

# PRINTED MATTERS

THE PHILATELIC MAGAZINE



Cover story

## 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Civil War

**Experts and aficionados in conversation** Travelling back to the year 1930

**Tangible treasures** Rediscovery of a spectacular Bavarian cover

**Profiles in philately** Rolf Dieter Jaretsky – gentleman and generalist



HEINRICH KÖHLER

Germany's Oldest Stamp Auction House

**Dear Readers,**

You are holding the first edition of our brand-new customer magazine in your hands. The name of the publication says it all: PRINTED MATTERS includes the latest and most interesting reports, features and news from the world of philately. The cover story of this inaugural issue is dedicated to the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Civil War and the fascinating philatelic rarities of the Confederate states. 'Profiles in philately' features the great all-rounder Rolf Dieter Jaretsky. We would particularly recommend the article 'Treasures in the attic' about the rediscovery of a spectacular item of classical philately.

We look forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions regarding our new philatelic magazine. The second issue will be published toward the end of this year. We will also be publishing letters from our readers in that issue. Perhaps yours will be included? We hope you enjoy reading your copy of PRINTED MATTERS magazine.



Kind regards,

Dieter Michelson and Tobias Huylmans

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A visit to Heinrich Köhler in September 1930

# Eminent expert on precious philatelic items

**Berlin, Germany: Friday, 26 September 1930, 2:00 p.m.:** It is a mere 13 degrees Celsius outside, clouds hang heavy in the sky and deliver the odd rain shower every now and again, but an open horse-drawn carriage is still the transport of choice for a visit to Friedrichstrasse 166. This has been the headquarters of the Heinrich Köhler company – one of the premier purveyors of the finest philately – for more than 15 years. And it is not just for German stamp aficionados and connoisseurs. We meet the company's founder, who is 49 years old at this point – he is an eminent authority on all the treasures the world of philately has to offer.

**Mr Köhler, thank you for taking the time to speak to us today. You have just returned from the world's stamp fair, IPOSTA, which took place at the Society Rooms of Berlin's Zoologischer Garten from 12–21 September. How would you assess the success of the event?**

In a word: phenomenal. One can only congratulate the splendid exhibition administrators – headed by Dr Erich Stenger, President of the Berlin Philatelists' Club of 1888. Another godsend for the exhibition was Dr Herbert Munk, the accomplished editor of the world-renowned Kohl Handbook. In advance of the event, Munk made contact with Alfred Lichtenstein, President of the Collectors Club of New York, who passionately committed himself to ensuring that numerous

world-renowned collectors would attend. Thanks to their dedication, IPOSTA – which was under the patronage of President of the German Reich Paul von Hindenburg – was a truly international celebration of philately, unparalleled in its class. The more than 30,000 visitors and 600 exhibition items, including around 60 exhibits from Great Britain alone – the motherland of the postage stamp – speak for themselves.

**Please share your impressions with us.**

At the entrance, guests were greeted by two towering postilions. An information bureau next to the entrance provided all the necessary information, including the exquisite 180-page exhibition catalogue. My first impression was



A glimpse of Heinrich Köhler's offices in the 1930s.



immediately overwhelming. Approximately a dozen contiguous rooms presented the collections along a length of more than 2,000 metres – fabulous material, and a richer selection than has ever been presented at an exhibition anywhere in the world.

**You and a number of other world-renowned philately experts were members of the jury for IPOSTA 1930. Which collections did you find particularly impressive?**

Before I go into the details of the collections at the exhibition, I must make particular mention of the rarities vault in the marble hall. The printing plate for the two Mauritius POST OFFICE stamps was on display there, among other impressive items, including the only British Guyana 1-cent black on magenta stamp from the collection of Arthur Hind, the famous Swedish Treskilling Yellow belonging to Mr Ramberg of Gothenburg, two of the three known Baden 9 Kreuzer errors (green instead of pink) – and even the renowned cover from the collection of the Reichspostmuseum in Berlin. There was also a pair of the Bavarian Aichach provisional stamps from the collections of Theodore Champion of Paris.

**It sounds like the crème de la crème of international philatelic rarities.**

It was, indeed. And some of the most renowned philatelists of our era were behind the event. Now, to the exceptional items on exhibit.

**‘Exquisite items  
are in  
high demand.’**

Heinrich Köhler

Heinrich Birnbach presented a selection from his unique collection from Moldavia and Classic Romania. Not only were his rare Moldavian stamps included; he also displayed wonderful material featuring the first head issues from Romania with a level of detail that commanded high esteem. Alfred Lichtenstein has assembled perhaps the rarest collection in its class: ‘British Columbia and Vancouver Island’ was the outermost western territory of Canada’s ‘Wild West’. My friend Lichtenstein explained to me that he only travelled to the region only to understand the postal routes and the conditions of the postal service there between 1859 and 1871. His collection shows us how, during the era of the Gold Rush, private postal services sprang up and presented the government postal

service with stiff competition. Incidentally, his collection of modern government stamps formed the foundation for the Canada section of the Kohl Handbook. The same holds true for the unique collection that J.B. Seymour presented along 15 metres of exhibition space. The fabulous Great

Britain section of the Kohl Handbook would not be what it is without him and his expertise.

**Speaking of Romania and Great Britain: As the official IPOSTA auctioneer, you hosted an international stamp auction. As expected from your auctions, there were exquisite and exceptional items and collections on offer, including the highly sought-after Moldavian Bull’s Heads and the rare Edward IR Official stamp from Great Britain. However, you also had rare Bergedorf and Oldenburg covers, as well as a very fine pair of Sachsen 3-Pfennige reds. How did the auction go?**

IPOSTA was a high point of our international efforts to promote the world of philately – and that includes the very successful auction during the event. Exquisite items such as the ones you mentioned are in high demand. And that will remain the case for a long time to come. We are seeing a continuous upward trend. I am convinced of that. Incidentally, this trend applies to more than just the well-known rarities.

**Is there currently a special subject or area of philately that is seeing a particular rise in interest?**

Air mail is one area, without a doubt. In his highly regarded lecture 'Weltpost und Luftschiffahrt' ('Universal Post and Aviation') back in 1874, Postmaster General Heinrich von Stephan already alluded to the future importance of aircraft for mail delivery. He was inspired by one of the most exciting chapters of air mail history that simultaneously marked the beginning of air mail itself – the Paris balloon mail deliveries of 1870/71. Today, air mail is one of the most popular subjects for collectors. And it's no wonder: air mail stamps are available around the world. What's more, Zeppelins have captivated people's imaginations for more than 20 years now. The first Zeppelin postage stamps were issued in Germany two years ago, and on April 26<sup>th</sup> of this year, they were followed by the '1. Südamerikafahrt des Luftschiffes Graf Zeppelin LZ 129' ('First South America voyage of the airship Graf Zeppelin LZ 129') overprint stamps. And although I don't have a crystal ball, I think I can safely predict that these stamps – like the American Zeppelin set that was

also issued in April of this year – will be much more highly sought-after in future than they already are today. Incidentally, the same will hold true for the IPOSTA sheet of four, which has been unfairly criticised in some collectors' circles.

**Your 65<sup>th</sup> stamp auction was held in March of this year. It all began in April 1913, with your first auction here in Berlin. Since then, you have added chapter after chapter to your success story. What are some of the most memorable highlights from the last 17 years?**

There are many, certainly. Perhaps we should limit ourselves to two. Our very first auction here in Berlin was an immense success. Many of the rare outstanding items achieved twice or three times the catalogue price. My personal favourite item from this auction was a Mecklenburg-Schwerin cover with the rare 4/4 shilling on a dotted background as additional franking on 1-shilling postal stationery to Rostock. And again, I do not need to be a clairvoyant to predict that notable philatelists of future generations will be thrilled to own this wonderful cover. Also, I will remember the 46<sup>th</sup> auction in March of three years ago until my dying day. I had the legendary block of 12 of the Yellow Mercury on offer. The expected price for this unique world-class rarity was set at 30,000 gold marks. I had announced that, should we be unable to find a new owner at that price, I would divide up the block. Luckily, I was spared the need to do so, as the block of 12 found a new home with a dedicated philatelist. Dividing the block would likely have broken my heart.



The legendary IPOSTA block, still known as a 'block of four' when it was issued. A few specimens bear the signatures of the event's jury members, including Heinrich Köhler.

## 15 YEARS OF EDITION D'OR

In December 2006, auction houses Köhler and Corinphila presented the first volumes of the EDITION D'OR, documenting first-rate collections from exceptional philatelists in an innovative handbook-style publication. Experience this exciting format for yourself.

More information on [www.heinrich-koehler.de](http://www.heinrich-koehler.de)



160<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

# LEGENDARY STAMPS NOTABLE COLLECTIONS

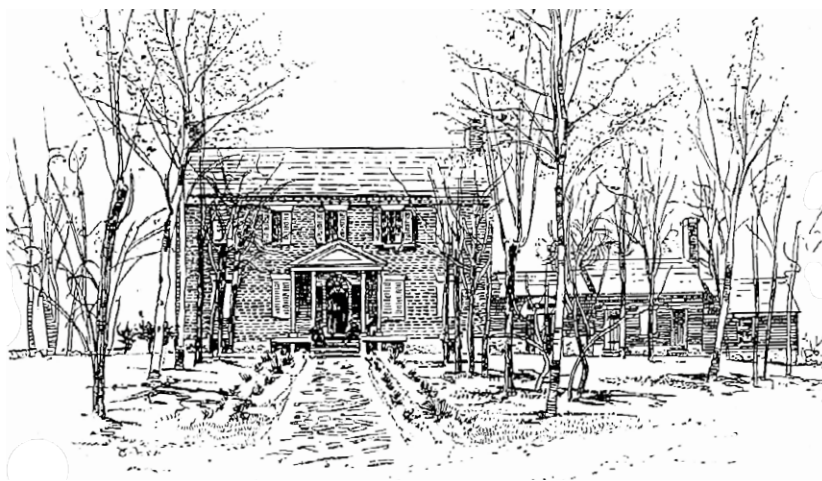


The bloody fratricidal war pitting the North and South of the United States against one another began 160 years ago. Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities, the 'Confederate States of America' was founded – and it produced its own unique stamps. No other postal organisation existed only for the duration of a single war – never before, and never since. And no other association of states produced more exceptional philatelic rarities in just four years.

'The war began in my front yard and ended in my parlour', said Wilmer McLean, who experienced not only the first major battle of the Civil War first-hand, but also its conclusion. During the bloody battle of Bull Run, a grenade landed in his front garden. McLean quickly grabbed a few things and made a run for it. Four years later, Union officers at Appomattox Court House

in Virginia were looking for a house where they could hold the ceremonial signing of the South's surrender. Wilmer McLean offered them his home. But we are getting ahead of ourselves. How did one of the worst bloodbaths in US history come to pass? In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the United States had grown into a global power, but a conflict was brewing in this booming

land of opportunity. The North and the South were two very different places, both in economic terms, and in terms of the mentalities of their residents. The North presented itself as modern and progressive, whilst the Southern mindset was extremely conservative. The North was industrialised, and the South was dominated by a wealthy aristocracy of plantation owners who



Portrait above: The brilliant Confederate strategist General Robert E. Lee made life difficult for the Union, but ultimately had to surrender on 9 April 1865.

Left: Wilmer McLean's house in Virginia, where the surrender of the Confederate states was formally signed.

Right: The famous 'Big Beaumont' on cover was part of a number of notable collections, including the collection of Alfred Caspary. This superb unique item is all that remains of the 10-cent Beaumont stamp.





The Third Battle of Winchester on 19 September 1864 is considered one of the bloodiest and most important battles between the North and South. The North was ultimately victorious.

viewed slavery as part of their lifestyle and wanted to preserve it. After all, the only way they could operate their enormous cotton plantations at a profit was by using slave labour.

### 1860: the last straw

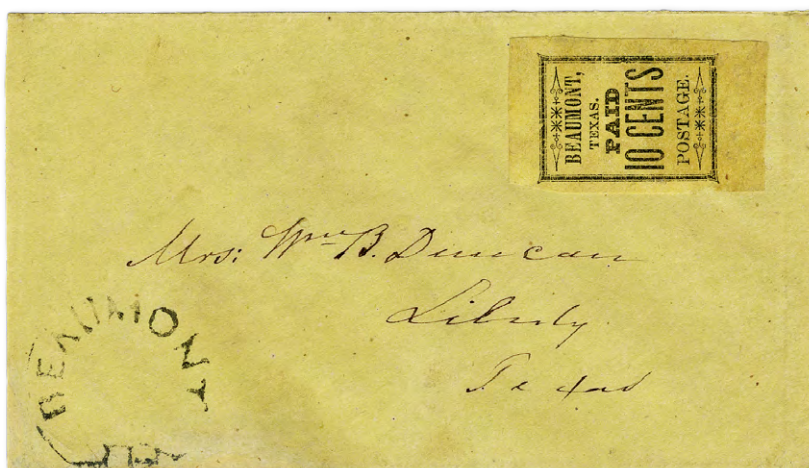
The election of Abraham Lincoln – an opponent of slavery – as 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States in 1860 was the proverbial last straw: eleven Southern states subsequently seceded from the Union. The Union suffered a defeat at the actual start of the war – the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter on the night of 12 April to the morning of 13 April 1861 – and at the Battle of Bull Run. These defeats initially caused Lincoln to shelve his hopes for a swift military end to the war. However, the tide began to turn at the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania on 3 July 1863; the Union took the Confederate-held city of Vicksburg the next day. The victory at Gettysburg ended the advance of the brilliant Confederate

strategist General Robert E. Lee, and the Confederates were forced to retreat. Just under two years later, Lee signed the surrender of the Confederate states at Wilmer McLean's house.

### From 100,000 to 2.3 million dollars

The state of the postal service during this period was just as chaotic as the overall situation. The postage stamps

that had been in use throughout the entire United States up until the beginning of the war were declared invalid in the South on 1 June 1861. Subsequently, local postmasters general in the Southern states were granted the right to issue their own stamps until new postage stamps valid only for the Confederate states could be procured – these provisional stamps, the 'Confederate





Postmasters' Provisionals', became internationally renowned and highly sought-after. They are among the greatest rarities in the world of philately. A little aside regarding catalogue prices: The 1935 Scott catalogue lists the total value of all postmaster issues from the Confederate states at just under 100,000 dollars. This sum includes the listed conditions 'mint' and 'post-marked' as well as the familiar types and varieties. Not documented in the catalogue are valuations on cover or larger units.

### Start at the top

Let's apply the same methodology and add up all of the catalogue prices for these stamps in the current Scott catalogue: the result is an impressive sum of more than 2.3 million dollars. And keep in mind: valuations for postmaster issues on cover are not included in the calculation. Consequently, the most unusual postmaster's provisional stamp is not factored in: the 5-cent stamp

from Mount Lebanon, Louisiana. It is a one-of-a-kind stamp that has only been found on cover; it was a jewel in the crown of the legendary Ferrary collection. Today, Scott values this item alone at 255,000 dollars. If we examine the stamp, it becomes immediately obvious that it was produced by a complete layman. The image on the stamp is mirrored. The producer of the stamp carved the image into the wood block for printing so that the image was oriented correctly from his perspective. While the image may have appeared correct on the wood block, it was mirrored when printed.

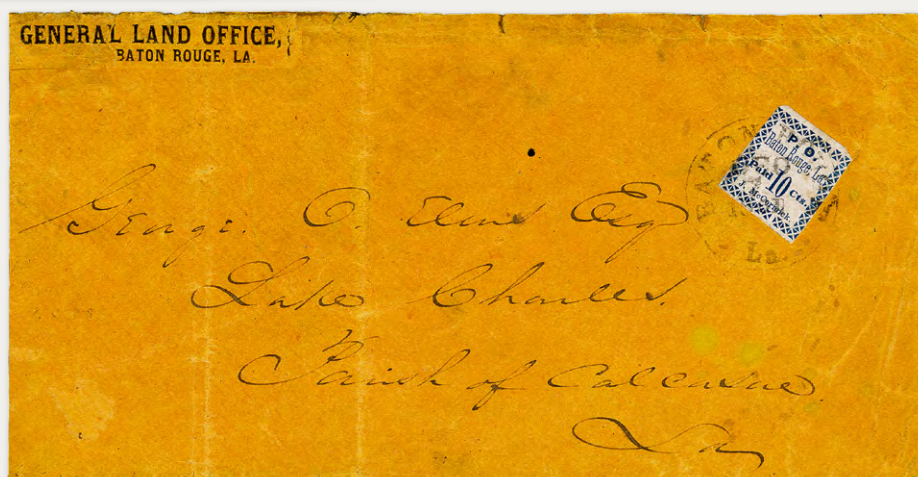
Another one-of-a-kind item on cover is the 10-cent black on yellow stamp from Beaumont, Texas. The Big Beaumont cover is among the most famous items from the Confederate states and was part of many of the most illustrious collections. It was owned by Baron Philipp von Ferrary, Alfred Caspary and Erivan Haub. The same

holds true for the phenomenal cover bearing a 10-cent postmaster's stamp from Baton Rouge. That item has now found a home in Hamburg. Its new owner comments: 'I saw the item in person for the first time in 2019 at the International Stamp Exhibition in Stockholm and I immediately fell in love with it.' In keeping with the motto of another great collector, John R. Boker, – 'Start at the top' – the Hamburg philatelist acquired this cover as a first step into one of the most fascinating areas of philately: the postmasters' issues of the Confederate states. But which of the Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals is universally considered the most beautiful and artistic issue?

**To find out, please read the profile on pages 10 to 12, and learn more about how two of the most important covers of this issue were once again reunited after nearly 40 years.**



The pair of 5-cent stamps from Pleasant Shade, Virginia is unique. This famous cover, too, was once part of the exceptional collections of Arthur Hind and Alfred Caspary.



The legendary, one-of-a-kind Baton Rouge cover with the 10-cent postmaster's stamp found a new home in Hamburg.



## Sensational Bavarian cover discovered



After 170 years, this treasure is being presented to the public for the first time – in one of the true rarities in classical philately.

# Treasure trove in the attic

It's something we all dream of: You are rummaging through some old things in the attic, and suddenly, you unearth a treasure. This is exactly what happened recently in a town in Franconia, Germany. The attic was harbouring a spectacular Bavarian treasure – a strip of three of the 1 Kreuzer black in mixed franking alongside a 3 Kreuzer blue stamp. It is one of the key items of the autumn auction at Heinrich Köhler.

Very few items of mixed franking with the first German postage stamp – the Bavarian 1 Kreuzer stamp from 1849 – exist today. You can practically count them on two hands. They are among the crown jewels of old Germany. There were only two known strips of three with additional franking – until now. Now there are three, and the world of philately has gained a spectacular new discovery. This world-class treasure is also an exceptionally important part of postal history.

## A special note

The woman who discovered the stamps was organising her family archive when she once again stumbled upon the beautiful old covers her grandfather had gifted her mother decades earlier, and that she had now inherited. One cover bore three black stamps and one blue one, and it was tucked away with a note written by her mother: 'The black stamps are valuable. They are listed in the catalogue for several thousand

euros.' The woman did some quick online research and then contacted the Heinrich Köhler auction house. 'As she described the cover to me, I got very excited', says Dieter Michelson, Managing Director of Heinrich Köhler. 'And when she sent me a photo of the cover, I could hardly believe my eyes.' A wonderful strip of three of the 1 Kreuzer black and a 3 Kreuzer blue stamp from the Kingdom of Bavaria. 'You can imagine how thrilled the owner was when I told her the black stamp was likely worth tens of thousands of euros', Michelson says.

## A true rarity for philately and postal history

On 1 November 1849, the Kingdom of Bavaria became the first German state to issue stamps. The 1 Kreuzer black stamp was for local deliveries or printed documents. The 3 Kreuzer blue stamp was used for franking deliveries to locations at a distance of up to twelve German miles. And the

6 Kreuzer brown stamp was used for even more distant addresses. We do not know whether this particular sender did not have any 6 Kreuzer stamps to hand, or if perhaps he simply wanted to use the most beautiful stamps for this cover. In any case, his choice of stamps for this cover created a spectacular rarity for both the world of philately and the world of postal history – because this exceptional cover was addressed to Johann Nepomuk Welz, who, at the time, was the postal director of Immenstadt in the Allgäu region. The story of that particular postal department is a fascinating piece of Bavarian postal history.

You can read more in the Heinrich Köhler autumn auction catalogue. This sensational, newly rediscovered treasure from the Kingdom of Bavaria will also be up for auction in September. And we are all curious to see how much the stamps will fetch for their owner in Franconia.

‘I had wanted to get my hands on that cover for 40 years.’

Rolf Dieter Jaretsky – International ambassador of philately



Rolf Dieter Jaretsky in his element – holding a fiery speech on philately during the 2009 International Stamp Fair IBRA in Essen, Germany.

# Golden boy, gentleman, generalist

When you talk to Rolf Dieter Jaretsky, two things immediately become clear. First: He is an old-school gentleman. And second: He is one of the greats of philately. His numerous outstanding collections have won multiple awards – as has the 86-year-old generalist himself. He recently added one of the very top items to his ‘Confederate states’ collection. In so doing, he reunited two of the incredible ‘Rebel covers’ on one album sheet for the first time in 40 years.

Mexico, Peru, Jammu and Kashmir, Afghanistan, USA, Greece, Great Britain, Romania, Russia, his home city of Braunschweig and other old German territories – Rolf Dieter Jaretsky has compiled unparalleled philatelic collections. For more than five decades, this all-rounder of philately has been a juror at German philatelic events, and he has been on the international scene for nearly 40 years. His expertise and certifications as a philatelic examiner

are valued around the world. And that’s not to mention his numerous publications and public appearances – Rolf Dieter Jaretsky is a tireless ambassador of philately who is held in high international esteem.

## ‘Collect knowledge before buying better items’

Born on 29 March 1935, and raised in Braunschweig, Germany, Rolf Dieter Jaretsky began collecting stamps at



the tender age of eight, just like many of his friends at that age. Unlike his friends, however, he never stopped. 'When I was 14 years old, an experienced fellow member of the Braunschweiger Briefmarkensammlerverein von 1885 (Braunschweig Stamp Collectors' Club of 1885) gave me some advice that shaped the rest of my life as a philatelist', says the former pharmacist. 'He asked me: Do you know what you need to collect first? Knowledge! Before buying better items, make sure to get some literature on the subject first.' And he took his mentor's next tip to heart as well: 'Collect items from overseas, particularly early covers. Then you won't have much competition from other collectors.'

No sooner said than done: With an almost military precision, Rolf Dieter Jaretzky compiled a first-rate Mexico collection. He exhibited it for the first time when he was 17. And the young philatelist received yet another important piece of advice, this time from one of the judges. 'You did a lot of things right. Stamps, cancellation, postage – all properly documented and presented. But you're missing major items. You'll need them if you want to make it to the top.' Jaretzky heeded the judge's advice and earned a bronze medal in London in 1960. 'Eight years after that, I stepped straight into the lion's den', Jaretzky says with a grin. His bravery was rewarded. At the 1968 International Philatelic Exhibition in Mexico City, he won the 'Grand Prix National'.

### The most beautiful of all

His 'Confederate states' collection is also highly decorated. It won Large Gold three times: in 2007 in St. Petersburg, in 2010 in London and in 2018 in Prague. But there was still one of the most sensational items missing. Jaretzky comments: 'The 5-cent Livingston is the most beautiful of all the postmasters' stamps, without a doubt. Known items include three loose stamps and six covers with single franking. And then there's the incredible cover with the pair. I had wanted to get my hands on that for 40 years.'

So, let's pause for a moment here to sum up: There are eleven examples of the 'Blue Livingston' in existence. By way of comparison, there are twelve of the 'Blue Mauritius'. So, back to the most artistic of all postmasters' issues: For many years, Rolf Dieter Jaretzky has owned a gorgeous single franking from the former Boker collection. The German-American industrialist and notable philatelist John R. Boker Jr. owned not only this cover with a single Livingston, but also the outstanding item with the pair, known as the legendary 'Livingston cover'. However, he sold both items in the early 1980s, and the covers were separated. They went their separate philatelic ways for nearly 40 years – until recently, when Rolf Dieter Jaretzky finally brought them back together. At the 4<sup>th</sup> USA-ERIVAN Auction at H.R. Harmer in New York in December of last year, Jaretzky's dream item with the Livingston pair finally became available again for the first time in decades. 'I couldn't pass up the opportunity', Rolf Dieter Jaretzky says and proudly presents the album sheet where the two covers are finally, happily reunited – we have included an exclusive picture on the next page, just for our readers.

### From Ferrary to Jaretzky

Let us conclude with a few words on the history of the Livingston cover. The cover with the pair of blue Livingstons is said to have been sold by the recipient, Captain Chapman Jr., directly to Baron Philipp von Ferrary shortly before the turn of the century. 'When Ferrary's incredible collection was auctioned off in Paris in 1921/22, the cover ended up in the collection of the great American collector Alfred H. Caspary', Rolf Dieter Jaretzky explains. 'He also owned the cover with the single Livingston, which is part of my collection today.' Caspary passed away in 1955, and both covers went under the hammer in 1956. The new owner of both items was John R. Boker Jr. We have already described the further journey of the wonderful 'Rebel covers'. From Ferrary to Caspary, Boker and Erivan Haub, and then to Rolf Dieter Jaretzky – all of them philatelists of the highest calibre.

Here is one example of Jaretzky's wide-ranging dedication to overseas philately: The Malay state of Sarawak did not join the Universal Postal Union until 1 July 1897. Before that, Sarawak's stamps were only valid domestically or to Singapore. This rare cover was franked in Singapore with additional Straits Settlement stamps for its onward journey to Hong Kong.



## 4. 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, 11<sup>th</sup> 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

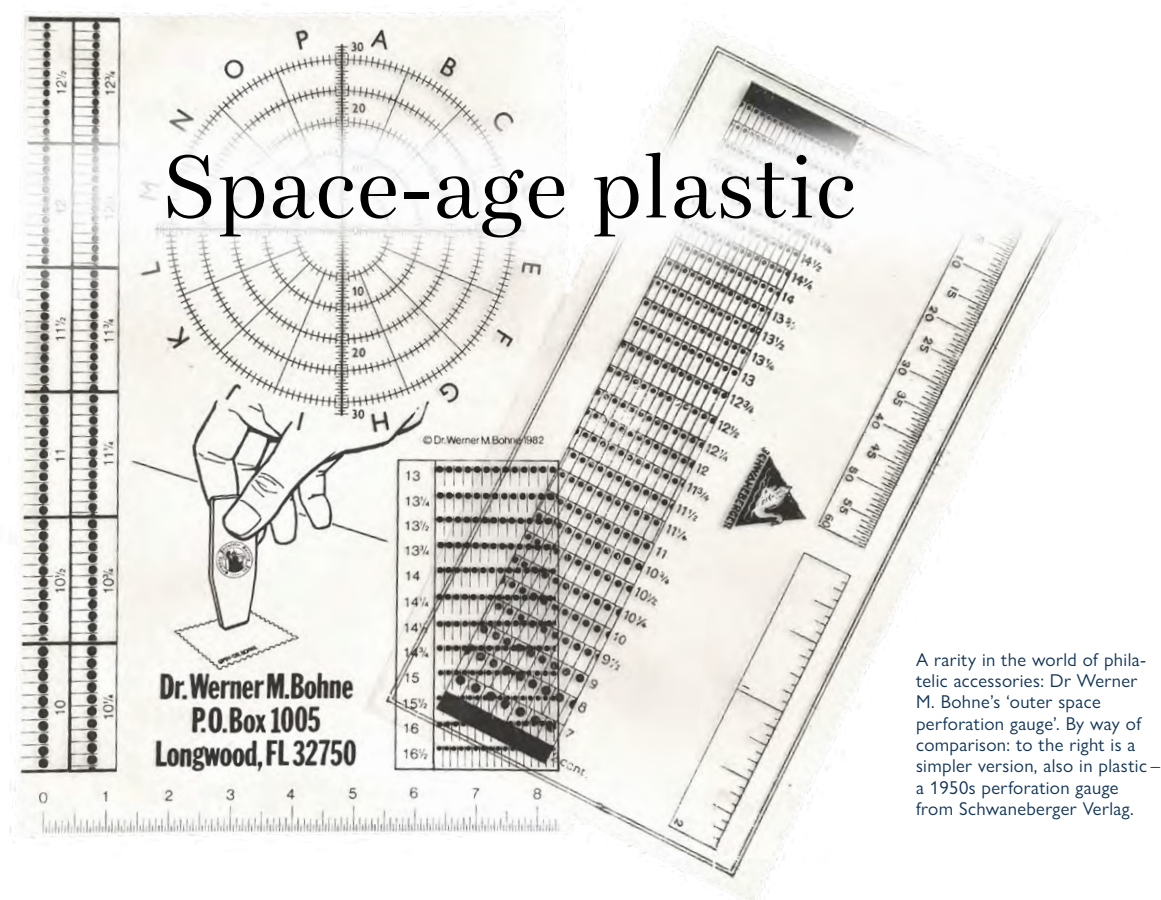


5 C. Livingston marginal copy on cover to Mobile dated March 21, 1862, very late usage  
ex Caspary, ex Boker

For nearly four decades, these exceptional philatelic rarities from the Confederate states were separated. Now, they are finally reunited – in Rolf Dieter Jaretsky's first-rate collection.



## The Rolls-Royce of perforation gauges



A rarity in the world of philatelic accessories: Dr Werner M. Bohne's 'outer space perforation gauge'. By way of comparison: to the right is a simpler version, also in plastic – a 1950s perforation gauge from Schwaneberger Verlag.

Did you know? There is such a thing as the Rolls-Royce of perforation gauges. It was made of the same high-performance plastic used in space travel, making it extremely heat-resistant. Additionally, this exclusive odontometer can be used to not only measure the perforation of a stamp; it can also measure the size of cancellation marks.

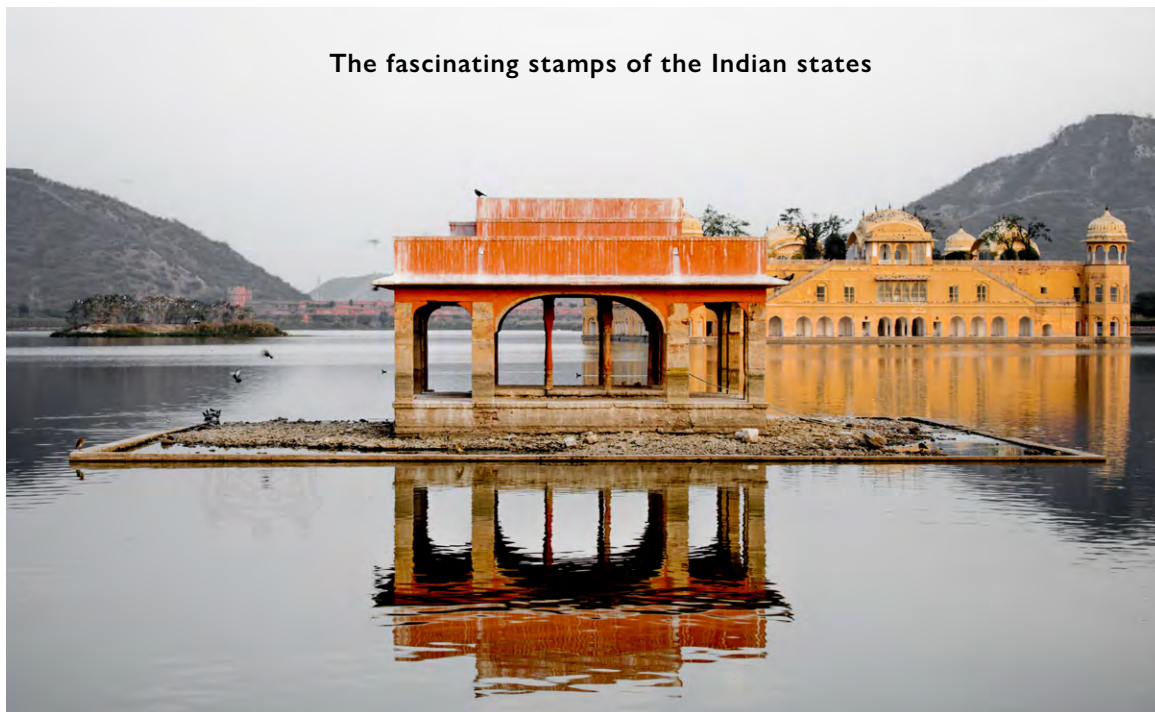
And it's no wonder: Its inventor was a prominent philatelist and a perfectionist. Dr Werner M. Bohne was born on 13 April 1920 in Berlin and died on 19 June 1998 in Florida. He became a passionate stamp collector at the age of 14. Bohne left Germany for the USA at an early age and became a member of the Germany Philatelic Society (GPS) in 1949; he served as its president from 1969 to 1975. His more than 6,000-page 'Reference Manual of Forgeries' remains unrivalled today. What is less widely known, however, is that Dr Bohne developed a perforation gauge that packed a serious punch. It was made of a temperature-resistant plastic that was also used in outer space. 'That was typical of him', explains master philatelist Wolfgang Jakubek, who often met with



Dr Bohne. 'He was fascinated by the exceptional and the unique, and not just in the world of philately. He was a character who often left an unforgettable impression.' To give just one example: When friends came to visit him from abroad, Dr Bohne would present them with a welcoming gift – an individually customised box of American coins.

Incidentally, the perforation gauge was invented exactly 155 years ago. In 1866, Dr Jacques Amable Legrand, one of the leading French philatelists of his time, presented his 'odontometer' for the known perforations of the time (7 to 16). Dr Legrand also coined the term 'timbriology' for the world's most wonderful hobby – in contrast to Georges Herpin and Arthur Maury, who preferred the term 'philately'.

## The fascinating stamps of the Indian states



# Mystical & sublime

Bordered to the north by the vast Himalayas and to the south by the Indian Ocean, India is a land of mysticism and contradictions. Ornate palaces like the legendary Taj Mahal or the Palace of the Winds in Jaipur and the singular landscapes and backdrops straight from the pages of *One Thousand and One Nights* stand in stark contrast to the country's densely populated metropolitan hubs. In any case, travellers have been describing India as mystical and sublime since time immemorial. Another universal truth is that the stamps of the Indian states are enormously fascinating – they offer a wide variety of little-known rarities of the most unique kind.

Christopher Columbus was searching for the legendary land of India in 1492 when he instead landed in America. Six years later, Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama sailed the southern route around the Cape of Good Hope, and in May 1498, he landed on the Malabar Coast of southern India, near Kozhikode. His arrival laid the foundation for European expansion to India. Beginning in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, British influence played a major role. And by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, all of India was under the financial control of the East India Company. The bloody revolution that ultimately led to the liquidation of

the East India Company occurred in 1857; the British crown subsequently assumed administrative control over India and issued the first postage stamps for the country in 1860.

### **'Some of them are among the greatest rarities in the world.'**

At the time of British colonial rule, there were more than 560 princely states in India. Some of them were granted the right to mint their own coinage and operate their own postal services as a sign that they maintained a certain degree of sovereignty. Six princely states signed postal

conventions with British India and received British-Indian postage stamps overprinted with their state names. 'These six states are known as convention states, thanks to the postal agreement they signed', says Tobias Huylmans, Managing Director at Heinrich Köhler. Additionally, 40 Indian feudatory states issued their own postage stamps. Soruth was the first in 1864. Jammu and Kashmir in the mountainous regions of India's north-west followed just two years later. The feudatory states' postage stamps were only valid within the borders of each state. 'Many of the early issues were provisional,



made with handstamps, woodblock printing, or type printing', Huylmans continues. 'Some of them are among the greatest rarities in the world.' What's more, less than 20 items of many of the Indian states' stamps still survive today.

**'There is still significant potential for prices to increase.'**

'Although Stanley Gibbons has upgraded the catalogue values of the stamps from the Indian states by double-digit percentages nearly every year for the last 20 years, there is still significant potential for the prices to increase, given their rarity', Tobias Huylmans says knowingly. He also shares an anecdote from the life of Baron Philipp von Ferrary: 'We know that Ferrary never sold a stamp from his incredible collection. However,

he frequently traded the most famous stamps in the world – the legendary Mauritius Post Office issues – for other philatelic treasures. He twice traded a Mauritius Post Office for American postmasters' stamps from renowned British specialist stamp dealer Warren H. Colson. And this is where India comes in: He handed over an unused Blue Mauritius to famous English philatelist Thomas K. Tapling in exchange for an unused pair of No. 2 from the Indian feudatory state of Poonch.' The 'stamp king' Ferrary was already aware of the rarity of some of the stamps issued by the Indian states.



Maharaja Ranbir Singh  
of Jammu and Kashmir  
(1857 to 1885)

The autumn auction at Heinrich Köhler will be an exciting event, as some of the rarest stamps and frankings from the Indian feudatory states will be going under the hammer. The items you see here are just a little taste of what's to come for connoisseurs of the exceptional.



Only two specimens exist of the most valuable 25 rupee violet from the Telegraph Stamps set of Jammu and Kashmir (1884).

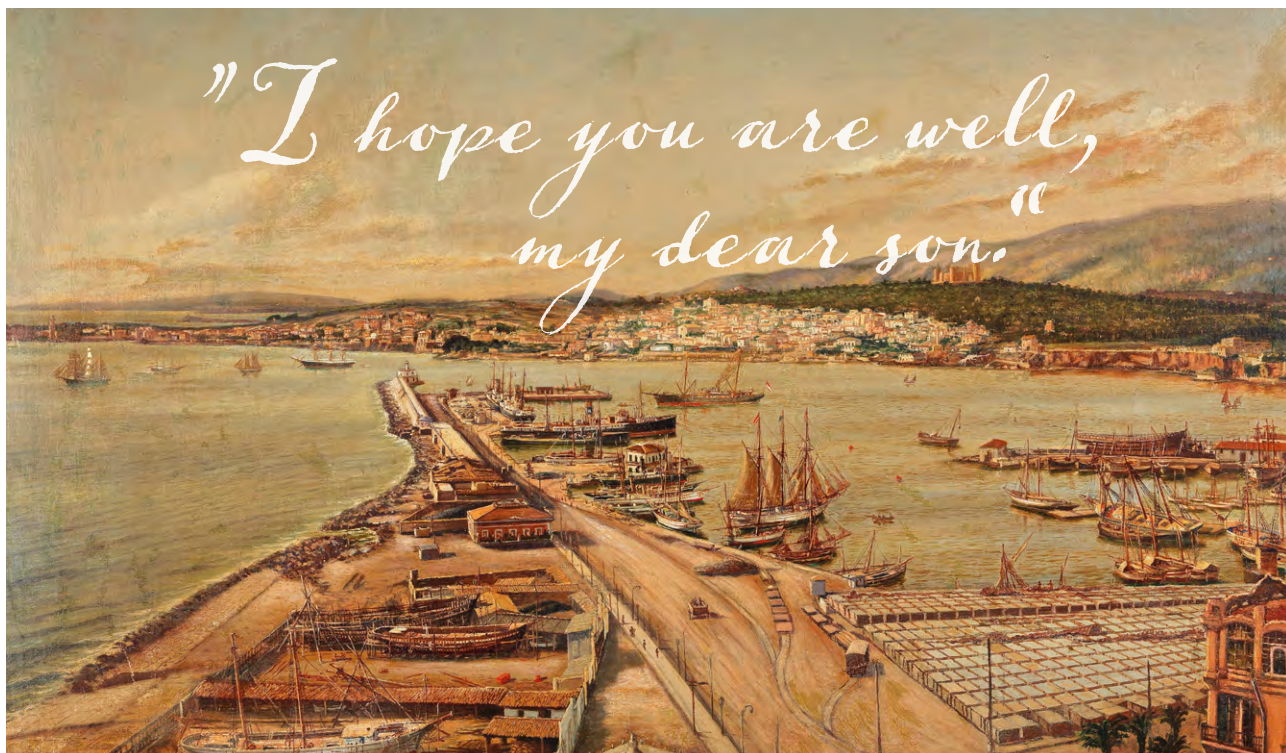


Strip of three of the 1/4 Anna carmine from Duttia (1911). The missing perforation between the pair on the right-hand side makes this item a true rarity – there are only four known pairs of this issue that are not perforated in the middle.



One of only four known covers that were franked with the 2 Paisa black on yellow of the feudatory state of Kotah (Scott No. 2).

## International mail 'via Trieste' – 'Adventure philately' at its best



A view of the Port of Trieste, ca. 1900.

Bora, Sirocco and Mistral – those are the names of the three winds that have blown through Trieste since time immemorial. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the old port city on the Adriatic was an important outpost on European states' postal routes for destinations east of Suez. Post 'via Trieste' with final destinations in the Near or Far East is 'adventure philately' at its finest. Heinrich Köhler was recently entrusted with what might be the most important collection of international mail sent via the 'city of the three winds' – compiled by renowned philatelist Rolf Rohlf. We will give you a first look here at this unique collection of classical communication history between the Occident and the Orient.

Let's imagine that in the early 1820s, a worried mother in England wrote a letter to her son, who was stationed in India with the troops of the East India Company. Naturally, she wanted to know how he was doing. The truth is that once she had handed the letter off to the postal service, she would have had to wait at least ten months for an answer. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, mail between Europe and Asia would travel on sailing vessels around Africa for five months or more. Even steam ships weren't much faster. But then, a pioneer appeared on the scene who had taken an interest in establishing a more direct postal route between

England and its colonies. 'In 1829, Thomas Fletcher Waghorn, lieutenant in the British Royal Navy, began his attempts to transport mail over land', explains Michael Hilbertz, Senior Philatelist at Heinrich Köhler. 'He developed an overland route for the mail arriving in Alexandria from Marseilles, and later, for mail arriving from Trieste.' The 'Overland Mail' was transported through Egypt by camel post between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. 'If only those covers could talk. Just imagine what they must have experienced on that route', Hilbertz says. 'Unbearable heat during the day, and sometimes below-zero temperatures

at night. Never mind the militant Bedouins that the camel post riders had to deal with.'

### The gateway to the East

Let's return to the 'city of the three winds' in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At the time, Trieste was the gateway to the East for the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Österreichischer Lloyd (Austrian Lloyd), the largest shipping company in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Mediterranean, was founded there in 1836. Their ships also handled postal traffic, calling at port after port around the Adriatic Sea and the Levant. However, it was the



establishment of an express line to Alexandria that cemented the company's success in the eastern Mediterranean and connected the sea shipping routes to the overland mail route via the isthmus to Suez. The Austrian postal service then handed off their deliveries to their British counterparts in Alexandria. 'In Trieste, they made an effort to apply clear valuation hand stamps so that their British colleagues in Alexandria would easily be able to tell whether the covers from all over Europe had correct postage', Michael Hilbertz explains. 'If postage had been

paid to send a letter beyond Alexandria, it had a red valuation hand stamp; otherwise, it was black or blue.' Beginning in 1865, covers were additionally franked with Egyptian or British stamps. 'Incidentally, senders had to make a handwritten note on their covers if they wanted them posted via Trieste', Hilbertz says.

### The famous 'timing trips'

The legendary overland mail route is inextricably linked to the name of Thomas Fletcher Waghorn, who took his famous 'timing trips' across the

Red Sea and the deserts between Suez and Cairo beginning in 1829. Before he died in 1850, however, Waghorn launched the ultimate timing trip to find the fastest postal route between England and India. 'The route via Trieste and Alexandria was the clear winner', Michael Hilbertz says. 'A letter made the trip in just 30 days.' Now, if a worried mother wrote to her son in India, she could expect to receive a response in just 60 days – eight months less than before. It was an incredible reduction in delivery time.



In 1865, this important piece of classical communication history travelled from Trieste to Bombay. At the British post office in Alexandria, it received a 1-shilling additional franking for further transport. It was carried via overland mail to Suez, and from there, it continued on a British ship.

A phenomenal item of postal history from Copenhagen via Trieste to the Holy Land from 1862 – one of the most spectacular covers with Danish-issue square stamps.



This cover from the Northern German postal district is the only known item with further franking from Alexandria to New Zealand, sent in 1868 from the small town of Sommerstedt in the former Duchy of Schleswig.



## Winning bids at peak prices at Heinrich Köhler



This very rare five-colour franking from the Kingdom of Hanover was sent halfway around the world in just 67 days back in 1863/64. The cover was mailed on 26 November 1863 from Salzgitter; it then travelled via Trieste (29 November) and Alexandria (13 December) on to Hong Kong (23 January 1864), finally arriving at its destination – Shanghai – on 31 January 1864.

See also: 'Adventure philately' at its best – p. 16/17

A crown jewel of classical philately – the block of four of the Sachsen No. 1, formerly in the collection of John R. Boker Jr.



# Spring auction sets new records

The traditional spring auction at Heinrich Köhler in Wiesbaden ended with the sensational sale of the fifth part of 'German States – The ERIVAN Collection'; the auction set new records once again in late April 2021. Over the course of six days, a top selection of highly sought-after philatelic treasures and pieces of postal history, as diverse as they were valuable, was sold off at auction – the bidding sometimes continued late into the evening.

Thanks to the committed participation of collectors and dealers from around the world, there were numerous heated bidding competitions and impressive sales well above the guide prices. The demand for valuable philatelic items, from individual items to entire collections, remains consistently high.

## The ERIVAN Collection invigorates the scene

The auction week culminated in the fifth auction of 'German States – The ERIVAN Collection', offering philatelic treasures ranging from little curiosities to incredible rarities. A total of 324 lots went under the hammer, with starting prices ranging from one million euros

to more than 2.8 million euros (including fees); the winning bids far exceeded the starting prices in many cases. Highlights included the double sheet of 1 Kreuzer black (guide price: 200,000 euros – winning bid: 240,000 euros), a block of four of the Sachsen 3-Pfennige (guide price: 100,000 euros – winning bid: 180,000 euros) and a coveted Hanover cover 'via Trieste' (guide price: 15,000 euros – winning bid: 115,000 euros). These impressive figures are more than just another chapter in a success story, however.

The sale of the ERIVAN Collection has generated a flurry of press and attracted a new crowd of interested

buyers from around the world. 'The fascination from all four corners of the globe was once again palpable; philatelic newcomers and old hands alike were abuzz', says Tobias Huylmans, Managing Director of Heinrich Köhler. What's more, growing numbers of investors are rediscovering stamps as objects of value. Previous auctions also confirm this trend. All fields of collecting were refreshingly popular at the auction in Wiesbaden. The comprehensive range of items on offer, comprising six additional special catalogues and a main catalogue with single lots and collections from Germany and overseas, was a hit with collectors and dealers across the board.

15 years of live online auctions at Heinrich Köhler

# Global bidding competition in Wiesbaden



Above: Ewald Müller Mark, the great master of old German philately, called the Stockach provisional stamp the great dream of all collectors. An aficionado recently had the chance to fulfil this dream – thanks to his relentless online clicking during the ERIVAN auction in Wiesbaden.

Left: The hammer fell at 135,000 euros. In the end, two online bidders were locked in a fierce competition that felt like a high-performance sport, even to auctioneer Dieter Michelson.

‘We now come to the famous Stockach provisional stamp, the item with the ideally placed cancellation’, said Dieter Michelson, Managing Director at Heinrich Köhler, who was serving as auctioneer announcing lot 13 at the 5<sup>th</sup> ERIVAN auction in Wiesbaden. The excitement that followed would be hard to top – there was a heated bidding war on every channel: bidders in the room, on the telephone and especially online were refusing to relinquish the upper hand.

The Baden 3 Kreuzer pink from 1862 has regular perforation, but the Stockach provisional stamp does not: an unknown number of No. 18 stamps from the Grand Duchy of Baden were sent to Stockach as unperforated errors, where they were issued by the local post office counter. The quality of this item from the ERIVAN Collection doubtless makes it the pinnacle of the mere 20 examples of the Stockach provisional stamp registered at Heinrich Köhler. The guide price was 20,000 euros – but the winning bid was an impressive 135,000 euros. ‘Major gaps in large collections are certainly being filled today’, Dieter Michelson summarised, as the guests in the room applauded in relief.

## Global reach

The lucky new owner of this rare, world-class item participated in the international auction via the online bidding process – further proof of the importance of live online bidding for the success of philatelic auctions. ‘We were the first German stamp auction house to introduce online bidding for our auctions exactly 15 years ago’, Dieter Michelson explains. ‘Today, it would be impossible to imagine any auction taking place without this cutting-edge technology.’ It is not unusual for auctions to end in a bidding competition between two online bidders once the bidders in the room and on the telephone have given

up. ‘The people who entrust us with their items to be auctioned appreciate just how important this global reach and attention can be.’ More than 1,300 online bidders from around the world registered for Heinrich Köhler’s traditional spring auction. ‘There are few auction halls in the world that offer enough space for that many people’, Michelson comments with a smile.

And what about the safety and privacy of these online auctions? ‘We have developed a special software for that purpose’, Michelson explains. ‘Additionally, encrypted data transmission via a secure server ensures the highest possible level of data privacy.’





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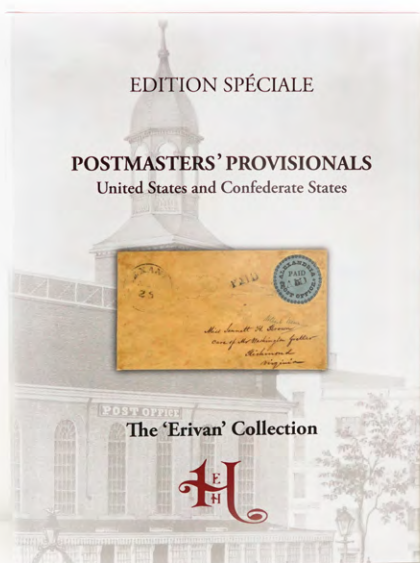
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