

# The One That Got Away – Unrequited Love (Did It Slip Through the Cracks or Is It a Clever Forgery) By Stan Cronwall

This is a story of what might have been.

I just missed out on buying an interesting Third Reich (TR) postcard. Among the many sidebars to my collection of TR stamps, covers, cards and ephemera are various series of postcards illustrated by Wolfgang Willrich.

Among his series is one entitled “German Blood Nobility All Over the World” which was introduced in 1938, although many of the paintings were done earlier.

Willrich’s career as a portrait artist came at the behest of Reichsbauernführer (Reich Peasant Leader) R. W. Darre who commissioned the artist to seek out and draw Nordic peasants throughout Germany.

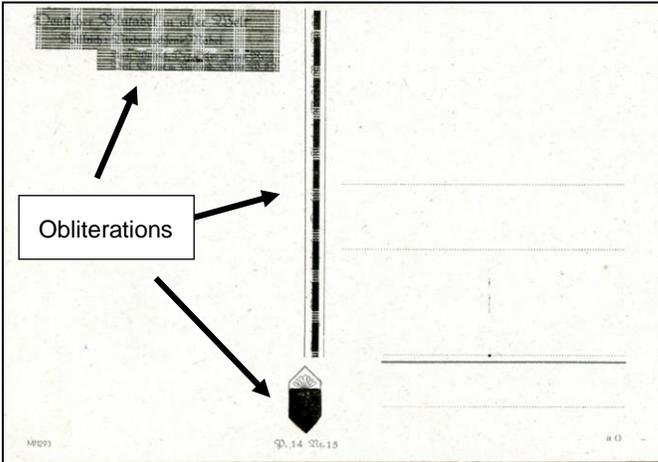
These cards were issued under the auspices of the VDA (Volksbund für das Deutschtum im Ausland) = “The National Federation of Germans Abroad”.

Following the unconditional surrender of Germany ending the European portion of WW II, the victorious allies established the Allied Control Commission in January 1946 to oversee virtually every aspect of life in Germany, Austria and to a lesser extent Italy. In Germany, there was a major effort to de-Nazify the country.

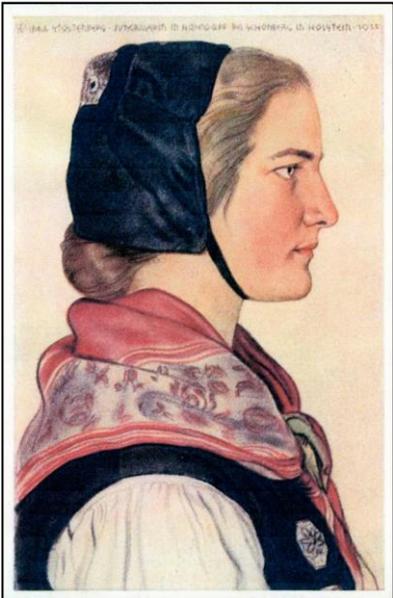
People were encouraged to turn in all items bearing TR symbols so they could be destroyed.

Much of the TR press including newspapers, books, post cards and like material was pulped and buried in landfills. The original plan to burn these items was rejected because it likely would have reminded people of the Nazi book burnings of the 1930’s.

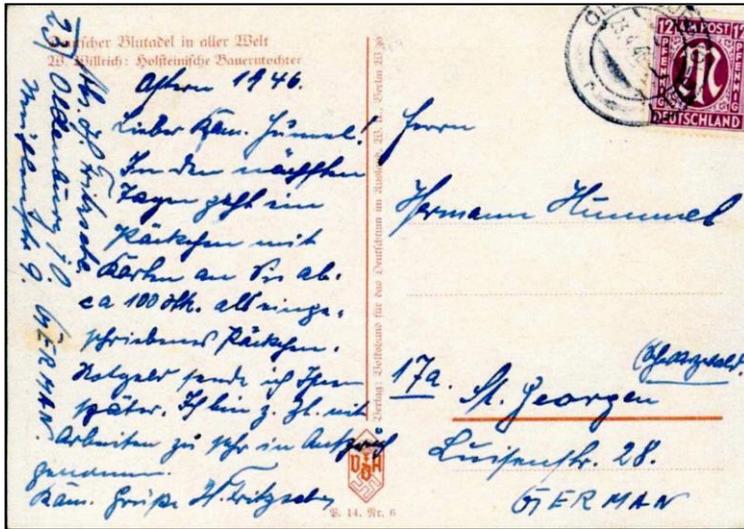
Postcards like the “Blood Nobility” series were acceptable for the mails if the TR symbols and text were obliterated.



Here is an example of an acceptable obliteration because of the overprinting.



On the left is an image of a post card I recently bid on. The subject is a “Farmer’s Daughter from Holstein.” The painting is dated 1935. There is nothing on the face of the card which requires being overprinted or otherwise obliterated.



Here is the **reverse side** of the same card with the VDA symbol and text WITHOUT an overprint or other obliteration. The card is franked with Germany Scott 3N2 which is an A. M. G. occupation issue from the Allied Military Government. The A. M. G. issues were issued jointly by the U.S. and Great Britain in 1945-1946 for use in the areas under their occupation.

The date cancel on the stamp is 23.4.46 (April 23, 1946) in Oldenburg in the British Zone of control some four months after the Allied Control Commission was established.

Did this one slip through the cracks? Or, was the rule to obliterate any TR symbols and references

either unwritten at that time or slow in being implemented which is so typical of many government regulations? Or, is this a clever fake?

It has been said that the Brits were less zealous in their approach to the occupation than the U.S.

What do you think?

As for me, I'm just sorry to have missed out on buying this card because it would have made an interesting piece in my collection of Willrich cards. Oh well. As is often said, it is the thrill of the hunt that keeps us searching and collecting.

Disappointing, yes. Maybe next time I'll be quicker on the trigger, or willing to ante up a few more "white-wigs" (singles) or perhaps a "rail-splitter" (fiver) and be the successful bidder. Time to get back on one's horse and head off to the next opportunity whether it is a Show somewhere, an internet adventure, or a mail sale.

**Stan Cronwall** is a member and his collecting interests include Germany: Third Reich 1933-45 and the areas it occupied (stamps covers & cards). He also collects U.S. World War II Patriotic Covers and Cards; Civil War Patriotic Covers (both U.S. and CSA); U.S. Naval Covers; DDR stamps; and, Post WW II Soviet Zone Hitler Head Obliteration stamps, covers & cards.