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***Philatelic and postal history literature in Westfalian libraries***

***[Philatelistische und postgeschichtliche literatur in Westfälischen bibliotheken]***

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**PHILATELIC AND POSTAL HISTORY LITERATURE IN WESTFALIAN  
LIBRARIES**

I had set myself the task to find out what philatelic and postal history literature is available in Westphalian libraries. The libraries were very obliging in sending me lists of available literature. Most libraries have the most recent publications on philately available.

That is great, as it presents the readers with the newest findings. This suffices for the average collector. It is more difficult for the research philatelist, who most likely specialises in a certain area or theme. Specialised literature is often expensive. There also exists an agreement between the town libraries, that each collects a certain area of science. They have libraries, which concentrate on collecting and working in specific areas. That's why it is hard to find any scientific-philatelic writings. You can most certainly request that kind of literature, which will be ordered from other libraries immediately. But the normal library's inventory does not include philatelic literature, which will satisfy scientific enquiries.

This is even worse, where postal history is concerned. Postal history is a specialised area for postal workers and a few other history buffs. You would think that at least postal history of the local area would be available. But that is not so. You might find some in local literature, but only as an add-on. The post office used to be secretive and would not part with their documents.

So the local postal history fared like a step-child. Current literature dealing with local postal history is ignored. Nobody seems to know about the *Gesellschaft für Deutsche Postgeschichte* [Association for German Postal History] and the bulletins of their branches, which are specialised in local and regional postal history. At least they were not mentioned to me. You rarely find the magazine **Archiv für Deutsche Postgeschichte**, which often deals with specific regions, in Westphalian town libraries. Philatelic magazines and periodicals suffer the same fate. Nobody seems to know them - not even the **Deutsche Zeitung für Briefmarkenkunde**. The libraries mentioned need to improve a lot ...

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