

Landpost “über” Lehrte

An Example of the Rural Mail System in Germany 1933-1992



Purpose: Illustration of the rural postal system in Germany using the system around the small crossroads city of Lehrte as an example and showing postal markings of the rural offices there.

Scope: Beginning of the system in Lehrte in 1933 to the fading out of the system in the early 1990s, as the automobile transformed rural life and transportation.

Introduction: The “Landpost” or German rural mail system was reformed by the German Reichspost in 1928 (in Lehrte in 1933), leading to a wide variety of new postal markings, which allowed for better sorting and delivery. Post offices were often many kilometers from rural residents. Pensions and other monetary services went through the post office. Often a pensioner or other recipient of money was robbed on the walk home. German farms radiate out from a village with farm buildings surrounding the core, unlike in the US, where farms are separate, so the Reichspost met the need using postal vans and rail to serve a system of smaller rural postal offices and agencies tied to a central receiving post office.

Lehrte, just east of Hannover, was a natural location as the main collection point for this section of the rural post system, as its main post office was adjacent to the main rail line. The main East-West and North-South rail lines and autobahns cross here. Rural post offices depicted in this exhibit were generally within 20 km northeast, east, and southeast of Lehrte.

*official city
meter showing
city as cross-roads*


*30 pf rate for
standard letter
under 20 g
from Apr 1, 1966
to Aug 31, 1971*



Outline

1. Early Steps and Forerunners
2. Third Reich Era
 - a. Mail from Lehrte Rural Offices
 - b. Transition to Poststelle I
 - c. Mail to Lehrte Rural Destinations
 - d. Introduction of Two Digit Postal Codes
3. Germany under Allied Occupation
 - a. Mail from Lehrte Rural Offices
 - b. Mail to Lehrte Rural Destinations
4. Federal Republic of Germany
 - a. Mail from Lehrte Rural Offices
 - b. Mail to Lehrte Rural Destinations
 - c. Transitions between Rural Systems
5. Introduction of Four Digit Postal Code
 - a. The Last Auxiliary Markings
 - b. Cancels from Lehrte Rural Offices
 - c. Mail to Lehrte Rural Destinations
6. End of the Rural Post System in Lehrte
7. Epilogue

Italics: Postal rate information. **Bold and Green Matting:** Items of Note.

 : **Personal Research.**