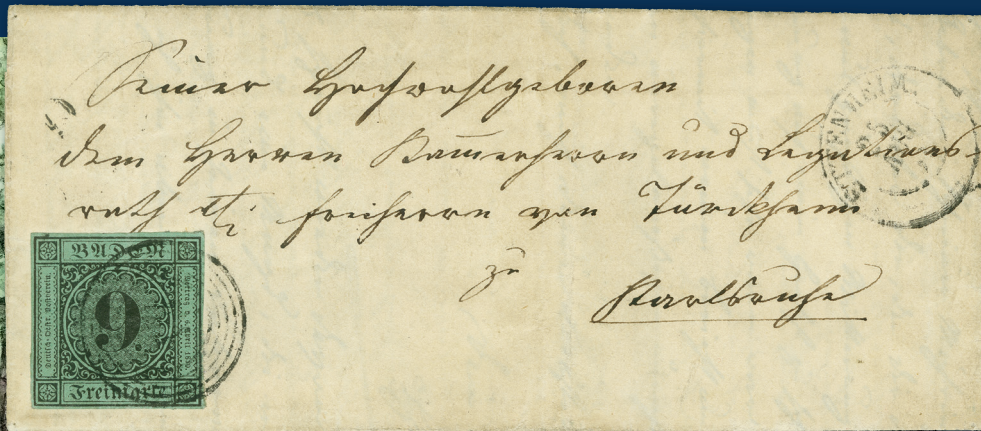


PRINTED MATTERS

THE PHILATELIC MAGAZINE



175 YEARS OF STAMPS OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF BADEN

PORTRAITS OF PERSONALITIES JOSEPH HACKMEY – THE WORLD'S MOST SIGNIFICANT EXHIBITOR

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND THE DRAGON AWAKENS – 155 YEARS OF POSTAGE STAMPS OF JAPAN

EXCLUSIV THE ULTIMATE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE – 125 YEARS OF THE VINETA PROVISIONAL



HEINRICH KÖHLER

Germany's Oldest Stamp Auction House

Dear Readers,

With this 01/2026 issue, we are pleased to present the eleventh edition of MARKENZEICHEN—a small but notable milestone, and a fitting opportunity to reflect on the history of our house. Philatelic publications have long been part of the tradition at Heinrich Köhler. The company’s founder, Heinrich Köhler himself, published Köhler’s Philatelic Magazine from December 1925 to January 1936. Over the course of eleven years, eleven issues appeared, serving as a journalistic companion to the philately of that era.

It is therefore a pleasing coincidence that you now hold the eleventh issue of our current magazine. The comparison, however, also highlights how much has changed. While Heinrich Köhler’s publication unfolded over more than a decade, the first issue of MARKENZEICHEN appeared only in spring 2021—just five years ago.

This difference reflects the pace at which the world of philately and auctions has evolved. In Heinrich Köhler’s time, auctions typically comprised around 1,000 lots. Today, the average auction in Wiesbaden offers more than 7,500 lots. Philatelic auctions have become more international, more dynamic, and more accessible, with collectors from around the world able to participate via live online bidding.

This international scope is also reflected in the themes of the present issue. Our cover story marks the anniversary 175 Years of the Postage Stamps of the Grand Duchy of Baden, one of the most fascinating areas of classic philately and postal history. In our series “Portraits of Personalities”, we introduce the Israeli investor and leading philatelist Joseph Hackmey—widely regarded as the most accomplished exhibitor in the field.

Further historical perspectives are offered in our feature on 155 Years of the Postage Stamps of Japan and the remarkable Tejima Collection, while in “International Impressions” we explore the philatelic legacy of the American Civil War on its 165th anniversary. A notable chapter of German Empire philately is examined in our “Exclusive” feature marking 125 years of the Vineta Provisional. Finally, we present EDITION D’OR and EDITION SPÉCIALE, two exceptional book series dedicated to preserving the most important philatelic collections of our time for future generations.

We hope this issue provides you with both insight and enjoyment, and wish you every pleasure in reading it.



Yours sincerely,

Dieter Michelson and Tobias Huylmans
Managing Partners, Heinrich Köhler Auction House

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175 Years of Postage Stamps of the Grand Duchy of Baden

THE CROWN JEWEL OF GERMAN PHILATELY



On 8 June 2019, at the inaugural ERIVAN auction of Heinrich Köhler, the Baden 9 Kreuzer error of colour on cover realised €1.26 million, becoming the most valuable item in German philately.

When the classic collecting areas of the German States are presented in catalogues, Baden appears at the very beginning – simply by virtue of alphabetical order. Yet, from a philatelic perspective, this prominence is entirely justified. For the collector of classics, the area is manageable, with a total of only 28 stamps issued. At the same time, it opens up a vast field for research and discovery for the specialist. Furthermore, there are some of the most famous rarities of international philately, which make Baden one of the most fascinating collecting areas of classic postal history to this day. Among them is the crown jewel of German philately – the legendary Baden "9-Kreuzer blue-green" error of colour!

1 May 1851 marks an important moment in the postal history of the Grand Duchy of Baden. On this day 175 years ago, Baden postage stamps appeared at post office counters for the first time. The first issue comprised four definitives with denominations of 1, 3, 6, and 9 Kreuzer. These corresponded to the distance and weight tariffs for postal items valid at that time. In terms of design, the stamps were based on the first German postage stamps of the Kingdom of Bavaria of 1849. The motif consisted of a clear numerical representation of the respective value. This was supplemented by the inscriptions "Baden" and "Freimarke" (postage stamp). A further inscription makes it clear that the Grand Duchy did not only have representative aspects in mind with its first issue. To the left and right of the value numeral are the inscriptions "Deutsch-Oestr. Postverein" (German-Austrian Postal Union) and "Vertrag v. 6. April 1850" (Treaty of 6 April 1850). The German-Austrian Postal Union was established under the decisive leadership of Prussia and Austria, commenced its work on 1 July 1850, and regulated the postal co-operation of the member states. Baden

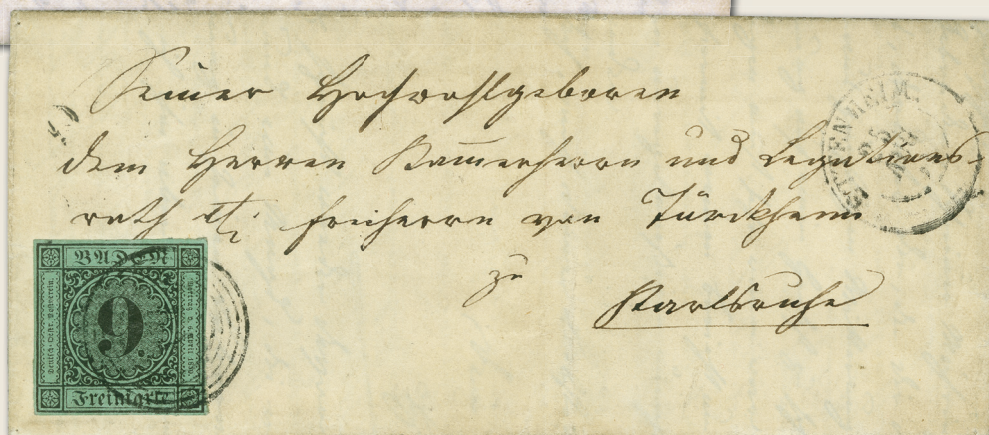
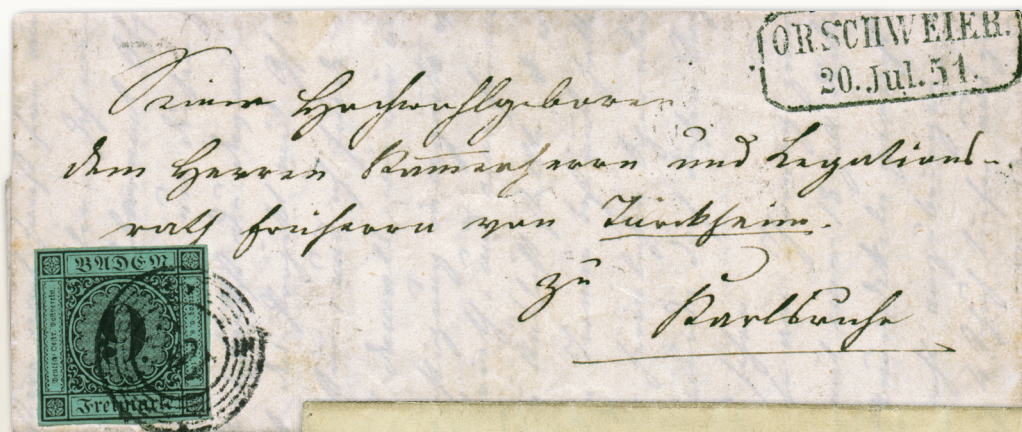
joined the union on 1 May 1851. States already affiliated included Bavaria, Saxony, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Schleswig-Holstein. The Postal Union brought significant simplifications to the postal system of the time, above all standardised fee regulations and more efficient accounting of postage. Although the introduction of postage stamps was not mandatory, it was explicitly recommended as a practical solution. "With the first Baden postage stamp issue, the Grand Duchy created not only a prepaid receipt for a transport service, but also a symbol of its proud integration into a modern postal system," explains Michael Hilbertz, Chief Philatelist at the Heinrich Köhler Auction House.

"... gone for 1.26 million euros"

Already the first issue of Baden produced a world rarity that remains one of the most spectacular pieces of German philately to this day. "Going, going, gone for 1.26 million euros!" was the call on 8 June 2019 at the first ERIVAN auction of the Heinrich Köhler Auction House. The item auctioned was the legendary "9-Kreuzer blue-green" error of colour on cover. Only three used

examples of this extraordinary piece are known today: two on cover and one on piece. The error of colour arose during production of the stamps. It seems the printing plate for the 9-Kreuzer stamp was accidentally used not with the intended pink-lilac paper, but the green paper of the 6-kreuzer stamp. As the stamps were subsequently used during normal postal traffic, the error initially went unnoticed and was only recognised towards the end of the 19th century. Both complete covers originate from the correspondence of Baron von Türkheim from Altdorf, between Ettenheim and Orschweier. Post offices existed in both locations and were used by the von Türkheim family. One of the covers bears the postmark "ETTENHEIM 25. Aug. 51", the other "ORSCHWEIER 20. Jul. 51". "The latter is now in the collection of the Museum Foundation for Post and Telecommunications and is one of the outstanding pieces in the Philatelic Archive at the Museum of Communication in Berlin," reports Michael Hilbertz. The example from Ettenheim achieved the top price at the 2019 ERIVAN auction and has since been considered the most valuable piece of German philately. The third

known example is on piece and bears the "2" numeral cancel of Achern (see also "Portraits of Personalities", pages 8 to 11).



Discovered more than 40 years after use, the famous Baden 9 Kreuzer blue-green error of colour on cover. The example in the Museum Foundation for Post and Telecommunications bears the "ORSCHWEIER 20 JUL 51" postmark; the privately held cover sold by Heinrich Köhler is cancelled "ETTENHEIM 25 AUG 51".

A remarkable first day cover bearing the 1 Kreuzer and 9 Kreuzer values of the first issue. Offered at the seventh ERIVAN auction (March 2022), it realised €210,000 against a starting price of €25,000.



A true paradise for specialists

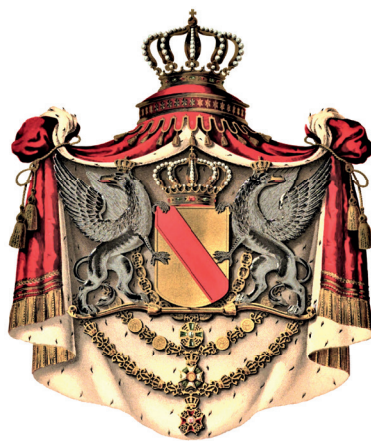
Various types of postmarks already existed at the time of the introduction of Baden postage stamps. These included single and two-line town marks, framed postmarks in various forms, as well as double-circle postmarks. "With the introduction of the adhesives, however, a new type of cancel was created exclusively for the cancellation of stamps: the so-called ring numeral cancel," says Michael Hilbertz. In its centre is a number that was assigned to the respective post office in the Duchy of Baden. These numbers were assigned alphabetically. Although Baden only issued 28 different postage stamps

in total – from 1860 featuring the Baden coat of arms – the cancellations alone offer a vast field of research. Initially, 163 postal stations existed. Over time, some offices were closed and their numbers reassigned to other locations, while new post offices were added. By the end of the Baden post in 1871, the number of ring numeral cancels used had grown to a total of 177. "Baden in particular shows that a small collecting area can have enormous depth," says Hilbertz. Anyone who studies intensively postmarks, paper types, and printing varieties will quickly find a large and exciting field of research." Baden offers a true paradise for specialists.

The 1851 9 Kreuzer black on lilac-pink in a unique vertical block of eight on piece, combined with an adjacent 6 Kreuzer value— one of the most spectacular multiples of Baden philately. Sold for €105,000 at the tenth ERIVAN auction (September 2023).



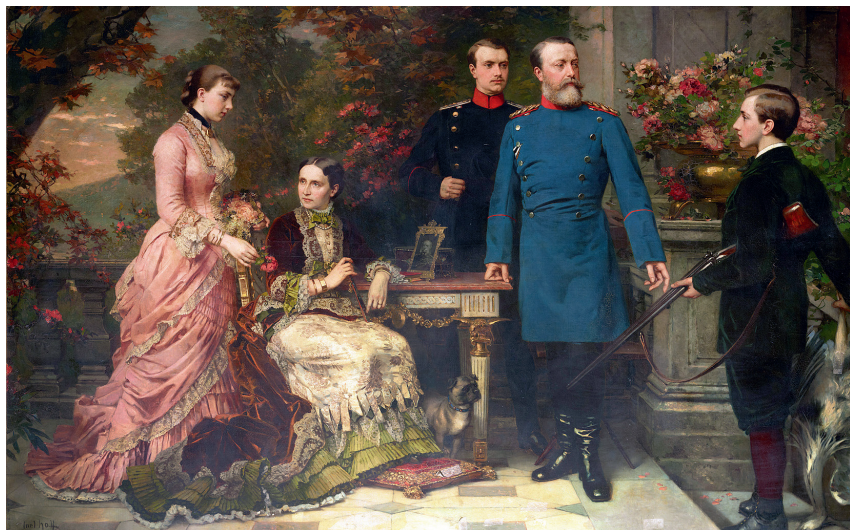
The first Baden postage stamps were issued in 1851 during the reign of Grand Duke Friedrich I (1826–1907).



The coat of arms of the Grand Duchy of Baden (1830–1877).

Attractive mixed frankings, rare postal routes, and foreign destinations

Another fascinating aspect lies in mixed frankings, rare postal routes, and rare destinations. All Baden stamp issues remained valid until the transfer of the postal sovereignty to the Imperial German Post at the end of 1871. This makes combinations of very early and late stamps possible – for example, a franking of the first Baden stamp with number 25 of the last regular issue, or even together with a rural post postage due stamp. Apropos "rural post": these special postage due stamps were used from 1862 to calculate the additional delivery fee for mail to rural areas which was charged to the recipient. These were not sold to the public but served exclusively for internal use. Among these stamps is another internationally known rarity. The 12-kreuzer high denomination rural post stamp is particularly rare. Great rarities are official bisects of this issue. The well-known German States expert Ewald Müller-Mark writes in his standard work "Altdeutschland unter der Lupe" ("German States under the Magnifying Glass") that only a few official bisects of the 12-kreuzer rural post stamp are known. They are among the greatest rarities of this area.

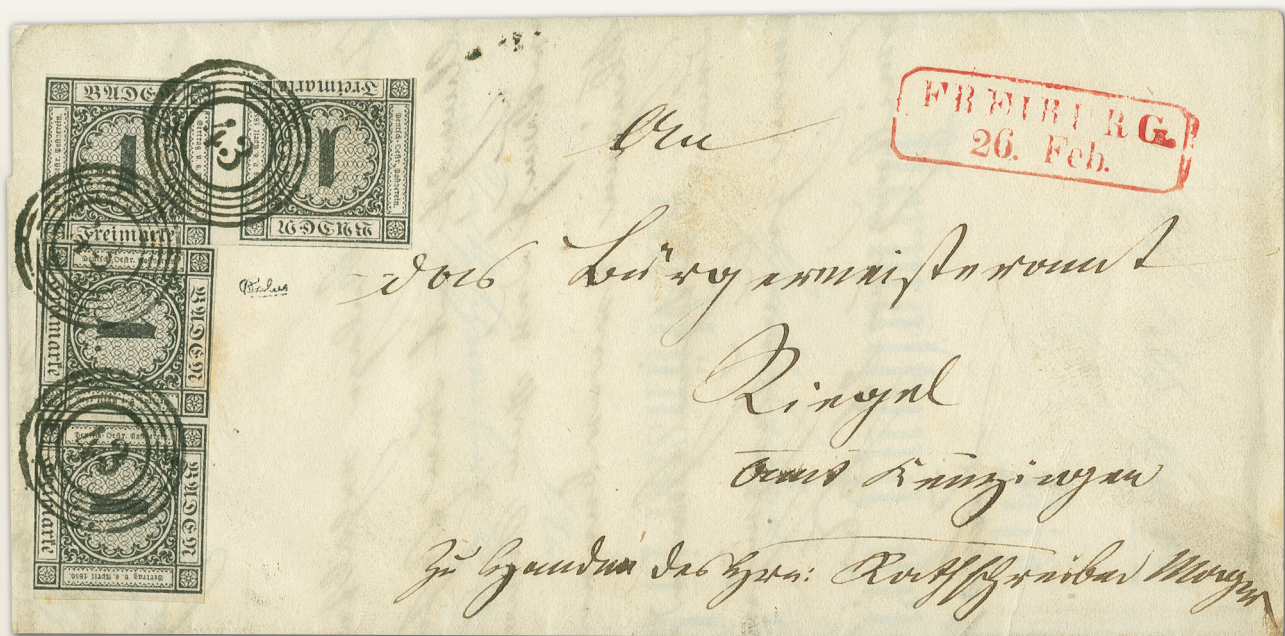


Grand Duke Friedrich I of Baden with his family (c.1880).

The Stockach Provisional on cover – as valuable as a detached house

A collection "Grand Duchy of Baden" does not, however, necessarily have to begin with large financial investments. The least expensive cancelled Baden stamp is catalogue number 18, whose current catalogue value is a few euros. Unless, that is, the stamp is imperforate. In this case one has another rarity – the so-called Stockach Provisional. Sold in small quantities at the post office counter in the town of

Stockach, the catalogue prices of this gem are, depending on condition, in the region of a mid-range car, and on cover even the value of a detached house! For the stamp is known in only 21 examples; on cover, it is even unique according to current knowledge! The standard German states reference book Müller-Mark states: "There is no point in trying to make a Stockach stamp oneself simply by cutting off the perforation. The stamp would become too small, and an imperforate one is only ever recognised



The celebrated "King Carol" cover, bearing a horizontal tête-bêche pair of the 1 Kreuzer black on white (1853 issue), realised €320,000 at the fourth ERIVAN auction (September 2020). Only two additional pairs on piece are recorded.

The unique cover bearing the Stockach Provisional is among the great rarities of German States philately. It realised €300,000 at the third ERIVAN auction (June 2020).



as 'cut' if it does not fit the perforated one." Supplementing this, Michael Hilbertz adds: "Of catalogue number 18, the red 3-kreuzer perforated, an unknown number of accidentally imperforate examples reached the post office counter in Stockach. The few examples registered so far show postmark dates between 24 December 1868 and 22 January 1869."

Unsolved questions and captivating fields of research

The collecting area "Grand Duchy of Baden" is one of the most exciting areas of classic philately. Despite the manageable number of postage stamp issues, it opens up a remarkable diversity: fine printing varieties, interesting shade varieties, and a postal history full of fascinating detail. Every stamp

and every cover can provide new insights into the postal reality of the south-west German state of the 19th century. It is precisely this combination of clarity and depth that constitutes the special charm of the area. Michael Hilbertz puts it this way: "Baden is one of those classic collecting areas where new findings are still possible even after 175 years. For collectors with an inquiring mind, there is always something to discover here." Anyone who engages more deeply with this area will quickly realise: Baden is not just a traditional chapter of German States philately, but also a collecting area full of the joy of discovery – ideal for collectors who enjoy historical detective work, precise analysis, and tracking down previously overlooked anomalies.

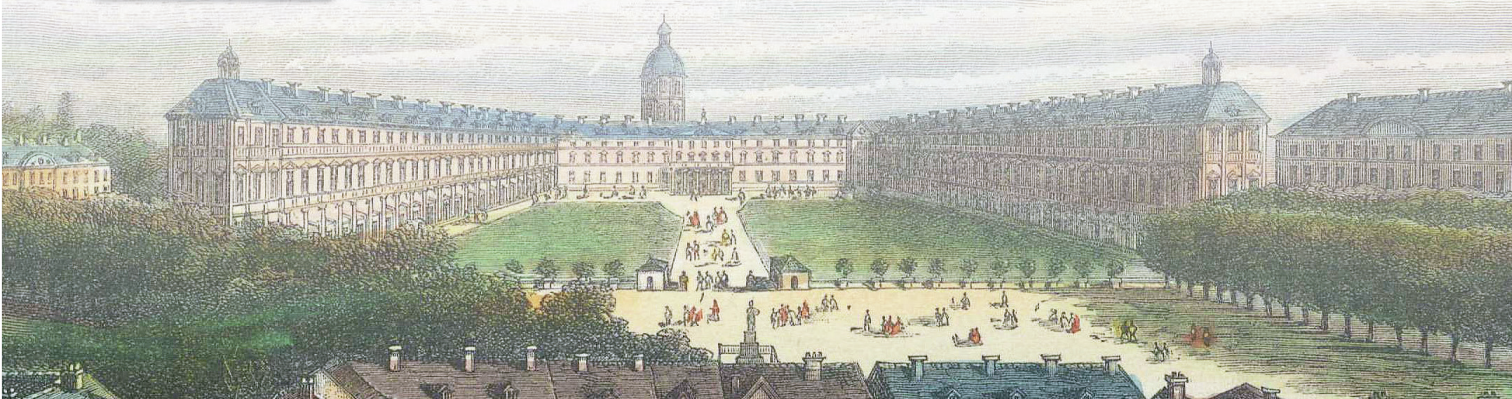


Members of the Grand Ducal Baden Gendarmerie Corps (lithograph, 1835).



Left: Exceptionally wide-margined example of the Stockach Provisional with superb "STOCKACH 24 DEZ" double-circle cancel. Sold for €135,000 at the fifth ERIVAN auction (April 2021).

Below: Karlsruhe Palace, residence of the Margraves and Grand Dukes of Baden from 1715 to 1918.



Joseph Hackmey – a passionate collector, brilliant researcher, and living legend of philately

The Most Important Philatelic Exhibitor in the World



Joseph Hackmey is an exceptionally dedicated philatelist who approaches the hobby with impressive passion. His knowledge spans both the fascinating breadth of collecting areas and the intricate details of postal history, which he explores with great expertise.

There are collectors, and there are personalities who shape an era. Joseph Hackmey is one of them—and even within this highly respected group he is an exceptional and impressive figure. His exhibits are the most successful in the history of international exhibitions, awarded more Large Gold and Grand Prix medals than those of any other exhibitor. And this applies not only today, but across the long history of philately! Yet his significance extends far beyond medals and awards. Joseph Hackmey is one of the very few philatelists who have already become a legend of philately and postal history during their lifetime. His collections, his research, and his philosophy of collecting inspire numerous experienced philatelists worldwide.

Joseph Hackmey was born on January 2, 1945, in Tel Aviv. His family has lived in Israel for five generations, and this deep connection to history and tradition shaped him from an early age. Perhaps it also explains his particular sensitivity to historical contexts—a sense that later became a central element of his collecting. As with many great collectors, it all began quite modestly. As a child, Joseph Hackmey looked at the stamps on envelopes that his father brought home from the office. But he soon realized that these small pieces of paper were far more than decorative illustrations. “From the very beginning I was fascinated by the fact that every stamp tells a story,” recalls the successful entrepreneur. “You hold a small piece of paper in your hand and suddenly a window to the world opens.” From this childhood

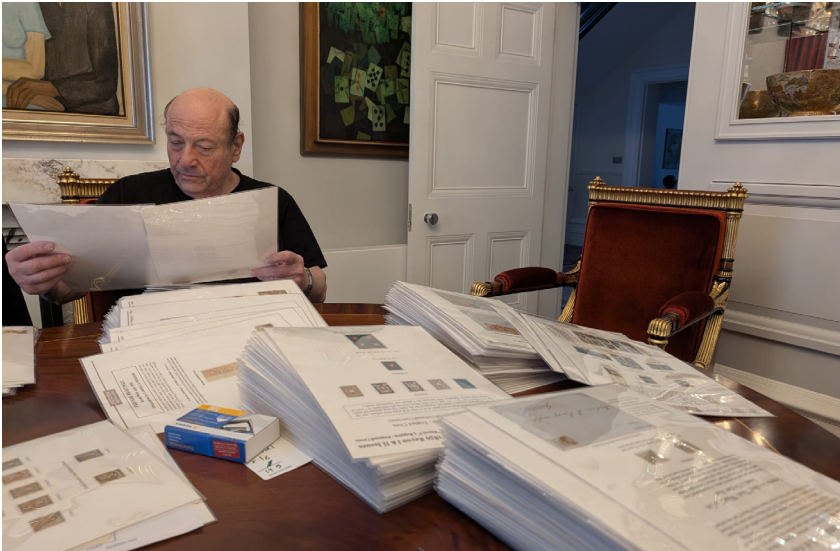
curiosity developed a passion that would accompany him throughout his life. He strives for nothing less than philatelic perfection.

An Adventurous Exploration of History You Can Hold in Your Hands

Early on, it became clear that Joseph Hackmey would be a collector of exceptional curiosity and high standards. While many of his contemporaries assembled traditional country collections, he was fascinated above all by the revealing context behind stamps and covers. For Joseph Hackmey, philately is far more than collecting rare items—it is an adventurous exploration of history you can hold in your hands, a search for traces in which every object can open a new chapter of the past. With great ambition—in the best sense of a curious



The rarest and most valuable German stamp — the legendary Baden misprint “9-Kreuzer blue-green” on piece of cover bearing the number “2” from the Achern post office. And yet it is just one of the many world-class philatelic treasures from Joseph Hackmey’s magnificent “Grand Duchy of Baden” collection.



A living legend of philately at work: Joseph Hackmey is preparing his outstanding collections for presentation in "JOSEPH HACKMEY – THE WHITE LINE SERIES" (EDITION D'OR, Volumes 81 through 84; see also "Recommended Reading," pages 21 through 23) and is happy to include personal dedications in the printed works.

researcher—Joseph Hackmey looks for connections that no one has seen before. He is driven by the desire to decipher hidden history and stories and to make historical connections visible. "A cover or a stamp only becomes truly meaningful when you understand its story," explains the former owner of the Phoenix Assurance Company, one of Israel's most successful insurance companies. "Where was the postal item mailed? What route did it take? And regarding the stamps themselves: what political or economic conditions determined their creation?" For him, these questions transform a small item of paper into a fascinating historical document.

This way of thinking also shapes his extraordinary collections. Joseph Hackmey assembles the rarities of philately and postal history like parts of a complex puzzle. In doing so, he succeeds in making entire postal systems and historical developments visible. His collections tell stories—of trade routes and political changes, of technological innovations and cultural connections between continents. His most important collecting areas include Persia, the Holy Land and Ottoman postal history, France, Mexico, and classical Switzerland, the Grand Duchy of Baden, as well as the classical issues of Victoria in the Australian states. In addition, he holds significant collections of Barbados, Grenada, and the United States. Each

of these collections ranks among the most outstanding of its kind. Would you like to learn more? We recommend volumes 81 to 84 of the renowned book series EDITION D'OR, which document some

of Joseph Hackmey's groundbreaking collections—namely Victoria, the Grand Duchy of Baden, Switzerland, and Mexico (see also "Recommended Reading," pages 18/19).



Je zwei Exemplare der 9 Kreuzer rotbraun und der 9 Kreuzer gelbbraun in Mischfrankatur mit der 30 Kreuzer gelborange und der 6 Kreuzer preußischblau Wappen weißer Grund auf einem 3 Kreuzer Ganzsachenumschlag (dritte Ausgabe) aus 1864 von Karlsruhe.

Ab Marseille über das Mittelmeer nach Alexandria, danach per „Overland Mail“ nach Suez. Ab Suez wieder mit Dampfschiffen der „Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company“ (P & O) über das Rote Meer und den Indischen Ozean nach Singapur. Dort Übergabe an die Post von Niederländisch Indien zur Weiterbeförderung mit der „Cores De Vries“ Reederei nach Batavia. Taxierung der Ganzsache mit **drei verschiedenen Gewichtstufen** (Gewicht zwischen 15,1 und 15,6 g): 3 Kreuzer Baden + 3 x 24 Kreuzer für Frankreich inkl. Seegebühr = 75 Kreuzer als Teilfranko bis Singapur. Der Empfänger bezahlte 2 x 25 = „50“ Cents.

Einzigartige Frankaturkombination – der beste „Asienbrief“.

"The finest Asian cover," notes a renowned expert on the "Grand Duchy of Baden" collecting area on this page of his exhibit. The descriptive text accompanying this fantastic overseas cover highlights Joseph Hackmey's exceptional expertise.



No other philatelic exhibitor has won as many Grand Gold and Grand Prix medals for his collections as Joseph Hackmey — here at HELVETIA 2022, when his exhibit “Switzerland 1843–1854” was awarded the National Grand Prix.



Joseph Hackmey enthusiastically carries on his family’s long tradition of generously supporting charitable causes and the common good. His family’s dedication has been recognized many times over the generations — even receiving royal recognition.

“It hardly gets more exciting than this.”

Among the most spectacular items in Hackmey’s possession is an item that occupies an outstanding position even among the world’s great rarities: the Baden error “9 Kreuzer blue-green” (see also “Cover Story,” pages 3–6). This legendary misprint is one of the most famous and rare classical stamps in the world. The fact that Joseph Hackmey owns the only known cover bearing this stamp is not only a philatelic event—it also underscores the extraordinary quality of his collections. Yet for Joseph Hackmey,

rarity alone is not the main focus. “A great rarity only becomes truly significant when you place it in its historical context and understand its individual importance,” he says. “Only then does a rare item become a key to the past.” This attitude is reflected in one of his statements that has since become one of the most frequently quoted ideas in modern philately: “Unlike in art, the value in philately lies not in the collection, but in the collecting.” What the equally dedicated and significant art collector means by this is described with remarkable clarity: for him, a philatelic collection

is never complete. While in art the individual masterpiece often stands at the center, philately—according to Joseph Hackmey’s conviction—lives from the interaction of individual items and the continuous expansion of understanding of this interplay. “Every new discovery can cast an entire field in a new light,” says the enthusiastic music lover and committed investor. “It hardly gets more exciting than this. Philately gives so much: knowledge, encounters with fascinating people, and again and again the joy of uncovering hidden history.”



For Joseph Hackmey, interacting with other dedicated philatelists is one of the central aspects of philately. To this end, he not only attends philatelic fairs and exhibitions around the world, but also regularly participates in meetings of prominent collectors’ associations, of which he has been a member for many years. Among other things, he is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society in London (photo) as well as a member of the Collectors Club of New York and the Club de Monte-Carlo. Not to be overlooked: in 1999, he received one of philately’s highest honors—an invitation to sign the venerable Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

“The motto is: become smarter and better together.”

And this makes clear how Joseph Hackmey became the most important philatelic exhibitor of our time—and even of past eras. His exhibits are considered worldwide

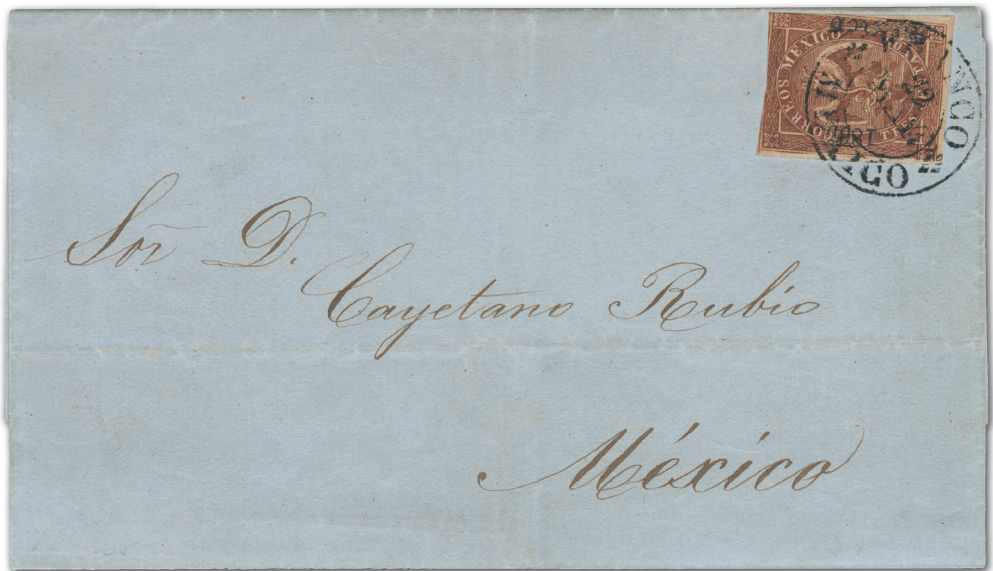
the benchmark for scholarly depth, presentation, and philatelic importance. They have repeatedly been honored with the highest awards at international exhibitions. No other collector has won a comparable number of Large Gold and Grand Prix medals. Yet for Joseph Hackmey, exhibitions are far more than competitions. They are above all a platform for exchanging knowledge. “A medal is of course a wonderful recognition,” he says with a smile. “But the real purpose of an exhibition is to share expertise and experience. The motto is: become smarter and better together.”

The committed investor knows very well that philately has changed over the past decades: the market has become more international, research results spread faster, and the requirements for exhibition exhibits have risen significantly. “Philately reflects political and social contexts,” says Joseph Hackmey. “It is an investment—but not in material assets, rather in oneself.” For this very reason, he especially wants to inspire young people to take an interest in philately. “You just have to start,” he says. “Often a single stamp or a cover is enough to begin an exciting, unique journey—and the best thing about it is: it never ends.” With this philosophy, Joseph Hackmey has not only built extraordinary collections. Like hardly anyone else, he has demonstrated that philately is far more than a hobby—it is a life-long journey of discovery through history, stories, knowledge, and cultural connections. That is why he has long been more than just an institution—he is a living legend of philately and postal history.



This unique, unused block of 16 three-pence stamps from the first issue by the Austrian state of Victoria is a top-tier treasure in the philatelic Champions League. It is fitting that this item graces the title of EDITION D’OR, Volume 81: “THE WHITE LINE SERIES JOSEPH HACKMEY: VICTORIA HALF-LENGTHS 1850–1859.”

A gem of Mexican philately: The “Tres Centavos Brown” from the 1865 Eagle issue is one of the rarest stamps in Mexico’s philatelic classics. Fewer than 100 copies have survived to this day. Only two known examples have been found on letters, and only one of these letters bears a postmark canceled in accordance with regulations. And where else would one find it but in Joseph Hackmey’s outstanding collection “Mexico 1856–1868”?



Separated and reunited in Joseph Hackmey’s “Classic Switzerland” collection—a pair and a strip of three of the iconic 4-rappen stamp from the second issue of the Canton of Zurich in 1846. The stamps feature the five different types of this rare and sought-after postage item. The only unused strip of five, which also documents all five types, can be admired as part of the famous Tapling Collection at the British Library in London.

155 Years of Postage Stamps of Japan – the unique Tejima Collection

The Dragon Awakens

When we think of Japan today, we associate the country with technological innovation, economic strength, and a culture of remarkable depth and continuity. Yet Japan's path into the modern age began at a moment of profound global change. One of the clearest symbols of that transformation is the introduction of the country's first postage stamps in 1871: the legendary Dragon stamps. They mark the beginning of a modern communications system in a nation that had only recently opened itself to the world. Few collections document this formative period as impressively as the Tejima Collection, the most important holding of Japan's first stamp issue in private hands. It is to be offered in two parts by H. R. Harmer in New York, Heinrich Köhler's partner company within the Global Philatelic Network. The collection provides an exceptional insight into the earliest decades of Japanese philately and postal history.

"The dragon rises to the sky" from the mists near Mount Fuji, Japan's most iconic landmark. This celebrated image by the Japanese woodblock artist and painter Ogata Gekkō (1859–1920) symbolises divine power, strength, and good fortune.

The introduction of the beautifully engraved Dragon stamps came at a time of sweeping reform. After centuries of relative isolation, Japan began during the Meiji period (1868–1912) to modernise its state structures along Western lines. An efficient communications network was central to this transformation. Railways, telegraphs, and steamships were intended to draw the country more closely together—and the same was true of the new postal system.

The decisive impetus came from Maejima Hisoka (1835–1919), regarded as the founder of the modern Japanese postal service. As early as 1870, he presented a visionary plan for a uniform nationwide system. Its implementation followed with remarkable speed. The new postal organisation commenced operations on 20 April 1871, and to ensure a smooth transition, the first stamps were already placed on sale

in Tokyo a week earlier. They depict a stylised dragon, printed in elaborate intaglio.

"The Dragon stamps are hand-engraved masterpieces and powerful symbols of Japan's entry into the modern age," says Dieter Michelson, Managing Partner of the Heinrich Köhler Auction House. "With them began a state-organised postal system that, within only a few years, connected the population of one of the world's great island nations."

Prepaid postage and the creation of uniform rates

Before this reform, mail in Japan was carried by private courier services. The so-called hikkyaku messengers travelled along the country's principal highways, transporting communications for the shogunate, regional rulers, and wealthy merchants. For

the general public, however, this system was largely inaccessible. Only with the establishment of state post offices did a genuinely public postal network emerge.

"With the introduction of postage stamps, Japan adopted the then-groundbreaking concept of prepaid postage," explains Dieter Michelson. "Equally important was the simultaneous introduction of clear and uniform postal rates."

The first Japanese stamps were issued in denominations of 48, 100, 200, and 500 Mon. Their face values reflected the early tariff structure, which was based on the distance and weight of the item carried. The 100 Mon stamp was the most commonly used, serving as the standard rate for an ordinary letter over a short distance. The higher denominations paid for longer distances or heavier mail, while the



This cover from Minakuchi, franked with a 100 Mon stamp from the first plate and dated 23 April 1871, was carried only three days after the opening of Japan's new postal network—one of the great rarities of classic Japanese philately.

48 Mon value had a more specialised function as a supplementary weight-rate stamp.

A record of the birth of a modern communications network

The new postal network expanded with extraordinary speed. The earliest routes followed the historic Tōkaidō Road between Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto, and Osaka, the country's most important transport artery. Among the surviving postal items is a remarkable witness to these first days: a 100 Mon cover carried on only the third day after the route opened.

"This earliest known cover bearing the newly introduced Dragon stamps is a document of the birth of Japan's modern communications network," says Dieter Michelson. "The remarkable Tejima

Collection includes more than 200 covers franked with Dragon stamps, together with extensive plate reconstructions of Japan's first issue. It documents not only the diversity of the frankings, but also the astonishing speed with which the postal system spread across the country."

Indeed, the collection represents around 40 per cent of all recorded covers bearing Japan's first stamps outside institutional holdings. Covers from smaller towns, early post offices, and remote areas demonstrate just how rapidly the new network expanded beyond the major centres along the Tōkaidō.

The pace of growth was striking. When the system began in 1871, there were just 65 post offices. One year later, that number had quadrupled, and by the summer of 1872 nearly 1,000 post offices were in operation throughout the country. In little more than two years, Japan had created a nationwide communications network that reached far beyond the main urban centres into rural districts as well.

"In barely two years, postage stamps in Japan had become an everyday instrument of communication," says Dieter Michelson. "The Tejima Collection records this dramatic transformation, from the heavy 1,500 Mon long-distance covers of 1871 to the later standardised Sen system."

A distinctive philatelic character

The Dragon stamps are equally remarkable from the standpoint of production. They were printed from hand-engraved copper plates, which wore relatively quickly under the pressure of the press. As a result, numerous small changes developed in the printed design over time, until eventually second plates were introduced for each denomination.

These changing characteristics are of particular philatelic interest, as they allow



Tokugawa Yoshinobu (1837–1913), the 15th and last Shōgun of Japan. In 1867, he returned power to the Emperor, marking the beginning of the Meiji period (1868–1912).



Mutsuhito, the Meiji Emperor (1852–1912), became the 122nd Tennō and was only 15 years old when power was restored from the last Shōgun, Tokugawa Yoshinobu. Japan's first postage stamps were issued during his reign, in 1871.



The statesman Maejima Hisoka (1835–1919), founder of the modern Japanese postal system.

conclusions to be drawn both about a stamp's exact position within the sheet and about its period of printing.

"It is precisely this artisanal method of production that gives the Dragon stamps their special appeal," concludes Dieter Michelson. "Each printing phase has its own identifying characteristics—almost a philatelic DNA of its own."

As early as 1872, Japan began simplifying its tariff structure and converting to the new Sen currency. Soon afterwards, the first perforated stamps in the new denomination were issued. The Dragon stamps nevertheless remained valid and continued in postal use for many years, not finally losing their franking validity until 1889. In this way, they accompanied the crucial early decades of Japan's modern postal system.

The Tejima Collection documents this development with unusual coherence and exceptional quality. It brings together early covers from the beginnings of the organised post in Japan, rare frankings, and important postal-historical evidence of the expansion of the network across the country. In both depth and significance, it ranks among the major achievements of international philately. Its sale will therefore attract worldwide attention.



This cover from Ejiri to Numazu, posted on 7 May 1872, documents the early use of the new stamps in Shizuoka Prefecture.



Posted only two months after the first Japanese stamps were issued, this remarkable cover bears witness to early postal communications with the remote mountain regions of Japan. Franked with 100 Mon and 500 Mon values, it was sent on 5 June 1871 from Kanaya to Yokohama



The first part of the Tejima Collection will be offered on 1 June 2026 at H. R. Harmer in New York, with the second part to follow in November 2026. Further information and the auction catalogues may be requested directly from H. R. Harmer at info@hrharmer.com. For collectors of classic Asian philately, these sales are likely to be among the outstanding events of the year—and a rare opportunity to acquire material from the earliest chapter of Japanese postal history.



This photograph by the Italian photographer Felice Beato (1832–1909) shows a section of the Tōkaidō Road around 1865. It was the most important of the five great highways of the Edo period, linking Kyoto with Edo (modern Tokyo).

The “Confederate States” Collection of Rolf-Dieter Jaretzky – “Adventure philately” at its finest

165 Years of the American Civil War

The Third Battle of Winchester, fought on 19 September 1864, is regarded as one of the bloodiest and most significant engagements of the American Civil War. The Union emerged victorious.

One hundred and sixty-five years ago, one of the most devastating conflicts in American history began: the Civil War between the Northern and Southern states. Fought from 1861 to 1865, it claimed more than 600,000 lives. Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities, a separate postal administration was established for the Confederate States of America. Few wartime postal systems have produced so many great rarities in so short a period. Over several decades, the internationally renowned philatelist Rolf-Dieter Jaretzky assembled one of the most important collections in this fascinating field.

A conversation with Rolf-Dieter Jaretzky quickly makes one thing clear: here is a gentleman of the old school and one of the defining figures of philately. His outstanding collections, ranging from Afghanistan and Brunswick to Mexico and Romania, have earned him the highest awards, and as a juror he has long enjoyed international esteem. His “Confederate States” exhibit, itself a multiple Large Gold winner, was enhanced a few years ago by one of the great showpieces from the ERIVAN collection. With that acquisition, two of the most celebrated Confederate covers were reunited on a single album page for the first time

in 40 years: the famous Livingston covers. “The 5-cent Livingston is certainly the most beautiful of all the Postmasters’ Provisionals,” says Jaretzky. “Three stamps and six covers with single frankings are known. And then there is the unique cover bearing a pair. I had wanted that one for more than 45 years.”

The postal legacy of the American Civil War remains one of the most compelling areas in classic philately. Before turning to the great rarities of Confederate postal history, however, it is worth recalling the dramatic background to the conflict itself.

The conflict comes to a head

“The Civil War started in my front yard and ended in my parlour,” recalled Wilmer McLean, whose life became curiously bound up with both the beginning and the end of the conflict. During the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861, fighting erupted near his home and a shell landed in his yard, prompting him to flee. Four years later, Union officers in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, selected his house as the place where the surrender of the Confederate Army would be signed.



It was in the house of Wilmer McLean in Virginia that the surrender of the Confederate Army was formally signed.

April 1861 and Bull Run, and Lincoln's hopes of a quick victory quickly faded."

It was not until 1863 that the tide began to turn. The Union victory at Gettysburg and the fall of Vicksburg placed the South increasingly on the defensive. General Robert E. Lee's advance was halted, and less than two years later he surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House.

From \$100,000 to nearly \$2.5 million

These political upheavals were immediately reflected in the postal system. "From 1 June 1861, United States postage stamps were no longer valid in the South," says Jaretzky. "To provide stamps quickly, Confederate postmasters were authorised to issue provisional stamps locally."

These issues, known today as the Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals, rank among the great rarities of world philately. Their rise in value has been extraordinary. In the 1935 Scott catalogue, all Postmasters' Provisionals together were valued at just under \$100,000. Today, their combined value is close to \$2.5 million, and that figure does not even take covers into account.

By the middle of the 19th century, the United States had already become a major power, but tensions between North and South had been building for years. The industrialising North and the agrarian South were divided not only by economic interests, but also by the question of slavery. In the South, the plantation economy depended heavily on enslaved labour, and any move towards abolition threatened the social and economic foundations of that system.



The brilliant Confederate strategist General Robert E. Lee inflicted heavy setbacks on the Union before finally surrendering on 9 April 1865.

"When Abraham Lincoln, an opponent of the expansion of slavery, was elected president in 1860, the situation escalated," explains Jaretzky. "Eleven Southern states declared their secession from the Union. At the beginning of the war, the Union suffered several setbacks, including Fort Sumter in

One particularly important rarity is the 5-cent provisional from Athens, Georgia, of which Jaretzky owns the only horizontal strip of four on cover. Equally remarkable is the unique complete cover bearing

The famous "Richmond cover" bears a superb strip of four of the 5-cent Athens, Georgia, provisional. The stamp was produced in two types, both of which are represented in the strip.





Left: The Grove Hill, Alabama, Confederate Postmasters' Provisional was produced from a woodcut made by the postmaster, George Summers. This unique cover bears the exceptionally clear postmark "GROVE HILL, OCT 26 (1861)". A front dated 10 September 1861 with the 5-cent Grove Hill is also recorded.

Right: This pair of the 5-cent Pleasant Shade, Virginia, provisional on cover is another unique showpiece in the Confederate States collection of Rolf-Dieter Jaretsky. Its provenance includes such great names as Arthur Hind, Alfred H. Caspary, and Erivan Haub.



the 5-cent Grove Hill, Alabama, provisional. This celebrated item has belonged to some of the greatest names in philately, including Baron Philipp von Ferrary, Alfred H. Caspary, and Erivan Haub, before entering Jaretsky's collection.

Among all the Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals, however, perhaps the most attractive is the 5-cent Livingston in blue. Only 11 examples of the Blue Livingston are recorded—compared with 12 examples of the Blue Mauritius. For many years, Jaretsky owned the beautiful single-franking cover from the former Boker collection. The German-American industrialist and notable philatelist John R. Boker Jr. once owned both that single-franking cover and the unique cover bearing a pair, the latter known simply as the Livingston cover.

Boker sold both items in the early 1980s, and for almost 40 years they remained apart. That changed in December 2020, when the Livingston pair cover reappeared at the fourth USA ERIVAN auction at H. R. Harmer in New York.

"I simply could not let the opportunity pass," says Jaretsky, proudly showing the album page on which the two covers are now reunited.

From Ferrary to Jaretsky

A brief glance at the provenance of the Livingston pair cover shows its extraordinary pedigree. It is said to have been sold directly by the recipient, Captain Chapman Jr., to Ferrary shortly before the turn of the century.

"When Ferrary's great collection was auctioned in Paris in 1921–22, the cover entered the collection of the great American collector Alfred H. Caspary," says Jaretsky. "Caspary also owned the single Livingston cover that is now in my collection."

After Caspary's death in 1955, both covers came up for auction in 1956, when they were acquired by John R. Boker. From Ferrary to Caspary, then Boker and Erivan Haub, and finally to Rolf-Dieter Jaretsky, the provenance reads like a roll call of great philatelists.



For many decades, Rolf-Dieter Jaretsky has been a passionate ambassador for philately—seen here speaking at the International Philatelic World Exhibition IBRA 2009 in Essen.

Would you like to learn more about Rolf-Dieter Jaretsky's exceptional Confederate States collection? Then look out for the forthcoming EDITION D'OR volume devoted to this remarkable exhibit (see also "Worth Reading", pages 21–23).

Pre-orders may be placed by telephone on +49 (0)611 34149-0 or by email at info@heinrich-koehler.de.



3 Postmaster Provisional stamps LIVINGSTON, ALA.

The postmaster of Livingston Stephen W. Murley issued in 1861 the most artistic lithographed postmaster-stamp. 11 stamps are known to exist including the famous pair on cover and 6 covers with single frankings. The earliest recorded usage is November 12, 1861, the latest known usage is March 29, 1862.



pair 5 C. on cover to Captain R.Chapman ,11th Regiment, Ala. Vol. Manassas Junction, Va. with date-stamp LIVINGSTON NOV. 12 (1861), earliest recorded date of usage
ex Ferrary, Caspary, Lilly, Boker, Weill Brothers and Erivan

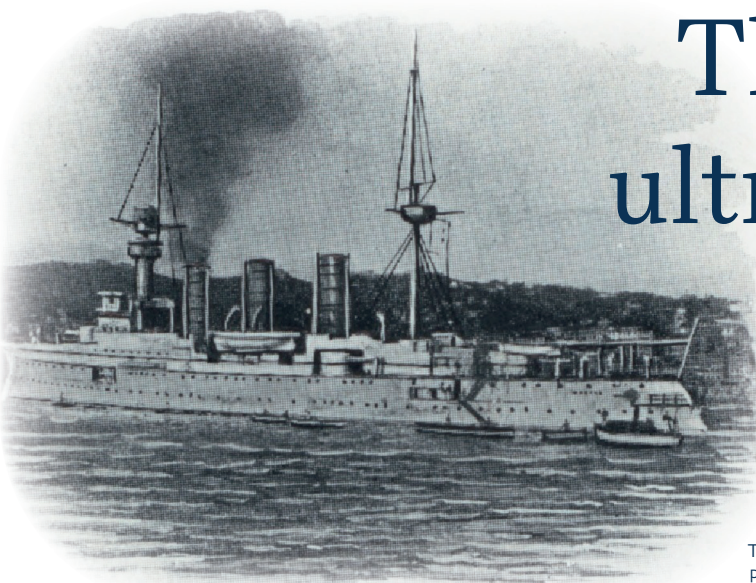


5 C. Livingston marginal copy on cover to Mobile dated March 21, 1862, very late usage
ex Caspary, ex Boker

The legendary Livingston covers: for nearly four decades these two great rarities of Confederate philately remained separated. A few years ago, Jaretsky succeeded in reuniting them on a single album page.

125 Years of the Vineta Provisional – A Bisect That Made History

The non plus ultra of German Empire philately



The cruiser SMS Vineta, one of five ships of the Victoria Louise class of protected cruisers, was commissioned on 13 September 1899. The Vineta Provisionals were created on board in March 1901.



Kaiser Wilhelm II (1859–1941), German Emperor and King of Prussia from 1888 to 1918. Celebrations of his birthday by the German community in New Orleans in January 1901 are closely linked to the origin of the Vineta Provisional.

Some of the greatest philatelic rarities arise from the most unexpected circumstances. A shortage of stamps, a moment of improvisation—and suddenly a remarkable piece of postal history is created. Such is the origin of the Vineta Provisional of March 1901. On board the German cruiser SMS Vineta, the stamps required for the printed matter rate of three pfennigs were unavailable. Faced with this shortage, the ship's paymaster adopted an unconventional solution: he bisected 5 pfennig Germania stamps and applied a violet "3 PF" handstamp to each half. What began as a practical expedient would later become one of the most famous provisional issues of German philately. Today, the Vineta Provisional remains one of the most celebrated rarities of the German Empire. Its enduring appeal lies not only in its rarity, but also in the remarkable circumstances of its creation.

At the forthcoming autumn auction of Heinrich Köhler, a particularly interesting pair on piece will be offered. Unlike a conventional pair—two adjoining halves from a single stamp—this example consists of the right and left halves of two separate 5 pfennig Germania stamps. To mark the 125th anniversary of the Vineta Provisional, this remarkable item provides an ideal opportunity to revisit the story behind one of the most sought-after provisional issues in German philately.



A total of 600 Vineta Provisionals were originally produced. Only a small proportion has survived. A fine pair on piece will be offered at the forthcoming autumn auction of Heinrich Köhler.



Philatelic provisional issues at their finest: this pair on piece, formed from the upper-left corner of a 5 pfennig Germania sheet, realised €40,000 at a Heinrich Köhler auction in March (ex Bruce Wright).

A greeting from afar

The story begins at sea. In early 1901, the cruiser SMS Vineta was on deployment along the American coastline. In January, the ship called at New Orleans, where members of the crew took part in celebrations organised by the local German community to mark the birthday of Kaiser Wilhelm II.

“When newspaper reports of the festivities reached the ship a few days later, the crew wished to send them home as souvenirs and greetings,” explains Tobias Huylmans, Managing Partner of the Heinrich Köhler Auction House. “But a problem quickly became apparent.”

At the time, printed matter required a postage rate of three pfennigs in the German Empire. No stamps of that denomination were available on board. The ship’s post office held only other values, including the widely used 5 pfennig Germania definitive.

From 300 stamps to 600 provisionals

The ship’s Chief Paymaster, Carl Wegener, resolved the problem pragmatically. He took sheets of the 5 pfennig stamp, bisected them vertically, and applied a violet “3 PF” handstamp to each half. In this way, 300 stamps were converted into 600 provisional values representing the correct printed matter rate. The sailors used these provisionals to frank their mail, which was dispatched without objection and duly reached its destinations in Germany. From a postal standpoint, however, the matter was far from straightforward.

“Strictly speaking, the procedure contravened postal regulations,” notes Huylmans. “In the event of a shortage of stamps, the correct procedure would have been to apply a cash franking.”



A contemporary menu from the 1901 birthday celebrations in New Orleans provides a glimpse of the occasion that gave rise to the Vineta Provisional.

When the matter came to the attention of the Imperial Post Office, the paymaster received an official reprimand. Although he had acted with the knowledge of his commanding officer, the issue was not formally sanctioned, as the creation of the provisionals did not comply with postal regulations.

A remarkable chapter in postal history

The story did not end there. Some time after the ship’s return, additional examples bearing backdated postmarks appeared—clearly produced at a later date. These forgeries and manipulated items added a further layer of complexity to the story and sparked ongoing debate about the status of the issue.

“It is precisely this combination of rarity, historical context, and controversy that gives the Vineta Provisional its particular fascination,” says Huylmans. “For many collectors, it is less a conventional postage stamp than a vivid document of improvised postal history.”

There is no doubt that the Vineta Provisional ranks among the most intriguing episodes in German philately. Each surviving example tells a story—of improvisation at sea, of the desire to maintain communication with home, and of how a practical solution evolved into one of the great rarities of the German Empire. For collectors of provisional issues, the Vineta Provisional is widely regarded as the pinnacle of the field. We look forward to welcoming interested collectors in Wiesbaden this September—whether in person, by telephone, or online.



The exclusive book series **EDITION D'OR** and **EDITION SPÉCIALE**
Documenting the great philatelic collections of our time

Exclusive and Unique



At the International Philatelic World Exhibition IBRA 2023 in Essen, leading philatelists from around the world—the authors of recent **EDITION D'OR** volumes—met with the publishers of the series. From left to right: Karl Louis (then Managing Partner of Corinphila Auctions), Pablo Reim, Bruce Wright, Hansmichael Krug, Nacho and Pablo Alemany, Yukio Onuma, and Dieter Michelson (Managing Partner of Heinrich Köhler).

Whenever one of the world's great stamp collections is offered at auction by Heinrich Köhler, it is recognised internationally as a significant philatelic event. Such sales bring together exceptional material and attract intense bidding from collectors around the globe. There is, however, another side to these landmark auctions. Collections assembled over many years—often with immense expertise and considerable financial commitment—are dispersed, and their individual components find new homes across the world.

To preserve these outstanding collections for future generations, Heinrich Köhler and Corinphila launched the **EDITION D'OR** and **EDITION SPÉCIALE** series in 2006. These publications are dedicated to documenting the most important philatelic collections of our time in both scholarly and visual form.



The concept has historical precedent. In the renowned Kohl Handbook—one of the great philatelic reference works of the 1920s and 1930s—many sections were based on the collections of leading philatelists of the period.

“For example, the sections on Great Britain and Canada drew heavily on the collections of J. B. Seymour and Alfred F. Lichtenstein,” explains Dieter Michelson, Managing Partner of the Heinrich Köhler Auction House. “However, these collections themselves were not presented as such. Instead, the handbook focused on the stamps and postal history of each country in a broader sense.”

While these collections informed the scholarship, they were not preserved in their

original form. The EDITION D’OR and EDITION SPÉCIALE volumes take a different approach.

“Our aim is to present these great collections in their entirety,” says Michelson. “With high-quality illustrations and detailed descriptions, we document not only the individual items, but also the intellectual structure behind each collection—always more than the sum of its parts. At the same time, each volume provides an in-depth treatment of the respective collecting area, combining the qualities of a reference work with those of a collector’s monograph.”

The result is a series that has become an essential resource for advanced collectors and philatelic researchers alike.

These highly sought-after volumes are often quickly out of print.

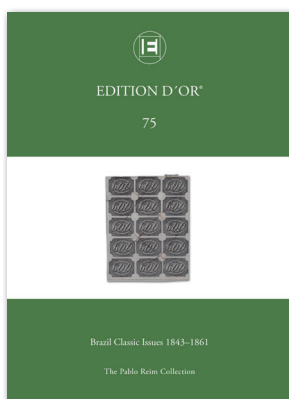
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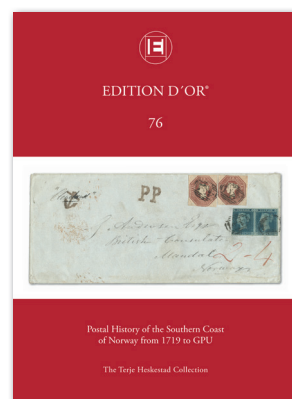
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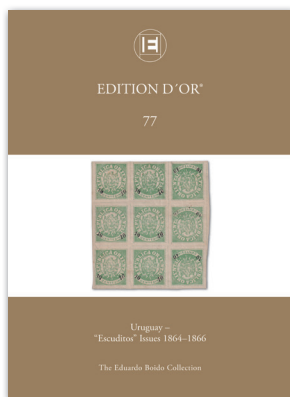
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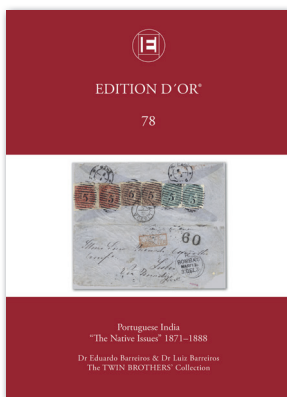
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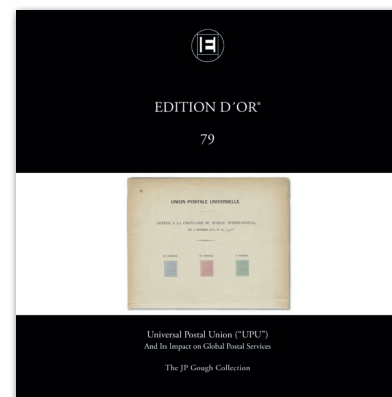
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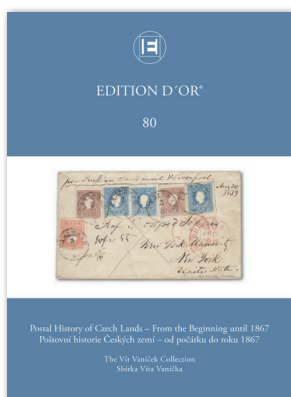
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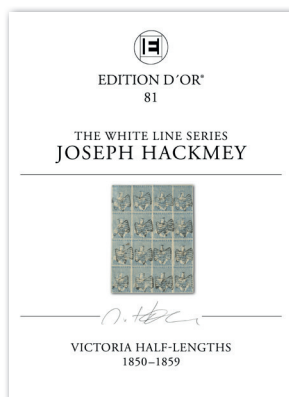
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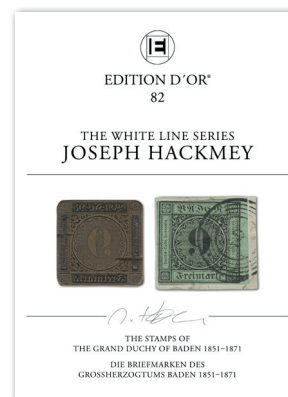
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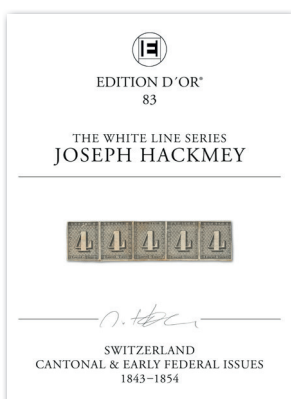
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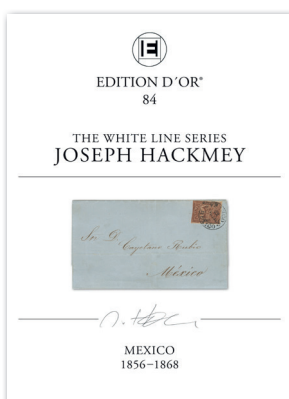
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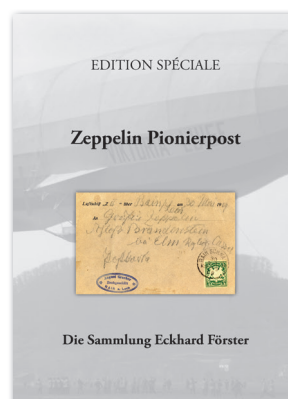
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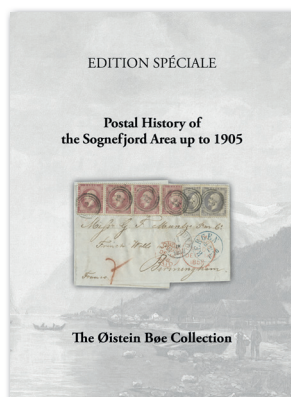
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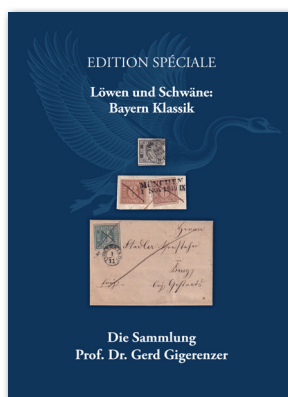
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