

Odds, Ends, Gems

## In Memoriam...

### The Death of a Twin

by Jerry Jensen

The twins were born on November 30, 1923 in the small town of Tuttlingen, Germany. In late 2002 one of the twins suffered a violent dismemberment. It was an economic crime and one of the twins is no longer with us.

On the last day of the high German inflation period two letter packages were mailed to Havana, Cuba from Tuttlingen. These two examples are notable as each contained a block of ten of the 50 Milliarden rouletted rosette issue. One cover eventually found its way into the collection of the well know expertizer, Eduard Peschl in Passau. The other cover found its way to the West coast of the United States. In 1967, it continued its journey to Minneapolis, MN where it has resided in the author's collection to the present time.



Herr Peschl died in 1999, at the ripe old age of 96. His collection has been placed on the philatelic market and is slowly being absorbed. It contained many of the great rarities of the Inflation Period. The twin in his collection had the misfortune of ending up in the possession of a very mercenary German stamp dealer. After many attempts to sell the twin as an entire, the dealer removed the stamps from the cover piece and broke up the block of ten for sale as smaller blocks. The choice block of four from the larger piece contains the "Sprung"; variety. This choice item (with a Michel value of over 8100 Euros) was offered for sale on "eBay"; (lot #2971609630) and on December 19th was sold for 755 Euros. (*Interestingly, neither the buyer nor seller has issued any feedback on the transaction at the time of this writing*).



A sad story, and what doomed this fine and exotic philatelic treasure is simple. It was only on a portion of a cover, not an entire. Today's philatelic interests are for covers, covers, and covers. The madness of the MNH craze is being replaced by the desire for perfect covers. This fine example, listed in the INFLA-BERLIN handbook #7, as one of the two largest blocks known, is now gone. It was only "on piece"!



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