

UNIFICATION OF GERMANY Bismarck's Empire

- Boundary of the German Confederation of 1815.
- Boundary of the German Empire, 1871-1918
- 1866 Absorbed by Prussia
- 1867 Entered North German Confederation, as a member state
- 1871 Entered German Empire, with preceding, as a member state.
- 1871 Alsace-Lorraine annexed

MILES 0 50 100 200



GERMAN TARIFF UNITY The Zollverein

Showing years of adherence of various states to the tariff union initiated by Prussia. The old free cities of Hamburg and Bremen were not brought under the national tariff until long after political unification.



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Germany Empire

Government: Kingdom

Capital: Berlin

Area: 208,800 square miles

Standard Coin: 1872 North 30 Groschen =
1 Thaler

South 90 Kreuzer =
1 Gulden

1875 100 Pfennige =
1 Mark

Philatelic history:

Jan. 1, 1872: First issue

Jan. 1, 1903: First officials

GERMANY

EMPIRE

Unwatermarked

(normal) 16 perf. to a side

1872



red brown 15 perf. holes



choc. brown

1874



GERMANY

EMPIRE

Unwatermarked

1875-77



1880



1881



1889-1900



Dark brown

1900



thin letters, thick letters



yellow brown



light brown

GERMANY

Unwatermarked

1901



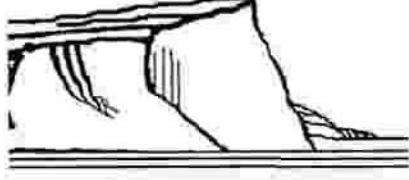
1902



2067 post (normal)



2067 post

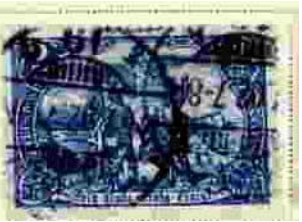


Type I



Type II

Figure 1. A line drawing of the cliffs and sea in the background to the right on the Gothic-inscription version of the 1902 2-mark shows the two types: the first (left), found on all stamps from rows 1, 2, 3 and 5; and the second (right), with a dash of color on the cliffs, found only on stamps from row 4.



Germany



Addressed to "Mount Hermann/East Northfield"
"Mass" and "USA" added.

Cancelled "Berlin, 50/-8.6.05 8-9v/16d"

"Rec'd ??? Mount Hermon, Mass"

"Rec'd East Northfield, Mass/10AM/ Jun 29/1905"

"Deficiency/-in-/ADDRESS/supplied/by/N.Y.P.O.-I.D."

"East Northfield, Mass/4 PM/JUL 5/1905"

GERMANY

Watermarked Lozenges

1906-19



1916-19



Watermarked Circles

1921

Type of 1906-11
3 M
BLACK VIOLET
/02

Unwatermarked

1919-20



GERMANY

Watermarked Lozenges
1920



1921



GERMANY

Watermarked Lozenges

1921-22



Watermarked Quatrefoils

1922-23



GERMANY

Watermarked Network

1922-23



GERMANY

Watermarked Network

1922-23



Watermarked Network

1922



Watermarked Lozenges

1922



Watermarked Network

1923



Germany Inflation Period

Following World War I, the Allies intended to have Germany pay for the damages caused by the fighting. The Treaty of Versailles originally set the war reparations at \$33,000,000,000. Payment of even part of this sum proved ruinous to the German economy. Throughout the 1920s forces led by France pushed for payment of these duties, while other Allied countries, including the United States, negotiated to reduce the amount to be paid. Inside Germany some bankers believed that the money base could be inflated to pay for war damages in "cheap marks".

The disastrous result of these events can be seen philatelically in the stamps of Germany. Prior to World War I the highest value German stamp was 5 Marks. During this time a Mark was worth about 24¢. Then in early 1920 10, 20, 50 and 100 Mark stamps appeared. Higher and higher values were added as inflation took hold. The climax began on August 20, 1923 and lasted until November 30, 1923. The following table illustrates the effect:

In June 1923 154,000 M = \$1 (US).

On Nov. 15, 1923 4,200,000,000 M = \$1

On Dec 1, 1923 1,000,000,000,000 = 1 new
Goldmark

To cover the increasing postal costs stamps were surcharged with new values at Berlin

and at the provincial postal administrations* at Breslau, Erfurt, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hanover, Königsberg, Leipzig, Munich, Münster, Stettin and Stuttgart. Markings in the margins identify each of these cities.

Stamps with lower values were gradually demonetized during the inflation period until December 1923, when stamps with a value of 1,000,000,000 to 50,000,000,000 Marks could be used at the rate of 10,000,000,000 Marks to 1 Rentenpfennig (Rpf). Some of these inflation stamps were used for postage as late as 1924.

So many stamps were issued during the inflation period that it is understandable that counterfeits appeared. One such stamp was given catalog status - notice the missing 800 T on 100 M violet on one of the following pages.



GERMANY

Watermarked Network

1923



Watermarked Lozenges
1923

Watermarked Network
1923



17 mm high



800th M
On 100 M
VIOLET

16 mm

16 mm

14 mm

16 mm

GERMANY

Watermarked Network

1923



GERMANY

Watermarked Network

1923



1924



1925



GERMANY

Watermarked Network

1925



1926



1927



GERMANY

Watermarked Network

1928



1930



1931-32



1932



