

SUPPANTSCHITSCH, Victor
A bibliography of German philatelic literature
[*Eine Bibliographie der Deutschen Philatelistischen Literatur*]
Philatelistischer Börsen-Courier, May 1891, Volume 6, Issue 9, pp.75-77
& August, Issue 15, p.132

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March 2005

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GERMAN PHILATELIC LITERATURE

When Emilio Diena in Issue 1 of the Postwertzeichens of 1888 enthused over the drawing up of a bibliography of philatelic literature, this thought generally met with most joyful approval.

Also this article spoke to my heart all the more as my friends know, there is a similar work to be found in research in my portfolio.

This plan, the production of a bibliography of the philatelic literature of all peoples, as originally proposed was impracticable in my view, therefore I did not further concern myself with the idea.

This plan, however, soon fell through for the above reason and one had to be content with the desire to see developed soon a bibliography of the German literature.

Since the idea was proposed the desire to see it fulfilled remains strong but with the passage of the years it has not come to fruition.

It seems to me that the reason for this is that it is felt that such a work could only be completed by the German Philatelic Clubs.

So the matter was put off until the Greek calends (which means never, since there are no calends in Greek. A calend is the first day of the ancient Roman month.) since a joint agreement of all associations to do this work was hardly to be expected, from the outset.

In my opinion this way would have distorted the uniformity of the work since each subject would have been worked on in a different spirit.

However, the thought that it could be possible for an individual man to create this work in an reasonable time period with the help of the German collecting world, would not let me rest, and so at the behest of the publishers of this periodical I have decided to undertake this work.

Although after the death of my dear friend Ferdinand Mayer I gave up collecting myself, I still remain a Philatelist at heart and in particular I have turned my attention to philatelic literature, too, as my philatelic library with over 500 items in its catalogue attests.

I have followed up on all aspects, through which our study went since that time, most attentively, and I hope to produce a work which will satisfy all Philatelists.

Concerning the contents and the arrangement of the work, I believe the data in the prospectus, which the previous issue of the paper put forth, will suffice. Permit me to stress, that the Bibliography should be a leader in the entire German philatelic literature, where everyone, who wants to become familiar with a philatelic topic can with ease find which was written about it by the noteworthy philatelists.

That which was written about things which are common today to every philatelist, that which is contained in every larger manual, that which is fully presented and that about which there is no more doubt, this undertaking will not discuss since this would be a service to no one who looks for enlightenment about a subject if they had to wade through several hundred articles and notes in order to finally find that it contains seventy or eighty outdated notes which have already long since been corrected or disproved, or that fifty of such notes are repeats.

The German collectors may trust me in this case and rely on the fact that I will include only such publications which have a philatelic core and value.

Also the book will not state only the titles and headings of the relative articles, essays, papers etc., from which their full contents cannot be safely inferred, but it will also indicate what information can be sought and found in these articles.

With these lines it is not my purpose to encourage a broad subscription since the general and vigorous agreement which Diena's idea has found everywhere and leaves in me no doubt about it, that the response to the subscription will make possible the publication of the book and my conviction that this will happen, is so firm that I am already hard at work.

However, with these words directed at all philatelic associations, the philatelic press and all philatelists, who have an interest in seeing this work come to fruition, I request the support of all, in order to supply something complete and whole.

The work does not prepare a concurrenz (competition?) for anybody, harms nobody, but can only be advantageous for all Philately and all those, which are occupied with it, such as dealers, collectors, philatelic writers etc. They should, therefore, not shrink from any small sacrifice in order to support the work.

It is important above all that the entire German philatelic literature is made accessible for me.

Although my own rich library is at my disposal, there are naturally older publications and other ephemeral type documents which I do not have.

Also no one should require of me that I acquire all magazines appearing at present nor all new issues or recently published books, monographs, catalogues, etc.

The internal publications, statutes (by-laws), annual reports, reports of association etc., of the Philatelic Associations are less accessible to me

My plea, therefore, to the honoured executive committees of the associations, is to provide the aforementioned association publications to me on their own initiative, since I must devote all my time to seeing that the work is readied in order to appear at the time considered for it and there is no time for me to address special requests.

The publishers of philatelic magazines, among them also those which concern the German privately issued stamps, since they will be included in the bibliography, and authors, publishers and printers of all kinds of philatelic writings are kindly requested to provide to me a copy of those writings.

Authors are further requested to register with me their works, essays etc. and to include also some biographical data.

Executive committees of the associations will want to fashion a statutory resolution about it now, that the contents of their libraries pertinent to my special work be made available to me free of charge, so that resolution is already adopted when I come to place my requests.

Finally, I request all philatelists possessing older or little known philatelic publications to kindly report the same to me.

If I find the support for which I hope and on which I will depend, then this work will become a credit and adornment to German literature.

The support of my difficult task will in part, however, hopefully also prove that German philatelists are not only accumulating collectibles but also that they have a warm interest in their literature.

May these lines not be written in vain.

END

(Translator's note:- The above article was rather awkward to translate.)

ON THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The subscription to the bibliography of the German philatelic literature, which was introduced by us, from Supreme Court Judge Suppantchitsch did not as yet have that success, which would secure the publication of this work, which is so extremely important for the science of stamp collecting.

In particular the Philatelic Clubs have participated in the subscription but meagrely. We are compelled, therefore, to extend the subscription date to the 1st October 1891 There will be no further extension. As of 1st October 1891 the 50% price reduction ends.

It would be really unfortunate, if the work does not come about because of non-participation by the German Philatelists.

Subscription - registrations are to be addressed to the publisher:

Mähr in Ostrau 1st August 1891.

The Editor of the “Philatelistischen Börsen-Couriers.”

END