

MEMEL / KLAIPĖDA PHILATELIC HANDBOOK, PART 1:

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Philately of Memel / Klaipėda

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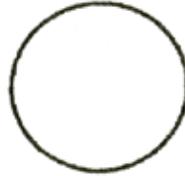
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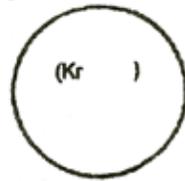
A. Anatomy of German Cancellations

(Adapted from a previous book of the author)

- 100** type is a single circle containing only the town name, date, time and stars.



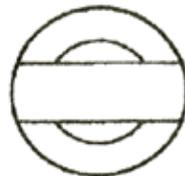
- 105** type is a single circle as type 100 but also containing the name of the *Kreis* (county) in the upper half of the cancel.



- 106** type is a single circle as type 100 but also containing a small segment and the name of the *Kreis* (county) in the upper half of the cancel.



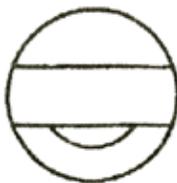
- 223** type is a double circle with a bridge containing the date and time. The upper portion between the arcs contain the town or city. The lower portion below the bridge may contain stars, letters or names. The segments formed above and below the bridge are normally empty but the lower segment may contain a letter.



- 224** type is a double circle with a bridge containing the date and time. The upper portion between the arcs contain the town or city. The lower portion below the bridge may contain stars, letters or names. The segments formed above and below the bridge contain vertical lines known as “Gitter” or fence in German.



242 type is a double circle with a bridge containing the date and time. The upper portion has the inner arc removed and contains only the town name. The lower portion below the bridge may contain stars, letters or names. The segment formed below the bridge may contain a letter.



B. Anatomy of Lithuanian Cancellations

(Adapted from an article by the author)



The town or city name is always in block letters. Also the month in the date bar is always a Roman numeral. There are upper and lower bars vary in thickness and number. The right and left designs were given a number of either #37 or #58 from an Ernst Becker article. The letter at the bottom, in the middle, is normally a lower case “a”.



Design #37 (re: Becker)



Design #58 (re: Becker)



Exceptions to that are:

- Pagėgiai, Rusnė, Saugai, Smalininkai and Lumpėnai used both a lower case “a” and a capital “B”.
- On German type of cancels the numbers 1 and 2 have been used.
- Šilutė used lower case “a”, “b”, “c” and “d”.
- Klaipėda had even more using lower case “a”, “b”, “c”, “d” and “e”.
- Klaipėda also used capital “F”, “G” and “I” for postal use.
- Klaipėda used two types of “b”, one with and one without a hook on the shaft.

There were also two types of Klaipėda “e”, one used design #37 and the other design #58.

AGLOHNEN / AGLONĖNAI

District (Kreis): **Memel**

P.O. Class: **Agency**

Population: **442**

(Memel)



Shape: **223**

Lower arc: **(Kr.Memel)**

OD (mm): **20**

ID (mm): **14.5**

Bridge (mm): **8.5**

(Klaipėda)



Bars: **12/12**

Letter: = **a** =

OD (mm): **25**

ID (mm): **16**

Bridge (mm): **8**

First usage: **16.V.24**

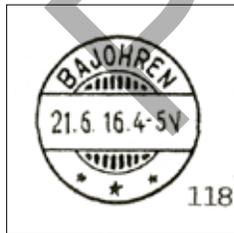
BAJOHREN / BAJORAI

District (Kreis): **Memel**

P.O. Class: **Agency**

Population: **394**

(Memel)



Shape: **224**

Lower arc: *** * ***

OD (mm): **25**

ID (mm): **16**

Bridge (mm): **8.5**

(Klaipėda)



Bars: **13/13**

Letter: = **a** =

OD (mm): **25**

ID (mm): **16**

Bridge (mm): **8**

First usage: **15.V.25**

The railroad cancellations from 1915 to 1921 were ZUG 65, 102, 108, 110 and 206. It should be noted that the “Reichkurbuch” (RKB) of July 1914 designated mail to be carried by train numbers in pairs that designated odd numbers for outbound and even numbers for return.

INSTERBERG–MEMEL: Z101 and Z102; Z103 and Z104; Z111 and Z106.

POGEGEN–SCHMALLENINGKEN: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

TILSIT–LAUGSZARGEN: 944, 945 and 946.

Railroad Cancellations 1920 to April 15, 1923

The MICHEL specialized catalog notes there were two types of INSTERBURG–MEMEL cancellation: Type (I) and Type (II).



(re: Fugalevičius)

The French administrators basically used the same postal regulations and the same cancelling devices including railroad cancellations.

Type (I) railroad cancel was a smaller ellipse as used prior to 1920 and Type (II) was larger and had a different internal design. Until the Lithuanian railroad cancels came into use starting on April 16, 1923 the three railroad lines using cancelling devices were:

INSTERBURG–MEMEL,
TILSIT–LAUGSZARGEN and
POGEGEN–SCHMALLENINGKEN.

The outward-bound trains from Memel used an odd number and the return journey used an even number. The ZUG numbers were: Z9 and Z10; Z101 and Z110; Z103 and Z106; Z105 and Z108.

Type (II) the odd/even numbering remained for Type II. The ZUG numbers were: Z9 and Z10; Z101 and Z110; Z102 and Z106; Z105 and Z108.

An unpaired Insterburg-Memel cancellation Z 115 (I) and Z 115 (II) exists.



Outbound

Inbound

(re: Fugalevičius)

Note that Insterburg-Memel cancellation had a variety as to the size of the letters and numbers used.

Seapost

In the 1920 to 1925 time period mail came overland (usually by rail), over water (into the port at Memel (Klaipėda) or experimentally by air. The amount of mail that entered and left by ship through the port in Memel (Klaipėda) for foreign destinations remains unknown. It is believed that “Paquebot” stamped mail came later in the 1930’s.

For the Memel/Klaipėda stamp collector there is connection to that of “boat mail.” There were two resort towns on the barrier peninsula south of Memel that was not directly accessible by land and required a boat to deliver mail to them. The towns requiring a boat to receive or send mail are Nidden (Nida) and Schwarzort (Juodkrantė). The body of water now is called Curonian Lagoon (sometimes bay or gulf). In the 1920’s it was the Kurisches Haff.

One can collect “boat mail” in all periods from January 1920 to August 31, 1925 as shown below on stamps, letters and package cards. In Schwarzort there was enough mail traffic to require it to become a class III post office.



Nidden (Nida) and Schwarzort (Juodkrantė) required a boat to receive or send mail



Examples Nidden (Nida) cancellations on Germania, French and Klaipėda stamps



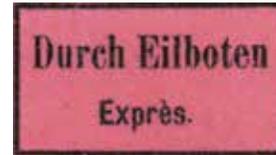
Examples Schwarzort (Juodkrantė) cancellations on Germania, French and Klaipėda stamps

6. German Consulate in Memel



550. (4.7.1922)

10. Special Delivery



11. French Forces Cachets

7. Memel Municipal Cachet



542. Memel
(11.2.1925)



Field Post



Memel
Commanding
General

8. Postal Money Order



Memel
High
Commissioner

9. Postal Search Cachets

a) Opened by Memel P.O. to identify sender



Memel
Passport
Services

b) Sender not identifiable by hand writing

Absender nach Handschrift
nicht zu ermitteln.
Memel, d. _____

Germania Postal Cards

There were two Memel Territory postal cards with Germania imprinted at the upper right corner and contained the overprint “Memel: gebiet” on two lines. Their use began about August 1, 1920 and ended October 30, 1920 when all overprinted Germania Memel stamps were withdrawn. These cards could **only** be used within the Memel Territory or sent to Germany.

Michel P-1 was a 30 Pfennig card. Some 52,000 were issued and the stamp image was blue in color. These cards could only be used within the Memel Territory or sent to Germany.



Overprinted Germania 30 Pfennig postal card (Mi P-1)

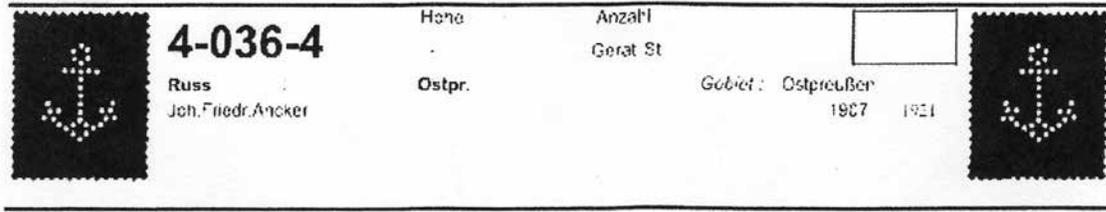
This second Memel Territory postal card also had Germania imprinted at the upper right corner and contained the overprint “Memel: gebiet” on two lines. Their use also began about August 1, 1920 and ended October 30, 1920 when all overprinted Germania Memel stamps were withdrawn. These cards could **only** be used within the Memel Territory or sent to Germany.

Michel P-2 was a 40 Pfennig card. Some 4,000 were issued and the stamp image was a carmine red in color. There is one known Becker variety of G-2. G-2a has a dull red color.



Overprinted Germania 40 Pfennig postal card (Mi P-2)

The Anchor Perfin



Two articles about the “anchor” perfin have been written by Eugene Marshall [Marshall 1991-2 and 1999]. This is a summary of those articles. For those wishing more detail you are directed to those articles. Marshall wrote:

“In the winter of 1986-87 a Memelgebiet stamp with a perfin shaped like an anchor was listed by a German auction house. The stamp and cancel had been certified by the appropriate BPP expertizer. At that time, the anchor perfin was not listed for the Memelgebiet by either the U.S Perfins Club or the Perfin Study Group in Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Lochungen).

Ten years earlier, the possibility of an anchor perfin on a Memelgebiet stamp had been brought up by the late Walter Norton. In addition to his outstanding Lithuanian collection, he also had a very fine collection of stamps from the Lithuanian administration period of the Memelgebiet. While he did not have a “K.A.” perfin in his collection, he did have a perfin in the shape of an anchor on a Lithuanian stamp that had been cancelled in the Memelgebiet town of Russ during 1924.

Photocopies were exchanged which verified that the perfin in the Lithuanian stamp and the Memelgebiet stamp were the same. In addition, both stamps had been cancelled in Russ during the same time period with the same Lithuanian style town cancel, “Rusnė * a *.” The Lithuanian stamp was a red, 15 Centu, Scott 166 with a “Rusnė ?-XII-24 cancel, while the Memel stamp was a carmine, 15 Centu on 100 Marks, Mi 211 and with a “?usnė ?X-24 cancel. Mr. Norton also wrote that he had seen another Lithuanian stamp, a blue, 25 Centu, Scott 168, with the same anchor perfin listed in an auction catalog. Unfortunately, he never mentioned who had published the auction catalog or when.”



Lithuania Scott 166
(re: Norton)



Memel Mi 121
(re: Marshall)



Klaipėda Mi 217 I
(re: Schwanke #342)

The anchor perfins were accepted by both the Perfins Club (USA) and the ArGe Lochungen in 1987 followed by Marshall's article in 1991 [Marshall 1991].

A new parcel post not previously presented by V. Fugalevičius [Fugalevičius 1990] is that of Nidden (Nida) and is shown below. This marking is followed alphabetically confirming on stamps that also contain cancellations of the city or town.



Examples of parcel post markings of overprinted French stamps

Note

The reader is encouraged to submit to the Editor of this handbook scans of parcel post markings that also have confirming town cancellations. Email for communications is: editor@mkpdirect.com

CHAPTER 11

Revenue Stamps

— Andrew Kapochunas

The Revenue Society (<http://www.revenuesociety.org.uk>) defines revenues as “...stamps, whether impressed, adhesive or otherwise, issued by or on behalf of International, National or Local Governments, their Licensees or Agents, and indicate that a tax, duty or fee has been paid or prepaid or that permission has been granted.”

The Greek root definition of “philately” coined in 1864 (by M. Georges Herpin, writing in *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*), is “the love of being exempt from payment—expressed by pre-paying a tax.” (*Until the advent of postage stamps, it was typically the receiver of a letter that had to pay for its delivery, a fee often based on the distance the letter travelled.*) By that definition, philately did not begin with the issuance of the first postage stamp—Britain’s “Penny Black”—in May, 1840. By then, according to the American Revenue Association, tax—or revenue, or fiscal—stamps had been in use for over 200 years. Nevertheless, part of the reason their use became widespread in the 19th century was the success of the postage stamp. Another reason was a push to make government operations more efficient—a revenue stamp on a document showed that a necessary fee had already been paid.

Widely collected by philatelists before World War I, revenue stamps once were given the same status as postage stamps in catalogues and at exhibitions. They declined in popularity after the war, perhaps due to being crowded out of catalogues by the proliferation of postage stamp issues. A 1950’s Stanley Gibbons children’s stamp album warned: “Since Philately is the collecting of stamps that are employed in connection with the Posts, do not put in your album fiscals, telegraph stamps, tobacco–tax labels and other such strange things as are often found in some collections.”

Revenue philately again has become popular: it now has its own FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) Commission and is an approved category in FIP-endorsed stamp exhibitions. While a number of specialist catalogs have featured the revenue stamps of Memel / Klaipėda (a summary of them follows), revenue stamps are not listed in either the Stanley Gibbons or Michel catalogs—unless they are both revenue and postage stamps. Both the standard Scott and the Scott Specialized US catalogues do list US revenue stamps.

Even up to nearly 90 years after issuance, new revenue stamps issued during the period under consideration are still being discovered. Given the current frequent uncertainty of exact month—and even year—of issue, additional stamps will, in the future, no doubt be added—and possibly removed—from listings.

**Evolution of Cataloging the January 1920 – August 1925
Revenue Stamps of Memel / Klaipėda:**

Publish Date	Author(s)	Total Issues
1971	Raimondas Lapas <i>Mr. Lapas' seminal work lists 50 issues as possibly being within the specified timeframe. Two are halves of single issues; five (his K46-K50) are listed as being from 1923, but in a design and colors (see example of his K46) that might have been issued after 1925. Examples of these five issues with clear cancellation dates before August 31, 1925 are needed for final determination.</i>	43
Pre-1980	John A. Norton	128
1980	Martin Erler and John A. Norton	136
1983	John Barefoot and Andrew Hall	135
1988	John Barefoot and Andrew Hall <i>Memel/Klaipėda listings are identical to those in the 1983 edition</i>	135
1991	Arbeitsgemeinschaft Fiskalmarken <i>Newsletter update to 1980 Erler & Norton</i>	+8
1995	Martin Erler and John A. Norton	144
1998	John Barefoot	140
2014	John Barefoot	155
2014	Andrew Kapochunas	172



K46

General Tax (Revenue) Stamp / *Allgemeine Stempel (Steuer) marke*

1921: No watermark. 22.5 × 18.5 mm. Perf. 11 ½. Value overprinted with black ink.

- | | | |
|----|-------|------------------|
| 1. | ½ M | Orange / Orange |
| 2. | 1 M | Rose / Rosa |
| 3. | 2 M | Yellow / Gelb |
| 4. | 5 M | Green / Grün |
| 5. | 10 M | Grey / Grau |
| 6. | 20 M | Red / Rot |
| 7. | 50 M | Violet / Violett |
| 8. | 100 M | Blue / Blau |
| 9. | 500 M | Brown / Braun |



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



A fragment of the 1915 German atlas depicting post offices in the Memel Territory. The insert shows map legend.

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