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**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE GERMAN-LANGUAGE PHILATELIC LITERATURE -**  
**1925**

**FOREWORD**

The fact that there are over 50 postage stamp journals in Germany, plus a not inconsiderable number of German-language periodicals published abroad, shows that it is not possible to produce an organ that will satisfy all philatelists equally.

However, this also means that the work published in these journals makes it impossible to get an overall picture of philately, since the division of intellectual output into so many parts makes it impossible for the specialist to cover it all: we have neither the time, nor the means, nor the opportunity to acquire and master the steadily increasing amount of material.

The aim of the work begun here is to try and overcome this long-standing drawback. The idea is not new, since attempts have often been started and then given up again: this shows that we do in fact need a bibliography on the one hand, but that on the other such a task is only undertaken with reluctance. The only novelty is the extensive division into class and subject which makes it possible for anyone interested to locate each entry within the whole. The index as such however should give every serious philatelist a picture of what has been written and where, about the various topics.

The system I have adopted attempts to satisfy all requirements - it will be shown during the progress of the work whether or not this wide-ranging theory can be translated into practice. The fact that the bibliography will have monthly supplements recording the contents of magazines that have just appeared, thus forming over time a work of reference to the successive issues, should hardly reduce the value of the work, since the regularity of issue will make it possible to cover the individual numbers of journals that do not themselves appear at regular intervals, and what should be particularly important: better 12 supplements than no

information at all.

Any user of this work who is ready and willing to help me in producing it, is thanked in advance.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

With few exceptions, the annual contents lists of our specialist journals only give details of the titles of the articles published: even in cases where there is some division by countries or subjects, it is not possible to locate particular stamps or features to the extent desired. For this reason, every type of stamp and every individual stamp will be given special mention in the present work, by using selected abbreviations and a regular method.

The progressive interests of our specialist circles cover the postage stamp in all its aspects and I take it as axiomatic for this group of collectors to rank the postage stamps on the same level and divide them up by country.

For the sake of clarity any attempt at further subdivision (airmail, literature, etc.) must be foregone, but it ought to be easy to locate all philatelic topics as they will be given under their classification or their subject. This means a certain amount of repetition, which however is unavoidable if the work is to be fundamental and complete.

In choosing the abbreviations, attempts were made as far as possible to find such as would have a certain likeness to the word concerned so that they would easily be remembered as a component of this and any other designation, on the whole this was not possible for the majority of abbreviations, since mistakes had to be avoided.

As regards the keywords chosen for the journals, I considered it advisable not to use abbreviations for the numerous journals that sound alike, but to use either part of their name, or the publisher, or the place of publication, or the society in the case of certain society publications: clarity was not sacrificed in the interests of saving space.

Philatelic supplements to the daily press will only be dealt with as necessary.

## METHODOLOGY

Existing bibliographies can be divided into two groups on the basis of their arrangement, as follows:

A. Philately of individual countries

B. General

and will contain:

Group A, everything relating to the stamps and cancellations of the countries in alphabetical order; reference will necessarily be made to:

Group B, in which the arrangement is by keyword for the subject concerned, etc.

It is possible to locate particular topics in both groups.

Their further construction can be illustrated by an example:

1.	Country name	Baden
2.	Journal	Zumstein
3.	Classification of stamp or cancellation	Fm
4.	Senf number, or year of issue and value, number in Kohl's Handbook in brackets ( )	1 (1)
5.	Property	c+xu
6.	Number of journal	3
7.	Number of page	8

The actual entry for this example would thus be as follows:

Baden  
Zumstein  
Fm, 1 (1), c+xu, 3, 8

and this would be the abbreviation for:

Coloured variant of Baden No. 1, in Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung, Issue 3, p.8.

Each factor represented by an abbreviation is marked off by a comma. If there is a compound abbreviation, this is indicated by a plus sign "+", followed by a comma at the end of the group. If any one of the five items listed above is missing in one or other case, a dash appears in its place, followed by a comma. Thus the actual entry is made up in all cases of five abbreviations or groups of abbreviations, always separated from another by a comma.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

To avoid changes in terminology, as few abbreviations as possible are used, all the more so as it is often possible to form compounds and thus simplify the use of the bibliography. When the classification of stamps or cancellations is involved, the compound is formed directly: in all other cases new terms are illustrated by a plus sign “+”.

To maintain alphabetical clarity, the abbreviations are split up so that the sequence is maintained on the left and those which do not relate to the initial letter concerned are given on the right: these are then again listed in alphabetical order.

**END**