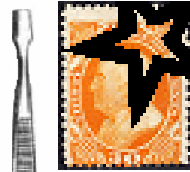




and



## German Empire *Germania Issue – 1900*

At the beginning of 1900, the German Empire issued a brand new series of definitive postage stamps.

The denominations from the 2 Pf. through the 80 Pf. featured the bust of Germania, wearing armor and the imperial crown. All of the 1900 postage stamps are inscribed "**REICHSPOST**", and are printed on unwatermarked paper.

These German Empire stamps were designed by Paul Waldraff from a portrait of the German actress **Anna Führung**. Anna Führung (1866-1929) is shown in an 1891 photograph at left, posing as Germania. She was born in Hamburg to an actor father and was active both in the theater and in silent movies in Germany, but she will be forever remembered as the model for the Germania postage stamp.



The four high-values of the new German Empire series were wide format pictorials, featuring representative subjects about the German Empire. The **1 Mark** shows the **General Post Office in Berlin**. The **2 Mark** shows a modified detail of the painting, "**Union of North and South**". The entire painting is shown on the German Empire page in this website. The **3 Mark** shows the **unveiling of the Kaiser Wilhelm I Memorial in Berlin**. The **5 Mark** shows **Kaiser Wilhelm II speaking at the empire's 25th anniversary celebration**.



Before going on to the description of the issued postage stamps of this series, there is an issue with some of the printings of the 25 Pf., 30 Pf., 40 Pf., 50 Pf., and 80 Pf. stamps of this series, that needs to be addressed.

The Scott Catalog refers to stamps of the type shown (left) as "early printings", which had the **REICHSPOST** inscription in taller and thicker letters than the regular printings. The variety is properly described, but stating that they were "early printings" is NOT TRUE.

The Michel Catalog more properly refers to these as "the so-called First Printings". According to the Michel Catalog, these were actually "essays", which were intentionally printed in very small quantities, and which were provided to philatelic publications for publicity purposes. Thus, they were never issued by the German Empire postal authorities and sent to the post offices for sale to the public.

Authentic examples of these varieties are almost never seen on the market, and all of them are VERY expensive. I DO NOT have any of these in my collection, and I have never physically seen any authenticated examples for sale. I found the scan, above, after exhaustive searches on the Internet, and it was the ONLY one that I was able to find.



Shown above is the complete Germania set, as issued in 1900 for the German Empire. The 2 Mark and 3 Mark values each come in two types, and the 5 Mark value comes in four types (two major types). They will all be described below.





The two types (not listed in the Scott Catalog) of the 2 Mark value are shown above, with Type 1 being on the left and Type 2 being on the right. In Type 1, the end of the spandrel around the numeral 2 on the left side is "open". In Type 2, the end of the spandrel is "filled in" with blue coloring. The Type 2 stamps, in used condition, are worth about TEN TIMES the value of the Type 1 stamps. In mint condition, they are worth about THREE TIMES the value of the Type 2 stamps.

This offers a great opportunity for the educated specialist in German Empire philately to purchase the scarcer Type 2's from a seller that uses the Scott Catalog to price their stamps for a very cheap price.



The two types (not listed in the Scott Catalog) of the 3 Mark value are shown above (showing surcharges in Turkish currency), with Type 1 being on the left and Type 2 being on the right. In Type 1, the front of Kaiser Wilhelm's breastplate is touching the horse's back, the reins are sagging slightly, and the Kaiser appears to be leaning back slightly. In Type 2, there is a white space between the front of the Kaiser's breastplate and the horse's back, the reins are taut, and the Kaiser appears to be sitting more upright. In Michel, the Type 2 stamps are valued at about 20 Euros more than the Type 1 stamps.

(To be Continued)

## Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., Rod Gabel presiding. 22 Members were present and 1 guest.

### Officer Reports

- Secretary's report – minutes of previous meeting were accepted without being read.
- Treasurer's report – Jack Urish read the treasurer's report and announced we have a current balance of \$12,926.09.
- Program VP's report – Rod provided the report pending Geoff Owens' return later this month. Today's meeting was an opening meeting for the year, with a discussion of the Calendar of Events, previously eMailed to the membership. Also, an auction will be conducted at today's meeting. An auction is planned for the next meeting (January 28<sup>th</sup>). Geoff Owens will be presenting "Tasmania: Sailors & Stamps" on February 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Editor's report – Rick Houghland reported that the newsletter will be available before the next meeting.
- Membership report- Joe Baker has no report, other than the addition of a new member (see "New Business").

### Announcements

- Doug Moss has returned as a member.
  - Members were requested to indicate their wishes for countries and areas of albums for Jack to acquire. Stan will collect this information and forward to Jack.
  - Paul discussed the club frame for the upcoming TEXPEX show. He showed some of the one-page exhibits. Below is a complete list (items marked with an \* were received at this meeting):
1. Joe Baker - Germany - Cancels: Empire to Inflation
  2. \* Stanley Bartnikowski - Polish Cancels prior to 1918
  3. \* Stuart Barzune - Stamps from F.D.R.s Collection (2 pp.)
  4. George Clayton - Presidents / Kennedy
  5. Perry Denton - U.S.A. Proofs
  6. Rod Gabel - Hand-drawn Page
  7. Rick Houghland - U.S. Meters
  8. \* Douglas Moss - Naval Covers
  9. Richard Neinast - Liechtenstein Covers

10. \* Samuel Phillippi - Wrestling on Stamps
11. \* Bob Roofner - Canada
12. \* Mark Solomon - Methodist Philately
13. \* Jack Urish - Hungary – Russian Occupation
14. Paul Witthoef - Military Uniforms on Stamp

### Old Business

None

### New Business

- An application for member was received from Ivan Zuniga.
- 2015 dues were collected from 19 members.

### Trivia/Show & Tell

- Jack Urish brought 4 items: a data sheet demonstrating the hyper-inflation in Hungary after World War II, an Germany aerogram cutout, a cinderella paired with an Italian Hitler Mussolini stamp, and a cover from Italy to P.O.W. camp in Egypt, with censor markings.

### Door Prizes/Album Drawing

- Chris Sortwell, Perry Denton and Jack Urish graciously donated door prizes for the membership. Jack's album drawing was held

### Program

- Jack Urish conducted an auction of a few items.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 10:50

## Stamp & Tongs

### APS GOLD AWARD

#### Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society Newsletter

**Rick Houghland, Editor**

Stamp & Tongs is published monthly. Material in this newsletter may be reproduced in other philatelic publications if the sources are acknowledged.

#### 2014 DPCPS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	<b>Rod Gabel</b>
Vice President	<b>Perry Denton</b>
Secretary	<b>Geoffrey Owens</b>
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Membership is \$12 available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Membership applications at: [www.dpcps2010.webs.com](http://www.dpcps2010.webs.com)