

and their regular use on bona-fide commercial mail. Pro-forma sale at one or a few post offices for a short period with the bulk of the printing sold for collecting purposes and none or an insignificant percentage used on actual mail cannot take the place of such regular use and therefore such stamps should be listed in the separate group of special stamps.

#### IX

The postal services do not restrict themselves in some countries to the *transportation of mail* — letter mail, printed matter, parcels, etc. — but they also provide other services, such as the issuance of money orders, accepting of savings, etc., which are entirely unrelated to the original scope of the mail service. It should be a cataloguing principle that only those stamps which paid for the transportation of mail or fees connected with it are granted catalog listing, while all other stamps which have another purpose should be excluded. Therefore, for example, special stamps paying for the mailing fee of money orders belong in a general catalog, while control labels indicating only the amount of a money order, are not postal stamps in our sense, regardless of whether or not they were postally cancelled. In a number of cases, the post office collects various taxes on mail, such as war tax or a special tax on letters, or newspaper tax on newspapers. Although such stamps do not pay for postal fees, their use by the post office makes them eligible for listing in a general catalog of

postal stamps, according to present listing standards.

In a few cases, the postal services have assigned part of their service to other governmental organizations, for example in Belgium transportation of heavier parcels to the railroads or in other countries pneumatic mail to the telegraph services. In such cases there is often the question of where we consider the limits of the postal service to be and whether the branches of the postal service taken over by such organizations may be considered within or without the scope of the postal service. On this decision will also depend whether and how the stamps used by these organizations should be listed in a general catalog.

Usually, the *design* and the execution of postal stamps and stationery does not influence the listing in a general catalog, but in one case the *size* of the stamps was the decisive factor for their exclusion from the general catalogs. We refer to the money letter stamps of Colombia. Although they have all of the characteristics of an adhesive postal stamp and were listed in the general catalogs for many years, they eventually became victims of the onrushing new issues flood, because their size makes them resemble postal stationery more than postal adhesives. Unjustly thrown out of the postal stamp catalogs, they found a refuge in the postal stationery catalogs where they do not belong.

(To be concluded)

## EUROPEAN CLASSICS

### XIX. HELIGOLAND

The island of *Heligoland* — German Helgoland — in the North Sea off the mouth of the rivers Weser and Elbe, was the smallest postal entity of the classic stamp period. It was about one mile long and at its broadest point three quarters of a mile wide. Its area was about a quarter of a square mile and its population a little over 2,000 in 1875. German (Frisian dialect) was and is the native language.

Heligoland was first settled by Nordic tribes, who built there a temple for the god Fosite, which gave the island its original name, Fositesland. The island was known to the Romans and the Phoenicians. In the 7th century, the inhabitants were converted

to Christianity and the new name Heligoland adopted. There are two etymological versions of this name, one claiming that it derived from "Heiligeland" ("Holy Land"), the other attributing it to "Halligeland" ("Tidelands"). In later centuries, the island was occupied by pirates who harassed the shipping in the Elbe and Weser estuaries. Around 1400 this became such a menace that the Hamburg Senate sent a warship against them and then occupied the island, which in this way became a possession of Hamburg. But the dukes of Holstein-Gottorp also claimed sovereignty and eventually the island became their fief. In 1714 it was occupied by Denmark and became a Danish possession. During the Napoleonic

Wars, the island was an important base for naval operations and when the French occupied Hamburg in 1806, Great Britain moved in and took possession of Heligoland. In the Kiel peace treaty of 1814, the island was ceded by the Danish to Great Britain. It was ruled by a British governor and gained in importance when in 1826 a bathing resort was opened on the island which soon became fashionable and during the summer — June to September — attracted thousands of visitors. Heligoland remained a British possession until 1890, when it was ceded to the German Empire in exchange for concessions in East Africa.

It seems that there was no organized postal service on Heligoland before 1796. In that year, the city of Hamburg sent a postal agent to the island in order to facilitate the mail service with Great Britain. Sailships, which at that time were the only means of sea transportation, carrying mail from England, often could not reach Ritzbüttel or Hamburg, especially during the winter, due to adverse wind, storm, fog or ice, and Heligoland served as relay station. This fact became especially important during the Napoleonic Wars, because the only way for mail from Great Britain to reach the continent was through Hamburg, before the French occupied that city. According to the postal arrangements between Hamburg and Great Britain, it was the duty of the former to secure the safety of this mail service and the establishment of a postal agent at Heligoland was one of the measures to accomplish that. Paul Volkers was the first postal agent. His duty was to assure mail service between Heligoland and Hamburg. On the one hand he had to forward British mail, which British ships had deposited on the island when they could not reach the continent, on the other hand he had to take care of the mail between Heligoland and Hamburg. After steamships were introduced in 1816 for the Hamburg-Great Britain mail service, the importance of Heligoland diminished, but sailships were still used in addition to the steamships and, during adverse weather periods, they had to deposit their mail at Heligoland, an arrangement which continued as late as 1852. For the mail service Heligoland-Hamburg, sailships were used regularly. After the opening of the bathing resort in 1826, this service increased considerably during the summer and in 1834

a steamship service Hamburg-Heligoland was established, which operated during the summer months. Heligoland was considered part of the Hamburg postal system and all mail arriving from Heligoland on the continent was handled by the Hamburg "Stadtpost". In 1865, Great Britain decided to take over the postal service on Heligoland and on May 7, 1866, a treaty between Great Britain and Hamburg was concluded by which the postal service passed into British hands on July 1, 1866. The postmaster Paul Volkers had been succeeded by his son Peter and Peter Volkers was sworn in as the first British postmaster of Heligoland. But the British post office opened only on January 1, 1867 and in the interim period the mail service was continued as before July 1, 1866. The treaty between Great Britain and Hamburg concerning Heligoland covered all details of the mail service. A similar treaty between Great Britain and Bremen was concluded on May 21, 1867, establishing regular mail service between Heligoland and Geestemünde. In 1868, regular mail service by steamboats between Heligoland and Hamburg during the summer was established, which later was reduced to runs to Ritzbüttel; these mail boats had mail boxes on board and the mail posted there was delivered either to the Heligoland, the Hamburg or the Ritzbüttel (from 1873 Cuxhaven) post office. Only one post office existed on Heligoland during the classic stamp period, which was opened daily only during the summer season (June 1 to October 15), while otherwise the post office opened only once a week, before the mail boat to Ritzbüttel or Hamburg left. In 1873, Dr. R. Pilger became postmaster. He was succeeded in 1879 by D. J. Hornsman, who in 1890 became the first German postmaster of Heligoland. During the whole classic stamp period, there was no local mail service on the island, but two mail carriers delivered the mail which arrived for local inhabitants and their guests.

Heligoland used the Hamburg currency, 1 mark (m) divided into 16 Schilling (s), 1 schilling equivalent to 12 Pfennig (pf). On January 1, 1875, the German currency, 1 mark divided into 100 pfennig, was introduced. For weights and distances, the same measurement as in Hamburg, from June 15, 1873, as in Germany, were used.



As for other countries which adopted in 1875 the new German currency, we are limiting the *classic stamp period* of Heligoland to the stamps in Hamburg currency, excluding stamps and stationery issued from February 15, 1875 on in German currency.

Heligoland started to use *postage stamps of Hamburg* on the same day — *January 1, 1859* — as the other Hamburg post offices, or soon thereafter. Its *own postage stamps* were first issued on or about *April 15, 1867*; until then, the use of Hamburg stamps was provisionally continued from July 1, 1866, when the postal service had been taken over by the British authorities. No other kind of postal adhesives were introduced. Of postal stationery, *envelopes of Hamburg* were issued at Heligoland on *April 5, 1866* or soon thereafter. It is probable that also *postal money order cards of Hamburg* were introduced on *July 1, 1866*, or at least postal money order forms with attached adhesives. Under British administration, from April 15, 1867, no postal stationery was used, only printed *post cards* with attached adhesives were sold from June 1873 on by the post office and *money order forms* with attached adhesives were continued to be used after April 15, 1867.

Under Hamburg administration, the *postal rates* generally were the same as at other Hamburg post offices. The only difference was, that during the summer months, when a regular ship service to the mainland functioned, a surcharge of 2s was collected for letters, which paid for the ship transportation. Therefore, letters to Hamburg up to 2 loth paid 4s during the summer months and 2s during the other months of the year, when the mail service was irregular and letters sometimes waited a month for an opportunity to be forwarded. Money letters paid 8s up to 50m value, 12s from 50m to 100m value and 6s for each additional 50m value. Printed matter paid 1s per loth. Letters to countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union were charged with 4s (=3sg) per loth plus 2s surcharge for sea transportation during the summer months and only 4s postage during the balance of the year. The registration fee was 2s. There was no postal parcel service. Under British administration, the rates fixed by the postal convention between Hamburg and Great Britain came into force on July 1, 1866. Now the same fees were charged for letters

to Hamburg as to other countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union. Letters paid 2s per loth, printed matter and samples  $\frac{1}{2}$ s for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  loth (maximum weight 15 loth), the letters still with a 2s surtax for sea transportation during the summer months. The registration fee now was 3s, the same as the fee for return receipts. Money letters were charged 8s up to 125m, 12s from 125m to 250m, 24s from 250m to 500m and 48s up to the maximum of 1000m. The charge for the newly introduced money order cards was 3s up to 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ m and 4s up to 125m, which was the maximum allowed. When on January 1, 1868 the Hamburg mail service passed into the hands of the North German Confederation new reduced letter rates for mail to Germany came into force the same day. Letters now paid  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s (1sg) for each loth, again with the 2s sea transportation surtax during the summer months. On June 15, 1873, this surtax was abolished and the German domestic mail rates introduced. Letters continued to pay  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s for the first 15 grams, but now only 3s for heavier letters up to 250 grams; the fee for post cards was 3/4s. For printed matter,  $\frac{1}{2}$ s for each 50 grams up to 250 grams and 4s from 250 to 500 grams was charged and for samples  $\frac{1}{2}$ s for each 50 grams. The registration and return receipt fees now were 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ s, money order cards cost 3s up to 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ m and 6s up to 125m. During the whole classic stamp period there was no local mail service, but for incoming mail, which was delivered by letter carriers, a fee of 1s was collected from the addressee, which was abolished only on June 15, 1873.

The use of postage stamps was never compulsory as long as Hamburg stamps were in use and mail could be paid in cash or franked with stamps at the same rates. The rates were also the same regardless whether the sender or the addressee paid the postage; printed matter and samples could be sent only prepaid. After the British mail service issued its own stamps, prepayment with stamps of all mail became compulsory and a 1s surtax was collected on unpaid letters.

The Hamburg stamps used on Heligoland seem to have been *withdrawn* and *demonetized* concurrently with the issuance of the first Heligoland stamps. In turn, these latter were withdrawn and demonetized by Febr. 14, 1875, the day before the new

stamps in German currency were issued.

The denominations of the stamps issued on Heligoland fitted the prevailing postal rates. Under Hamburg administration, only the use of Hamburg adhesives of 1s, 2s, 3s and 4s is known and the use of other values seems improbable because there was no need for them. According to the official records, Hamburg postal envelopes were also issued at the Heligoland post office, but we have never seen any examples of such use. Only 2s, 3s and 4s envelopes were supposedly used. Under British administration, also only four denominations, fitting the new rates, were introduced, namely  $\frac{1}{2}s$ , 1s, 2s and 6s. The introduction of the German domestic mail rates in 1873 made new values necessary, namely  $\frac{3}{4}s$  for post cards,  $1\frac{1}{2}s$  for letters and  $\frac{1}{4}s$  as additional value, to make up the registration fee and also the post card fee before the  $\frac{3}{4}s$  stamp was issued. These three values were issued in August 1873 ( $\frac{1}{4}s$ ), September 1873 ( $1\frac{1}{2}s$ ) and December 1873 ( $\frac{3}{4}s$ ) respectively. The post card forms were first sold — June to August 1873 — with attached 1s stamp, an over-payment of  $\frac{1}{4}s$ , due to lack of the proper denomination. From August to December 1873,  $\frac{1}{2}s$  plus  $\frac{1}{4}s$  stamps were used to make up the  $\frac{3}{4}s$  rate and from then on the new  $\frac{3}{4}s$  stamps.

The design of all Heligoland stamps of the classic period shows the head of Queen Victoria of Great Britain facing to the left, in an oval medallion, placed in the center of a rectangular frame. The simple frame, consisting of lines only, has SCHILLING at top and bottom, HELIGOLAND at left and right, and the figure of value in each corner. It seems to have been a kind of compromise to use the English spelling for the country's name and the German spelling for the currency indication. On the  $\frac{1}{2}s$  and 1s the inscriptions are colored, while all other values have them colorless in colored rectangles. The figures of value always are in color. The first issued  $\frac{1}{2}s$ , 1s, 2s and 6s have the spandrels filled with ornaments, while the  $\frac{1}{4}s$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}s$  and  $1\frac{1}{2}s$  have these spandrels blank. Therefore, there were three designs, namely colored inscriptions, ornamented spandrels ( $\frac{1}{2}s$ , 1s), colorless inscriptions, ornamented spandrels (2s, 6s) and colorless inscriptions, blank spandrels ( $\frac{1}{4}s$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}s$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}s$ ). It had been decided to print all stamps in

the same colors, red and green, to have them in the colors of Heligoland, which were red, white and green. To avoid similarities, the colors were used in different ways. For two values ( $\frac{1}{2}s$ , 1s) frame and medallion were printed in one color, the spandrels in the other, for two others (2s, 6s) the frame was printed in one color, medallion and spandrels in the other. Of the values with blank spandrels, two ( $\frac{1}{4}s$  and  $1\frac{1}{2}s$ ) were printed with the medallion in one color and the frame in the other, while the third ( $\frac{3}{4}s$ ) has the medallion and the inscriptions at left and right in one color and the inscriptions at top and bottom as well as all four figures of value in the other color. Therefore, each of the seven denominations shows a different design or color combination. The medallion is green on the  $\frac{1}{4}s$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}s$  and 2s and red on the  $\frac{3}{4}s$ , 1s,  $1\frac{1}{2}s$  and 6s. The idea of the design and of printing the stamps in the Heligoland colors originated with Government Secretary Gätke, while the actual design was made by Director Wedding of the Prussian State Printing Works.

After efforts to have the stamps printed in Great Britain failed, the manufacture was eventually entrusted to the Prussian State Printing Works in Berlin, with the Hamburg postal administration acting as intermediary. The engraver Eduard Schilling cut in steel a die for the medallion, another for the spandrels and dies for the frames of each of the four original values,  $\frac{1}{2}s$ , 1s, 2s and 6s. In 1868, two new dies, for  $\frac{1}{2}s$  and 1s, were cut, which consisted of frame and medallion combined. Eventually, in 1873, three dies, for the frames of the new  $\frac{1}{4}s$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}s$  and  $1\frac{1}{2}s$ , were made, all by the engraver Schilling. Therefore, three different dies existed for the medallion with the Queen's head. The original die (Type I), which was used for all seven values, had the tip of the bust pointed and the curl on the back of head is a nearly round blob. The new dies of the  $\frac{1}{2}s$  and 1s of 1868 show the frames differing in several details from the original ones and each also has a different head in the medallion. In the medallion of the new  $\frac{1}{2}s$  (Type II, which was only used for this value and, later, for all values of the 1875 issue), the curl on the back of the head appears as a small comma-shaped hook (Fig. 96, 97). The medallion of the new 1s (Type III,



used only for this value) shows the curl as a kind of corkscrew.

The *printing material* was manufactured by the Prussian State Printing Works. As printing process, typography combined with embossing was chosen, the same method by which previously stamps and envelopes for several Old German States had been printed by that institution. But it was the first time that bicolored stamps of this kind were printed and this led to slight difficulties which were partly alleviated by printing the stamps from plates of only 50 each (5 rows of 10) instead of 100 as originally intended. They were assembled from electrotypes taken from the original dies. Each plate consisted of a number of groups of such clichés which had been soldered together, either two clichés or more, up to twelve. The composition was not the same for all values which can be proven because the regular space between the designs in both directions was 1mm., while between the groups it was usually larger, up to 2mm. Due to the fact that embossing was combined with typography, a counterplate was made for each plate, probably of gutta-percha or other suitable material. For the first  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and 1s, three plates each were needed, one for the frame, one for the medallion and one for the spandrels. For the second  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and 1s, as well as all other values, only two plates each were needed, namely one for the medallion combined with the spandrels and one for the frame (2s, 6s) or one for the medallion combined with the frame and one for the spandrels ( $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 1s) or one for the medallion and one for the frame ( $\frac{1}{4}$ s,  $\frac{3}{4}$ s,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s). The two types of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and 1s therefore not only are distinguished by the differences of the design of medallion and frame, but also by the fact that the first type was printed with the help of three plates, while for the second type only two plates were needed. Except for the second plates of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and 1s, all medallion plates were the same, in Type I, derived from the first medallion die engraved by Schilling, and all spandrel plates also came from the first and only spandrel die. The plates had no margin print, only position dots to achieve better register, first on the plates of the frames, later on the medallion plates. They were later also needed for the perforating process.

The *printing* of all stamps was rather  
MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL

Fig.  
96, 97



Type I

Type II

carefully done on letter presses and although two or three printing operations were required for each sheet, the printings register rather well and rarely a slight shift of one color in respect to the other can be observed. The plate for the spandrels, which uncombined was used only for the first  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and 1s, in some printings was upright and in others inverted, which can be proven by small plate flaws. This is of little importance, as the design of the spandrels was symmetrical and the different positions generally cannot be noticed on single stamps.

Only two colors were used for the printing of all Heligoland stamps, red and green. Various shades of rose, usually tending to carmine and lilac rose colors, as well as bluish green to yellow green shades were used and the combinations of these shades help greatly in the separation of the different printings as well as in the detection of reprints. Generally, the inking was rather uneven and dry prints can be found rather frequently while overinking is uncommon. For the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s, a veritable error of color occurred in 1873, when one printing of 2000 sheets was printed by mistake in the colors of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s, therefore the colors of frame and medallion reversed, the medallion of the error printed in rose and the frame in green. The mistake was only detected after the stamps were issued at the post office, late in September 1873, but the errors were not withdrawn from sale, only 1500 sheets remaining in the Government stocks were returned to the printers and destroyed. Only about 9000 copies of the error were sold at the post office and probably only a fraction of this quantity used for franking purposes.

The *paper* used for the Heligoland stamps was machine-made. First a wove paper of medium thickness, but from July 1873 a slightly thicker paper which shows a distinct mesh was used and remained in use during the rest of the classic stamp period.

The *gum* was the same as used for the

stamps of other countries manufactured by the Prussian State Printing Works. It was of vegetable origin and more or less yellowish, often rather cracky.

All Heligoland stamps were issued with a *separation* help. The first stamps were rouletted 10. The roulette was applied to a whole sheet in one operation, by using a type-set rouletting form consisting of 50 rectangles of stamp size. The roulette runs through the top and bottom sheet margin, but penetrates on the side margins only slightly. In 1869, a comb perforation  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$  (14x17 perfs) was introduced which is identical with the perforation used from 1868 for the stamps of the North German Confederation. It has also the same peculiarities, as for example shorter stamps, with only 16 or even 15 vertical perforations, from the first or last row of the sheet. First the perforation runs always through the bottom sheet margin, later sometimes through the top sheet margin, while the other sheet margins remained without perforation. Centering of the stamps is usually not very good, but strongly off center copies do not seem to exist. Rouletted exist the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, Type I,  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, Type II, 1s, Type I, 2s and 6s, all on wove paper only. Perforated were issued, on wove paper  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, Type II, and 1s, Type II, on paper with mesh  $\frac{1}{4}$ s,  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, Type II,  $\frac{3}{4}$ s, 1s, Type II, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s. A perforated  $\frac{1}{4}$ s on thin wove paper comes from an unissued remainder printing.

Of the forms for *post cards*, which were officially printed, eight main printings were made. They had the arms of Great Britain in the center, flanked by HELIGOLAND at left, POST OFFICE and a rectangular space for a stamp at right. The first cards, issued in June 1873, were unframed, later ones — from December 1873 — had a frame. There are various differences in the arms and in the text; they are without or with 4, 5 or 6 address lines. They were locally printed, from type-set settings, probably singly in small quantities, on gray, brownish gray or buff thin card and sold with the necessary postage

stamp affixed. It is claimed that also privately made cards and later even picture post cards were sold by the post office in the same manner. *Money order forms* also were printed locally and exist in a number of varieties.

Of most of the classic stamps of Heligoland considerable *remainders* existed when they were demonetized in 1875 and these were sold to the Hamburg stamp dealer Julius Goldner soon thereafter. There were no remainders of the rouletted  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and 1s, but large quantities of the rouletted 2s and 6s, of which the first and only printing had lasted to the end of the classic stamp period. There were also large quantities of the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s and  $\frac{3}{4}$ s, smaller ones of the perforated  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s as well as of the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s error of color, while only few thousand copies remained of the perforated 1s. As considerable quantities of all Heligoland stamps were bought during their period of use at the post office by a number of old-time stamp dealers, none of the classic Heligoland stamps is very rare *unused* although those values of which no remainders were sold are rather scarce. But unused *multiples* of all values exist — although not of all printings — and are obtainable without great difficulty. Full sheets of 50 are known of most of them, even of the first rouletted  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, but this latter sheet seems to be unique.

All stamps of Heligoland are considerably scarcer *used* than unused and several of them, which are cheap unused are rare in used condition. This goes still more for *used multiples* which are scarce of all values. Even pairs are not common and strips of three and still more larger strips belong to the rare items (Fig. 98); we doubt that they are known of all values. We are sure that blocks do not exist of all values; we know only one used block of 4 of the perforated  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and no others.

On *entires*, the Hamburg stamps used at Heligoland are especially desirable as those cancelled on arrival at Hamburg generally can not be distinguished off cover.



Fig. 98





Fig.  
99

Only few covers are known with imperforate stamps of the 1859 issue, most of them with the 4s value, which is otherwise the rarest Hamburg stamp on entire but used in Heligoland is the least scarce value (Fig. 99); the other values are rarer, although of course not more valuable than the basically rare 4s. Of the other values, the 1s seems to be the rarest followed by 3s and 2s. Of the perforated Hamburg stamps even less covers are known used at Heligoland, the 3s ultramarine and 4s stamps being the least rare ones (Fig. 100), followed by the 2s and, as the rarest, the 1s. Generally, these perforated stamps are rarer from the period before July 1, 1866 than from the interim period between July 1, 1866 and April 15, 1867. Although the latter stamps are less rare, they are more attractive because they were cancelled at Heligoland and can be recognized off cover. From our experience it seems, that only letters to countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union were franked with stamps during the Hamburg administration and that the fees to other countries as well as to Hamburg were always paid in cash, which accounts for the rarity of covers with stamps. We have never seen postal envelopes or money order forms of Hamburg used at Heligoland, although they were actually used there according to the official files. In old philatelic literature there are reports of the use of stamps of Great Britain at Heligoland, from 1857 to 1869. We have never seen such items and although such use by some government officials or

MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL

navy personnel may have been possible, it is doubtful that such entires exist. Of the Heligoland stamps proper, even the least scarce ones deserve on entire a considerable premium — at least 100% added to the value off cover — and the rarer ones are cover rarities worth several times the value off cover. The rarest value on cover is the 6s, closely followed by the rouletted  $\frac{1}{2}$ s in Type II. Less rare but still rather elusive are the 1s rouletted, the 1s perforated and the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s, as well as the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s error of color. Somewhat easier to find are the rouletted  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, Type I, as well as the perforated  $\frac{1}{4}$ s and  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, while the rouletted 2s and the  $\frac{3}{4}$ s are the least rare ones, the former on cover, the latter on post card. Due to some odd rates effective from 1873 on, for which at least two stamps were necessary — as for example, the registration rate of  $2\frac{3}{4}$ s, and some fees to foreign countries — frankings with two or three different values are not as rare as expected, but due to their colorful appearance much sought after. Before 1873, most values came mainly in single frankings. Two stamps were regularly used on post cards from September to December 1873, when the  $\frac{3}{4}$ s rate was made up with



Fig.  
100

$\frac{1}{4}$ s plus  $\frac{1}{2}$ s stamps. As the stamps in Schilling currency were demonetized before the stamps in German currency were introduced, there exist no legitimate *mixed frankings* between these two kinds of stamps. We also do not know of any *emergency frankings*.

Heligoland is a country of numerous *reprints* which often scare the collector from collecting it. But actually, with a little knowledge and effort, it is easy to distinguish them from the originals and there are only a few difficult cases which need closer study. The first reprints, from 1875 to 1884, were made at the Imperial Printing Works (formerly Prussian State Printing Works) at Berlin and ordered by the Heligoland Government, which had them made for Julius Goldner of Hamburg, the buyer of the remainders of the Schilling issues. In June 1875, perforated  $\frac{1}{4}$ s,  $\frac{1}{2}$ s,  $\frac{3}{4}$ s, 1s and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s as well as the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s error were reprinted, in May-June 1879 all values incl. the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s error, perforated and imperforate,  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 1s, 2s and 6s also rouletted, and in May 1884  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 1s, 2s and 6s rouletted,  $\frac{1}{4}$ s,  $\frac{1}{2}$ s,  $\frac{3}{4}$ s, 1s and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s as well as the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s error perforated. Of these semi-official reprints, the rouletted 2s and 6s as well as the rouletted  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, Type II, and the perforated  $\frac{1}{2}$ s,  $\frac{3}{4}$ s and 1s were printed in the same types as the originals, while the rouletted 1s is printed in medallion Type III (instead of Type I), the perforated  $\frac{1}{4}$ s (incl. the error) and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s in Type II (instead of Type I). On the rouletted reprints, in addition to the regular roulette 10, we can find copies rouletted on one or two sides 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  (1879 and 1884), 11 (1884) or 9 (1884). Differences in color, paper and printing give the reprints away, but a few are quite similar to the originals. Goldner, who in January 1879 had acquired the printing material of the stamps in Schilling currency, had from 1888 on a number of reprints made by private printers, first in 1888 by Giesecke & Devrient of Leipzig and from 1891 to 1895 by F. Schlotke of Hamburg. All values were reprinted, including the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s error. The Giesecke & Devrient reprints are all in the correct types (the rouletted  $\frac{1}{2}$ s in Type II) except the rouletted 1s, which is in medallion Type III instead of Type I. The Schlotke reprints are in the same types, but the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s (incl. the error) and the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s exist also in medallion Type

II instead of Type I. These private reprints are all more or less crude and rather easily distinguished by their colors and paper. The Schlotke reprints later were rouletted 12 instead of 10 and their perforation always is a line perforation 14 instead of the comb perforation 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x14. As can be seen, the number of different reprints is considerable but many of them can be distinguished outright by the wrong medallion type, others by the paper, as no reprints on paper with a distinct mesh exist. No reprints exist also of the rouletted  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and 1s in Type I.

The collectors of Heligoland must not be concerned too much about *forgeries*. There were always sufficient supplies of originals or reprints available and therefore the existing imitations are very crude, obviously of the picture book variety and primarily not created to cheat collectors. Contrariwise, the collector has every reason to be afraid of *fakes* of Heligoland stamps. The numerous reprints provide ample material for dishonest people, who doctor them and offer them as originals. Faked cancellations on reprints, but also found quite frequently on genuine stamps, are especially dangerous, because the buyer of the remainders received in 1890 also a number of postmarks, among them the first British Heligoland postmark which was the only postmark used in Heligoland to cancel the classic stamp issues of that country. This original postmark, and other genuine Heligoland postmarks of a later period, which came into private possession are the most dangerous ones when postdated and applied to genuine Heligoland stamps and they are sometimes deceiving even on reprints. There exist also numerous imitations of these postmarks and those markings which at Ritzbüttel, Cuxhaven, Hamburg and Geestemünde were used to cancel Heligoland stamps. Some of them are crude, but others are very similar to the genuine ones. Therefore, it is even for the expert sometimes a difficult job to establish the genuineness of a Heligoland item, although in the final analysis, he can always give a factual opinion. The abundance of Heligoland fakes is one of the main reasons why Heligoland stamps on cover are selling with a high premium, although the fakers have also tried to manufacture complete covers with all the necessary cancellations and markings.



The history of the *postmarks* of Heligoland is a rather short one as there actually were no pre-stamp postmarks and the Heligoland post office even had no postmark of its own for more than seven years after postage stamps were introduced. During the pre-stamp period which extended to Dec. 31, 1858, all letters left the Heligoland post office without a postmark, only rate markings in manuscript were applied. From 1826, these letters received on the continent the circular marking SCHIFFS BRIEF-POST HAMBURG in black, which was generally applied in Hamburg to letters arriving by sailship. Only more than 25 years later—the first such letter we have seen is dated 1853 — a special origin marking for letters from Heligoland was introduced at Hamburg, a straight line HELGOLAND. in Roman capitals, 29mm. long, in black. After the introduction of Hamburg stamps at the Heligoland post office, no change occurred in this custom. Letters from Heligoland arrived at the Hamburg "Stadtpost" office without any postmark or cancellation and the stamps were cancelled there with the same four-bar cancellers, which regularly were used to cancel Hamburg stamps. The straight line HELGOLAND. origin marking was placed alongside the stamps on the letters (Fig. 99).

When the British authorities took over the postal service on Heligoland on July 1, 1866, they introduced simultaneously the first postmark ever used on the island, a London-made double circle, broken at the top for the name HELIGOLAND in sans-serif letters, and with the date — day, month in letters and year — in the center. This British postmark now was used to cancel the stamps on outgoing mail, first, until April 14, 1867, Hamburg stamps (Fig. 100) and, from April 15, 1867, the new Heligoland stamps. It was the only postmark used on the island as canceller during the classic stamp period, always in black. In addition, the origin marking HELGOLAND. was applied in Hamburg alongside the stamps until April 14, 1867, when its use for that purpose was discontinued. By the way, the date indication of the British HELIGOLAND postmark changed several times between the British usage, day after month, and the German one, day before month. First, in July 1866, the date indication was in the German version, and again

from July 1868 to April 1869, from December 1869 to July 1873 and from November 1873 to December 1873, while in the periods between and from December 1873 until the end of the classic stamp period the British version prevailed.

It seems that a large amount of mail from Heligoland was not posted at the post office there but handed to the mail clerk at the pier or on his way there, or deposited in the letter boxes on board of ships leaving for the mainland. This explains the fact, that a large percentage of early Heligoland stamps were not cancelled at the island but on arrival at Ritzbüttel, Cuxhaven, Hamburg or Geestemünde. The Hamburg "Stadtpost" used for that purpose special markings. First, the old straight line HELGOLAND. origin marking was used as canceller, in black, from 1866 in blue and after Jan. 1, 1868 again in black. A copy in brown red ink also is known on a Heligoland stamp. In February 1873 it was replaced by another straight line HELGOLAND in Roman capitals, 35½mm. long and without period, always applied in black (Fig. 98). Aside from these special markings, the Hamburg "Stadtpost" office rather frequently used its regular double circle town postmark in blue to cancel Heligoland stamps, but only as exception the four-bar canceller in blue or the single circle town postmark, the latter reported in black and blue. From Jan. 1, 1868, the North German Confederation postmarks including adapted Hamburg "Stadtpost" postmarks were occasionally used as cancellers on Heligoland stamps. After Jan. 1, 1872, German Reich postmarks introduced in Hamburg, among them the attractive "horseshoe" type, exist as occasional cancellers of Heligoland stamps. As an exception, also other Hamburg markings, generally not used as cancellers, can be found on Heligoland stamps, for example a boxed HAMBURG FRANCO, straight lines STADTFR. and "Unzureichend frankirt". In a few isolated cases, Heligoland stamps late in 1867 even were cancelled with postmarks of the Prussian post office at Hamburg. The single circle with stars on the sides of that post office, which is doubtful or an outright fraud on Hamburg stamps can be found also on Heligoland stamps, but seems equally doubtful.

On ship mail from Heligoland, landed at Ritzbüttel and later Cuxhaven, as well as

Geestemünde, the Heligoland stamps were cancelled with one of the postmarks used there. In Ritzebüttel, the boxed RITZEBÜTTEL postmark was used as canceller, first in blue — reported on Hamburg stamps only — later in black, on Heligoland stamps. From 1868, a single circle RITZEBUTTEL and, from April 1873, a single circle CUXHAVEN were used for that purpose, all in black. In Geestemünde, a boxed GEESTEMÜNDE ZOLLVEREIN was used from 1867 to 1876 and can be found rather frequently on Heligoland stamps, always in black. A single circle GEESTEMÜNDE and a double circle GEESTEMÜNDE FREIHAFEN were occasionally used from early 1873, both in black. From 1867, Geestemünde also used a special origin marking for letters from Hamburg, a semi-circular AUS HELGOLAND in sans-serif capitals, always in black, which was placed alongside the stamp on the letters and only by mistake was used as canceller. Sometimes, stamps on ship mail received a manuscript cancellation, for example "Aus Helgoland" or "Aus dem Helgoländer Schiffsbriefkasten".

On the island only few *special markings* were used. A boxed "Recomandirt" for registered letters is a rather exact imitation of a contemporary Prussian marking and can be found occasionally also used as canceller. On mail paid in cash a single circle marking PAID/FRANCO/HELIGOLAND, was stamped, which we know first used in May 1873. In later years it was also used on letters to foreign countries, on which postage was paid in stamps, to mark full payment of the necessary rate.

In regard to *literature*, the collector of Heligoland has not much choice. The early monographs, by A. Wülbern (1892) and J. B. Moens (1895), are still a good source of data, but only the Kohl Handbook provided a satisfactory compilation of all the facts including those published in many articles and notes scattered in philatelic magazines. The collector of Heligoland who understands German therefore has an excellent help in his collecting activities, but unfortunately no English translation was published and those who do not understand German will have a hard time to get all information they need.

The *Scott Catalog* lists for the classic Heligoland stamps 14 main numbers, but actually one (#1A) is only a different

type, another (#8) is an error of color, two more are only paper varieties and one is an unissued paper variety, all of which correctly should be listed as sub-numbers. Therefore, there remain actually only 9 main numbers with which we have to deal. All are unused cheaper than used and the total is \$44.00 for unused and \$155.50 for used. Three stamps are listed unused at \$1.50 each, while the cheapest used stamp is priced at \$3.50. The highest priced unused stamp catalogs \$15.00; for used, \$40.00 is the highest price, quoted for three stamps. As can be seen, it is theoretically rather easy to assemble a collection of used classic stamps of Heligoland and still easier to get the country complete unused. But it will need knowledge and diligence on the part of the collector to protect himself against reprints and fakes. This is the reason that collecting Heligoland can not be recommended to collectors who have no time to study the stamps they collect. But if they have perused the literature and have worked on sufficient stamps to be able to separate the bad ones from the good ones, Heligoland will prove to be a field which can supply much philatelic satisfaction. It is a small, interesting and rather difficult field, to be sure, and only with knowledge and diligence a collection can be assembled which in regard to postal-historical and philatelic importance can stand up to any other collection. A collector who has no time or is not willing to spend time studying all philatelic aspects of Heligoland stamps better should not start a collection in this field. Accordingly, Heligoland, although it is recognized as a former part of the British Empire and also is within the interest of the collectors of Old German States, is one of the least popular countries of Europe, which fact would be surprising were it not for the abundance of reprints and fakes which provide a ready explanation. Of the classic items of Heligoland the easiest to check for genuineness are covers. Quite a number of collectors are aware of this fact and for this reason classic Heligoland covers have become rather elusive in recent years. They are often highlights of collections and are upholding the philatelic honor of Heligoland which has been abused so much that it has earned a bad reputation with the general collector.

(Next: XX. Hungary)