield) and a few more (another seal, a grid, etc.) exist, of which the origin is unknown. All were used for short periods only and are scarce to rare.

On all issues, we can occasionally find manuscript cancellations, simple lines or crosses, and also often town name, date and even year. Such cancellations were made for various reasons, omission of cancellation by the post office where the mail was posted, temporary lack or unfitness of the regular postmark, etc.; they are scarce, especially when the town name is written on the stamps.

The *letter collecting agencies*, which started to operate in 1853, generally used no postmarks but put their name and the date — if at all — in manuscript on the letters. In only a few cases did letter collecting agencies use postmarks, usually new dateless straight lines, first in Roman capitals, from 1855 in sans-serif capitals; a few other singular types also are known. Only two such postmarks had the inscription "Briefsammlung" in addition to the town name, namely, double circles with double outer circle, always without date indication, which are known from Hamelwörden and — much rarer — Neuland, where they were used around 1863.

The *travelling post offices* from 1853 used straight lines in Roman capitals, with date and trip number — I to IV — between the names of the terminals of the line. Two types exist, one in which the figure of the day is separated by a diagonal line from the month, the other which has periods after the figures. Four different line indications can be found: HANNOVER-EMDEN, HANNOVER-GEESTEMUNDE, HANNOVER-HARBURG and HANNOVER-CASSEL, all also vice-versa. The place of mailing was marked alongside such postmarks in manuscript, but on the line Hannover-Geestemünde postmarks were also used which showed the abbreviated route terminals on one line and the

name of the station where the mail was posted on the other, date and trip number between. Four different kinds exist in this type, namely BREMEN HVR.-GM., GM.-HVR. BREMEN, BREMEN GM.-HVR. and GM.-HVR. GEESTEMUNDE. About 1860, similar kinds of postmarks were introduced on the Hannover-Harburg line, but they were boxed and had the inscriptions in sans-serif capitals. Two kinds exist, HARBURG H.-HVR. and HARBURG HVR.-H.

*Fieldpost markings* were also used after 1850, namely in 1858, 1864 and 1866. In 1858, during maneuvers, the pre-stamp straight line KON. HANNOV. FELD-POST was again used, this time as canceller with a large double circle stamped alongside, from which the town name was removed. During the wars of 1864 and 1866, a new small double circle with sans-serif inscription, K. HANNOV. FELDPST, with date in center, was in use.

The *post offices on foreign soil* continued to use the same types of postmarks as the domestic post offices.

The *special markings* of the pre-stamp period were mostly continued after 1850 and a number of them were occasionally also used as cancellers. As such, the RE-COMMANDIRT, FRANCO as well as some rate markings can be found, the BK markings and the circular date markings, which normally were added to the dateless straight line postmark alongside the stamps. They are all scarce to rare on stamps.

For the *Envelopes*, special regulations existed for the cancelling. The envelope stamps were not to be cancelled but the postmark applied to the top right corner of the envelope. As long as the envelope stamp was in the top left corner, this worked satisfactorily and we rarely find cancelled envelope stamps, but those became more frequent between 1861 and 1863 when the position of the envelope stamp was moved to the top right corner of the envelope. But generally, the large majority of all envelope stamps remained uncanceled. The same was the case for the city mail letter sheets and envelopes, on which various postmarks of the city of Hannover can be found alongside the stamps. The imprinted stamps on the money order cards were also not cancelled but the postmark usually applied elsewhere on the cards.

The ink used for the cancellations was first generally black, with a few red cancellations as scarce exceptions. This changed in 1852, when with decree of April 23, 1852, blue ink was introduced for all postmarks. Therefore, from then on blue ink was the regular color. After 1852, black was an exception and still more so was red, although a few post offices continued to use both regularly. Other colors we know of only in the case of registration markings, which also come in a distinct magenta shade.

Of the straight line postmarks, a number exists only on the 1850 1gg and only in black, while about half of them come also in blue and on the 1851 issue. The boxed postmarks with Roman type inscriptions came in black and blue and so do the small single circles with Roman type inscriptions. Of the large double circles, all come in blue and about one third also in black. The small sans-serif single circles of 1855 and the small sans-serif double circles of 1857 almost exclusively are found in blue and the large boxed sans-serif postmarks are known only in blue. The cancellations of the travelling post offices and of the field post offices are also always in blue.

A characteristic kind of Hanover cancellation can be found in the *precancelled* stamps which are known of all issues. Two reasons are given for the use of precancelled stamps, which were employed only by the postal clerks on letters posted against payment in cash and on which the postal clerks themselves were obliged to affix the stamps. The one reason is the saving of work, the other the prevention of uncanceled stamps slipping through, as this entailed a fine against the careless postal clerk, when it was discovered by a controlling postal official. The precancelling was either done by pen strokes — mostly horizontal or vertical, usually applied with the help of a ruler to full sheets of stamps — or by regular dateless postmarks, especially the straight lines, while other types, especially dated ones, are rare exceptions. As such precancelled stamps are never tied and generally have only part of a postmark, they usually can be easily recognized on letters. This is the only way in which they can be collected because off cover it is generally difficult if not impossible to

prove that a stamp was precancelled. Precancellation by pen lines comes only on the issues 1850 to 1855-56, while precancellation by postmarks can be found on all issues, but on the later ones much less frequently; around 1863 precancelling seems to have stopped almost entirely. About two dozen post offices are known to have used the first kind of precancellation and also about two dozen the second kind; only a few used both kinds. The least scarce are all precancelled 1gg and 1g, scarcer are the 1/30th, 1/15th and 1/10th of 1851, while the same values of 1855-56 and the 2g and 3g of 1859 are much scarcer. The 3pf, 1/2g and 10g values are all unknown precancelled, as are the rouletted 2g and 3g of 1864. When precancelled stamps were used, pen cancelled ones often received a postmark as second cancellation. With stamps precancelled by a postmark we find either the same postmark alongside on the cover or another one bearing a date. Sometimes the precancellation is in black ink — several post offices continued to use black ink only for precancellation after 1852 — while the postmark on the letter is in blue ink.

When we make a *survey of the cancellations* on the various issues and stamps, we find that the 1gg of 1850 comes mostly with straight line cancellation in black. Other types of cancellation are scarcer; blue cancellation is rather scarce and red cancellation is rare. On the 1851 issue, it is the other way around, blue cancellation is the rule and black cancellation is considerably scarcer. Although we still find many straight line postmarks on this issue, in black and blue, the dominant type on this issue is the large double circle in blue, with a sprinkling of boxed and other types. On the 1855-56 and later issues straight line postmarks are scarce exceptions. The 1855-56 issue shows the large double circles still in the majority of cases, but boxed postmarks as well as small single circles and double circles, all in blue, can be found from a number of post offices. On the 1859 and 1864 issues, large double circles as well as small single circles and double circles, all in blue, are equally frequent and only a small fraction of stamps can be found with other postmarks or cancelled in black.

When *Prussia* took over the postal service



in Hanover on Oct. 1, 1866, the use of the postmarks was continued at all post offices. Therefore, the last used double and single circles, a few boxed postmarks and even a few straight line postmarks as well as the travelling post office markings can also be found on Prussia stamps and envelopes of the 1861 issue, all in blue, about 10% also in black. The blue ink was gradually replaced by black ink, so that on the stamps of the *North German Confederation*, from Jan. 1, 1868 to Dec. 31, 1871, practically all old Hanover postmarks — which were still in use at about 95% of the former Hanover post offices — now can be found in black and only about 60% also in blue. On the stamps of the *German Empire*, from Jan. 1, 1872 on, about 80% of the Hanover post offices still used their old postmarks, with a few exceptions all only in black. On the 1875 issue, about one third of the old postmarks were still in use but they were now withdrawn at a faster rate and the last ones are reported used in 1880. With them vanished the last reminder of the independent Hanover postal service.

The literature concerning Hanover stamps, stationery and postmarks is extensive, but it is quite overshadowed by the compilation in the Kohl Handbook, the work of E. Hoffman, and one of the best, if not the best of the monographs of the entire handbook. Unfortunately, no English translation of this section of the handbook was published. It is so all encompassing that other literature about the adhesives is of little importance. For the envelopes, Carl Lindenberg's "Die Briefumschläge der deutschen Staaten", which in volume II also deals with Hanover, although published in 1895, is still the most valuable source of information. The most comprehensive book about postmarks, pre-stamp and cancellations, is "Hannoversehe Post-Stationen" by Gerhard Müller, published in 1935. With these three books, the Hanover collector has all he needs, provided that he can read German, as there is nothing of comparable value available in English.

In the *Scott Catalog* there are listed 25 different adhesives of Hanover. Eighteen of them are priced higher unused than used, three are priced the same and only four cost more used than unused. Of the unused stamps, the most expensive one is the

1gg of 1850 (\$200), the highest priced used stamp is the 10g of 1861 (\$80). Unused there are ten stamps priced \$10 or less, five \$5 or less, two \$2 or less and one 45c; used eighteen stamps are priced \$10 or less, eight \$5 or less, four \$2 or less and two 50c or less. The listed adhesives complete total unused \$765 and used \$340; if we always take the cheapest, unused or used, the total is only \$290. Therefore, a collector of moderate means will encounter no great difficulty in getting the country complete, although for really fine condition he will have to pay close to full catalog. The specialist, of course, will have to invest quite a sum of money to get a sizable collection and the largest Hanover collection in existence is valued well in six figures.

Hanover is not only one of the most interesting and philatelically rewarding countries but its colorful and beautiful stamps make it the esthetically most satisfactory among the Old German States. The attractive network issue, with its borders, is the esthetic highlight of such a collection, but philatelically the multi-colored frankings, the numerous splits and the cancellations are no less fascinating. When a collector is in a financial position enabling him to spend freely, he can assemble a really large Hanover collection and achieve one of the zeniths of collecting, because in no other Old German State can he obtain such an attractive and enchanting display. It is a real pleasure to look at a intelligently built and arranged Hanover collection. The collector of smaller means can profit from this attractiveness by reducing the standard of condition, which will enable him to acquire a representative showing with a smaller expenditure. But in any event, Hanover is an ideal country for the specialist and if he has real devotion and sufficient means, he will be able to assemble a collection which in respect to appearance will be superior to the specialized collections of most other countries.

(Next: XIX. Heligoland)

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