

THE KINGDOM OF SAXONY

The 'Franco' envelopes of the Royal postal service of Saxony 1859 to 1865.

A study of their development, design,
production and sale for use by the public.



Presentation by Arnim Knapp
to the Royal Philatelic Society London
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Forerunners



The British postal reform of 10 January 1840, the achievement of Sir Rowland Hill, was the reason for the issue of the first stamp, the "Penny Black", and the first postal stationery in the world the "Mulready's", which became valid on 6 May 1840.



Sir Rowland Hill and William Mulready

First Day Cover



LONDON to NORWICH 6 May 1840: receiving mark and single-line "TOO LATE" on the back, Maltese Cross cancellation in red.

The earliest use of a Mulready One Penny envelope to the German-Austrian Postal Union, sent to Saxony on the second day of issue.



From the Dietrich Bolte collection

A letter sent from England to Saxony via the Prussian Post Office in Hamburg.

Postage rate period: 1.8.1837 to 31.12.1846. Victoria Act, Section 34

Route: From London by a British ship to Cuxhaven, then via the Hamburg City Post Office to the Prussian Post Office in Hamburg and via Prussia to Leipzig (charging point).

7 May 1840

A letter partly paid to the continental port.

MUSWELL HILL (London) by a British ship to Cuxhaven (Hamburg). From Cuxhaven sent as a chargeable letter via the Hanoverian postal service to the Hamburg City Post Office and then passed to the Prussian Post Office in Hamburg. The Prussian postal service carried the letter to Leipzig, where it was delivered on 14 May by the Leipzig City Post in the first morning delivery at 8 am -10 am.

Franking:

London- Hamburg 1d (Mulready, prepaid) + 1/7 in cash = 1s. 8d.

Postage:

Cuxhaven - Stadtpost Hamburg = 4 ggr.

Hamburg - Leipzig = 4 ggr. +

Saxony border fee = 1 ggr.

9 ggr. (shown in red crayon)

The first issue of standard postal stationery envelopes on 29 January 1841. They replaced the Mulready envelopes.

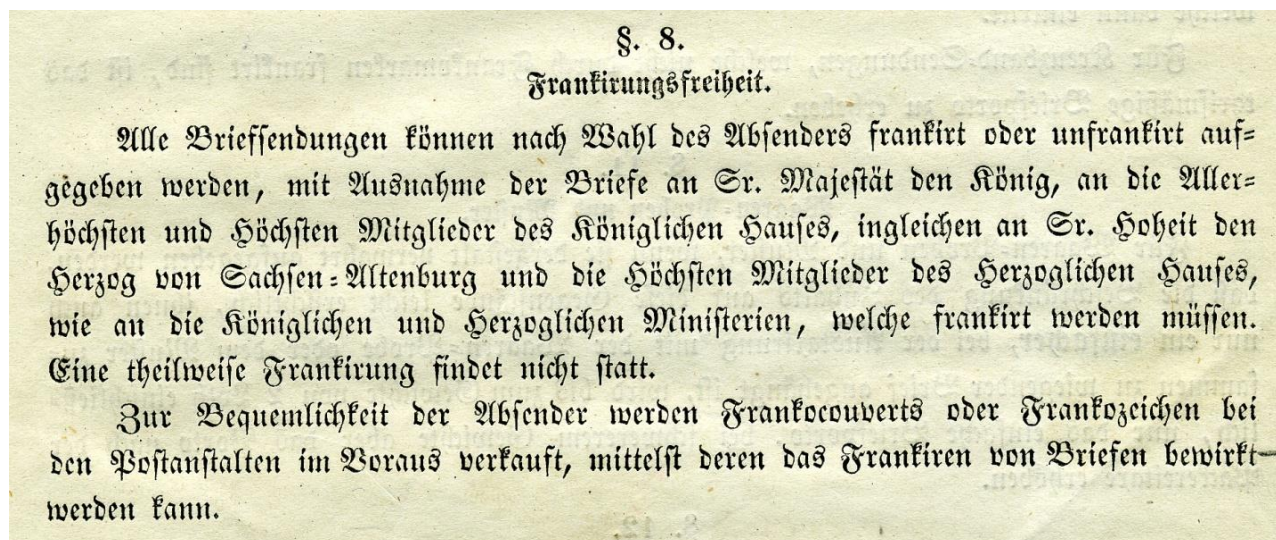
Postal stationery envelopes with an imprinted indicium were issued in 1841. They had an embossed image of Queen Victoria. They were designed by the coin engraver William Wyon. His "City Medal" of 1837 served as a model for the design of the colourless embossing of the indicium with the portrait of Queen Victoria. The engraver's initials "W.W." are on the base of the neck. Silk threads were incorporated in the paper as an anti-counterfeiting measure.



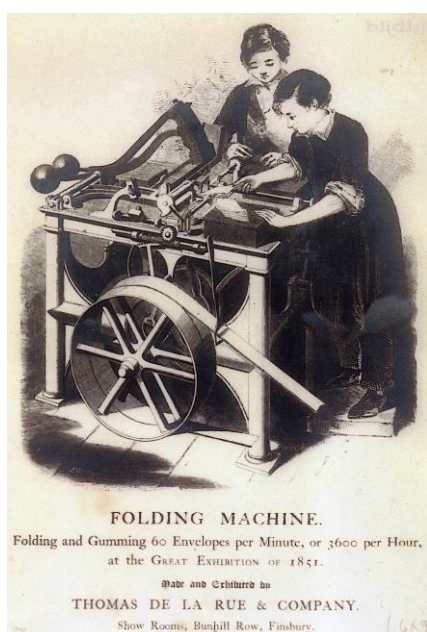
The envelopes were used as an example for the first postal stationery issue of the Kingdom of Prussia of September 1851, which also contained silk threads in the paper as a security device.



The planning and issue of "Franco" envelopes by the Royal postal administration in Saxony



Extract from the Saxony postal charges order No 655



On 13 June 1850 the postal charges order No 655 for the Kingdom of Saxony and the Duchy of Sachsen-Altenburg states in §8:

"For the convenience of the sender 'Franco' envelopes and stamps, with which the franking of letters may be effected, may be purchased in advance at post offices"

As a result, the main Royal postal administration of Leipzig introduced "Franco" envelopes in 1851 with regard to the Saxony postal district. Of particular importance to this was the international exhibition of that year in London, a newspaper report of which attracted particular interest.

There was a machine at the exhibition which produced envelopes. On 7 July 1851 the main postal administration wrote to the Saxony exhibition commissioner Dr W. Seyffarth, asking for information about this machine. The impression was thus given that this machine could beneficially be used by the Saxony postal administration. Dr. Seyffarth replied on 17 July: this machine is exhibited in London by the De La Rue company, but it can only fold envelopes. The price of this machine is £250 sterling.

At the Royal Treasury, a letter of reply was received on 9 August 1851. It rejected the purchase of the De La Rue machine with the remark: one should preferably purchase such a Prussian machine. At the same time, the Treasury mentioned whether one should not completely avoid the purchase of a machine and prepare envelopes by hand.

After receiving this reply the main postal administration learned that in Leipzig itself there was an envelope machine at the **Bartsch & Dankert** company.

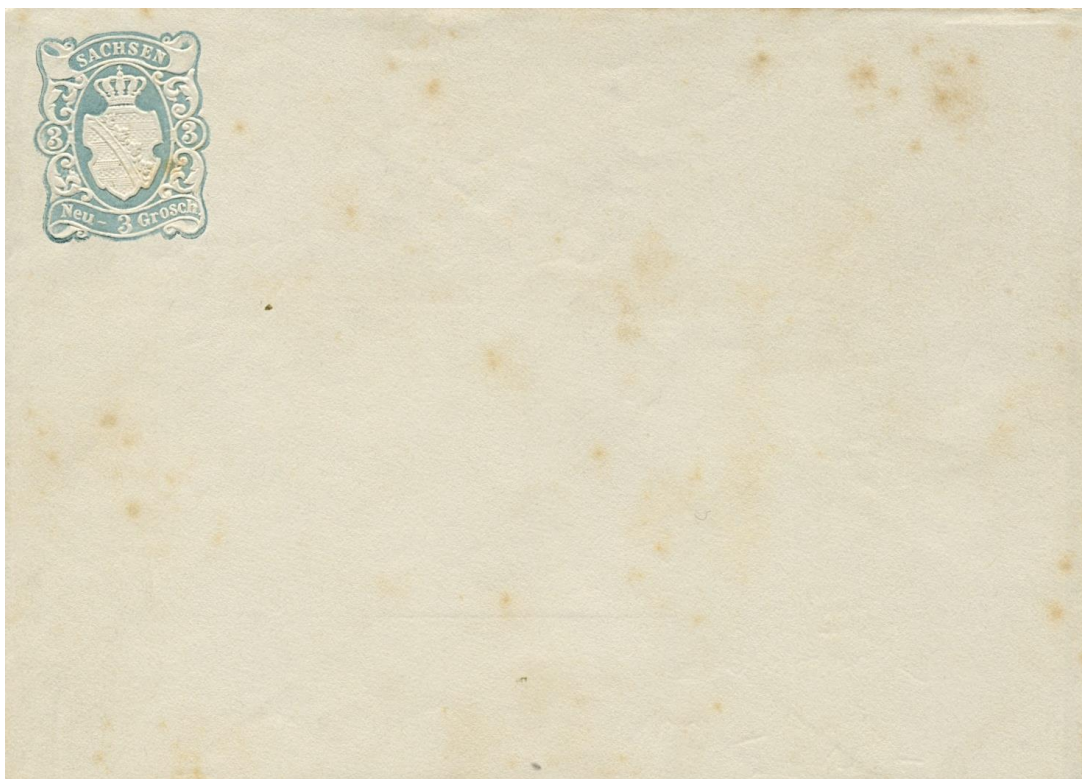
The head postal director had made a verbal agreement with this company and learned that that Bartsch & Dankert was able to make stamped envelopes. The head postal director asked Bartsch & Dankert to submit samples.

Bartsch & Dankert then prepared samples in the following colours in early October 1851 and delivered them to the main postal administration:

- 3 ngr. red-violet
- 3 ngr. blue-grey
- 3 ngr. light green
- 3 ngr. yellow



Cuttings of the indicium on the originals



On 14 October 1851 the main postal administration sent these samples to the Royal Treasury. In the accompanying letter they advised the manufacture of "Franco" envelopes by hand and suggested that the indicium should have the portrait of "His Majesty The King" instead of the Saxony Coat of Arms and that the steel die necessary for this be engraved at the Royal Mint in Dresden.

Instead of the expected letter of approval from the Royal Treasury, after a long wait the decision was made on 13 March 1852 that for the time being no further plans would be made regarding the question of envelopes.

“Franco” envelope of the “King Johann” issue, 1 July 1859.

The Treasury did not, however, act on its own initiative regarding this matter. Only in 1858 was the introduction of "Franco" envelopes regarded by some members of the Assembly in Dresden as desirable.

The main postal administration was therefore instructed again to begin making plans for "Franco" envelopes and immediately to put forward proposals to the Treasury.

The main postal administration turned to the Royal Prussian State Printing House in Berlin, which by now was also producing envelopes for other Postal Union states (Hanover and Braunschweig). The main postal administration asked whether the Prussian State Printing House was ready to take on the supply of "Franco" envelopes to the Saxony postal administration. When this consent was received by the Saxony main postal administration and the proposal had been made, then in order to conclude a contract in the same way as with the Royal Hanoverian postal administration, the main postal administration suggested to the Ministry of Finance on 24 October 1858 that:

- The Prussian State Printing House was to take on the manufacture of the envelopes.
- The production of “Franco” envelopes was to be identical to those of Prussia, Hanover and Brunswick regarding their makeup and presentation.



Head Postal Director von Schimpff went to Berlin on behalf of the Treasury and there with the Director of the Prussian State Printing House negotiated personally with the Privy Council at Wedding. As a result of these negotiations Head Postal Director von Schimpff brought from Berlin a **draft treaty of 3rd December 1858**, which met with approval.

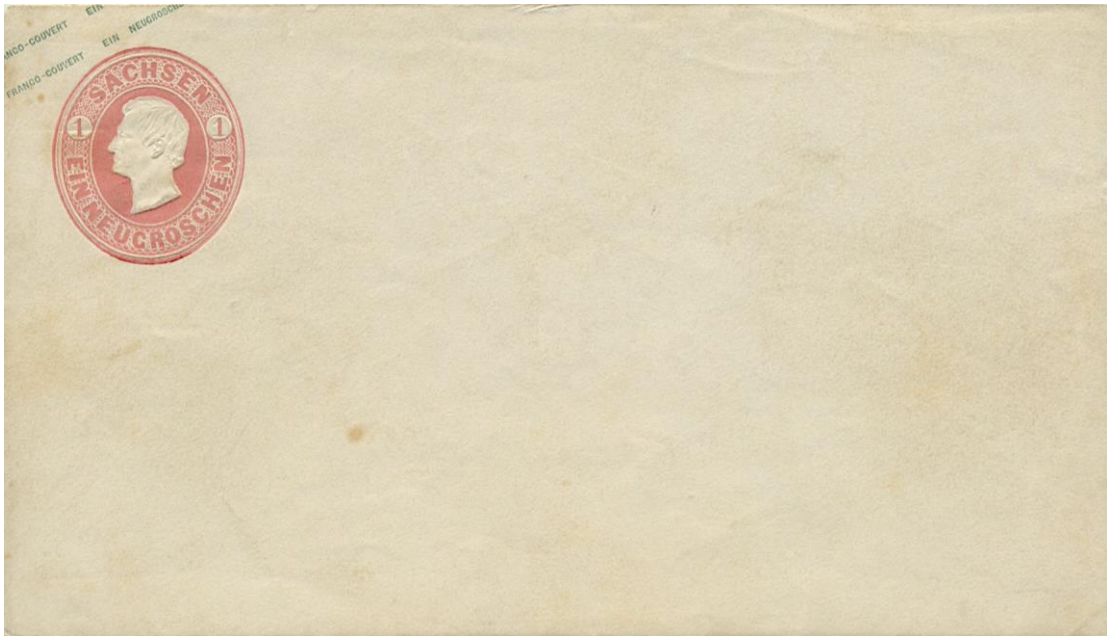
The proofs of the Royal Prussian State Printing House

On 5 February 1859, the State Printing House delivered the proofs. They were small-format envelopes (148 x 85 mm) with the prepared 1 neugroschen indicium and a finely printed green overprint (EIN NEUGROSCHEN FRANCO-COVERT), the Saxony embossed imprint and a small amount of gum near to the embossed imprint, and in the agreed colours

Proofs: details of the envelopes showing the indicia

- 1 ngr. red
- 1 ngr. blue
- 1 ngr. yellow
- 1 ngr. violet
- 1 ngr. green

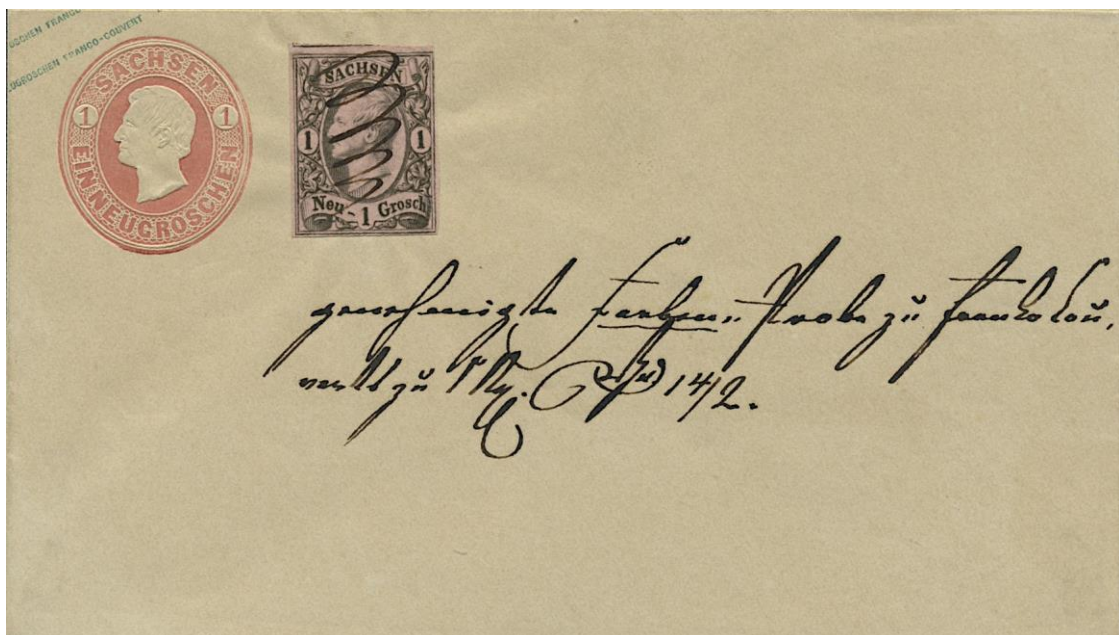




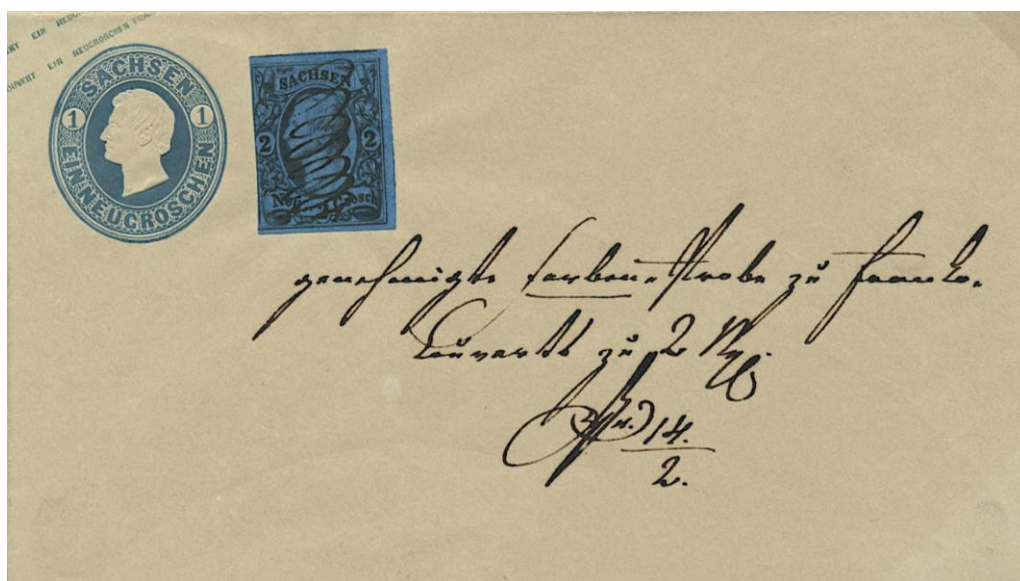
Proof 1 ngr. "Franco" envelope

The original items from the Royal Saxony Archives for comparing the colours with the stamps that were then in use

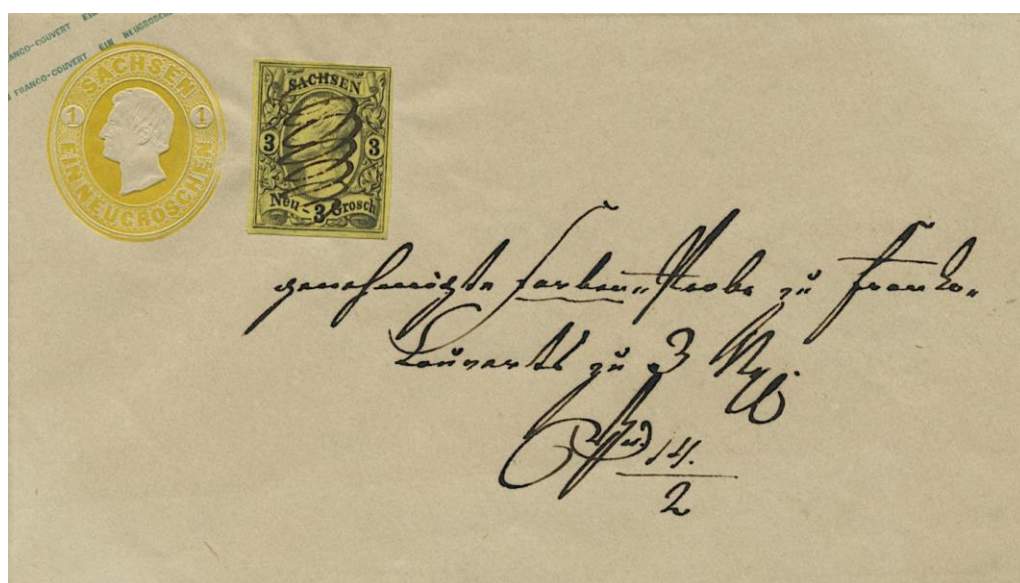
To avoid colour confusion, the stamp in use at this time, the relevant value from the King Johann issue, was attached near the indicium so as to compare the colour. The proofs carry the handwritten authorisation of **Head Postal Director von Zahn** and the date of issue, 14 February 1859.



Example of the 1 ngr. for colour comparison



Example of the 2 ngr. for colour comparison



Example of the 3 ngr. for colour comparison

Examples of portions of the issued envelopes

The appearance, shape, size and finish of the indicium are as was contractually established to match exactly those of the Prussian "Franco" envelopes.



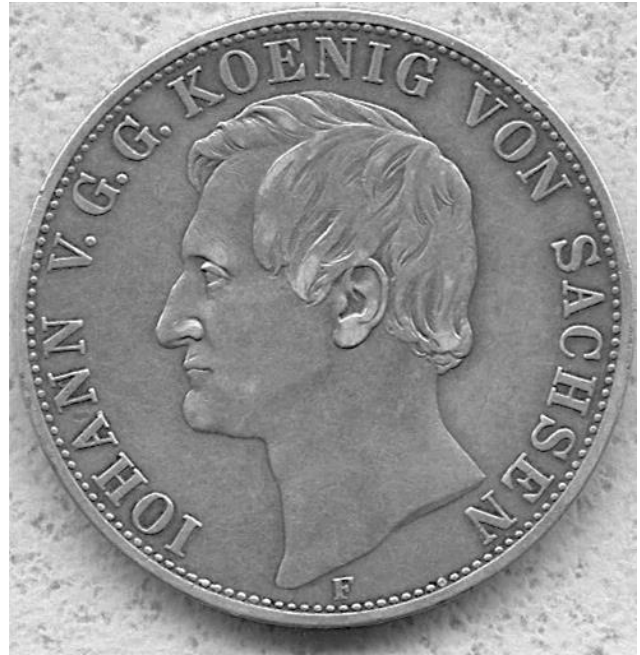
The indicium is an oval 28.5 mm in height and 26 mm wide.

The colours chosen for the two lowest indicium of 1 ngr. and 2 ngr. correspond with those of the British 1d and 2d stamps.

The overprint was applied (from a roller) to the envelope paper in a separate operation from the embossing (from an embossing die) and the colour printing. The production process is described on Pages 9 to 17 so far as it is known today.

Submission for the “King Johann” engraving for the indicium of the postal stationery envelopes

Comparison of the colourless embossed image with that of the coin engraving:



The pattern for the head of “King Johann” was the image as on coins.

The coin engraver was Herr Ulbricht.

It can clearly be seen that this embossed image was based on that of the coin.

The manufacturing process of the “Franco” envelopes

The necessary machinery for the manufacture of the envelopes:

Machine for papermaking:

- The very expensive machines for producing the paper were supplied by Bryan Donkin & Co. of London. The paper was made at the Ebart Bros. factory at Spechthausen near Eberswalde.

Machines for making the envelopes:

- Printing machine with an inking system for the endless printing of the “webs” of envelope paper, with the two parallel lines of fine printing done by the typographic process
- Machine for embossing and printing with an inking system
- Machine for punching out the envelopes. The cutters and the cutting plate had the full outline of the envelopes for the two formats, large and small
- Paper roll feeder: 10 rolls were fed to the die-cutting machine, so that 10 envelopes were punched at the same time + a counter to determine the quantity produced

The change in the delivery by the paper manufacturer Ebart to rolls of paper took place at the Prussian State Printing House with the issue November 1853.

The stages in the workflow of the individual machines are shown in principle on Page 13.

Illustration of the roller for printing "EIN NEUGROSCHEN FRANKO-COUVERT" on the envelope



The value given in finely printed lines was regarded as sufficient to prevent forgery.

The original die for the vignette with the clearly embossed head of "King Johann" was engraved by Heinrich Gustav Schilling. The frame with the value and the different guilloche patterns were engraved around the head with a guilloche machine by the engraver Schauer.

Working life of the matrix and die

The working life of matrices and dies is limited due to extensive usage. From the long experience of the Royal Prussian State Printing House (it had already begun the production of "Franco" envelopes in March 1851) a working life for the working die of approximately 1 million units was estimated for making the Saxon envelopes. It should then be replaced. The master die was used only for the production of a new value. On the other hand it was used for proofs.

Differences in size of the indicium

Small differences in the size of the indicium can be found. The reason for this can be explained as follows:

When making many impressions from the original matrix, which was done by heating it, the metal did not always expand to the same degree, depending on the temperature, and did not revert to the original size due to changes in the metal.

The personnel of the State Printing House for producing the "Franco" envelopes

Executive Board:

- The Privy Council at WEDDING

Production:

- Diecutter: Engraver Heinrich Gustav SCHILLING
- Guilloche work: Engraver SCHAUER
- Die sinker: WEITENAUER
- Manufacturing supervisor: Postal Official POPPENBURG

Printer: Edward RINGER

Explanation of the term "guilloche"

This word comes from the French and refers to the application of uniform patterns and ornaments of straight or curved lines, predominantly on metal surfaces. Guilloche work is a procedure similar to engraving by hand or machine. Guilloche machines have been known since the 17th century.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Inventor (apparently): | Guillot, a Frenchman |
| • Use: | as a security measure |

Illustration of a guilloche machine

In the Vienna Technical Museum, c. 1835

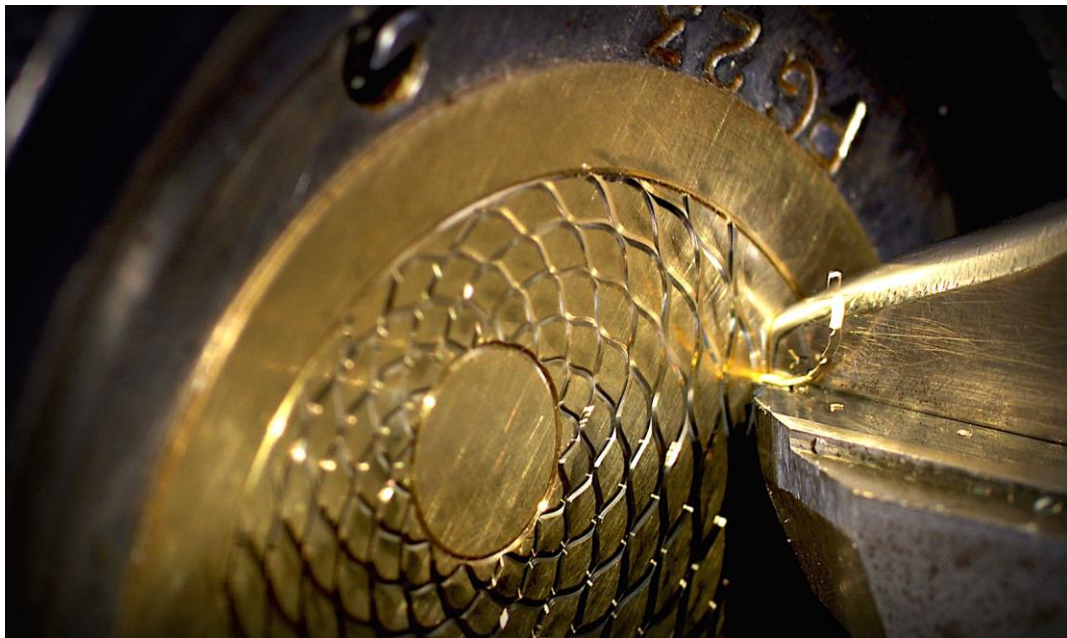


Illustration showing the cutting of a guilloche pattern.

The guilloche pattern around the head of “King Johann”

The guilloche pattern is different for each value:

1 ngr. Ten wavy lines, of which five form the upper half and five the lower half. Each pair of these five lines runs parallel, while the fifth is especially curved.



2 ngr. a network of eight lines, of which two run parallel.



3 ngr. Five lines run parallel and make a simple pattern.



5 ngr. Here it is quite the reverse; the pattern is very intricate, such that the middle six lines are slightly curved, while the upper and lower two are more pronounced in their curvature.

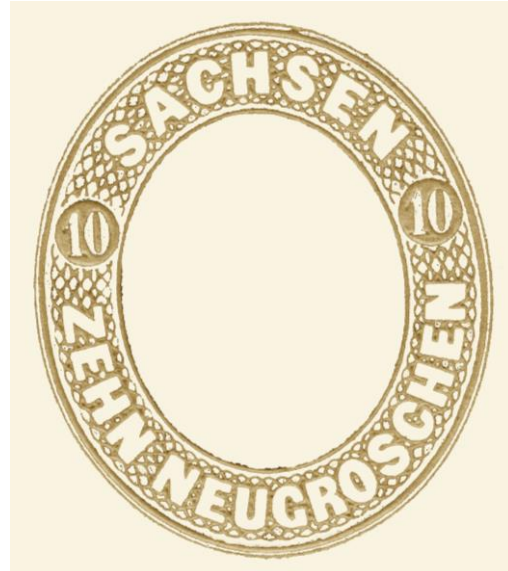


10 ngr. Here the pattern is simple again. The lines again all run parallel but make up a closer network than with the 3 ngr.

Production of the die for the “Franco” envelope following the example of the “King Johann” issue



Engraving of the head of King Johann



Guilloche work for the inscription and ornamentation



The two are brought together for the working die



Coloured matrix



The final indicium, a combination embossing and printing

Die and matrix for embossing and printing, using the example of the Coat of Arms issue of 1865

The surface shape of the die and the matrix is explained using a blind print of the last issue of the ½ neugroschen postal stationery envelopes.



Die at left = an embossing die; the areas to be embossed are raised.



Printing matrix at right = the areas to be printed are raised. Ink is applied to the raised areas.

The engraver Heinrich Gustav Schilling was given, as a pattern, a medallion of “King Johann” corresponding to the thaler coin of the Kingdom of Saxony (see Page 9) and a medallion with the Saxon State Coat of Arms, corresponding to the pfennig coin (see Page 45).

The author found no written records in the Prussian State Printing House regarding the production of dies and matrices. The only source known to the author which describes the stages of production is to be found in “Die Briefumschläge von Preußen” (= The Envelopes of Prussia) by Dr. Franz Kalckhoff, 1943, pp. 2-3.

Stages in the production process

1. Measuring the shape with the use of a pantograph, making it the intended size and hand-engraving it
2. Engraving by guilloche the exterior ornamentation with the oval for the figure of value
3. The figure of value was probably impressed in the soft oval with a number-stamp
4. After finishing, the steel die (master die) is hardened
5. The matrix is impressed in mild steel and thus formed
6. Finally the matrix is hardened

A combined printing process: embossing the paper and applying ink by typography.

Embossing

Firstly, an individual embossing tool must be made for the desired style. An embossing tool consists basically of two parts: the die, which produces the embossed design, and the associated negative counterpart, the matrix. On the die the design stands out in relief, according to the fineness of the detail, on a steel block. With the matrix, the design to be embossed is moulded in reverse, and this forms the counterpart to the die.

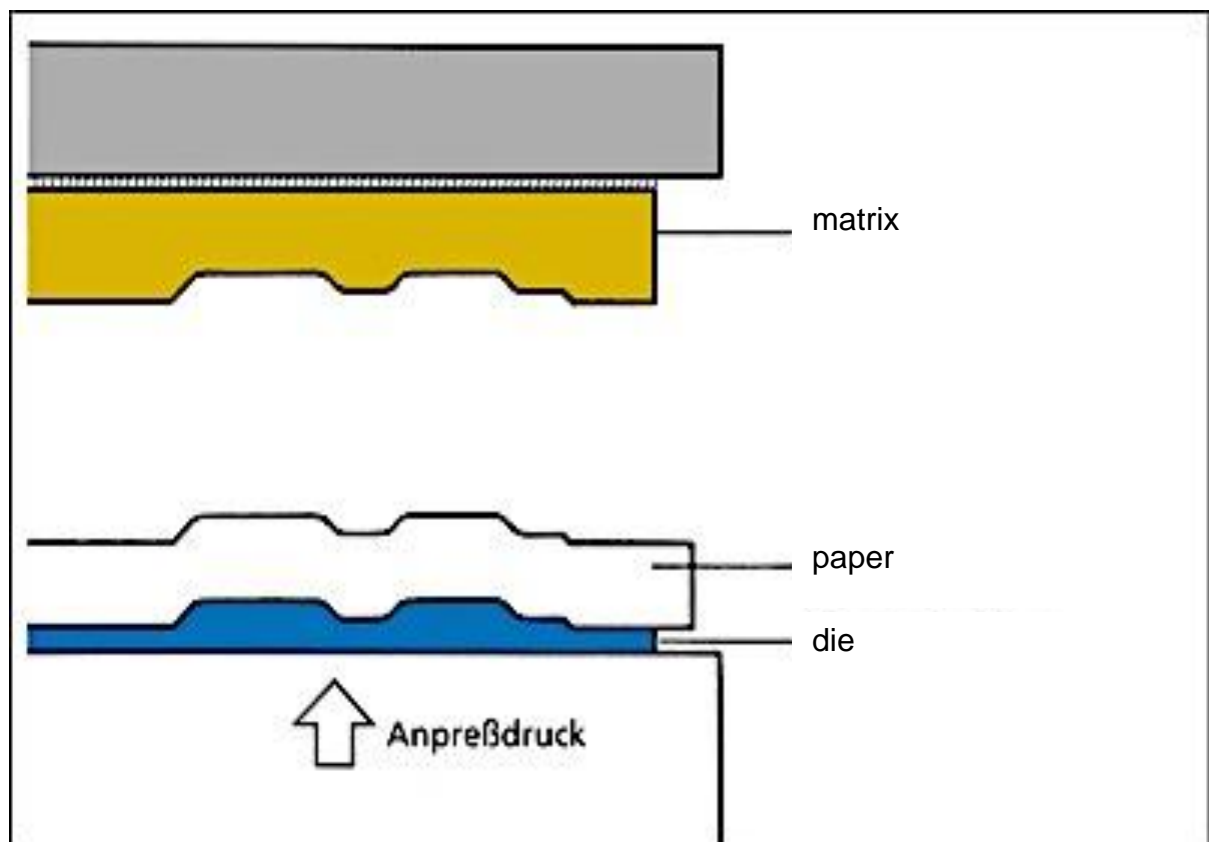
During the embossing process the embossing tool, consisting of the fully aligned die and matrix, is clamped in the embossing press. By using the die, which has the desired design, and the associated negative counterpart (matrix), the design is embossed in the paper. As soon as the paper is precisely located between the die and matrix of the embossing tool, pressure is applied to the die and matrix by the embossing press, resulting in the paper having the required design in relief.

The embossing may then be seen by the deformation of the surface of the paper and the interplay of light and shade.

The paper is stored in a room with high humidity so as to improve its elasticity. The embossing tool can be heated which also increases the elasticity of the paper.

Construction of an embossing tool for shaping the paper:

Both the die (with design elements in relief) and its counter the matrix (with design elements recessed) are necessary to achieve a clearly-embossed contour. Both must be coordinated, so that that the paper fits between them. The bevelled sides of the raised or recessed elements of both the matrix and die are important in the design.



The typographic process

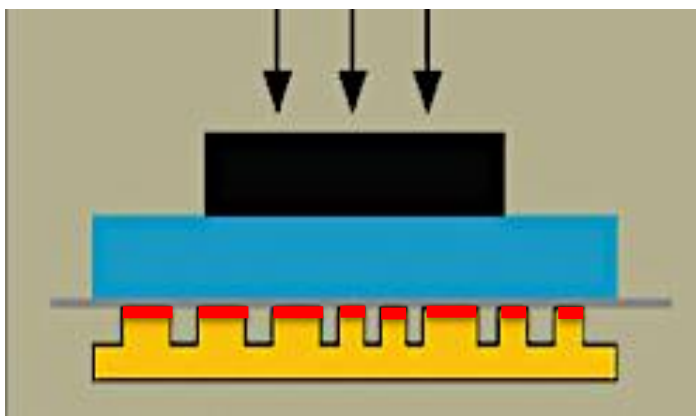
Typography is regarded as the world's oldest printing process. Otherwise known as letterpress printing, it was known to the Sumerians, Egyptians and Chinese who used printing devices moulded from clay or carved in wood. Over 500 years ago, Gutenberg's invention of moveable lead type led to letterpress printing, in which the printing forme has raised elements. The non-printing areas of the forme are lower.

In typography, the raised parts of the forme or matrix are inked. During the printing process, part of the ink is transferred under pressure from the raised surfaces to the paper. The ink is therefore transferred directly from the forme to the paper. Due to the pressure the matrix has more or less deep indentations, known as "shading". This shading is a clear sign of typography. Regarding the printing machinery, there are three methods of typographic printing:

With platen printing, one flat surface is pressed against another flat surface; with flat-bed printing a cylinder is pressed against a flat surface; rotary printing involves two cylinders pressing together.

In order to achieve better ink transfer from the forme or matrix to the paper, the paper is stored in a room with high humidity.

Typography without embossing



From top to bottom:

- Printing plate
- Die
- Paper
- Ink
- Matrix

The result: embossing + printing



Simplified representation of the steps in typographic printing:



A typical feature of typographic printing



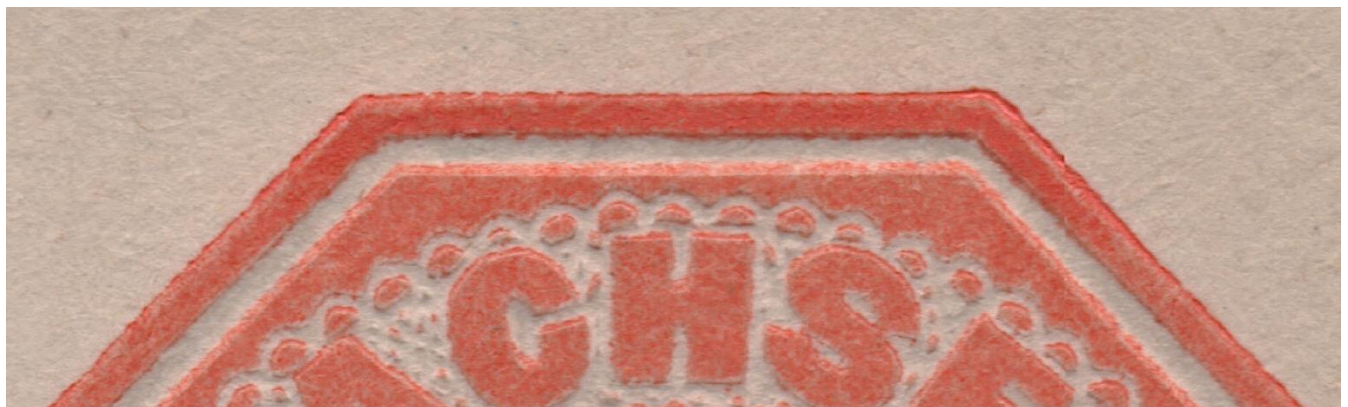
a



b

a = Matrix
b = Imprint on the paper

The “squeezed” edges of the print on the indicium are clearly seen here.



The production of the “Franco” envelopes using the example of small-format envelopes of the “King Johann” issue

The manufacturing process of the Prussian envelopes is described in a letter of August 1862 from the Prussian State Printing House to the Swiss postal administration, quoted in “Die Briefumschläge von Preußen” by Dr Franz Kalckhoff, pp. 2-3.

As the “Franco” envelopes of Saxony were produced by the Prussian State Printing House, and they are of the same makeup and appearance, it is clear that the same procedure would have been used for the Saxony envelopes (about which nothing is mentioned in the Saxony archives) as for the Prussian envelopes.

The production stages: first paper web

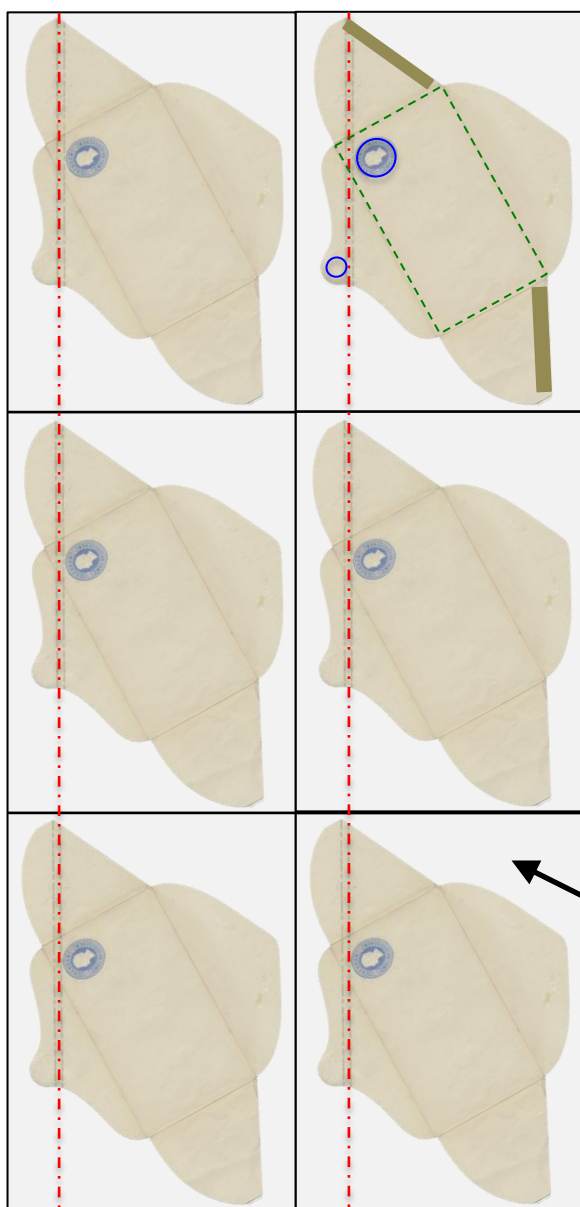
1. Production of rolls of paper
2. Printing the two lines of value in fine print along the whole length by means of a roller matrix
3. Dividing the paper roll in two lengthwise
4. Cutting the paper roll transversely according to the envelope size
5. Printing (typography) and embossing with the value matrix above and the embossing die below
6. Punching out the envelope outline
7. Gumming the side-flaps + folding the envelopes + embossed design + glueing + drying
8. Gumming the sealing flaps by hand. For the procedure see illustrations on pp 21-22.

The position of the value-overprint in fine print was such a distance from the edge of the sheet as to be clear of the printed indicium.

The illustrations of the principles of production are given according to the description in the source quoted.

No further details are known to the author.

Source: Dr Franz Kalckhoff “Die Briefumschläge von Preußen” p. 81



light grey = paper waste

First paper web Second paper web

Value-overprint

Paper web division

The finished envelopes were packed in hundreds. The cost of 100 envelopes including packing amounted to:

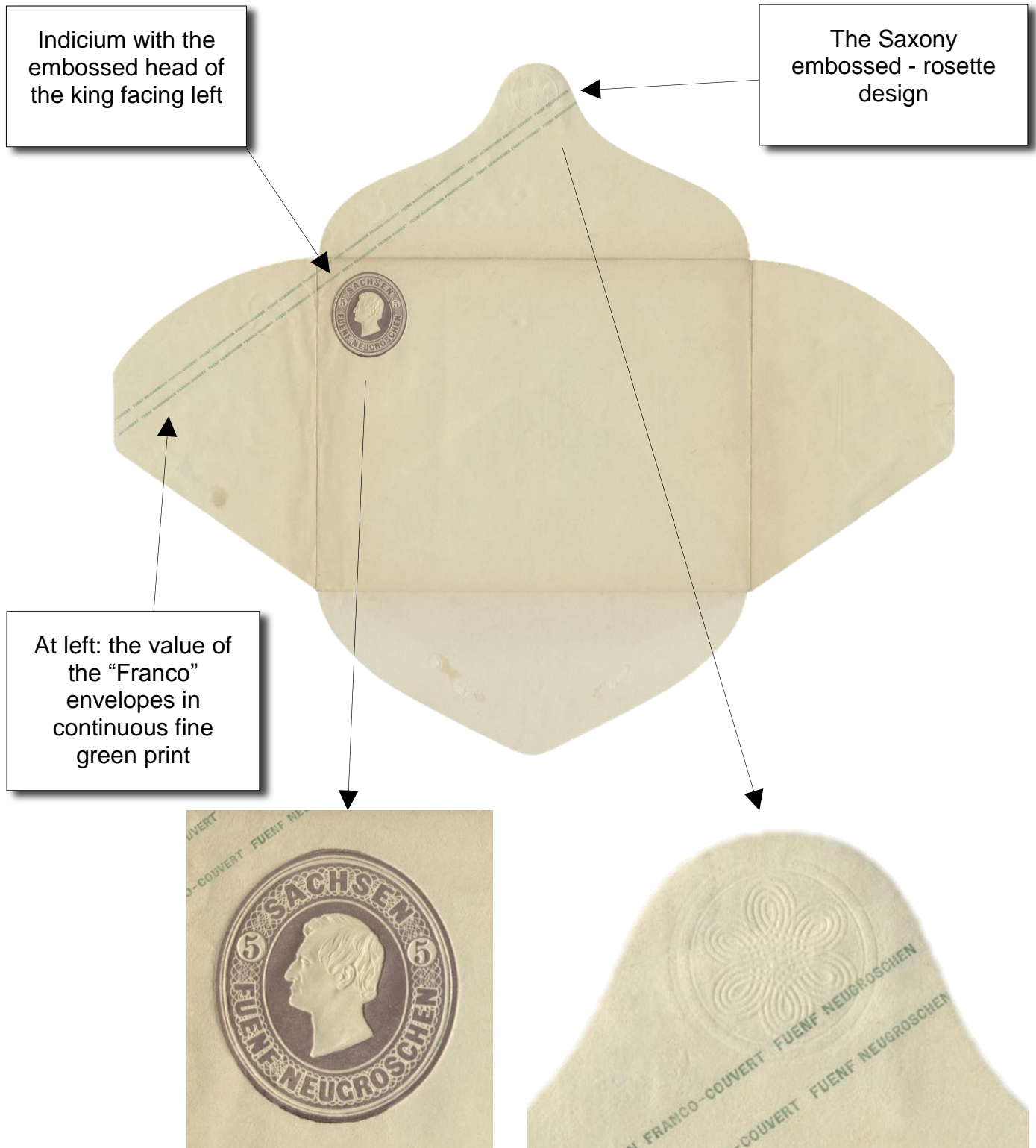
7½ sgr. for the small format

8½ sgr. for the large format

The appearance of all the Saxony postal stationery envelopes corresponds with the Prussian envelopes of the August 1855 issue, in both the large and small formats.

The shape and size of the envelopes are the same for all issues.

Makeup of the large-format “Franco” envelopes



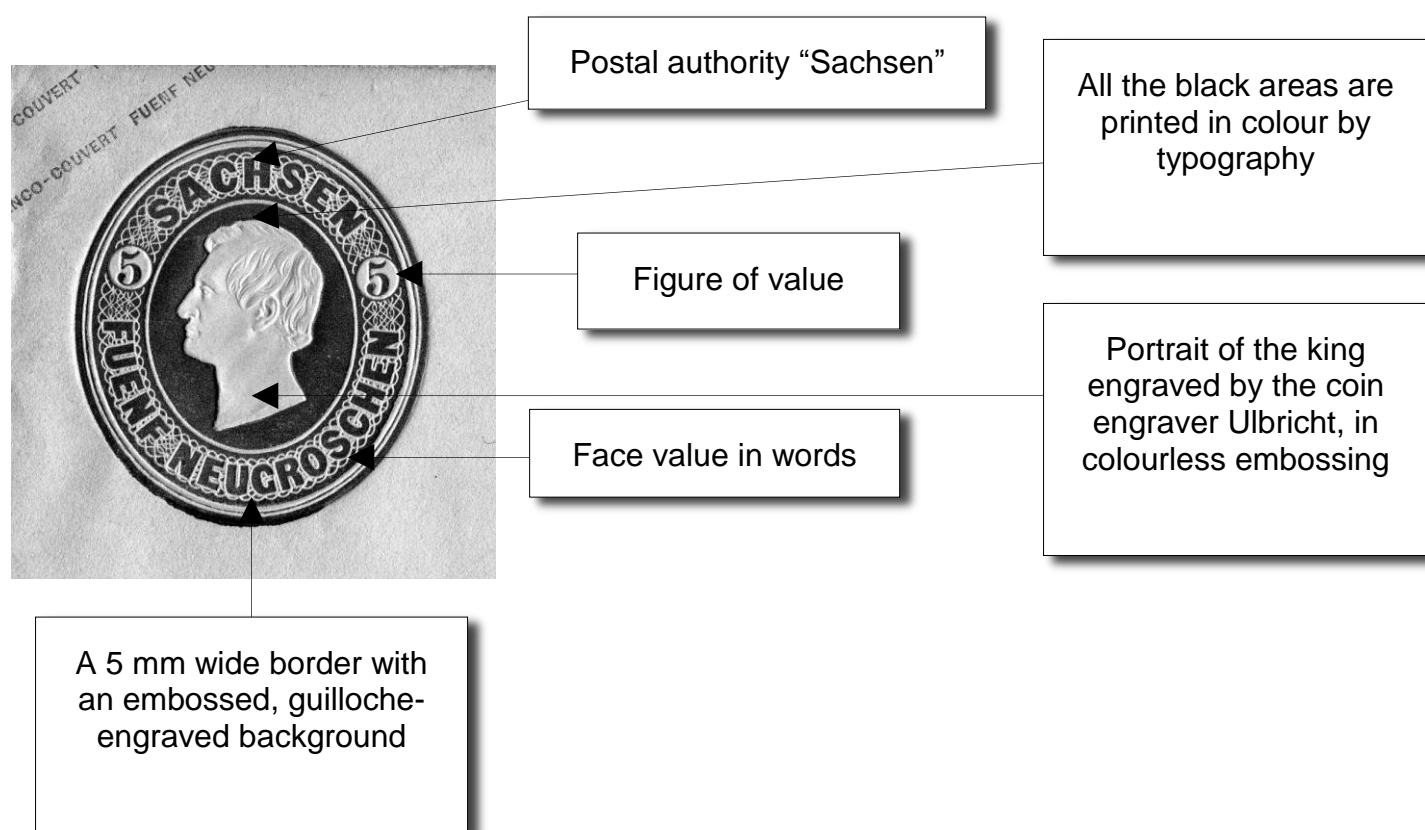
Security overprint: the words: "EIN NEUGROSCHEN (or ZWEI, DREI, FÜNF, ZEHN NEUGROSCHEN) FRANKO-COVERT" are printed in two parallel lines of fine green print, running across the left and upper flaps of the envelopes, cutting through the upper-left corner of the address side,.

Seal: At the tip of the flap of the envelope there is an embossed rosette design (seal of Saxony) and the inner side is coated with gum so that the envelope may be sealed by simply wetting the gum.

An alternative method of sealing the envelope by the use of sealing wax etc. is thus not prevented or hindered

The "Franco" envelopes were sold at the face value indicated, as was also the case with the adhesive stamps; there was no increase in price due to the cost of producing the envelope.

Design and manufacture of the indicium:



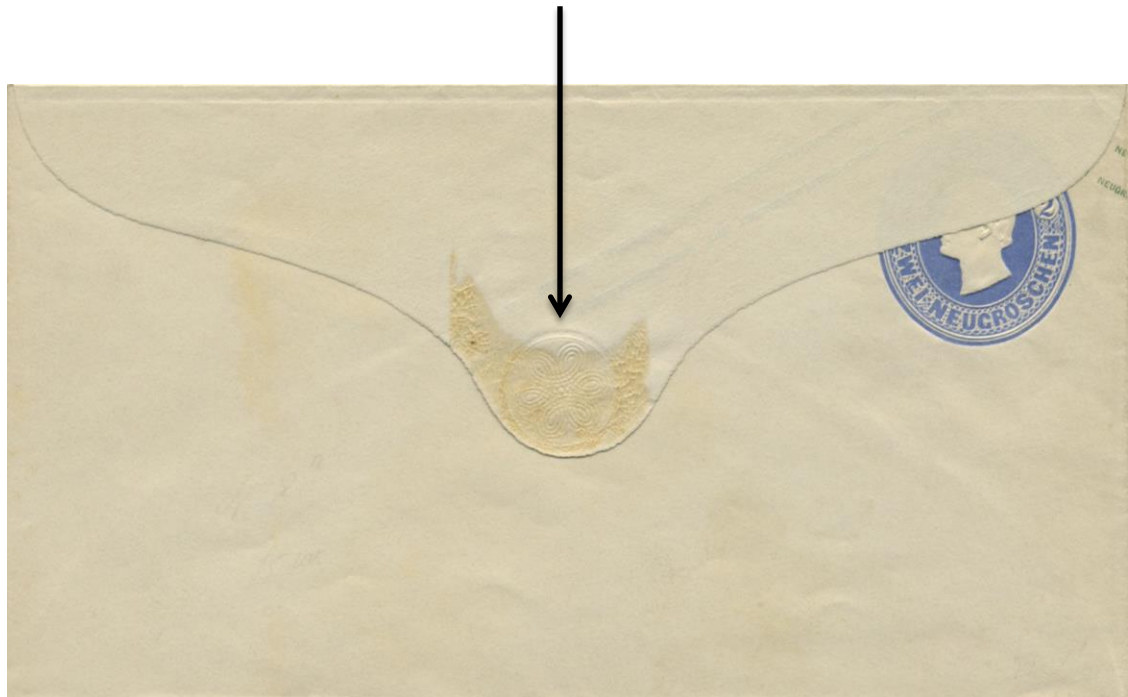
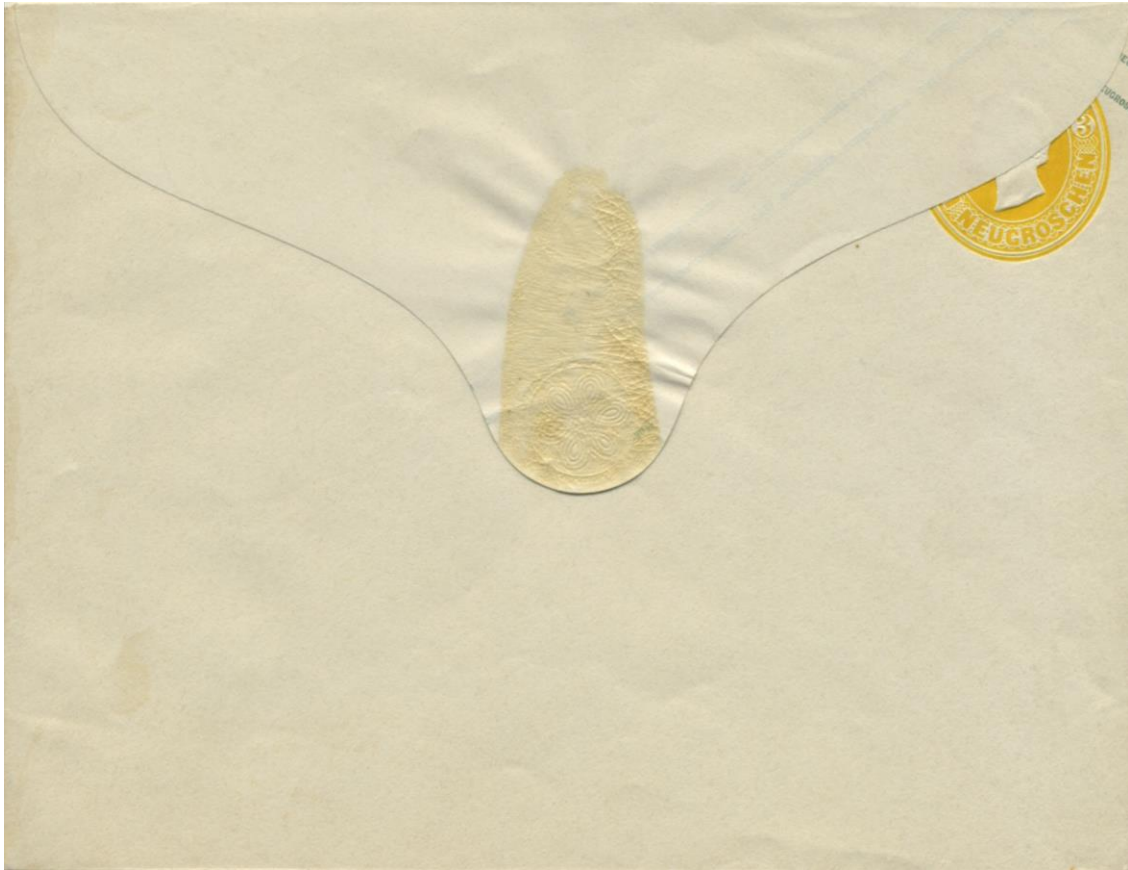
All the white lines and areas of the indicium are in colourless embossing.

Procedure for applying the small area of gum

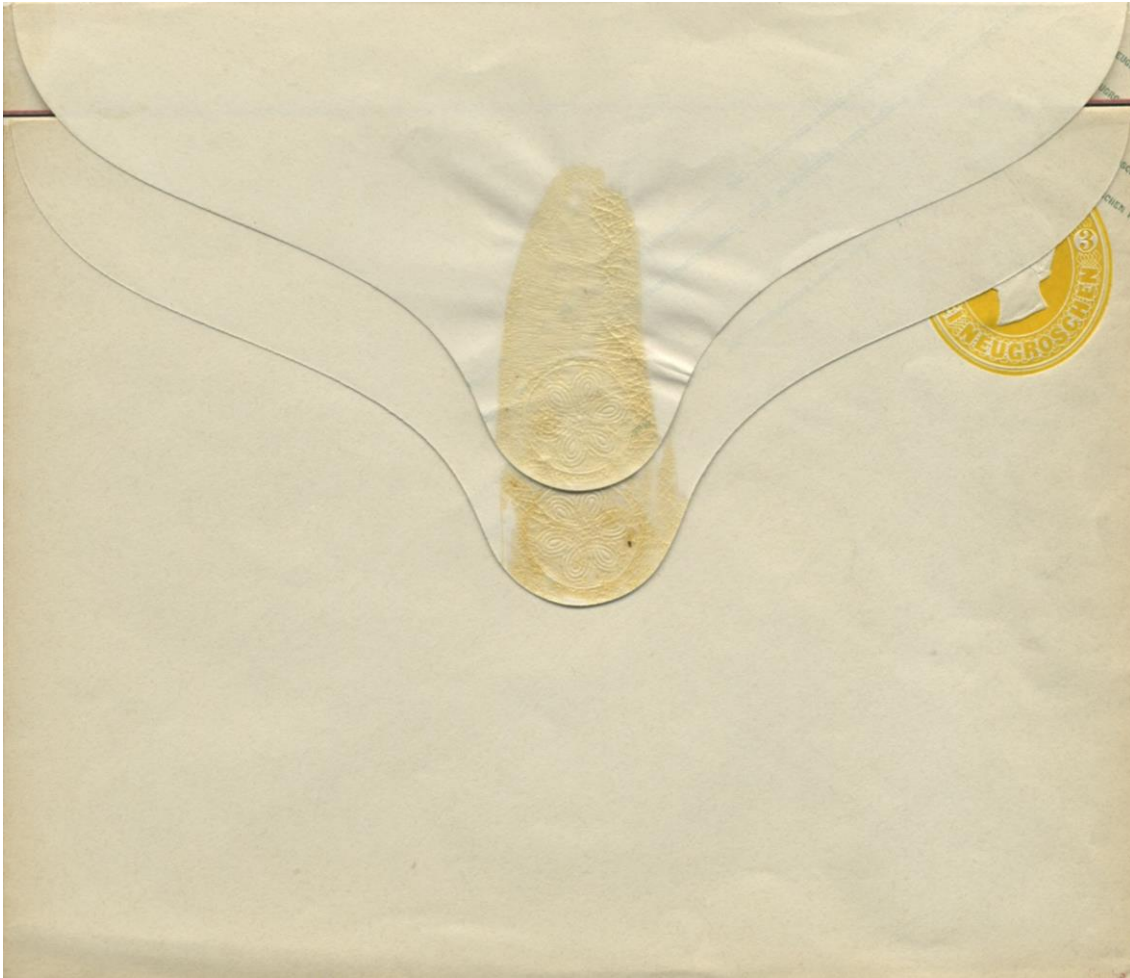
Examples of the **small gummed area** for the small and large format. The length of the gummed area varied. It was applied by hand.

The gum seems to have been applied to several envelope flaps that partly overlapped each other.

This is the first envelope in the row. This is where the gumming began.

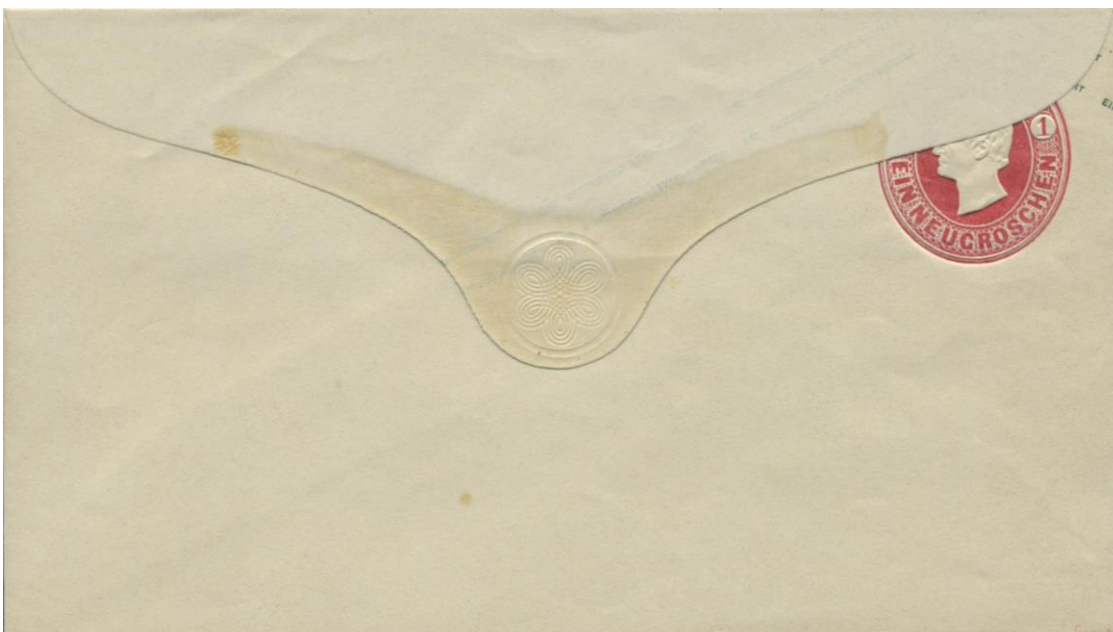


The way in which gum was applied to a row of envelopes



The envelopes were overlaid in layers and then the gum was applied by hand with a brush.

With the “King Johann” issue of February 1863 the procedure was changed and the gummed area was longer.



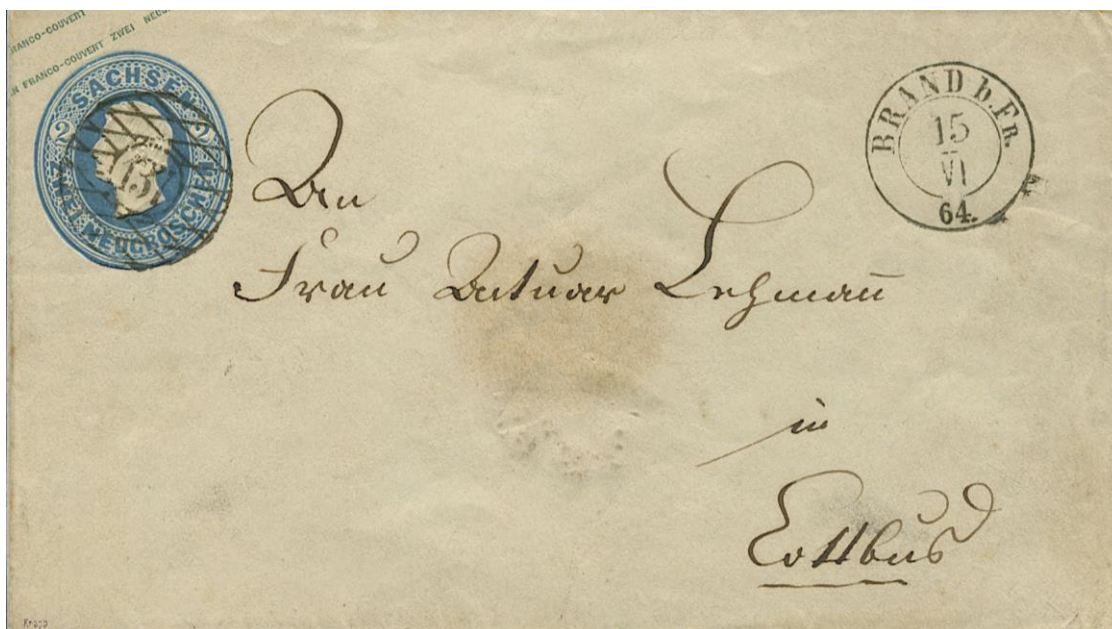
“King Johann” issue of 1859 used without additional franking



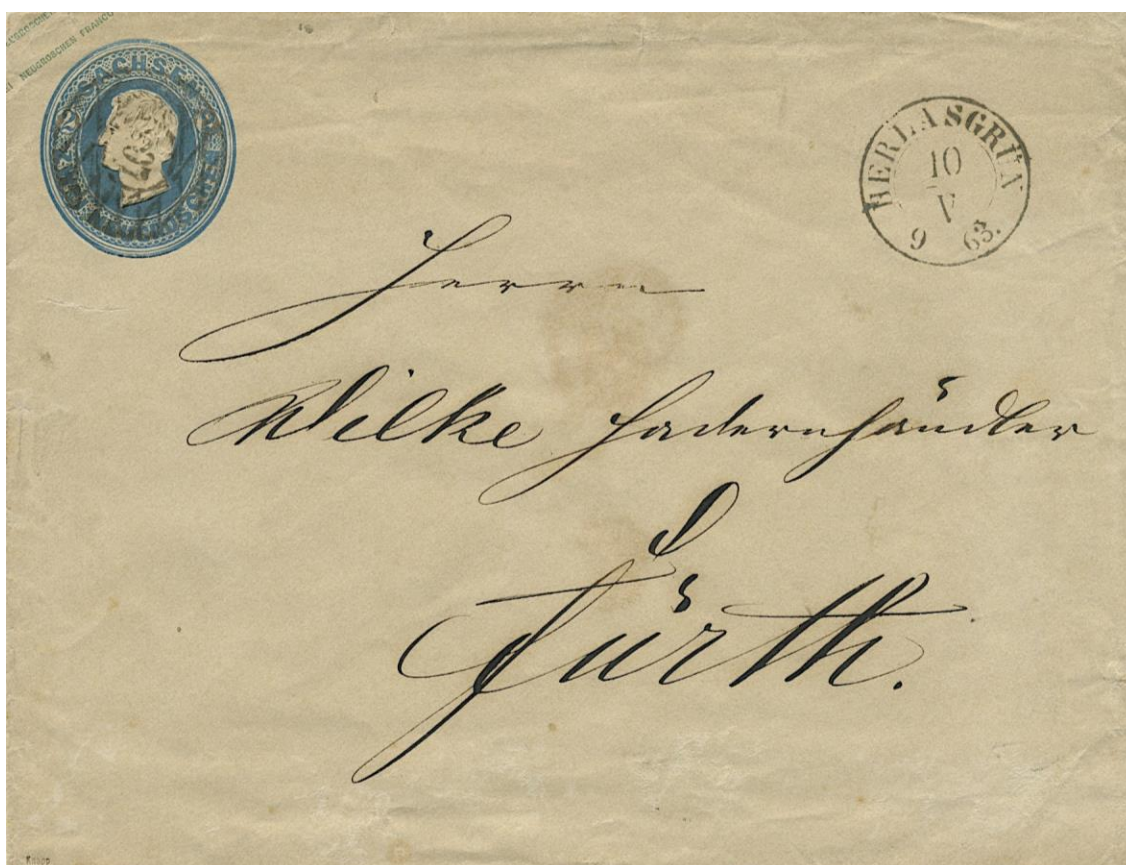
An ordinary letter to the second “rayon” of Saxony



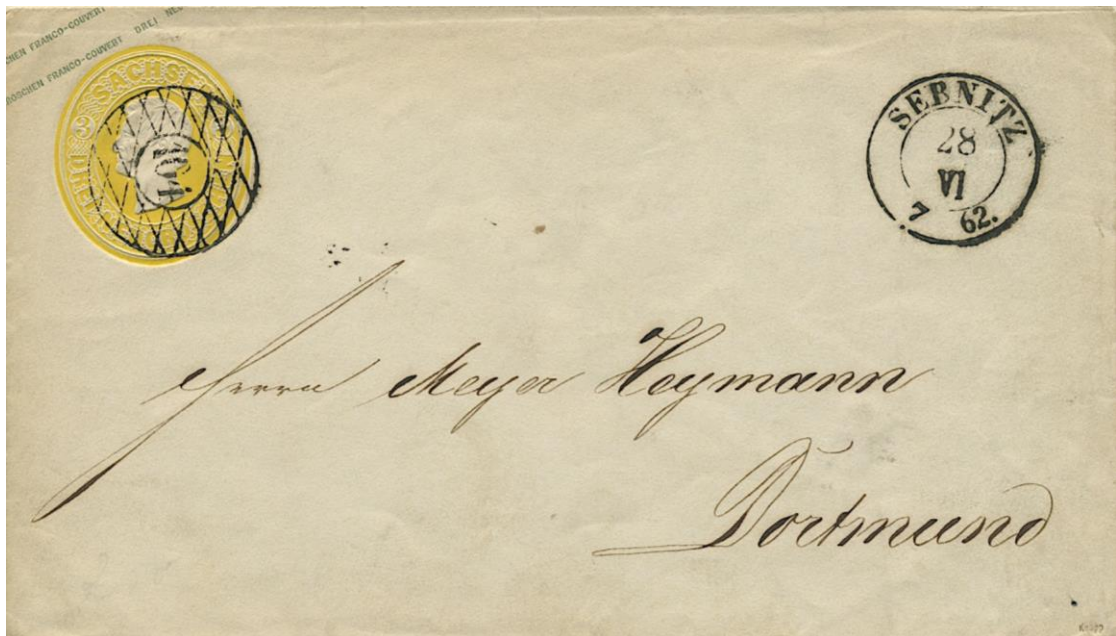
An ordinary letter to the second “rayon” of Saxony



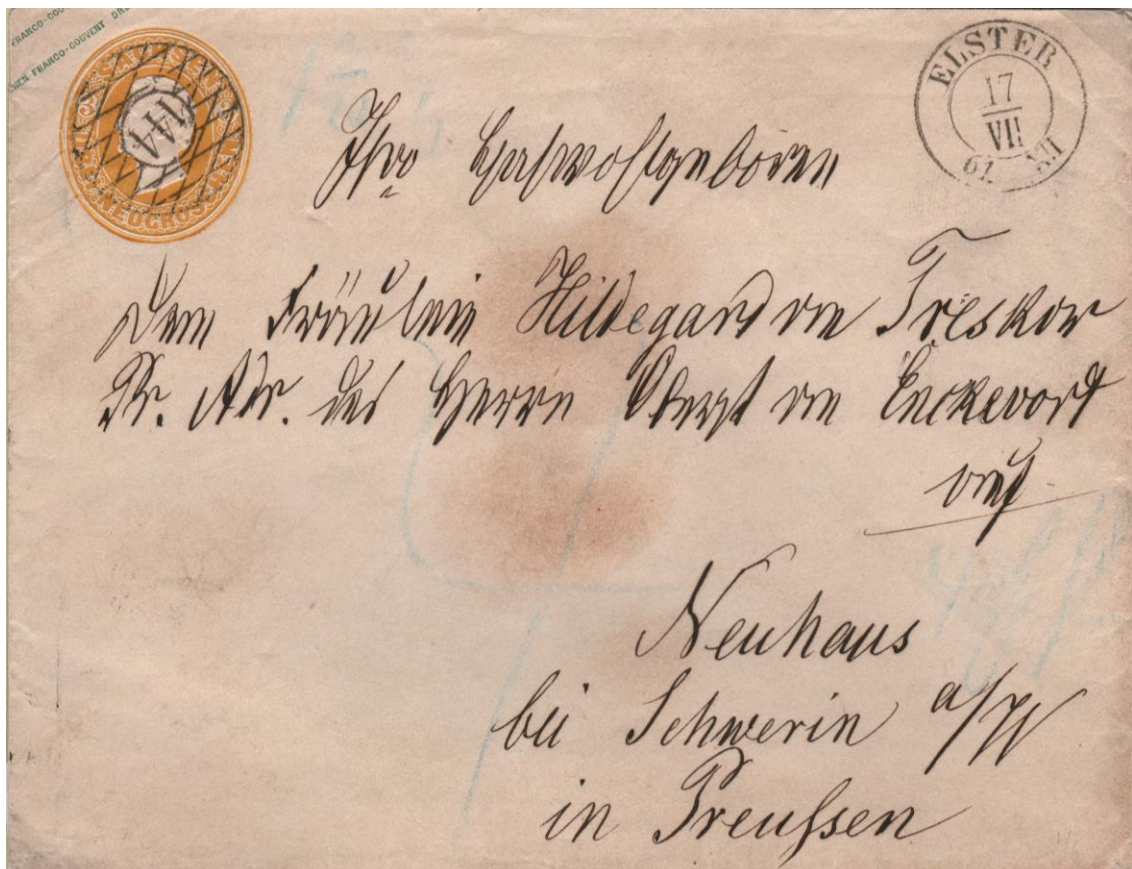
An ordinary letter to the second "rayon" of the Postal Union



An ordinary letter to the second "rayon" of the Postal Union



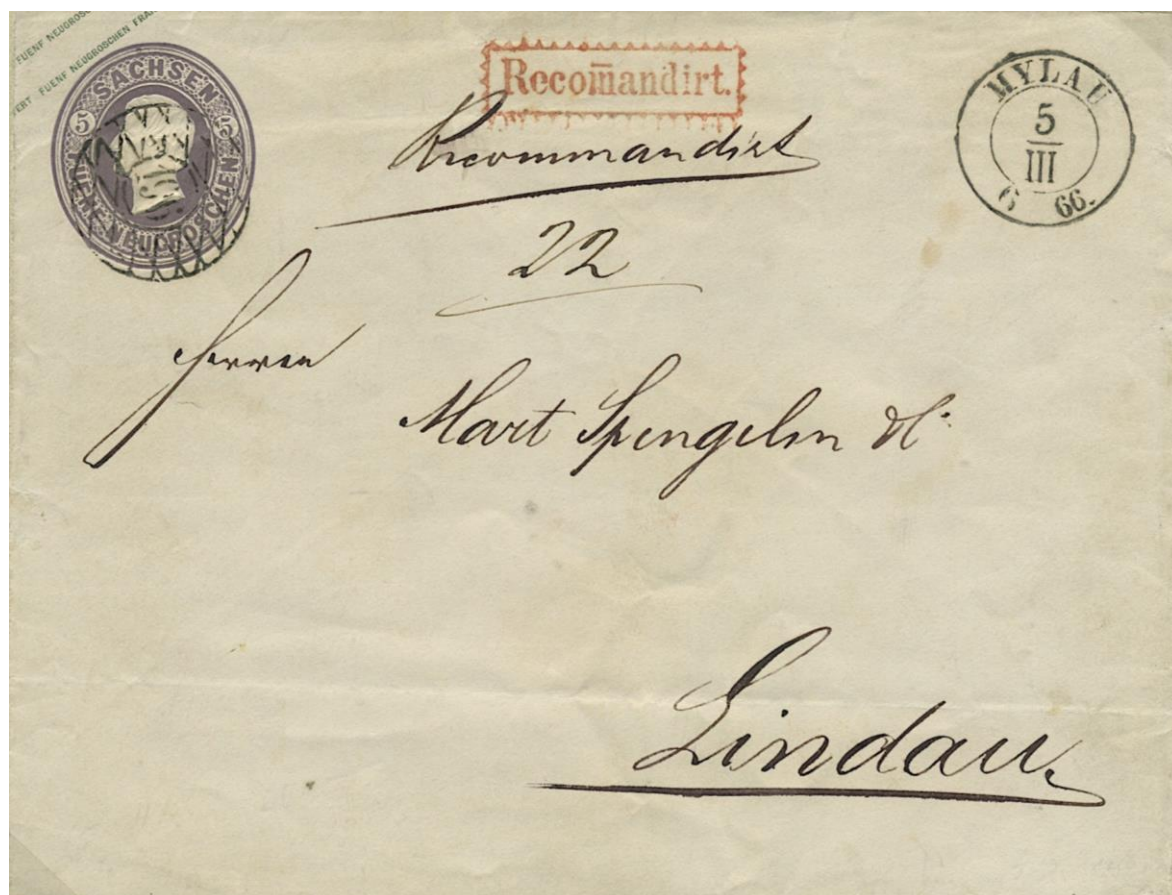
An ordinary letter to the third "rayon" of the Postal Union



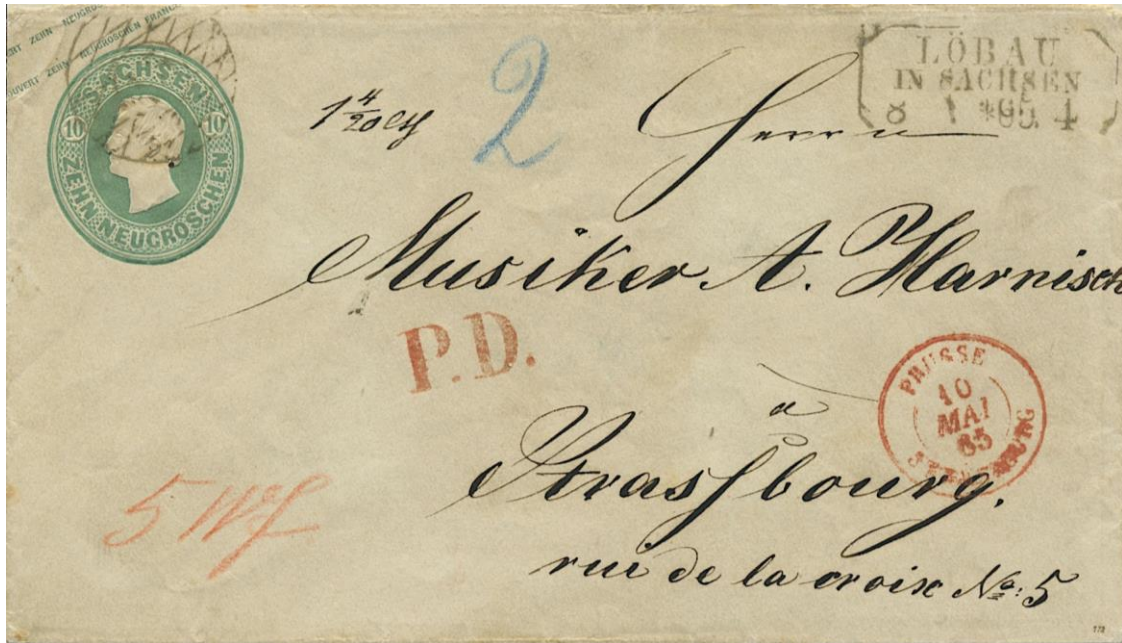
A double-weight underfranked letter to the third "rayon" of the Postal Union, 3 sgr. + 1 sgr. postage due had to be collected from the recipient.



An ordinary letter to Great Britain, 2 2/10 ngr. Postal Union + 2 8/10 sgr. Belgium + Great Britain



A registered letter sent to the third "rayon" of the Postal Union



A double-weight letter from Löbau, 8 May 1865, via Prussia to France

“King Johann” issue of 1859 used with additional franking

Additional franking was permitted for all postal stationery issues to all destinations



An ordinary letter to the third “rayon” of the Postal Union



An ordinary letter to the third "rayon" of the Postal Union

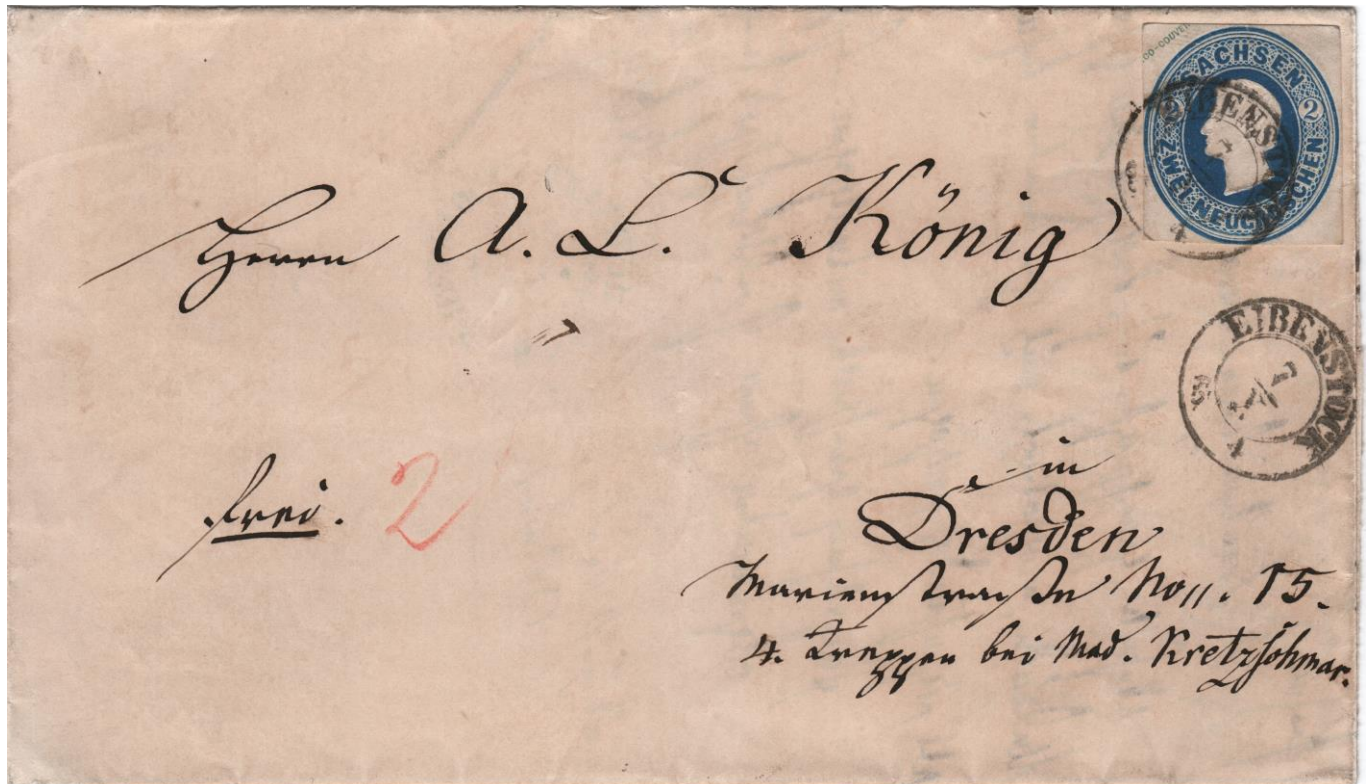


An ordinary letter from Leipzig, 12 Nov. 1861, via Prussia to Paris, France; 2 ngr. for the Postal Union and 2½ ngr. for France

“King Johann” issue of 1859 - used cut-outs

Cut-outs from all postal stationery issues, whether rectangular or round, were permitted to all destinations

Rectangular cut-out from a 2 neugroschen “Franco” envelope



Ordinary letter from Eibenstock, 7 Oct. 1865, to Dresden; 2 ngr. = second weight step in the first “rayon”

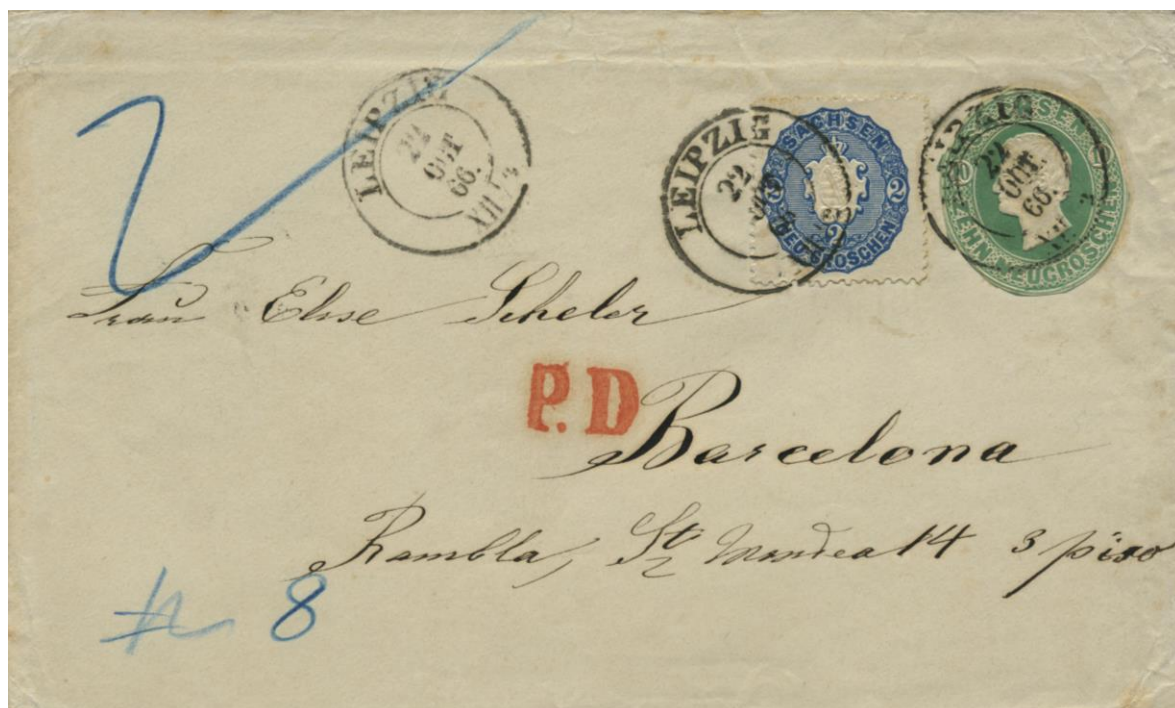


A registered letter from Hartau near Chemnitz, 30 Sept. 1865, to Berlin in the third “rayon”

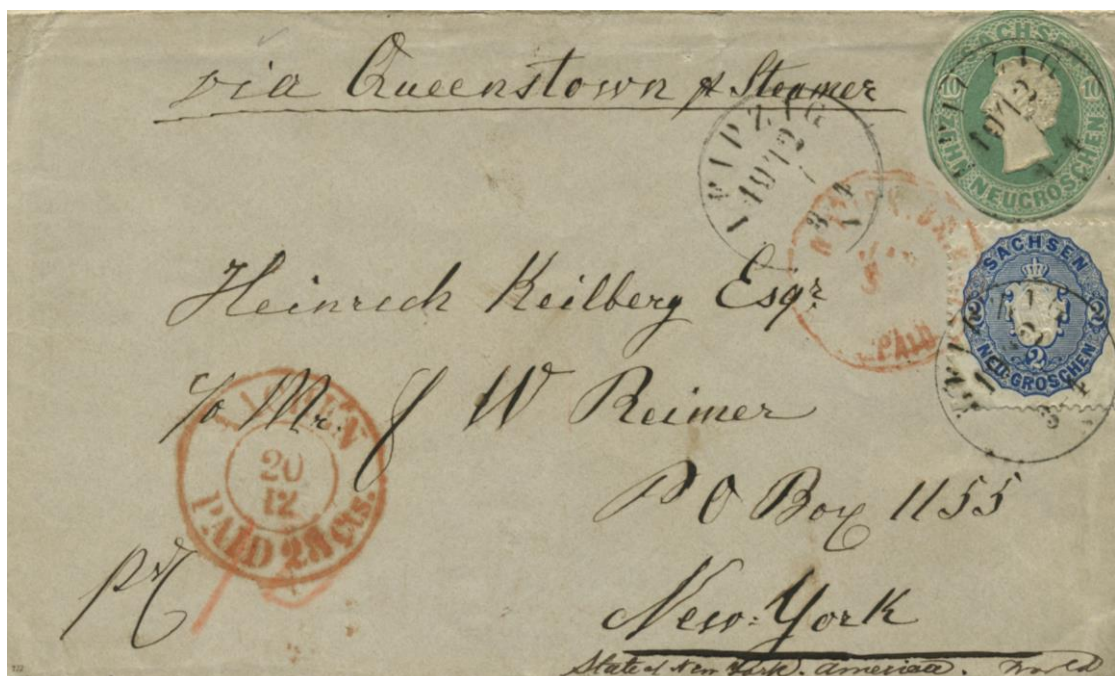
The only known cover with two cut-outs from the 10 ngr. "sample without value"



A letter from Leipzig, 7 April 1866, via Switzerland to Naples, Italy

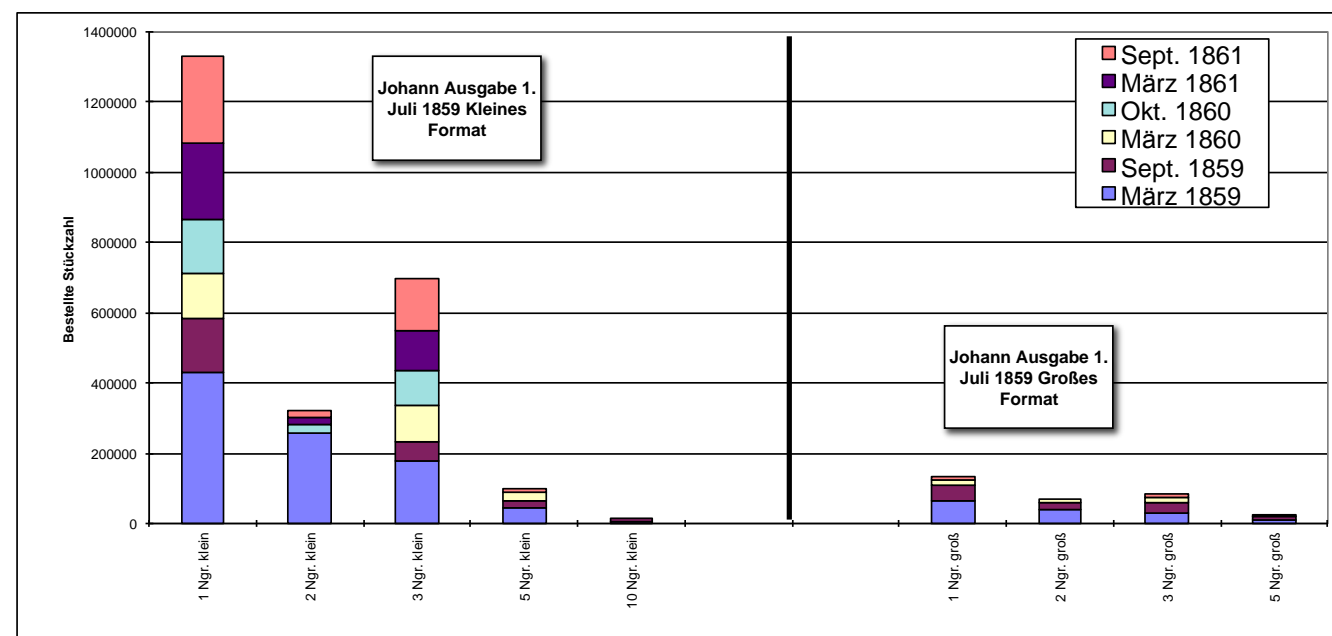


A double-weight letter from Leipzig, 22 Oct. 1866, to Barcelona, Spain



Ordinary letters from Freiberg, 20 May 1864, and Leipzig, 19 Dec. 1867, to the U.S.A., sent according to the reduced "Prussian Closed Mail" overseas postage rate

The actual quantities ordered and delivered, “King Johann” at left, small area of gum, large and small formats from March 1859 to September 1861



	1 Ngr. klein	2 Ngr. klein	3 Ngr. klein	5 Ngr. klein	10 Ngr. klein
März 1859	431100	256100	180500	45700	6500
Sept. 1859	151300		49900	20800	10200
März 1860	130900		105100	20200	
Okt. 1860	152400	25000	101900		
März 1861	217000	20000	110000		
Sept. 1861	250000	20000	150000	10000	
Gesamt	1332700	321100	697400	96700	16700

1 Ngr. groß	2 Ngr. groß	3 Ngr. groß	5 Ngr. groß
66500	38600	27500	8300
41000	20600	30000	10500
15100	10100	15600	5600
10000		10000	
132600	69300	83100	24400

The introduction of a colour change of the 2 neugroschen "Franco" envelopes, which was not expressly approved

The fourth issue of September 1861 (20,000 envelopes) was printed in ultramarine. At that time the Prussian State Printing House had, without entering into any negotiations with the postal authorities in Saxony, begun to use the softer, clearer and probably also cheaper ultramarine blue ink instead of the previous Prussian blue.

These **ultramarine envelopes are very rare**. One might almost assume that only a part of the printing was done in this colour. In particular, unused envelopes of this variety are of the highest rarity (the author knows of only one example in collectors' hands). Even the German Reich Postal Museum had only one used example. It was the last printing; there were no more printings of this issue in ultramarine.

Perhaps a written complaint had been made by the postal authority to the Prussian State Printing House, the result of which was a belated change in the colour. No other reference is found in the files.

The only unused envelope in ultramarine so far known



The reason for the change in colour to ultramarine

This colour was supplied by the chemical industry at that time in increasingly large quantities and thus was cheaper due to the savings in expenditure. Another reason was that the die picked up the clear ultramarine ink more readily.

A printing with a permitted change in colour to red-violet

The small-format 5 ngr. envelopes ordered on 6 August 1861 were supplied in red-violet.

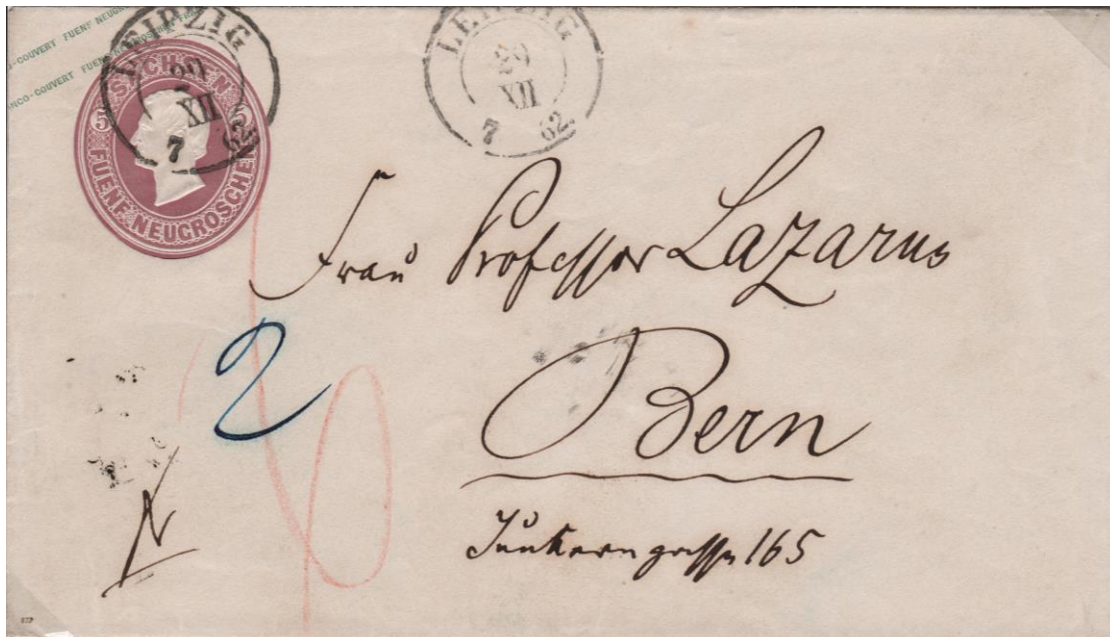
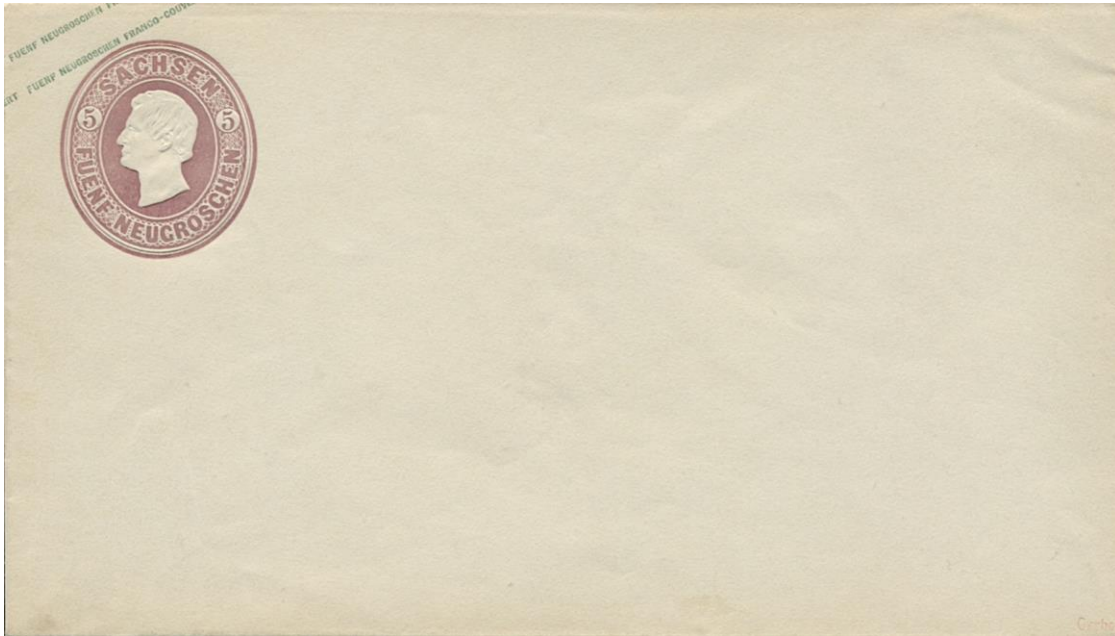
Before delivering the 10,000 envelopes, the State Printing House expressly made the postal authority aware of this change in the colour and asked if this colour was acceptable, and whether it could be maintained for subsequent deliveries.

The postal authority gave its permission on 12 September 1861 and these 10,000 envelopes were duly delivered.

Of the small-format envelopes of the first issue:

- 86,700 in lilac and only
- 10,000 in red-violet

were delivered. No further deliveries were made of this issue.



An ordinary letter to the second "rayon" of Switzerland

“Franco” envelopes of the February 1862 “King Johann” issue

After the envelope orders of 6 August 1861 mentioned above, the following letter was sent on 15 August 1861 by the Director of the State Printing House at Wedding to the Director of the main postal administration:

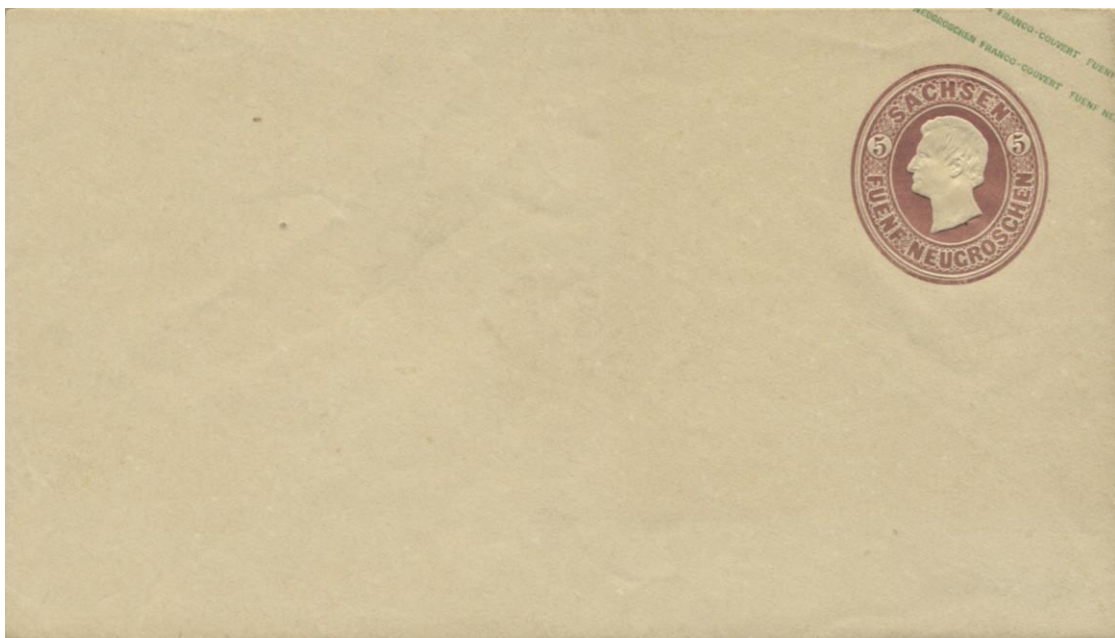
"Dear Sir, please allow me a request regarding your communication concerning the preparation of the envelopes recently supplied (6 August). For our requirements regarding the 1, 2, 3 and 5 ngr. values, the colours carmine-red, blue, light blue and violet should be used, and the indicium should be in the upper right corner instead of at the left. I now humbly request you to let me know whether these colours and this position for the indicium is to be used, or whether the previous makeup is to be maintained."

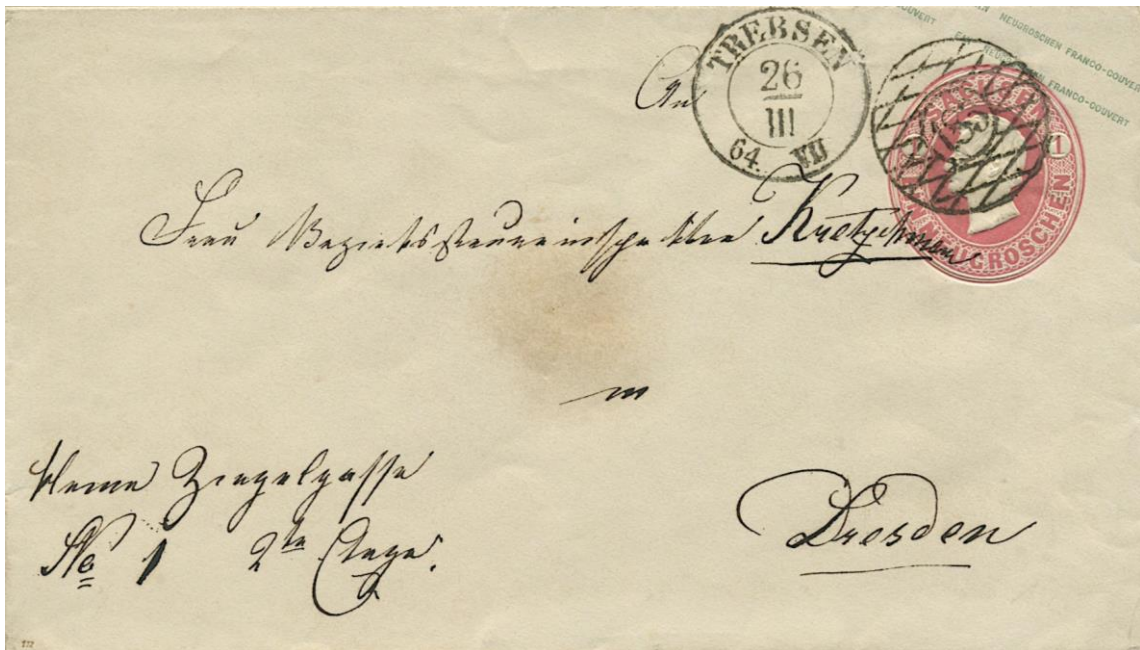
On 16 August 1861 the Director of the main postal administration replied to the Director of the State Printing House at Wedding:

"Dear Sir, I have the honour quite respectfully to reply to your communication of the 15th inst. stating that the question of changing the appearance and makeup of the "Franco" envelopes is not yet decided by us, and so the 45,000 "Franco" envelopes ordered by us on the 6th inst. are to be supplied in the current form".

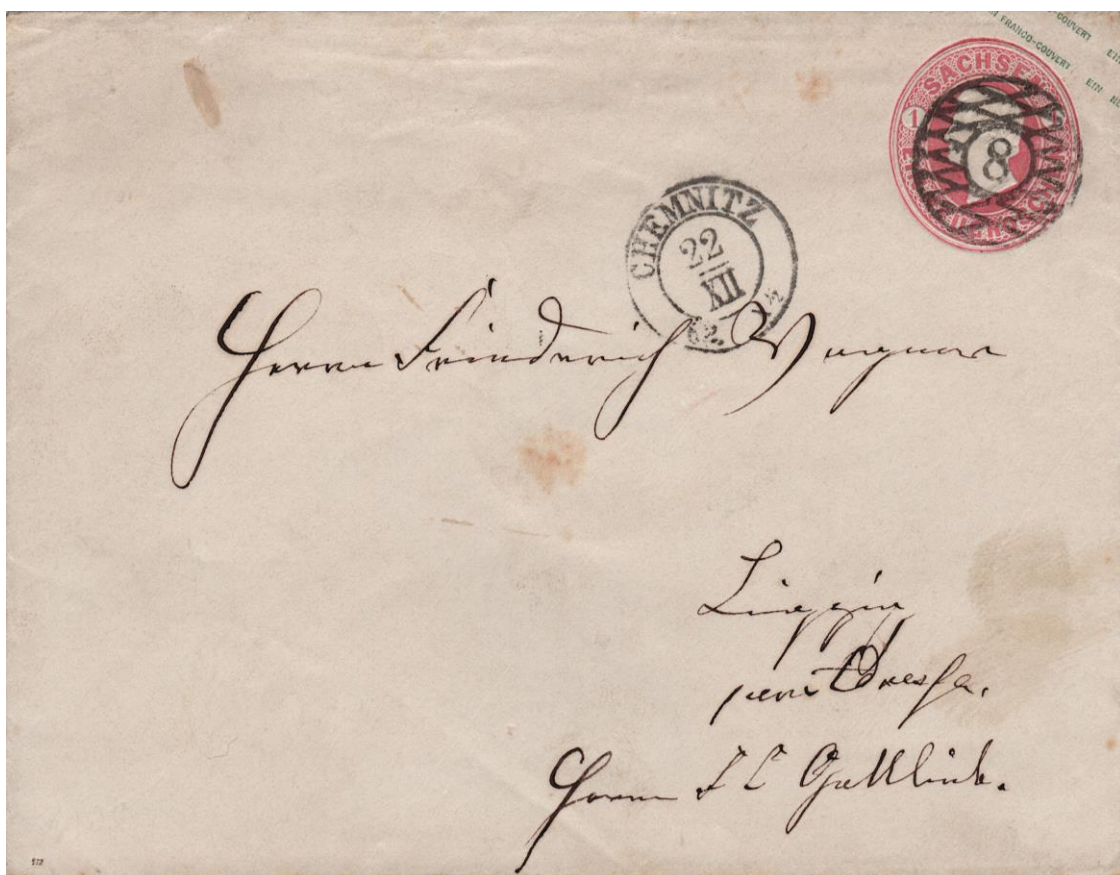


From the issue of 1862 the 2 neugroschen envelope was printed only in ultramarine and the 5 neugroschen envelope only in red-violet. The two other colours remained the same. The 10 neugroschen value was discontinued due to lack of demand.





An ordinary letter sent within the second “rayon” of Saxony



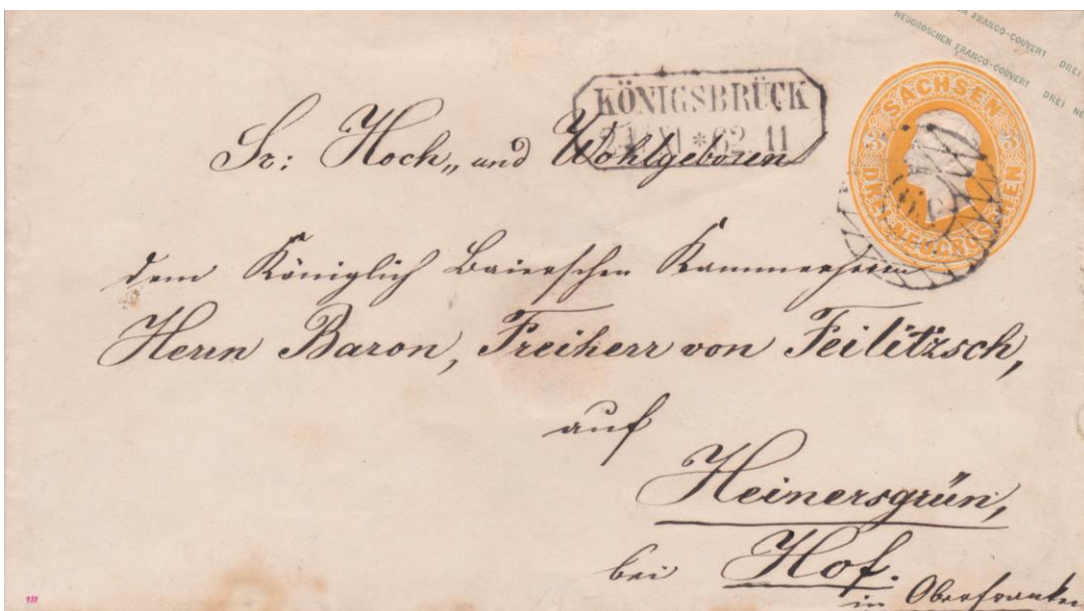
An ordinary letter sent to the second “rayon” of Saxony



An ordinary letter to the second "rayon" of the Postal Union



An ordinary letter to Great Britain, 2 2/10 ngr. Postal Union + 2 8/10 sgr. Belgium + Great Britain



An ordinary letter to the third "rayon" of the Postal Union (from Saxony via Bavaria to Saxony)



An ordinary letter to the third "rayon" of the Postal Union



An ordinary letter, third "rayon" of the Postal Union



An ordinary letter, third "rayon" of the Postal Union

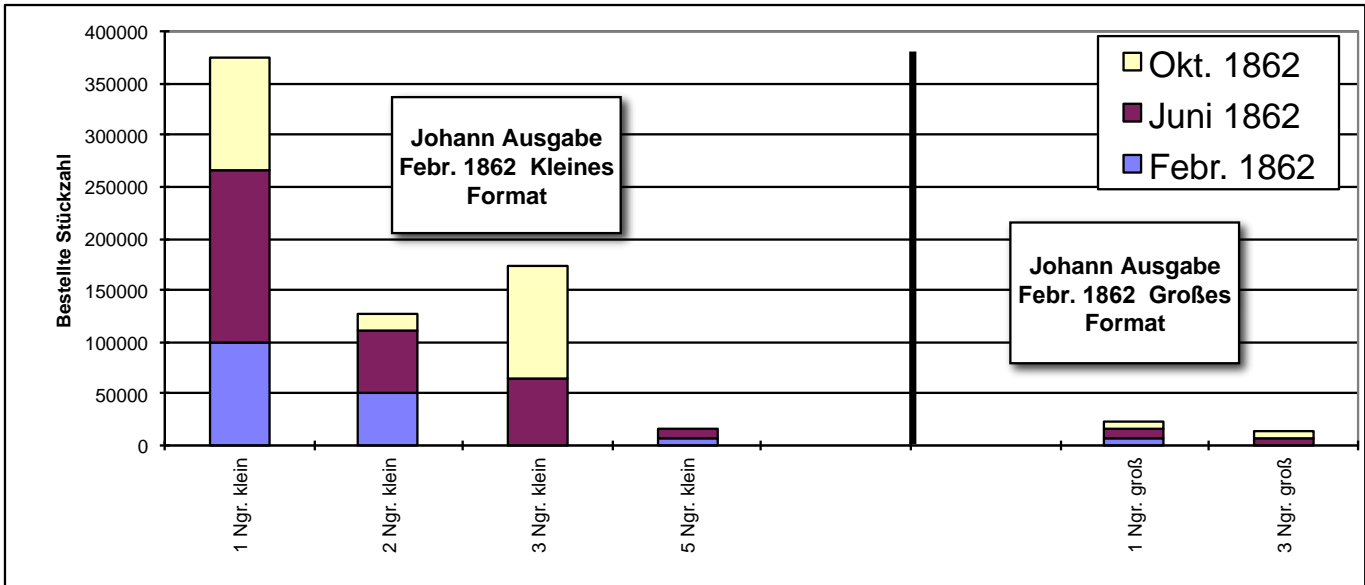


A double-weight letter, third "rayon" of the Postal Union



An ordinary letter to Alexandria, third "rayon" of the Postal Union 3 ngr. + Austria overseas 3 ngr.

The actual quantities ordered and delivered, “King Johann” at right, small area of gum, large and small formats from February 1862 to October 1862:



	1 Ngr. klein	2 Ngr. klein	3 Ngr. klein	5 Ngr. klein
Febr. 1862	100000	50000		6000
Juni 1862	165000	62100	63800	10500
Okt. 1862	110000	15000	110000	
Gesamt	375000	127100	173800	16500

1 Ngr. groß	3 Ngr. groß
6300	
9900	6000
7500	7500
23700	13500

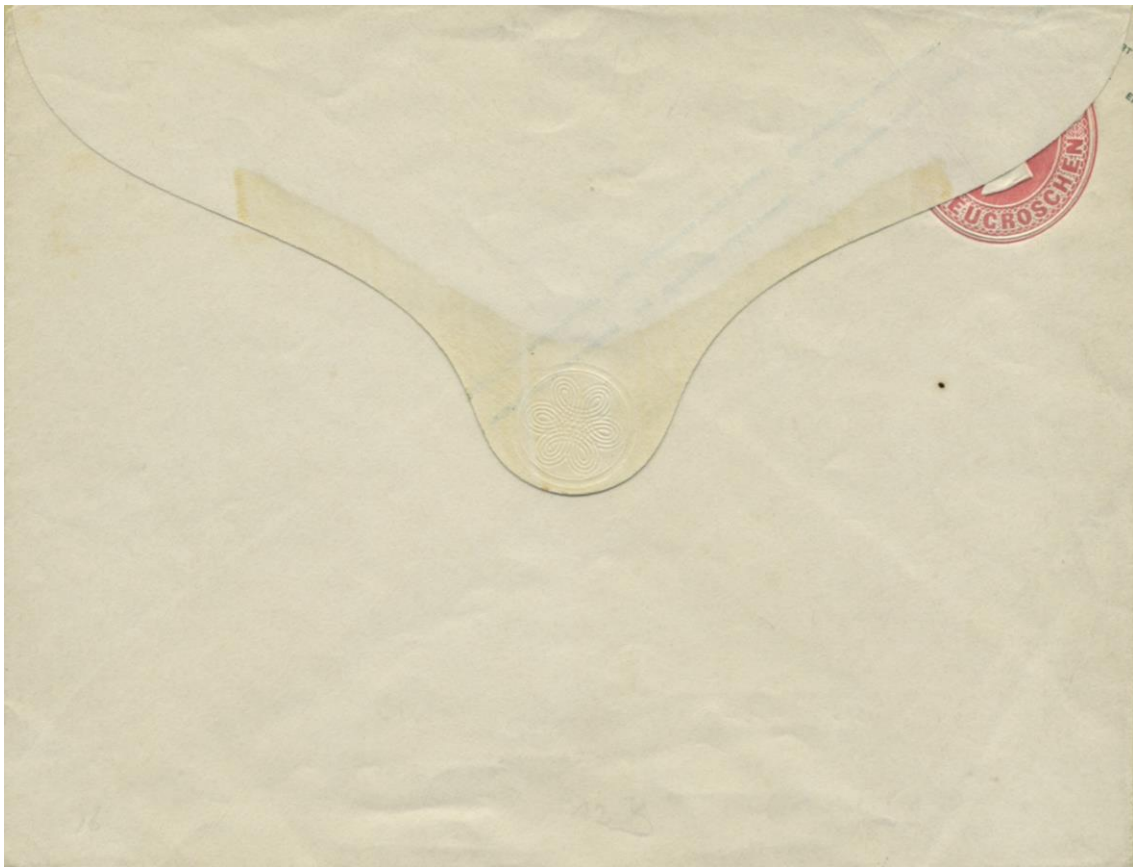
“Franco” envelopes of the February 1863 “King Johann” issue.

In November 1862 the State Printing House, without notifying the postal administrations involved, made a change in the gumming of the envelopes, such that instead of the gum being only on the tip of the flap, it extended along about two-thirds of the length of each side of the flap. This third issue differs from the second only in the so-called “large area of gum”. **It is the rarest of all the Saxony envelope issues, as only a small number of envelopes were issued in this condition and in July 1863 they were replaced by the Coat of Arms issue.** With the large area of gum, only the 1, 2, and 3 ngr. envelopes in the small format and the 1 and 3 ngr. values in the large format came into use.

No mention of this change can be found in the records or the Saxony postal bulletins. **The reason:** the change was very minor, and the cost was probably the same as before.

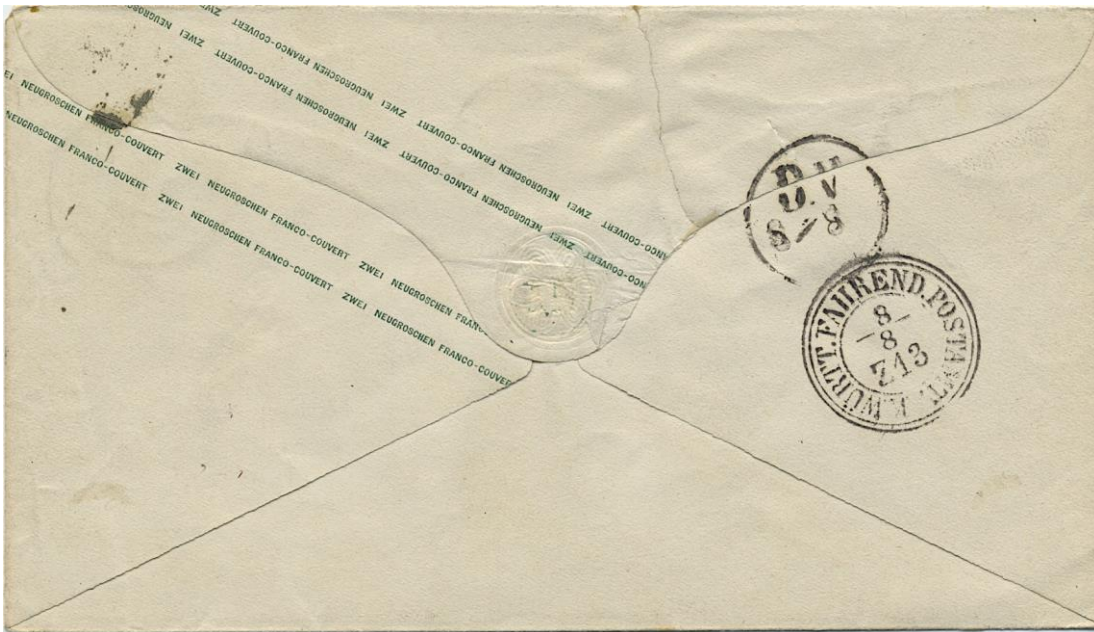
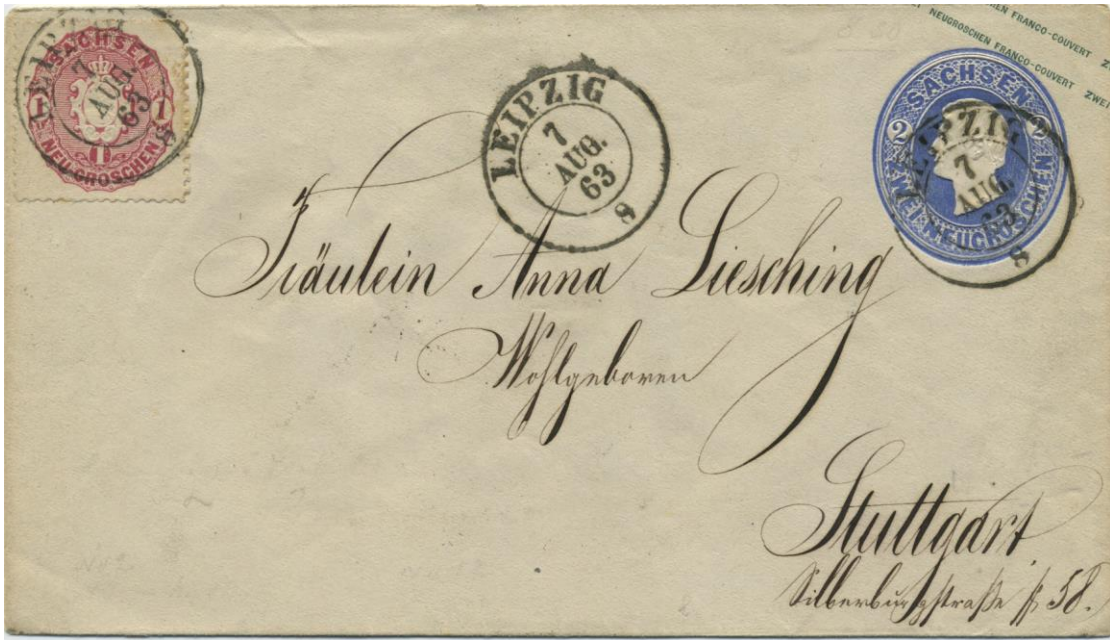
The **only unused 1 neugroschen “Franco” envelope, large format, with a large area of gum** and the Saxony embossed seal.

An unused 3 neugroschen “Franco” envelope in the large format has not yet been found. The fact that the 3 neugroschen postage rate was the commonest in the Postal Union leads one to suspect that all the envelopes were used and that none exist today. But there are always surprises in philately.



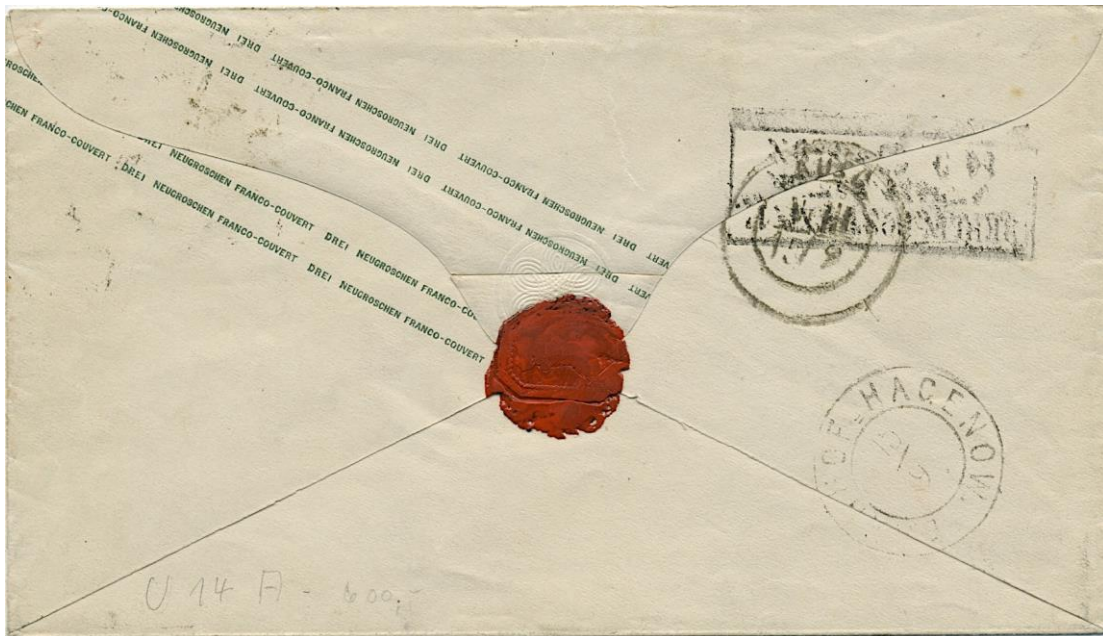
1 neugroschen

2 neugroschen ultramarine



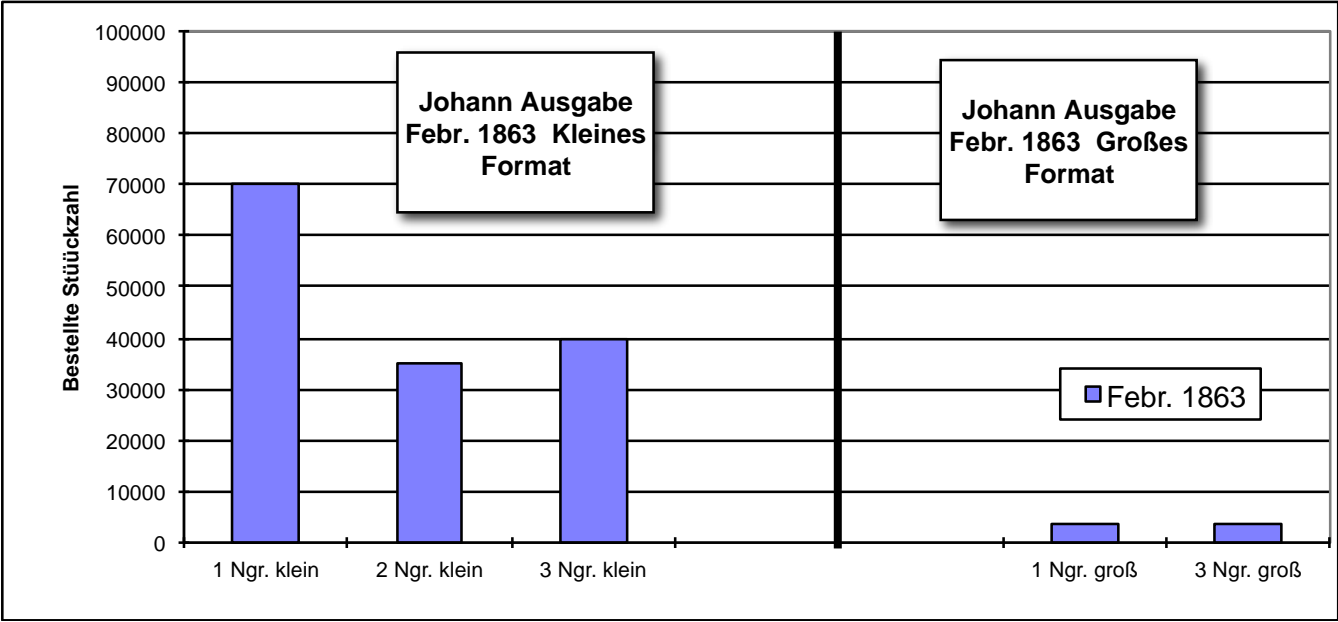
An ordinary letter from Leipzig, 7 Aug. 1863, to Stuttgart, Württemberg, in the third “rayon” of the Postal Union

3 neugroschen yellow



An ordinary letter from Leipzig, 14 Sept. 1863, to Rostock, Prussia, in the third "rayon" of the Postal Union

The actual quantities ordered and delivered of “King Johann” at right, large area of gum, large and small formats in February 1863:



	1 Ngr. klein	2 Ngr. klein	3 Ngr. klein
Febr. 1863	70000	35000	40000
Gesamt	70000	35000	40000

1 Ngr. groß	3 Ngr. groß
3500	3500
3500	3500

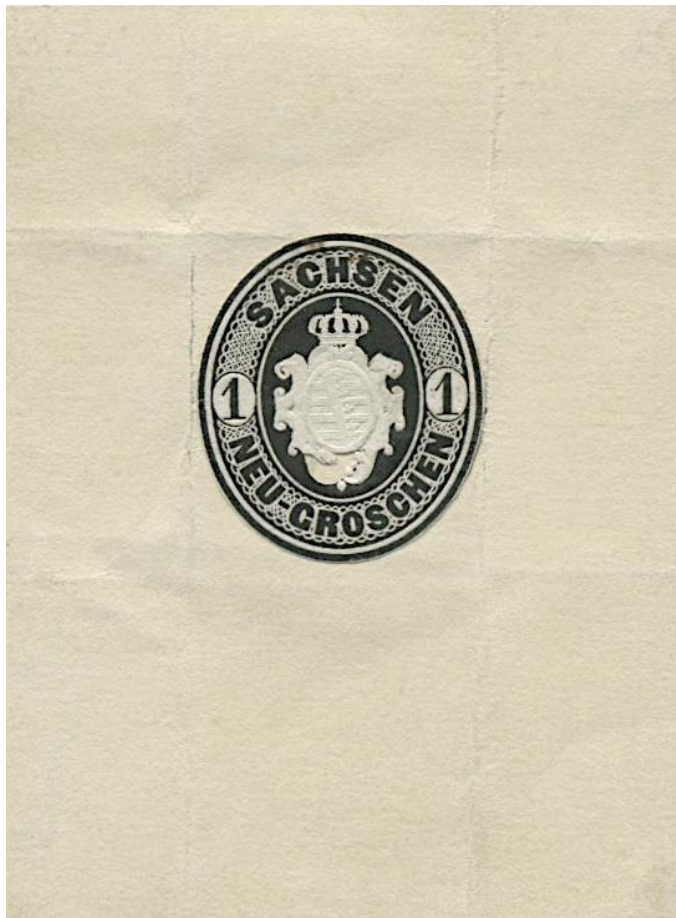
The issue of “Franco” envelopes with the State Coat of Arms, 1 July 1863.

Following the introduction of new stamps with the Coat of Arms of Saxony, which had been planned since 1861, the main postal administration in Leipzig also dealt with the question of introducing similar "Franco" envelopes. When on 7 February 1863 it informed the Treasury of the arrangement with Giesecke & Devrient in Leipzig for the delivery of the new stamps, it stated the following about the "Franco" envelopes:

"It is now definitely required that the portrait of His Majesty the King on the "Franco" envelopes be replaced by the Royal Coat of Arms of Saxony

We believe that under these circumstances it would also be advisable to arrange for the State Printing House to produce the new Coat of Arms die for the "Franco" envelopes, and without changing the other features of the indicium on the envelopes, place the Coat of Arms exactly where the portrait of his Majesty the King appears, as is the case with the new stamps."

With this issue the Prussian suggestion to standardise the colours of the stamps used in the German-Austrian Postal Union was first implemented, so that the 1, 2 and 3 ngr. stamps were red, blue and brown respectively.



Proof, one example known



Pattern used for the State Coat of Arms

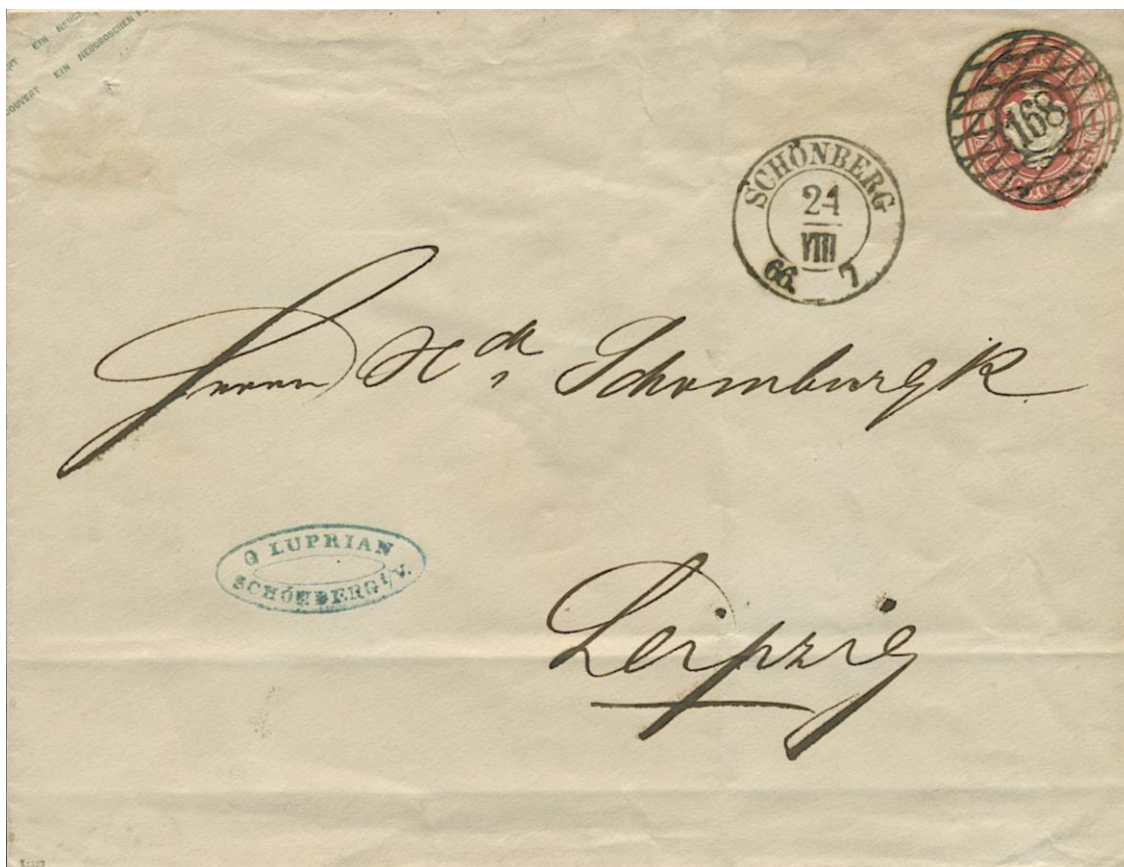
The issued values, each in large and small format



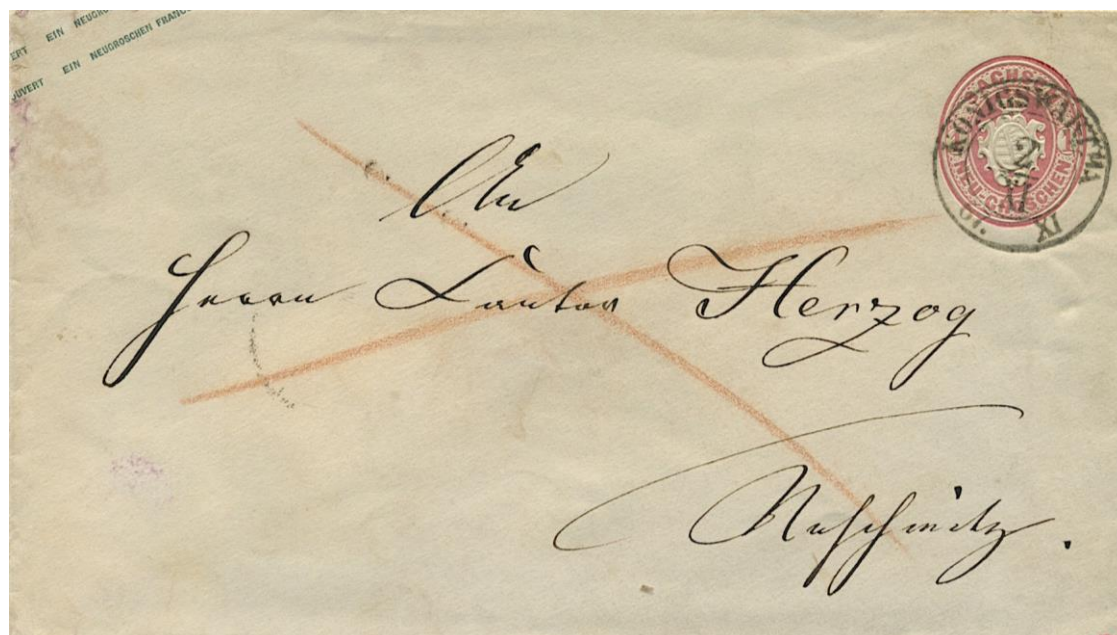
Details of the indicia showing the guilloche work

The same pattern was used for each value

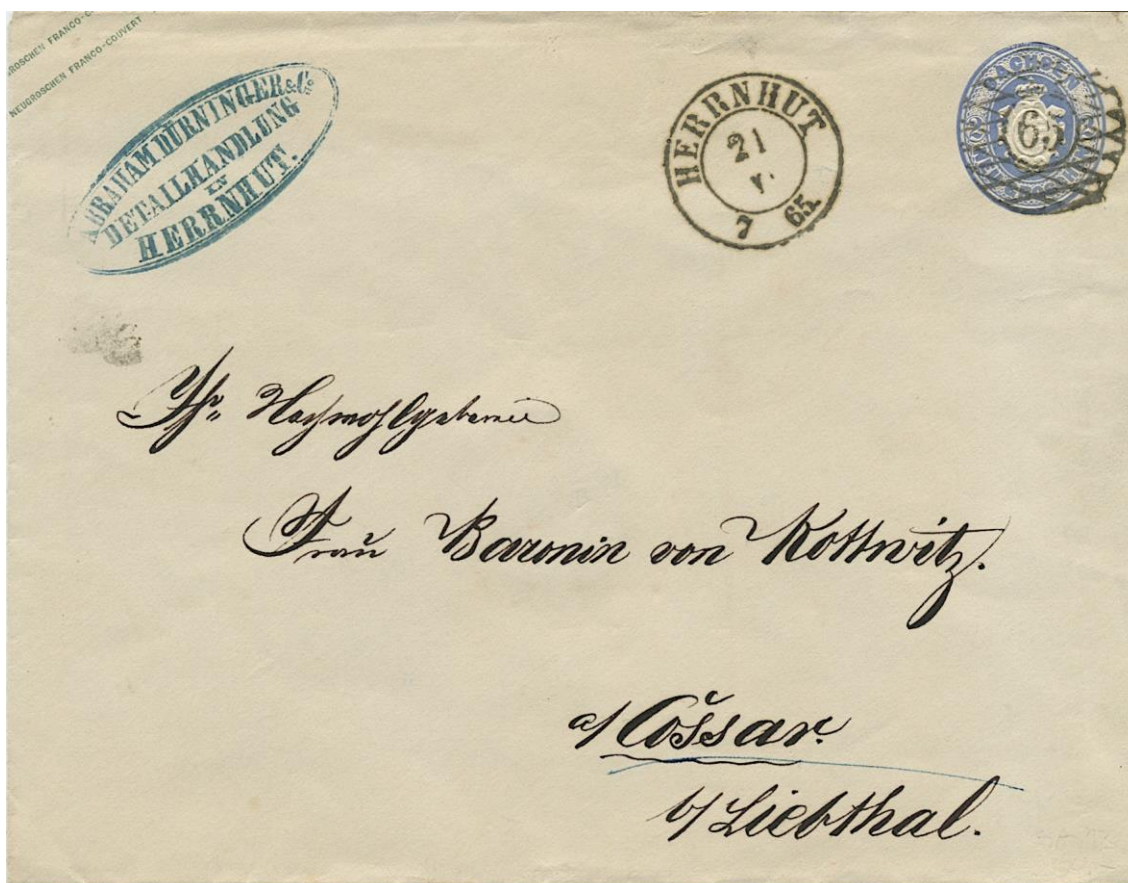




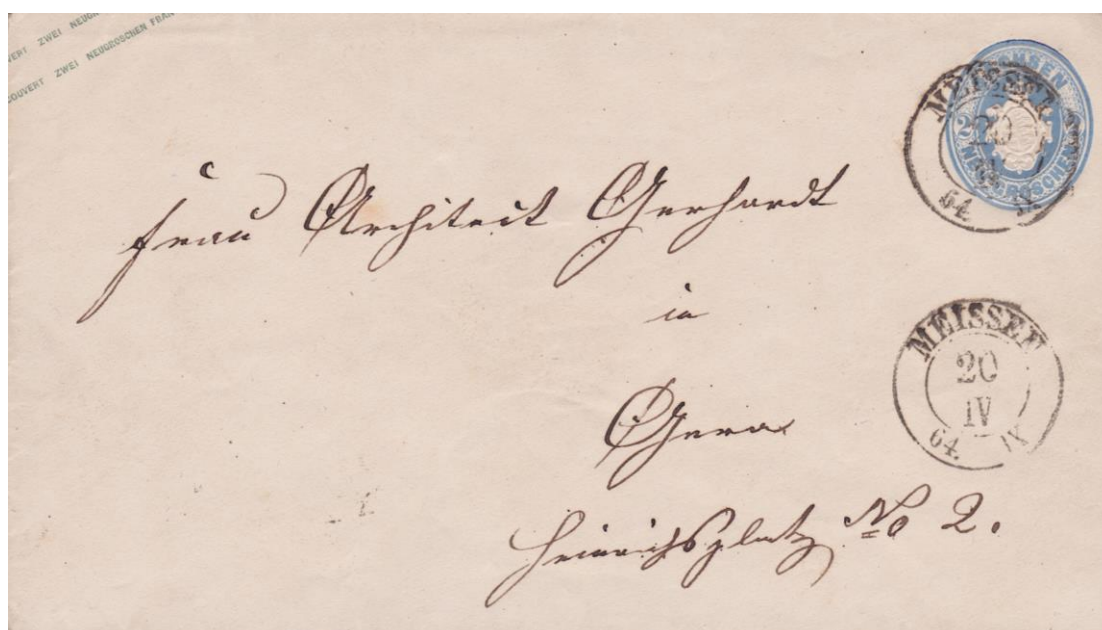
An ordinary letter to the second "rayon" of Saxony



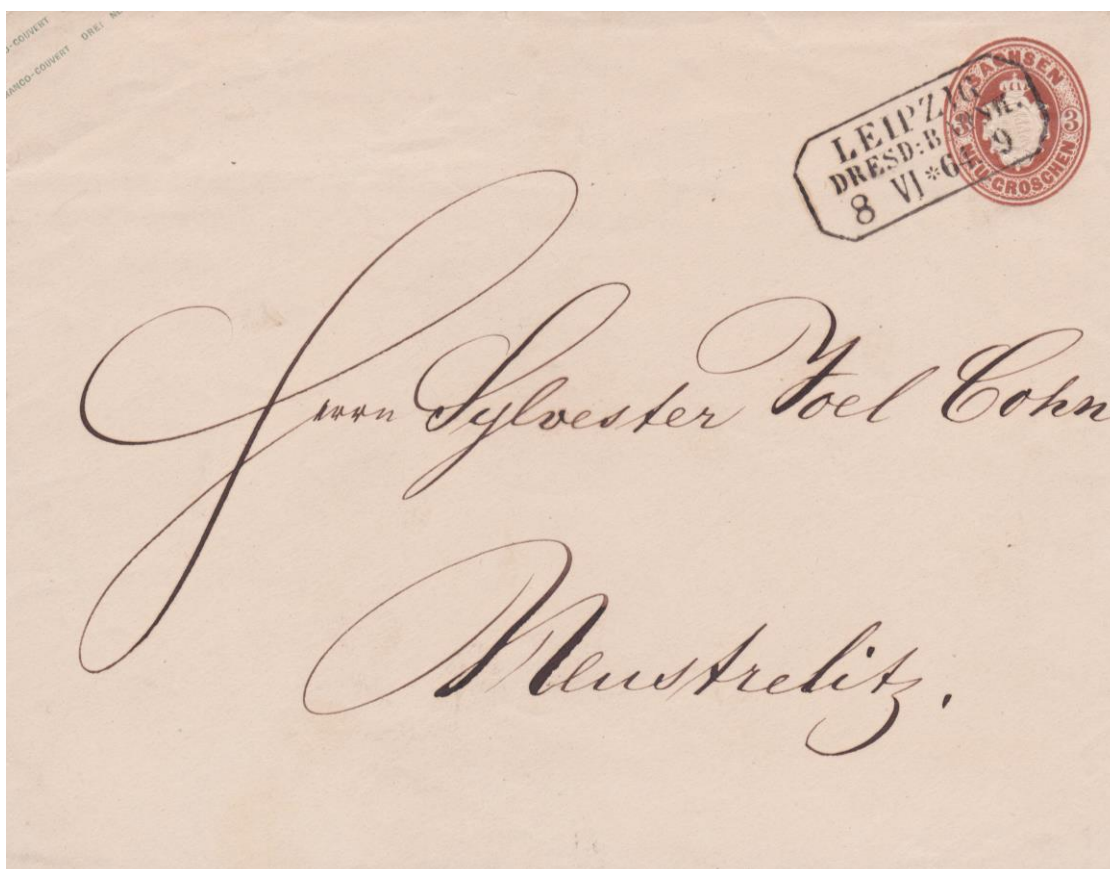
A letter to the rural delivery district of Königswartha (Saxony)



An ordinary letter to the second "rayon" of the Postal Union

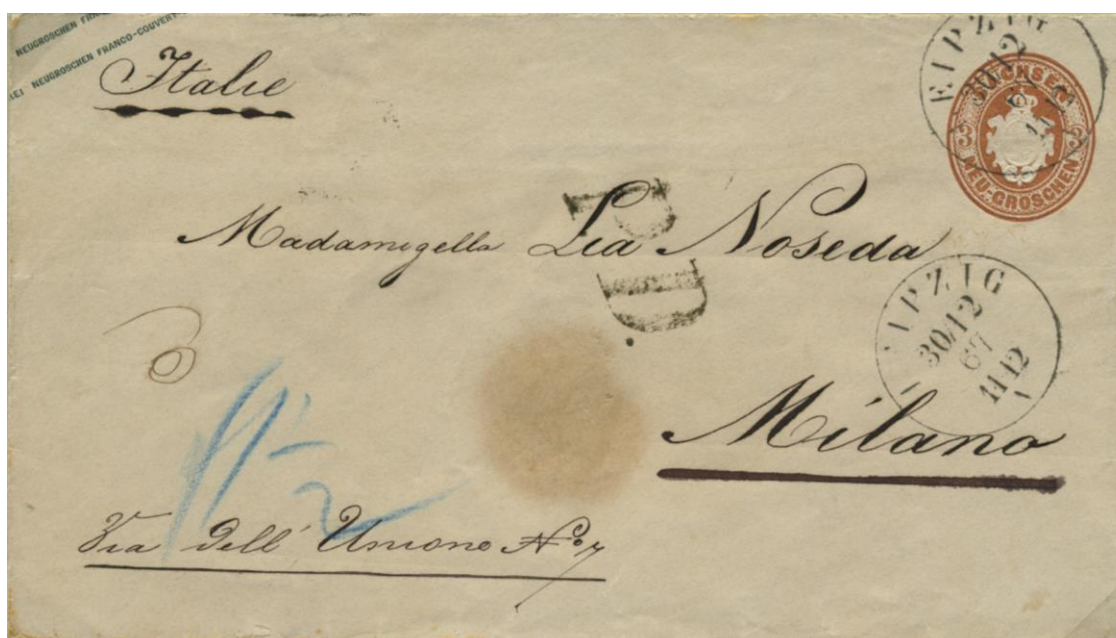


An ordinary letter to the second "rayon" of the Postal Union



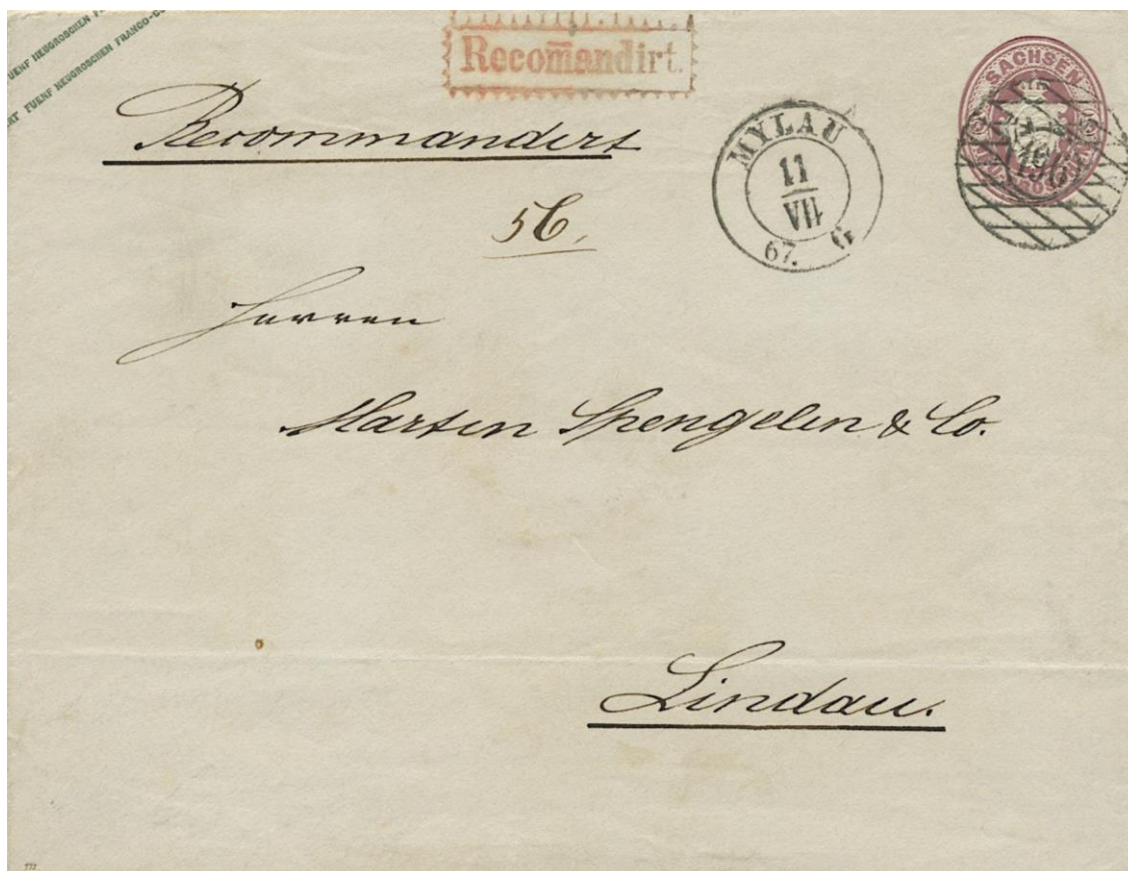
An ordinary letter to the third “rayon” of the Postal Union

A cover with the rare “LEIPZIG” postmark of the Thurn and Taxis type
The penultimate day of the Saxony postal authority, 30 December 1867



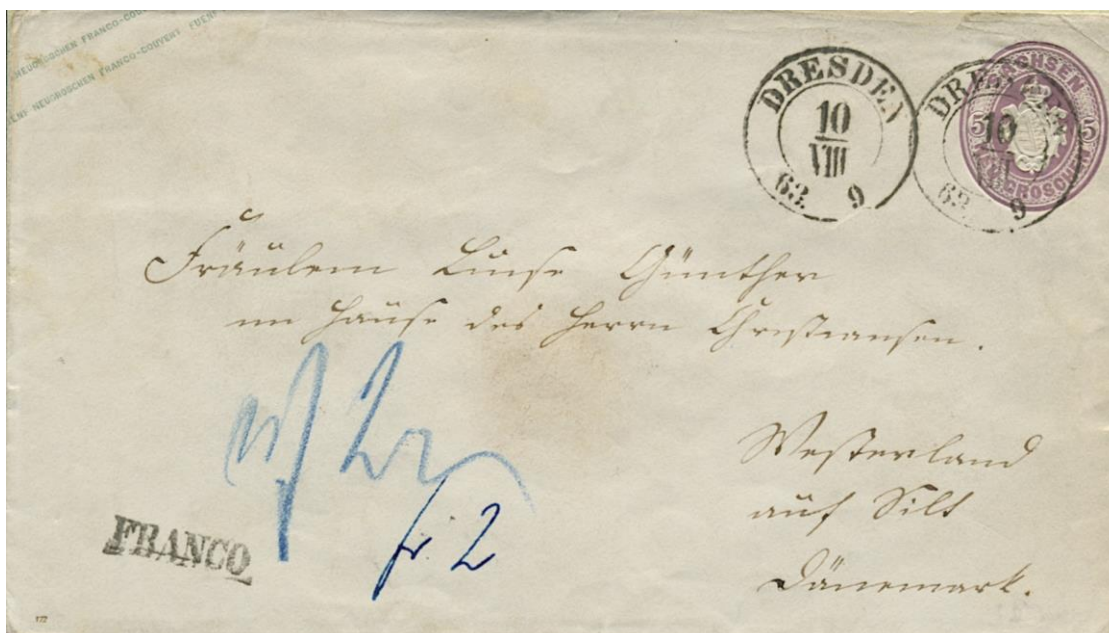
An ordinary letter to the Kingdom of Italy, on the basis of the Austrian-Italian postal treaty of October 1867, 1½ ngr. Postal Union + 1½ ngr. Italy

One of two known covers. Both were sent by the same sender to the same addressee at the Spengelin forwarding agency at Lindau



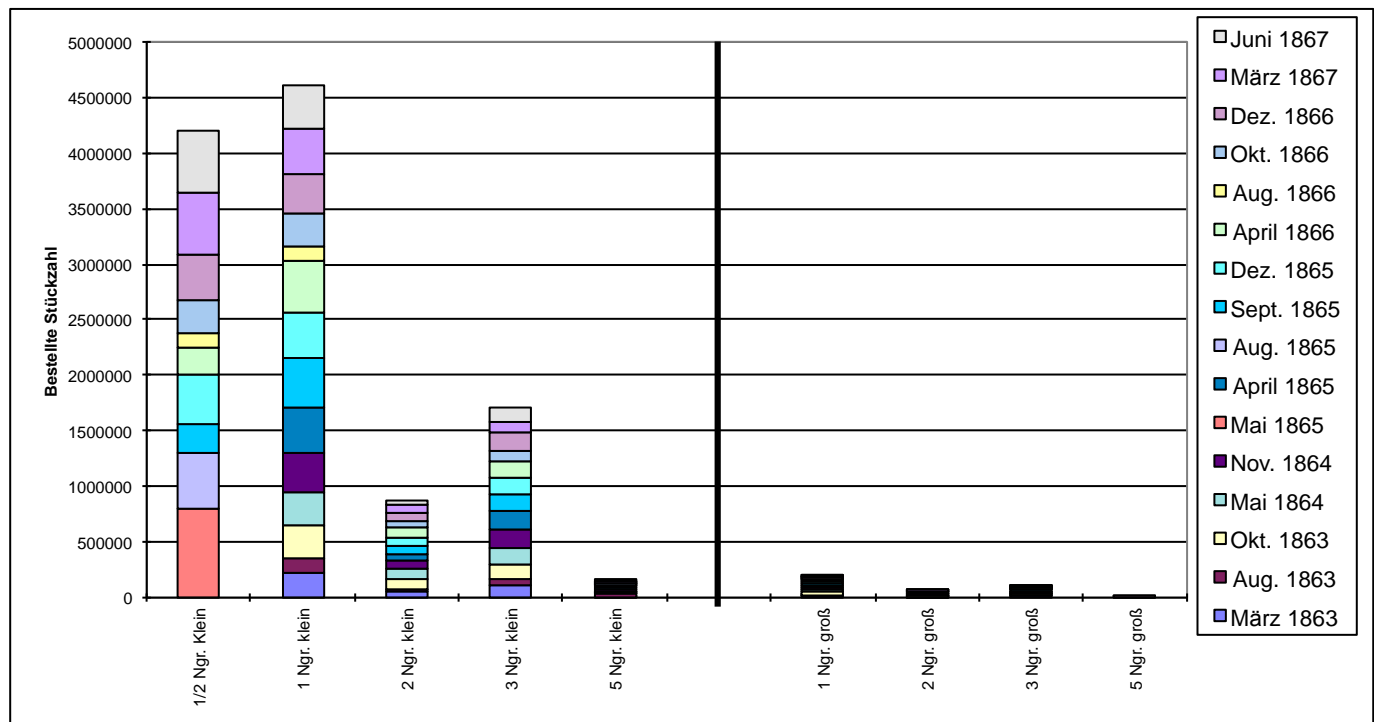
Ordinary registered letter to the third "rayon" of the Postal Union

A very rare destination - WESTERLAND on the holiday island that is well-known today



Ordinary registered letter to Denmark, 3 ngr. Postal Union third "rayon", 2 ngr. Denmark second "rayon"

The actual quantities ordered and delivered of “Coat of Arms” at right, large area of gum, large and small formats from 1 July 1863



	1/2 Ngr. Klein	1 Ngr. klein	2 Ngr. klein	3 Ngr. klein	5 Ngr. klein	1 Ngr. groß	2 Ngr. groß	3 Ngr. groß	5 Ngr. groß
März 1863		217500	50400	109400	8000	17200	5000	11200	
Aug. 1863		130000	30000	50000	20000	10000	3000	8000	
Okt. 1863		300000	85000	140000	15000	24000	9000	12000	
Mai 1864		300000	100000	150000	20000	30000	10000	10000	
Nov. 1864		355000	70000	165000	20000	16000	10000	16000	3000
Mai 1865	802100								
April 1865		400300	49200	171000	10000	15500	4800	10300	
Aug. 1865	500000								
Sept. 1865	250000	450000	80000	150000		15000	5000	10000	
Dez. 1865	450000	420000	75000	150000	10000	17000	5000	5000	
April 1866	250000	450000	100000	150000	15000	20000	5000	6000	
Aug. 1866	120000	130000						5000	
Okt. 1866	300000	300000	55000	85000	10000	10000		5000	
Dez. 1866	420000	350000	60000	160000	10000	10000			3000
März 1867	550000	425000	75000	100000	10000	10000	2000	3000	
Juni 1867	550000	385000	50000	130000	5000	10000		5000	
Gesamt	4192100	4612800	879600	1710400	153000	204700	58800	106500	6000

The issue of ½ neugroschen “Franco” envelopes with the State Coat of Arms, 1 July 1865.

When discussing the introduction of "Franco" envelopes in the postal districts of Saxony in 1858, the main postal administration in Leipzig considered the question as to whether it was advisable also to issue envelopes with a value of ½ neugroschen. However, at that time the postage rate for town letters was not 5 pfennige (½ neugroschen) but 6 pfennige, and so it was decided not to issue such envelopes, and the proposal was made in a report to the Treasury of 22 November 22 that ½ ngr. "Franco" should not be introduced.

When the postage rate for town letters was reduced, and a rate of 5 pf. (½ ngr.) also applied to "Franco" letters carried over a distance of up to 5 miles, the main postal administration considered more closely the question of introducing ½ ngr. envelopes. It used the opportunity to report on other postal facilities in the mail, and on 15 January 1865 wrote as follows to the Treasury:

"We are considering the introduction of small-format "Franco" envelopes with a face value of ½ ngr. to fulfil a requirement and we may confidently expect very significant sales of these, as much convenience would be experienced for mail carried within towns, and also between places more than 5 miles apart."

Evidence for the need and suitability is also in the fact that "Franco" envelopes had been introduced in:

- Austria 3 neukreuzer
- Hanover 5 pfennig
- Brunswick town letters
- Mecklenburg 1 schilling
- Oldenburg 1 schilling
- Lübeck ½ schilling
- Thurn and Taxis ½ groschen and 1 kreuzer
- Great Britain 1 penny

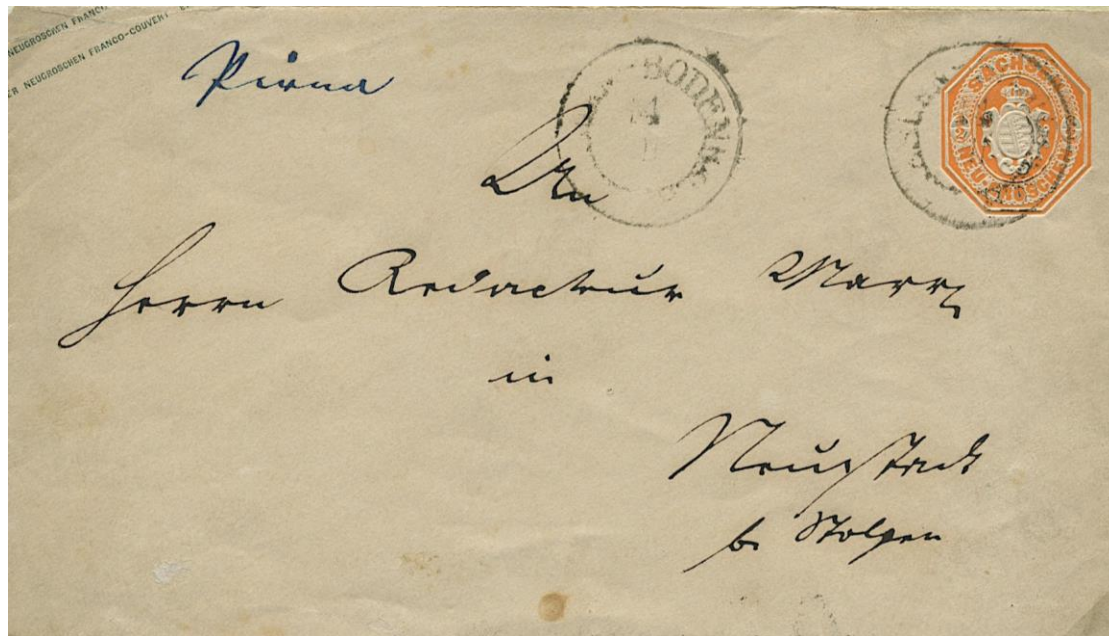


Only small-format envelopes were produced

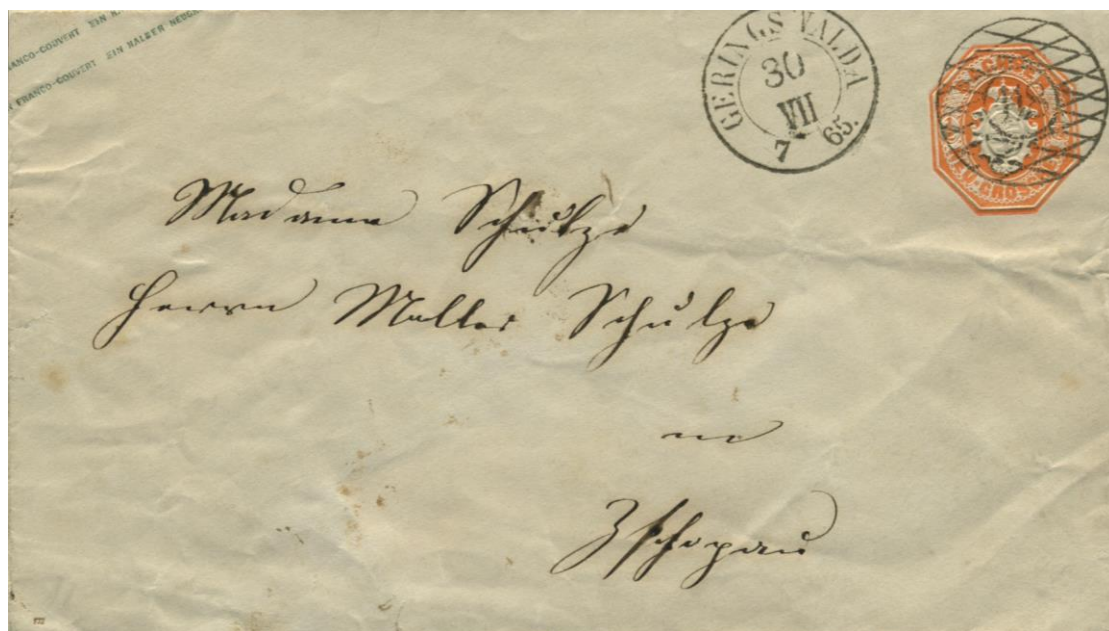


An ordinary town letter in Leipzig

Use as a local letter ≤ 5 miles



An ordinary TPO letter posted at Pirna on the Dresden-Bodenbach line



An ordinary letter from Geringswalda "118" to Zschopau

The withdrawal and using-up of the “Franco” envelopes in Saxony

The Saxony postal authority ceased to exist on 31 December 1867. Its postage stamps lost their validity on this date. There was no announcement of this in postal bulletins. What applied in other states probably also applied in Saxony, that is, that stamps were accepted for several weeks within North Germany.

According to Lindenbergs research and the analyses of postal stationery collectors, stamps of the North German Confederation were placed on the envelopes of the Coat of Arms issue. These were envelopes with the values:

½, 1, 2, 3, 5 ngr. small format

1, 2, 3, 5 ngr. large format

All the envelopes are found with embossed seals of Prussia and Saxony. There are therefore 18 varieties. All have 1 groschen stamps affixed to them. The four varieties of 2 ngr. envelopes also have 2 groschen stamps affixed to them.

Altogether 22 varieties are therefore possible.

No forgeries have yet been found as far as the author is aware.

Examples of using-up the envelopes:

5 neu-groschen, large format with Prussian embossed seal, 1 groschen stamp affixed



2 neu-groschen, large format with Saxony embossed seal, 2 groschen stamp affixed



3 neu-groschen, large format with Prussian embossed seal, 1 groschen stamp affixed



2 neu-groschen, small format with Saxony embossed seal, 1 groschen stamp affixed



Used to accompany a parcel within Saxony, perforated stamps affixed for the postage.

Literature dealing with the “Franco” envelopes of the Kingdom of Saxony (in order of date of publication)

- Timbre-Poste, 1870, p. 59, Dr. Legrand
- Les timbres de Saxe, 1878, Moens
- Geschichte der Postwertzeichen des Königreich Sachsens, 1882, Dr. jur. P. Kloss
- Der Philatelist, 1882, p. 81
- Der Philatelist, 1889, p. 127, F.A. Schumann
- Philatelic Journal of America, 1890, p. 119, Major Evans
- Ill Briefmarkenzeitung, No. 11 and No. 12, p. 121 ff. and 135 ff. 1893, Ernst Heitmann
- The American Philatelist Volume III, p. 92, Tiffany
- Die Briefumschläge der Deutschen Staaten, 1894, Carl Lindenberg
- "Berliner Illustrierte Briefmarkenzeitung" from 1878 by Georges Fouré
- Newsletters of the 'Forschungs-Gemeinschaft Sachsen e.V.' in the 'Bund Deutscher Philatelisten'
- Die “Franco” envelopes der Königlich Sächsischen Postverwaltung, eine Studie über die Entstehungsgeschichte, den Entwurf, die Herstellung, den Verkauf an das Publikum und den Gebrauch, 2016, Arnim Knapp

Compilation of the Saxony Royal postal regulations, "Franco" envelopes relating to:

Postage rates tariff No 655, 13 June 1850: announcement regarding the sale of “Franco” envelopes in §8

Postal decree No 1891, 22 June 1859: announcement regarding the franking of letters by the use of stamps and “Franco” envelopes:

- Section II indicium, colour and sizes
- Price
- Approval of additional frankings
- Approval of the use of cut-outs
- Sale of the “Franco” envelopes beginning on 1 July 1859

Postal decree No 1892, 23 June 1859; regarding the franking of letters by the use of stamps and “Franco” envelopes:

- § 8 Cancellation rules
- § 16 Sale of the stamps and “Franco” envelopes

Postal decree No 1972, 22 December 1859: regarding the cancellations used on stamps and “Franco” envelopes:

- Requirements for the use of grid and number cancellations
- Permission for the use of town postmarks for cancellation

Postal decree No 2309: regarding the ordering of “Franco” envelopes

Postal decree No 2324, 19 June 1863: regarding the franking of letters and wrappers with stamps or “Franco” envelopes:

- Section 1 indicium, colour, design and sizes

Postal decree No 2325, 19 June 1863: regarding the franking of letters and wrappers with stamps or “Franco” envelopes:

- Procedure for cancellation
- Sale of the “Franco” envelopes

Postal decree No 2534, 23 June 1865: regarding the introduction of the ½ ngr. “Franco” envelopes:

- Indicium, colour, design and sizes
- Commencement of sale of the envelopes delivered



Royal Prussian State Printing House, Berlin