

The German “M” stamp

By Emmanuel GPS



“How prepared are you to go to war? Did you bring the stamps?” This could have been a conversation between Churchill and Roosevelt. When the allied troops landed in my birth country of France on June 6, 1944, they had more than tanks and guns, they also had stamps to replace Germany’s showing swastikas and the face of Hitler. The “M” stamp was printed in the USA and carried to Europe to be used once the territories were liberated.

With the occupation of Germany by the Allied powers postal services returned but were administered under different authorities. AM Post (AM = Allied Military) stamps were provided by the American and British occupation services during 1945 as the first step to restore mail service in their jurisdictions. Talk about planning to win!

United States stamp collectors can easily miss a fascinating byway of the output of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the stamps designed and produced by the BEP during 1943-45 for use in Allied-occupied Europe. These stamps are easily found today. Virtually all of the mint examples catalog under a dollar. These AMG stamps are not listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*. Only a few used high values are difficult to find.



However, beyond the basic stamps, there are color varieties, perforation varieties, paper varieties, sizes, interesting marginal markings and plate and seemingly random design varieties. This makes these stamps great fun to track down and collect. Nevertheless, there is a thriving specialty society, the Allied Military Government Collectors’ Club, formed in 2012 <http://www.amgcollectors.org/>. An important focus of the Allied authorities’ administration of German territory was the so-called “denazification” program. The canceled stamps and covers are collected as they are more rare than the mint stamps.

EmmanuelGPS@gmail.com, a native Frenchman, is a past Director and life member of <https://www.rotaryonstamps.org/> and the lead person of the Inverness (California) stamp club where he resides. He owns these posted stamps.