

Newsletter September 2022 — Vol 18 Issue 9

## Chairman's Message

# IT'S HOT!!!



I hope this finds all members happy and healthy. We are in the middle of a sweltering hot summer, here in Arizona, USA. Last week, our daily temperature was a whopping 117 F. Whew! Wish I could cool off.

Speaking of cooling off, a nice beach somewhere would sure make my day.



Recently, I listed a stamp from Grenada — nothing special. As seen below, it is Scott#132, in used condition. Not the most expensive stamp, but great subject matter, and the image is just spectacular.



The palm trees and the beach grabbed my attention. If you look closely, you can see people on the beach. Pretty sure the temperature is no way near 117F.

Good luck to all members. Stay cool wherever you are in the world. And, remember: quality counts, when listing our stamps for sale.

Lee Coen  
Chairman 2022



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## Members by Country

at 28th August 2022

Algeria	1
Argentina	2
Australia	18
Belgium	2
Canada	8
Croatia	2
France	3
Germany	4
Gibraltar	2
Hong Kong	1
India	1
Israel	1
Italy	4
Japan	1
Mexico	1
Netherlands	6
New Zealand	1
Pakistan	1
Philippines	2
South Africa	3
Spain	2
Sweden	1
UK	26
USA	43
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>136</b>

## New Member Announcement

Date: 8/31/2022

Name: Thomas Humfrey

Member Number: 433

Date became a member: 8/31/2022

Email: [thomas@boitedetimbres.com](mailto:thomas@boitedetimbres.com)

Business Name: Boite de Timbres

Business Website: <https://www.boitedetimbres.com>

Specializes in: Worldwide stamps and postal history

Location: Usson du Poitou, France

Referred By:

Member Discounts: Free Shipping

## Call for Submissions

Do you write?

Do you have an idea for an article?

Do you have a news tip to share?

Send any articles, ideas, or tips to me:

[Ted@tedtalksstamps.com](mailto:Ted@tedtalksstamps.com)







# Raspberries for September

To be honest I was not going to nominate anyone or any one stamp for an award this month. After what has been shown over the past few months surely there could be no more qualifiers? Could it be possible to show more stamps or seller descriptions that could qualify? Yes, sadly it is.

The morons that are out there, and there are far too many on Hipstamp to even think about, without getting angry – let's be honest here, for some reason, it defies logic that the Hipstamp platform seems to draw the moron stamp sellers more than even eBay. Well, so it seems at times. So, let's start:

## The Dog ate my Stamp Award

Yes this is a sarcastic comment because what else could be a plausible explanation for the quality of this stamp.?



If I had my way, I would have it removed from Hipstamp and, given the total incompetence of the person listing this, I would also have them removed as a seller.

Anyone who has the audacity to list something like this is obviously a moron. But, to describe it as, and I quote, "World Map (Condition is 'Used')," has to be either an insane con artist or delusional and should be in a mental home.

This is exactly the image as presented, I might add. Oh, and by the way, the seller states there are 4 of them for sale as per the QTY filed in the listing. It is scary to think

there are three more of these. Just like this. Yes, I agree, they should be in a mental home.



## The Edward Scissorhands Award

I had to laugh when I saw this listing - honestly dear reader, I am not making this up. It really was, and probably still is, listed on Hipstamp. The title for the award just jumped into my head. Well it would, wouldn't it?



Credit where credit is due though – the seller does say this is a spacefiller - quote, and again this is exactly as the moron has written it " ... missing corners, filler (1967) Used Stamp is exact stamp you will receive, satisfaction guaranteed..."

Yes, the seller wrote, "satisfaction guaranteed." I am still laughing. I want to tell you the seller's name and the listed price, but I fear the amusement and or shock horror would be too much for you, and I do not want to be held accountable for causing health issues through laughter or shock.

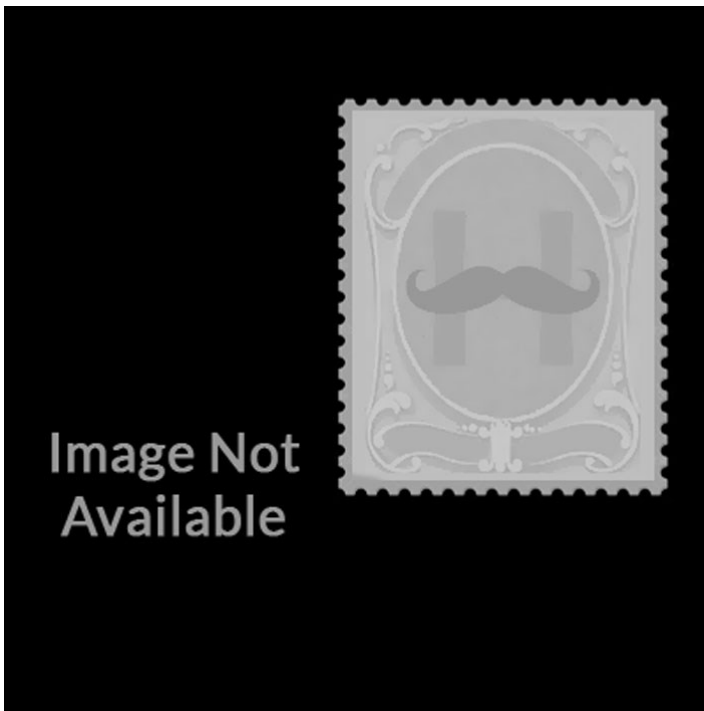


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### The Invisible Man Award for Spacefillers

What about this next one. Surely a winner in any Award category. I don't know about you but at times, yes, there are space fillers that are worth acquiring. I have a few myself. Most are stamps in the \$1000+ range, and, while today I would not buy one, there was a time when a few bucks spent on a space filler made me happy, and, yes, filled a significant gap I could never afford to fill with a



better copy. But, when you buy a space filler surely you want to see what exactly the crap is that you are spending your after tax dollars on.

Again, I am not making this up. A stamp listed with two others for sale with this image and listed as a space filler. It is one of three in a lot, and it is Used.

As stated in the listing, the value is not included in the listing price. But, one could be picked up for a buck or less.

So is something of that value a space filler? I don't think so — more like a garbage bucket copy in anyone's language. Or, just a come on!! But, and yes, I am sorry to tell you, there is a big "But." The seller deliberately does not post images of low value stamps and makes it quite clear in the listing description.

Well there you have it. Another one that won't be sold anytime soon, I hope.

### The Seeing is Not Always Believing Award

Now, talking of space fillers, I really feel this has to be the con-artist-offering of the month, and I will nominate it for the Seeing is Not Always Believing Award. I cannot for the life of me work out what it is, and, going by the description of the listing, neither can the seller.

Did I say, "seller?" I do apologise; I meant to say, "shyster con artist." To be kind, I have removed the seller's name. It was on the listing image to the left of the word Delcampe — I know that name from somewhere, don't I? . . . Hmm . . . But, otherwise, it is shown exactly as listed on Hipstamp — as well as Delcampe, I guess!

How much would you pay for that? Sorry, silly question. How much do you think the seller was asking? Again I am not going to tell you as it may bring on convulsions. I care for you all and could never do that to you. So here you have it:



www.delcampe.net

www.delcampe.net

But, we need a winner for the month. This one just came to me. I did not have to look for it; Hipstamp sent it to me as a stamp I might like. I think I found a worthy winner. I hope you will agree.

Drum roll please:



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### The Trust Me I am a Stamp Dealer Award

for September goes to this little beauty. Or is it a beauty. Read on, because you do not know. This image is exactly as shown in the store.



The seller writes, and again I quote, "photograph is representative, so may not have a margin."

Well, that decides it, doesn't it? I am definitely not buying from this clown. Sort of a click and bait listing? The comment, "this isn't really what I am selling," was under the "Details" tab, which a buyer could easily have overlooked. What do you think?

I was curious, so I looked at the store listings. I am glad to report I did not have a stroke or heart attack, but think I will be advising Hipstamp to add a Health and Safety Warning to the store — something along the lines of, "Entry to this store may cause health issues to those with a weak heart or other medical conditions" — you know the sort of sign you read at Disney World on some of the rides. Perhaps this type of warning should be added to rather more than just this store.

Anyway, this is the winner for the September Trust me I am a Stamp Dealer Award.



Of course I welcome feedback and award entries. Let's enjoy this wonderful hobby. So many other clowns and morons do, so why shouldn't we.

Your roving Quality Controller, under the guise of Michael Dodd.



## History's Worst Hyperinflation

Everyone is familiar with the hyperinflation issues of Weimar Germany, in the 1920s. It led to ever-increasing denominations of postage stamps, peaking, in 1923, with a stamp denominated at 50 billion Marks.

This hyperinflation, though, is dwarfed by that suffered by Hungary from 1945-1946. At its peak, inflation raged at 150,000% per day. The Hungarian pengő fell so far in value, the government created a temporary currency called the adópengő. It was initially just an accounting unit used by the government and commercial banks, but it eventually replaced the pengő note.

At the beginning, 1 January 1946, it was indexed at one pengő to one adópengő. After 7 months, on 31 July 1946, the pengő to adópengő index was  $2 \times 10^{21}$ , or 2 sextillion to 1, and the highest denominated stamp printed by Magyar Posta was 5 million adópengő, or  $10^{28}$  (10 Octillion) pengő. That is 17 zeroes beyond 50 billion.

Now, don't you feel better about the current measly 8% annual inflation rate?



Hungary, Scott Nr 784 (1946)



# Theresienstadt Ghetto

**Theresienstadt Ghetto** was established by the SS, during World War II, in the fortress town of Terezín, in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (German occupied Czechoslovakia). Theresienstadt served two main purposes: as a waystation to the extermination camps, and as a "retirement settlement," for elderly and prominent Jews, to mislead their communities about the Final Solution. Its conditions were deliberately engineered to hasten the death of its prisoners, and the ghetto also served a propaganda role. Unlike other ghettos, the exploitation of forced labor was not economically significant.

The ghetto was established by the transportation of Czech Jews in November 1941. The first German and Austrian Jews arrived in June 1942; Dutch and Danish Jews came at the beginning in 1943, and prisoners of a wide variety of nationalities were sent to Theresienstadt in the last months of the war. About 33,000 people died at Theresienstadt, mostly from malnutrition and disease.

More than 88,000 people were held there for months or years before being deported to extermination camps and other killing sites; the Jewish Council's (Judenrat) role in choosing those to be deported has attracted significant controversy. Including 4,000 of the deportees who survived, the total number of survivors was around 23,000.

Theresienstadt was known for its relatively rich cultural life, including concerts, lectures, and clandestine education for children. The fact that it was governed by a Jewish self-administration as well as the large number of "prominent" Jews imprisoned there facilitated the flourishing of cultural life. This spiritual legacy has attracted the attention of scholars and sparked interest in the ghetto.

In the post-war period, a few of the SS perpetrators and Czech guards were put on trial, but the ghetto was generally forgotten by the Soviet authorities. The Terezín Ghetto Museum is visited by 250,000 people each year.

The fortress town of Theresienstadt (Czech: *Terezín*) is located in the northwest region of Bohemia, across the river from the city of Leitmeritz (Czech: *Litoměřice*), and about 70 kilometres (43 mi) north of Prague. Founded on 22 September 1784 on the orders of the Habsburg monarch Joseph II, it was named Theresienstadt, after his mother Maria Theresa of Austria.

Theresienstadt was used as a military base by Austria-

Hungary, and, later, by the First Czechoslovak Republic, after 1918, while the "Small Fortress" across the river was a prison. Following the Munich Agreement in September 1938, Germany annexed the Sudetenland (German-speaking region of Czechoslovakia).

Although Leitmeritz was ceded to Germany, Theresienstadt remained in the Czechoslovak rump state until the German invasion of the Czech lands, on 15 March, 1939. The Small Fortress became a Gestapo prison in 1940 and the fortress town became a Wehrmacht military base, with about 3,500 soldiers and 3,700 civilians, largely employed by the army, living there in 1941.

In October 1941, as the Reich Security Main Office (RSHA) was planning the transport of Jews from Germany, Austria, and the Protectorate, to the ghettos in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe, a meeting was held in which it was decided to convert Theresienstadt into a transit center for Czech Jews. Those present included Adolf Eichmann, leader of the RSHA section IV B 4 (Jewish affairs) and Hans Günther, the director of the Central Office for Jewish Emigration in Prague. Reinhard Heydrich, the RSHA chief, approved of Theresienstadt as a location for the ghetto.

At the Wannsee Conference on 20 January 1942, Heydrich announced that Theresienstadt would be used to house Jews over the age of 65 from the Reich, as well as those who had been severely wounded fighting for the Central Powers in World War I, or who had won the Iron Cross 1st Class or a higher decoration during that war. These Jews could not plausibly perform forced labor, and, therefore, Theresienstadt helped conceal the true nature of deportation to the East.

Later, Theresienstadt also came to house "prominent" Jews whose disappearance in an extermination camp could have drawn attention from abroad. To lull victims into a false sense of security, the SS advertised Theresienstadt as a "spa town" where Jews could retire, and encouraged them to sign fraudulent home purchase contracts, pay "deposits" for rent and board, and surrender life insurance policies and other assets.

## 1941

On 24 November 1941, the first trainload of deportees arrived at the Sudeten barracks in Theresienstadt. They were 342 young Jewish men whose task was to prepare the town for the arrival of thousands of other Jews, beginning 30 November. Another transport of 1,000 men arrived on 4 December. This included Jakob Edelstein and the original members of the Council of Elders.

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Deportees to the ghetto had to surrender all possessions except for 50 kilograms (110 lb) of luggage, which they had to carry with them from the railway station at Bauschowitz (Bohušovice), 2.4 kilometres (1.5 mi) away. The walk was difficult for elderly and ill Jews, many of whom died on the journey. After arriving, prisoners were sent to the *schleuse* (English: sluice), where they were registered and deprived of their remaining possessions.

The 24 November and 4 December transports, consisting mostly of Jewish craftsmen, engineers, and other skilled workers of Zionist sympathies, were known as the *Aufbaukommando* (Work Detail), and their members were exempt from deportation until September 1943.

The members of the *Aufbaukommando* used creative methods to improve the infrastructure of the ghetto and prepare it to house an average of 40,000 people during its existence. The construction project was funded by stolen Jewish property.

When the first transport arrived, there was only one vat for coffee with a capacity of 300L. By the next year, there were sufficient kettles to make 50,000 cups of ersatz coffee in two hours.

The waterworks often broke down during the first months, due to inadequate capacity. To improve potable water supply, and so everyone could wash daily, workers drilled wells and overhauled the pipe system. The Germans provided the materials for these improvements, largely to reduce the chance of communicable disease spreading beyond the ghetto, but Jewish engineers directed the projects.

Jews lived in the eleven barracks in the fortress, while civilians continued to inhabit the 218 civilian houses. Segregation between the two groups was strictly enforced and resulted in harsh punishments for Jews who left their barracks. By the end of the year, 7,365 people had been deported to the ghetto, of whom 2,000 were from Brno and the rest from Prague.

## 1942

The first transport from Theresienstadt left on 9 January 1942 for the Riga Ghetto. It was the only transport whose destination was known to the deportees. Other transports simply departed for "the East." The next day, the SS publicly hanged nine men for smuggling letters out of the ghetto, an event that caused widespread outrage and disquiet.

The first transports targeted mostly able-bodied people. If one person in a family were selected for a transport, family members would typically volunteer to accompany them, which has been analyzed as an example of family solidarity or social expectations. From June 1942, the SS interned elderly and "prominent" Jews from the Reich at Theresienstadt. Due to the need to accommodate these Jews, the non-Jewish Czechs living in Theresienstadt were expelled, and the town was closed off by the end of June.

In May, the self-administration had reduced rations for the elderly in order to increase the food available to hard laborers, as part of its strategy to save as many children and young people as possible to emigrate to Palestine after the war. 101,761 prisoners arrived at Theresienstadt in 1942 causing the population to peak, on 18 September 1942, at 58,491.

The death rate also peaked that month with 3,941 deaths. Corpses remained unburied for days and grave-diggers carrying coffins through the streets were a regular sight.

To alleviate overcrowding, the Germans deported 18,000 mostly elderly people in nine transports, in the autumn of 1942. Most of the people deported from Theresienstadt in 1942 were killed immediately, either in the Operation Reinhard death camps or at mass execution sites in the Baltic States and Belarus, such as Kalevi-Liiva and Maly Trostenets.

Many transports have no known survivors. The Germans selected a small number of healthy young people for forced labor. In all, 42,000 people, mostly Czech Jews, were deported from Theresienstadt in 1942, of whom only 356 survivors are known.

## 1943

In January, seven thousand people were deported to Auschwitz concentration camp. During the same month, the Jewish community leaders from Berlin and Vienna arrived, and the leadership was reorganized to include Paul Eppstein, a German Zionist, and Benjamin Murmelstein, an Austrian rabbi. Jakob Edelstein was forced to act as Eppstein's deputy.

At the beginning of February, Ernst Kaltenbrunner, head of the RSHA, proposed the deportation of an additional five thousand elderly Jews. SS chief, Heinrich Himmler, refused, due to the increasing need for Theresienstadt as an alibi to conceal information on the Holocaust reaching the Western Allies. There were no more transports from

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Theresienstadt until the deportation of 5,000 Jews to the Theresienstadt family camp at Auschwitz in September.

The inmates were also allowed slightly more privileges, including postal correspondence and the right to receive food parcels.

On 24 August, 1943, 1,200 Jewish children from the Bialystok Ghetto in Poland arrived at Theresienstadt. They refused to be disinfected due to their fear that the showers were gas chambers. This incident was one of the only clues as to what happened to those deported from Theresienstadt. The children were held in strict isolation for six weeks before deportation to Auschwitz. None survived.



The Bialystok children, drawn by Theresienstadt prisoner Otto Ungar

On 9 November 1943, Edelstein and other ghetto administrators were arrested, accused of covering up the escape of fifty-five prisoners. Two days later, commandant Anton Burger ordered a census of the entire ghetto population — approximately 36,000 people at that time. All inmates, regardless of age, were required to stand outside in freezing weather from 7 am to 11 pm; 300 people died on the field from exposure. Five thousand prisoners, including Edelstein and the other arrested leaders, were sent to the family camp at Auschwitz, on the 15th and 18th of December.

293 Jews arrived at Theresienstadt from Westerbork (in the Netherlands) in April 1943, but the rest of the 4,894 Jews eventually deported from Westerbork to Theresienstadt arrived during 1944. 450 Jews from Denmark—the few who had not escaped to Sweden—arrived in October 1943. The Danish government's inquiries after them prevented their deportation, and eventually the SS authorized representatives of the Danish Red Cross and

the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit Theresienstadt.

The RSHA archives were transported to Theresienstadt in July 1943, reducing the space for prisoners, and stored in the Sudeten barracks until they were burned on 17 April 1945 on SS orders.

## 1944

In February of 1944, the SS embarked on a "beautification" (*Verschönerung*) campaign, in order to prepare the ghetto for the Red Cross visit. Many "prominent" prisoners and Danish Jews were re-housed in private, superior quarters. The streets were renamed and cleaned; sham shops and a school were set up; and the SS encouraged the prisoners to perform an increasing number of cultural activities, which exceeded that of an ordinary town in peacetime.

As part of the preparations, 7,503 people were sent to the family camp at Auschwitz in May. The transports targeted sick, elderly, and disabled people who had no place in the ideal Jewish settlement.

For the remaining prisoners, conditions improved somewhat. According to one survivor, "The summer of 1944 was the best time we had in Terezín. Nobody thought of new transports."

On 23 June 1944, the visitors were led on a tour through the "Potemkin village." They did not notice anything amiss and the ICRC representative, Maurice Rossel, reported that no one was deported from Theresienstadt.

Rabbi Leo Baeck, a spiritual leader at Theresienstadt, stated that "The effect on our morale was devastating. We felt forgotten and forsaken. In August and September, a propaganda film that became known as *Der Führer schenkt den Juden eine Stadt* ("The Führer Gives a City to the Jews") was shot, but it was never distributed.

On 23 September, Eppstein, Zucker, and Marmelstein were told that Theresienstadt's war production was inadequate and, as a consequence, 5,000 Jews would be deported to a new labor camp run by Zucker. On 27 September, Eppstein was arrested and shot at the Small Fortress for alleged breaches of the law. Marmelstein became Jewish elder and retained the post until the end of the war. The deportation of the majority of the remaining population to Auschwitz—18,401 people in eleven transports commenced the next day and lasted until 28 October.

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Previously, the self-administration had chosen the people to be deported. But, now, the SS made the selections, ensuring that many members of the Jewish Council, *Aufbaukommando* workers, and cultural figures were deported and murdered at Auschwitz.

The first two transports removed all former Czechoslovak Army officers, who were thought to be a threat for causing an uprising at Theresienstadt. By November, only 11,000 people were left at Theresienstadt, most of them elderly; 70% were female.

That month, the ashes of deceased prisoners were removed by women and children. The remains of 17,000 people were dumped in the Eger River and the remainder of the ashes were buried in pits near Leitmeritz.

### 1945

Theresienstadt became the destination of transports, as the Nazi concentration camps were evacuated. After transports to Auschwitz had ceased, 416 Slovak Jews were sent from Sered to Theresienstadt on 23 December 1944. Additional transports in 1945 brought the total to 1,447. The Slovak Jews told the Theresienstädters about the fate of those deported to the East, but many refused to believe it. 1, 150 Hungarian Jews who had survived a death march to Vienna arrived in March. In 1945, 5,200 Jews living in mixed marriages with "Aryans," who had been previously protected, were deported to Theresienstadt.

On 5 February 1945, after negotiations with Swiss politician Jean-Marie Musy, Himmler released a transport of 1,200 Jews (mostly from Germany and Holland) from Theresienstadt to neutral Switzerland. Jews on this transport traveled in Pullman passenger cars, were provided with various luxuries, and had to remove their Star of David badges. Jewish organizations deposited a ransom of 5 million Swiss francs in escrowed accounts. The Danish king Christian X secured the release of the Danish internees from Theresienstadt on 15 April 1945. The White Buses, organised in cooperation with the Swedish Red Cross, repatriated the 423 surviving Danish Jews.

Starting on 20 April, between 13,500 and 15,000 concentration camp prisoners, mostly Jews, arrived at Theresienstadt, after surviving death marches from camps about to be liberated by the Allies. The prisoners were in very poor physical and mental shape, and, like the Bialystok children, refused disinfection fearing that they would be gassed. They were starving and infected with lice and typhoid fever, an epidemic of which soon raged

in the ghetto and claimed many lives. A Theresienstadt prisoner described them as "no longer people, they are wild animals"



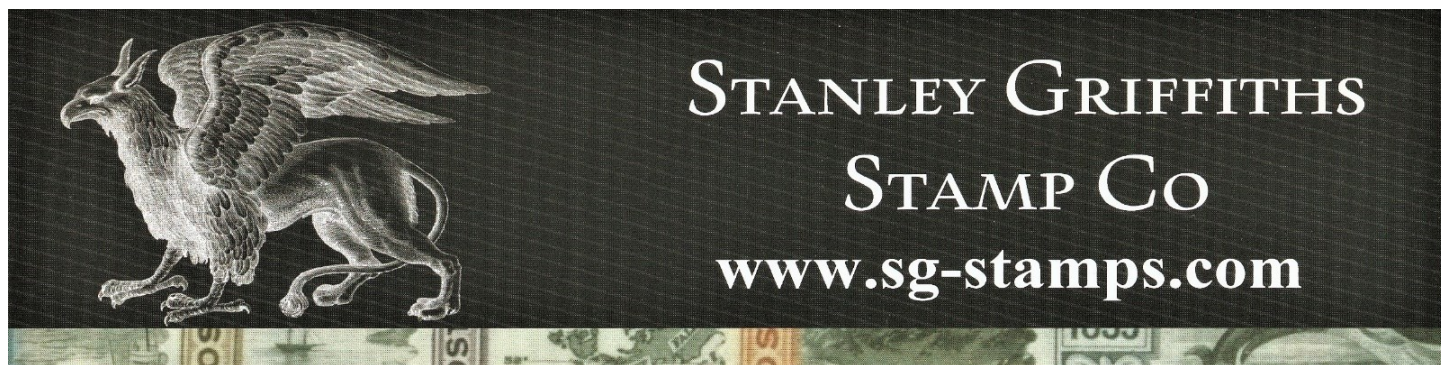
The Red Cross took over administration of the ghetto and removed the SS flag on 2 May, 1945. The SS fled on May 5th and 6th. On 8 May, Red Army troops skirmished with German forces outside the ghetto and liberated it at 9 pm. On 11 May, Soviet medical units arrived to take charge of the ghetto. The next day, Jiří Vogel, a Czech Jewish communist, was appointed elder and served until the ghetto was dissolved. Theresienstadt was the only Nazi ghetto liberated with a significant population of survivors. On 14 May, Soviet authorities imposed a strict quarantine to contain the typhoid epidemic.



More than 1,500 prisoners, and 43 doctors and nurses died around the time of liberation. After two weeks, the quarantine ended and the administration focused on returning survivors to their countries of origin. Repatriation continued until 17 August 1945.

— Jon Griffiths





**THERESIENSTADT 1943 PARCEL ADMISSION STAMPS  
PROOF BLOCK OF FOUR**



1943 Terezín souvenir sheet issued for a visit of Red Cross delegation; GREEN color; numbered 899; very good quality. It is not known how many pieces are in the world collections. In Czech republic only 3 unused pieces are known. Extreme rarity!!



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**Ian Lasok-Smith (Philatelist)**

6 Hough Green, Chester, CH4 8JG



# Stories Behind the Stamps

by Mr. Enthusiastic on Tuesday, Mrch 29, 2022

## Oh Occupied Berlin, What About Your Mail System

Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister on the eve of WWII, said "In war, whichever side may call itself the victor, there are no winners, but all are losers." Very true words, though they went unheeded to a German dictator who had dreams of ruling over all of Europe.

We all know the history of WWII and we will not rehash it here. Germany, as we know lost the war. However even before the Allies had won the war, they were already deciding what to do about Germany. It was actually this kind of attitude that brought on WW2, two decades after the first one. In February 1945, before the war ended, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Russian Premier Joseph Stalin met near Yalta, Crimea, to discuss the reorganization of post-WWII Europe. The Western powers wanted to establish democratic regimes and Stalin wanted a Soviet "sphere of influence" in Central and Eastern Europe.

On May 7, 1945 Nazi Germany finally capitulated to the victorious Allies. Russian troops had entered Berlin's northern and eastern perimeters on April 21st, and on May 2nd Berlin's commandant surrendered to the Red Army. Allied troops started arriving in Berlin at the beginning of July 1945 and the exclusive Soviet occupation finally ended. July 11th the four powers established a Kommandatura to govern Berlin.

The allies decided to divide Germany into four occupied zones: Great Britain in the northwest, France in the southwest, the United States in the south and the Soviet Union in the east. Berlin, the capital city, now situated in Soviet territory, was also divided into the same four occupied zones.

Now the fun starts. Berlin had been devastated by the war. It was a city in ruins; every third building was destroyed. However they quickly re-established infrastructure such as railroads, subways and newspaper services. Food was of course, in short supply. Post offices were either totally destroyed or heavily damaged; only a third remained at least partially usable. There was also mail that had piled up in the mail boxes and post offices in the last days of the war and had not been dealt with. Outgoing mail was still there as outside destinations had been cut; incoming mail could not be delivered because the

war was raging on.

What to do with mail? The beginning of actual regular postal services began in August 1945. In the preceding months the post offices spent much of their time in other than mail-related work such as rebuilding their destroyed facilities. But mail was sent out. In the Soviet Zone many areas produced their own local issue stamps from 1945 through 1946. These local issues (Lokalausgaben) continued to be valid until October 31st 1946.



The powers agreed that all stamps would use the Roman/Latin alphabet for official purposes. A 12Pf rate was decided on for a regional letter and was valid for mail sent to any part of the Allied Occupied Region. The Soviet Zone 12Pf was valid for use in any part of the Zone. And here a conflict arose. On 23rd June 1945, the Soviets issued a red 12pf stamp for use in East Saxony but using Cyrillic letters. The bilingual inscription "Post / Potschta" was in breach of agreements and protests by the "Western" powers ensured that it was rapidly withdrawn within a few hours. There is a question today of whether these stamps were actually issued or withdrawn before they got to the post offices in East Saxony.

During August of 1945, Berliners could start writing to their families, friends and even business connections. Life started up again. The Soviets quickly issued a stamp to be used in Berlin, the Bear stamp. It was not until 1948 that the Allies issued stamps with a Berlin overprint specially for use in Berlin. The Allies issued a set of stamps which

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could be used anywhere in the occupied zones. In some areas there were no available stamps. See my video on Denazification.

Berlin, although governed together by the four powers, was in the heart of the Soviet zone of what once was Germany, far away from the Allied occupied zone. There was nothing in place to guarantee free Allied access to Berlin. The Russians claimed that West Berlin was a part of their zone as it was in the general Soviet zone. In June 1948 the Allied forces decided that the area of Germany that they were controlling would become independent, having its own currency and of course stamps. The Soviets totally disagreed and cut off all western access to Berlin. Roads, railways, waterways and even electricity were cut. Food was in scarce supply. The US Military governor for Germany ordered all available transport planes to fly food and other necessary supplies into West Berlin and so began the Berlin airlift. The Tegel airport was built in the French zone to handle all the aircraft.

As a means to defray the costs of this massive resupply operation and to provide continuing assistance to the people of Berlin, the military government passed a law requiring a 2Pf tax on various classes of mail. The tax was to be paid ONLY by the blue stamp, first issued on Dec. 1, 1948 and inscribed "NOTOPFER / 2 BERLIN / STEUR-MARKE". This translates to "Emergency Victims / 2 Berlin / Tax Stamp".

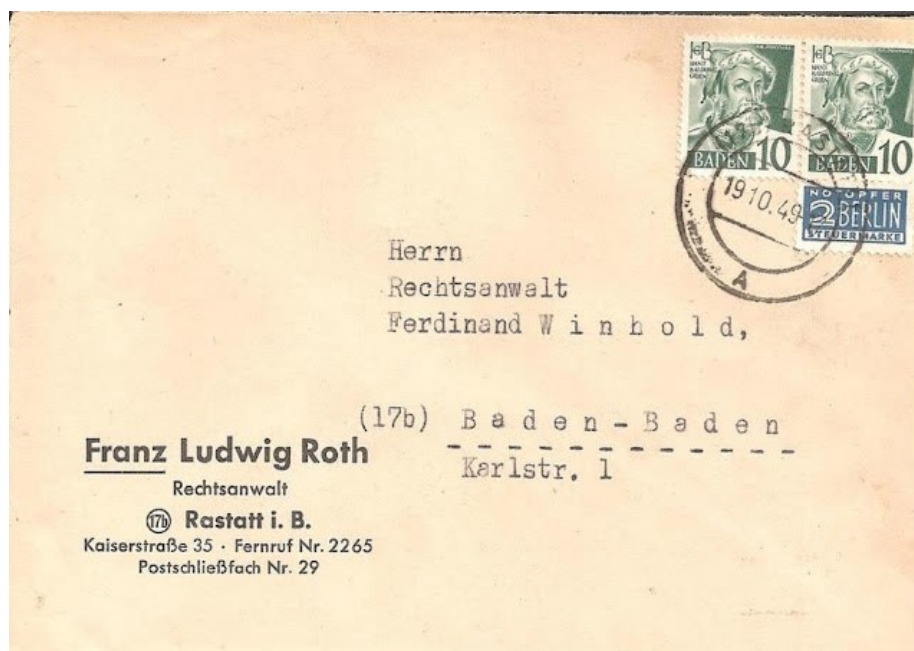
This tax stamp was sold by the post office and it had no



use other than on mail. Initially, the Notopfer stamp was required only in the combined American and British zones. It was later used in the French Zone. Strangely it was never used in Berlin itself, nor was it required on mail to Berlin, on mail to the Soviet Zone and on mail to foreign destinations. Initially every class of mail required the Notopfer. This represented a 10% tax for regular mail, but was a whopping 50% for printed matter. Businesses complained loudly about this and printed matter was later made exempt.

The Soviet blockade was eventually lifted in May 1949 but the use of the Notopfer stamp continued until 1956.

West Germany or the Republic of Germany was created in May 1949 when the United States, Great Britain, and France consolidated those zones under their occupation. East Germany, or the German Democratic Republic, was established in October 1949. West Germany was allied with the U.S., the U.K. and France and became a western capitalist country with a market economy and East Germany was allied by the Soviet Union and became communist. However Berlin was still a divided city and West Germany wanted her as their capital. East Germany claimed Berlin as her capital and that was a source for a different conflict.



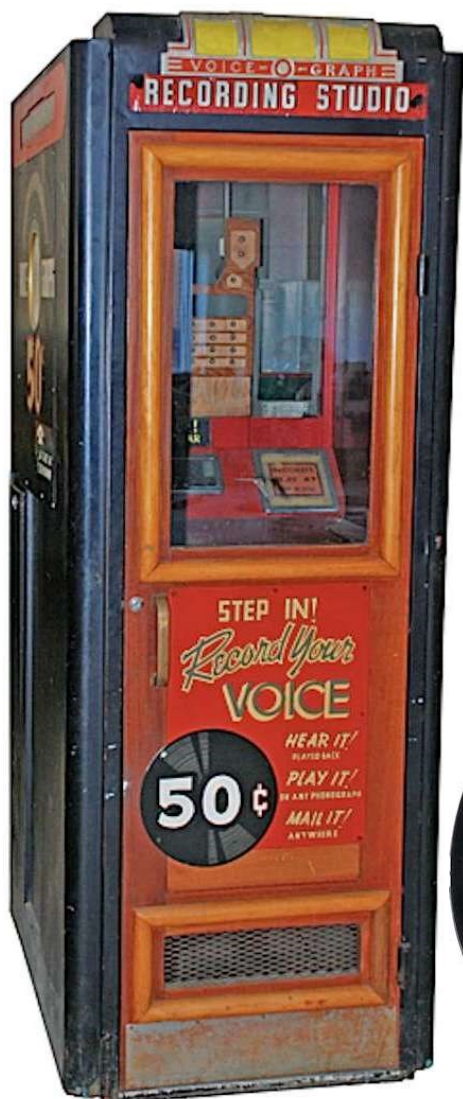
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## THE BACK PAGE

# The First Voice Mail



In 1939, there appeared a new contraption that ushered in a new and exciting trend. It was the Voice-O-Graph recording booth. For 35c, you could go into the booth and have your voice recorded directly to a 45rpm vinyl record.

The booths were a big hit, and, soon, their popularity had spread across the globe, with Voice-O-Graph booths springing up in countries from Europe to South America.

A custom mailer was also available, to mail your voice letter across the country or across the world. However, no country's postal service produced any special denominated stamps specifically for mailing Voice-O-Graph records. None, that is, except — Argentina.

In 1939, Argentina produced a set of three stamps, each one incorporating a vinyl record in the design, and each one bearing the inscription, "Correos Fonopostal." They were issued in denominations of 1.18, 1.32, and 1.50 pesos.



They were printed in photogravure, and each stamp had a printing quantity of 60,000. In the catalogues, these are: Scott 470-72, SG RM688-690, Michel 447-449, and YT 409-411.

In the Scott Catalogue they are valued at about \$80 mint, and \$55 used. Sales listing I have perused ask around \$80 for mint and \$40 for used.

— Ted Tyska