

Germany Foreign Postal Rates

July 1, 1922 to December 31, 1923

This exhibit chronicles the 20 different postal rates in the 18-month period from July 1, 1922, when the rates rise escalated, through to the new and stable currency in December 1923. The materials used to demonstrate the postal charges are mainly printed matter, postcards, letters and registered letters with some express delivery, airmails and insured letters. The inclusion of large envelopes in higher weight bands has been kept to a minimum for space considerations. The reduced postcard and letter rates to Czechoslovakia are included where relevant. Foreign packets, parcels and cash-on-delivery items are excluded

The effects of the War, unstable political situation, ruined economy and high war reparation demands allied with reliance on the printing press for money as monetary policy were the factors in the inflationary pressures. The occupation of the industrial Ruhr, and the German response, triggered hyperinflation which spiralled out of control. Postage stamps were printed in huge numbers with increasing denominations with overprinting being extensively used.

The first attempt at monetary stabilisation in Feb-Mar 1923 was only temporarily successful. The second stabilisation required emergency legislation and a new currency in December 1923 and had an immediate effect.

Data as at first day of the Postal rate

Rate start	Exchange Mk/US\$1	Foreign-Letter		
		Rate	letters/\$1	Cost US cents
1/07/1922	401	6	67	1.5
1/10/1922	1815	20	91	1
15/11/1922	7315	40	183	0.05
15/12/1922	7425	80	93	1
15/01/1923	11875	150	79	1.3
1/03/1923	22800	300	76	1.3
1/07/1923	160,000	800	200	0.05
1/08/1923	1,100,000	3,000	367	0.03
24/08/1923	4,700,000	60,000	78	1.3
1/09/1923	10,300,000	200,000	52	2
20/09/1923	182,000,000	750,000	243	0.04
1/10/1923	242,000,000	6,000,000	40	2.5
10/10/1923	2,975,000,000	15,000,000	132	0.08
20/10/1923	12,000,000,000	30,000,000	400	0.025
1/11/1923	130,000,000,000	200,000,000	650	0.015
5/11/1923	420,000,000,000	4,000,000,000	105	0.95
12/11/1923	840,000,000,000	40,000,000,000	21	4.8
20/11/1923	4,200,000,000,000	80,000,000,000	53	1.9
26/11/1923	4,200,000,000,000	320,000,000,000	13	7.7

The inflation and hyperinflation made the postal rates look terrible but in fact the rates were extremely cheap in international terms. From the table above it can be seen that during 8 of the 20 periods, the foreign letter rate was less than 1c US with all but the last week of November being less than 5 US cents.

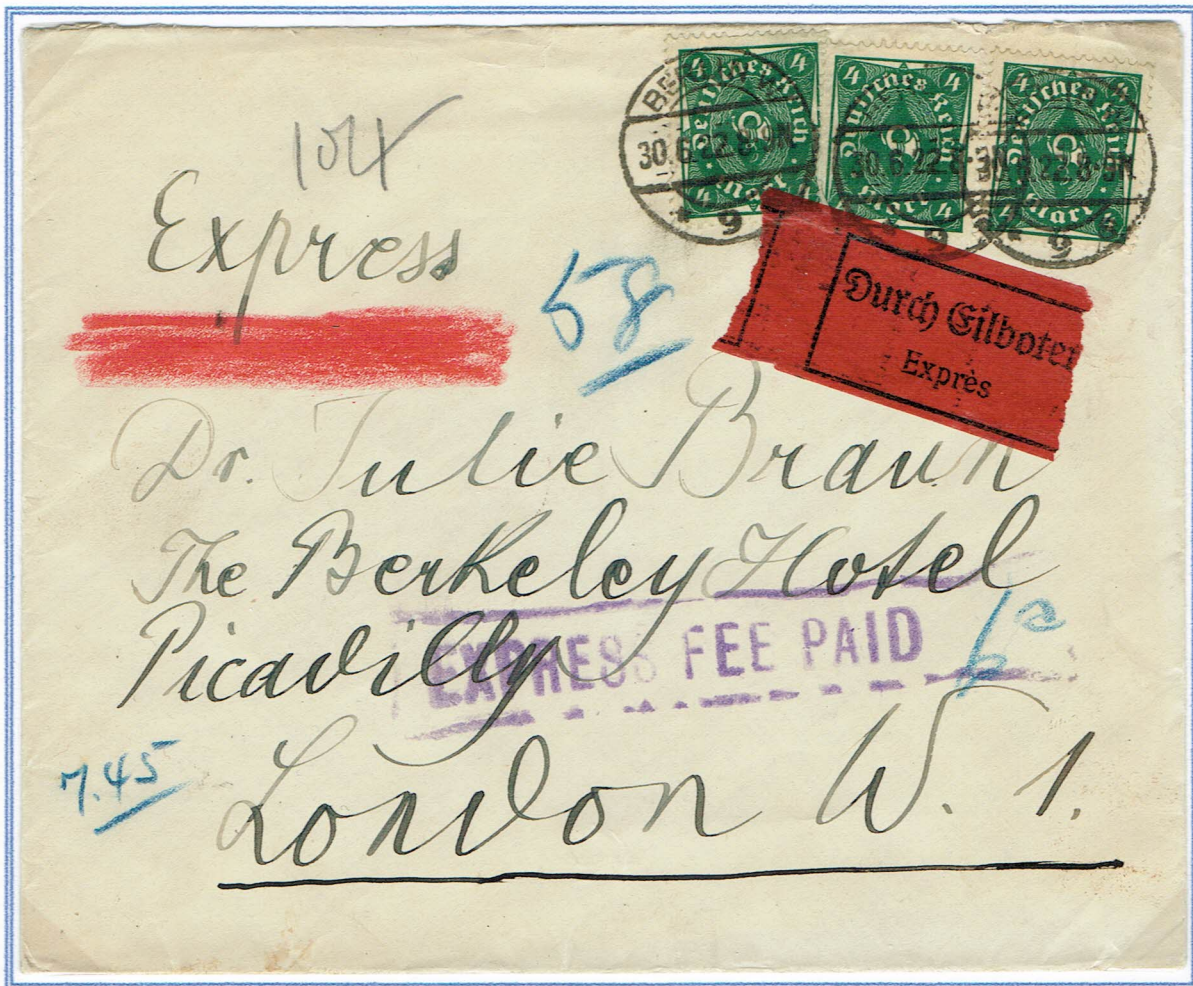
Blue border indicates mail items of special importance - First Day of Rate, Last Day of Rate, Sunday or holiday postings and under-franked mail with Postage Due.

Exceptional items have a **red border**.

References:

- Hyper-Inflation in Germany 1923 Postal History and List of Rates from 1906-1923. Gerhard Binder 2003
- Stopping Hyperinflation Past and Present. Rudiger Dornbusch & Stanley Fischer. Second Congress European Economic Association, Copenhagen, 1987
- The Inflation Period, Steve Earati. Germania 1965-66
- Dates of Issue of the "high Inflation" Stamps, David Stuart. German Postal Specialist, March 1958.
- Postage Paid Postmarks of the German Inflation Period. D Manchester. German Postal Specialist issue 394, May 1986
- Stampless mail During the German Inflation 1919-1923, John L Whiteside, London Philatelist Vol 95 Jan-Feb 1986
- Michel Deutschland-Spezial Katalog

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Express Letter Berlin to London 30.6.22 8-9 PM - Last Day of Rate January 1, 1922 - June 30, 1922

Letter Rate 4 Mk + Express Delivery Fee 8Mk = **12 Mk** - Franking 3 x 4 Mk posthorn design issued December 1921

Express Label and "**Express Fee Paid**" marking - London 3 JY 22 7.30AM - "**7.45**" on front - delivery time

Printed Matter	1.25Mk	Postcard	3.50Mk	Letter	6Mk	Registration	2Mk
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Rate in Force: 13 weeks

Next Letter-Rate Increase: 14 Mk - 233%

Weekly Increase: 17.95% - 1.07 Mk

This was the first rate change for 6 months. Prices had been steadily increasing with inflation and the new postal rates were the first where all were in Marks rather than pfennigs. It represents start of the inflationary spiral in rates.



Printed Matter envelope
1.25Mk
Berlin 4.8.22 to Italy
Drucksache =
Printed matter

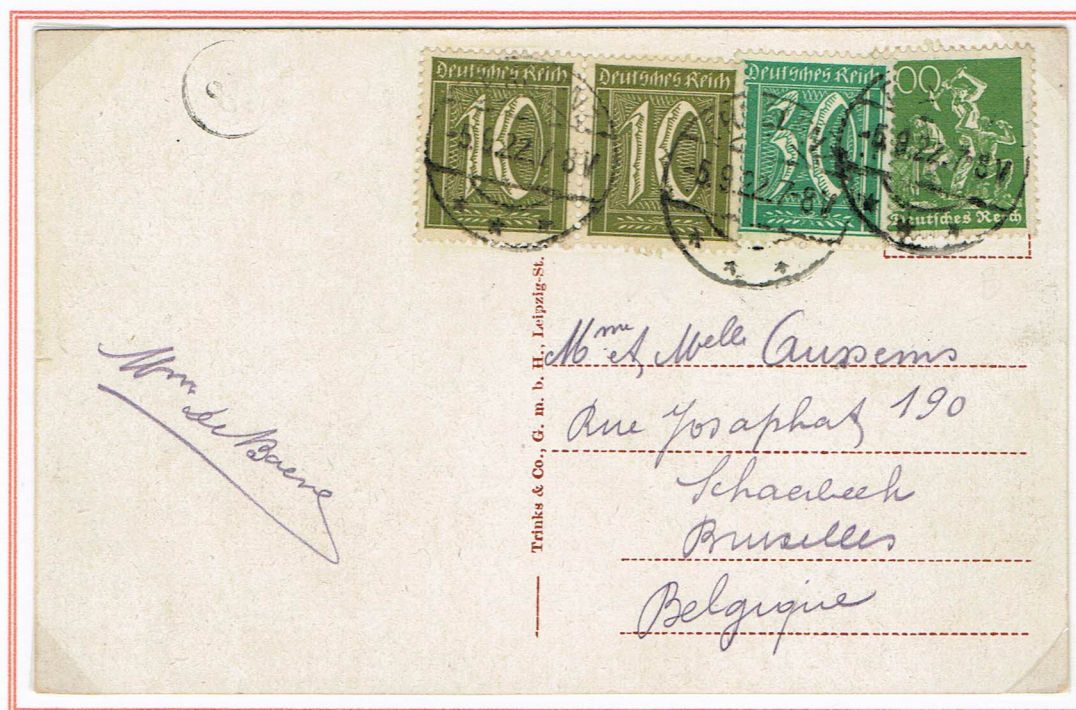
Printed Matter postcard
1.25Mk
Berlin 9.7.22 SUNDAY
to Amsterdam
Netherlands

Converted Feldpost 15pf
lettercard.



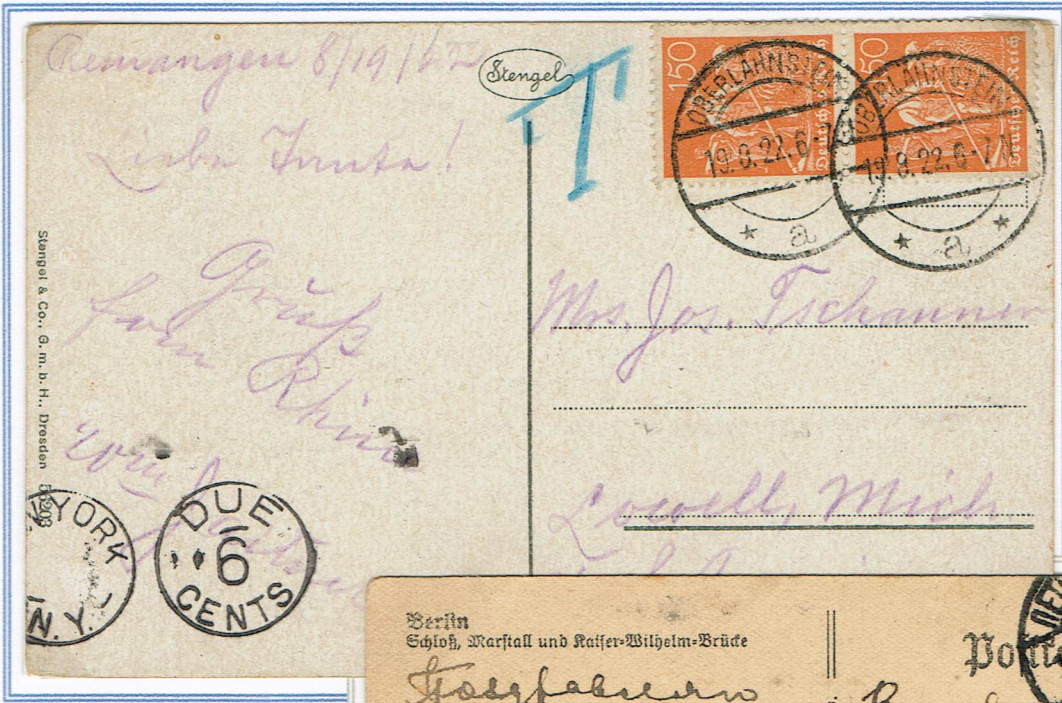
Wiesbaden 1.7.22 2-3pm First Day of Rate. Franking 2.40Mk - the correct rate for the period 1/1/22-30/6/22. Correctly assessed as postage due with boxed T and "30" Belgian due 30 cancelled Charleroy 3.7.22

If mailed before 9am [8-9 V] on day of rate change, postage due is not levied.



Postcard 1.50Mk Cross Border Mail Elgelen to Belgium 5.9.22

Cross Border Mail is sent at Inland Rates [here 1.50Mk] if the sending and receiving office are both within 30km of the border. It required the sender and postal officials to be aware.

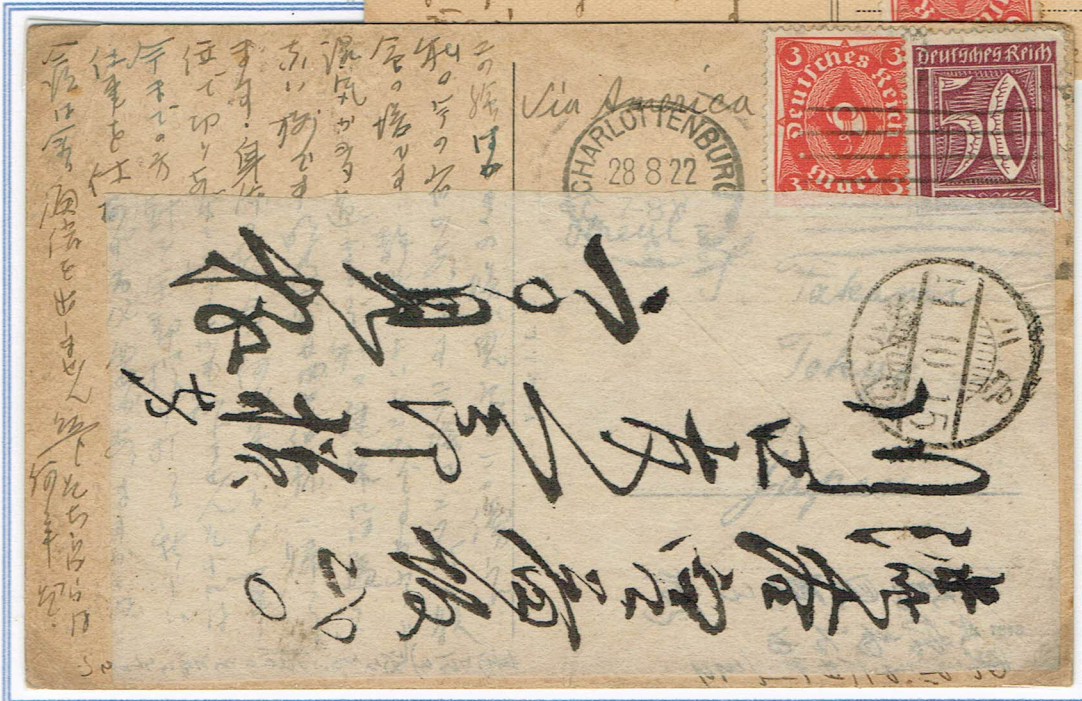


Postcard with Postage Due

Oberlahnstein 19.8.22
to USA

Franking 3Mk [rate 3.50Mk]
assessed as postage due with
"T" and New York Due 6
cents applied

Postcard 3.50Mk -
6.9.22 Stettin to
Petrograd, Russia,
received 14.9.22



Postcard 3.50Mk
Charlottenburg
22.8.22 to Tokyo, Japan.
Endorsed "via America"
[Atlantic Ocean, Trans-
American Railway, then
steamer to Japan across
the Pacific Ocean]

Address in Japanese
attached and cancelled
11.10.15 [1922]
50 days

When Czechoslovakia lost the privilege of having mail from Germany sent at Inland rates on March 14, 1920, a special concessionary rate of 75% foreign rate was instituted for postcards and the first 20gm of letters. All other rates remained at the Foreign Postal rates

Postcard 2.75 Mk

Czechoslovakia

4.7.22

Uprated postal card

40+85pf with

additional 1.75Mk

= 3Mk

[foreign rate]

"85" rosette design on postal card was not approved by UPU for use to Foreign Countries



Postcard Czechoslovakia

Cuxhaven 9.7.22 4-5PM

SUNDAY

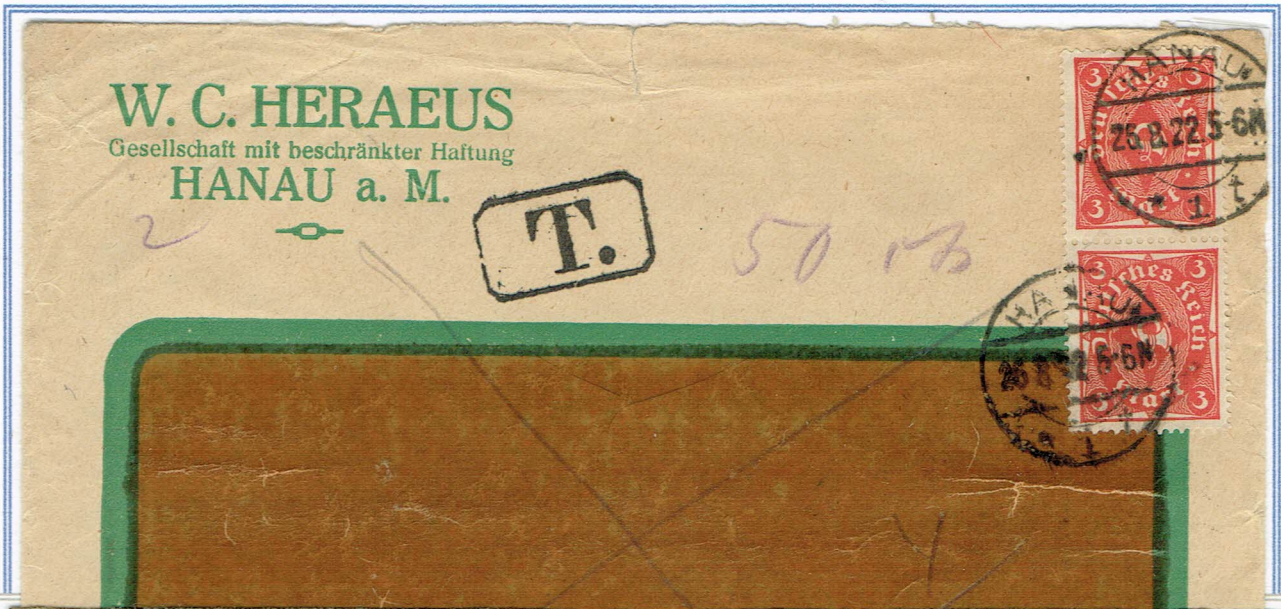
Postcard Czechoslovakia

Westerland
6.8.22 7-8AM

SUNDAY



Letter 6 Mk - 26.8.22 Hanau to Turin, Italy "2" indicating second weight band [20-40gm] Boxed "T" and assessed "50 cents" postage due



Letter 20-40gm 9Mk Nurnberg 27.9.22 to Tutin, Italy

Registered Letter 8 Mk - {Letter 6Mk + Registration fee 2Mk} Berlin 30.7.22 8-9 AM to Switzerland SUNDAY
Checked by Customs at Frankfurt with cancels 31.7.22 8-9 AM & 31.7.22 6-7 PM



Registered Letter 8 Mk. Charlottenburg 5.8.22 to Sweden. Not checked by Customs Office



In Case of Non-Delivery kindly
return to:-

LOUIS DONNER, Jun.,
40 Potsdamerstr.,
BERLIN W.35, Germany.

REGISTERED

Berlin 35
615 a
R

Mit Luftpost

Einschreiben

Registered.
Return Receipt desired.

973537

By Aerial Mail. Durch Luftpost Berlin-Hamburg.

Mr. Clark Fearing,
P.O. Box 1126,
PORTLAND, Oregon, U.S.A.
Vereinigte Staaten.



Registered [2Mk] Letter [6Mk] with Advice Receipt [2Mk] Airmail Berlin-Hamburg by Luftpost to Oregon
30.9.22 5-6PM - Franking 12Mk 25pf Last Day of Rate

Printed Matter	4Mk	Postcard	12Mk	Letter	20Mk	Registration	4Mk
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Rate in Force: 6 weeks

Next Letter-Rate Increase: 20 Mk - 100%

Weekly Increase: 16.7% - 3.33 Mk

Printed Matter
 postcard 4Mk. Frankfurt
 3.10.22 to Nyon,
 Switzerland. Received 4
 Okt 1922

Perfin JBC [Joseph Baer
 & Co [Antique dealer]

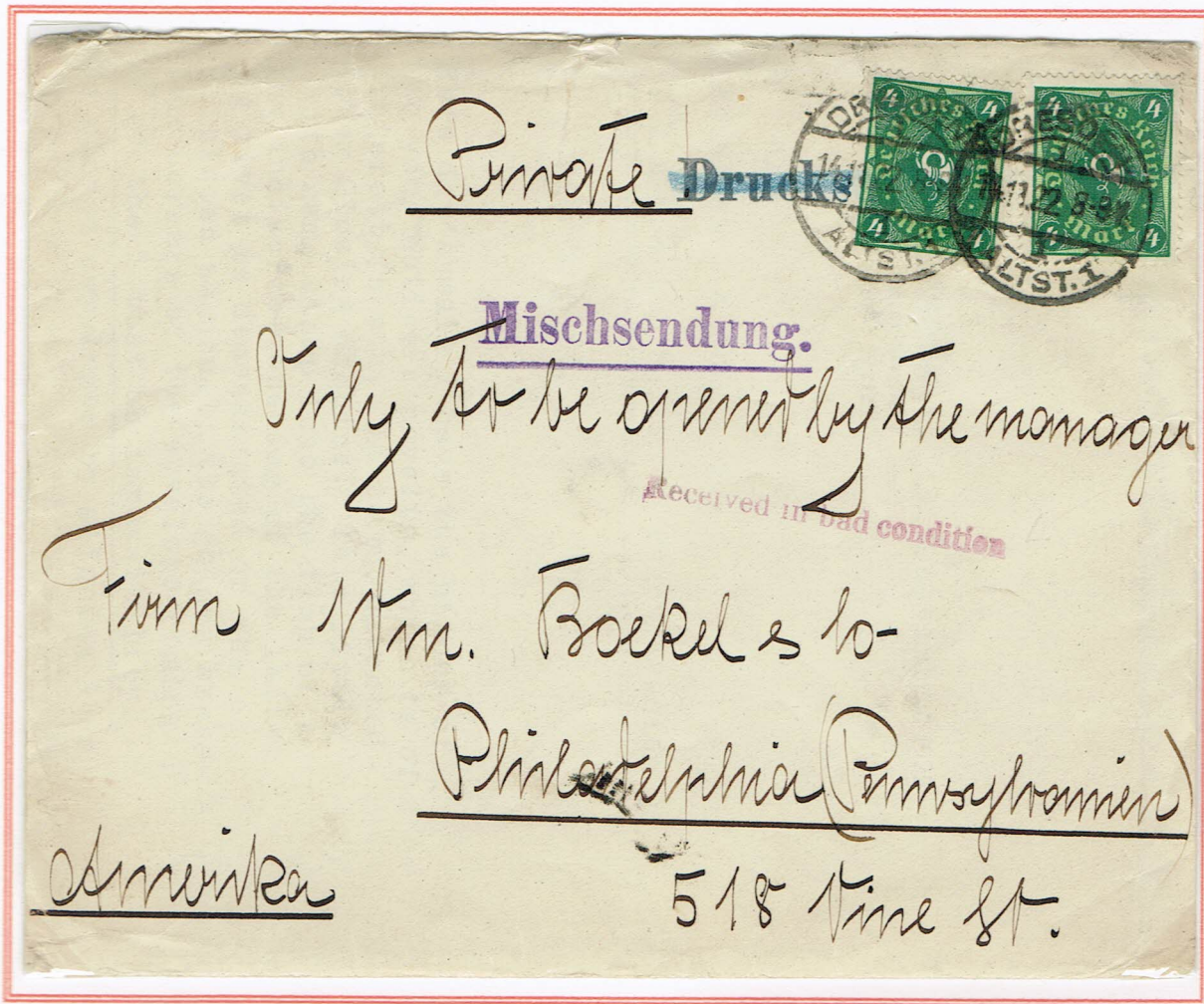


Postcard 12Mk
 [10Mk + 100pf + 5 x
 15pf + 2 x 1-pf + 5pf]
 Munich 14.10.22 to
 Italy

Postcard with 11 Mk
 Berlin 5.10.22 to Italy
 [short paid 1Mk]
 No postage due

If the postage deficit was
 noted and was 10% or less
 than the postage rate, the
 instruction to the postal
 clerks was to ignore it





Mischendung - Samples of no Commercial Value did not have a special postal rate for foreign mail as they did for inland. They are considered a type of Printed matter and treated as such by the Post. 8Mk = 50-100gm

Dresden 14.11.22 Last day of Rate to Philadelphia USA where "Received in bad condition" handstamp applied - no obvious damage! Enclosure is promoting a machine to seal envelopes with brass rivets.



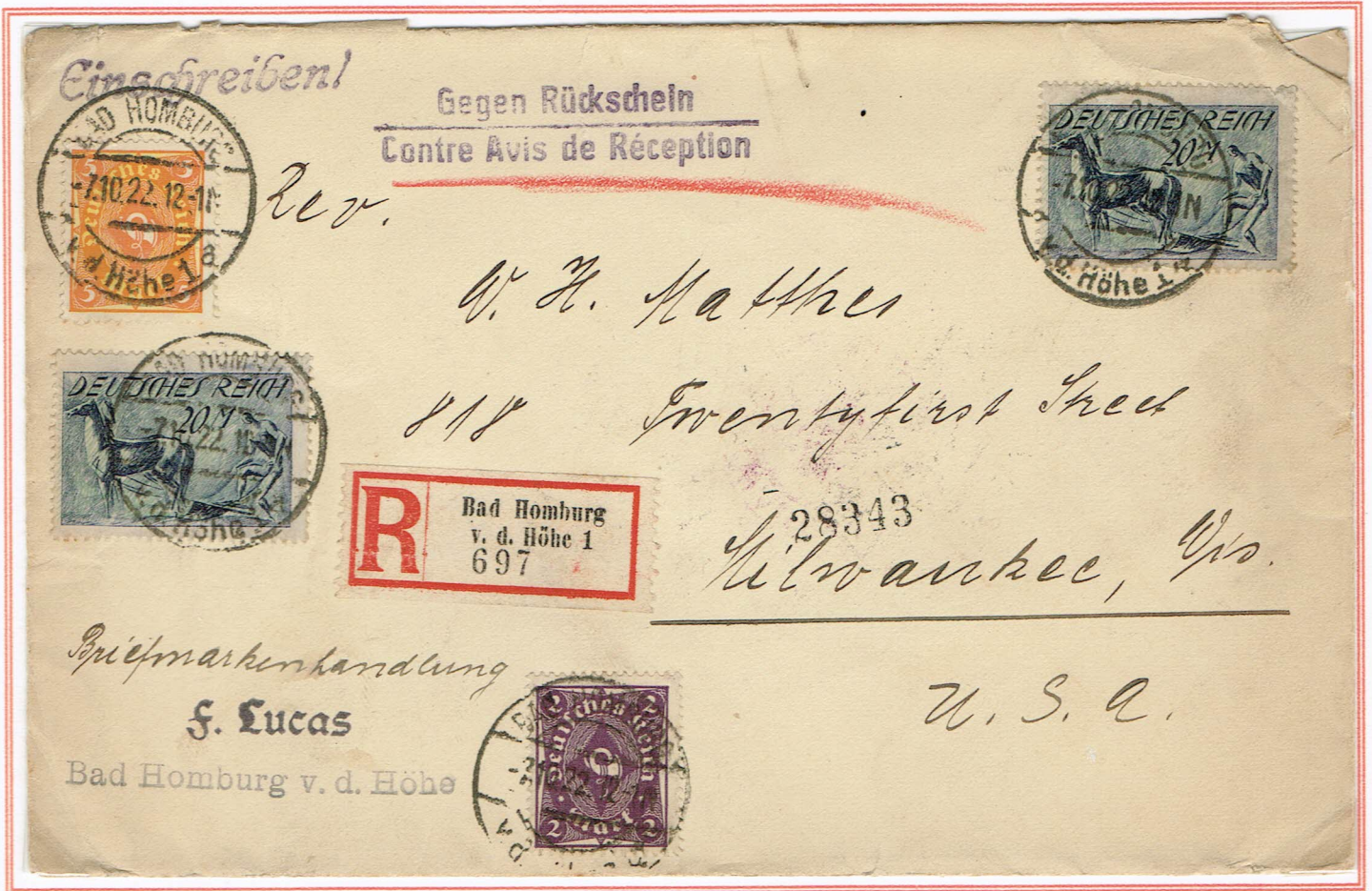
Obverse reduced



Postcard 12Mk Langensalza to Riga, Latvia 21.10.22 has been assed in Riga 800R Postage Due - probable cause is that the card is thickened and doubled at lower part - treated as a Foreign letter



Letter 20Mk Berlin 14.11.22 6-7PM to Paris. Last Day of Rate



Registered Letter with Advice Receipt 47Mk

Bad Homburg 7.10.22, no evidence of Customs office checking. Received Milwaukee Registered OCT 22 1922

Franking: 20Mk + 20 Mk + 5Mk + 2 Mk = 47 Mk

Registration Fee 4mk; **Avis de Reception** [Ruckschein] fee 3 Mk; Postage Letter 20 Mk + 20Mk + 20Mk] = 47 Mk

There was no German label for the "advice of receipt" service for registered mail either inland or foreign. These pieces just have the word **Ruckschein** in manuscript or hand-stamped. An additional fee was to be paid and a postal form confirming delivery would be returned to the sender. AR covers in the inflation period are very uncommon

Printed Matter	8Mk	Postcard	24Mk	Letter	40Mk	Registration	8Mk
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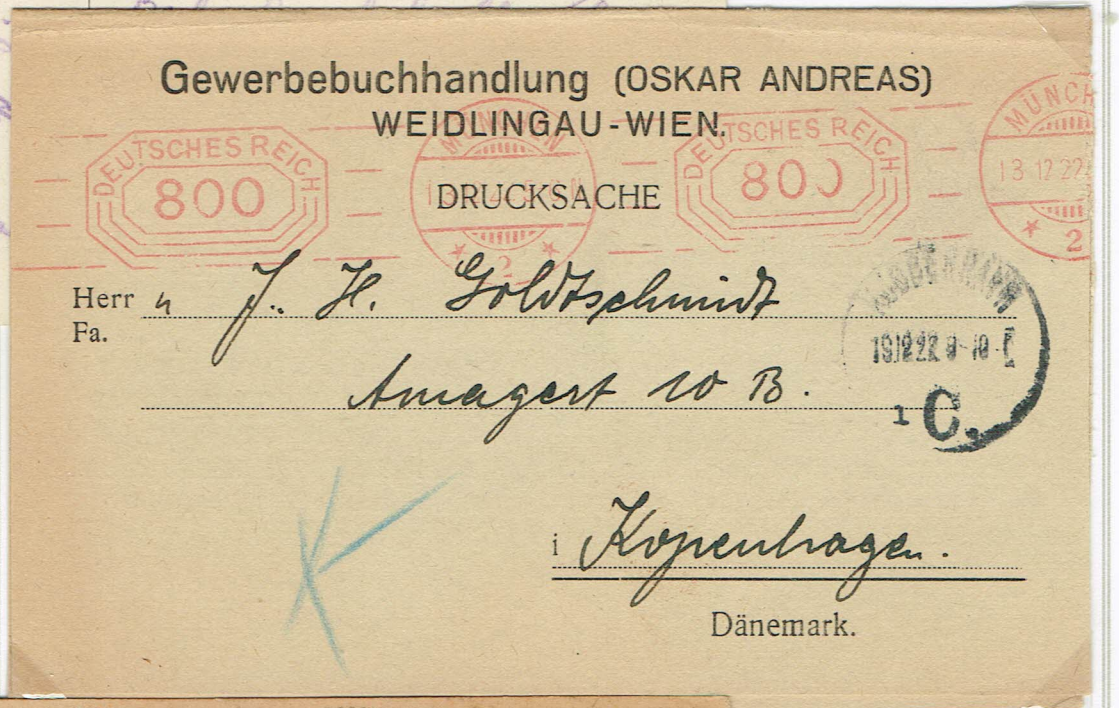
Rate in Force: 4 weeks

Next Letter-Rate Increase: 40 Mk - 100%

Weekly Increase: 25% - 10 Mk



Printed Matter 8Mk
Postcard with
"Drucksache" -
Lüneburg 11.12.22 to
Bulgaria - Overfranked
2Mk [10Mk on obverse]



Printed Matter 8Mk
Private reply-paid
postcard
Munich 13.12.22
[second last day of rate]
to Copenhagen
Denmark
Received 19.12.22



Postcard 24Mk
Augsburg 8 DE 22 to
Torino, Italy.
75pf postal card uprated
with 1¼Mk. 20Mk 2Mk.

The indicium on postal
cards was valid for
postage until
September 30, 1923.
After that they were
used as Formular cards.



Postcard 24 Mk
 Pfokaheim 14.12.22
Card postmarked
 5-6 PM on
Last day of Rate
 to New York USA.
Perfin AAH

With inflation and rising postal charges, it was logical to post mail before the rate changed.

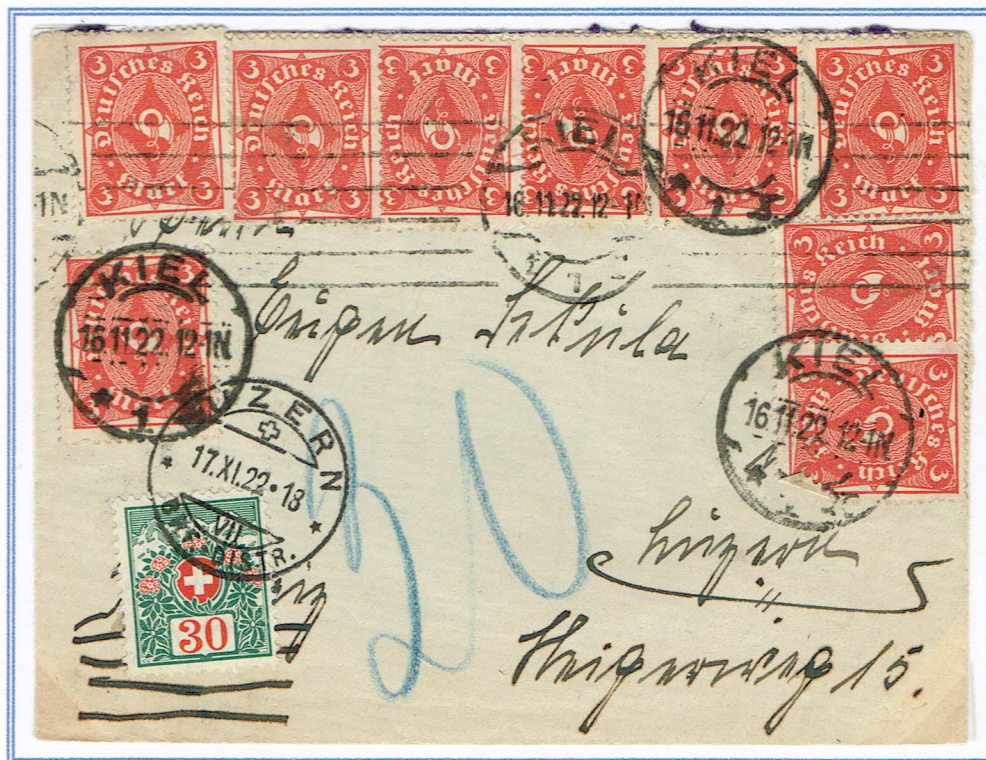
Mail posted on First day of rate meant higher costs and are much less common than last day cards or letters.

Letter 40Mk. Berlin 15.11.22. First Day of Rate to Italy





Postcard 24Mk. Hannover to Italy 14.12.22 10-11AM Last Day of Rate



Letter Kiel 16.11.22 to Switzerland 9 x 3Mk = 27Mk

"30" applied in Germany and Swiss postage due applied cancelled Luzern 17 XI 22
Previous Foreign Letter Rate was 20 Mk; Inland Letter Rate was 12Mk



Letter 30Mk - underfranked by 10Mk with Boxed "T" postage due. Kaiserslautern 18 NOV 22 to France

Underfranked mail, both with or without Postage Due is surprisingly uncommon - despite the many changes in postal rates, the population were very well informed and compliant.



Letter 60Mk 20-40gm [Letter to 20gm, 40Mk + 20Mk each extra 20gm]. Cassell 20.1.22 to Torino, Italy

Letter to Czechoslovakia [30 Mk] Essen 14.12.22 11-12PM [last possible clearance] Last Day of Rate
6Mk + 4Mk; 12Mk + 8Mk charity for reforestation set issued December 11th, 1922.



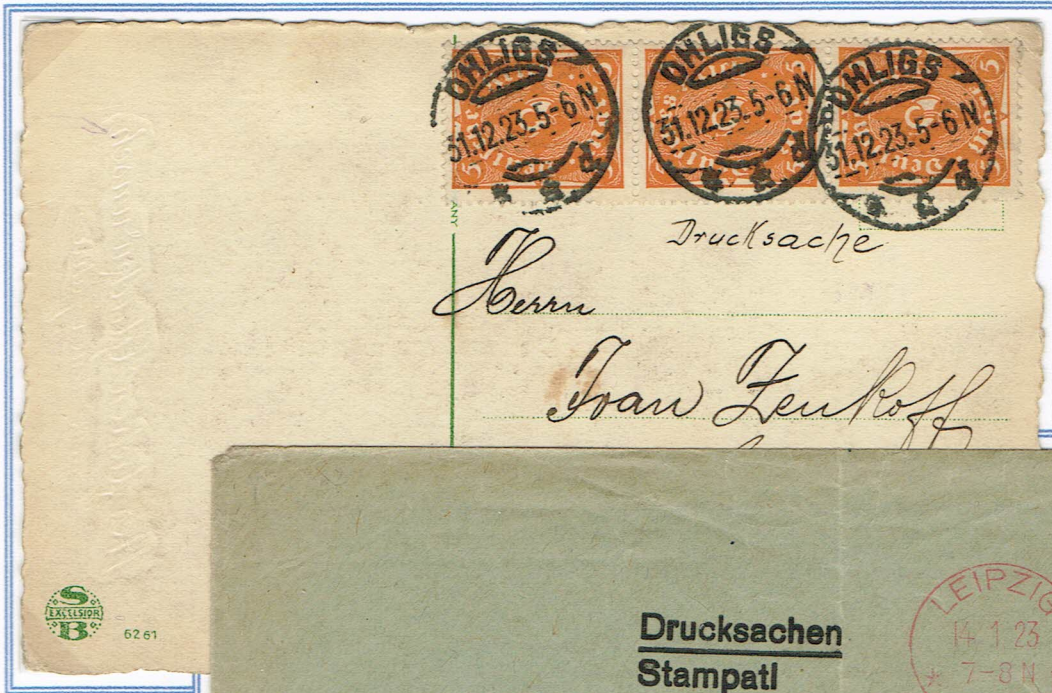
Registered Letter 60-80gm 128Mk [40 + 20 + 20 + 20] + Registration 8Mk. Customs checked to Antwerp

Printed Matter	15Mk	Postcard	50Mk	Letter	80Mk	Registration	20Mk
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Rate in Force: 4 weeks

Next Letter-Rate Increase: 70 Mk - 87.5%

Weekly Increase: 22% - 17.50 Mk

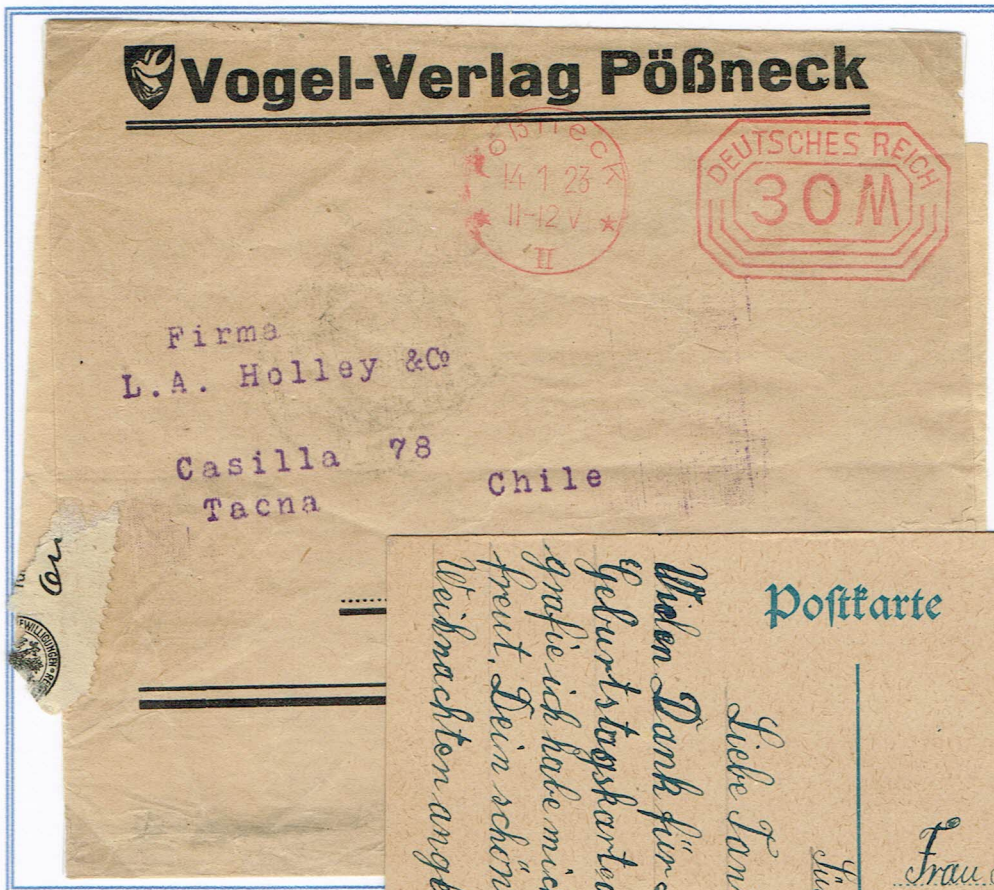


Printed Matter Postcard
15 Mk
31.12.23 - 5-6PM SUNDAY
Last day of 1922. - date error
Ohligs to Bulgaria

Printed Matter Letter
15 Mk Leipzig
14.1.23 7-8PM SUNDAY
Last Day of Rate to Italy



Printed Matter
Letter 15 Mk
23.12.22
Remscheid to
Italy



Printed Matter Wrapper 30 Mk
 Forneck 14.1.23 11-12 AM
 Last day of rate SUNDAY
 To Tacna, Chile received
 10 MAR 23. - 55 days in transit

Mail posted and processed on a Sunday is especially uncommon as many Post Offices were closed and those open operated reduced hours



Postcard 50 Mk
 Single Franking
 11.1.23
 to Sweden



Postcard 50 Mk
 Eisenburg 5.1.23 to
 Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
 Overfranked by 9 Mk.

The 2 x 12 Mk stamps indicate that the card was prepared for use in the previous rate period when the postcard rate was 24 Mk

Over-franking mail is a consequence of rising rates requiring multiple stamps

Postcard 50 Mk
Waldkirch 13.1.23
To Switzerland
75pf postal card uprated
to 50Mk.

As postcard rates increased, the Post Office added stamps to the cards and sold them at the new rate. This one was uprated 75pf making the 1.50Mk rate - local postcard rate 1/10/22 - 15/11/22.



Letter 80 Mk
11.1.23 Berlin to
Denmark

Letter 80 Mk
Frankfurt to Lucca, Italy
25.12.22 10-11pm
Christmas day
Posting



Letter 80 Mk. Berlin 14.1.23 2-3pm to Switzerland. Last Day of Rate. SUNDAY
Envelope previously used 80pf cancelled 29.3.22 Berlin - Foreign Printed matter 1/1/22-1/7/22

HANS PUSCH, Verlagsbuchhandlung
Berlin SW 48, Wilhelmstr. 28, Postscheckkonto: Bln. 61931

Bankkonto: Bank für Handel und Industrie, Berlin NW 1, Unter den Linden 54/55

Im Verlage erscheint:
Groß-Berliner Aerzteblatt
Deutsche Zahnärztliche
Wochenschrift
Internationaler Aerztlicher
Zentralanzeiger
Röntgenhilfe
Mit Hörrohr und Spritze
Hochstetter & Dr. Zehden



An

Herrn g. Morfer
Truhhandlg

**Schnell öffnen -
langsam lesen!**

Morfer



Letter mailed New
Year's Day 1.1.23
Wannsee to Sweden.

Franked 90 Mk

Manuscript "2"
indicates 20-40gm [80
+ 40Mk] so correctly
assessed as Postage
Due with "T" "38"

Letter 80 Mk. Hamburg 15.12.22 to New York USA. First Day of Rate



Letter 80Mk Gorlitz 27.12.22 to Italy. Franking back 20 x 3Mk; front 100pf + 3 x 5Mk + 4Mk = 80Mk

Letter 20-40gm 120Mk [80 Mk + 40 Mk] Regensburg 11.1.23 to Bohemia.
The postal charge for each additional 20gm or part was set at 50% of the Letter rate.



Registered Letter 60-80gm 200 Mk - "67gr" - Should be 220Mk [80 + 40 + 40 + 40 + 20Mk Registration]

Printed Matter	30Mk	Postcard	90Mk	Letter	150Mk	Registration	40Mk
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Rate in Force: 6 weeks

Next Letter-Rate Increase: 150 Mk - 100%

Weekly Increase: 17% - 25 Mk

The Franco-Belgium invasion of the Ruhr basin occurred **January 11, 1923**. This and the "passive resistance" of the German workers were the trigger for the **hyperinflation** that was to follow. The economy was already suffering from reduced tax base, erosion of tax revenues, increased debt servicing and the reparation payment demands of the Allies. The Ruhr provided Germany with 85% of coal; 80% of steel, 70% of traffic in goods and minerals and contained 10% of its population. On January 11th the exchange rate was **10,450 Mk** to the US\$ but by January 31st it was **49,000**.

Printed Matter 30 Mk. 24.2.23 Berlin to Italy



Printed Matter
50-100gm 60 Mk
Wrapper 20.2.23
Frankfurt to Hungary

Foreign Printed Matter
rates were increased each
50gm

Printed Matter 30Mk. Dusseldorf 28.2.23 5-6PM to Italy. Last Day of Rate



Wiesbaden 22.1.23 to Zurich, Switzerland

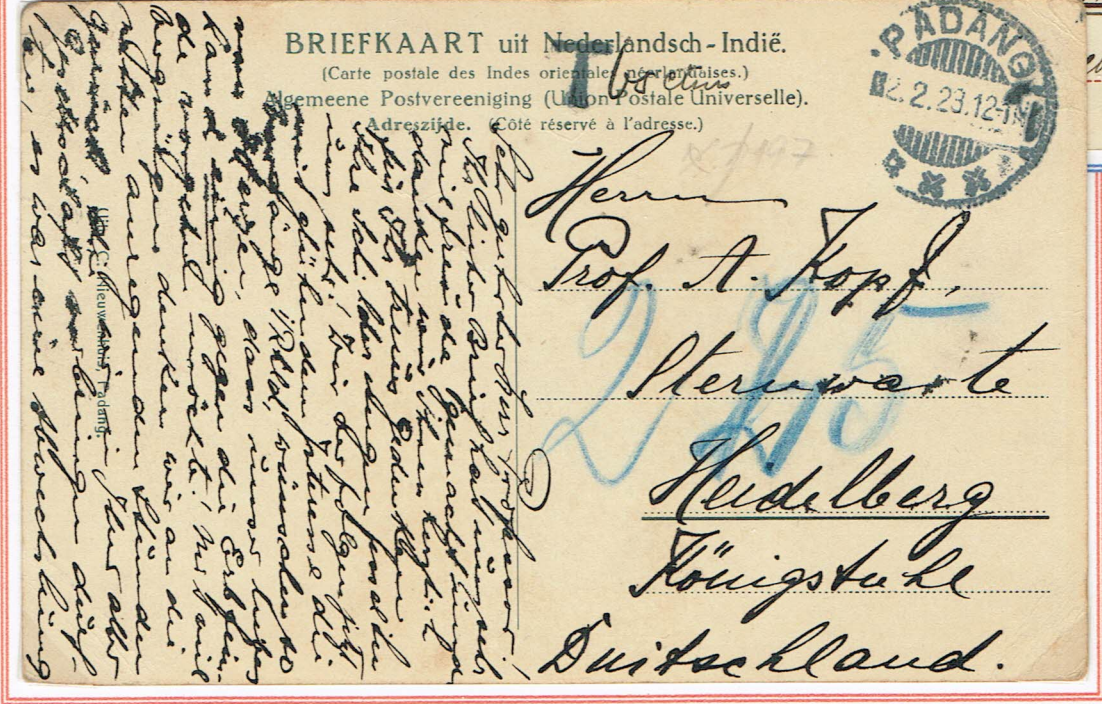
"Muster o[hre] Werte" = Commercial Samples of no Value - 240Mk = 8th weight band of 50gm

There was no specific rate for commercial samples of no value [Muster ohne Werte] to foreign destinations. They were regarded as Printed Matter. For inland commercial samples, the weight bands were up to 100gm then to 250gm then to 500gm not 50gm as for printed matter



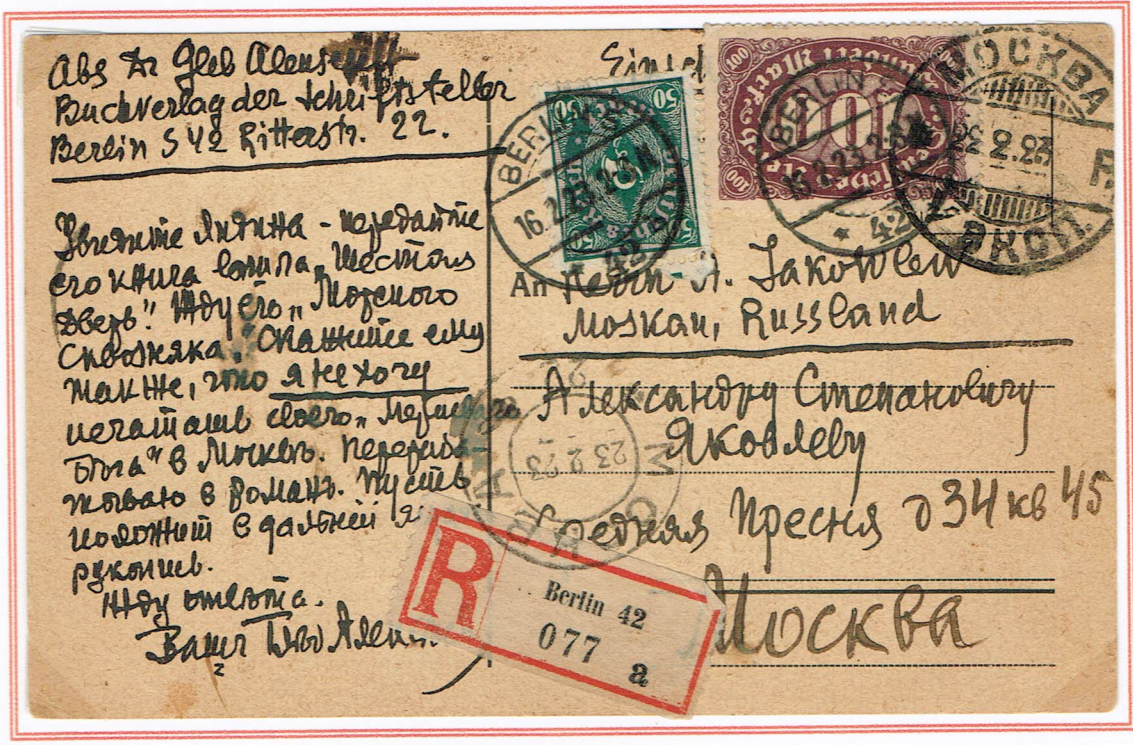
Postcard 90 Mk 9.2.23 Wiesbaden to France

Postcard 70Mk Czechoslovakia from Dresden 28.2.23 8-9PM Last Day of Rate



Postcard Inwards from Padang, Netherlands East Indies 2.2.23 without stamps Assessed Postage Due T "60 cents" and "225" applied at Heidelberg.

Until 30/6/1923 Postage Due was double reducing to 150% from 1/7/1923. Postcard rate was 90Mk so 200% would = 180Mk; if 150% would give a rate of 150Mk which is the Foreign Letter Rate!



Registered
 Postcard 130 Mk
 [90 + 40]
 16.2 23 Berlin to
 Moscow, Russia
 received 23.2.23
 7 days transit

Overfranked 20
 Mk

Letter 150 Mk
 7.II.23 Augsburg
 to Italy

Letter to Czechoslovakia 120Mk - Regensburg 28 JAN 23 6-7PM SUNDAY



Letter 150Mk
Berlin 9.2.23 to
Santa Cruz, USA

Assessed as
postage due in
US with 8c in
stamps.
Only explanation
is that the letter
20-40gm
therefore should
have had 225 Mk
No German
markings to
indicate weight or
Postage Due



Letter 150 Mk Barmen 23.1.23 to Italy: Mass Franking 45 stamps: 29 x 5Mk with 15 x 100pf on back = 150Mk

Letter 150Mk
Nurnberg 7 II 23
to Italy
Sain 15 1 23
To USA



Registered Letter 130Mk [Letter 150 Mk + Registration fee 40Mk] Papenburg to USA - opened & sealed at Munich





Insured Letter for 10,000 Mk - 440Mk. Berlin 30.1.23 to Stockholm, Sweden
Reverse has 4 wax seals from the sender Ernst Stock Berlin

Assessed as "440" marks to pay full cost:

"55gr" weight [3rd band] 150 + 75 + 75 = 300Mk + Registered fee 40Mk + Insurance 100Mk/60,000Mk = 440 Mk
Checked at Berlin Customs , stamped and signed but not opened.

The rate for a basic **insured mail** article is the sum of three parts:

- The rate for the weight of letter or packet
- A registration fee although it was forbidden to use R-labels
- An insurance fee

Insured mail was always wax sealed and the weight was written exactly to the 1/2gr. The insured amount had to be written in words and figures.

All insured mail was passed through Customs offices but not all was opened - An inscription or seal or number was applied

Printed Matter	60Mk	Postcard	180Mk	Letter	300Mk	Registration	80Mk
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Rate in Force: 13 weeks

Next Letter-Rate Increase: 500 Mk - 167%

Weekly Increase: 12.8% - 38.47 Mk

The **first attempt at currency stabilisation** took place February to April 1923. It was based on a fixed exchange rate and used reserve fund to sustain the rate. The policy was dramatically successful in that the exchange rate stability brought with it price stability. The Exchange rate dropped from **41,500 Mk/\$** on February 1st to **18,900Mk/\$** by the 16th. But because of the Ruhr expenses continues unabated, the exchange rate was ultimately unsustainable. The exchange rate on April 16th was **21,100Mk/\$** but a month later was **45,375Mk/\$** but by May 30th was **69,500 Mk/\$**. The attempt failed and money continued to be printed at increasing speed.

Printed Matter 60Mk. 9.5.23 Ilmenal to Italy



Postcard 180Mk
26.5.23 Hanover to
Turin, Italy -

Stamps perfin "GW"
Gunter Wagner

„Ars Medici“
 Das Organ des
 praktischen Arztes
 Erscheint am 15. eines jeden Monates,
 mindestens 52 Seiten stark
Wien, IX., Spitalgasse 1a

Hochwohlgehrte
 Herrn
 Frau

Dr. med.

Jelvan Kiss,




Printed Matter 60Mk
 [postcard]
 Berlin 30.6.23 9-10 PM
 to Hungary
 Last day of Rate

Printed Matter 60Mk
 [Wrapper]
 Erfurt 30.6.23 1-2 AM
 To Nevada USA
 Last day of Rate

My dumb traveller!


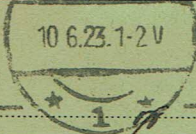
10 6.23.1-2 V

Mr.
 Messrs.

Karoly Beck,

Virginia City

U S America

Internationaler Anzeiger für Briefmarken und Notgeld
 Fernruf 7269 Druck- und Verlagshaus, G. m. b. H., Mannheim G 7 Nr. 25

Drucksache

Firma

R. C. Rose

St. Johns, Neufundland

P.O. Box 772



Printed Matter 60Mk [envelope] 12.4.24 to Newfoundland - incorrect date in datestamp - very unusual occurrence

Postcard 180Mk
Bremen 23.4 to USA

3 Mk stationery card up-rated
- Post Office up-rated the
cards as rates increased by
adding stamps.

Inland postcard rates:
3Mk 1/10 to 14/11/22
15Mk 15/12/22 - 14/1/23
40Mk 15/1/-28/2/23



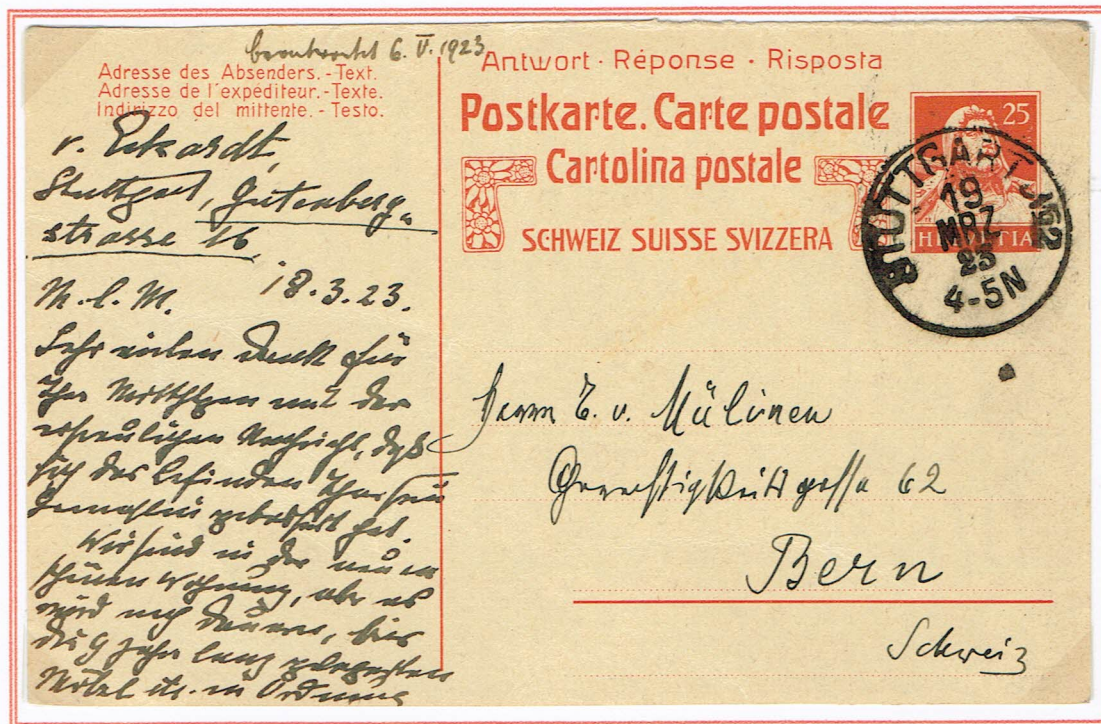
Postcard unfranked
Godesberg
27.4.23
to Belgium

Assessed Postage Due
"T" "60" and Boxed T
with 2 x 30 Belgian
Postage Dues

Postcard Konigstein
22.5.23 with 80Mk
[Correct inland card
rate]

To Chicago USA.
Assessed as **postage**
due with "T" and 3
x 2c US Dues
attached





Swiss Reply Paid Postcard cancelled Stuttgart 19 MRZ 23 - Paying equivalent of 180Mk foreign postcard rate

The UPU regulations on reply paid postcards addressed to other UPU signatory countries, permitted the recipient to mail the response part of the card without using postage stamps and without penalty



Letter London 22 6 23 with 2½d postage paid [should be 3d] with boxed T marking and "30" postage due marking applied = 30 Mk and Plauen PORTO circular marking on obverse. Note that 3d rate equivalent to 300Mk



Registered letter 380Mk: 30.6.23 6-7 PM Chemnitz to Italy. Last Day of Rate
 Opened and resealed with label and seal marking at Munich Customs Office [number 16]



Obverse reduced

Foreign registered mail always passed through **customs** although not every piece was opened. If a registered letter was opened at one of the network of 28 **Custom examination offices** [Devisekontrolle], each of which had its own identification number, the letter was resealed with an official label bearing the office number and giving the reason for this action [purely economic]. Munich was the main office for mail to Austria and the south.



Registered letter 380Mk: [Letter 300 Mk + Registration fee 80Mk] Harburg 6.3.23 to Locarno, Switzerland

Letter has been checked but not opened at **Frankfurt Customs** office with Frankfurt 6.3.23 102 PM & 7.3.23 7-8 PM on obverse but no checking number on front as expected. Received 9 III 23

Franking: 380Mk - correct
200Mk and **100Mk** large format numerals
 [issued in February 1923] +
30Mk [Posthorn issued February 1923] +
Ruhr relief surcharge set issued
February 19, 1923

- 100Mk / 5Mk
- 500Mk / 25Mk
- 1000Mk / 20Mk



Part obverse



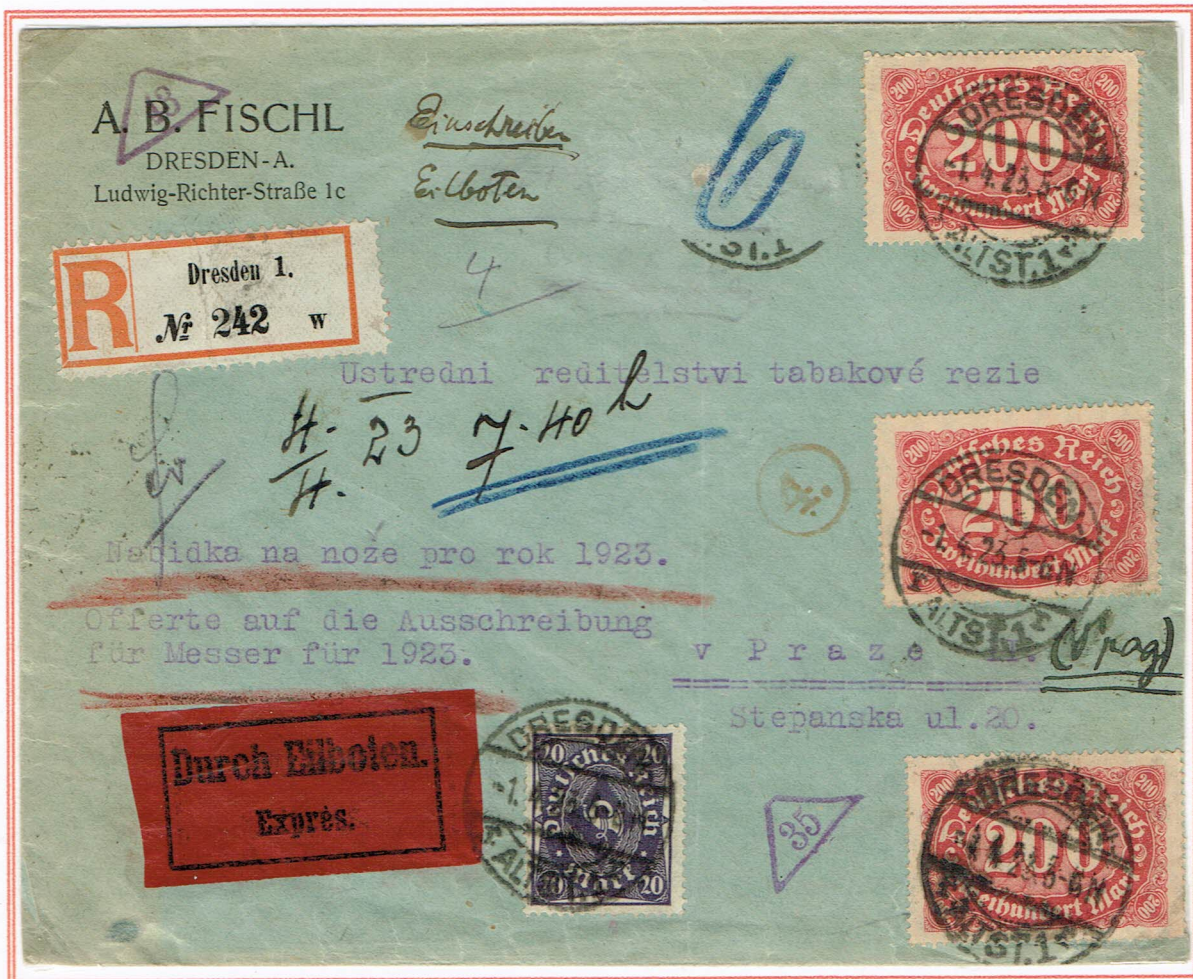
Registered Express Letter to Prague, Czechoslovakia from Dresden 1.4.23

Postage: Special Letter Rate to Czechoslovakia 240Mk + Registration fee 80Mk + Express fee 600 Mk = 920Mk with R-label and Express label as per regulations with 2 wax seals

Letter opened at **Dresden Customs** and resealed with Label 4 and seal marking with Dresden cancellations of 2.4.23 and 3.4.23 with **four different supervisor's markings** - "4" "35" "44" [on back]; "48"

One 200Mk stamp lost before delivery and **Postage Due "6"** applied

The type script related to a tender offer for 1923 to the Central Tobacco Directorate in Prague



Airmail Letter Fee: 100Mk

The Latvian airline "Latvijas Gaisa Satiksmes Akziju Sabiedrība" was founded in May 1922 and in September 1922 had shareholding from the affiliates of the German aviation firm of Junkers. They received 2 Junkers E13 planes and until September 1923 flew with German registrations. The Routes developed included Riga, Berlin, Danzig, Helsinki, Klaipeda, Königsberg and Tallinn.

Airmail 18.5.23 Berlin - Riga - Reval - Helsinki



Registered Airmail Letter 480 Mk [Letter 300 Mk + Registration 80 Mk + Foreign Airmail Fee 100 Mk]
 Franking 4 x 100 Mk + 3 x 25 Mk + 5 Mk] Berlin 18.6.23 Helsinki 23 VI 23, Lahti 24 VI 23
 "Mit Luftpost Königsberg - Riga - Reval" endorsement and "via Reval"



Reverse Reduced

Printed Matter	160Mk	Postcard	480Mk	Letter	800Mk	Registration	300Mk
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Rate in Force: 4 weeks Next Letter-Rate Increase: 3200 Mk - 400% Weekly Increase: 100% - 800 Mk

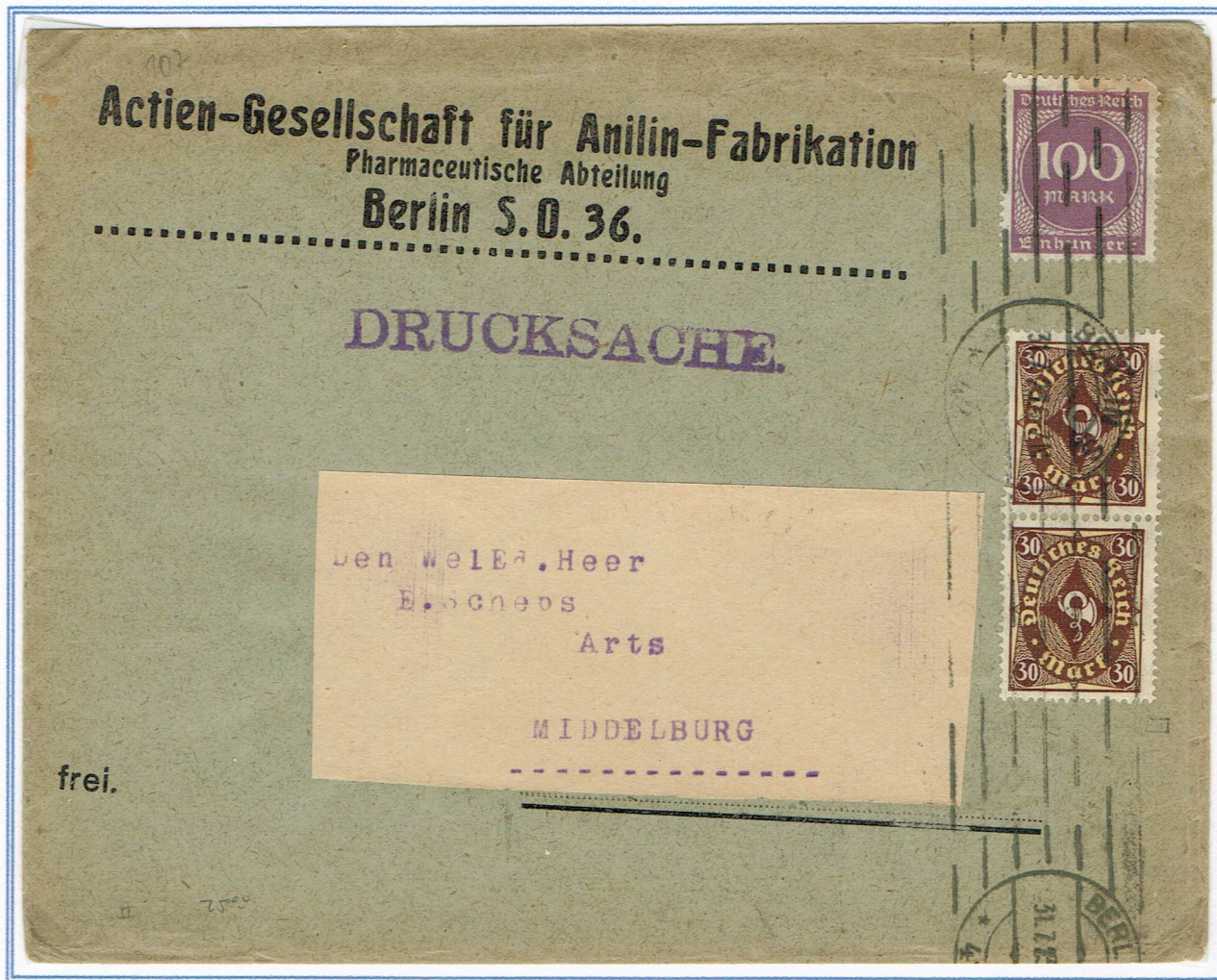
This rate period is the only one 1922-1923 that started on a Sunday. The 2nd July was **first day** for most Offices

Printed Matter 160 Mk. 15.7.23 Hamburg to Czechoslovakia Sunday mail



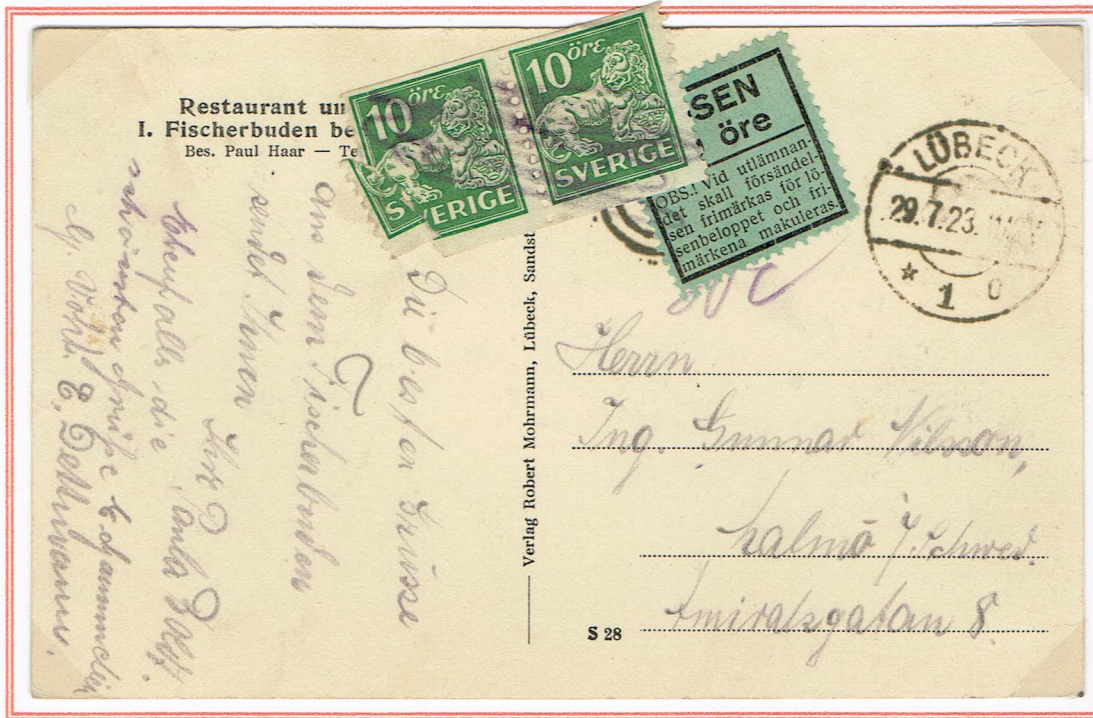
Printed Matter [card] 160 Mk Hamburg to Denmark 31.7.23 7-8PM Last day of rate. Example of Danish firm making use of cheaper German postage rates - advertising Emulgon made from dried cow brains!

Printed Matter 160 Mk. Berlin to Middleburg 31.7.23 6-7PM Last day of Rate



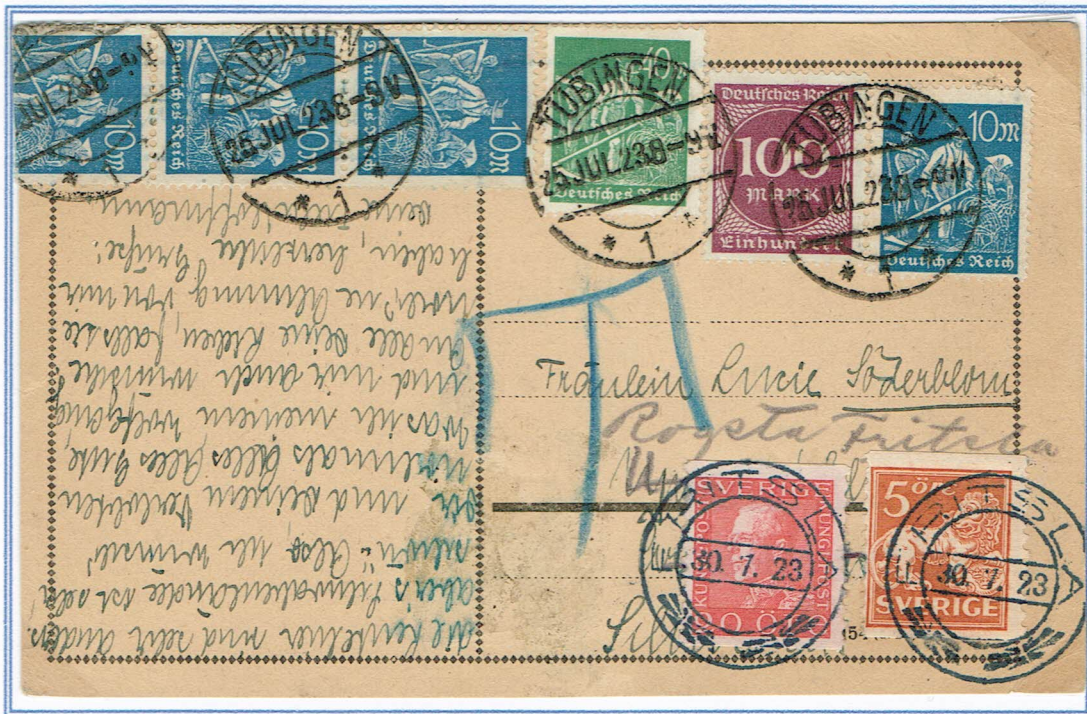
Postcard 480 Mk [12 x 40 Mk] Munich to Italy 2.7.23 2nd day of rate





Postcard Previous Rate Franking 180 Mk. Tubingen 25 JUL 23 to Sweden. Correctly assessed as postage due with "T" and two Swedish stamps [20 ore + 5 ore] applied and cancelled Fritsa 30.7.23

Postcard without postage. Lubeck 29.7.23 [SUNDAY] to Sweden assessed as postage due with 2 x 10 ore stamps manuscript cancelled





Postcard 480 Mk
with 500 Mk
Stuttgart to USA
29 JUL 23 9-10 AM

SUNDAY



Postcard 480 Mk
Bad Doberan to
Russia
31.7.23 5-6PM

Last day of Rate

Postcard with 450 Mk
30 Mk deficient
Hamburg to USA
31/7.23 7-8PM

Last day of Rate

Insufficient Postage
If the deficiency was
under 10% of the
postage then the
deficiency was to be
ignored and no due
charged.



Volksliederkarten von Paul
Nr. 20: „Nun ade, du mein lieb' Heim“

Liebe Tante Elli,
18. Juli ist ein
kleiner Klutz auf der
Welt. Ulrich heißt er
u. ist ein fieser Be-
gel von 8 1/2 Mk. Mir
selbst geht's gut. Ich
war zur Zubereitung
im Bethesda-Kranken-
haus. Meinem Brief
hast Du auch wohl
erhalten. Bestelle Grüße
an Frau, Else, Karl, Fritz
u. sei selbst herzlich
grüß. Elli Klawisch

Frau Klawisch
Sutherlin
(Oregon)
U. S. A.

Verlag des Vereins für das Deutschtum im Ausland, Berlin W 8

DEUTSCHE KUNSTPOSTAL-
ERBEKUNSTWERKE



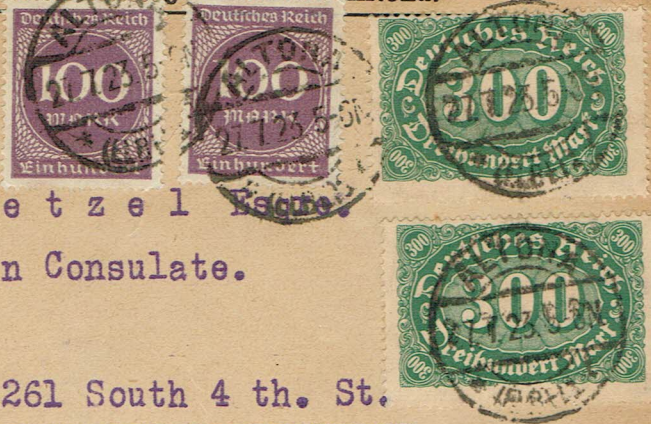
**HARTMANN & MITTLE
AUGSBURG**
Zweiggeschäfte:
MÜNCHEN und NÜRNBERG



Letter 800 Mk
21.7.23 Augsburg
to Italy
"HM A" perfin of
Hartman Mittle
Augsburg

Letter 800 Mk
Altona to USA
27.7.23

H. W. Lange & Co. Kommanditgesellschaft, Altona.



W. A. Proetzel
c/ of German Consulate.

261 South 4 th. St.

Philadelphia, Pa.



Mr. Albert Vieweg,
CHEMNITZ.



Handwritten blue ink numbers: '244' and '1535'.

London to Chemnitz with PORTO 2.7.23 [2nd day of rate] and "200" = 2 Mark to collect from addressee



Registered Letter
800 + 300 Mk
Cologne 7.7.23 to
Italy
Opened checked
and resealed at
Frankfurt 9.7.23
Received
10 AUG 23



Insured Letter 20-40gm for 1,200,000 Mk - 3500 Mk

Berlin 11.7.23 to Scotland with R-label and Insured label applied in London, received 14.7.23

Rate: Letter [30gm] 800Mk + 400Mk; Registration 300 Mk; Insurance [300Mk / 300,000Mk] 2000Mk = 3500Mk

Postage 11 x 300Mk [one lost in transit] + 200Mk. "3500" in manuscript

Thousands of Marks

Printed Matter	0.6	Postcard	1.8	Letter	3	Registration	1
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Rate in Force: 3 weeks Next Letter-Rate Increase: 57,000 Mk - 1900% Weekly Increase: 663% - 19,000 Mk

This rate period is the last before hyper-inflation caused the Postal Administration problems of supply. It was decided to raise the rates by a **multiple of twenty** on August 24th, it was clear that emergency methods of stamp production were to be essential. The rates increase was well publicised and the public responded by ensuring that their mail was done before the change with a result that **Last Day** mail [23.8.23] is less uncommon than usual.

Printed Matter 150-200gm 1800 Mk. [600Mk / 50gm] 8.8.23 Berlin to Italy. Triple rate meter marking.



EXPORT-WOCHE
ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR INDUSTRIE, EXPORHANDEL UND AUSLANDINTERESSEN
VERLAG AUGUST SCHERL G. M. B. H. * BERLIN SW 68



Ausfuhrfrei!

Für
Kataloge u. Zeitschriften
ohne Berechnung!

 Außenhandelsnebenstelle
für das Buchgewerbe

Crowsthal
Station

Falls unbestellbar zurück an Absender!

Fa. _____

Ingenieur für Eisenstoffe
oder Nachfolger
(ou successeur)
in Genova, It.

Germany is at present
the sheapest source of sopply in
the world.

Drucksache

Mr.
Carlo Bass

~~*Via Brissago 12*~~

Celerina Engadina
~~*Tessin*~~

~~*Switzerland*~~
Switzerland




Printed Matter
600Mk.
23 Aug 23 11-12 AM
Schwabach to
Switzerland.

Last Day of Rate

"Germany is at
present the cheapest
source of supply in
the world."
[stamps coins and
banknotes]

Printed Matter 600Mk Leipzig to Italy 23.8.23 5-6PM Last day of rate. Meter markings frequently found on last day of rate periods suggesting bulk mail was presented that day or held at the Post Office until the last day



Registered Express Airmail Printed Matter 9,600 Mk - Berlin to Riga 23.8.23 3-4 PM Last day of rate
Printed matter 600Mk + Registration Fee 1000Mk + Express Fee 6000Mk + Airmail Fee 2000Mk

The 5000 Mk large numeral stamp was one of only 2 values issues in August 1923. The 2000 Mk was issued in February and the airmail values in May-June 1923

Registered Printer Matter envelope <50gm 1600Mk [600Mk + Registration Fee 1000Mk]
22.8.23 [2nd last day of rate] Dresden to Denmark received Esbjerg 24.8.23



Postcard 1800 Mk
1.8.23 Themar to USA

First Day of Rate

Mail items franked on the **First day** of a new postal rate are much less common than those posted on the last day.

In this case the difference between the last day of the previous rate and the first day of the next rate was an additional cost of **2200 Mk**

Postcard 1800 Mk. 18.8.23 Bad Kissingen to Leningrad, Russia received 23.8.23



Postcard 1800 Mk
23.8.23
Halle to Italy
Last day of rate



Postcard 1800 Mk
[2 x 400Mk on obverse]
23.8.23 8-9 AM
Nurnberg to Italy
Last Day of Rate

Letter 3000 Mk 19.2.23 10-11am Dresden to Poland. Last day of Rate SUNDAY

Front stamps cancelled at Dresden but stamps on the back were missed at Dresden and cancelled in transit on Train 507 on the Halle [Saale] - Sagan Railway later on 19.8.23. Postal clerks were meticulous in cancelling postage stamps and this is a rare omission - maybe explained by the Sunday clearance!



Part obverse reduced

Letter 3000 Mk. 2.8.23 [2nd day of rate] Berlin to New York USA
Franking 1000Mk + 50 x 40Mk Mass Franking



Obverse Reduced

Letter 3000 Mk. 23.8.23 3-4 PM Bopfingen to Zurich, Switzerland. Last Day of Rate



Letter 20-40 gm 4500 Mk. [3000Mk + 1500Mk each additional 20gm] 18 Aug 23 Regensburg to Bohemia





Registered Letter
16.8.23
Swinemunde to
Czechoslovakia
2400 Mk + 1000 Mk
= 3400Mk
Checked at Dresden
17.8.23 11-12 PM
18.5.23 2-3 PM

The special letter rate
was 75% of normal
foreign rate but the
Registration fee was
the same



Letter Berlin to
Czechoslovakia
1.8.23 1.2PM
First day of Rate

1800 MK

Previous rate 600 Mk
Correct rate 2400 Mk
Inland rate 1000 Mk

Not sent at any letter
rate published

No postage due

Registered Airmail Letter 20.8.23 10-11 AM Cologne to England, received 22 AU 23
Letter 3000 Mk + Registration Fee 1000 Mk + Airmail letter fee 1000 Mk = 5000 Mk - over-franked
Letter checked a Cologne Customs office and cancelled 20.8.23 2-3 PM and 10 in diamond on front



Obverse Reduced

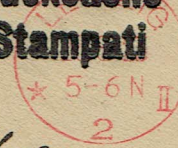
Thousands of Marks

Printed Matter	12	Postcard	36	Letter	60	Registration	20
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Rate in Force: 1 week Next Letter-Rate Increase: 140,000 Mk - 233% Weekly Increase: 233% - 140,000 Mk

August 24th represents a crisis point for the German Postal Authorities. A decision was made to increase all rates 20--fold because of the hyperinflation. The German Printing Works finally advised the Post Office Department that they could not keep up with the demand for higher denomination postage stamps. Emergency methods became essential with provisional surcharges on remainders and printings from old plates in new colours and surcharged to meet rising rates. A 20 Thousand surcharge on 25Mk brown [miner/farmer issue] and 20 Thousand/200 Mk were issues 24th August with 20 Thousand/12Mk [miner/farmer issue] was issued on the 25th. It was also decided to enact Regulation 624 on August 24th making postage paid markings a provisional use in case of stamp shortages.

**Drucksache
Stampati**



Spelt. Litta

Lariv



Sloneck & Co.

Milano Turin

Printed Matter
envelope
12000 Mk
31.8.23
Leipzig to Italy
received 2.9.23

Last day of Rate

Printed Matter
wrapper
12000 Mk
31.8.23
Erfurt to Le
Havre, France

Last day of Rate

En embellissant à présent votre jardin comme un jardin des Tuileries

Monsieur
Madame

O. Adelsmann,
quai George V, 39



(Ou habitant présent.)

Grands Etablissement Horticoles
VAN MARIS & CO.
Maison de Confiance
HILLEGOM, Hollande.

Le Seva

Dept. *Seine - Inf.* FRANCE.



12,000 Mk. Berlin 31.8.23 9-10 PM to Berne Switzerland. Last day of Rate.

The Foreign letter rate was 60,000 Mk; the Inland letter rate was 20,000 Mk.

12,000 Mk was the Printed Matter rate but there is no annotation of "**Drucksache**" - the letter is unsealed.

The regulations on Printed matter required that "**Drucksache**" be either printed or written on the item for it to be sent at the printed matter postal rates. This category includes printed postcards, picture postcards with a maximum of 5 words, printed matter in unsealed letters, newspapers in a wrapper up to a weight limit of 2000gm [from 15 December 1922]. Book Orders also paid the standard printed matter rate. Commercial samples of no value / swatches also came into this category but had other weight restrictions. Letters mailed as business papers or a batch of business papers could be sent sealed but were also considered Printed matter. All kinds of Printed Matter could be sent Registered, Express or airmail both inland and foreign.

Postage Paid Markings - Gebühr Bezalt - Taxe Perçue

These were first authorised from June 20, 1920 for use on receipts of packages. **Regulation 169** issued March 2, 1923 the postage paid markings were made effective for labels for mass shippers. **Regulation 624** enacted August 24, 1923 made postage paid markings a provisional use for all regular and registered postal matter in the case of postage stamp shortage. These were valid for both foreign and domestic mail. This advise was telegraphed to all post offices - about 20,000!

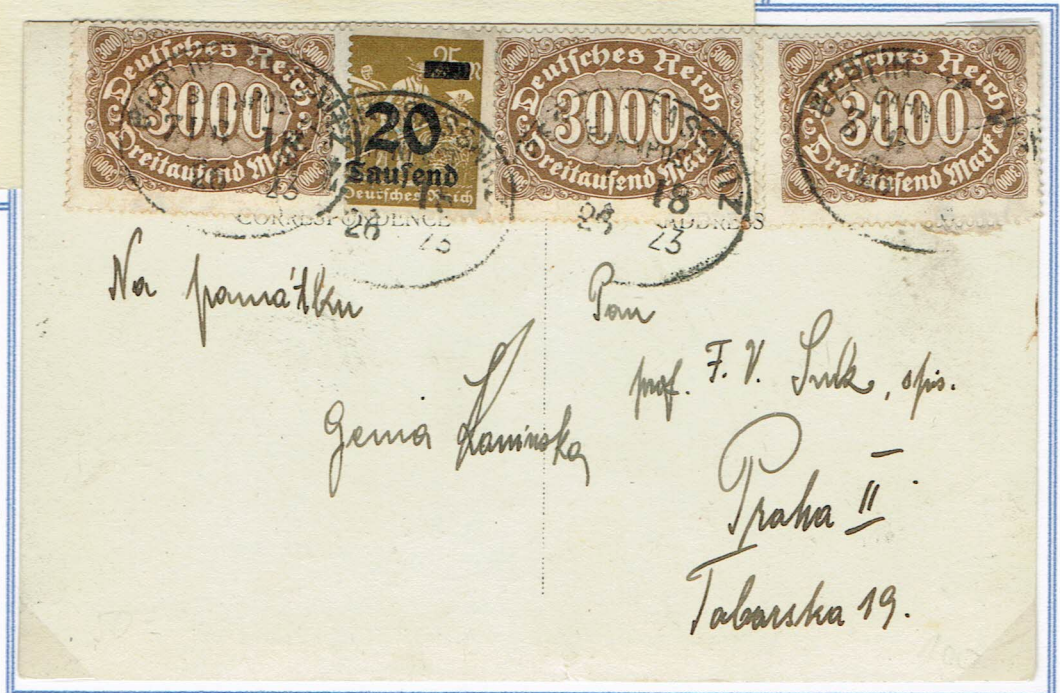
Regulation 624 provided that the payment of postage should be in cash, these receipts had to be confirmed by two clerks and recorded in a receiving journal. The postage notation was to be in red crayon with a red line around it. Initially this instruction was followed but was quickly forgotten. Post offices had to create their own postage paid markings and these are a study in their own right. They had to be struck in red ink under a regulation August 1, 1921. Foreign mail had to comply with UPU regulations which required that cash payment indication had to be in French.

By the end of September, the Postal Ministry was much more successful in providing stamp supplies and postage paid marks were used less often from October. The practice officially ending **December 14, 1923**.



Boxed
Gebühr Bezalt
Taxe Perçue
 "27,000"
 initialed x 2

 Dresden 30.8.23
 to Brunn
Czechoslovakia
 Correct 27,000 Mk
 postcard rate



Berlin-Glassnitz Train 18
 26 8.23 [Sunday]
 With 29,000 Mk
 To Prague
 Overfranked 2000Mk for
 rate to Czechoslovakia

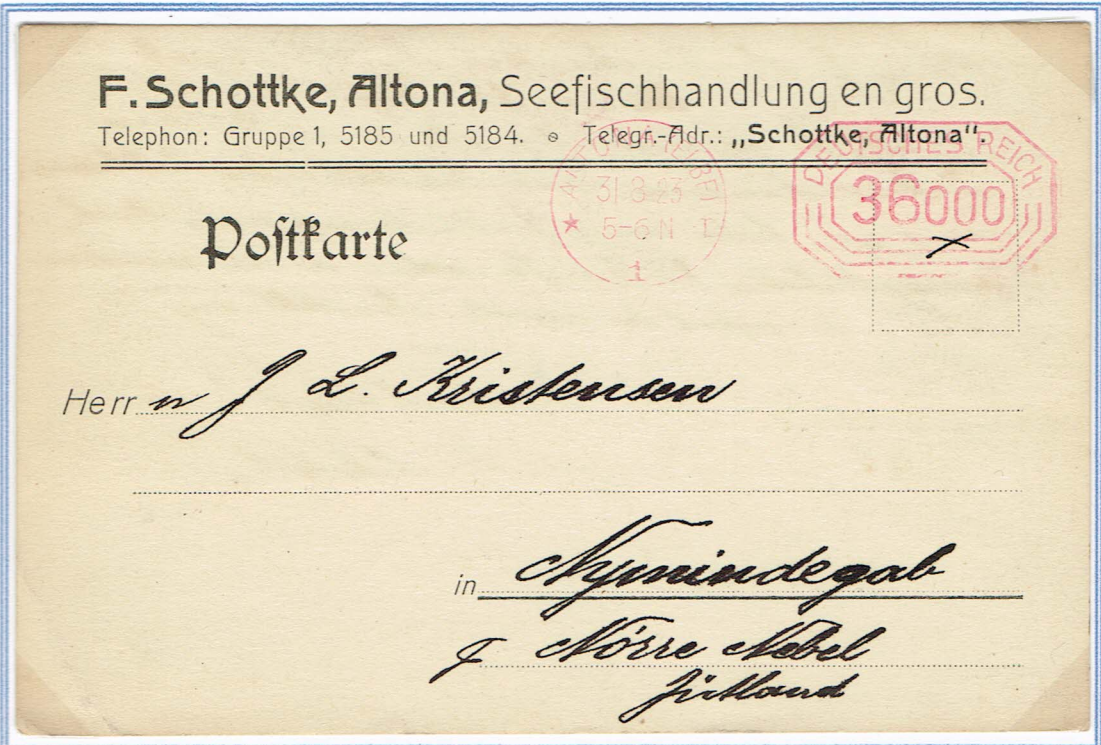
Picture postcard with less
 that 5 words so could
 have been sent as Printed
 Matter at 12,000 Mk.



Postcard 24,000 Mk
 29.8.23 Berlin to St Paul,
 Minnesota, USA
 Underfranked
No Postage Due



Postcard 36,000 Mk
 28.8.23 Berlin to Italy
Perfin Verlag Ullstein



Postcard 36,000 Mk
 Meter 31.8.23 5-6 PM
 Altona to Denmark
Last day of rate

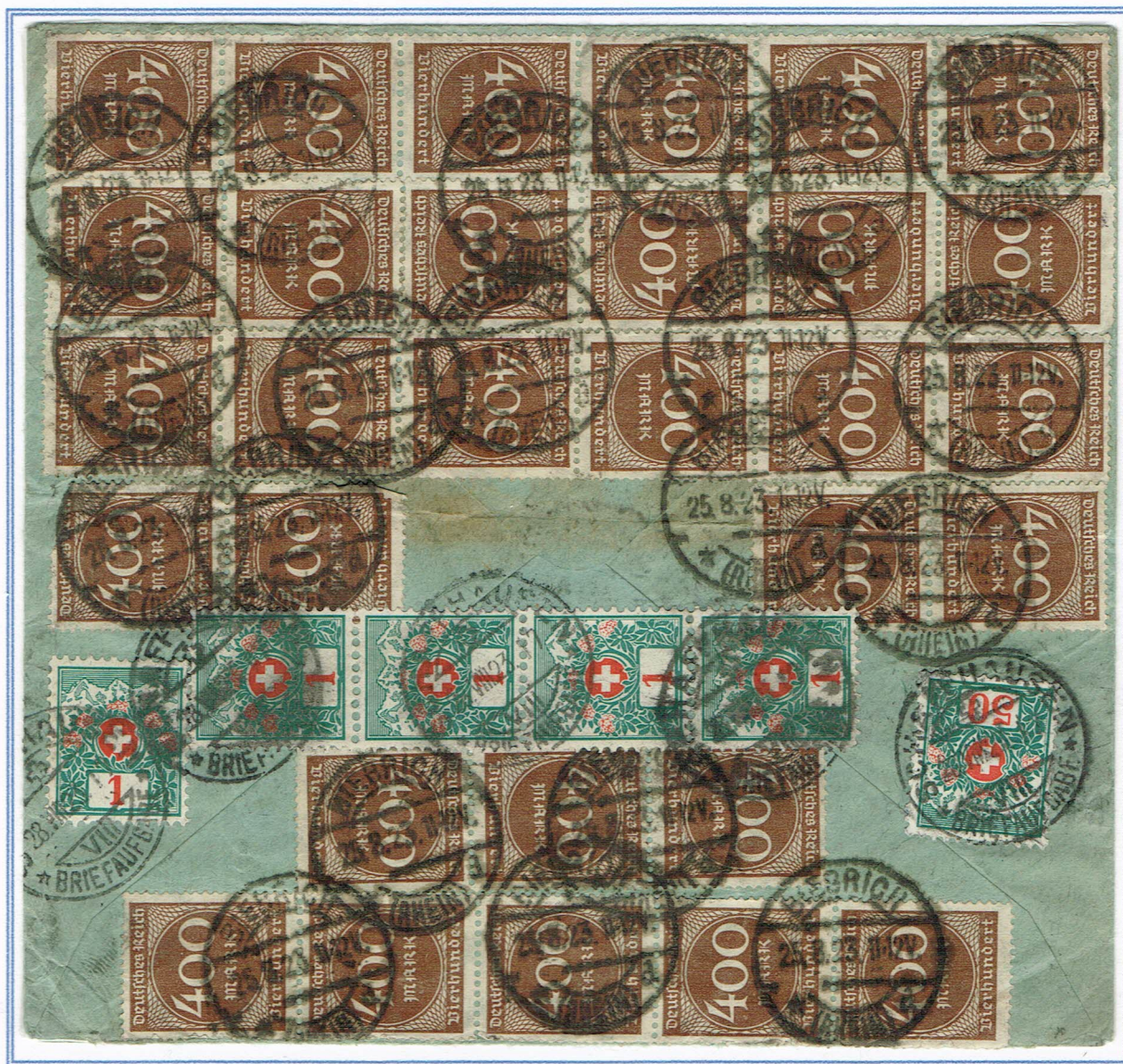
Meter frankings were used for bulk postage [over 100 items] mainly for printed matter. After **August 24th**, the machines were at times used to assist in the treatment of the mail [cards or letters] **paid for in cash** at offices lucky enough to have one of these machines installed.

Letter 60,000 Mk 24.8.23 8-9 AM First Day of Rate. Dresden [Franking 20 x 3000Mk [4 on front]



Letter 60,000 Mk 31.8.23 5-6 PM Last Day of Rate. Heidenau to Stamford USA





Part Obverse Reduced

Letter Biebrich 25.8.23 to Switzerland
[Foreign Letter Rate 60,000 Mk]

Franking 50 x 400Mk = 20,000 Mk
Inland Letter Rate

Sender has considered this as **Cross-Border mail** [30km of Border] but postal officials disagreed therefore under-franked and correctly assessed as **Postage Due** with "55" on front and **Swiss Postage Dues** 4 x 1 + 50 equating to the double deficiency of 80,000 Mk cancelled 28.8.23.



Registered Letter 80,000 Mk [Letter 60,000 Mk + Registration 20,000 Mk] 28.8.23 Bielefeld via Frankfurt 29.8.23 [not opened by Customs] to Saarlouig Station, received 31.8.23. [expertised]
 Saar was a League of Nations administration and mail was allowed to be sent at **Inland rates**



Obverse Reduced

Thousands of Marks

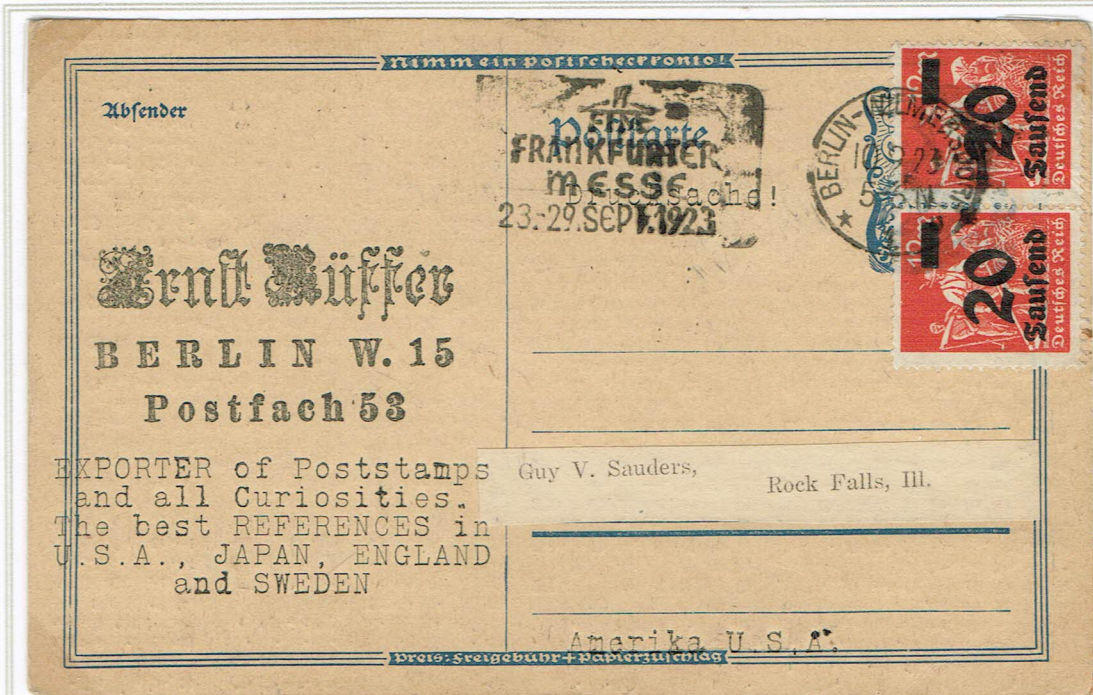
Printed Matter	40	Postcard	120	Letter	200	Registration	75
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Rate in Force: 2.5 week

Next Letter-Rate Increase: 550,000 Mk - 220%

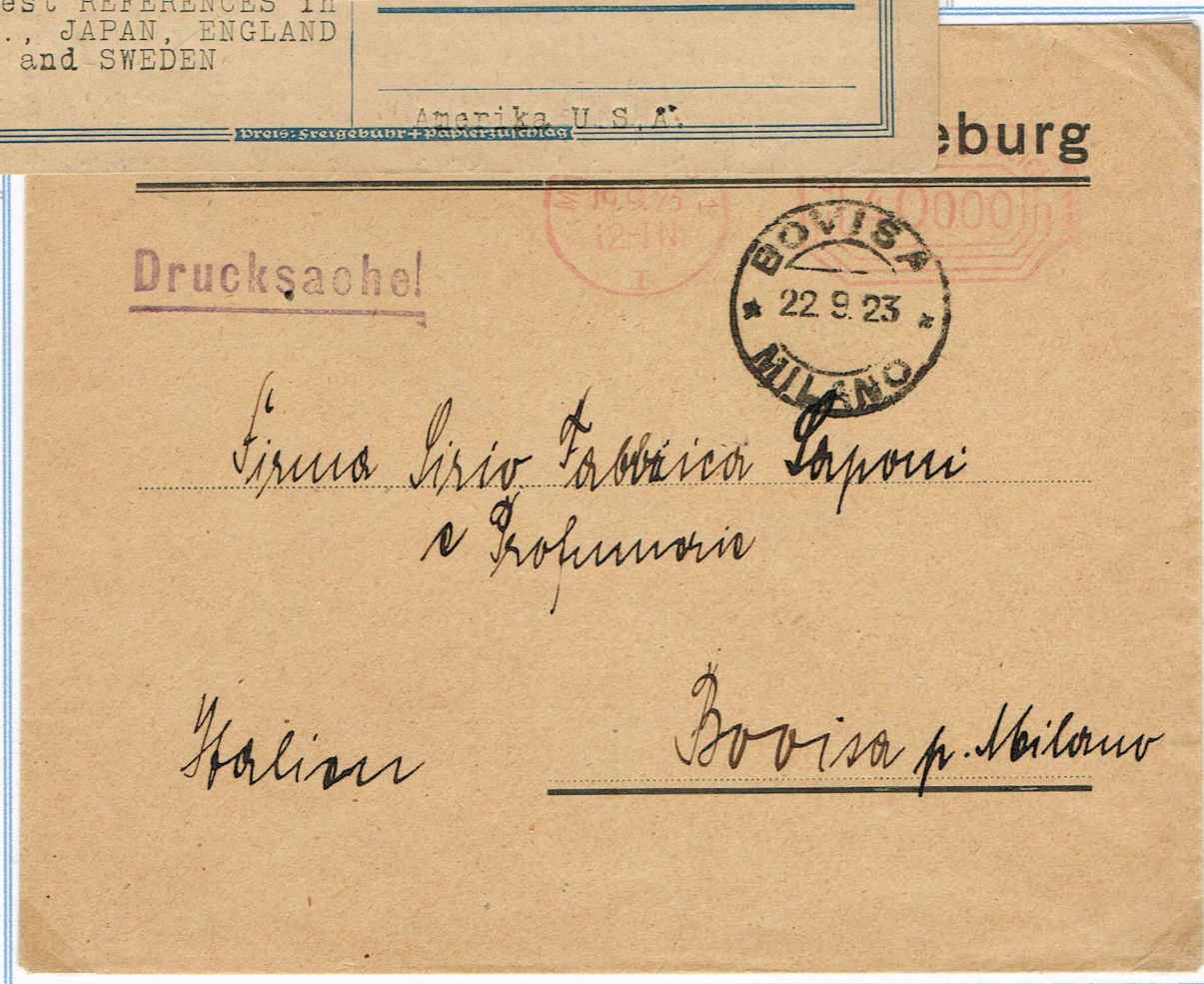
Weekly Increase: 220% - 220,000 Mk

8 provisional surcharges were issued during this rate period with denominations in thousands [T]; 5T/40pf; 15T/60mk; 25T/25Mk; 30T/10Mk; 30T/200Mk; 75T/300Mk; **75T/400Mk** [September 1st]; **75T/1000Mk** [September 1st]



Printed matter postcard
40,000 Mk 10.9.23.
Berlin to USA

Postage Stamp Offer
"Payment in advance only
by bank notes in a
registered letter [Not by
postal money order
because Mark is falling.]
Orders under 1 dollar are
not accepted because the
charges to Foreign are very
high."



Printed matter 40,000 Mk. 10.9.23 Berlin to USA [postcard] 19.9.23 Magdeburg [Letter] to Italy Last day of Rate



Printed matter wrapper 40,000 Mk. Leipzig 18.9.23 to USA. 30T/300 + 2x1000 + 3 x 300 + 100Mk on front



Printed Matter
40,000 Mk
Fuessen 15.9.23
To Brun
Czechoslovakia

The special rates to
Czechoslovakia
only applied to
postcards and
letters to 20gm.

Printed Matter 50-100gm
80,000 Mk wrapper 11.9.23
Moreblau to Italy

Postcard 120,000 Mk
7.9.23 Halle to Italy



Italie)
sela , 1 .

Postcard 120,000 Mk
19.9.23 Darmstadt
to Switzerland
Last day of Rate
Cancelled 7-9 PM
30T / 200Mk issued
7.9.23



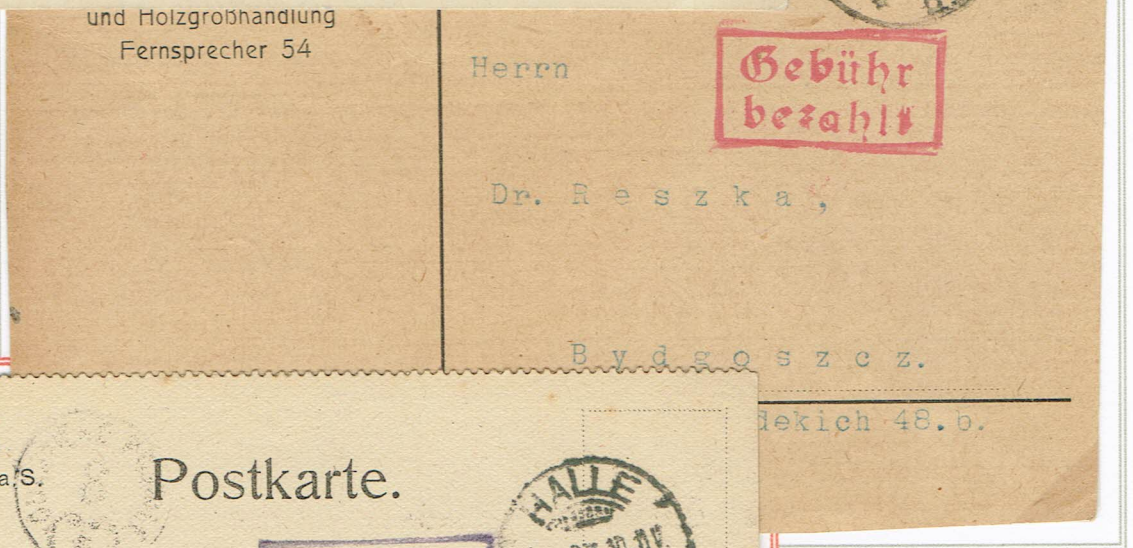
Postcard Riga Latvia to Berlin short paid T 30 PORTO with "200000" in blue postage due

With increasing inflation and rapid changes in postal rates "Gebuhr Bezahlt" = Fee Paid markings were used



Postcard 120,000 Mk
3.9.23 Hagen to Italy
Straight-line
Gebuhr Bezahlt
"120000"

Postcard 120,000 Mk
15.9.23 Schonlanke
to Poland
Boxed 2-line
Gebuhr Bezahlt
"120000"



Postcard 120,000 Mk
19.9.23 Halle to Italy
Last day of Rate

Boxed 2-line
Gebuhr Bezahlt
& Type I label
Gebuhr Bezahlt
taxe perçue
produced at Halle

Labels were used at
only a few Offices



Registered Postcard 195,000 Mk [Postcard 120000 + Registration Fee 75000] 19.9.23 to Italy Last Day of Rate



Letter 200,000 Mk. 1.9.23 Biberach to Switzerland First Day of Rate. First day of issue 75T/400Mk



DOERTENBACH & C^{IE}.
G. m. b. H.
STUTT GART



Letter 200,000 Mk
Stuttgart 1 SEP 23
To Sweden
received 4.9.23

First day of Rate

First day of use of
the 75 Thousand
surcharge
on 400 Mk
20T / 25Mk issued
15.9.23
30T / 10Mk issued
3.9.23



J. Heymann, Fürth i. Bayern.



Letter 200,000 Mk
Fürth
19 SEP 23 8-9 PM
To Stockholm,
Sweden received
21.9.23

Last day of Rate

20 Thousand
surcharge on 12 Mk
issued 25.8.23

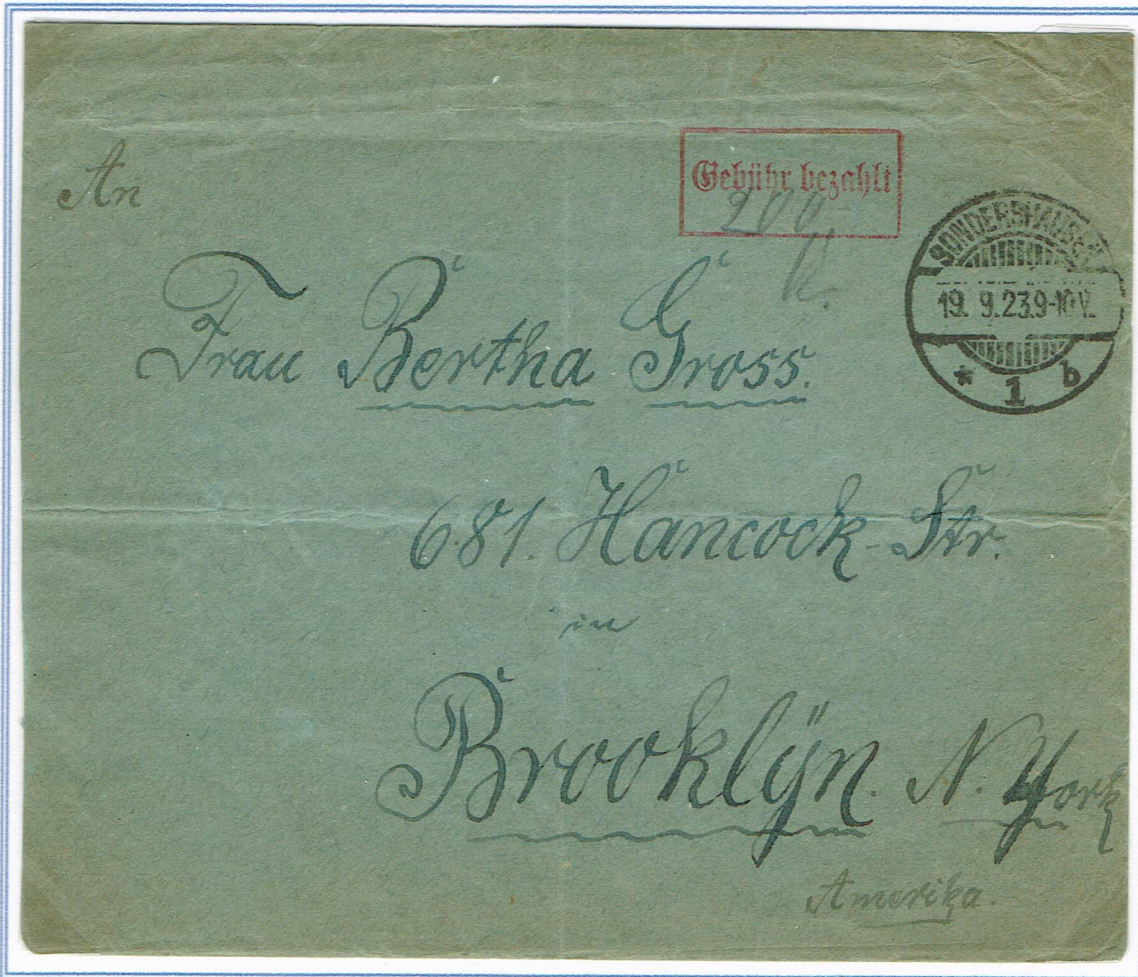
Firma *Gust. W. Fossow*



Stockholm & Uppsala
Novelochetory



Registered Letter 275,000 Mk. With "275-Taxe percue" in manuscript Cologne 1.9.23 6-7 PM First day of Rate. Checked at Cologne by #17 on 2.9.23 but not opened. Transit by "Köln-Deutz Bahnpost Train 10" 2.9.23. New York 14.9.1923 Washington 14.SEP.1923. Expertised.

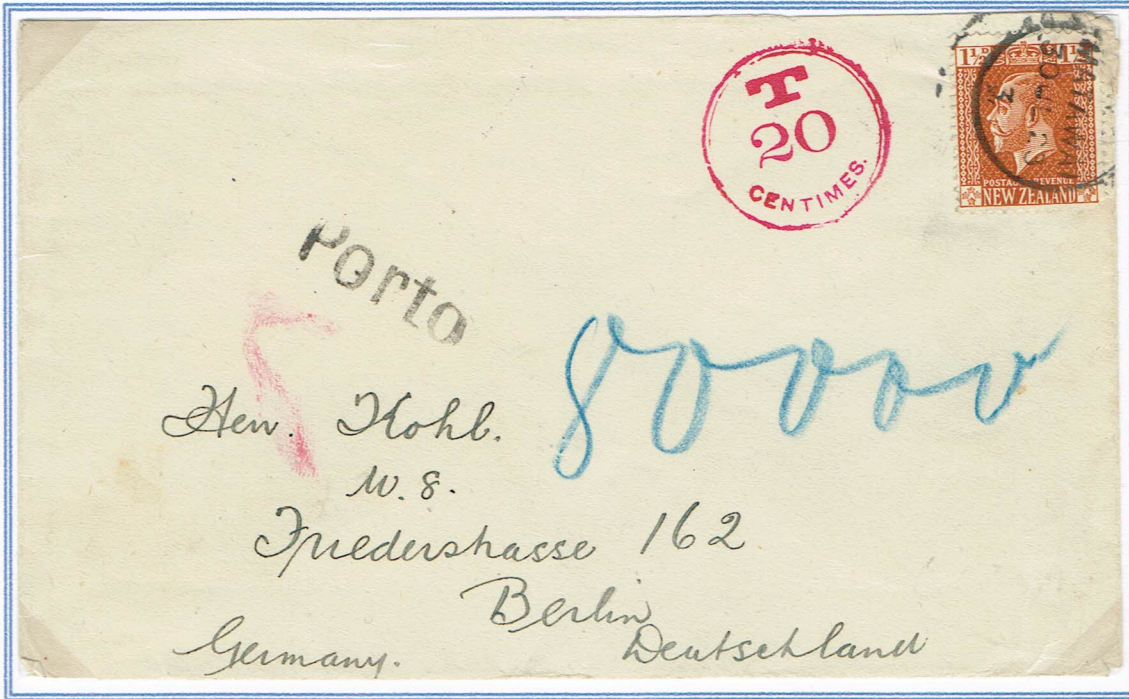


Letter 200,000 Mk
Sondershausen
19.9.23 9-10 AM
To Brooklyn USA

Last day of Rate

"200" and red boxed **Gebühr bezahlt** marking without the **Taxe Percue** as required by UPU regulations.

New Zealand [Matawai 30 JL 23] franked 1½d [rate was 2½d] Porto T 20 centimes "80000" Postage Due



Cross-Border Letter 80,000 Mk [rate was 75,000 Mk and same as inland rate] 12.9.23 to Switzerland. Assessed as not cross-border mail and postage deficient "120,000" "T" "60c" equating to "25" and 25c Swiss postage due applied cancelled 13 IX 23 - letter received Ralchofen 14 IX 23.

To be accepted as Cross-Border mail both sender and recipient had to be within 30km of the border.



Part front

Letter 200,000 Mk to Stone Ridge New York USA. 17.9.23 mailed at Wormotten 10am where 2 x 75 thousand / 400Mk were cancelled.

The 12 x 4000 Mk and 4 x 500 Mk were missed by Post Office at Wormotten and were cancelled in transit at Allestein at 8pm the same day.

The Postal officials were meticulous in their operation especially in cancellation of postage stamps. This is a rare oversight



Registered Letter [275,000Mk] [200,000 + Registration fee 75,000] 6.9.23. Hemelingen to Amsterdam, Holland
 Franked 144,000Mk and "131" [131,000Mk] paid in cash.

This Registered letter demonstrates several aspects of mail in the hyperinflation period.

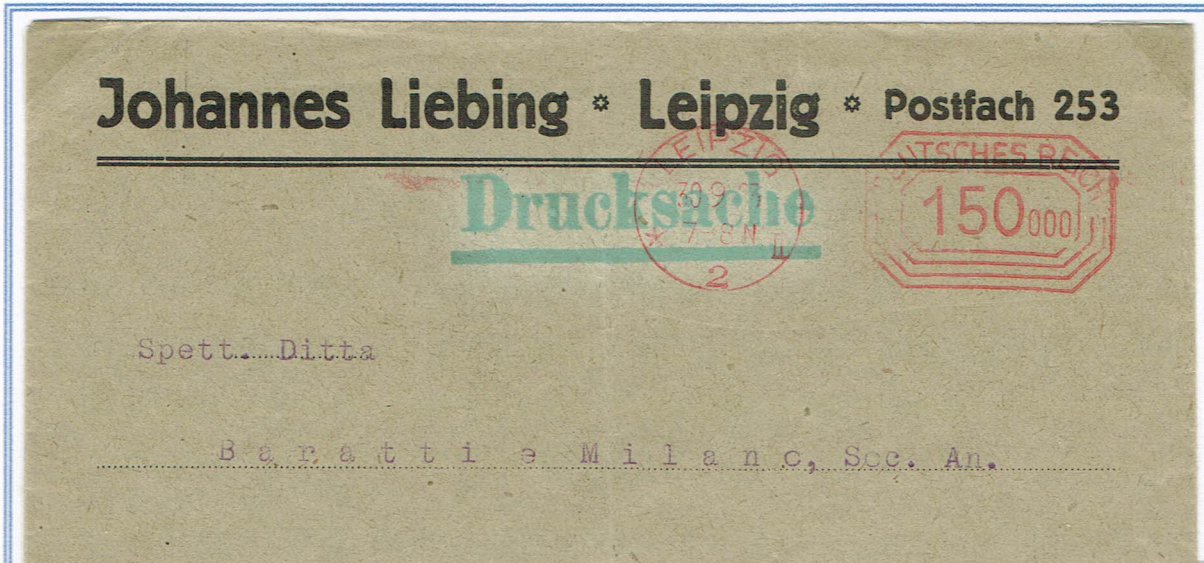
- **Foreign firms** were able to purchase postage stamps in bulk cheaply as the exchange rate between other currencies and the rapidly depreciating Mark was so favourable. They used these on the firm's pre-printed mail at considerable savings. The surcharged issues on the cover were issued between 22nd and 25th August 1923.
- **Regulation 624** regarding the postage paid markings included that the postage amount should be in manuscript, that the UP regulations of French text [Taxe perçue] be complied with and a red crayon marking was to be used around the annotation. These are evident on this cover. The cover illustrates combined postage and postage paid usage.
- All **Registered** mail was required to pass through **Customs** although not every item was opened. There were about 28 customs examination offices. This R-letter was examined but not opened at Bremen as evidence by two datestamps on the back 6.9.23 10-11 AM and 6.9.23 11-12 AM with the official seal applied in purple to the front. No supervisors number is evident.

Thousands of Marks

Printed Matter	150	Postcard	450	Letter	750	Registration	250
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Rate in Force: 10 days Next Letter-Rate Increase: 5,250,000 Mk 700% Daily Increase: 70% - 525,000 Mk

Additional provisional surcharges were released to coincide with the start of this rate increase. Two 100 thousand; a 125 thousand and three 250 thousand overprints were issued on 20th along with a 50 Thousand stamp issue; an additional 2 of the 250 thousand surcharges were released on the 22nd.



Printed Matter
150,000 Mk

Leipzig Meter
30.9.23 7-8PM

Last Day of Rate
SUNDAY

Mail posted on the
last day of a rate
made good
economic sense



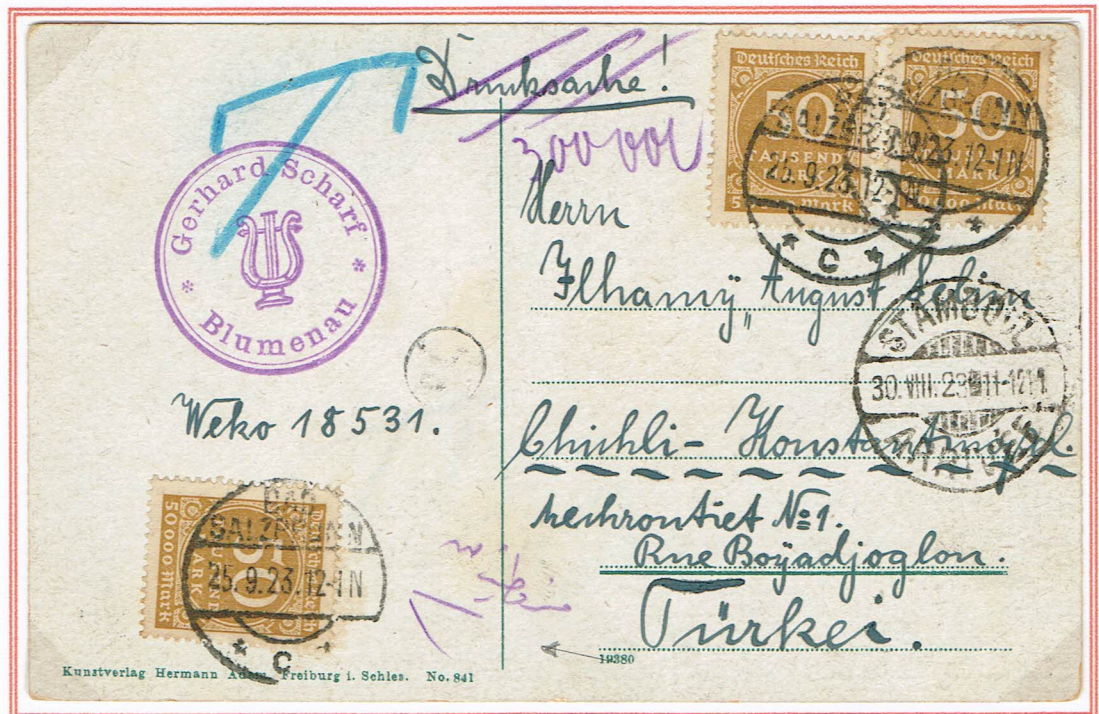
Printed Matter
150,000 Mk

29.9.23 Berlin on
RSFSR envelope
2nd last day of
rate

Picture Postcard
 25.9.23 Salzbrunn
 to Turkey
 Annotated as Printed
 Matter franked with
150,000 Mk
 [printed matter rate]

But assessed as a
 Postcard "Printed
 matter" deleted and
 "T" and "300,000"
 postage due as postcard
 rate.

Stamboul arrival date
 incorrect 30 VIII 23 -
 should be 20 IX 23



Foreign mail with **insufficient franking** was returned to the sender [if known] in order to make up the required amount at no penalty or postage due often with a label or hand stamp meaning "return to sender, make up missing postage." For items that slipped through the addressee had to pay the postage due charges.



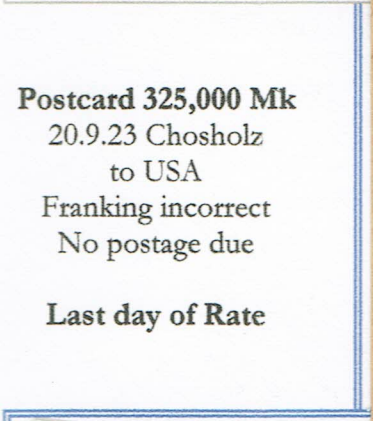
Postcard 20.9.23 7-8 AM Darnstadt to Milwaukee, USA franking **130,000 Mk** [previous rate 125,000 Mk]

Under-franking: For mail items dropped into a collecting letterbox on the evening before a rate change was to take effect were removed with the first emptying and processed without postage due charges. The datestamp should show an early hour and the franking must be correct for the previous day



Postcard 450,000 Mk
24.9.23 Berlin
Picture Postcard
to Italy

Correct franking
includes 50 Thousand
and 3 x 100T/400 Mk
[displaced surcharge
on right stamp - the
join between the
overprint forms]
Issued 20.9.23



Postcard 325,000 Mk
20.9.23 Chosholz
to USA
Franking incorrect
No postage due
Last day of Rate



Postcard 225,000 Mk
20.9.23 Potsdam
to USA

Franking incorrect
"T" applied and Due 6
cents at New York

Last day of Rate



Postcard 225,000 Mk
20.9.23 Potsdam
to USA

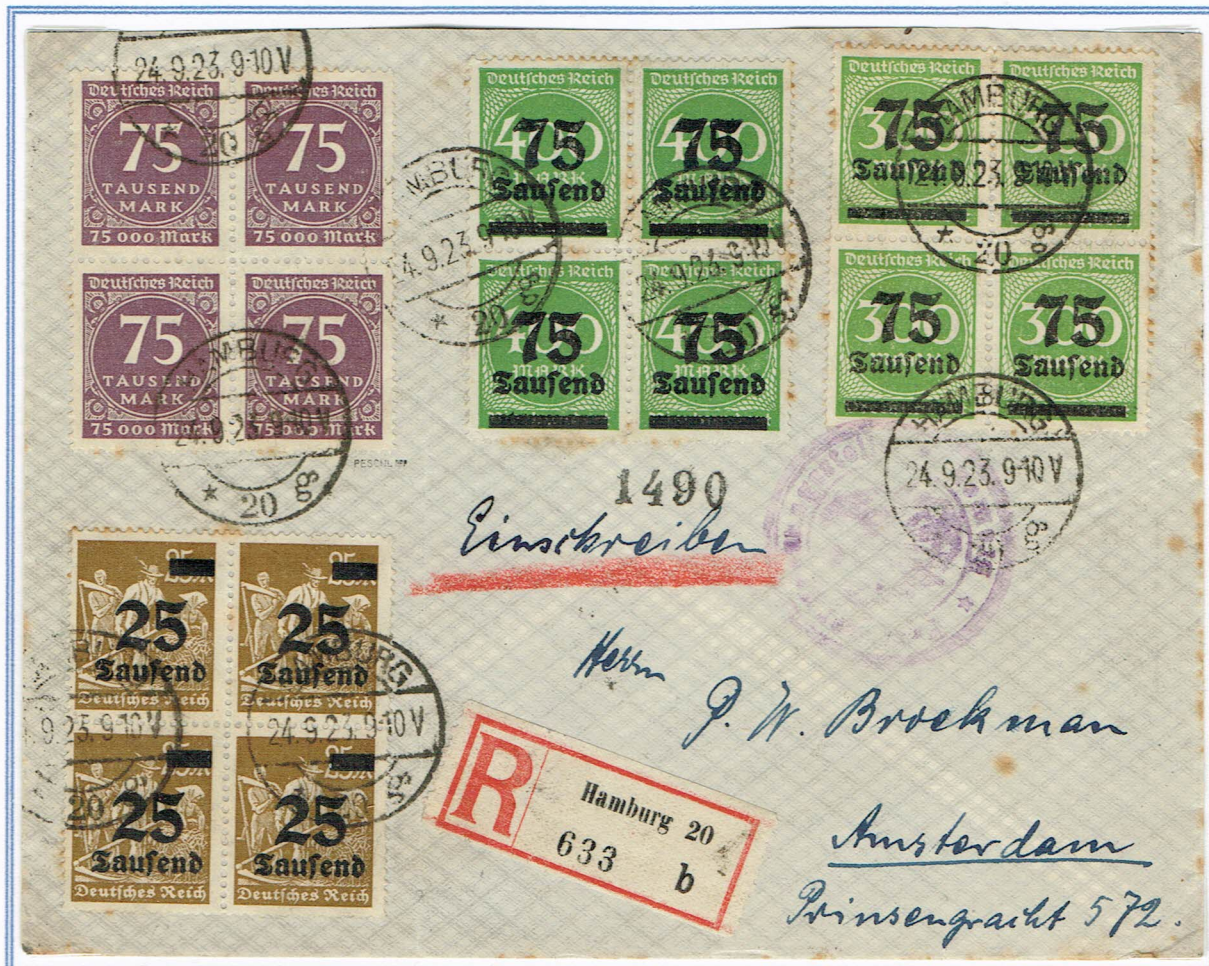
Franking incorrect
"T" applied and Due 6
cents at New York

Last day of Rate

Letter 750,000 Mk. 21.9.23 Stealstadt to Toledo, Ohio, USA annotated as arrived 5.10.23



Registered Letter 1,000,000 Mk [Letter 750,000 + Registration 250,000] 24.9.23 Hamburg to Holland
 Checked but not opened at Bremem 24.9.23 [2 cancels on back and seal on front] **Expertised**
 Envelope is from the Amsterdam Firm and represents an example of a **prepaid reply envelope with stamps applied**





Letter 23.9.23 7-8 PM. Wiesbaden to New York USA. SUNDAY mailing
 Franking 35 x 20,000/200Mk [issued 24.8.23] + 75,000/1000 Mk [issued 1.9.23] = 775,000 Mk

Overfranked by 25,000 Mk

Letter 750,000 Mk

Bad Wildungen to

Switzerland

20.9.23 10-11 AM

First day of rate

Postage Paid

These markings were to be used for stamp shortages.

Maybe the new issues had not reached this office by morning of the new rates



*Familie Opplinger
Brennstrasse 25*



Letter 750,000 30.9.23 4-5PM

Dresden to Switzerland

Franking 755,000

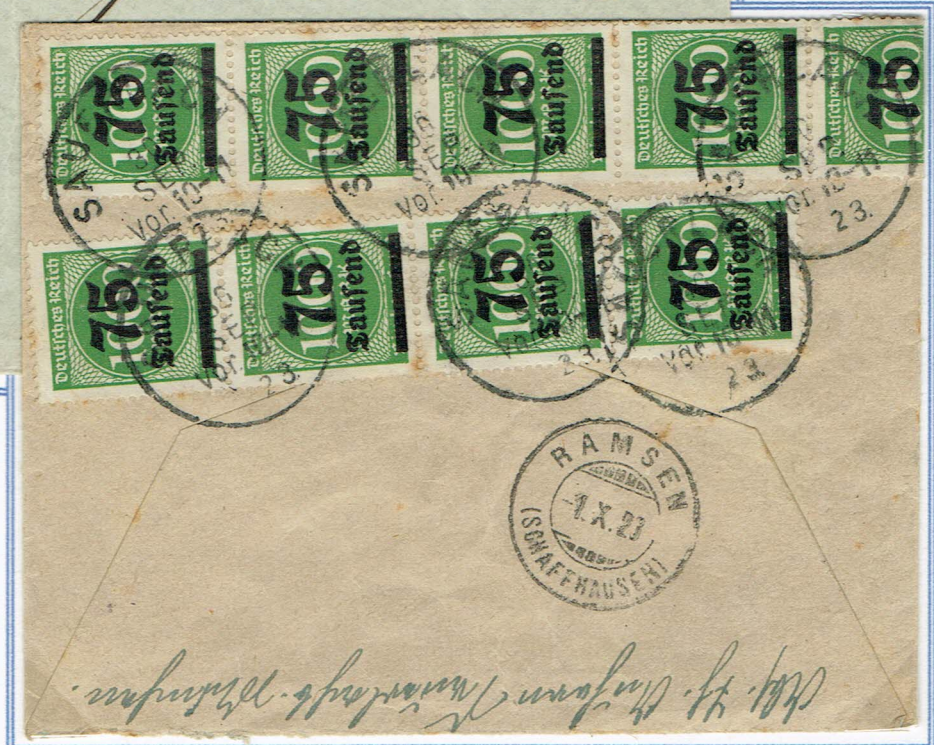
Last day of Rate

Letter 750,000 30.9.23

Sauerlach to Switzerland

Franking 10 x 75T/1000 Mk

Last day of Rate



Heavy Letter 120-140gm - 2,625,000 Mk [750T + 375/20gm] Lunen 20.9.23 12-1 PM - First day of rate

Potthoff & Flume, Louisenhütte, Lünen a. d. Lippe



11 / 5
yios:

sig.

F. Holm
Torino (4)
Via Tricayani 18, Acqua, c



Millions of Marks

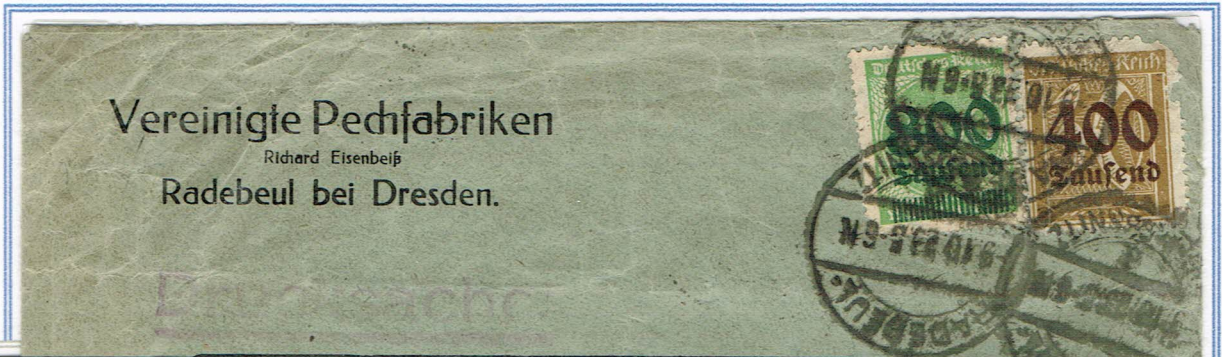
Printed Matter	1.2	Postcard	3.6	Letter	6	Registration	2
----------------	-----	----------	-----	--------	---	--------------	---

Rate in Force: 9 days Next Letter-Rate Increase: 9 Million Mk 150% Daily Increase: 17% - 1 Million Mk
 Exchange rate 242,000,000Mk / US\$1 on October 1, 1923; Letter cost 6 Million Mk = 2½c

The Postal administration was better prepared for this rate increase with 14 provisional surcharged stamps being issued on October 1st - 400 thousand [4]; 800 thousand [8]; 2 million [2] with another 2 million on the 4th and another on the 9th with a 10 million rosette issue on October 9th. These were issued for inland rates [printed matter/local postcard 400T; local letter and postcard 800T; inland letter and registration 2 million.

Printed Matter
 1,200,000 Mk
 9.10.23
 Zlinsstadt

Last day of Rate
 Postmarked 5-6PM



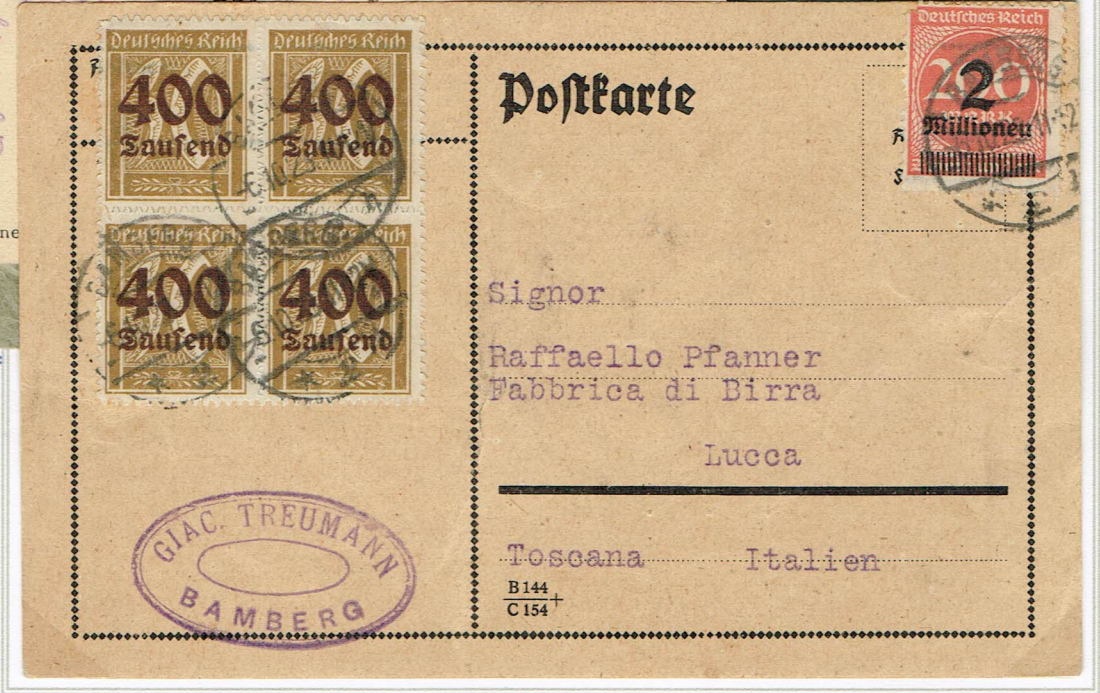
Nr. 210. Flugzeugaufnahme von Passau mit dem Zusammenfluß von Donau, Inn und Ilz

Handwritten notes in purple ink:
 Passau 4.10.23
 an Edm. Schmerold,
 Passau
 ...
 Flugphoto Verlag, München, Sonne



Postcard 3,600,000 Mk
 4.10 23
 Passau to Italy

Postcard 3,600,000 Mk
 5.10 23
 Bamberg to Italy



Foreign Postal Rates
October 1, 1923 - October 9, 1923

Printed Matter Wrapper
1.10.23 Berlin to England

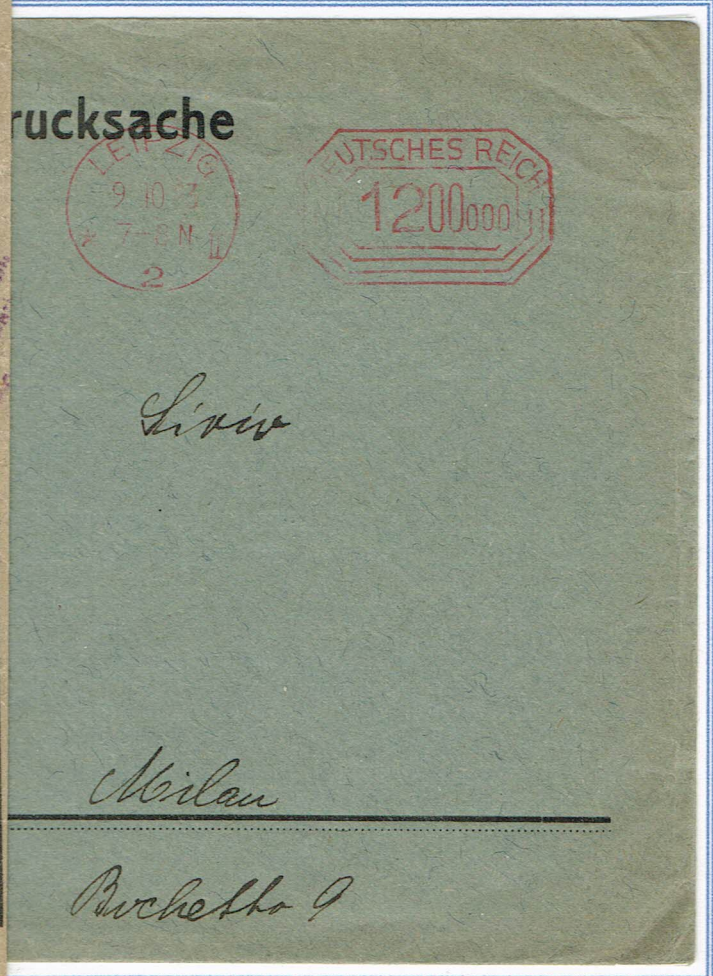
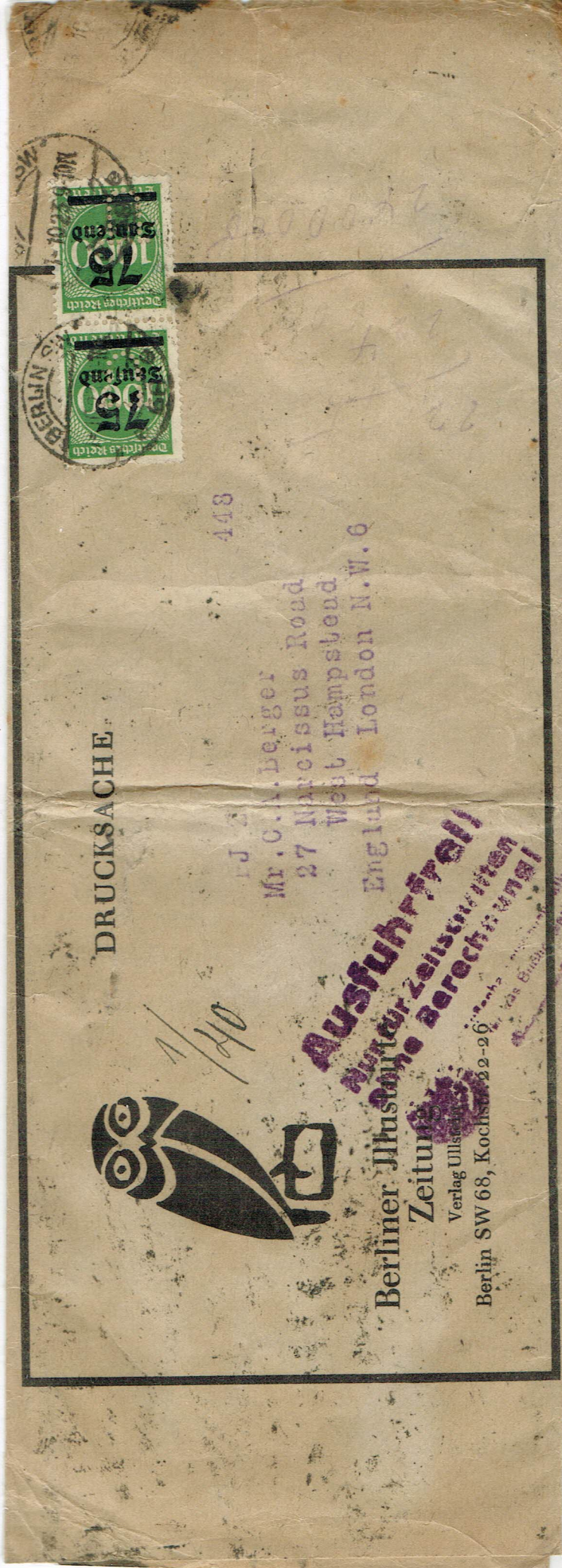
50-100gm 2,400,000 Mk
[1,200,000/50gm]

Franking 32 x 75 thousand /
1000 k each with Perfin

First day of period

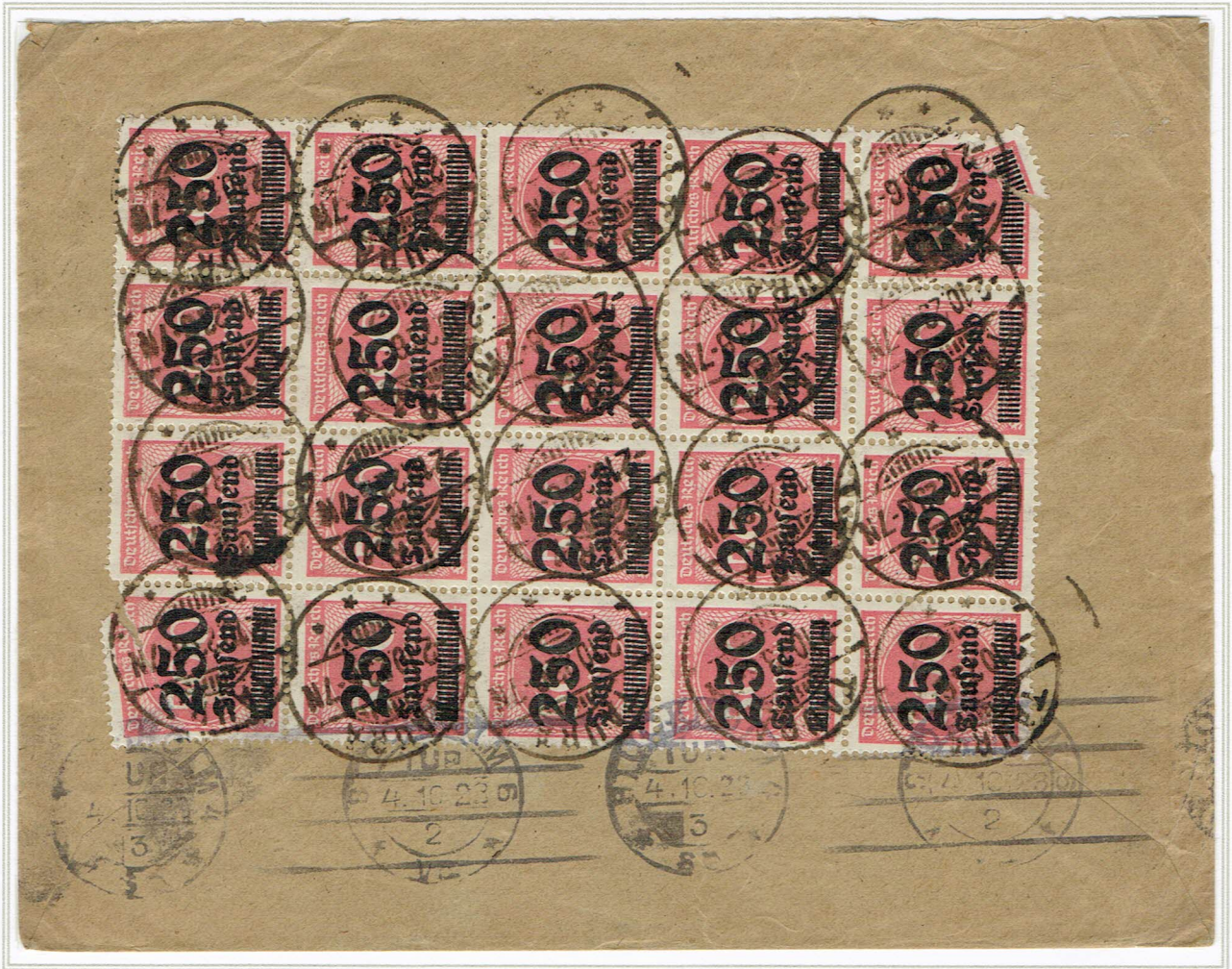


With rising postal rates,
the meter marks were
adapted by reducing
the size of the zeros



Printed matter envelope 1,200,000 Mk
Leipzig meter dated 9.10.23 7-8PM
Last Day of Period

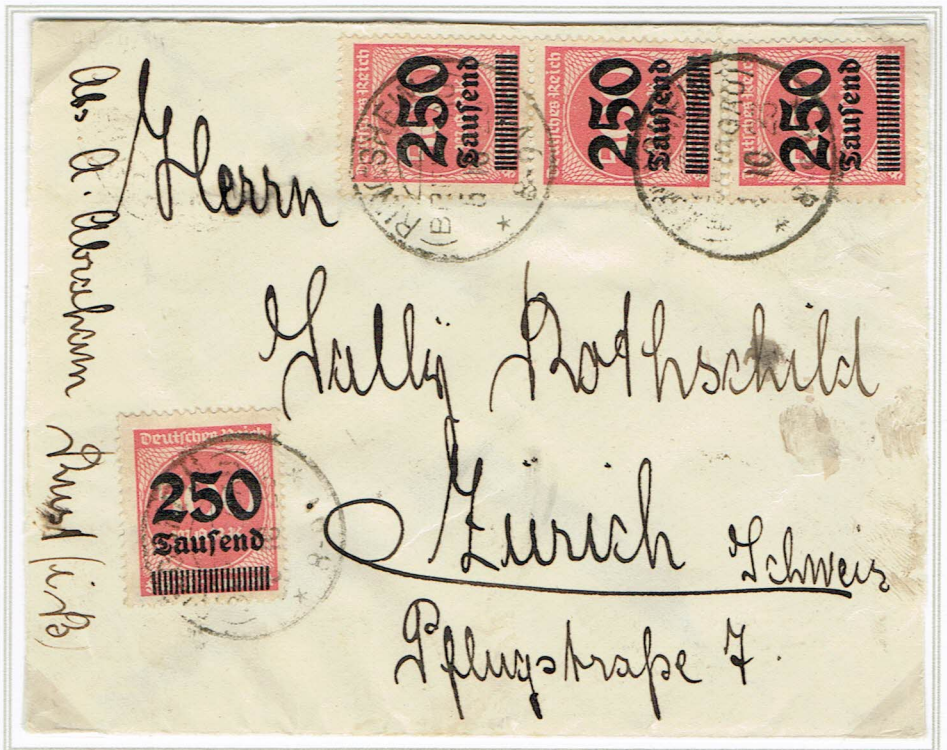
Letter 6,000,000 Mk. Taura 2.10.23 to Stockholm, Sweden. Franking 24 x 250 thousand/500Mk - [4 on front]



Letter 6,000,000 Mk.
Ringsheim 6.10.23 to Zurich,
Switzerland.

Franking 24 x 250
thousand/500Mk - [20 on back]

With hyperinflation and escalating postal rates, the Postal administration was surcharging stocks of lower value stamps in an effort to keep up with demand but senders were forced to use larger numbers of stamps on both sides of envelopes to meet the postal charges.



Letter to Czechoslovakia 4,500,000 Mk. Munich 9.10.23 11-12 AM Last day of rate



Letter Underfranked
With 5 million.
Leipzig 9.10.23 8-9PM
to USA
Last day of rate



The postal officials were generally very meticulous in cancelling postage stamps - even invalidated ones - so it is very unusual to see stamps on the reverse of this envelope not being cancelled.

Registered Letter 160-180gm 32,000,000 Mk. 5.10.23 Berlin to France
 [Registration 2 million, Letter to 20gm 6 million, each additional 20gm 3 million Marks]
 Passed through the customs examination at Frankfurt 6.10.23 between 1-2 and 7-8 PM, not opened



Part Obverse Reduced

Millions of Marks

Printed Matter	3	Postcard	9	Letter	15	Registration	5
----------------	---	----------	---	--------	----	--------------	---

Rate in Force: 9 days Next Letter-Rate Increase: 15 Million Mk - 100% Daily Increase: 11% - 1.67 Million Mk
 Exchange rate 2,975,000,000Mk / US\$1 on October 10, 1923; **Letter cost 15 Million Mk = ½ c**

October 1923 was the worst month for price rises. The exchange rate on October 1st was 242 million Mk / US\$ and by October 31st this was 72,500 million - 300-fold increase equating to **1000% daily for the month**. The legal basis for the 2nd [and eventually successful] stabilization was an authority for emergency legislation. Under this authority, the Government created a new currency - the **Rentenmark** - and provide for restrictions on the monetisation of deficits, increases in tax collection and cuts in spending. On **October 15th, 1923** the legislation for the Rentenmark was passed and the new currency came into existence on November 15th, 1923.



Printed Matter envelope
 3,000,000 Mk
 13.10.23
 Berlin to Italy

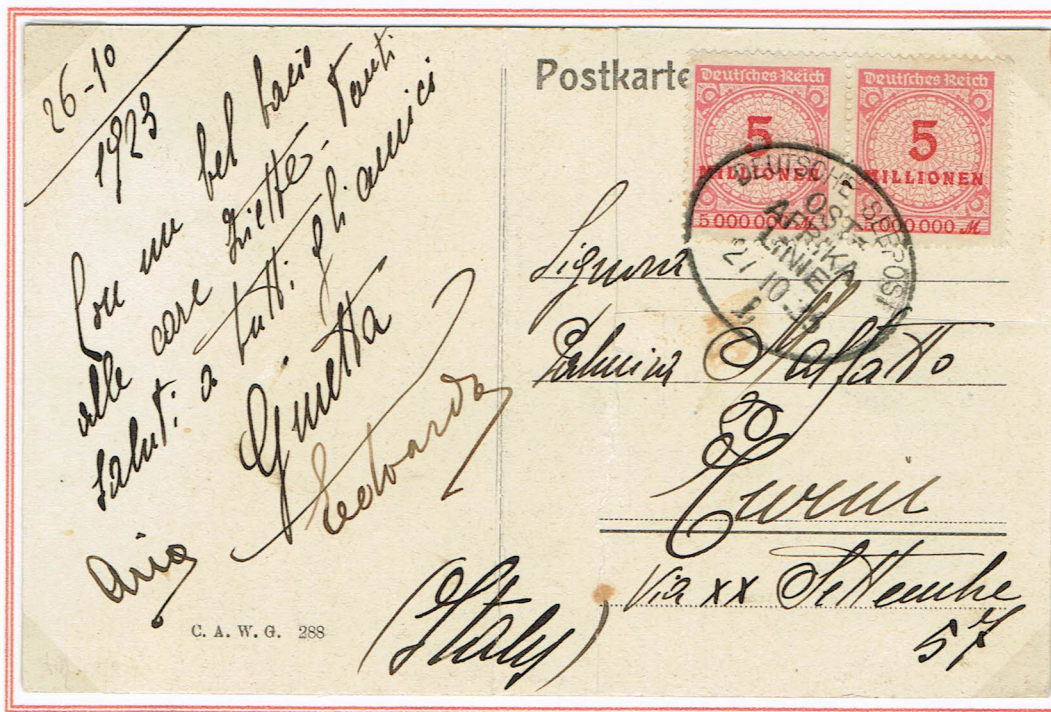
Rosette Designs
 1 million issued
 October 10th
 500T on 13th;
 2 million on 16th



Postcard 9,000,000 MK 18.10.23 Nurnberg to Italy, received 20.10.23 "J S S" Perfin [J S Staedtler]



Postcard
9,000,000 Mk.
16.10.23 Auerbach to
Switzerland.



Picture postcard [Teneriffe] written 26-10/1923 with 2 x 5,000,000 stamps - over-franked 1,000,000 Mk cancelled German Sea Post East Africa Line 27-10-23 to Italy.

Sea Mail: Passenger ships had a postal service on board at the purser's office, where passengers and crew could post mail at German rates. The purser sold the stamps and used a special oval cancellation. When the ship reached the next port of call, the letters were put into the postal service. The problem in late 1923 with hyper-inflation that when the ship left her German port the purser had a supply of stamps and a list of rates in force at that time and these had to be applied throughout the whole journey. So the postage rate and the cancellation dates will seem to be mismatched. Examples are exceptional.

Letter
15,000,000 Mk.
10.10.23
Hohenstein to
Sweden
7 x 2 million + 4 x
250 thousand [back]

First Day of Rate



Letter
15,000,000 Mk.
19.10.23 11-12PM
Cologne to
Huddersfield
England

Last day of Rate
& Last mail
clearance



Letter
 15,000,000 Mk.
 15.10.23
 Hamburg to
 Constantinople,
 Turkey.

Franking 7 x 2
 million/300Mk
 issued 1/10/1923
 + 1 Million issued
 10/10/1923

Nürnberger Schraubenfabrik und Façondreherei
 Nürnberg.



Letter 20-40gm
 22,500,000 Mk.
 18.10.23
 Nürnberg to
 Stockholm

Letter 15 million +
 7.5 million per
 additional 20gm

Letter overfranked
 500,000 Mk
 Rosette design issued
 13/10/23 may not
 have been available

Stockholm
 Kopenhamsborg 1.



Geöffnet auf Grund des Gesetzes gegen die Kapital-
flucht in der Fassung vom 26. 1. 1923. (R.G.B. S. 91.)

Die Postüberwachung erfolgt im Steuerinteresse und aus
wirtschaftlichen Gründen. Postüberwachungsstelle Berlin W 8.

Registered Letter
20,000,000 Mk.

Letter 15 million
Reg 5 million

Neustadt
10 OKT 23
to Holland

First Day of Rate

Opened and checked in
Berlin



Inschreiben.
=====

An die

Güterabfertigung

R Bremen 5
№ 967 a

Basel.

Badischer Bahnhof

„ATLANTA“

Allgemeine Handelsgesellschaft
mit beschränkter Haftung.

BREMEN

Fruchthof

Registered Letter
20-40gm
27,500,000 Mk.

19.10.23 9-10 PM
Bremen to
Switzerland
Last day of Rate

Letter 15 million +
7.5 million per
additional 20gm
Reg 5 million.
Customs checked at
Frankfurt 20.10.23
not opened



Obverse Reduced

**Letter 40-60gm
30,000,000 Mk.**

Letter to 20gm 15 million
Each additional 20gm or part
7.5 million

13.10.23 5-6PM
Weigsdorf to
New York City, USA

Franking: 34 x 800 thousand on
1000 Mk issued 1/10/23
+ 4 x 500 million issued
13/10/23 First Day

Registered Letter 20-40gm 27,500,000 Mk. 11.10.23 Remscheid to London England - received 14.10.23

Alexanderwerk A. von der Nahmer, Akt.-Ges., Re

England!

Einschreiben!

Firma

The Winstone Engineering Co.,

R

Remscheid 3.

N 530

London E.C.1

31. Cowcross Street.

Letter to 20gm 15 million + 20-40gm additional 7.5 million + Registration Fee 5 million = 27.5 Million Mk

Franking 13 x 2 million / 200mk + 6 x 250 thousand / 500Mk - Correct

"707" and Blue cross applied in London as per British regulations 174 in circle and 12 OKT applied Berlin

Airmail Munich to France endorsed "Par Avion Munich - Zurich - Geneva"

25,000,000 MK



Munich Airmail cancellation [12-sided] on 4 of 5 million stamps 18.10.23. Munich 18.10.23 on one stamp
Geneva airmail cancellation 19 X 23, received Grenoble 20.10.23

Letter rate 15,000,000 Mk - Foreign Airmail Fee 10,000,000 Mk - 25,000.000 Mk

The route Zurich - Munich was established May 15, 1923 and extended to Geneva August 21, 1923 with onward connections to Paris or London

Millions of Marks

Printed Matter	6	Postcard	18	Letter	30	Registration	10
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Rate in Force: 11 days Next Letter-Rate Increase: 170 Million Mk - 566% Daily Increase: 51% 15.45 Million Mk
 Exchange rate 12,000,000,000Mk / US\$1 on October 20, 1923; Letter cost 30 Million Mk = ¼ c

A 4 million rosette design was issued October 20th - to meet the local letter and inland postcard rates; A 20 million was issued on October 28th - that met only the Inland Express fee for towns.

Printed Matter 6,000,000 Mk. 31.10.23 2-3PM Dusseldorf to Cincinnati, USA. Last Day of Rate



Printed Matter
 6,000,000 Mk
 31.10.23 9-10PM

Ludwigshafen
 to Cuneo, Italy

2 million M/s
 cancelled

Last Day of
 Rate

Italienl



Knoll e C. Ludwigshafen s. Reno (Germania)

Specialità farmaceutiche ed alcaloidi.

Unici importatori per il regno d'Italia e le sue Colonie dei

Preparati "MBK"

forme medicamentose pronte per l'uso in „Comprete" ed „Amphiole".



Registered Printed Matter 16 Million [Ptd 6 million + Registration 10 million] 30.10.23 Berlin to Philadelphia, USA



Registered mail other than letter is uncommon but offered more secure delivery and at a cheaper postal rate. In this case a saving of 14 million on the letter rate charge.



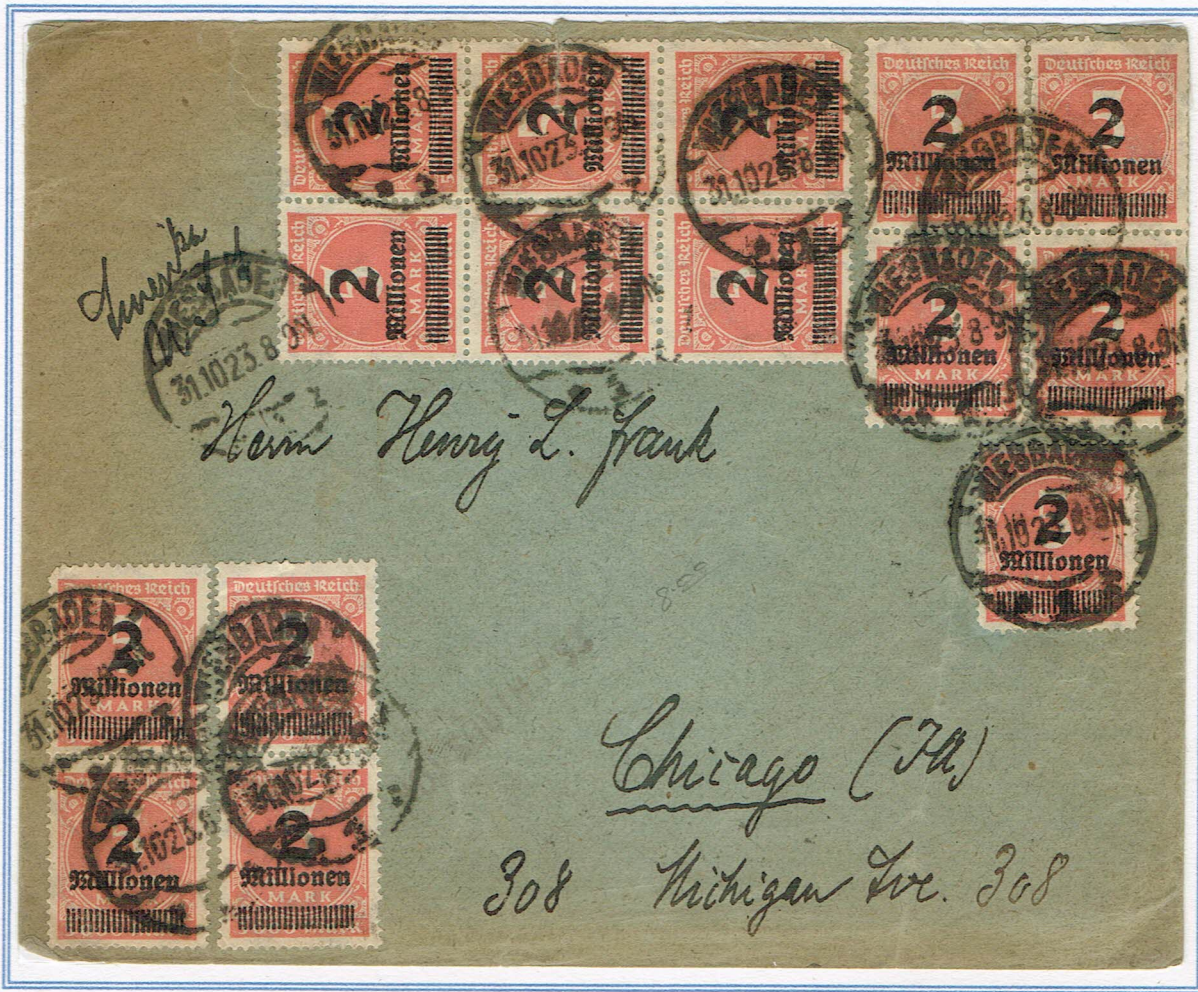
Postcard 18,000,000 Mk 20.10.23 Munich to Italy First Day of Rate

First day of 4 million stamp issue.

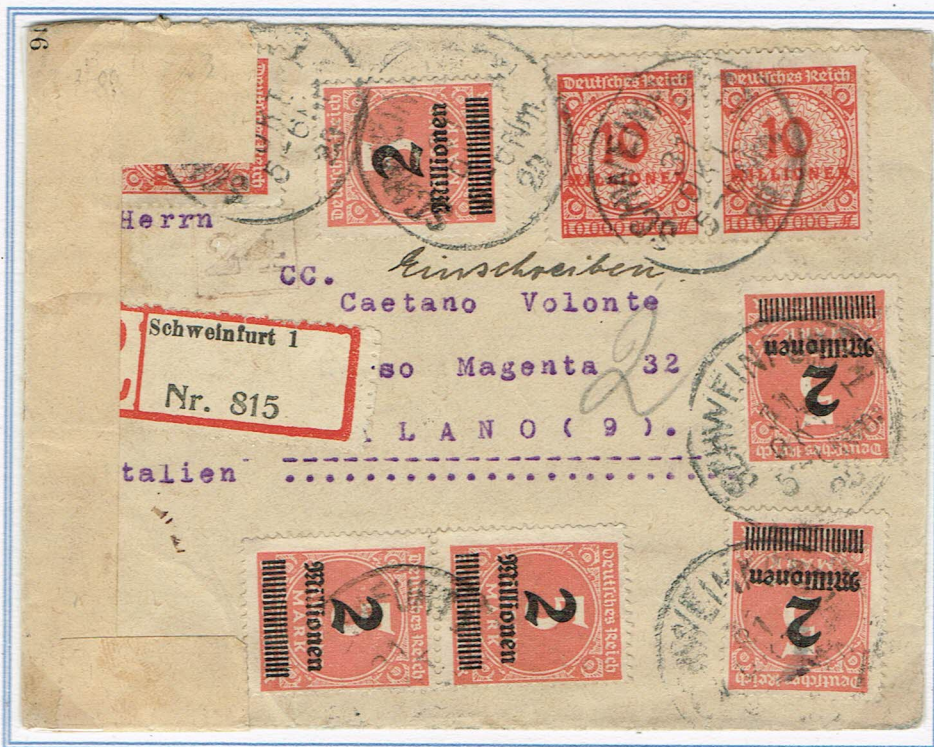
Postcard 18,000,000 Mk 28.10.23 Dresden to Italy

Franking: 5 x 2 million + 4 x 1 million + 8 x 500 thousand [some on back]

Letter 30,000,000 Mk. 31.10.23 8-9PM Wiesbaden to Chicago, USA. Last Day of Rate



Registered Letter 40,000,000 Mk. [Registration 10 million] 31.10.23 5-6PM Schweinfurt to Milan, Italy received 2.11.23. Letter opened and sealed Last day of Rate



Geöffnet
auf Grund der Verordnung vom 15. November 1919
(R. G. Bl. S. 1324). Die Postüberwachung erfolgt im
Steuerinteresse und aus wirtschaftlichen Gründen.
Reichsfinanzverwaltung.

Opened and Resealed

Letter 24 OKT 23 Obertrauburg to Czechoslovakia 12 million franking

Sent at letter rate to Czechoslovakia [12 million] for previous rate period 10-19 October, no postage due



Letter to Czechoslovakia 24,000,000 Mk. Matzkirch 31.10.23 5-6PM Last day of rate

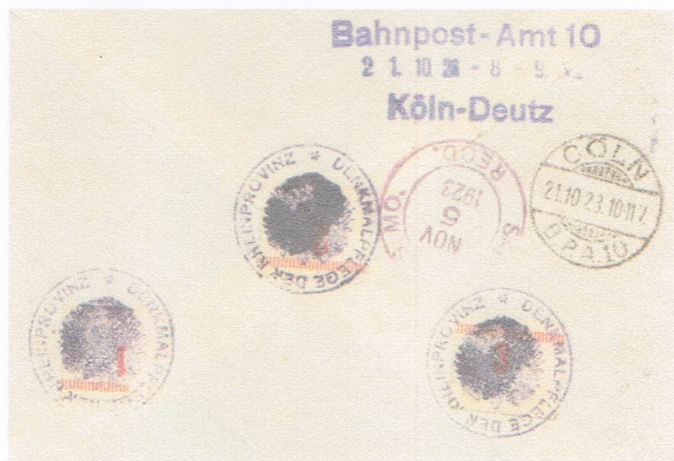
When Czechoslovakia was removed from the list of countries entitled to inland rate postage fees on 14 March 1920, a small concession was made. A special rate was introduced for postcards and for the first 20gm weight band for letters. **This was 75% of the normal foreign rate.** There was no reduction for printed matter, neither for additional fees for heavy letters or the fee for special services like registration, express etc.



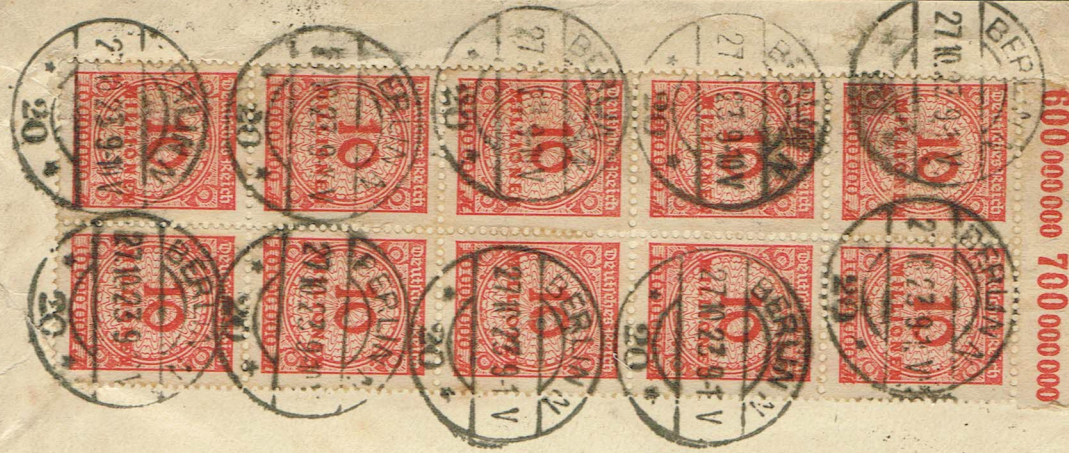
Registered Letter 40,000,000 Mk. [Registration 10 million] 20.10.23 5-6PM Bonn to USA

First day of Rate

Has been checked at Cologne customs office 21.10.23 Not opened but with sealing markings on back and small triangle/number on front



Obverse reduced



600 000 000 700 000 000

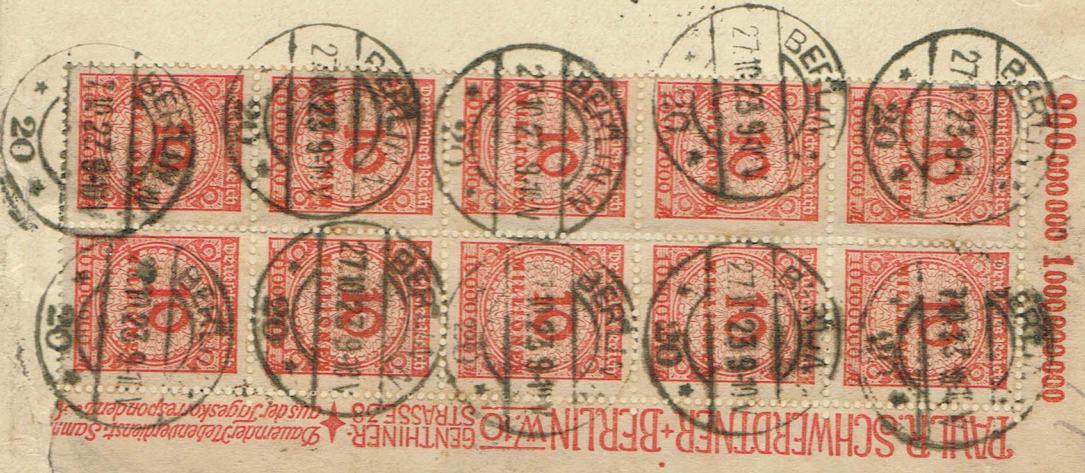
R Berlin 20
202

Registered Letter 340gm
280,000,000 Mk
 27.10.23 Berlin to France

Registration Fee 10,000,000 Mk
 Letter to 20gm 30,000,000 Mk
 Each additional 20gm 15,000,000 Mk

Franking:
 Front: 20 x 10,000,000 Mk +
 4 x 5,000,000 Mk
 Back: 4 x 5,000,000 Mk +
 10 x 4,000,000 Mk

Postwurfschein
Bitte nicht öffnen! Sie sind hier!



900 000 000 1 000 000 000

PAUL R. SCHWEPDNER + BERLIN W 10
GENTHNER-STRASSE 28
Bismarck-Lebensversicherung
Sommerfeld-Lebensversicherung

Millions of Marks

Printed Matter	40	Postcard	120	Letter	200	Registration	50
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Rate in Force: 4 days Next Letter-Rate Increase: 3800 Million Mk - 1900% Daily Increase: 475% 950 Million Mk
 Exchange rate 130,000,000,000Mk / US\$1 on November 1, 1923; Letter cost 200 Million Mk = 0.15c

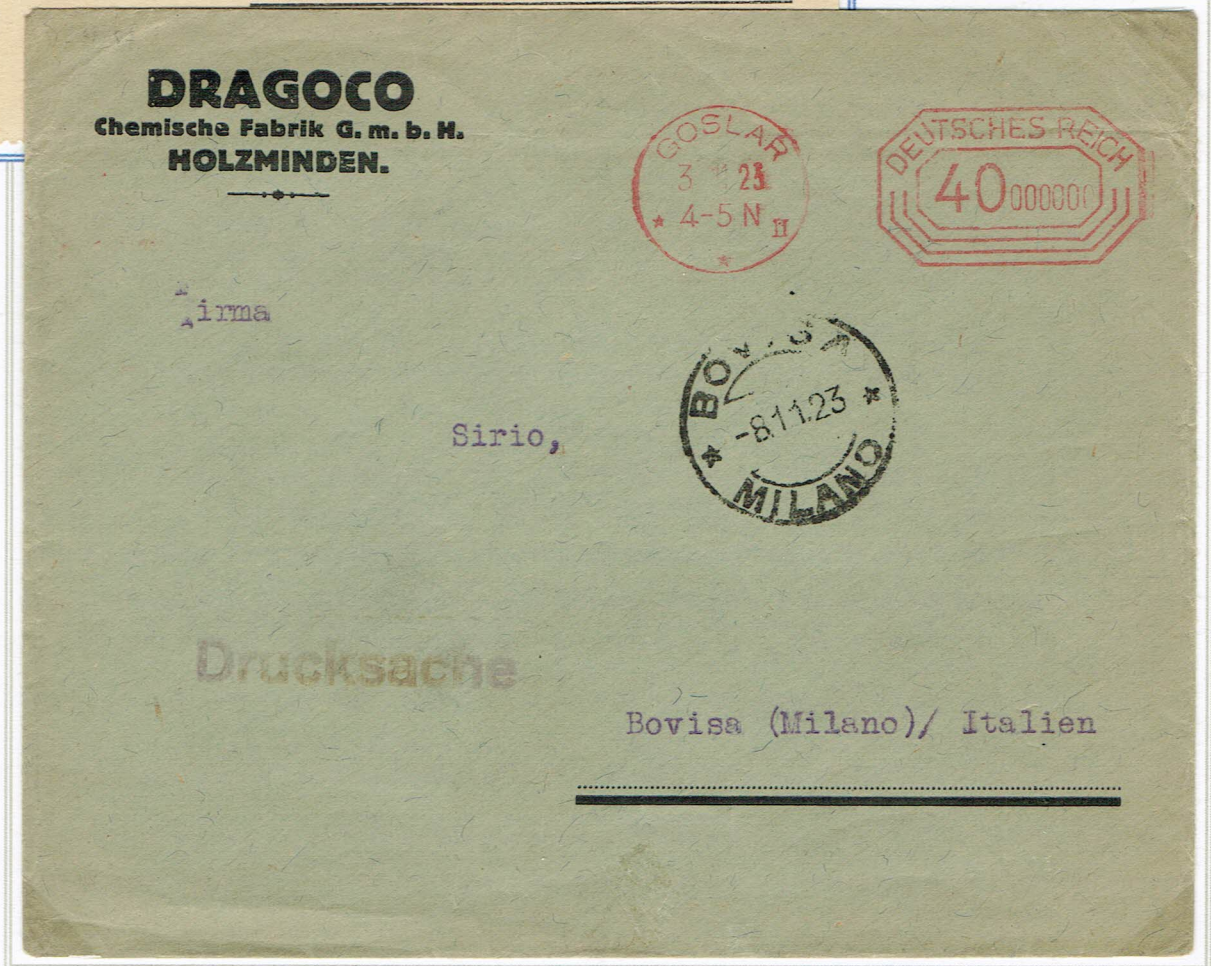
Three postage stamps were issued November 1st - 30 Million; 50 Million and 100 Million. The stamp 1 Milliarden [Billion] was issued on November 4th. - the last day of this rate period and a **Sunday**.



Postcard 120,000,000 Mk
 1.11.23 Hunstig to Italy
 Fee Paid stamps
 "120 M"
 First Day of Rate

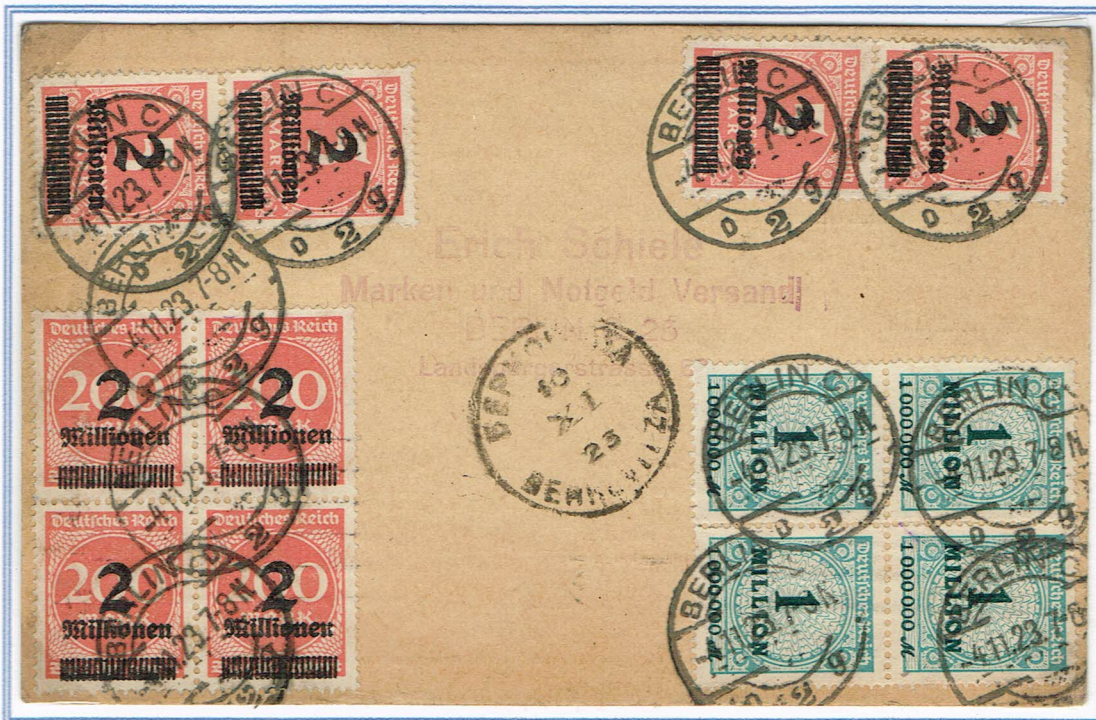
The meter markings indication the postage paid were modified for increasing rates by reducing the size of the zeros

Printed Matter
 40,000,000 Mk
 Envelope 3.11.23
 Goslar to Italy
 received 8.11.23



Meter markings were only applied at Post Offices usually on bulk mailings of over 100 items and most often found on Printed Matter

Printed matter 40,000,000 Mk. 2.11.23 Erfurt to Denmark [20 million issued 28/10/23]



Printed Matter to Finland with "stamp on obverse"] but no stamp used and no postage due
 First day of rate
 Received 3 XI 23

Printed matter 40 million
 4.11.23 Berlin to Bulgaria
 Last day of rate
 SUNDAY
 Received 10 XI 23

20 million of front - issued
 28/10/28

Letter 200,000,000 Mk. 3.11.23 Remscheid to Genoa, Italy, received 6 XI 23

W. FERD. KLINGELNBERG SÖHNE
G. M. B. H.
REMSCHIED
BISMARCKSTRASSE 43.

Firma

fratelli Dofour,

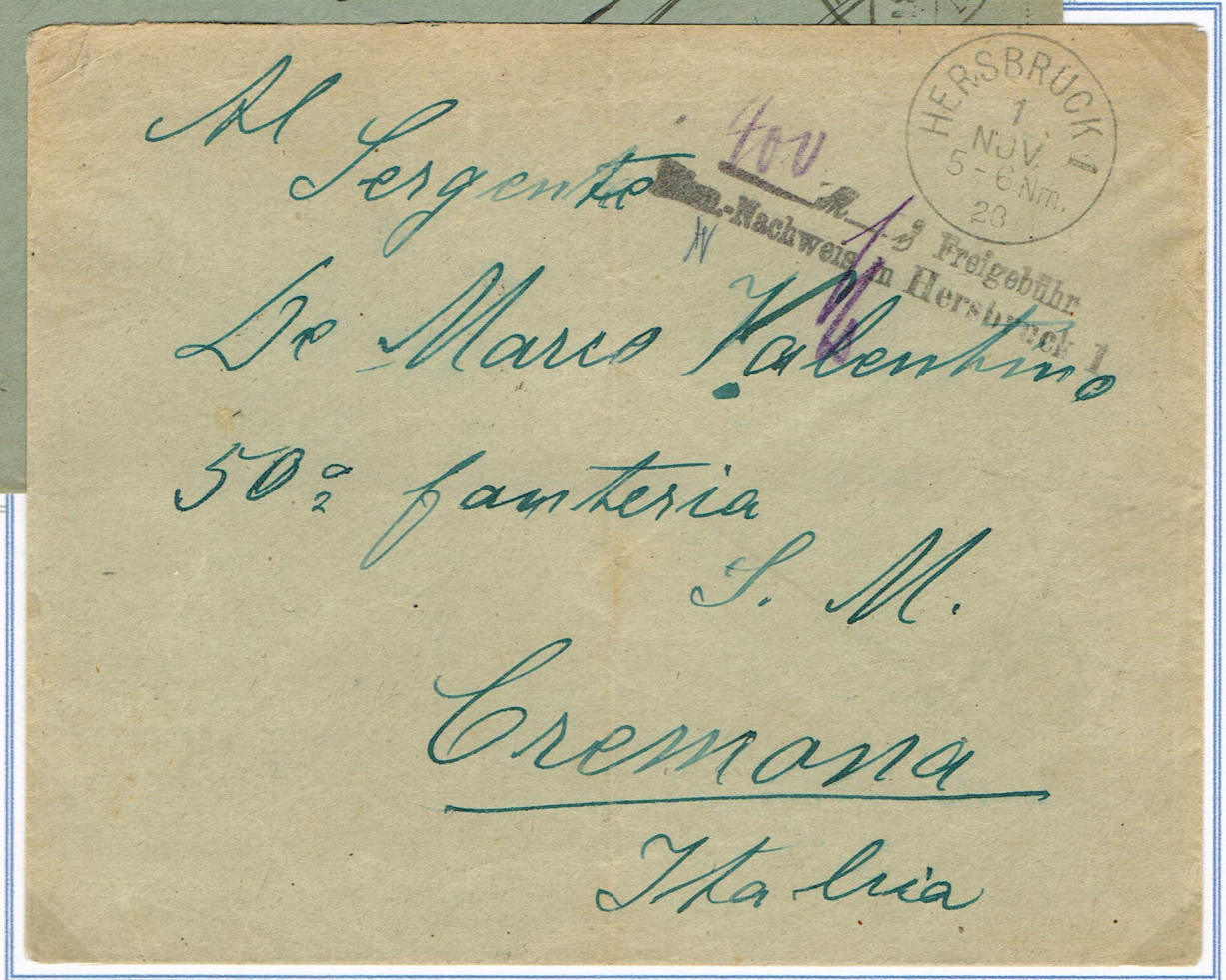
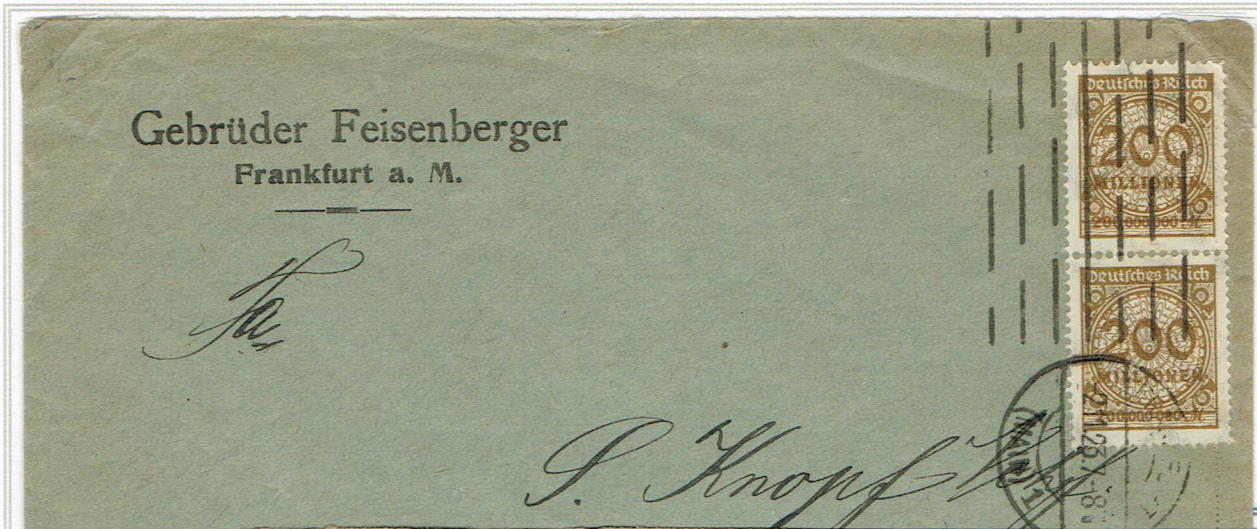


a .
- - -
, 21.



Letter 200,000,000 Mk
2 Nov 23
Fuerther Bavaria
to Stockholm Sweden

Letter 40-60gm 400,000,000 Mk. [Letter 200 million, each additional 20gm 100 million] 2.11.23 to Switzerland



Letter 40-60gm 400,000,000 Mk. [Letter 200 million, additional 20gm 100 million] 1.11.23 Hersbruck to Italy
Paid in Cash hand stamp [early style] with initials of officials with "400 M" First Day of Rate

The original Paid markings were 'Einnahme-Nachweis' or receipts register and were used on parcels and a few offices continued these. The transaction was to be entered by the clerk and the entry countersigned by a second official. Items so processed were to be stamped with a hand-stamp indicating that this had been done, showing the office name and the fee collected

Billions of Marks [1,000,000,000 Mk]

Printed Matter	0.8	Postcard	2.4	Letter	4	Registration	1
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Rate in Force: 6 days Next Letter-Rate Increase: 36 Billion Mk - 900% Daily Increase: 150% 600 Million Mk
 Exchange rate 420,000,000,000Mk / US\$1 on November 5, 1923; Letter cost 4 Billion Mk = 0.1c

Two new values of the rosette design were issued on November 5th for the rate change. 200 million [for the inland printed matter and local postcard rate] and 500 million [inland postcard and local letter rates].

Printed Matter card 800,000,000 MK 10.11.23 Ludwigshafen to Italy



Printed Matter 800,000,000 Mk. 11.11.23 to USA - Last day of rate SUNDAY



Postcard 2,400,000,000 Mk
6.11.23 Lauscha to
Switzerland

100 million issued 1/11/23
1 Milliarden on 4/11/23

Postcard 2,400,000,000
Mk

8.11.23 Freiburg to Italy

Franking: 4 x 500
million + 8 x 50 million
[2 on obverse]



Postcard
2.4 Billion Mk.
Leipzig to New York
11.11.23 7-8PM

Last day of rate
SUNDAY

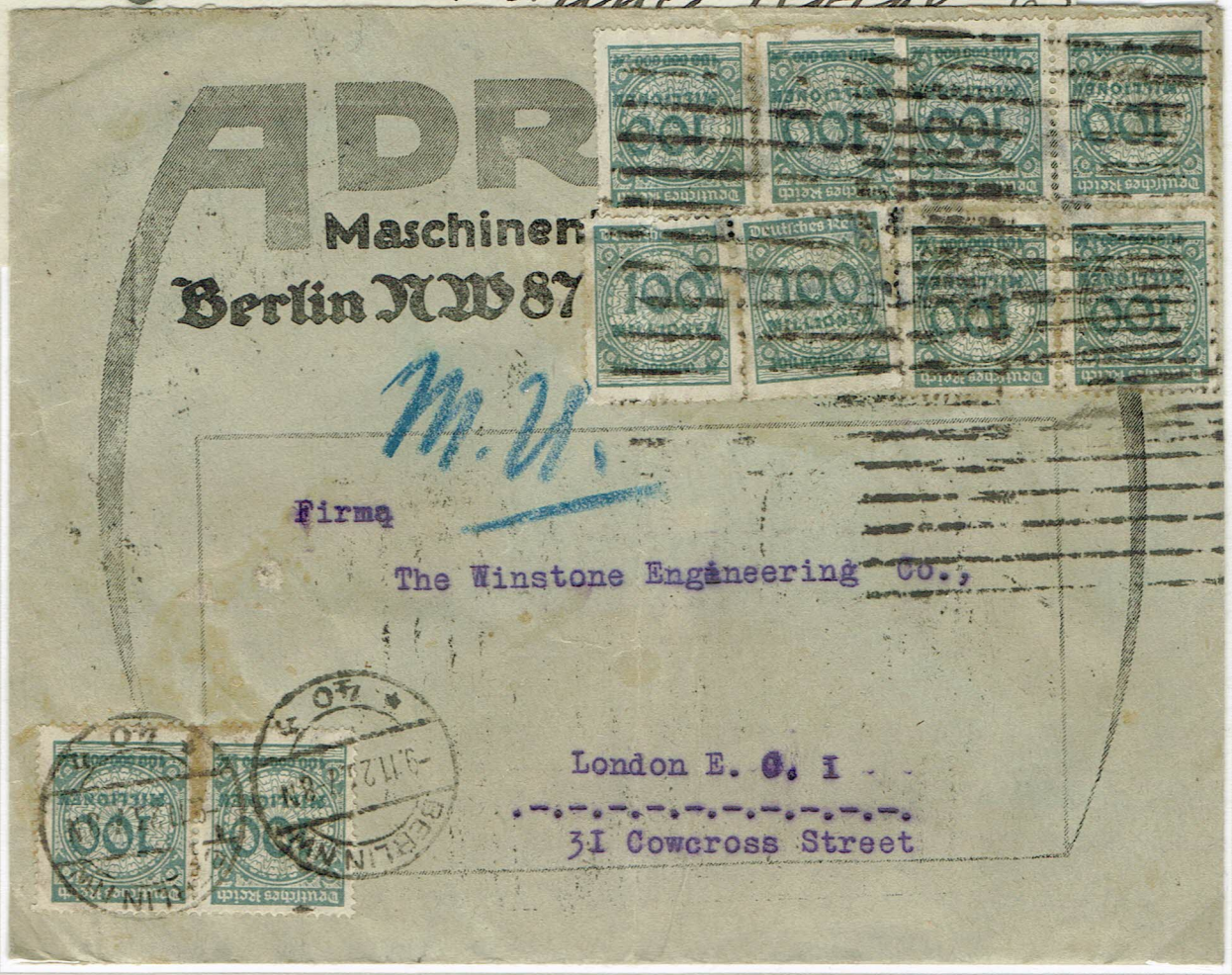
Both the 200 million and
500 million were issued
5/11/23



Letter Rate
 4 Billion Mk.
 11.11.23 7-8PM
 Berlin to Brussels,
 Belgium.

Last day of Rate -
 SUNDAY

*Miss F. M. Green
 65. Rue du Prince Royal 65*



ADR
 Maschinen
 Berlin NW 87

M. W.

Firma

The Winstone Engineering Co.,

London E. C. 1

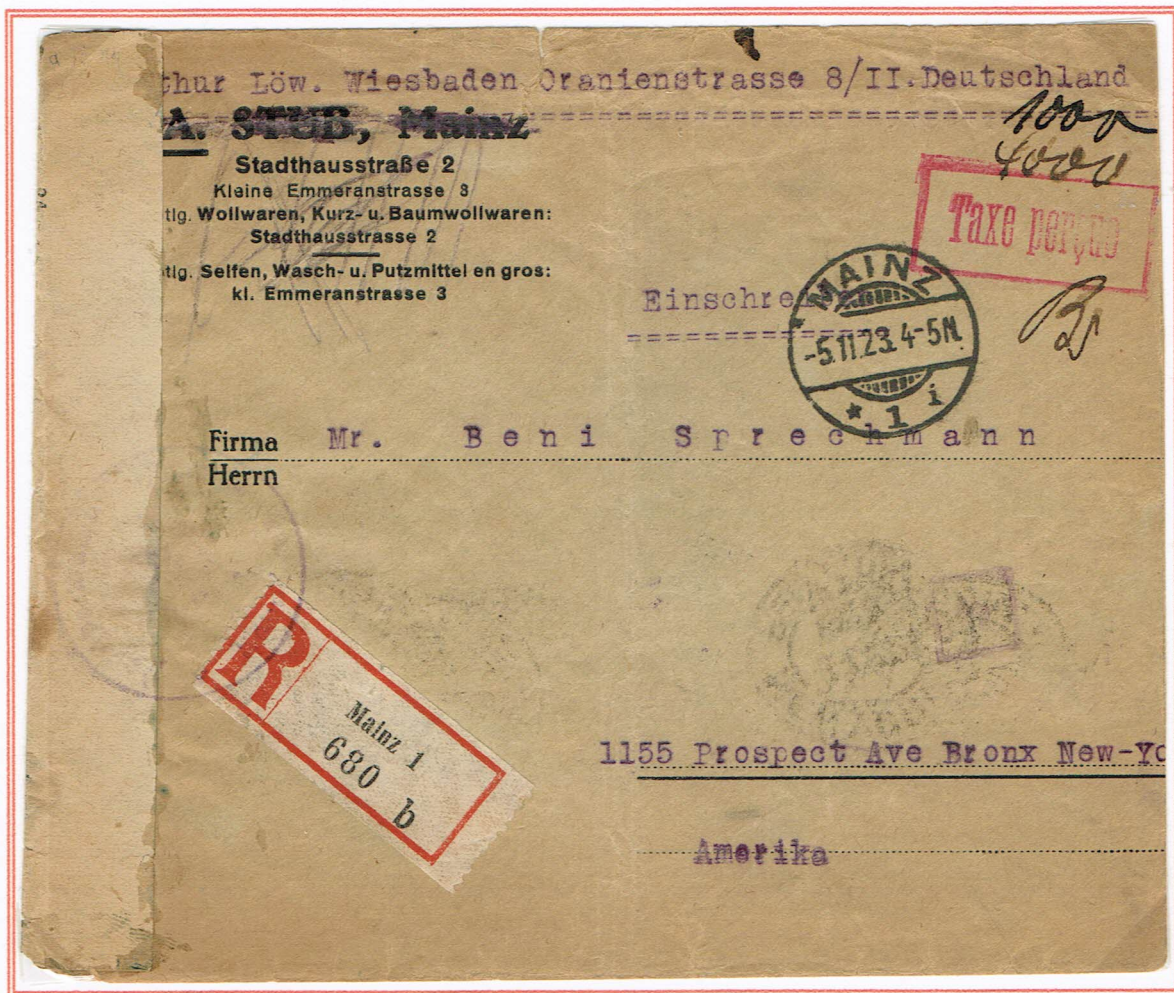
31 Cowcross Street



Letter 4 Billion Mk 9.11.23 Berlin to
 London, England

Franking: 40 x 100 million 10 on front
 30 on the back.

Postal officials were supposed to hand
 cancel each stamp but with the large
 number of stamps on letters, blank and
 roller obliterations were used.



part obverse

Registered Letter 5,000,000,000 Mk
 [4 Billion Mk + 1 Billion Mk
 Registration Fee]

5.11.23 Mainz to New York USA
 Received 24.11.23

First Day of Rate

Boxed Taxe Percue
 "1000" = Reg Fee
 "4000" = Letter Rate

Opened and Sealed

The back has 4 x 50 million [200 million] - the correct letter rate for the previous period but ignored at Mainz Office. Stamps cancelled Cologne Main Railway station 6.11.23 when noted. The Letter has been opened and resealed with label "Opened on the basis of the Decree of 15 Nov. 1918 [Reg 1324] The post-monitoring is done in the interest and tax for economic reasons." Custom sealed and Canceled at Cologne 7.11.23 2-3 AM then on the Cologne-Deutz Railway 7.11.23 8-9 AM.

Letter Wandsbek to Karlstad, Sweden 5.1.23 9-10AM with 4 x 50 million = 200 million. **First day of Rate.**
Correct letter rate for November 1st to 4th. Dropped into letter box on November 4th [Sunday] and cleared 5th
receiving early cancellation. No postage due as complies with regulations.



Letter 4 Billion Mk - franking 20 [6 on front 14 on back] x 200 million rosette design **First day of Issue.**
Nurnberg to Berne Switzerland. **First day of rate.**



Registered Letter 5,000,000,000 Mk. Wattenscheid to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Received 7 XII 23
11.11.23 Last day of Rate

Boxed postage paid [purple - regulations required red ink] and initialled blue markings suggest 9 Billion but R-Heavy letter would be 4 + 2 + 1 = 7 Billion marks. Small denomination stamps on the back each cancelled Wattenscheid despite the 20 Mk value having been **demonetised** from 30 September 1923.



obverse reduced

Billions of Marks [1,000,000,000 Mk]

Printed Matter	8	Postcard	24	Letter	40	Registration	10
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Rate in Force: 7 days Next Letter-Rate Increase: 40 Billion Mk - 100% **Daily Increase: 14.3% 5.7 Billion Mk**
 Exchange rate 840,000,000,000Mk / US\$1 on November 12, 1923; **Letter cost 40 Billion Mk = 0.5c**

Three rosette design stamps were issued this period - 2 & 10 Milliarden [M] on 12th and 20 M on the 16th.. In addition there were three 5 M surcharged stamps and three 10 M surcharges issued either 16th or 17th November

Printed matter 8 Billion 12.11.23 Neumarkt to Hastings, New Zealand - First Day of Rate



Printed Matter - card
8,000,000,000 MK
19.11.23 8-9PM
 Ludwigshafen
 to Italy

Last Day of Rate

Postcard
24,000,000,000 MK
17.11.23 Weyer
to Italy

5 M issued on
11/11/23
2 M issued on
12/11/23



Postkarte
Weltpostverein.
Carte postale. Union postale universelle.

Monsieur

Rag. Argentina R i c a

Kortenbach & Raun
Weyer-Rheinland.

Station Ohlgs für Stückgüter.
Station Wald-Rh

M i l a n o . I t a l i e .

ordusio 2.

ZANDER & CO.
ERFURT
GROSSBETRIEB FÜR PAPIER-
UND METALLVERARBEITUNG

Drahtanschrift:
ZANDERCO ERFURT

Postkarte

Spettma Ditta

Buriani & Genova ,

B o l o g n a - I t a l i a

Via Aurelio Saffi

Postcard
24,000,000,000 MK
19.11.23 5-6PM
Erfurt to Italy

Last Day of Rate

5 Milliard surcharge
of 10 Million issued
16/11/23

Postcard to
Czechoslovakia
18,000,000,000 Mk
Leipzig 19.11.23 7-8PM

Last day of rate

Postcard Rate to
Czechoslovakia was
75% of standard
foreign rate



Buchhandlung und Antiquariat
- Leipzig, Roßstraße 22

Bankkonto: Allgemeine Deutsche Creditanstalt
Abteilung Buchhandel, Leipzig
Postcheckkonto:
Deutsche Wanderbuchhandlung
Leipzig 499 81
Fernsprecher 22343

★

Herrn

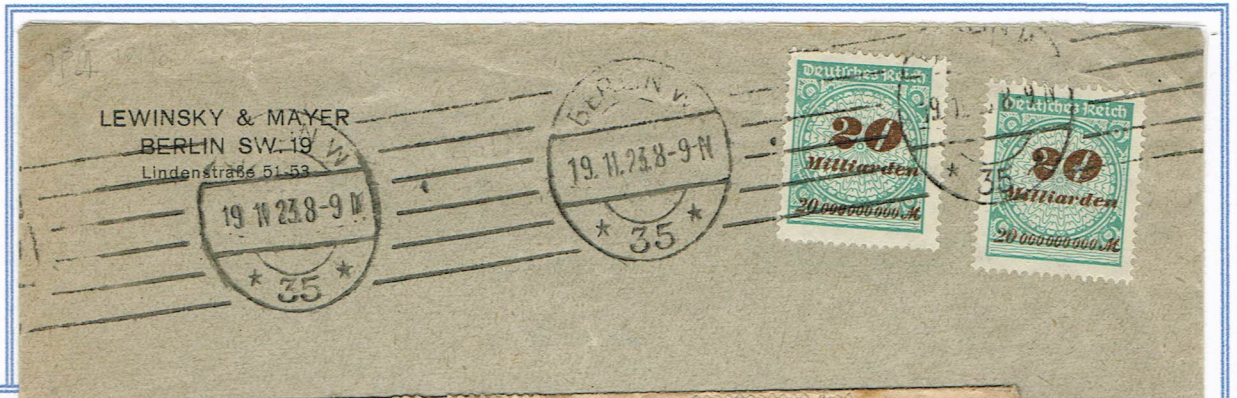
Fridolin M a l i k

Schönbrunn/C.S.R.

S.J.A.G. 171

Letter
40,000,000,000 Mk
19.11.23 8-9PM
Berlin

Last Day of Rate



Part Obverse Reduced

Letter 40,000,000,000 Mk
12.11.23 Neusalz to Italy

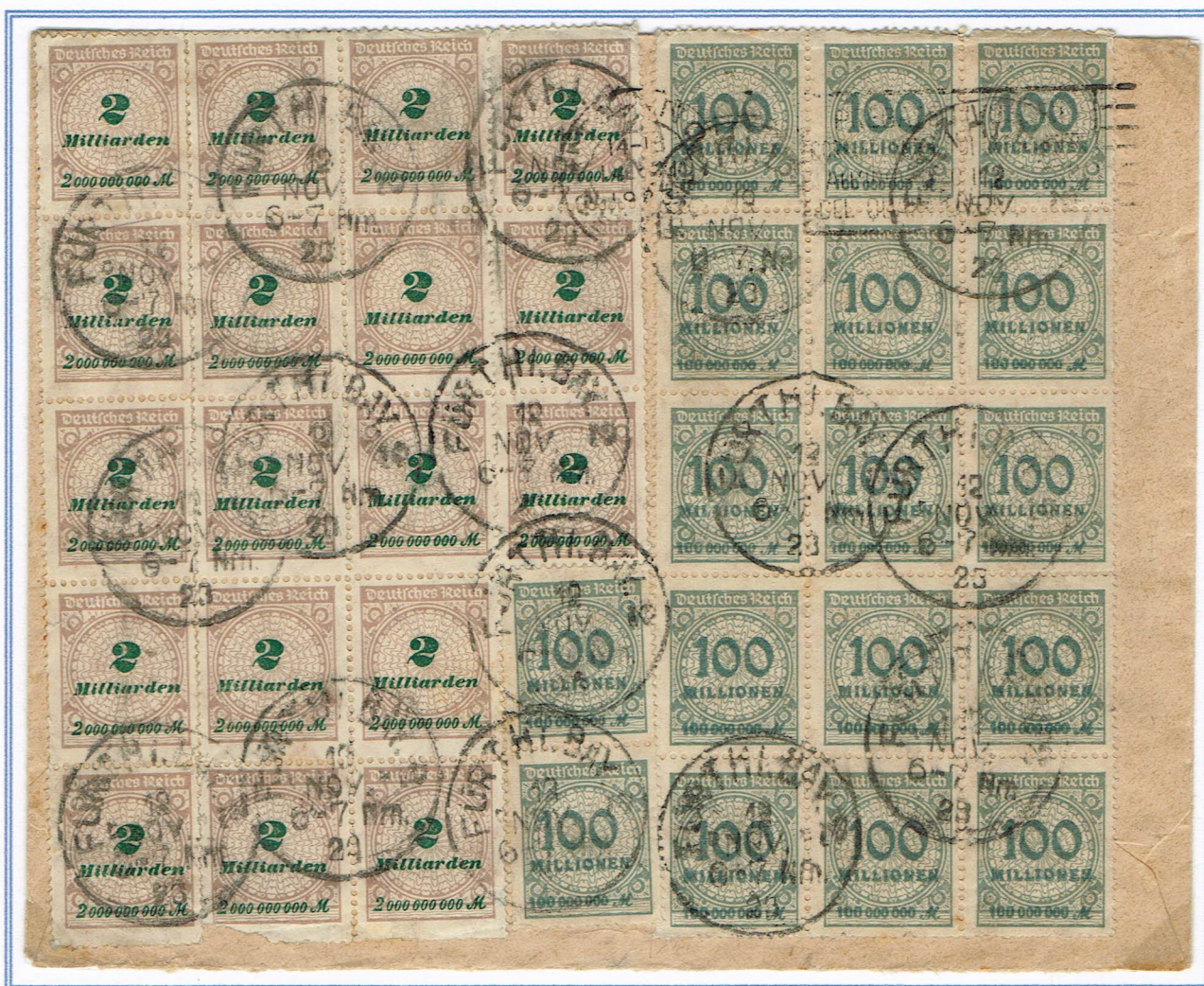
First Day of Rate
Franking 40 x 1 Milliarden



Part front

Letter 40,000,000 Mk. Furth to Italy 12.11.23 6-7PM First day of rate
Franking 20 x 100 million issued 1/11/23 + 19 x 2 Milliarden = 40 Billion Mks - correct

First day of use of the 2 Milliarden rosette design



A small number of **Postage Paid** marks include the name of a commercial firm. These were large mail users who found it convenient to prepare their own mail and made arrangements with the local postmaster to deliver it marked this way to the post office. Usually in red as specified but rarely in blue or green



Registered Letter
50,000,000,000 Mk. With 10 M [issued 17th] with Schwerin 19.11.23 5-6PM

Last day of rate

Balance paid by cash with green oval of The firm. Checked at Bremen customs 20.11.23. Addressed to Holland.



Letter 40 Billion
Berlin to Amsterdam
19.11.23 5-6 PM

Last day of rate

5 M issued 11/11/23

Registered Express Letter 40-60gm: 150 billion Mk

Registration 10 billion; Express Delivery 60 billion; Letter to 20gm 40 Billion and 20 billions additional 20gm
Elberfeld 19.11.23 405PM via Frankfurt 20.11.23 to Cairo, Egypt received 27.11.23

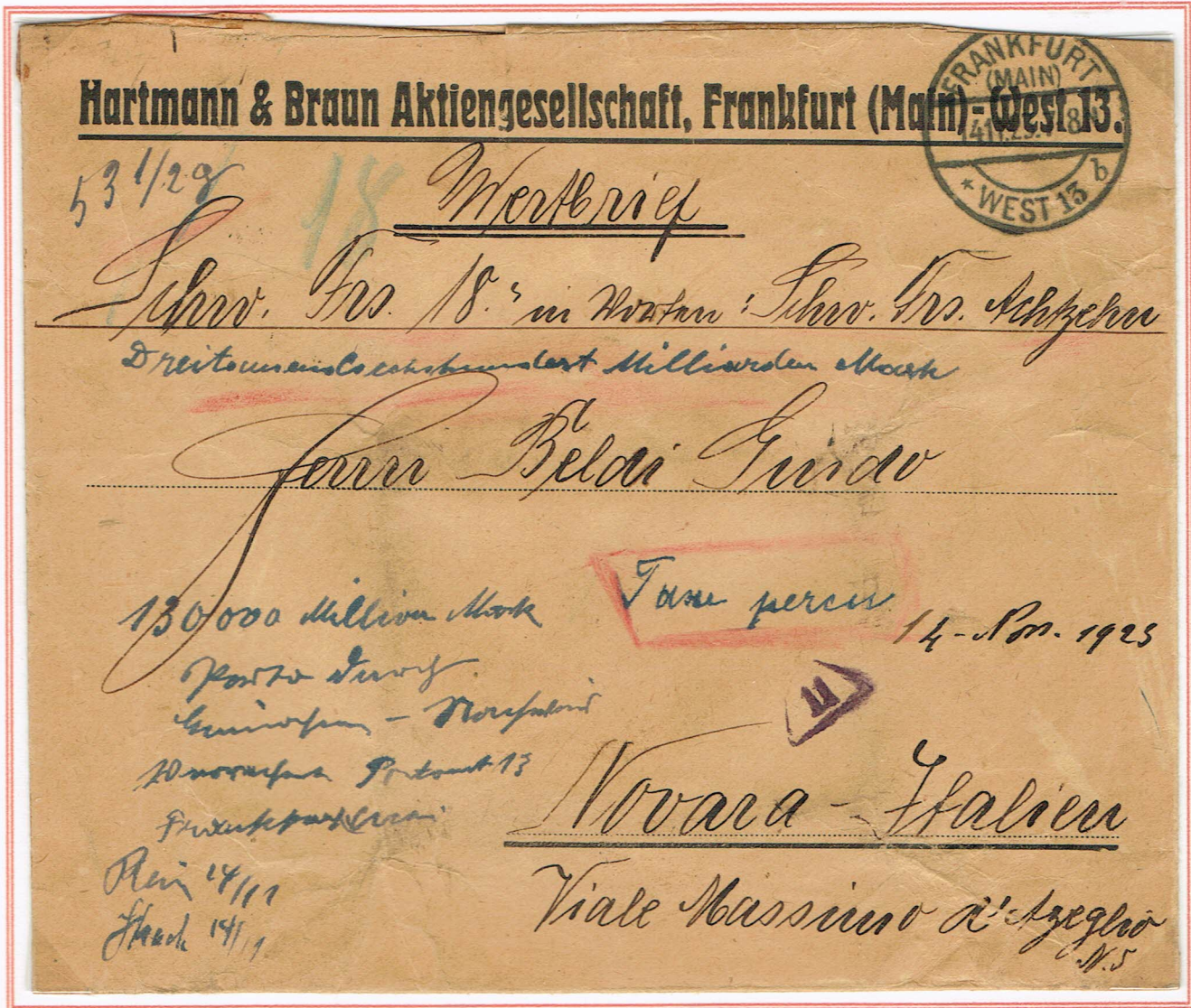
Last Day of Rate



Part Obverse Reduced

¹Letter 53½gm Insured 200,000,000,000 Mk. 14.11.23 Frankfurt to Italy received 17.11.23

"Taxe percue" in manuscript with red crayon around as per regulation and initialled by 2 postal officials - fee paid in cash "130 000 Million Mark" "18" registry number. 2 wax seals on flap 11 in triangle applied at Frankfurt customs office with purple seal on reverse - mail not opened



Letter to 20gm 40,000,000,000 Mk; additional 20g, or part 20,000,000,000 Mk - Letter Rate 80,000,000,000
 Registration fee 10,000,000,000: Insurance Fee 40,000,000,000 Mk = 130,000,000,000 Mk

130 billion marks to send and insure for 200 billion marks - Insured Mail was a more secure method of mail

Insured Mail [Wertbriefe] The rate for a basic insured mail is the sum of three parts: the rate for a letter of that weight; a registration fee [no registration label was to be used] and an insurance fee. The weight had to be noted exactly down to half grams. They were wax sealed and transported in a sealed box. The value was to be written in words and figures in both Marks and gold francs. The foreign insured mail passed through customs and could be opened and resealed like Registered mail.

¹ Gerhard Binder "Hyper-inflation in Germany 1923" Page 27 "From the high inflation period few foreign insured letters are known."

Billions of Marks [1,000,000,000 Mk]

Printed Matter	16	Postcard	48	Letter	80	Registration	20
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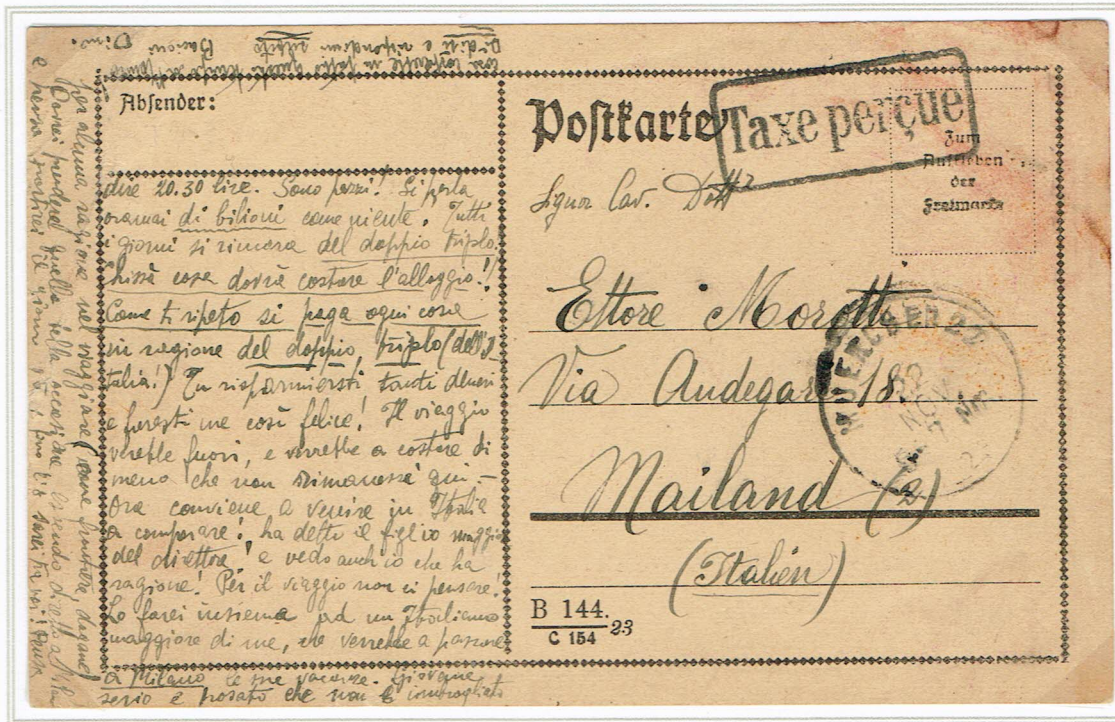
Rate in Force: 5 days Next Letter-Rate Increase: 260 Billion Mk - 257% Daily Increase: 51% 52 Billion Mk

The stabilization of the currency commenced with the passing of Legislation October 15, 1923 establishing the new currency, the **Rentenmark**. This currency came into existence November 15, 1923. Bank note printing ceased. From November 20, 1923, the **exchange rate was fixed at 4.2 billion marks / US\$**. The reform took hold immediately and prices stopped rising virtually at once. The exchange rate was effectively sustained by extremely high interest rates. Only one stamp was issued - 50 Milliarden on November 22nd.

Printed Matter envelope 16,000,000,000 MK. 24.11.23 Arnstadt to Wellington, New Zealand.



Printed matter card
16 billion Mk
Nurnburg 20.11.23
to Zurich,
Switzerland
First Day of Rate



Postcard
48,000,000,000 Mk
22.11.23 Muercher to
Italy
Taxe perçue -
fee paid in cash

Part of the text reads:

"At present for a movie, a coffee or a piece of cake you pay 3.4 Gold Marks [20-30 Lira]. Things are crazy. There is talk now of billions for anything. Every day the prices increase two or three times!"

Letter 80 billion Mk Fee Paid Nurnberg 25.11.23 9-10AM to Berne, Switzerland. Last day of Rate - SUNDAY
Red "Return to Sender if Undeliverable"



Letter 80,000,000,000 MK. 22.11.23 Munich [inverted month] to Rome, Italy received 24 XI 23



Letter: 80 billion 8 x 10 millarden [2 on obverse] Bremen 20.11.23 to Montreal, Canada
First day of Rate



Letter
20-40gm
120 billion
20.11.23
Munich to
Rome, Italy.

**First Day of
Rate**

Letter: 80
billion each
additional
20gm 40
billion mark =
120 billion
marks



Letter 60-80gm 200,000,000,000 MK. [80 billion + 3 x 40 billion] 21.11.23 Munich to Italy

Billions of Marks [1,000,000,000 Mk]

Printed Matter	64	Postcard	192	Letter	320	Registration	80
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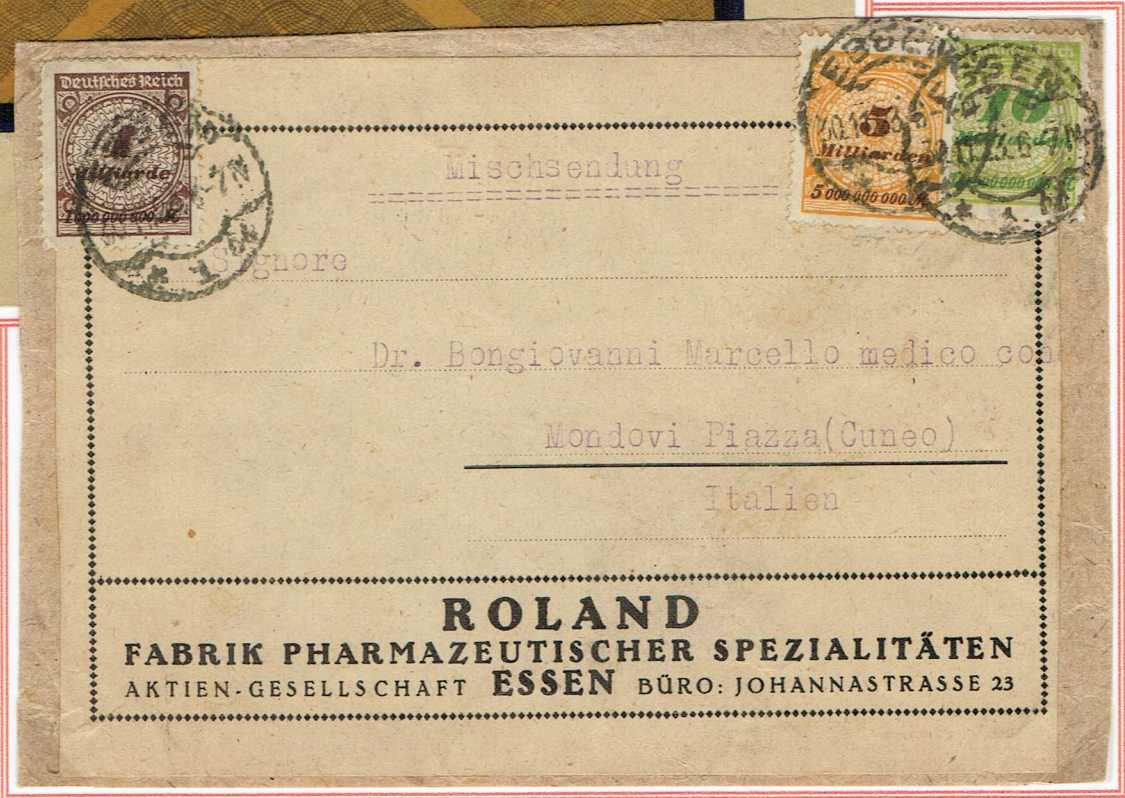
Stamps accepted at 4 times face value - so 'apparent' postal rates seem same as November 20-25 1923 Period

This last rate change of 1923 represents a sort of collapse of the system. The Government printing works was unable to print additional postage stamps to met the rate increases because they were fully committed to printing the new currency bank notes. Unable to supply new stamps and knowing that inflation was to end, the postal administration instructed all post offices to sell current stamp issues for 4 x face value. The stamps held by the public were also accepted at 4 x face value. As a practical matter only very high values [> 1 Milliarden] were useful.



Printed Matter
64,000,000,000 MK.
 [10 Billion = 40
 Billion + Postage
 Paid 24 billion
Combination

Regulation 624
 stated that the
 amount of postage
 paid could not be a
 part of the marking
 but must be shown
 manuscript. This
 rule was not always
 followed and a few
 imprinted rates are
 known



"Mischsendung"
 [mixed business
 papers] no foreign
 rate bur sent as
Printed Matter
64,000,000,000 MK.
 [16,000,000,000 Mk]
 30.11.23 6-7PM
 Essen to Italy

Last Day of Rate

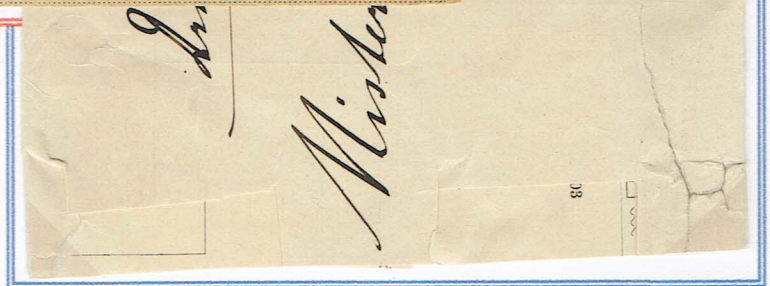
Printed Matter [wrapper]
for 20-40gm
128,000,000,000 Mk
[32,000,000,000 Mk]
30.11.23 10-11pm
Karldrure to USA

Last Day of Rate

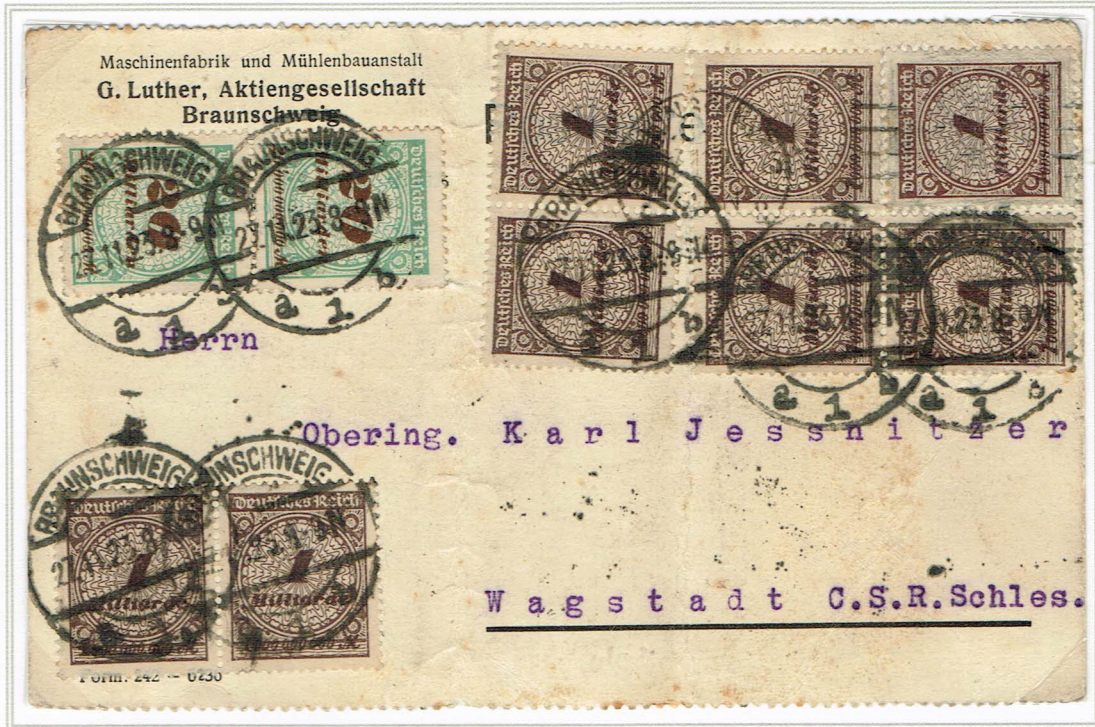
Postcard 192,000,000 Mk. [48,000,000 Mk]
to Berne Switzerland
"48 milliarden"
2 x 20M + 500 million [40.5 M] cancelled
Iserlohn 27.11.23
2 M + 5 M + 500 million [7.5 M] cancelled
Iserlohn 28.11.23
Returned for additional postage



Insufficiently Franked Foreign Mail
This was supposed to be detected by postal officials and **returned to sender** in order to make up the required postage at no penalty charges or dues. A label was supposed to be attached to this effect. After the having the deficiency in postage remedied, the item was mailed again with the additional stamps being cancelled that day



Postcard 192,000,000,000 MK. [48,000,000,000 Mk] 27.11.23 Braunschweig to Czechoslovakia



Letter 320,000,000,000 Mk [80,000,000,000 Mk] 30.11.23 8-9PM Berlin to Italy. Last Day of Rate

Letter 320 billion [franking 80 billion] Hamburg 27.11.23 to Adelaide, Australia. Inverted "A H" perfin



Registered Letter 400,000,000,000 Mk [100,000,000,000 Mk]
26.11.23 Cassel to Montreal, Canada received De 3 23.. First Day of Rate

Billions of Marks [1,000,000,000 Mk]

Printed Matter	50	Postcard	200	Letter	300	Registration	300
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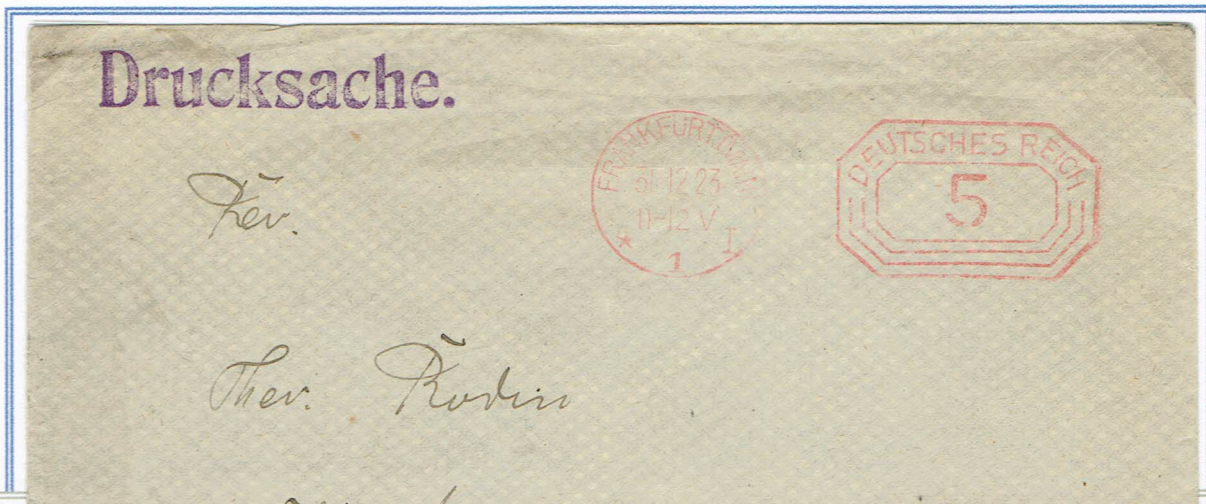
New Currency 10,000,000,000 Mk = 1 Rentenmark

Printed Matter	5pf	Postcard	20pf	Letter	30pf	Registration	30pf
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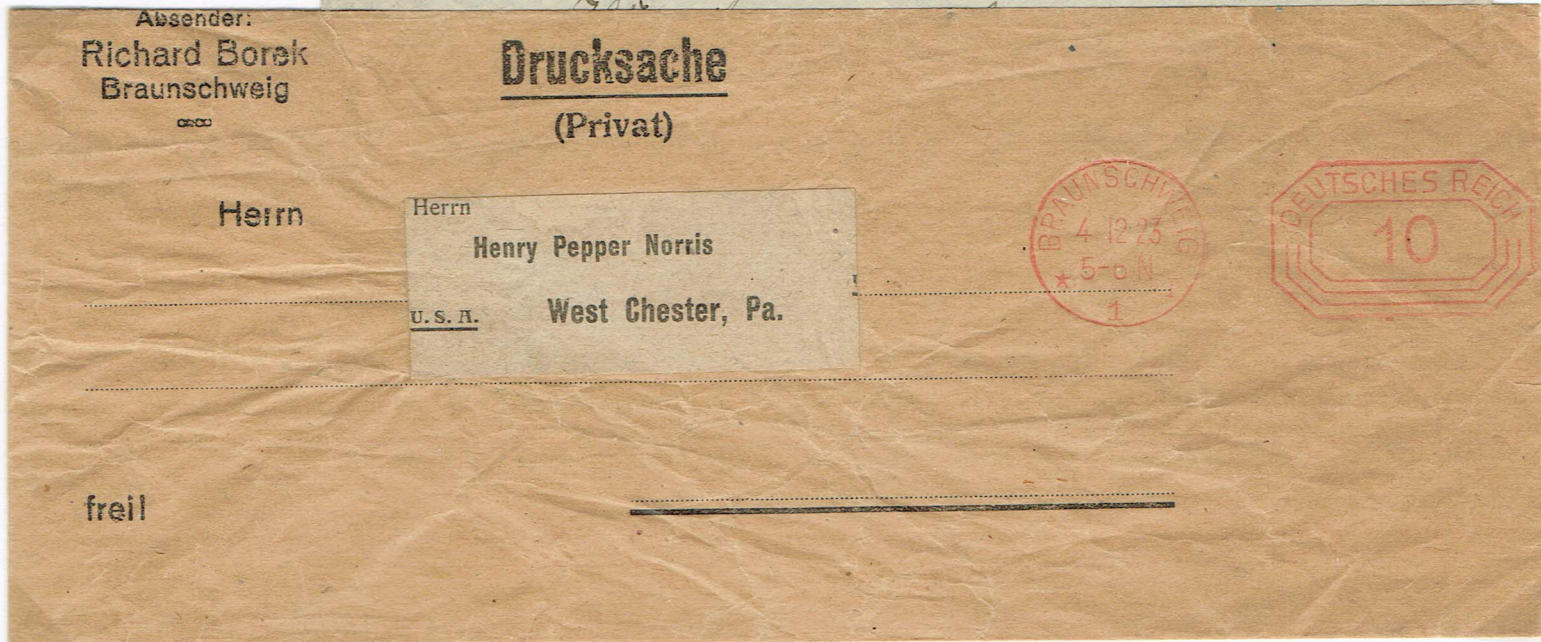
Postage stamps in the rosette design of values 3, 5, 10, 20, 50 & 100 Pfennige were issued December 1, 1923

The new currency was formalised by legislation passed on October 15, 1923 and came into existence on November 15, 1923. The Stabilization was confirmed with the fixing of the exchange rate on November 20, 1923. The exchange rate was sustained by extremely high interest rates. In the first weeks of December 1923, despite the price stability, **interest rates reached 10 to 20 percent per day**. Even by December 30th the interest rates was still more than ½ % daily. The average annual rate for January 1924 was still as high as 88%.

Printed Matter
5 Pfennige
31.12.23 Frankfurt
to Ohio, USA.
Last Day of Rate



Printed Matter
50-100gm 10 pf
Braunschweig to
USA 4.12.23

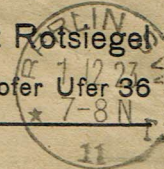


Associated with the pending of currency and new postal rates, instructions were sent to all Post Offices using meter machines with advice to change the impressions. Meter markings retained the same octagonal shape with just numerals being used representing the postage in Pfennige [100=1 Rentenmark

Letter 30 pf Berlin 1.12.23 to Italy - First day of rate
First day of 10pf and 20pf stamps



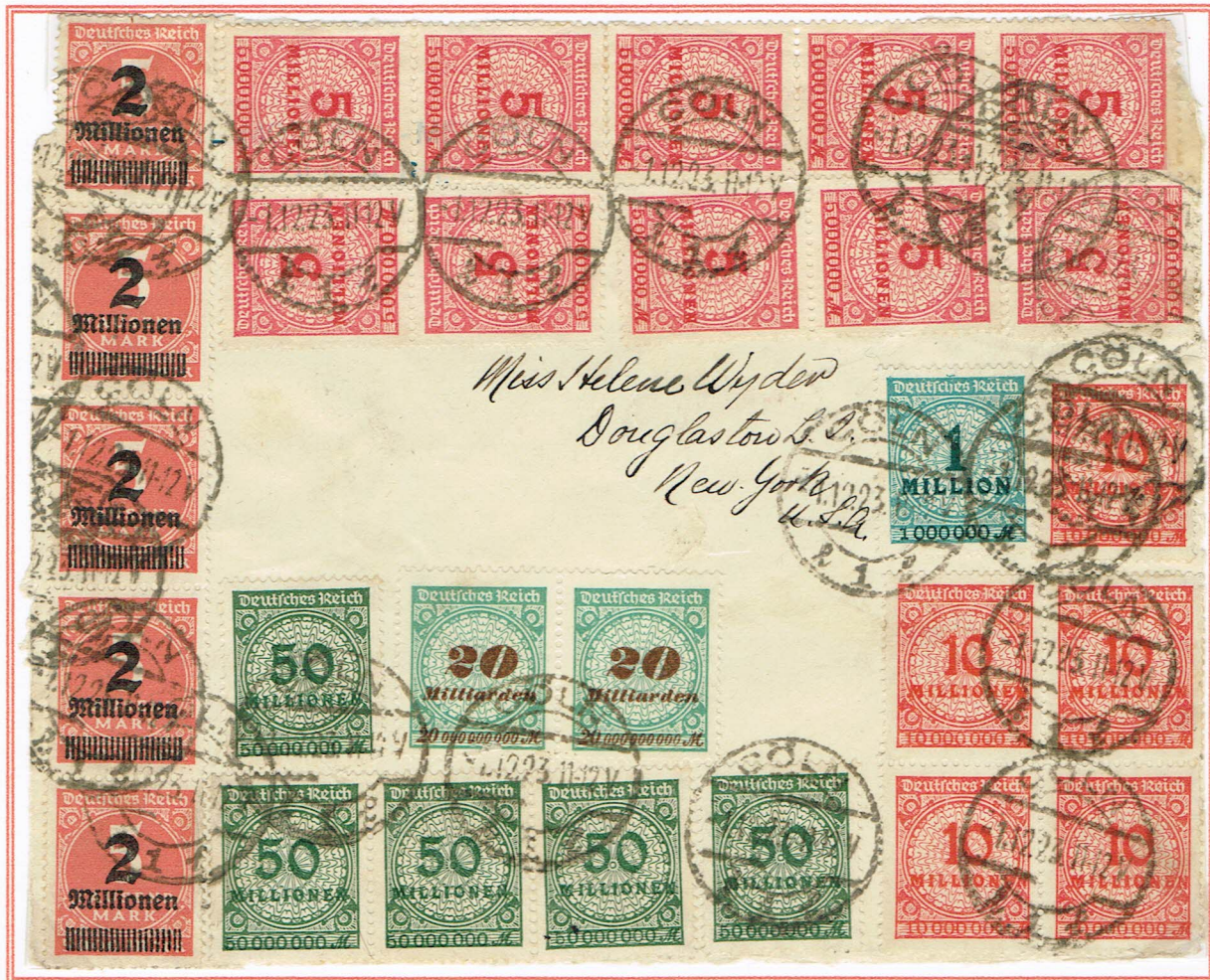
Verlag der **Sala-Spiele** mit Rotsiegel
A. SALA, Berlin SW 11, Tempelhofer Ufer 36



*Herrn u. Frau Emma Ing. Schmitz
Malmö (Schweden)*

Letter 30 pf. Laage 31.12.23 304 PM to Sweden - Last day of rate.

Letter with stamps cancelled Cologne 1.12.23 11-12 AM to New York, USA with currency stamps and value for the Previous Letter rate period 26-30th November 1923 when they represented face value x 4.



On 1 December 1923 new stamps were issued in the new currency. Any inflation period stamps in private hands remained valid for a transition period of one month, they could either be exchanged at post office counters for new stamps or they could be used up on mail until December 31st 1923. No more inflation stamps were sold at post offices after December 1st but mixed frankings were allowed with both inflationary and new currency on the same cover. Just to complicate matters, the inflation stamps, having been revalued 4 x face value for 5 days were again worth face value. - so-called December mail.

Letter 20-40gm 45 Renten 450,000,000 Mk - [300 billion + 150 Billion each additional 20gm] 7.12.23 to Czechoslovakia.

Postal rates to Czechoslovakia were set at 75% of the corresponding foreign rate until November 20th 1923, when the exchange rate was fixed, they then were the same as foreign rates.



Registered Letter 20-40gm 75 Renten - [Letter 30 + additional 20gm 15 + Registration 30] 7.12.23 Frankfurt to Lucca, Italy received 10.12.23

Letter 20-40gm Insured 50 Billion Mark. 1.25 Renten Mk - 8.12.23 Charlottenburg to Italy.
Letter 30pf + 15pf; Registration 30 pf; Insurance Fee 50 pf/300 Milliarden = 1.25 RMk
A German Billion is a million million; a Milliarden is a thousand million



Letter Insured 138 Billion mark 1.10 RMk - [Letter 30 + Registration 30 + Insurance 50]. 4.12.23 Frankfurt to Italy

The End of the Inflation period

A 'Government Decree' ended the inflation period, and a stable currency based on land values was introduced:

1 Rentenmark = 1 [German] billion Marks = 1,000,000,000 Marks.

For postage stamps it meant that a 10 milliarden mark stamp was now worth 1 Renten-Pfennig

For the postal service the 1st December 1923, the date of issue of the new stamps, was taken as the day of change, but the old inflation stamps could be used at this exchange rate until 31st December 1923 after which they were deemed invalid. The new stamps had values of 3, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 pfennigs.

Single frankings were possible on foreign destination mail for Printed Matter [5pf]; Postcards [20pf]; but there was no 30 pf value for foreign letters. The 50pf stamp met both inland and foreign Registration fee. The foreign letter rate returned to 30pf - the same as for the period April 1, 1921 to December 31, 1921.

Bank notes in the new Renten-mark currency had been printed and circulated by mid-November 1923 and were gradually replacing the old inflation money. However, the Post Office regulations stipulated that during December 1923, insured letters should also have their value declared in the old inflation currency, even if the new stamps were used or postal charges were "paid in cash" with the amount noted in the new currency [See the two covers on the previous page]. In some areas of commercial life, particularly in large insurance companies and banks, the old inflation currency was not finally eliminated until 1925.



Berlin 4.1.24 [4th day of the new period] to Sweden franked 10 & 20 values = 30 pf [no single postage stamp for foreign letter rate]

The postage rates for the period January 1, 1924 to September 30, 1925 were the same as for the December 1-31 1923 period - foreign letter rate 30pf = 300,000,000,000 Mark