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Preface

[Zum geleit]

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PREFACE

It is almost impossible today to get a chance to find something new from the past, such as, unknown works of earlier philatelists, whereby we can learn about personalities which have been forgotten for the past 130 years. Many do not believe that there are any new, extensive unknown chapters in philatelic history, especially when faced with the unique *Geschichte der Philatelie* [History of Philately] by Carlrichard Brühl.

So here is what happened to me, when my highly esteemed older friend, Dr. Heinz Jaeger, honorary president of the BDPH and internationally known philatelist, informed me of a cover from Baden sent in 1869. He spoke enthusiastically, not only of its significant content but also of its unique postage to the USA. I required several attempts to comprehend the uniqueness and finally learn to appreciate it.

What he held in his hand was a small historical, philatelic sensation. The only cover about the first German philatelic society, the Südwestdeutschen Philatelistenverband [Southwest German Philatelic Society], which existed only from 1869 to 1870. It was also unique in that it was the first German organisation/association to publish its own journal.

By chance, I was able, thanks to the State- and University Library of Dresden to find and obtain a copy of the original journal **Bazar für Briefmarkensammler** [Bazar for Stamp Collectors], which may be the only original copy remaining. Now it was possible to read, in an original document, the richly diverse history of the young law student Wilhelm Faber, who was briefly mentioned in Carlrichard Brühl's *Geschichte der Philatelie* and also by Alexander Bungerz in the *Grosses Lexikon der Philatelie* of 1923. Because of the importance of the find an extensive contribution could be made and published in the catalog of IBRA '99 for the World Exposition in Nürnberg.

This catalog and the reprint from Phil*Creativ Verlag in Schwalmtal, of this first journal compliment each other and make it possible for the reader to appreciate the time and problems, but also the wishes of Wilhelm Faber. He attempted to unite, at that time, the existing philatelic organizations, of which there were three (one in the USA, another, and today the only still existing active organization, in England, the [Royal] Philatelic Society, London). Thereby he became the forerunner and initiator of the idea of a worldwide organization for stamp collectors, which became a reality 50 years later with founding of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP). The young German student deserves full merit for the pioneering achievement, but not the success.

Wilhelm Faber, the restless and adventurous student from Heidelberg was lured to the country where one could still be a pioneer. This was possibly due to the German-French war and also due to the conservative, narrow-mindedness of Germany, which is understandable. So he left in 1870 for new shores, where any trace of him was lost, just as the organization he founded in Heidelberg was lost.

One year of the journal remains for study, which we recommend to any appreciative reader. We ask to be excused concerning the reproduction faults, but the modest print run made better print quality not possible.

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