

## Odds - Ends - Gems

# History, Fun and Easy

BY JERRY JENSEN

Some of my German born friends collect stamps with cancels from their home towns. Even if you were not born or did not live in Germany, it pays to know a bit of German history. Always look at the cancel on a used stamp. Sometimes one of your duplicates may surprise you.



The cancel shown here is interesting. It is not a rare item. "BARBY", April 30, 1919. What is unusual about it? Here, it is the cancel date. The first stamps of the new Republic (Scott #B1, B2; Mi #105-6) were put into use on May 1, 1919. That makes this stamp, canceled 30 4 19, an example of what could be called the last day of use. Not a rare collector's item, but an interesting one, rescued from duplicate stock.



The stamps that appear here are both canceled -1 12 23. These are both first day cancels of the new gold pfennig currency reform issue. November 30, 1923 was the last day of the inflation period. The new stamps (Scott #323-328; Mi #338-43), in the new currency, were issued on December 1, 1923.

The last five days of the inflation period are worth some study. On each of these days (November 26-30, 1923), stamps were sold and used at four times their face value. If one had a supply of earlier purchased stamps, they could also be used.

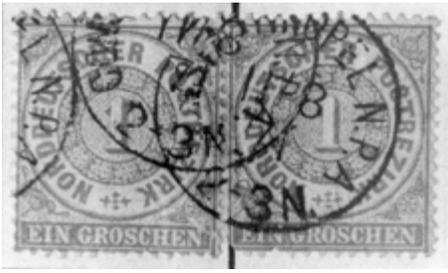


The catalogs place a premium on stamps with genuine cancels during this last period. These cancels have to be expertized but are not uncommon. Here you can see what can be found in unsorted, duplicate material.



This NPD stamp has a nice socked on the nose cancel. You might add it to your used North German Postal District collection. That would be the wrong place to put it. It is a stamp of the German Empire. The empire was formed on May 4, 1871. The first stamps of the new empire were not issued until January 1, 1872. The September 22, 1871 cancel shows usage in the empire. All German States stamps canceled between May 4th and December 31, 1871 are stamps of the German Empire.

These stamps look a bit odd. I found one stamp, had it expertized and mounted it with a frame around it. Later, I discovered the severed mate to the pair (at the right). There is no question about this pair's value, it is a good catalog item. The cancel is "CONSTANTINOPLE". It proves use in Turkey. How the pair got separated remains a mystery. Each was found, years apart, in material purchased from different sources in different cities.



None of the material shown here was purchased for a premium price. It was all discovered in duplicate stamp stock. Some of the items are valuable, some are not. Each is interesting and a nice addition to a collection. It pays to know a little history and to look carefully at every stamp.

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