

TRETNER, Hubert

Introduction

[Zum Geleit]

**Katalog der Philatelistischen Fachbibliothek., Verein für Briefmarkenkunde Zeitz von
1880 e. V., Germany, 1993, pp.1-2**

Translation produced for Brian J. Birch
33 Boar's Head Avenue, Standish, Wigan, WN6 OBH, UK
December 1999

INTRODUCTION

Philatelic literature - a possibility of increasing specialized knowledge and a source of information for every serious philatelist – has been available since 1862. To use it should become the public good in our Society in that it promotes the education of the individual and also his outlook.

The beginnings of our Society-library started in the 80s of the last century when the founding-chairman of the Verein für Briefmarkenkunde Zeitz, the head baker Gustav Erfurth, transferred his private philatelic library to the Society, upon this stock the library was partially built.

In the chaos after World War 2, the Chairman Paul Karthe served to safeguard that stock. However, additions of newer literature were very few. The value of good philatelic specialized literature was also underestimated in Zeitz. Only after 1990, that is 100 years later, more importance was given to obtain new items in the interest of the membership. The jubilee-committee under my presidency gave itself the job of obtaining all newly available philatelic literature which appeared in the DDR, for the library. Thanks to the financial support of the Culture-Federation (Arts-Council).

We could buy at bargain prices a large amount of bound magazine-volumes. A second bookcase became necessary. Its capacity was soon reached; I could donate to the Society 3 teaching-aids cases (after 18 years of use) through the clearing of our club-room in culture-house *Weltfrieden* [World Peace] in 1992. Luckily we found a location for the library in the *Haus am Schützenplatz*.

Another steel case will become available in December. However, because the stock increased so much, even without financial outlay for literature, that in the foreseeable future all three cases will be almost full. Through donations by the City and County of Zeitz as well by the Philatelic Society of Saxe-Anhalt we could purchase items in 1993 which otherwise we could not have. We remain part of the Regional Society so that the Society functions as the center for philatelic literature for the Regional Society.

The stock has increased since 1990 from ca. 350 to ca. 1750 titles - a sign of the efforts of the Board of Directors. Not to be forgotten are the donors of literature which will be named in the

annual report in the **Zeitzer Philatelisten-Kurier**. Without these donations some philatelic works, even the smallest brochure, would not be in the library.

Donations are always welcome to enlarge our library. With the publishing of the first printed catalogue of the entire stock of the library, a basis was created on which future Society-Boards can build.

I would like to thank here personally all helpers and especially the active co-worker and friend of the Society, Hertha Wolfsohn, who catalogued the entire library and, therefore, made the publishing of the library list possible. My thanks go also to Mrs. Solveig Schneider who finished the print-proof manuscript. May the critical reader be mild in his judgment if mistakes are discovered and consider that this is the first effort by beginners at library cataloguing.

I hope and wish that future Boards may bring the needed understanding of the importance of the philatelic literature in general and especially of the Society library.

May the presentation of this catalogue also encourage the use of the library by Society members and interested philatelists - that is my honest wish.

Hubert Tretner
Chairman
Zeitz
26th November 1993

END