

Posthorn Postal History

Uses of the 1951 Definitive Series of West Germany

The Exhibit: Letters, postcards, and postal forms sent by the German people during a time when their society and economy were strengthening under the unifying forces of the newly founded German Federal Republic are shown.

The Posthorn Issue: The new series was created to replace the much-maligned Buildings Issue printed by private contractors using obsolete equipment. The simple design and the inscription "German Federal Post" evaded political and geographical controversy. With these stamps the Federal Printing Works reached a level of quality and attractiveness not seen in West Germany since the end of the war.

Period of Use: Released June 1951 to April 1952, the values were in use for the relative short time of 26 to 33 months before they were replaced by stamps showing President Huess in 1954. Only pfennig values appeared. Mark values from the Building Issue continued in use as long as the Posthorn stamps were valid.



Typographed



Engraved

The Display: Sections are in order by face value. Each section shows solo, multiple, and mixed uses, book-ended by mixed frankings with the previous and following issues.

1. Typographed low values, 2 pfg to 25 pfg, were issued primarily to pay domestic postal rates and to frank airmail sent within Europe. Unusual rates are standouts here.
2. Engraved higher values, 30 pfg to 90 pfg, were issued to meet foreign surface and air rates and to pay fees for special services. Multiple frankings are scarce and sought after.
3. Mark values of the Buildings Issue continued in use to supplement the Posthorn Issue after the lower values lost validity. Solo uses of these high values are especially striking.

Late Rates: Several postal rate changes 1 July 1954 resulted in scarce uses of the Posthorn Issue during the last six months of its life.

Timeline:

23.5.49 Federal Republic founded	31.1.54 First Huess stamps issued
20.6.51 First Posthorn stamps issued	31.12.54 End Posthorn stamps validity
31.3.53 End Building pfg values validity	31.12.54 End Building mark values validity

Maroon text flags items of special interest