

Kingdom of Prussia 1850-1867

Purpose of the Exhibit

This exhibit is a study of all the stamps issued in Prussia. It shows many blocks and strips as well as detailed analysis of sheet margins and printing plates. Varieties of cancellations and postal rates are also contained in this collection with an analysis of postage by weight and distance. Letters going abroad beyond Deutsch-Österreichischer Postverein (German-Austrian-Postal-Convention, hereinafter referred to as DOPV) are one of the materials in focus.

Plan and Remarkable Items

The first issue stamps are exhibited in the first three frames, and the five following issues occupy 1 Frame per each, except the 1861 Coat of Arms issue in 1 and half a frame and 1866 High-value stamps in half a frame.

THE FIRST ISSUE [P.2-48] starts with an Essay, five Color Die Proofs, Plate Proofs, and Original Papers in the first row.

The second row shows typical early usage, such as the first-day usage, etc. **The earliest usage of ½ Sgr.** on Nov.29th, 1850 is newly found and the only one known usage of ½ Sgr. in 1850. **1850 Combination Usage with French Stamps** is also a highlight of this collection, showing very early combination usage on the globe. Each denomination stamp starts from the third row of the first frame. ½ Sgr. [P.9-16] begins with large multiples and marginal stamps to show digits and plate numbers on the margin as well as watermarks. **Shifted transfer of DIE at Pos.113 in pl. Seven** is shown in p.12 with two blocks of four and a pair on a usage. The fourth row shows multiple frankings, used multiples, and so on. **1 Sgr. [P.17-24]** also starts with large multiples, and they also show digits, plate numbers, and watermarks. Three uncommon marginal stamps on covers are shown in P.19. The second row has *feuerrot* shade in p.21, and multiple frankings or overseas covers follow. The largest unused multiple of **2 Sgr. [P.25-32]** is a block of four, and only about 10++ such blocks exist. **Only one known Plate no. 6 original stamp** is in P.26. It also has a **used block of eight, only one recorded** excluding fiscal usages. **Block of four on cover** is also the largest multiple on cover. The fourth row tries to have many **covers to overseas, such as New York, Norway, etc.** The largest unused multiple of **3 Sgr. [P.33-40]** is also a block of four, two of which are shown in P.33 with **large right or left margins**. **The largest used multiple of block of 8** is also shown in P.38. As it was the largest denomination stamp then, large multiple frankings such as **duodecuple or decuple frankings** are shown. **4 Pfg. [P.41-48]** only came in 1856 for a new tariff, and proof, large blocks and etc., are shown in the third frame. Multiple frankings, printed matters, or mixed frankings follow.

1857 ISSUE [P.49-64] consists of three stamps. The first row shows the highlight, including color proofs, the earliest usage, and mixed frankings with the same denomination stamps of the former issue. Each stamp occupies one row per each, starting with multiples or shade varieties and plate flaws. Multiple frankings are also tried to be shown in each denomination stamp, and it contains **four largest multiple or multiple frankings**.

1858-59 ISSUE [P.65-80] consists of five stamps. The first leaf shows a quadruple color franking of this series and a privately rouletted stamp which were "produced" around 1860. Three leaves per denomination stamps follow, including **five largest multiples or multiple frankings**. Marginal stamps, plate flaws, and the other large multiple frankings are also shown to illustrate the production and postal history aspects of the issue. **Unused 1859 6 Pfg. with narrow setting** shown in P.78 is only a few known examples.

1861 COAT OF ARMS ISSUE [P.81-104] consists of six stamps. The first row shows the highlight, including essays, proofs, early usages, and **combination frankings with Hannover, Saxony, or Thurn&Taxis**. Each stamp follows in about three pages, including **eleven largest multiples or multiple frankings**. Shade varieties, plate flaws, overseas usages, and mixed-frankings follow. One of only two recorded **Halle Postal Forgery of 2 Sgr. on Cover** is shown in P.95. Strip of three **1861 3 Sgr. proof used in 1864** to check the ability of cancellation ink is shown in P.97.

1868 HIGH-VALUE [P.105-112] consists of two stamps printed on very thin papers. The first leaf shows colof proofs, followed by two denomination stamps in one row per each, including multiples and multiple frankings. **Plate number strip of 30 Sgr., the largest multiple of 30 Sgr. on cover front, combination franking of both two high values with Schleswig=Holstein** are one of the materials in focus, with the other multiples and covers.

1867 ISSUE [P.113-128] consists of five stamps, which were issued in Kreuzer currency for the pre-Thurn&Taxis area. These five stamps were **only valid for half a year** between July 1st and Dec.31st of 1867. The first row shows the highlight, including multiples of black proofs, the first day usages, **the largest strips of four denomination stamps**, and unusual **Kr.-Sgr. Mixed frankings**. Each denomination stamps start from the second row, including **eight largest materials** such as largest multiples, largest multiple frankings. The largest multiples of unusual shade of 6 Kr. *hellpreußlichbau* and 9 Kr. *ockerbraun* are also contained respectively. Nine covers going abroad beyond DOPV are also contained, including to **the US, Russia** and etc.

Literature and Rarity Statement

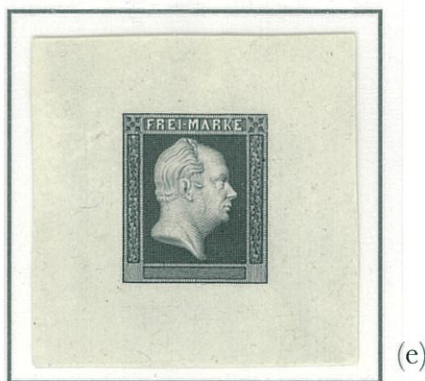
The ground of rarity statment in this exhibit is *HANDBUCH der preußischen Freimarken* (Friedhelm Stautz, 1996)
The Exhibitor's own reseach article is *Kingdom of PRUSSIA, The First Issue* (*Stampedia Philatelic Journal*, 2022)

Chapter.1 The First Issue

By a decree of December 12th, 1849, the Prussian post was authorized to issue their own stamps.

Steel Engraved Essay

In spring of 1850, an essay was printed in a similar design as the issued stamp. It shows the inscription FREI-MARKE in the top panel and no value in the lower panel.

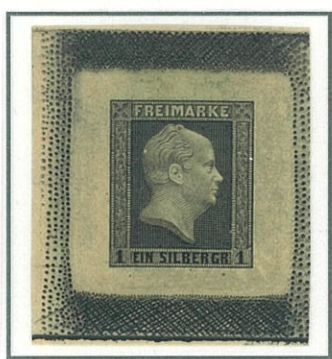


(e)
Black on thick white card-board paper

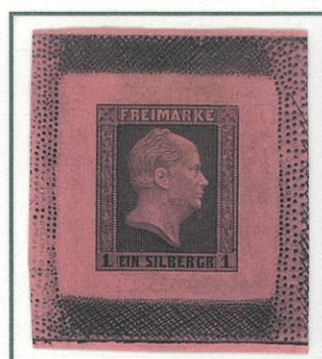
Steel Engraved Colour Die Proofs with Ornament

The Die Proofs were produced to test the colors of the first issue in summer of 1850.

Only One Complete Set of Five Colors Exist



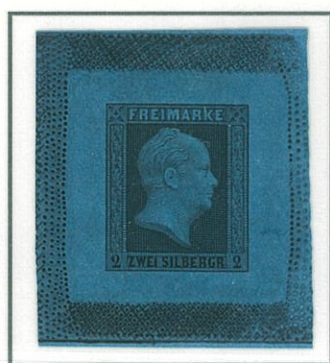
1 Sgr. black on white paper
ex- Erivan Haub



(e)
1 Sgr. black on lilac rose paper
ex- Alfred Schmidt



1/2 Sgr. orange on white paper



2 Sgr. black on blue paper



3 Sgr. black on yellow paper
ex- Erivan Haub

By a decree of December 12th, 1849, the Prussian post was authorized to issue their own stamps.

Plate Proofs

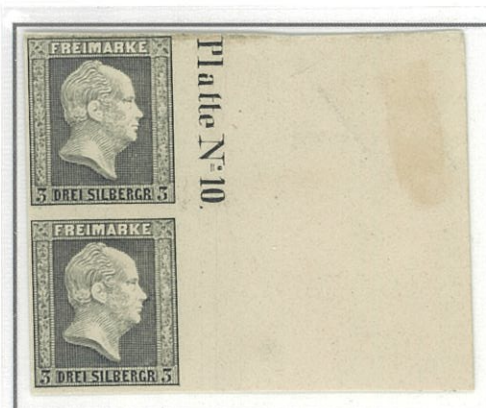
The Master Die was transferred to a steel roller, which was transferred to the printing plate 150 times by the Roll Transfer Press.

Plate proof was printed on thick white card-board paper using the printing plate No.10 of the 3 Sgr. in the summer of 1850

Pos.80/90

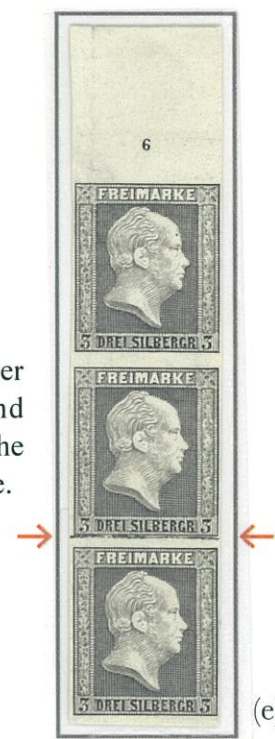
The plate number was inscribed on the right margin of the pos.80.

ex- Erivan Haub



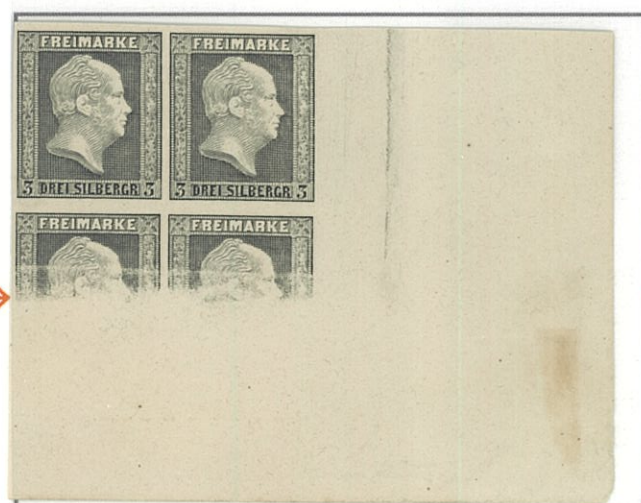
pos.6/26

A horizontal line at the lower outer frame of the second row was removed before the production of the first issue.



A block of 20, row 10 to 15

ex- Alfred Schmidt



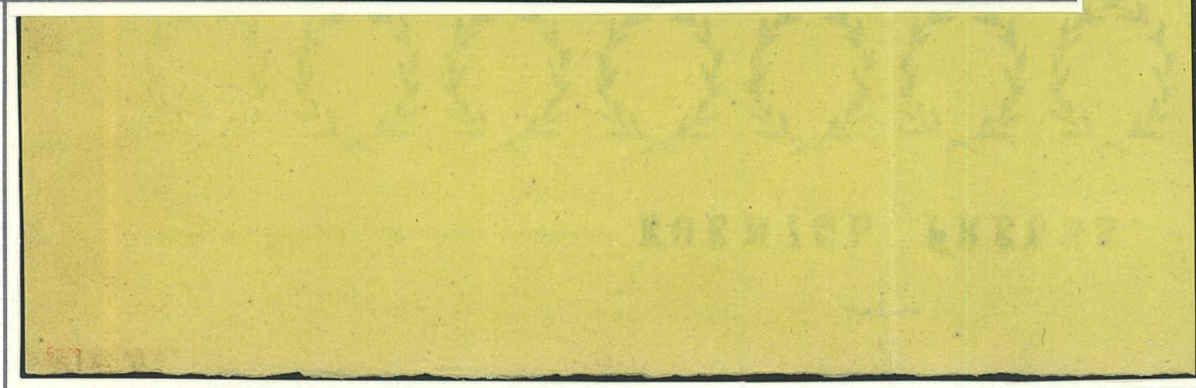
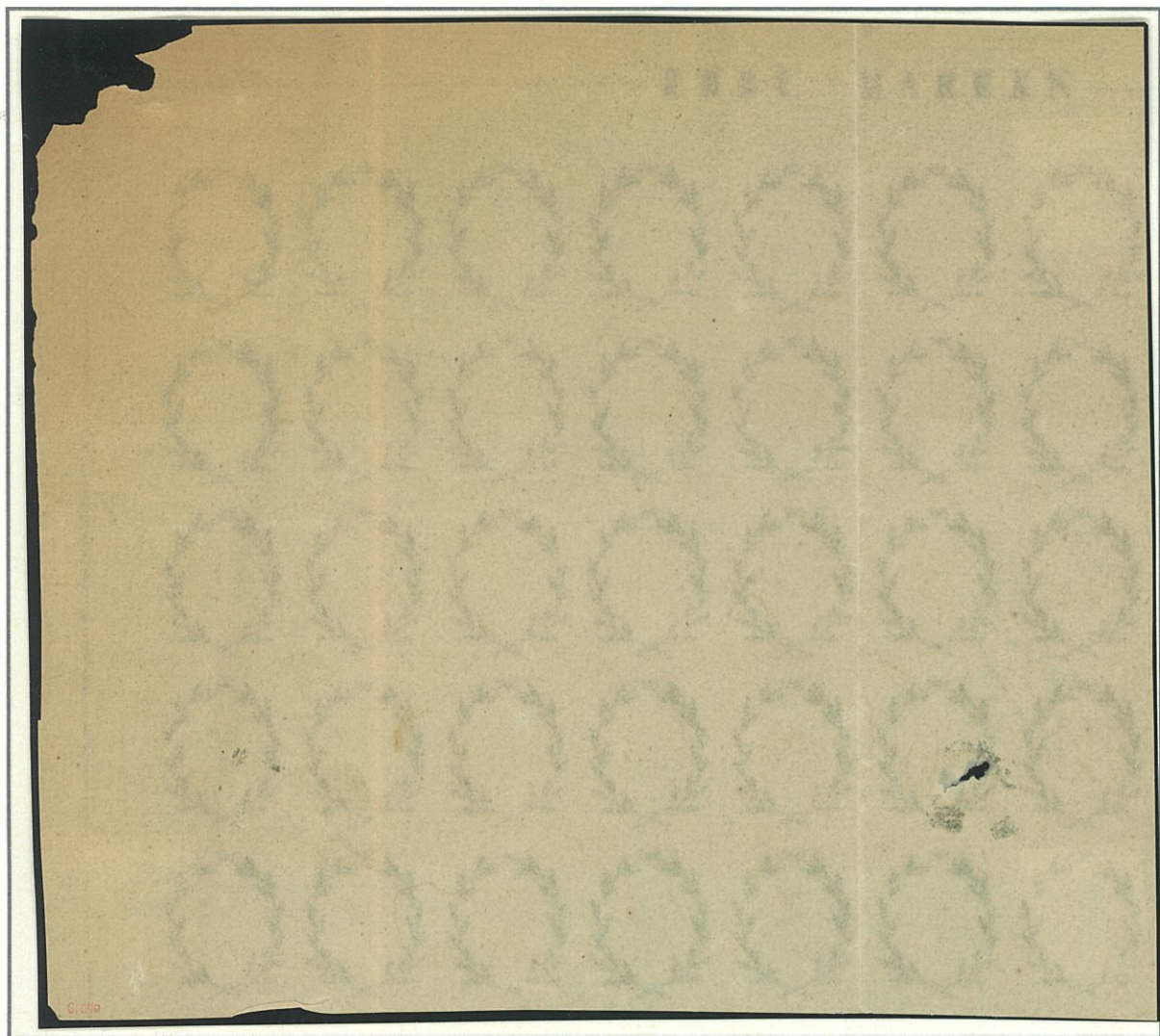
Pos.139/150

The 15th row was partially printed for the plate proof

All the denomination stamps more than 1 Sgr. were printed on colored papers with Laurel watermarks

Blocks of 35 of the Original Papers of $\frac{1}{2}$, 2 and 3 Sgr.

"KOENIGL. PREUSS." was shown on the sheet title as well as 35 Laurel wreaths for every stamp positions.



"KOENIGL. PREUSS." was also shown at the bottom of the sheets.

The first stamps of the Kingdom of Prussia were issued on November 15th, 1850.

The First Day Usage of 1 Sgr.



(e)

1 Sgr. tied by four ring cancellation "1001"
NEISSE to Breslau, 15 11 (1850), The first zone letter
Six First Day Covers of 1 Sgr. are recorded.

The First Day Usage of 2 Sgr.



(e)

2 Sgr. tied by four ring cancellation "535"
GREIFSWALD to Stettin, 15 11 (1850), The second zone letter
Three First Day Covers of 1 Sgr. are recorded.

It was usual to note the paid amount in red on the cover front only in the first few month.

No first day usage is recorded for ½ Sgr. stamp.

The four denomination values of the first Prussian stamp issue ½, 1, 2 and 3 Sgr. were sold from Nov. 15th, 1850 on. The first day usages of the three values of 1, 2 and 3 Sgr. are known, however, no first day usage of ½ Sgr. is known.

The Earliest Usage of ½ Sgr.



A horizontal pair of ½ Sgr. franked with a 2 Sgr. tied by four ring cancellation "106"
 Red manuscript 3 is shown near the stamps to show the postal rate, which is normal in the first year
 HAMBURGER BAHNHOF to Hamburg, 29 11 (1850), The third zone letter

This cover is also known as **Only One First Year Usage**

ex- Erivan Haub

No combination usages are known for German States before this cover.

1850 Combination Usage with French Stamps



(e)

Single franked with double French Ceres 25 Centimes blue, tied by four ring cancellation "816" with a single ring c.d.s., black handstamps P.D. twice and a French border crossing c.d.s. in red beside.

Lebach to France, 25 11 (1850)

At the time when this letter was posted, the postal contract between Prussia and France from 1847 was in force since January 1st 1848. which was settled long before the onset of stamps in both countries.

According to the conditions of the contract, there were two opportunities to send letters, unpaid or fully paid by cash, because the fees had to be split between Prussia and France.

It was also not allowed to send letters abroad prepaid only with Prussian stamps until the new postal contract came to force on September 1st 1852.

So to send a letter abroad and pay with stamps was only possible in this way according to the contract of 1847, which wanted to split fees between two countries. This letter was properly paid and definitely validated, which is evidenced by the "P.D.".

The letter is franked with stamps from the earliest time of postage stamps. The 25 Centimes blue stamp was issued on July 1st, 1850 in France, and the Prussian stamp was issued on November 15th 1850, which is merely 11 days before this letter was posted.

The reason the sender had a French stamp then was he was travelling in France several days ago, maybe in October or November. On the reverse incomplete French entry mark, the name of place is unreadable. The letter is addressed to the major ("Monsieur le Maire") of a French town ("de la ville d ..." name wiped out). The sender gives his thanks in French for raising a passport after he had lost his wallet with all his documents.

This must be the earliest explicitly accepted combination cover on the globe.
The famous combination covers of Canada and USA were used in summer 1851

Black ink was used to cancel stamps in principle, and the other colors are uncommon.

Red Cancellation of A Railways Travelling Post Office



3 Sgr. tied by **red** four ring cancellation "104" of travelling post office of the Berlin-Magdeburg-Minden Railway.
MAGDEBURG to Thorn nowadays in Poland, 11 26 (1850),
3 Sgr. correctly paid for the third zone letter

ex- Alfred Schmidt

Blue Cancellation of BREMEN



3 Sgr. tied by four ring cancellation "182" in blue with a framed rectangle date stamp in black beside
BREMEN to Grasslitz, 4 12 (1855), The third zone letter

(e)

The watermark shifted to the left at the leftend and to the right at the rightend as the width of ten wmk's are longer than ten stamp copies.

Watermark On Margin

Pos.145/146



with a part of the upside-down inscription of "KOENIGE PRUSSIA" which locates both at the upper and the lower center of a sheet.

(e)



Photo copy (80%)

Pos.1/6, a horizontal strip of six with UL margin
with a part of the upside-down inscription of "KOENIGE PRUSSIA"

The Largest Unused Strip Only One Recorded



Right marginal unused horizontal strip of nine
The watermark shifted to the left at the leftend and to the right at the rightend.

(e)



(e)

Pos.61/65 left marginal unused strip of five inscribed '7' on the margin
The watermark shifted to the left.



Unused with 29mm right margin

Plate numbers were printed at the right of the pos. 80 of sheets

Plate Number

14 plates were produced for four stamps of the first issue, and three plates of No.7, 8 & 11 were used for ½ Sgr. denomination stamp. The names of the plates are inscribed on the right margin of the pos.80.

Platte No.11



ex- Erivan Haub

(e)

1850 Original issue pl.59/80

Platte No.7



(e)

1850 Original issue

(e)



RECKLINGHAUSEN (1209)
ex- Boker

1873 Second Reprint pl.69/80

Platte No.8



(e)

PASEWALK 18 10
ex- Erivan Haub



(e)

DESSAU (315)
ex- Boker



pos.80

The width of a stamp plus margin is 19.3 mm, while the width of laurel wreath watermark and blank space is 19.6 mm. This difference caused shifted watermark.

Upper Marginal Block



(e)

Pos.8/19

Upper marginal block of four inscribed '8' & '9' on the margin

The watermark shifted to the right, which are common for the right-end stamps.

Left Marginal Block



(e)

Pos.51/62

Left marginal block of four inscribed '6' & '7' on the margin

The watermark was centered, which are uncommon for the left end stamps.

The Largest Vertical Strip



Pos.8/78

Vertical strip of eight with upper margin showing '8'

ex- Alfred Schmidt

Right Marginal Block



(e)

Block of nine with 2-3 mm margin at the right
The watermark shifted to the right as usual

ex- Boker



(e)

A block of six with right shifted watermarks



(e)

A block of four with left shifted watermarks

150 cliches were transferred to the printing plate one by one, which caused a shifted set vertically or horizontally.

Sheets of Prussian stamps are consist of 15 rows of 10 copies, 150 stamps in total.

Cliche was transferred 150 times to the printing plates at first when the first issue was produced. It was transferred very well, except 113rd transfer of $\frac{1}{2}$ Sgr. stamp in the plate.7 It was slightly shifted to the left (fig.1).

As a result of this, the interval between 112&113 is narrower, and that between 113 & 114 is wider than the other horizontal intervals of stamps.



fig.1 illustration of pos.111/114 of the pl.7 (100%)

Narrow & Normal Settings



Plate. No.7 pos.112/123

Wide & Normal Settings



Plate. No.7 pos.113/124

Wide Setting on Cover



A horizontal pair of the pl. No.7 pos.113/114 franked upside down and tied by four ring "455"
FÜRSTENBERG i.W. to Hamm-Paderborn, 5 20, 1 Sgr. the first zone letter

It could be used as even multiples to substitute 1, 2 & 3 Sgr. stamps,



Single Line Datestamp
SONSBECK 8 3



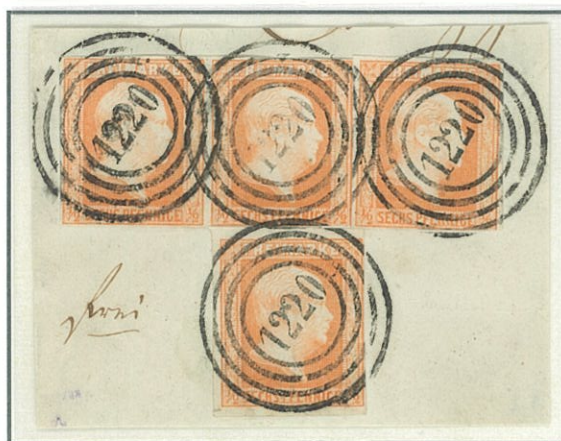
BERLIN (103)



STETTIN (1439)



Framed Datestamp
MÜCHELN Dec. 26th



REICHTHAL (1220)



SCHLOCHAU (1334)
Against the regulation
that each stamp must be
centrally struck one by one.

6 Pfg. Rate, Newspaper Wrapper



Tied by four ring cancellation "485" GEVELSBERG to Zittau, 12 9 (1854)
6 Pfg., correctly paid for printed matter between Sep. 1st, 1852 and Apr. 30th, 1856

New cancellation was introduced in 1859 after the stamps became printed on white paper.

Double Black Strokes, Fiscal Cancellation



Pos. 7/20, the upper right corner

Double black horizontal strokes in each row for fiscal cancellation



(e)

Double ring c.d.s. HAMBURG 11 7

4 Sgr. Rate, The First Zone Insinuations Document



Four vertical pairs cancelled by double ring cds

WARSTEIN to Lippstadt, 8 3 (1861)

4 Sgr. correctly paid for insinuations document, 1 for the first zone letter, and 3 for Post-Ins.-Doc. fee

Underpaid Third Zone Weight Letter



A horizontal strip of six, tied by four ring cancellation "105"

BERLIN BAHNPOST to Hornburg via train post, 26 1 (1852)

The sender franked only 3 Sgr. which was correct for the third zone letter of the first weight step, then blue manuscript 3 was written at Jüterbog as it was the second weight step to charge the short payment.

3 Sgr. Rate, Insinuations Document



A horizontal strip of five franked with a single stamp, tied by framed datestamp

PUTZIG to Putzig, 18 6 (1859)

3 Sgr. correctly paid for insinuations document letter, only paying for Post-Ins.-Doc. fee

ex- Erivan Haub

Cuts from stamped envelope could be used to prepay postal rates on letters as normal stamps.

Mixed Franking with Triple Color Stamped Envelope Cuts
Only One Such Combination Known

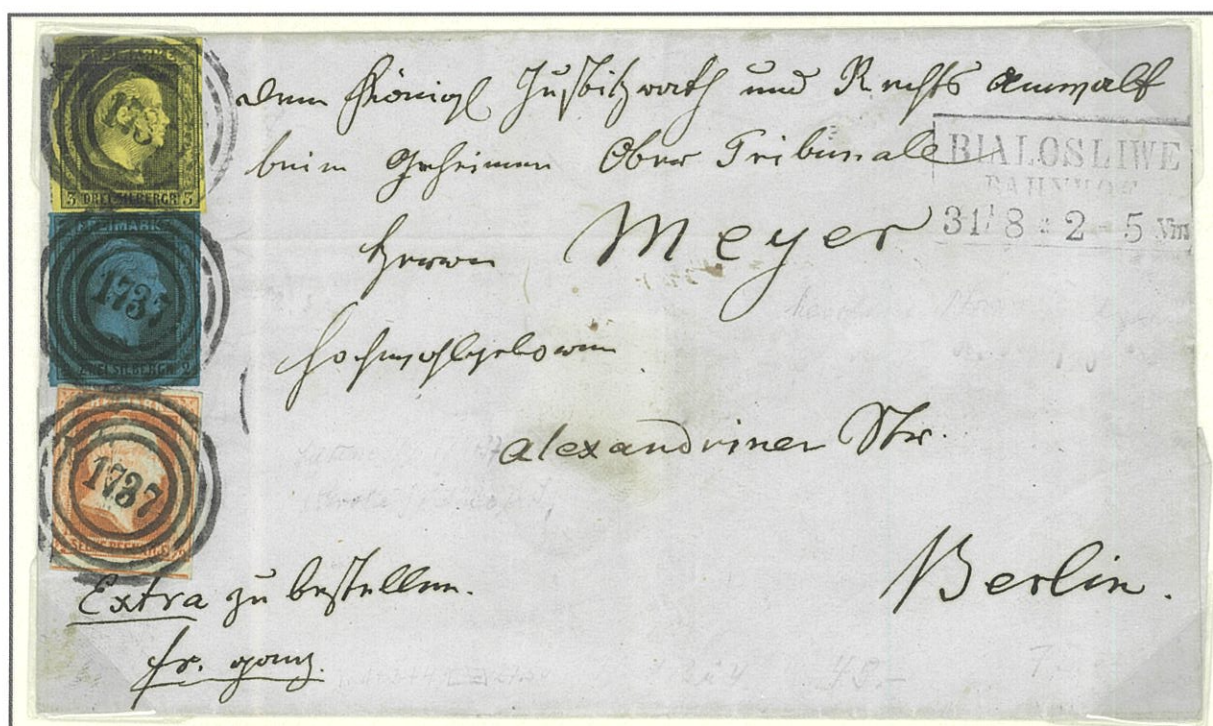


(e)

Mixed-franked with cuts of 5, 6 and 7 Sgr. stamped envelope tied by four ring cancellation "1722" and rectangle framed datestamp with a single ring c.d.s. beside ZÜLLICHAU (nowadays Sulechów in Poland) to Berlin (22 miles) 3 11

18½ Sgr. = 12 ½ (=150 Pfg.= 1½ Pfg. x 5 x 20) for parcel accompanied letter of the weight of 20 pound and 6 for insurance fee

5 ½ Sgr. Rate, Express Letter



(e)

Franked with 2 and 3 Sgr. and tied by four ring cancellation "1737"

BIALOSLIWE BAHNHOF to Berlin, 31 8

5½ Sgr. correctly paid for third zone express letter, including 2½ for express fee.