

But the bad thing is that the agencies are not satisfied with acting solely as distributing agents, they more or less also influence the issuing policy of the small countries they represent. As an example, a small country may be cited which has been issuing stamps for about 55 years, in which period it issued about 40 different stamps. This year, it fell into the hands of an agency, which had the country immediately produce three new issues and has others on the way, so that under the agency policy in one year the country will issue more different stamps than in the preceding 55 years of philatelic independence. Such complete commercialization of the stamp production of a country for the benefit of a philatelic agency is characteristic of the policies of most of them. They seem to be aware of the fact that their business will not go on forever—sales of the new issues of such countries shrink from issue to issue—and they try to make as much money for themselves as possible as long as the going is good. When the collectors eventually will be fed up with buying the colorful pictures which are produced only for them and not at all for postal purposes, the countries concerned will have a bad awakening. They will find out that they have gambled away their philatelic good will, and that it will take many years of reputable stamp issuing policies to restore the good philatelic name of their countries.

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It now seems to have been definitely decided that *the Next International Philatelic Exhibition in this Country* will be held in New York in May 1966. There were too many prominent philatelists opposed to an earlier show, planned in conjunction with the New York World's Fair of 1964 and 1965, and it has also been reported that the postal administration would not support an earlier

exhibition but would give all help needed to one held in 1966. The Association for Stamp Exhibitions, which traditionally organizes the international shows in this country, therefore could not do otherwise than to retain the ten-year cycle and to schedule the next big show for 1966. There are still five and a half years left until it is due to take place, but it is never too early to start preparations. There is certainly at least a couple of years' time before the actual organizing of the show will have to start, but it will be advisable to begin without delay with the consideration of the basic ideas for a big international show. The international exhibitions have for a long time been unsatisfactory in regard to the classification of the exhibits and the methods and procedures of judging. Recent exhibitions have made this dissatisfaction rather obvious, and all indications call for a new approach to these problems, to cope with the present conditions of our hobby. The exhibits at international shows are displayed and judged in the same old-fashioned way as fifty years ago, without taking notice of the big strides philately has taken in the decades since World War I and of the much broader base on which it stands today. It is imperative that we find a satisfactory solution to these important problems before actual work on the international show starts. It would be senseless to again apply the old discredited rules and regulations, the antiquated methods and procedures of judging, to avoid conflict with the "Old Guard". It will require courage to discard the errors of the past, to break with tradition where it is necessary and to establish a satisfactory basis for a new system of exhibiting and competing which will be acceptable to all except the most stubborn diehards. But it is the only way to insure the success of the big show.

## EUROPEAN CLASSICS

### XXIX. MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN\*

The Grand Duchy of *Mecklenburg-Schwerin*, one of the Old German States, was situated in the northern part of the German plain. It bordered to the north on the Baltic Sea, to the east on the Prussian province of Pomerania, to the south-east on Mecklenburg-

Strelitz, to the south on the Prussian province of Brandenburg, to the south-west on Hanover—with the Elbe River forming the approximate boundary—and to the west on the duchies of Lauenburg and Ratzeburg, belonging to Denmark and Mecklenburg-Strelitz respectively. Mecklenburg-Schwerin had small enclaves on foreign territories, namely Ahrensberg in Mecklenburg-Strelitz and Netzeband-Schöneberg in the Prussian

\*We are indebted to Mr. John R. Boker of Scarsdale, N. Y. for valuable information and permission to study his collection.

province of Brandenburg. In 1865 Lauenburg, in 1866 Hanover became Prussian provinces, so that from then on Mecklenburg-Schwerin was almost completely surrounded by Prussia. Its territory covered 5080 square miles, with a population of 560,000 in 1856 and about the same in 1867. The capital, *Schwerin*, which had become a city in 1166, had 25,000 inhabitants in 1867.

Not much is known about the early *History* of the country. Teutonic tribes occupied the territory during the time of the Roman Empire. They were driven out in the 6th century by Slavonic tribes which came from the east. The Slavs built several strongholds, among them Michilenburg, from which the country got its name, and Zwarin, now the capital Schwerin. They were subdued by Charlemagne late in the 8th century, but were able to throw off the foreign rule and to become again independent. Only in 1160 were they finally subjugated by Henry the Lion, Duke of Saxony. The son of the last Slavonic ruler, Pribislav, submitted to the foreign rule and was permitted to retain his office. In 1170, he was made a prince of the German Empire by Emperor Friedrich I. His descendants became the dukes and grand-dukes of both Mecklenburgs, as the only ruling German princes of Slavonic origin. In 1348, the country was elevated to a duchy by Emperor Karl IV. In 1611, it was divided into two duchies, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Güstrow, with a joint diet and with the town of Rostock as common property. In 1695, the last duke of Mecklenburg-Güstrow died without leaving heirs. In a treaty signed at Hamburg in 1701, a new division took place. The duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin obtained the duchies of Schwerin and Güstrow, while the duke of Mirow-Strelitz became the ruler of Strelitz, also comprising the duchy of Ratzeburg and the district of Stargard. From then on, both duchies had a separate history, although they still retained a joint diet. Mecklenburg-Schwerin was an absolute monarchy in which the upper classes ruled. In 1806, the country was overrun by the French, but was liberated a year later. Nevertheless, it was forced to join the Confederation of the Rhine, but fought against Napoleon in 1813-14. In 1815, it was made a grand-duchy by the Congress of Vienna and became a member of the German Confederation. Serfdom was

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abolished in 1819. Some liberal reforms were introduced in 1848, under the grand-duke Friedrich Franz, who ruled from 1842 until long after the end of the stamp-issuing period, but they were withdrawn a few years later, and the country reverted to being an absolute monarchy. In 1866, Mecklenburg-Schwerin joined the North German Confederation and in 1871 became part of the German Empire.

The early *Postal History* saw postal services only for the government and for the merchants. Courier services inside the country were organized by the former, but the merchants were more interested in mail to and from foreign countries. In this respect, the cities of Rostock and Wismar were best served, as they were on the Hanseatic mail route which ran from Antwerp to Riga. The government also had arrangements with the Thurn and Taxis "Reichspost" office at Lubeck for the forwarding of mail. Several attempts were made to establish a domestic mail service—the first as early as 1534—but they did not succeed, mainly because several foreign postal services ran their mail routes through the territory and competed for the customers. Eventually, agreement was reached with the foreign mail services, and in 1644, the first mail route from Schwerin to Rostock was opened, which marked the establishment of regular mail service in Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Mecklenburg-Güstrow followed a number of years later, in 1661. The postal service was a government monopoly, but it was first leased to private enterprise and only later taken over by the government. The foreign mail routes were abolished one after the other or taken over by the domestic mail service. During the Napoleonic period, the postal service was reorganized. From 1847 on, the railroads were used for transporting mail, and in 1853 the first travelling post offices on railroad trains were introduced. Mecklenburg-Schwerin became a member of the German-Austrian Postal Union on January 1, 1851. On December 31, 1867, Mecklenburg-Schwerin gave up its postal independence, and on January 1, 1868 its postal service was taken over by the North German Confederation; in turn, the "Reichspost" of the German Empire took over on January 1, 1872.

When postage stamps were introduced in Mecklenburg-Schwerin on July 1, 1856, there

were 68 *post offices*. Three of them, Güstrow, Rostock and Schwerin, were main post offices ("Oberpostämter"), which supervised the other post offices. Only three new post offices were opened during the stamp period, so that there were 71 post offices on December 31, 1867. In addition to that, there were eight post offices in railroad stations where post offices in the towns proper functioned; they were considered branch post offices. There were travelling post offices on the main line from Hagenow to Rostock and on several supplementary lines. The nomenclature of the postal establishments changed frequently, they were called "Postamt" or "Postkontor", some "Hauptpostamt" or "Hofpostamt"; in 1867, the official nomenclature was "Oberpostamt", "Postamt", "Postpeditionsamt", "Postexpedition" and "Briefsammlung". The postal service was supervised by the Ministry of Finances and directed by a General Postal Directorate ("General-Post-Direktion"). In 1856, the number of pieces of mail was about 2¾ millions, therefore about 40,000 per post office and 4½ per head of the population.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin had several *post offices on foreign soil*, namely at Hamburg, where the post office was opened in 1674 and closed on December 31, 1867, with the only interruption during the French occupation, 1809 to 1814. It had a branch at the railroad station (Berliner Bahnhof), which was opened in 1850. A Mecklenburg-Schwerin postal service also functioned in Lubeck from 1645 on, but from 1701 on it was conducted by the "Stadtpost" and cannot be considered a separate postal service any more, inasmuch as neither Mecklenburg-Schwerin postage stamps nor separate postmarks were used there. In Lauenburg and Ratzeburg, both in the duchy of Lauenburg which belonged to Denmark, due to a treaty signed in 1819, the Mecklenburg-Schwerin postal service was conducted by the Danish post office; in this capacity it accepted mail to Mecklenburg-Schwerin only. It used Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamps which were cancelled with the Danish postmarks. After Lauenburg came under Prussian sovereignty, this arrangement was continued until December 31, 1867. Now Prussian postmarks were partly used instead of the Danish ones for cancelling the Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamps. In Schönberg, on Mecklenburg-Strelitz ter-

ritory, the postal service was conducted by Mecklenburg-Schwerin from as early as 1783 on, and this was continued by a treaty of 1840, which remained in force until December 31, 1867.

On the other hand, in the two Mecklenburg-Schwerin enclaves on foreign territory, the Mecklenburg-Strelitz mail service was in charge at Ahrensberg and the Prussian mail service at Netzeband-Schöneberg.

The *currency* of Mecklenburg-Schwerin was the Thaler (th) divided into 48 Schilling (s); one Schilling was 12 Pfennig (pf).—For *distances*, the mile, equivalent to about 7½ km., was the unit; for *weight*, the metric pound, equivalent to 500 grams and divided into 30 loth (one loth about ½ oz.), was in use.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin introduced *Postage Stamps* and *Postal Envelopes* on July 1, 1856. No other kinds of adhesives or stationery were in use.

The *Postal Rates* which were in force at the time of the introduction of postage stamps depended on weight and partly also on distance. In the domestic service, letters paid for each loth 1s up to 3 mi., 1½s above 3 to 6 mi. and 3s above 6 mi. Printed matter and samples were ½s up to 1 loth and one quarter of the letter rate above 1 loth and up to 4 loth, without regard to the distance. Above 4 loth, they had to be sent by parcel post. The registration fee was 2s, and for return receipts the single letter fee had to be paid. Delivery fee was ½s. On July 1, 1863, a new rate schedule came into force. Now letters paid for the first loth 1s up to 5 mi., 2s above 5 to 10 mi. and 3s above 10 mi.; heavier letters up to 15 loth paid double these rates. City letters paid a reduced fee, ½s up to 1 loth and 1s over 1 to 15 loth. For printed matter, without regard to the distance, the rates were ½s up to 1 loth, 1s over 1 to 4 loth and 2s over 4 to 15 loth. Samples now paid the single letter fee up to 2 loth and the double letter fee over 2 to 15 loth. The registration fee remained 2s. A delivery fee of ¼s up to 4 loth and ½s over 4 to 15 loth was collected from the addressee. Special delivery letters paid an additional fee of 4s without respect to the weight. The delivery fee was abolished on June 30, 1864. To the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union, the rates for each loth were 1¾s (1sg) up to 10 mi., 3¼s (2sg) above 10 to 20 mi. and 5s (3sg)

above 20 mi.; the registration fee was  $3\frac{1}{4}$ s (2sg). They remained unchanged during the whole stamp period. To other foreign countries various rates, which were partly rather complicated, were charged.

For a rather curious reason which will be explained later when we discuss the color scheme of the stamps, the postal administration wanted to keep the number of *denominations* of the postage stamps down to three. This restraint led, of course, to serious difficulties, as the main rates would have made at least eight denominations necessary, namely  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 1s,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ s, 2s, 3s,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ s and 5s. Actually, only three of these denominations were issued when postage stamps were introduced, namely 1s, 3s and 5s. The problem was solved by an ingenious idea: the lowest denomination, 1s, was printed in such a way that it actually consisted of four parts, each  $\frac{1}{4}$ s worth, so that it was really a  $\frac{4}{4}$ s stamp. This first "dividable" stamp in the history of postal stamps made it possible to pay all main rates either through the use of a single stamp (1s, 3s and 5s) or by dividing the 1s stamp, using such part alone ( $\frac{1}{2}$ s) or together with a whole stamp or another denomination ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ s,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ s and  $3\frac{1}{4}$ s). Only for the *envelopes* did the postal administration make a concession by introducing four denominations, namely 1s,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s, 3s and 5s. How reluctant the postal administration was to add a fourth denomination also to the adhesives is shown by the fact that when postage for the second rate zone of domestic letters was raised on July 1, 1863 from  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s to 2s, it took the postal administration  $3\frac{1}{4}$  years before it introduced a 2s stamp, on October 1, 1866. A 2s *envelope* was prepared at the same time, but actually issued only after using up the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s envelopes on which two quarters of 1s stamps had been pasted by the post offices to produce provisional 2s envelopes in this way. As this measure was ordered by the postal administration, these  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s plus  $\frac{1}{2}$ s envelopes are actually official provisionals and therefore have a higher philatelic standing than other similar additional frankings on envelopes. At the end of its stamp-issuing period, Mecklenburg-Schwerin used four denominations (1s, 2s, 3s and 5s) of postage stamps and the same four denominations of envelopes.

The use of stamps was never obligatory in Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Letters were accepted  
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unpaid and postage collected from the addressee, or postage could be paid by the sender at the same rates. From July 1, 1856 on, payment of postage could be made either in cash or by pasting the necessary postage stamps on the letters. In the former case, the letters were forwarded without stamps, the postal clerks being instructed under no circumstances to paste stamps on letters for which postage was paid to them in cash. Stamps or envelopes could be used for all domestic mail and for all mail to the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union as well as for mail to most other foreign countries. Only on money letters and parcels was use of postage stamps not permitted, the fees for them had to be paid in cash.

No stamps of Mecklenburg-Schwerin were *withdrawn* during the stamp-issuing period, but they were used up. This was true for the blue 5s stamp and envelope when their color was changed; both were *demonetized* on December 31, 1865. The  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s envelope, when it was replaced by a 2s envelope, also was used up. It was withdrawn and demonetized only with all other stamps and envelopes, on December 31, 1867, when Mecklenburg-Schwerin ceased to be a separate postal entity. They were replaced on the following day by the postage stamps and envelopes of the North German Confederation.

The *designs* of the Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamps were simple but attractive. The main design was a shield of arms, showing a bull's head, with a crown resting at the top of the shield. For the 3s and 5s postage stamps, this was enclosed in a square frame, consisting of simple lines, with FREI-MARKE at top, MECKLENB. at left, SCHWERIN at right and SCHILLINGE at bottom; the figure of value was in the four corners. The design of the lowest denomination, 1s, actually consisted of four identical  $\frac{1}{4}$ s stamps which due to their small size showed only the bull's head in the center. The inscriptions were the same, but the value indication at bottom read SCHILLING in the singular. In 1864, it was decided to remove the dotted background on the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s stamp, as it interfered with legibility of the cancellation. The changed design shows the bull's head on a colorless ground. The idea for the dividable 1s stamp originated with the postal inspector Flügge of Schwerin, who probably also proposed the designs of all stamps. The envelope stamps

were fashioned after the envelope stamps of Prussia, but the head was replaced by the shield of arms—crown above a shield with bull's head—similar to that on the adhesives, with the legend GROSSH. MECKLENB: SCHWERIN at top. The value indication was in the frame at top, EIN SCHILLING, EIN UND EINEN HALBEN SCHILLING, ZWEI SCHILLINGE, DREI SCHILLINGE or FUENF SCHILLINGE; the figure of value, colorless in a solid colored circle, was at bottom.

The envelopes had an oblique corner *overprint* in the same corner as the stamps, extending over the two adjacent flaps on the back. First, the letters were about 1mm. high and in Roman type, from 1860 on only  $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. high and in sans-serif type. The first overprint, in Roman letters, read EIN SCHILLING, EIN U. EINEN HALBEN SCHILLING, DREI SCHILLING or FUENF SCHILLING, with added POST-COUVERT, therefore with the currency indication in the singular for all denominations. The overprint in sans-serif type, introduced in 1860, showed for the 3s and 5s the plural SCHILLINGE. The overprint on the 2s envelopes was first in the singular, ZWEI SCHILLING, from 1867 on in the plural, ZWEI SCHILLINGE. A colorless *embossing* was on the upper flap, which was first oval, from 1860 on circular; both were the same as used previously for envelopes of Prussia and those of other countries.

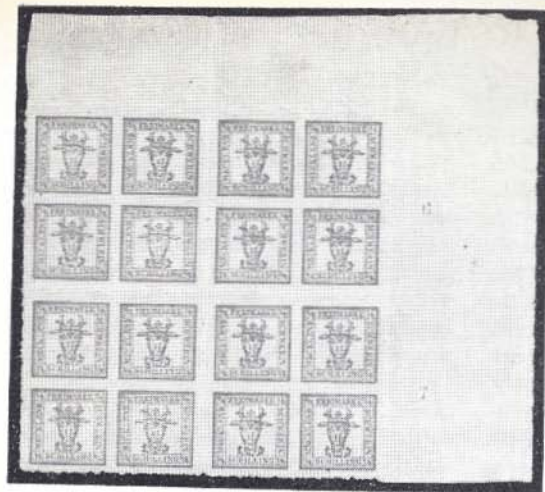
All dies and printing material for the adhesives and envelope stamps were made by the *Prussian State Printing Works* at Berlin which also took care of the complete manufacturing process of stamps and envelopes. Typography was used for the adhesives and typography combined with embossing for the envelope stamps.

The original *die* for the adhesives showed the design of the 3s and 5s but without the figures of value in the corners; it was cut in steel. The value indications "3" and "5" respectively were inserted by engraving them in matrices taken from the original die. The same process was used when in 1866 a new denomination, 2s, became necessary, by engraving the figure "2" in the four corners of a matrix. At the same time, the outer frame line was deepened, so that on this denomination it appears thicker than on the others. To obtain the die for the small-size  $\frac{1}{4}$ s, the center of the coat of arms, after

being cut to the right square size, was transferred into a frame similar to those of the 3s and 5s but of much smaller dimensions and with the figure of value " $\frac{1}{4}$ " in each corner.

The dies for the envelope stamps were manufactured by first cutting the center in steel, making working dies of it and adding on them the frame for each value, with the inscriptions and the guilloche. The necessary counter-dies were made from the dies by embossing them in a soft plate, probably of gutta-percha. The die for the center was probably the work of the famous engraver E. Schilling of the Prussian State Printing Works. The dies for the corner overprints were cylindrical, permitting printing of endless rows of the text. For the seals on the flap, single dies, which were available to the printers from the work on Prussian and other envelopes, were used.

To obtain the *printing material*, 480 electrotypes were taken from the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s die and 120 electrotypes each from the 3s and 5s dies. For each denomination, a setting of 120 ( $\frac{1}{4}$ s 480) was assembled, of the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s in twenty-four rows of 20, of the 3s and 5s in twelve rows of 10. The space between the clichés for the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s setting was uniformly  $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in each direction, for the 3s and 5s setting  $1\frac{3}{4}$  to 2mm. Small numerals were inserted in all four margins, alongside each stamp for the 3s and 5s and alongside each block of four for the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s. They ran from 1 to 10 at top and bottom and from 1 to 12 at left and right. No other inscriptions can be found on the margins. When rouletting was introduced in 1864, new settings were generally used which had a wider spacing between the clichés, so that rouletting was facilitated. First this was done with the setting of the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s; the spacing was widened to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in each direction, but only between every second row. While until then each  $\frac{1}{4}$ s was in itself an individual item, now four were joined together to a unit by the smaller ( $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm.) spacing between them, so that only now did it become a  $\frac{4}{4}$ s (1s) stamp. The setting remained unchanged otherwise, it still consisted of 480 clichés in twenty-four rows of 20. For the further printings of the  $\frac{4}{4}$ s, now in the new design without dotted ground, and for the 3s and 5s as well as for the new 2s, the new settings contained only 100 ( $\frac{1}{4}$ s 400) clichés, all spaced 3mm., the  $\frac{1}{4}$ s only between blocks of four, while with-



in the blocks the space remained  $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm. These settings consisted not, as all authors state, of ten rows of 10, but of two panes, each consisting of five rows of ten, with a gutter of at least stamp size between. The top pane had numerals 1 to 10 at top, 1 to 5 at left and right, none at bottom. The bottom pane had no numerals at top, 6 to 10 at left and right and 1 to 10 at bottom. It is surprising that in all existing literature no mention is made of this fact, although it is evident from existing corner and margin copies that such settings of two panes were used for the 4/4s, 3s and 5s (Fig. 127, 128, 129); it is highly probable that this was also the case for the 2s, although we did not find any proof for this supposition.

The envelope stamps were printed singly from the dies, with the embossing accomplished by counter-dies. The overprint and the embossing on the flap were also applied singly, in separate operations.

There are no major plate varieties of the stamps. There exist a number of small but constant plate flaws on the adhesives which can partly be found on the earliest and on the latest printings, proving that at least part of the same clichés were used for all settings. Of the sans-serif overprint on the envelopes an error exists of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s denomination which shows once the plural SCHILLINGE instead of SCHILLING. This has been found only in the early printings of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s envelopes of 1860.

The *Printing* was done rather carefully, on the letter-press for the adhesives and on a stamping device for the envelopes, the latter combining embossing with typography. When accidentally two envelopes were inserted in the device, the bottom one received

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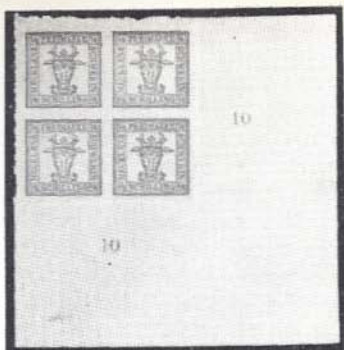


Fig.  
127,  
128,  
129.

only a colorless embossing. When such an envelope was later regularly put to print, double prints, one colorless, ensued. Such varieties are known of the 1s and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s of 1860. The former is also reported with the overprint partly omitted.

The *Paper* of all issues, adhesives as well as envelopes, was wove and machine-made. Frequently the texture of the paper is apparent through a more or less distinct mesh. Due to calendering, to provide a smooth surface, the paper sometimes shows a distinct fine ribbing, either horizontal or vertical, which peculiarity is characteristic for the first rouletted 4/4s and one of the signs of its genuineness. The paper varies somewhat in thickness, but considerably thicker paper can be found only for the rouletted 3s and 5s, the latter being so obvious that it constitutes a major paper variety.

The *Color Scheme* for the Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamps was an unusual one, being based on the national colors, red, yellow and blue. The idea to use these three colors was the reason that the first issue of the adhesives was restricted to three denominations, namely 1s (4/4s) *red*, 3s *yellow* and 5s *blue*. For the envelope stamps, the same colors were used, while the additional  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s was *green*. In 1864, to conform with the regulations of the German-Austrian Postal Union, which prescribed brown for the equivalent of the 3sg denomination, the 5s adhesives and envelope stamps changed their color to *brown*. When a new denomination, 2s, was introduced, the new adhesives and

envelope stamps were printed in *violet*. The overprint on the envelopes was in *red*.

The *inks* used for the printing of the adhesives were rather uniform, and no major color varieties are recorded, except for the 2s. This stamp was printed in violet, but due to deterioration of this ink, probably even before or during the printing, the last printing of this stamp, issued only in the last quarter of 1867, had a gray violet color which is completely different from the original color of the previous printings. Otherwise only slight shades, with brownish tints for the 1(4/4)s and orange ones for the 3s are noticeable. There were more shades of the envelope stamps, but mainly lighter and darker colors. The red overprint is found later in red orange shades.

The stamps were first issued *imperforate*; there were no dividing lines or other help for the separation. In 1864, *rouletting* was introduced for the adhesives. A line roulette 12 was applied by forms of parallel broken lines which were sharpened and had been assembled to settings. The rouletting was applied first in one direction and then in the other; therefore, two operations were necessary to roulette one sheet completely. The roulette ended at the sheet margins and does not run through them. The first stamp to be rouletted was the 4/4s stamp, after it had been printed from a new setting, still of 480, in which the space between the 4/4s cliches was enlarged to make rouletting easier. It was delivered in the middle of June 1864 and probably issued shortly thereafter. The next denomination to be rouletted, delivered in the middle of July 1864, was the 5s; it was not only printed for this purpose from a new setting with wider spacing which contained only 100 cliches (in two panes), but its color was simultaneously changed to brown. Only one month later, the new 4/4s, with the bull's head on undotted ground, was delivered; its setting was also one of 100 cliches, arranged in two panes, with wider spacing. It took more than a year, to the middle of August 1865, until the third denomination of the set was delivered rouletted. Probably by mistake, no new setting was used for that new printing, but the old setting of 120 cliches with narrow spacing. This makes this stamp conspicuous by the narrow margins, the whole stamp being only 23mm. square. A new printing of the stamp, from a setting of

100 cliches, spaced wider, in two panes, was delivered only in the middle of June 1867; the individual stamps were 24mm. square, as in the other denominations. The new 2s stamp, issued on October 1, 1866, which exists only rouletted, was printed from a setting of 100 cliches with wide spacing. The rouletting of all stamps was done very carefully, and no rouletting varieties are recorded. It should be noted that some postmasters and the public were so used to cut the stamps with scissors that they continued to do so when rouletted stamps were introduced. This is the reason that the rouletted stamps are often found with the roulette clipped on one or two sides.

The *gum* was a vegetable glue which was applied by hand with brushes. It was colorless, with a slight yellowish tint, especially on the early issues.

The special features of the *envelopes* divide them into two issues. They all had stamp and overprint in the top left corner. The first issue had the overprint in Imm. Roman letters, with SCHILLING in the singular on all denominations. All four, 1s, 1½s, 3s and 5s, were issued in two sizes, small (147x84mm.) and large (149x115 mm.). They had an oval embossing on the top flap on the back, which was gummed; the gumming was applied by hand and short, about 20 to 30mm. long. The second issue had the overprint in ¾mm. sans-serif letters—now in the plural, SCHILLINGE, on 3s and 5s—and a circular embossing on the top flap of the back. First, the gum was short as on the previous issue; the same four denominations as for the first issue exist, but only in the small size. The error SCHILLINGE instead of SCHILLING of the 1½s exists only on this issue. In 1864, long gum (about 85 to 95mm.), applied by a gumming device, was introduced, while the other features remained unchanged. Again four denominations exist, but the 1½s had been replaced by a 2s and the color of the 5s was now brown; they exist only in the small size. The first printing of the 2s had the overprint SCHILLING in the singular, which was corrected for the last printing to SCHILLINGE in the plural.

The stamps were issued first in *sheets* of 120 as printed. The rouletted stamps seems to have reached the post offices only in panes of 50, as no multiples showing a gutter are known to have survived.

There were considerable *remainders* of the last printings of all Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamps and envelopes, amounting to about 85,000 adhesives and 87,000 envelopes. Except for a small quantity retained for archival purposes, they were sold as early as April 1868 to a merchant of Schwerin, from whom they reached the stamp market. There exists no list of the quantities of the specific denominations, but it can be assumed that there were only rouletted stamps. It is estimated that about two thirds were 4/4s stamps with undotted ground. Of the balance, more than half seem to have been 3s stamps, a small percentage of them in the small size, and a quarter each 2s and 5s stamps, the former in both shades (more of the gray lilac than of the violet), the latter on both kinds of paper. Of the envelopes, about half of the quantity seem to have been 1s envelopes and three quarters of the balance 2s envelopes, most of the latter with the SCHILLINGE overprint. The remaining quantity were mostly 3s envelopes and a rather small number of 5s envelopes. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that the last rouletted Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamps are rather easy to obtain in *unused* singles, the most common ones being the 4/4s with undotted ground and the 3s in the larger size. The 2s in both colors, the 3s in small size and the 5s are somewhat less common. All other stamps—the imperforate ones and the first rouletted 4/4s—are considerably scarcer unused, although not as scarce as might be expected, probably because quantities of them were bought by the old-time dealers when they were available at the post offices. The rarest is, of course, the rouletted 4/4s with dotted ground which is, unused and used, by far the rarest stamp of the country. Of the envelopes, all denominations of the second issue with long gum are rather common unused. The envelopes of that issue with short gum are generally scarce unused, but those of the first issue are really elusive, especially the 3s and 5s. Of the last denomination in small size, only a few unused copies are known.

In *unused multiples*, all Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamps are surprisingly scarce, even the rouletted stamps which are rather easily available as singles. The only exception is the rouletted 4/4s with undotted ground, of which even a pane is known and

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which is quite common in blocks. But of all other rouletted stamps, blocks are rare, and no larger blocks than blocks of four are known of some of them, the most elusive being the 3s small size. Of the rouletted 4/4s with dotted ground, only a few pairs are known as the largest existing multiples. Of the imperforate stamps, all are known in blocks, but they are rare to very rare, especially the 4/4s.

In *used* condition, of the postage stamps only the first issue is less rare used than unused. All rouletted stamps are scarcer used than unused, with the exception of the small size 3s. Some of them are even considerably rarer, the rarest one being the 2s in the gray violet color, which is a rather elusive stamp used. Of the envelopes, those of the first issue and of the second issue with short gum are all rather plentiful used and considerably less expensive than unused entire. In contrast to that, the second issue with long gum is much rarer used than unused, the 2s envelope with SCHILLINGE overprint being by far the rarest used envelope of the country and quite elusive. By the way, Mecklenburg-Schwerin was one of the few classic countries in which more letters were sent in postal envelopes than were franked with adhesives.

*Used multiples* of the adhesives are generally scarce, and blocks are known only of the 4/4s denomination. Those of the 4/4s rouletted with undotted ground are the least rare ones, while of the rouletted 4/4s with dotted ground only one badly defective block of four seems to exist which is so heavily repaired that it cannot be ascertained whether it is genuine or not. Of the imperforate 4/4s, a block of twelve is the largest known. Of the other denominations, used strips of three or even only pairs are the largest known used units. It should also be noted that in used condition copies with sheet margin are rare, such with sheet corner very rare, which is true not only for the imperforate stamps but even more so for the rouletted ones.

On *entires*, none of the postage stamps deserves an unproportional increase in price. The stamps which are rare used are, of course, also rare used on entire, and they fetch high prices because being on entire provides more guarantee of the genuineness of stamp and/or cancellation. This fact makes the 2s gray violet and 4/4s rouletted



with dotted ground the most desirable items on entire.

Meeklenburg-Schwerin is a good field for *frankings*. The choice of the colors of the first postage stamps made it easy to create "patriotic frankings", red, yellow and blue, therefore 1s+3s+5s, but 9s frankings for triple domestic letters in the second rate zone were rare, so that only very few such frankings are known. Furthermore, colorful frankings resulted from the necessity to use at least two stamps for many rates. The various divisions of the 4/4s stamps were mostly used in combination with another denomination, but 2/4s (1/2s), 5/4s (1 1/4s), 6/4s (1 1/2s) and 7/4s (1 3/4s) were also often used alone. Quarters (1/4s) could not be used alone, as the lowest postal rate was 1/2s. The cutting was done in various ways, sometimes even all quarters in one strip, for example 7/4s cutting across four 4/4s stamps. This is especially obvious for the rouletted stamps, as they partly show rouletting between the quarters of such strips. Even "reversed" cutting is not uncommon, with 2/4s showing the roulette between the quarters. In any case, the dividing of the 4/4s is responsible for a great variety of interesting frankings. The officially made provisional 2s envelope of 1864—1 1/2s with pasted on 2/4s adhesive—comes with the 2/4s either horizontally or vertically cut. It is also known, as a rarity, on the envelope with the SCHILLINGE error in the overprint. Mixed frankings between imperforate and rouletted stamps are rather common. No mixed frankings with stamps of other countries are recorded.

Of *emergency frankings*, we know only envelope cut squares, used as adhesives. These may not even have been caused by a shortage of stamps, but probably resulted from the using up of the stamps of spoiled envelopes. Such use seems to have been tolerated at first, but it was forbidden with a decree of September 10, 1856. In any case, such frankings with cut squares are very rare and known only in a few examples, of which some may even be unique. Recorded are the 3s cut square on entire, the 1 1/2s cut to shape (with additional 2/4s franking) on entire and the 2s cut square on piece.

Meeklenburg-Schwerin was not a very lucrative field for the forgers, and therefore most *forgeries* belong in the picture-book category, being crude imitations which can

mislead only a collector who has never seen genuine copies. An exception is the 5s blue of 1856, of which rather deceptive forgeries exist and which has also been imitated by Jean de Sperati, although it is a relatively inexpensive stamp. His forgery is the best and can be distinguished only by the printing method and small accidental flaws in the design. It comes either unused or with one of four different faked cancellations, in black or blue. Meeklenburg-Schwerin is a much better field for the fakers, and they have produced quite a number of partly very dangerous *fakes*. Their main object always was the rare rouletted 4/4s of 1864 with dotted ground; two methods were used for the faking, either a faked roulette was applied to the unrouletted stamp of 1856—which fake is conspicuous by its size, being too small—or a dotted background painted on the 4/4s of 1864 with undotted background, an often exceedingly well executed and deceptive fake, but which still does not stand up to modern means of detection which the expert can use. The second favorite of the fakers is the gray lilac 2s of 1867, for which also two methods of faking were available. Either a faked cancellation was applied to the rather inexpensive unused stamp, or a chemical changeling of the red violet stamp, which is considerably cheaper used, produced the desired result. The latter fake is the more dangerous one. A 4/4s brown, previously listed in some catalogs, is a chemical changeling. Faked cancellations can also be found on the rouletted large size 3s as well as on the last printings of the envelopes. There also exist a few fakes of rare cancellations, especially the elusive red ones. Covers have been faked also, by pasting stamps on stampless covers for which postage had been paid in cash, and applying faked cancellations. Such originally stampless covers usually have a rate marking in red crayon on the face which generally cannot be found on genuine covers franked with adhesives. In any case, collectors have to be careful and better have rare items of Meeklenburg-Schwerin checked by an expert committee before buying them.

*Postmarks* were introduced in Meeklenburg-Schwerin relatively late. A decree of October 31, 1810, during the French occupation, which was forwarded to the post offices on November 10, 1810, ordered the use of postmarks at the large post offices,

while the smaller ones were permitted to apply town name and date in manuscript. By decree of February 27, 1811, the use of postmarks was extended to all post offices. We do not know any postmarks of foreign postal services from Mecklenburg-Schwerin territory.

The first postmarks were straight lines, with the town name in Roman capitals and the date, day and month in figures, at the large post offices with added year date, below. Although there are rather conspicuous differences in the type and size of the lettering, it seems obvious that the postmarks were centrally manufactured. A few early postmarks were in other types, such as a curved one of Ludwigslust, a few straight lines in script or Old English type without date indication, a boxed one without date of Klütz and a boxed Güstrow with date and year. Later, another boxed postmark, B. H. WISMAR, appeared. There were also two single circles with year date, one of Schwerin in sans-serif type, which is known used as early as 1810, and one of Ortskrug in Roman type, used in the Forties. On the straight lines, the year date was soon removed, and on some later even the date indication. Several of these dateless markings were used as origin markings alongside the postmarks of travelling post offices. From about 1850 on, a new type of postmarks, double circles, also centrally manufactured, was introduced, gradually replacing the straight lines, which are known of almost 60 post offices, and the other old types. The double circles have the name either in Roman capitals or, equally frequently, in sans-serif capitals, and the date in figures (day and month) in the center. In most of them, the bottom part of the double circle is blank. For the post offices in railroad stations, the indication BAHNHOF was added to the inscription. For a few post offices, the indication "M", "M.S.", "M.SCH." or "I.M.S." was inserted at bottom; some of these postmarks have a cross or an asterisk at bottom. They were introduced only at the large post offices before July 1, 1856. The first travelling post offices, in 1853, used similar postmarks, but with the names of the terminals HAGENOW-ROSTOCK instead of the town name, and the train number, for example "III T", added to the date indication. Circular postmarks without frame, with the MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL

same inscription, or FRIEDRICHFRANZ BAHN, also were used.

Additional markings were used for registered letters, "Recom(m)andirt" in a box, in one case in a wavy line frame and with added "Sp.B.", which seems to mean "Speditions-Bureau". "Too Late" markings were introduced in 1841, boxed NACH ABGANG DER POST. At the large post offices, special distribution postmarks were stamped on arriving mail, inscribed AUSG. and date, with added number of the delivery trip, for example "No.2", "No.III" or "N.3". They were either single circles in Roman capitals or double circles in sans-serif capitals.

On disinfected mail, a small oval, with a bull's head in the center and SAN.ST. above, is known from the Thirties. Similar markings with other inscriptions also are not postmarks but were used by various government agencies.

The ink used during the pre-stamp period was generally black; red postmarks are exceptions and only known of a few post offices. Of the additional markings, only the registration markings occasionally come in red.

When postage stamps were introduced on July 1, 1856, most post offices still had the old straight line postmarks, but the larger post offices already used the new double circles. They were now all used as cancellers. Special cancellers were introduced only as a trial and only at the three "Oberpostämter", namely circles of dots, of 25mm. diameter at Rostock and Güstrow, and of 18mm. diameter at Schwerin. Only the canceller of Rostock, always in bluish black, often with a violet tint, comes more frequently, while the other two, always in black, are very rare and known only in a few examples. The straight line postmarks were gradually replaced, so that almost all post offices had double circles at the end of the Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamp period. The postmarks of the travelling post offices were continued in use, and later a new type, boxed HAGENOW-ROSTOCK, added. The additional markings also remained in use and, as rare exceptions, can be found used as cancellers, probably only by mistake.

Of the *post offices abroad*, Hamburg and Schoenberg used the same types of postmarks as the domestic post offices. Hamburg had its first postmarks in 1825, straight lines, with the date, including year, in a second

line. These exist in a number of types; later ones, from 1839 on, had no year date. In 1849, the straight lines were replaced by double circles, first with the town name in Roman capitals and "M" in Old English type at bottom. During the stamp period, the use of these double circle postmarks was continued and similar new ones introduced in 1858, but with all inscriptions in sans-serif capitals. The railroad station post office at the Berliner Bahnhof in Hamburg first used a double circle, inscribed HAMBURG/BAHNHOF in Roman capitals, then a similar single circle and eventually a double circle in sans-serif type, all with the same inscription. The post office at Schoenberg used a regular straight line with date in figures during the pre-stamp as well as during the stamp period. The Mecklenburg-Schwerin postal service at Lauenburg and Ratzeburg, which was conducted by the Danish, from 1864 on by the Prussian mail service, used the Danish and Prussian cancellers and postmarks on Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamps and envelopes. At first the Danish three-ring cancellers "148" and "150" were used, with the Danish town postmarks—single circles—alongside. From 1865 on, these town postmarks—with or without additional BAHNHOF indication—were used as cancellers, and eventually the new Prussian town postmarks, single circles (Lauenburg) or double circles (Ratzeburg). The straight line postmark LAUENBURG LUBECK of the travelling post office is also known on Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamps.

The *ink* used for the cancellations was generally black, but blue black and blue cancellations, often with a violet tint, can also be found occasionally. Red cancellations on stamps are very rare and known only of five post offices. Pen cancellations with town name can be found only as exceptions.

In summarizing, it can be stated that a large majority of all Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamps show black town cancellations. Cancellations with double circle postmarks are a large majority, especially on the rouletted stamps; on the imperforate ones, straight line postmarks are a sizeable minority. Cancellations by a special canceller, manuscript cancellations, blue or blue violet cancellations are scarce exceptions, while cancellations by Danish or Prussian postmarks (Lauenburg, Ratzeburg) or red cancellations are rarities. For the envelope stamps,

a blue pen stroke was prescribed as cancellation, following the example of Prussia. This regulation was rather strictly obeyed at first and the earliest envelopes come cancelled almost exclusively in that way, although as an exception black ink was also used. Later, from 1860 on, some post offices, especially large ones, started to use their postmarks also for the cancellation of envelope stamps. At the end of the stamp period, cancellation by postmarks became still more frequent—sometimes in addition to a pen stroke—and not only blue ink was used for the latter, but frequently also black ink, as well as blue or red crayon. At Lauenburg and Ratzeburg, the envelope stamps were at first cancelled with the Danish numeral cancellers, later with the Danish and Prussian town postmarks.

After January 1, 1868, the Mecklenburg-Schwerin postmarks in use at that time continued to be used to cancel the stamps of the North German Confederation. They were gradually replaced by the new uniform postmarks for the whole North German Confederation. When on January 1, 1872, the stamps of the German Empire were introduced at the post offices in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, a number of the old double circles and even one or the other of the old straight line postmarks were still in use. It took a number of years before the last of these witnesses of an independent Mecklenburg-Schwerin postal service disappeared.

There is sufficient *Literature* available about the stamps and envelopes of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, but it is all in German. The standard books are still those of H. Krötzsch about the adhesives and postmarks (1894) and of C. Lindenberg about the envelopes (1892). Newer research, mainly scattered in articles and notes in German philatelic magazines, provided hardly any important new facts. The collector who wants to study Mecklenburg-Schwerin needs to be able to read German, although some specialized catalogs, such as that of the Old German States by H. Grobe (1959), will to a large extent also be understandable to those who do not know German.

The *Scott Catalog* correctly lists the eight main number of Mecklenburg-Schwerin postage stamps; it prices them about \$475 unused and \$500 used, of which one stamp, the 4/4s rouletted with dotted ground, alone amounts to \$350, unused or used. The re-

maintaining seven stamps are rather inexpensive, unused and used the lowest price is \$6, the highest \$35, which puts the country within easy reach of most collectors. There are not many difficulties either as long as the collector refrains from specializing. If he is interested also in the varieties, Mecklenburg-Schwerin is still much less expensive than most other Old German States. Considering the possibilities of colorful frankings with the first "dividable" stamp, the 4/4s—copied eight years later by Brunswick—and the nice range of postmarks which

can be collected, it is surprising that Mecklenburg-Schwerin belongs to the rather neglected countries of the Old German States. The collectors do not seem to be aware that a rather attractive collection of the country can be formed with modest means. Although not an exciting field, Mecklenburg-Schwerin deserves consideration as a country where honors still can be earned and satisfaction gained by the philatelic student as well as by the specialist.

(Next: XXX. Mecklenburg-Strelitz)

## INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION PROBLEMS

The year 1960 was a big year for international exhibitions dedicated to our hobby. In no less than four cities—Barcelona, Johannesburg, London and Warsaw—were international philatelic shows staged, all with the sponsorship or with the blessing of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie. All four shows had more or less disappointing attendance figures, although philately is in a period of unprecedented prosperity. For several reasons, they have caused a wave of dissatisfaction in the philatelic world. The old school of philatelic thought is up in arms against the compromises it was forced to make with the many new trends in our hobby, with regard to the collections accepted as well as with regard to the judging. The more progressive elements, who are for a broadening of the philatelic outlook to include postal history, which they consider just as basic as stamp collecting proper, feel discriminated against by the judges, who either belong to or are dominated by adherents of the old school of thought. Even the philatelists who completely favor neither the one nor the other view are dissatisfied, because they come to the conclusion that this is a case where too many compromises are not going to benefit our hobby and that a clear-cut division or separation may be a better solution.

For many years, much has been written concerning exhibition problems. We first tried to deal with them more than thirty years ago, and again twelve years ago in the first volume of the MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL (pages 170 and 205). When we reread the pages we wrote years ago, we find that the problems have not changed very much, but that they certainly have be-

come more pronounced. Philately has changed quite a lot since World War I, it has extended the collecting activities not only to many sidelines, but it has undergone fundamental alterations. This latter fact is not understood by the old school of philatelic thought which will not accept the fact that basic changes have occurred in our hobby. This rather sad misunderstanding seems to be the reason for the conflict between the old philatelic school of thought which belittles these basic changes and wants to prevent their acceptance, and the progressive school which believes that it is rebuilding philately on a sounder foundation.

We feel that now it is time again for the conscientious philatelist to deal with the problems of philatelic exhibitions; we intend to dedicate a series of articles to them. We will restrict ourselves to the problems of international exhibitions, as those of national, regional and local ones are not only less obvious but also less pressing. We will not deal with purely organizational matters, but concentrate on the questions which concern the *material* to be shown, the *rules* and *regulations* which govern such shows, the *classification* of the exhibits, the selection of the *judges* and the principles of *judging*.

### I

It seems necessary to discuss first the *purpose* of an exhibition, which is generally believed to be threefold. It is considered a forum at which collectors can show what they have accomplished and where they can compete with other collectors for the distinction of having their work recognized by the leading experts. To present a collec-