

Allied Military Government Collectors' Club (AMGCC)

New Member / Renewal Application Form

You may start or renew membership in the AMGCC by completing and mailing in this form with your dues payment check or you may do the same thing instantly and securely on-line at www.amgcollectors.org. You may also pay via Paypal, though Paypal will charge you a small handling fee. Our Paypal account e-mail is AMGCC1945@gmail.com. However you pay your dues, welcome to the AMGCC! We're glad to have you! Mailing it in? Please print legibly! Membership dues are due by May 8th (Victory in Europe Day!) each year.

Date: _____ New membership ☐ Renewal ☐ (Member number, if known _____)

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Membership level (Check one):

- ☐ Digital at \$20 USD: Includes access to the AMG Courier on-line only.
- ☐ All-Access at \$30.00 USD: Includes printed copies of the AMG Courier mailed to you. *
- ☐ Benefactor at \$60.00 USD: Includes printed copies of the AMG Courier mailed to you. *
- ☐ Patron at \$110.00 USD: Includes printed copies of the AMG Courier mailed to you. *

* Non-U.S. based members will need to pay additional postage. Please contact the club at AMGCC1945@gmail.com to inquire further.

All members in good standing enjoy access to the AMGCC website (www.amgcollectors.org) including electronic access to downloadable current and past issues of the award-winning quarterly journal The AMG Courier and other AMG collecting resources. All members in good standing may participate in club auctions. Additional donation to help fund AMGCC operations: \$_____ (Thank you!)

AMG collecting interest(s) or specialization(s): _____

How did you learn about the AMGCC? _____

Other philatelic affiliations? _____

Please specify organization name and your membership number, if any

Please include your dues payment with this form and make checks payable to the Allied Military Government Collectors Club. Please do not send cash! Mail to:

AMG Collectors' Club, C/O David Arking, Secretary/Treasurer
223 Williamsburg Road, Lansing, Michigan 48917 USA

FOR USE BY AMGCC

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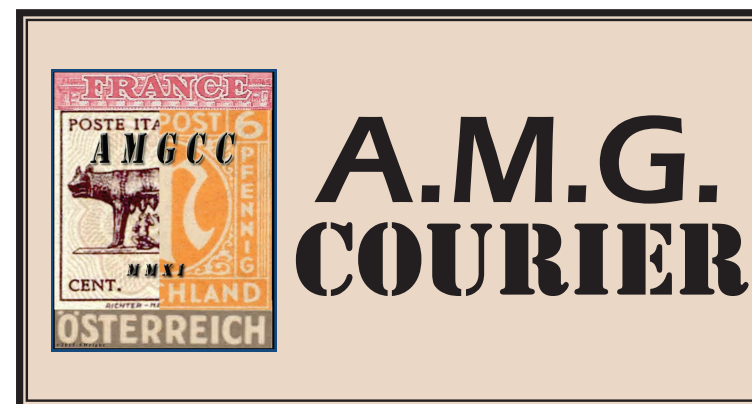
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Form last updated: 5-10-21

For new members, date welcome letter mailed: _____



The first airmail set and the only special delivery stamp issued for use in the Ryukyu Islands under U.S. military administration.



THE JOURNAL OF THE AMG COLLECTORS' CLUB

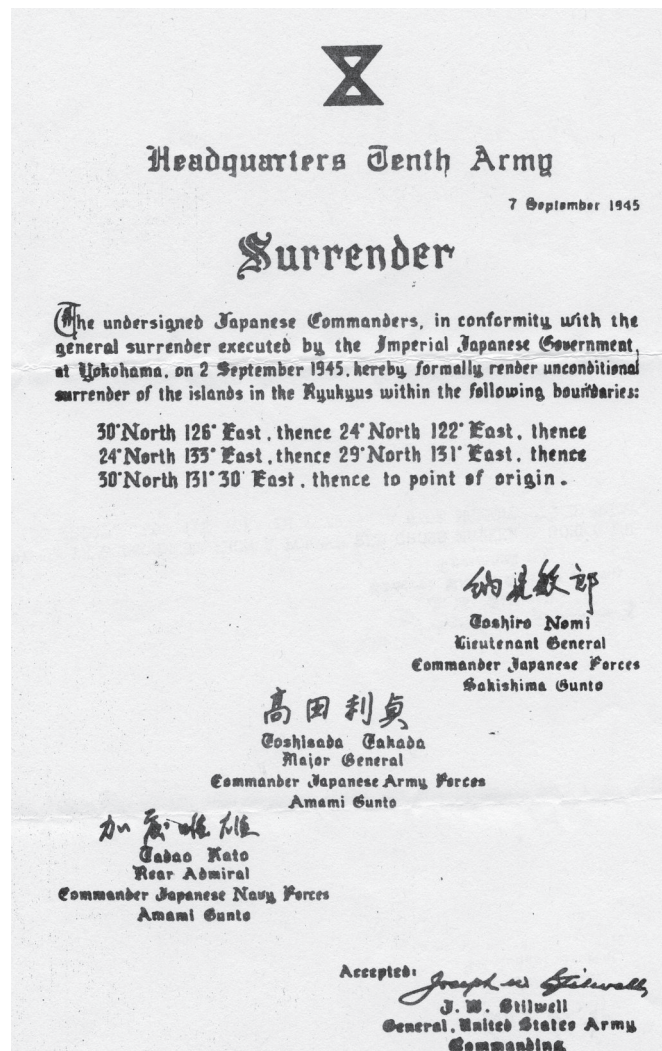
VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1

March 2019



AMG HISTORY

Following is a copy of the document showing the Japanese surrender of the Ryukyu Islands. This was included as a flyer in a J. V. Bush mailing.



Allied Military Government
Collectors' Club (AMGCC)

www.amgcollectors.org

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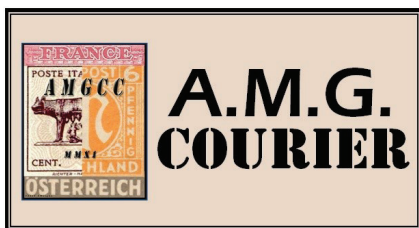
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Editor:

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The Journal of the AMG Collectors' Club

Volume 7, Number 1

March 2019

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Journal Schedule

Journals are scheduled for publication around March 31 (First Quarter), June 30 (Second Quarter), September 30 (Third Quarter) and December 31 (Fourth Quarter), with delivery 2 weeks later. Deadlines are 30 days prior to anticipated publication dates. All dates are tentative depending on the timely receipt of sufficient material for publication.



From the Editor

Richard Pederson

It's the time of the year to renew your AMGCC membership. If you have not done so already, either mail your \$20 renewal fee to our club Treasurer, Roger Santala, at the address provided on page 39, or log on as a Member on our club website (www.amgcollectors.org) and submit an on-line payment. Be sure to submit your renewal as soon as possible so that you don't miss an issue of the *A.M.G. Courier* or news about upcoming AMGCC publications and downloads only available to club members. Recently, courtesy of member Michael Nastick, additional Bush album pages have been added to the website where they are available for download and printing. Additional pages Michael has provided will be scanned and uploaded to our site during the next quarter.

Next, I would like to issue a plea to the many members who have not contributed to the journal or served the club in some other capacity. This is the second consecutive edition of the *A.M.G. Courier* that was delayed going to the printer due to a lack of contributions from our members. When I have insufficient material to go to print, I have to send out requests for articles until I have enough content. Typically, those members responding are the same ones who have supplied the bulk of our articles in the past. Not only does this distribute the bulk of the workload to a few, it limits the content to the collecting interests of those contributors. I am absolutely certain many other AMGCC members having items in their collections and expertise that, if shared, would be invaluable to the rest of the membership. If enough people contribute so that I have more mate-

rial than required to fill an edition of the journal, I can start working on the next edition so that I am always ahead of the publication cycle. Not only does this make my life easier, it allows you to receive the journal on a regular, predictable schedule. If you have AMG-related material to share, but are unsure of your writing skills, please don't be shy. I will be more than happy to work with you to create an article. In numerous past instances I have been able to help members create articles with no more than pictures/scans of items along with brief notes describing them.

While I am on the subject of participation, I also want to address one other topic, club elections. Early next year, we will be holding our next election of club officers. I know of at least one club officer who will be stepping down at the end of his term. If you are interested in taking a more active role in the club and helping to drive its future direction, that is an ideal time to step up and get involved. If you would like to participate in running the AMGCC as an officer or director, please let me know so that your name can be placed on the election ballot when the time comes. All of the existing officers and directors are founding members of the club. It would certainly be nice if one of our newer members, with fresh ideas, was involved with setting club policy and direction. The club has made great strides since its inception, but there is always room for improvement.

This quarter's edition includes an article I wrote, starting on page 10, presenting the stamps issued by the U.S. military government in Korea for use during the U.S. occupation following World War II. In addition, we have articles from regular contributors, club President Dave Beeby, Director John Hotchner, and member Carl Scheriani. On page 16, Carl updates information previously provided by Dave Beeby on the Letters of Exchange (Cambiale) created for use in the Free Territory of Trieste (FTT). In his article on page 22, Dave continues the top-

ic I started in a previous *A.M.G. Courier* discussing the overprint types appearing on the stamps and postal stationery created for use in Venezia Giulia by the AMG. He shows all of the known overprint types appearing on AMG VG postal stationery. Finally, in this edition's "Members Corner", Carl Scheriani provides further information on an item presented by Ken May in the previous "Members Corner".

Letters To The Editor

To protect the privacy of our members, addresses and other personal information have been removed. In some instances, due to space limitations, only a sampling of letters and E-mails is included and responses may be excerpted.

Mr. Pederson,

I have 1 copy each of German AMG Bush #78E & 97C.

I purchased them from Joe and Mike Bush quite a few years ago.

I am enclosing photo copies from my collection.

I am not interested in selling them. I thought you might like a copy for your records.

Richard A. Davis

Although Richard Davis wrote this in response to my advertisement in the last A.M.G. Courier, indicating that I was seeking those two stamps, I am including his response here because I know most other club members also have the same empty spaces in their albums. I'll include pictures of his pages in my album and for those other AMGCC members missing the same stamps, I will post Richard's pictures in the member's area of the club website. For those members who use the Michel catalog, Bush 78E equates to Michel 13Ey and Bush 97C is Michel 32aCz.

Rich and Mark (Director Mark Fionda),

I received some photos of the US BEP Printing Plate Ledgers which indicated that there were some additional printing plates

made for AMG Italy and for AMG France. There was one pair of additional Germany plates and no new additions to the Austria.

I realize the original concept for the AMG issues (as per the ITALY 1N1-9) was changed by politics (France and their general). I assume the original color scheme was to duplicate the US 1938 Presidential Series of 1938 with the 1c Green; 2c Red; 5c Blue; 10c Brown other values vary. The Denomination Overprint changed the 'monetary unit' but I guess the original thought would have been for 'one series to be used for different countries. The initial plan did not work for the French Values and their postal rates.

I did not get one BEP data page for a few France I values. Perhaps, I can get this in future.

There was a partial 'third set' of values for Italy and these are in Magenta ink. Thus, I assume the BEP working assumptions in 1943 were that the "1" Green stamp would be used not only in Italy but in other countries as the war progressed. The BEP did not have a 'need to know' the future tactical plans of S.H.A.E.F. OK and fine.

I would appreciate some comments and any suggestions. Perhaps, I can write something for a future article.

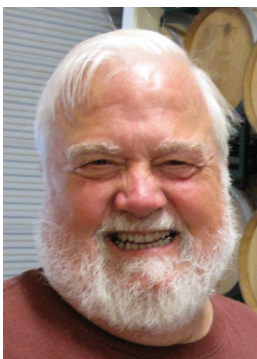
I am not an every day AMG collector and I am uncertain if other members have any interest in this plate number area.

Any feedback appreciated.

Thank You

Joe Napp

Due to its length, I have excerpted the E-mail sent to me and Mark Fionda by Joe. I certainly find his above comments regarding the BEP's AMG emissions interesting and informative. Mark and I, and I assume many other AMG collectors, certainly appreciate his extensive work documenting AMG plate number and marginal markings. We look forward to future articles on this topic from Joe in the A.M.G. Courier.



From The President

Dave Beeby

Welcome to our new issue of the *A.M.G. Courier*, put together through the seemingly tireless efforts of our journal editor Rich Pederson. We are all blessed to have him working so hard to maintain the high quality and timeliness of each issue, but please take a larger part in our club and make Rich's life easier. Submit an article to the journal for the rest of us to enjoy and please share some of your expertise on some common or esoteric AMG issue, or why you enjoy what you collect: my favorite stamp; my favorite cover or document; AMG hunting or fishing licenses; the one that got away; the one that DIDN'T get away; memories of WW II; memories of the occupation; or friends I've made through our club or stamp collecting in general. It's easier than you might fear, so please give it a try. Help is available so just send one of us an E-mail if you get stuck.

I hope you are having fun with your AMG collections and are continuing to add to them. Our continuously improving web page (<http://amgcc.clubexpress.com/>) should provide some inspiration and attract some new collectors to our midst, so if you haven't seen it yet, take a look. It's another creation from Rich Pederson and I'm proud that we are moving forward there. You should all share in that!

Westpex, one of the best shows on the west coast, is just around the corner (or may have taken place by the time you read this since it runs from April 26-28) and the Ryukyus Philatelic Specialist Society is holding a special anniversary meeting there.

Several of our members are also members of the Ryukyus Club, so if you collect Ryukyus, I hope you were able to attend and got the chance to see some remarkable displays and meet with bourse dealers who brought their best material for sale. I've got some health issues that make attending the show difficult and I greatly miss it!

An opinion from me on the overuse of the term "rare". I often see the term RARE used in descriptions of AMG stamps for sale on eBay, usually with multiple exclamation points, stars, etc. I hope you take such descriptions with a grain of salt, as they are only a form of marketing hype, intended to increase the attractiveness of the stamp and justify a higher asking price for the item. Experienced collectors already know this, but I hope new AMG collectors are not frightened away from our hobby thinking rare means expensive or impossible to find. There may be such issues in our specialty (SPECIMEN booklet panes from the first AMG postal issues might be an example) but most of what we collect is relatively common and affordable. I would prefer this type of hyperbole be avoided in the *A.M.G. Courier*. Most of the stamps we collect are not really very rare – probably printed by the tens of thousands or more. There are clearly some AMG stamps that are scarcer than others, and the taxpaid revenue stamps are probably the prime example since they were designed to be destroyed as the taxed package was opened (cigarettes, matches, etc). Just because you have not seen a particular item before doesn't necessarily make it "rare".

My effort to interest my drum-playing nephew into the stamps of the French Congo is still festering, so more on that in a future issue, but it gave ME a new and very broad collecting area – French Colonial Africa! This may not seem as far-fetched as it first seems for an AMG collector interested in WWII history.

During WWII the French Vichy Government seems to have counted on France's African Colonies for support, and hundreds of the stamps from virtually all of the colonies were overprinted "France Libre" beginning in 1943. The sets were probably issued primarily for sale to the philatelic market to raise funds to support France. So they do, in fact, have some relevance to our specialty! It would be nice to learn how much money was raised or how it was used.

In closing, please consider taking a more active role in the Allied Military Government Collector's Club by sharing your knowledge through an article in the Courier. You have more to offer than you might think!

If you have any comments regarding his column, Dave can be reached via E-mail at djbeeby@aol.com or the editor at rich@pedersonstamps.com.

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The Forgotten AMGs

by Richard Pederson

Nearly all Allied Military Government (AMG) stamp and postal history collectors are quite familiar with the AMG issues for Germany, France, Italy (including Venezia Giulia and the Free Territory of Trieste), and Austria. Most are also aware of the stamps issued under U.S. administration for the Ryukyu Islands. This is largely because the company that dominated the U.S. market for AMG issues, the J. V. Bush Company, actively marketed and sold the issues of those entities. I would venture to say that a significant majority of AMG collectors in the U.S. got their start after responding to an advertisement from the Bush firm.

There is one other area considered to be part of the AMG collecting area that was not pushed by the Bush firm and has received much less coverage in the philatelic press. That area is South Korea. Immediately following World War II, upon defeat of the Japanese, U.S. forces occupied South Korea and assumed administrative control. In February 1946, a series of six stamps ranging in denomination from 5 Cheung to 5 Weun (100 Cheun = 1 Weun) was issued under U.S. military rule for use in South Korea. Those stamps were created by surcharging previously issued Japanese stamps. Figure 1 shows the high value in the set which, like most Korean issues from 1946 thru the early 1950s, had very crude perforations.



Figure 1. Japanese 17 Sen with 5 Weun surcharge.

Later, in May of 1946, a set of six stamps was issued to commemorate the liberation of South Korea from Japan. The four lower values of the set pictured a Korean family standing in front of a Korean flag (see Figure 2). The two high values in the set pictured the Coat of Arms of Korea (see Figure 3).



Figure 2. 20 Cheun stamp picturing Korean family and flag.



Figure 3. 1 Weun stamp picturing Korean Coat of Arms.

On August 15, 1946, a stamp was issued to commemorate the first anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japan. This stamp was in a larger horizontal format and pictured a Dove to represent peace (see Figure 4).



Figure 4. 50 Cheun stamp picturing a Dove.

Next, on September 9, 1946, under the U.S. military government, a stamp was issued to commemorate the resumption of direct postal communication with the U.S. This stamp, also in a large horizontal format, pictured the crossed flags of the U.S. and Korea (see Figure 5).



Figure 5. 10 Weun stamp picturing crossed flags of U.S. and Korea.

Also, in 1946, a set of stamps was issued (see Figure 6) picturing various things related to Korea. Those stamps included an astronomical observatory in Kyongju (50 Cheun), hibiscus flowering plant (1 Weun), map of Korea (2 Weun), gold crown of the Silla dynasty (5 Weun), and Admiral Yi Sun-sin (10 Weun).



Figure 6. Set of Korean-themed regular issues.

The final stamp issued in 1946 came in October and pictured the Korean phonetic alphabet (see Figure 7). The stamp, which was in a large vertical format, commemorated the 500th anniversary of the introduction of the phonetic alphabet to Korea.



Figure 7. 50 Cheun stamp picturing Korean phonetic alphabet.

The year 1947 only saw three new stamps issued for use in Korea. Two regular issue stamps picturing politician Yi Jun and Admiral Yi Sun-sin (see Figure 8) and a large horizontal format stamp picturing a globe and commemorating the resumption of postal communication with the rest of the world (see Figure 9).



Figure 8. Stamps picturing Yi Jun and Admiral Yi Sun-sin.



Figure 9. 10 Weun stamp commemorating resumption of worldwide postal communication .

April 1948 brought the last two stamps issued under U.S. military rule in Korea, after which the Republic of Korea was established and took over design and production of stamps for use in Korea. The final two issues under U.S. administration (see Figure 10), prior to the end of the U.S. Army military government on August 15, 1948, picture the Arch of independence in Seoul and the Tortoise Ship, which was the first ironclad war ship.



Figure 10. Final issues under U.S. military rule.

Although there were only 25 face different stamps issued for use in Korea under the U.S. military administration, it can still

be an interesting and challenging area for the AMG collector. The basic set of stamps is affordable for most collectors, but there are certainly challenges for those wishing to delve deeper into this lesser-known collecting area. Not only are there surcharge and perforation varieties, there are presentation sheets available for some of the later printings, and most of the stamps after the first set are available in imperforate and part perforate formats. An additional challenge would be to collect all the basic stamps on cover, used within period, since my experience seems to indicate they are quite hard to find.

References:

1. *Scott 2015 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, edited by Charles Snee; published by Scott Publishing Co.; Volume IV pages 831 and 833 (Austria), Volume II page 240 (Korea); 2014.
2. *Wikipedia*; "United States Army Military Government in Korea"; last modified 25 March 2019.



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Previously Unreported AMG Overprints On FTT Letters of Exchange

by Carl Scheriani

[Editor's Note: For newer AMGCC members, the article referenced below is available for download and printing by members on the club website. Go to www.amgcollectors.org, sign on as a member, select the "Documents" tab, and then the "AMG Courier" folder. Volume I, Number 3 is in the scrollable list at the right.]

In his scholarly article on the Cambiale (Letters of Exchange) of Trieste VG and FTT, Dave Beeby notes in Table 1, page 7, of Volume 1, issue number 3, of the journal, that the 1200 lire is not yet known with the AMG overprint. Dave's Table 1 is shown in Figure 1.

<i>1.5 Lire</i>	20 Lire	60 Lire	<i>210 Lire</i>	<i>2,100 Lire</i>
<i>3 Lire</i>	21 Lire	72 Lire	240 Lire	2,400 Lire
<i>4 Lire</i>	24 Lire	75 Lire	270 Lire	2,700 Lire
<i>5 Lire</i>	25 Lire	84 Lire	300 Lire	3,000 Lire
<i>6 Lire</i>	27 Lire	90 Lire	450 Lire	6,000 Lire
<i>7 Lire</i>	30 Lire	96 Lire	500 Lire	9,000 Lire
<i>8 Lire</i>	36 Lire	100 Lire	600 Lire	12,000 Lire
<i>9 Lire</i>	40 Lire	108 Lire	900 Lire	
<i>10 Lire</i>	42 Lire	120 Lire	1,000 Lire	
<i>12 Lire</i>	48 Lire	150 Lire	1,200 Lire	
<i>15 Lire</i>	50 Lire	180 Lire	1,500 Lire	
<i>18 Lire</i>	54 Lire	200 Lire	1,800 Lire	

Table 1: List of all denominations of cambiale used throughout Italy during the A.M.G. occupation. Some of these may not have been overprinted for use in VG or Trieste, and not all denominations may have been issued every year. Those known to have been overprinted by the A.M.G. for use in VG or the FTT are shown in bold and shaded. Those not yet known with an A.M.G. overprint are shown in italics.

Figure 1. Table 1 from Dave Beeby's Cambiale article.

Pictured in Figure 2, front and back, is an example of the previously unreported 1200 Lire Cambiale from my collection.

Using Dave's identification parameters, the example exhibits the following characteristics:

- ◆ Overall dimensions are 25.0 centimeters long by 10.6 centimeters wide;
- ◆ Overprint length is closer to 28 millimeters;
- ◆ Watermark: is the Repubblica Italiana 1947 PMF;
- ◆ Overprint type is F; and
- ◆ My observation is that the watermark views correctly when viewed from the back (i.e., reversed watermark?).

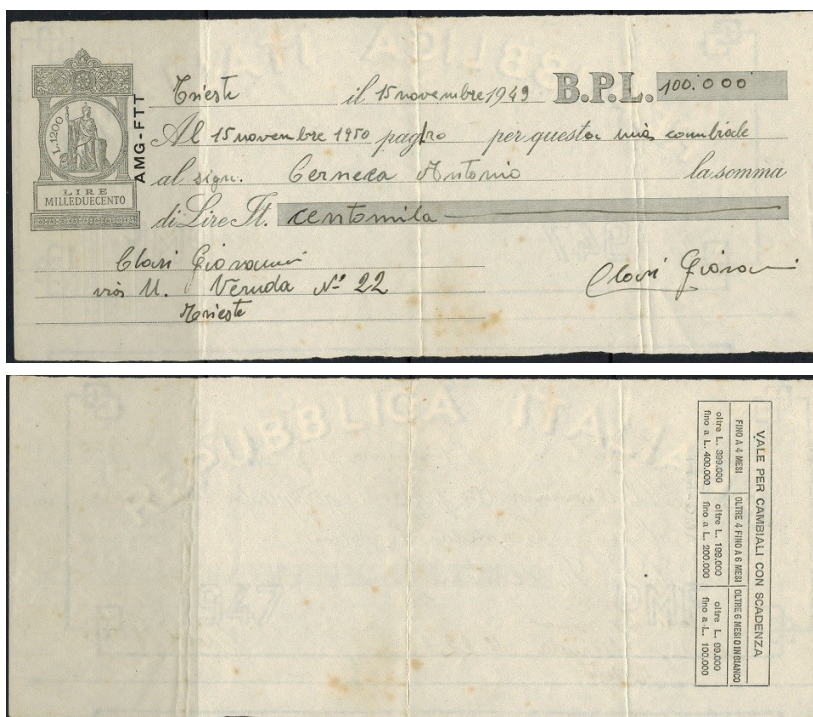


Figure 2. 1200 Lire Letter of Exchange with “AMG - FTT” overprint.

Following is a 600 dpi scan (see Figure 3) verifying that the overprint on my 1200 Lire Cambiale measures nearly 28 millimeters in width. Although Dave has recorded a 28 millimeter wide overprint, he indicated that it is an error, which I don't disagree with. My 1200 Lire also contains a symmetric overprint, which I would suggest is an additional setting.



Figure 3. 600 dpi scan of overprint laid against a millimeter scale.

In his article, on page 11 of the journal, Dave Beeby included a table (Table 3) containing Cambiale information. The table recorded known combinations of Cambiale denomination, overprint type (E or F), watermark year (1947-1954), and overprint spacing (i.e., narrow, medium, or wide). Dave's Table 3 from his article is shown in Figure 4. In addition to the 1200 Lire, I have four other combinations that do not appear in his table. Maybe in the interim, Dave has already documented these...maybe not. The additional items not appearing in the table are listed below. Pictures of the front and rear of each Cambiale are shown reduced in size to fit the journal. A magnified view of the value portion is shown at the bottom right of each figure as the value is difficult to read when pictured in reduced size.

1. 90 Lire Cambiale with Overprint F, wide (27 millimeter) spacing, and Repubblica Italiana 1950 PMF watermark (see Figure 5 on page 20).
2. 120 Lire Cambiale with Overprint F, wide (27 millimeter)

Overprint Type Year Watermark Denomination	AMG-FTT							
	1947 PMF	1948 PMF	1949 PMF	1950 PMF	1951 PMF	1952 PMF	1953 CMF	1954 CMF
3 Lire		E:w						
6 Lire		F:m	F:m				F:n	
9 Lire							F:n	
12 Lire				F:n, F:m		F:n		F:n
15 Lire		F:m		F:m	F:m	F:n (b)	F:n	
18 Lire		F:m	F:m	F:m		F:n	F:n	
21 Lire		F:n, F:m, 1						
24 Lire		F:n, F:m		F:m			F:n	
27 Lire		F:n	F:m					
30 Lire		F:m	F:m	F:m		F:n	F:n	F:n (b)
36 Lire			F:m				F:n	
42 Lire	F:w					F:n		
48 Lire				F:m, 1		F:n		
54 Lire			E:w, F:n, F:m	F:n				
60 Lire		F:m	E:w, F:m	F:n, F:m	F:m	F:n (b)		
72 Lire			F:m		F:n			
84 Lire		F:m	F:n, F:m					
90 Lire			F:m	F:m		F:n, (c)		
96 Lire		F:n	F:m		F:n			
108 Lire				F:m				
120 Lire			F:m					
150 Lire			F:m, 2					
180 Lire		F:m			F:n			
240 Lire			E:w, F:n				F:n	
270 Lire	E:w							
900 Lire	F:w							
1500 Lire				F:m				
3000 Lire	F:m							

Table 3: A.M.G. Overprinted cambiale that I have in my collection on 1947 and later watermarked forms. All different combinations of denomination and watermark year are indicated by a symbol showing the overprint type (E or F) followed by a lower case letter indicating the spacing (parrow, medium, or wide). Where two or more varieties exist for a specific year and date, they are separated by commas. 1=FIT flow. 2=spacing flow. A lower case (b) indicates that both the PMF and CMF watermark occur for this denomination. A lower case (c) indicates that this exists only with the CMF watermark.

Figure 4. Table 3 from Dave Beeby's Cambiale article.

spacing, and Repubblica Italiana 1950 PMF watermark (see Figure 6 on page 20).

3. 150 Lire Cambiale with Overprint F, wide (27 millimeter) spacing, and Repubblica Italiana 1949 PMF watermark (see Figure 7 on page 21).
4. 600 Lire Cambiale with Overprint F, wide (27 millimeter) spacing, and Repubblica Italiana 1949 PMF watermark (see Figure 8 on page 21). As with the 1200 Cambiale, the 600 was not reported as being known in Dave Beeby's Table 1.

Reports of Cambiale combinations not listed in Dave Beeby's tables or discussed in this article should be reported to Dave at djbeeby@aol.com, Carl Scheriani at carl.scheriani@gmail.com, or the Editor at rich@pedersonstamps.com. Written comments may also be submitted to the Editor at PO Box 626, Clemson, SC29633.

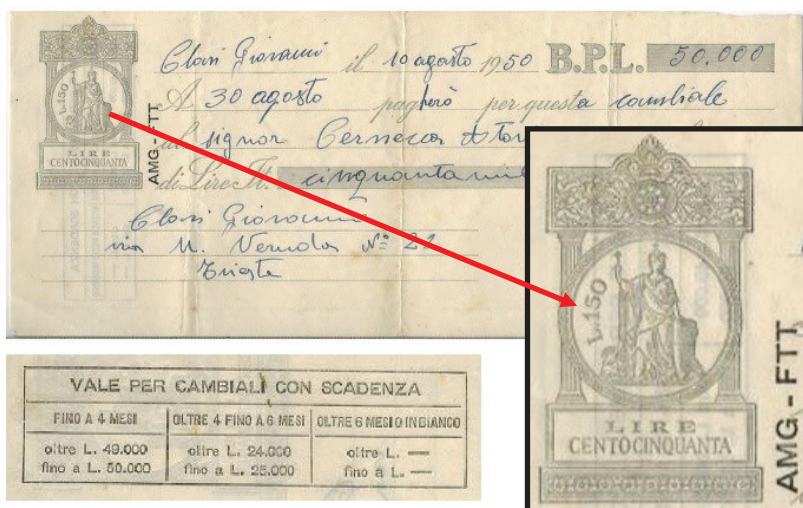


Figure 7. 150 Lire Letter of Exchange with “AMG - FTT” overprint.

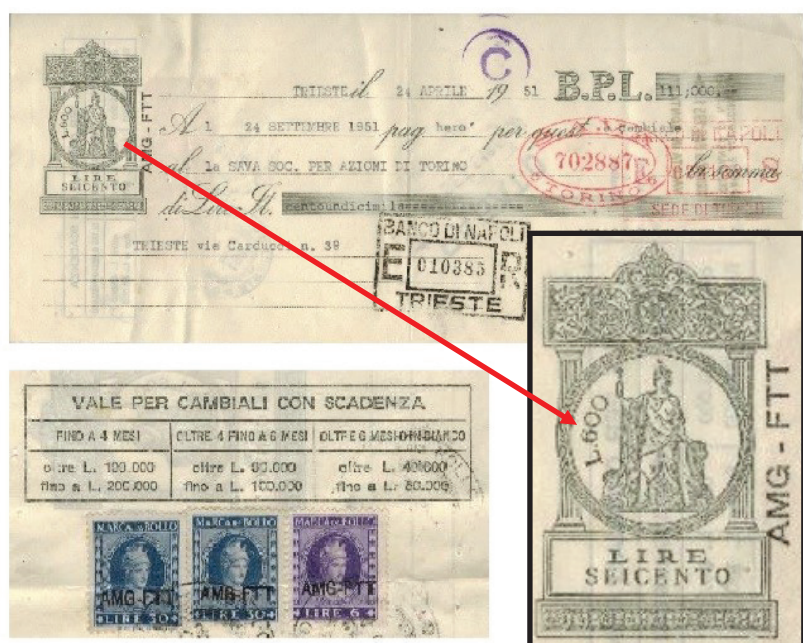


Figure 8. 600 Lire Letter of Exchange with “AMG - FTT” overprint.

The AMG VG Overprints Used on the Postal Stationery Issued for Venezia Giulia

by Dave Beeby

[Editor's Note: A previous A.M.G. Courier article, "Overprint Types on AMG VG Issues" (Volume 6, Number 3) by Richard Pederson discussed the four basic types of overprints seen on AMG Venezia Giulia (VG) regular issues, airmail stamps, and express stamps. In this article, Dave Beeby covers the overprints found on the postal stationery issued by the AMG for use in Venezia Giulia.]

Several months ago, our editor, Rich Pederson, asked me if I could help him with the article he was writing about the variety of overprints used by the AMG-VG during the occupation of Venezia Giulia in northern Italy. Rich needed illustrations and descriptions of the overprints used on postal stationery and revenue stamps, so I started with the postal stationery which, for VG, is limited to only five postal cards (Bush PC-1 thru PC-5) with 3 different types of AMG/VG overprints.

The Allies who were responsible for censorship of all correspondence in the VG area initially mandated the exclusive use of postal cards. This obviously made the censor's job faster and easier. Postal cards were also the cheapest way to correspond in Italy, initially costing only 50 centesimo for a brief period at the beginning of the AMG presence, and were very popular with the Italians who made extensive use of them. Many were printed, but most were used as intended and discarded. Unused remainders were incinerated. Joe Bush considered them to be the scarcest AMG issues.

Inflation soon raised the domestic postcard rate to 3 Lire and the international rate to 10 Lire by the time most of the VG region reverted to Italian postal control.

I will define the overprint types as PS-Type I, PS-Type II, and PS-Type III (see Figure 1).

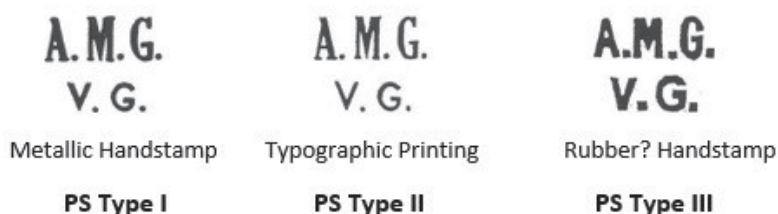


Figure 1. AMG VG postal stationery overprint types.

All three of the above overprints are unique to the AMG-VG postal stationery. No other VG overprint used a serif font for the letters like the first two types, or square stops (periods) like the third. Figure 2 pictures overprint PS Type I on an AMG VG postal card (Bush number PC-1) with an additional 10 Lire stamp (Scott 1LN7) added to meet the rate for a card sent to



Figure 2. Bush PC-1 Postal card piece with added 10 lire stamp demonstrating differences in overprints used on stamps and postal stationery.

Switzerland in December, 1946. This piece directly illustrates the relative size difference between the VG overprints of the postal issues versus the postal stationery. They were locally printed by the firm of R. Fortuna, in Trieste, and were the first postcards issued by the AMG in Italy, issued on February 7, 1946. The initial cardstock used was the Italian 50 Centisimi dark violet postal card and the overprint is in black - a combination making the overprint difficult to distinguish, measure, or photograph. There are two very similar, but different, overprints used for this card. Both use a serif font, but the first is done with a metallic handstamp and the second with a typographic overprint.

PS Type I: The font used in this overprint uses serif letters with round stops after each letter. Compared to PS Type II (which is very similar) the PS Type I overprint shows thickened letters with heavily inked edges. The back of the card is smooth showing no impression of the overprint felt on the back of the card. The back of the card often shows some ink set-off smudging from the previously stamped card which was not completely dry when the cards were stacked. This overprint (see Figure 3) was always printed in black ink. The overprint size is 12½ millimeters wide by 11 millimeters high and is only used on Bush VG PC-1. The images of the overprint and postal card are both color-enhanced to better show the overprint.

PS Type II: The font used in this overprint uses serif letters with round stops after each letter. This overprint (see Figure 4) shows finer, thinner, more evenly inked letters than the Type I. The key characteristic is the albino impression of the overprint on the back of the card (see Figure 5), which can be felt more easily than seen. The back of the card does not show any set-off smudging. This overprint is always printed in black ink. The



Figure 3. Overprint PS Type I on VG postal card Bush PC-1.

overprint size is 13½ mm wide by 11 mm high and is used on Bush VG PC-2 and Bush VG PC-5.

PS Type III: The font on this overprint (see Figure 6) uses sans-serif letters with square stops after each letter. It is coarser than the other two overprint types, and seems carelessly applied, often applied at a slight angle or shifted slightly to the left or right of the stamp. As with the PS Type II overprint, there is an albi-no impression of the overprint on the back of the card. Most

commonly, it is hand-stamped in violet ink. Bush also indicates a blue handstamp on PC-3, but I have never seen one. The overprint size is 16 mm wide by 12½2 mm high. Used on Bush VG PC-3 and Bush VG PC-4.

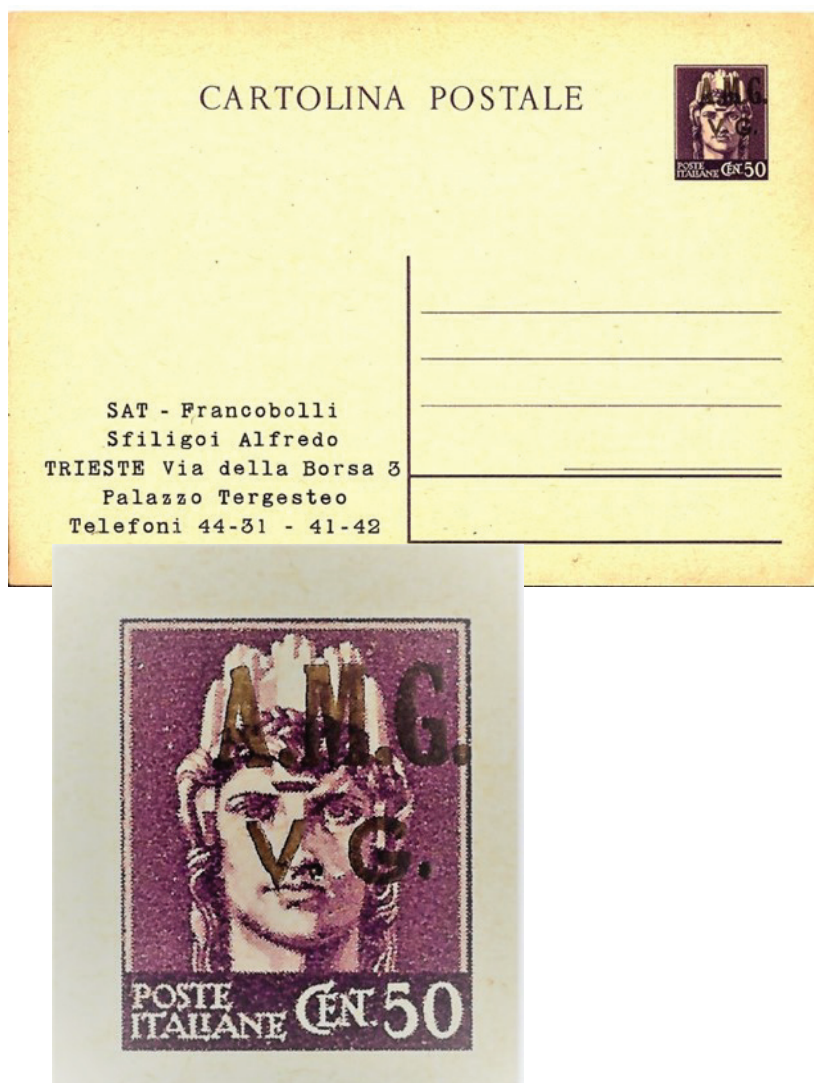


Figure 4. Overprint PS Type II on VG postal card.

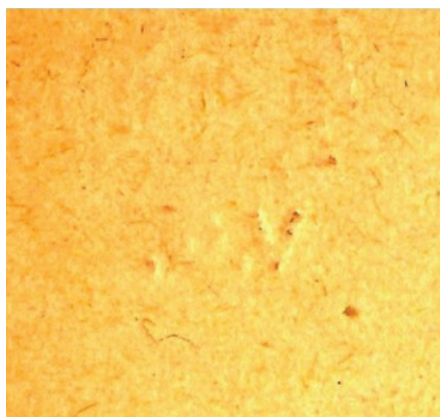


Figure 5. Reverse of overprint PS Type II showing as raised letters on back of card.



Figure 6. Overprint PS Type III on VG postal card.

Questions and Answers— A New Column

by John Hotchner

Well, we'll start off with only Questions (Qs), as this is the inaugural column, and I will use it to present a number of items I've accumulated but don't really understand, or for which context is needed. When it comes to collecting AMG material, I'm a magpie collector. I pick up anything that strikes me as bright and shiny; hoping I'll have time later to learn about it.

It hit me that our membership may be able to help – not just me but each other. So, I'll present my questions this time, but invite you not only to provide answers to print in future issues of *The Courier*, but to send in questions you would like to ask our members to answer. Hopefully this will become a regular feature.

Q1: As can be seen by the penciled '5 Pounds' cost, the cover in Figure 1 was purchased from a British dealer. It has 55 Pf. in postage; no doubt over franked. It is cancelled in June of 1946, from a location that is not readable, and is addressed to a soldier at the 10th Recon Group Hq., "APO 66, Local". APO 66 was at that time at Erlangen, Germany. Favor cancelled? Probably. Done by the addressee? Maybe. Could it have gone through the German postal system to an APO? Probably not. There I run out of conjecture. Can a member tell us anything more about what is going on here?

Q2: The cover in Figure 2 is an APO124 to Etna, Pennsylvania piece of 6c Air Mail postal stationery; cancelled April 23, 1946. The sender has added "(Please cancel lightly)" to his return address. The question is this: Do the six different AMG stamps added to the cover hand cancelled (lightly) play any postal role, or are they purely window dressing? Another cover from the

same sender is shown in Figure 3. This time a combination of AMGs and German post-war definitives are added. More window dressing?



Figure 1. Over franked (?) cover addressed to “APO 66, Local”.

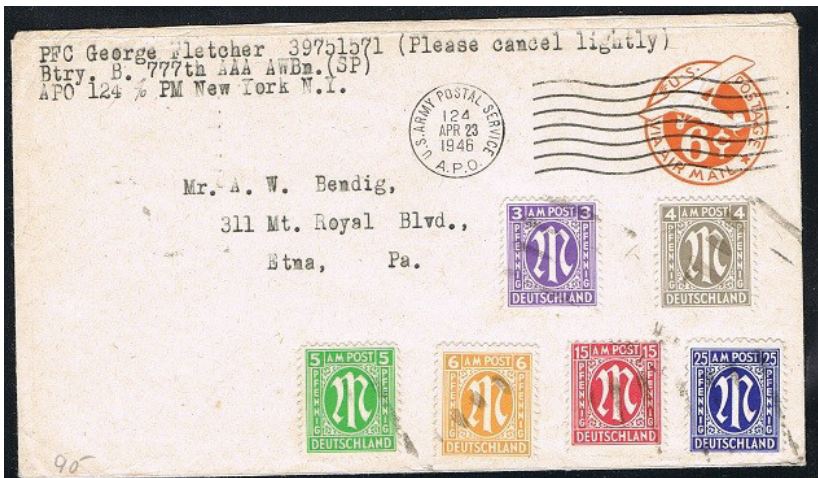


Figure 2. Cover from PFC George Fletcher, at APO 124, sent to Etna, Pennsylvania.



Figure 3. Second cover from PFC Fletcher containing AMG, German, and U.S. stamps.

Q3: Here in Figure 4, is a Stuttgart to Rochester, NY cover, censored, cancelled in August, 1946, with a combination of AMG and German stamps. It is from a German civilian, not a military member. The question is this: Under what circumstances could the two different types of stamps be used in combination to pay required postage on non-official mail?

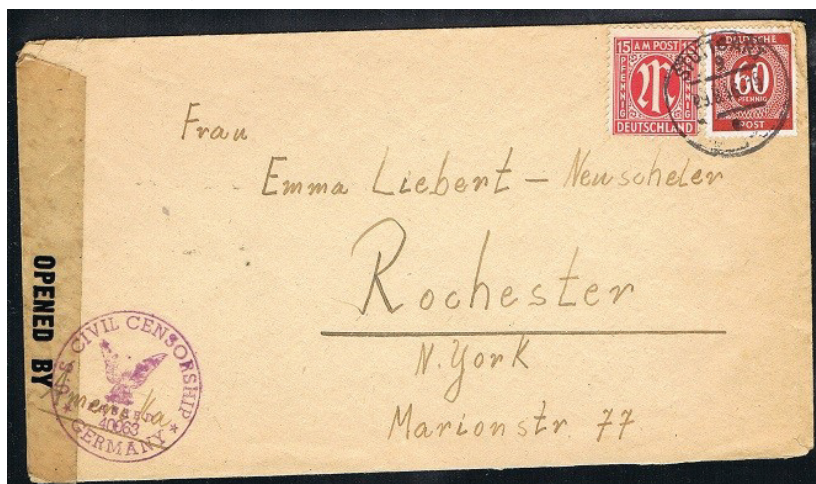


Figure 4. Censored cover to Rochester, New York containing German and AMG stamps.

Q4: The cover in Figure 5 has no return address and no addressee. With nine AMG stamps of the Washington printing, it is cancelled “April 27, 1945-46”; apparently commemorating the year anniversary of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp by the U.S. Seventh Army’s 45th Infantry Division. The liberation actually occurred on April 29, 1945, so why the April 27 date in the cancellation? Above the word “Dachau” are the letters “I.I.O.” Does anyone know what that might signify?



Figure 5. Unaddressed cover containing nine different Washington-printed AM POST stamps cancelled at Dachau.

On April 26-27, approximately 7000 prisoners were forced to begin a death march from Dachau to Tegernsee, far to the south. The survivors were rescued by American troops six days later near Waakirchen. As a curiosity, the cover in Figure 6 seems to be a commemorative of some sort, with Tegernsee cancellations dated Sept. 18, 1946.

Q5: In Figure 7 is a cover cancelled February 14, 1946, in Hof (Salle), with a curious mute cancellation in red saying “Released C C D Group “A”. I think it must be some sort of censorship

marking, but it is the only example I've seen. Can a member shed any light on this?



Figure 6. Unaddressed cover with nine different Washington-printed 'AM POST' stamps cancelled at Tegernsee.

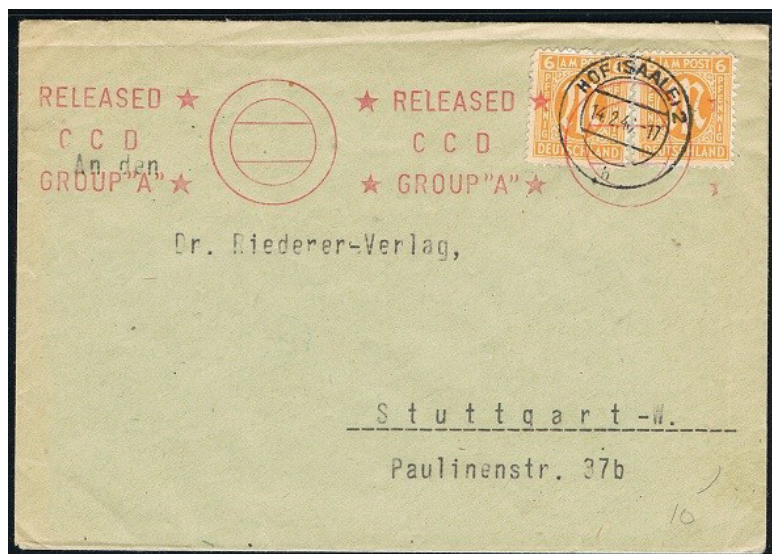


Figure 7. Cover with mute cancellation saying "Released C C D Group "A".

Q6: Merchandizing of AMG stamps by stamp companies is represented by the ‘approval’ flyer in Figure 8 from the Globus Stamp Co., New York 10, N.Y. The basic set of Washington prints hinged to the flyer is being offered for 20c, with the following text: “These stamps are U.S. stamps printed in Washington and used during the U.S. occupation of Germany. Besides these Washington prints, there are London prints and Braunschweig prints. All U.S. occupation stamps are very good and are becoming scarce and expensive. You will gradually get them all on approval but if you are especially interested, kindly let me know.”

Presumably Globus had the other printings in stock. It is interesting to see these issues being ‘oversold’ as potentially scarce and expensive. Here we are 75+ years after issue, and the stamps attached are neither scarce nor expensive – nor will they be for generations to come!

The question is, do members have other examples of offers of these or other AMGs from the post war years?



Figure 8. Globus Stamp Company approval flyer.

Q7: How did a London print 5 Pf. come to be used on the return envelope to a stamp dealer from Brooklyn, NY in 1967. (Figure 9). The First Class rate was 5c, but the postal authorities

caught this and hand stamped “Postage Not Valid”, and Postage due 10 cents”. This was either double the deficiency, or because the envelope contained stamps being returned and should have been paid 10c based on weight. Are there other domestic usages of the AMG stamps ‘out there’ in member’s collections?

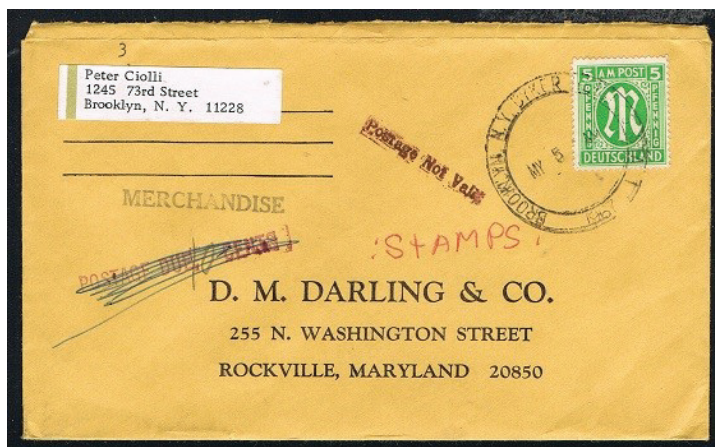


Figure 9. London-print AM POST stamp used on domestic mail.

If you can answer any of these questions or have questions of your own that you would like our members to try to answer, please contact me at jmhstamp@verizon.net, or by postal mail at PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125.

[Editor’s Note: Some similar items requesting answers to questions have appeared previously in the Members Forum section of the journal. If we get sufficient responses and submissions resulting from John Hotchner’s article to warrant a continuing column, Members Forum will be used exclusively for the purpose of sharing interesting and unusual items from member’s collections or for the purpose of seeking assistance from other members for an AMG-related project or exhibit.]

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL? NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR COLLECTION? ARE YOU MISSING A KEY

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ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE ADLET YOU ARE ENTITLED TO EACH YEAR. SEE PAGE 40 FOR DETAILS.

Interesting Collateral Item

by Richard Pederson

Towards the end of World War II in Europe, when the fall of the Nazi forces appeared imminent, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) produced stamps to be used in German areas that were conquered by the Allied Forces. Those stamps, the AM POST issue, were first placed on sale in Aachen in March 1945. Following Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender to the Allies on May 7, 1945, use of the AM Post stamps gradually spread to all occupied areas of Germany under U.S. and British military administration. Although originally intended for use in the French zone as well, the French objected to their use and produced stamps with French inscriptions for use in the French zone of Western Germany. Likewise, the Soviets objected to the use of the AM POST issues in Eastern Germany and produced stamps for areas under their control.

Prior to the surrender of Nazi Germany, the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) had issued a directive calling for the seizure of all Nazi-themed stamps. SHAEF also prohibited the overprinting of any remaining German stamps or postal stationery for postal use.

Unfortunately, once postal services were restored in Western Germany by the AMG, the demand for stamps was greater than the available supply. To alleviate the shortage, postal cards with imprinted AM POST stamps were created and many post offices used postage paid markings inscribed "Gebuhr bezahlt" on post cards to reduce the need for stamps. In Eastern Germany, there was a similar problem and postage paid markings were also used. In addition, the Soviets permitted the use of remain-

ing stocks of German postal stationery as long as all Nazi-related images and markings were obliterated. Figure 1 pictures a Third Reich postal card that contained an imprinted 6 pf Hitler Head stamp that paid the international post card rate. The stamp and related inscriptions were obliterated and replaced with a 6 pf postage paid (Gebühr bezahlt) hand stamp to pay the international post card rate. Even though those postal cards had been in use throughout Nazi Germany, my assumption is that the obliteration and 6 pf hand stamp were applied in Eastern Germany as SHAEF had ordered the confiscation of Nazi-related postal items and forbade the overprinting of stamps previously issued by Nazi Germany.

If anyone has other similar examples, especially those that were postally used, and/or has further information about their use, including any use in AMG-controlled areas, I would like to hear from them. I can be reached by E-mail at rich@pedersonstamps.com or by mail at PO Box 662, Clemson, SC 29633.

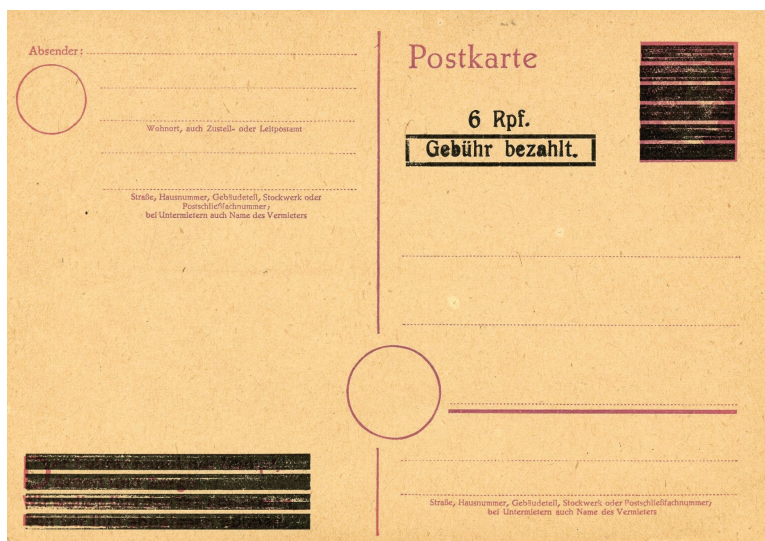


Figure 1. German postal card with pre-paid hand stamp.

Member's Corner

This area of the A.M.G. Courier is reserved for comments, questions, and discussion about the Allied Military Government (AMG) collecting area. If you have an unusual AMG-related item that needs identification or for which you require additional information, send a scan of the item to the editor along with any comments or questions. Once your item is published, members are encouraged to submit answers or comments for publication in a future Member's Corner.

Bersaglieri Private Overprints

by Carl Scheriani

[Editor's Note: the following is Carl Scheriani's response to a Member's Corner item submitted by Ken May in the December 2018 edition of the A.M.G. Courier. Ken's cover is shown in Figure 1 on the following page.]

In regards to Ken May's 'collateral' cover on Bush album page, the overprints are private commemoratives overprinted to honor a group of Italian Soldiers called the 'Bersaglieri' (snipers).

You can get an idea of what they're about via the following article: <https://www.orderisda.org/culture/italiana/the-bersaglieri-italys-spectacular-military-group/>.

There's also a Wikipedia article located at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bersaglieri>.

Joe Bush intimated that the overprint relate to a secret Italian-Trieste coat of arms and that they were used on 'underground' mail. I don't think so. I believe they were merely a fabrication to commemorate this force.

I have a traveled cover, supposedly from Trieste to Rome,

though there's no way of validating the point of departure. The cancel is a different color than Ken's .

My cover clearly has an arrival date of April 1947, so it supposedly did its job later than the departure markings suggest.



Figure 1. Ken May's cover with Bersaglieri commemorative overprint.

AMGCC NEWS

Membership Status. The current membership count is reported on page 40. Membership renewals are due on or before May 8, 2019. The \$20 renewal fee may be paid on-line via the AMGCC website or sent by mail to Roger Santala, 2244 Fairview Place, Billings, Montana 59102. Also consider renewing as a Patron (\$80 contribution) or Benefactor (\$50 contribution) so that your donation can be used to support AMGCC activities such as development of club publications, presence at shows, and advertising to draw in new members.

Treasury. The balance in the AMGCC bank account, reported on page 40, does not include the cost of the current and future *A.M.G. Couriers* and monthly maintenance fees for ClubExpress®. The latest Treasurer's Report also does not reflect most renewals as the ClubExpress software does not start processing on-line renewals until April 1st, several days after our last bank balance.

AMG-Related Philatelic Literature. The series of articles by Dave Beeby, on the philatelic literature covering the postage stamps issued by the AMG during and following World War II, is being consolidated into a single reference guide. The intent is to reorganize the information by AMG area (e.g., Germany, Italy, France) and also include a subject index. Please contact the Editor if you would be interested in acquiring this new reference when it is available and also indicate the publishing format you would prefer. If demand is insufficient to warrant printing, the publication will only be available as a download. If you desire a printed copy, it is imperative that you contact the Editor so that we know there is sufficient demand to print..

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New Members (2018)	22
Renewals (2018)	111
Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues (2018).....	9
Resignations (2018)	0
Total Members in Good Standing	133

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balance (3/29/19)	\$7,626.
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Every member is entitled to one free 20 word adlet each calendar year. Don't forget to take advantage of this valuable AMGCC benefit! (the 20 words do **not** include your address or E-mail.)

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1 line = \$2.00; 2 lines = \$3.75; 3 lines = \$4.50; 4 lines = \$5.75; and each additional line is \$1.25. Contact editor for quarter page, half page, and full page rates.