

Karl Cl. Sauer
Bibliography of German philatelic literature
[*Bibliographie der Deutschen philatelistischen literatur*]
Der Philatelist, 15th June 1891, Volume 12 Issue 9, pp.164-165.

Translation produced by Betty Howarth for Brian J. Birch
33 Boar's Head Avenue, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0BH, UK
February 1999

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GERMAN PHILATELIC LITERATURE

The lack of a bibliography of German philatelic literature is indisputably today the sorest point of philately and a painful lack felt to a greater or lesser extent by everyone pursuing our young subject seriously and in depth.

The German specialist press has given its attention to this lack for a number of years. We need only refer to the articles published in *Postwerthzeichen* 1888 numbers 1 and 2, 1889 numbers 7 and 8, in *Illustrierte Briefmarken-Zeitung* from **Heitmann**, 1888 number 22 and 1889 number 15, in **Senf's** *Illustrierte Briefmarken-Journal* 1888 number 5, in *Philatelistische Börsencourier* 1889 number 3, *Philatelist* 1889 number 10, etc.

The first idea was to draw up a bibliography of all the philatelic literature of all peoples in one work. However, the insurmountable difficulties in the way of carrying out the idea were soon appreciated and it was soon recognised that it would be easier and better if every country produced a bibliography of its own literature.

It would certainly be a feather in the cap of the Germans if they could be the first nation who could celebrate a bibliography of their philatelic literature*. We have been trying for a long time to bring this idea to fruition, and today we are in a position to lay a definite plan before the world of German collectors.

* Note: A philatelic bibliography for France and Belgium has already appeared as:

P.L. de Bosredon: *Bibliographie Timbrologique de la France et de la Belgique.*

[*Philatelic Bibliography of France and Belgium.*], Brussels, 1878.

See the Catalogue of the Society Library of the International Philatelic Society, Dresden, No. 223. The Editor.

The principal difficulty was to find a person who had both the capacity to carry out such a work and the will to undertake this difficult and complex task. We have now succeeded in

getting our best philatelist, the Imperial & Royal High Court Justice Herr **Victor Suppantschitsch** of Graz, to compile this work.

We shall not go into details of the high culture and more than 30 years experience of this outstanding philatelic writer. They ensure that the work will be well done and that all requirements needing to be met by a bibliography of the German philatelic literature will be satisfied, so long as the choice of this person meets with the fullest approval, and German philatelists are ready to thank the distinguished author for his readiness to undertake this onerous task.

As for the work itself, it will consist of the following 4 sections:

Part 1 will be a history of philately (stamp collecting) as a whole. A history of the German philatelic literature will follow in Part 2.

Part 3 will present a survey of the entire German philatelic literature including the most recent data.

Part 4, finally, will give in lexicographic form the actual bibliography of the entire German philatelic literature.

This bibliography will cover everything in all fields of philately written and published in the German language.

This will be arranged so that anyone will find it easy to look up any facet of collecting or philatelic term, to determine what was published, by whom, and where it was published.

Of course, every philatelic author will be presented and all his books, writings, periodical articles, etc., will be listed individually with details of its subject, etc.

In this connection the editor with his precise knowledge of the German philatelic literature will make a conscientious and mature choice, not on the one hand omitting anything likely to be of value to the philatelist, nor on the other including anything that is either of no interest to philatelists or can readily be obtained from any major catalogue or album (like the thousands of reports of new issues of postage stamps).

The work should cover about 40 printed sheets and will be put out in Sections of three printed sheets. The first Section should be ready in May 1892, then a further section should appear every month.

The price has been set at 1Mk or 60 Austrian Kr per Section.

All subscribers who have agreed to take the entire work by 1 August of this year will be given a 50% discount.

It is thus in the hands of the world of German collectors to bring this work to life, since the work can only appear if a sufficient number of subscribers comes forward to ensure that subscriptions will cover half the cost.

Our appeal is thus directed first to the German philatelic societies and to philatelists, with the request for them to subscribe in numbers so as to give Germans a work such as no other nation yet possesses.

At the same time we have another request for the distinguished philatelic societies and the authors, editors and publishers, of philatelic works. Will they support our editor in his great work by kindly sending him examples of their issued or published philatelic books and journals, and warning him of forthcoming ones. The societies might send him their philatelic publications statutes, annual reports, society communications without waiting to be asked for them. This would be the best support. Also, they could make it possible for him to borrow the older German philatelic literature in their libraries. It is only by everyone acting together we can get something good and complete worked out.

Mähr.-Ostrau, 1st May 1891

The Editorial Board of the *Philatelistischen Börsen-Courier*.

Karl Cl. Sauer

END