

# *MUSICAL CANCELLATIONS*



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## CATALOGUE OF MUSICAL POSTMARKS

### *Germany Part 1*

ENGLISH SUPPLEMENT

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## Preface

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When in 1984 I undertook the preparation of the German section of the Catalogue of Postmarks for the "Motivgruppe MUSIK e.V.", I had no idea what a vast amount of work was involved. Now, after four years of effort, I am able to present part one of the catalogue.

This first part contains more than 450 special event and propaganda cancels, all with a direct or indirect reference to the theme of music. The time span goes from the issue of the first German special event cancel of 1863 up to the foundation of the Federal Republic and of the DDR in 1949. In addition, the catalogue covers the cancellations of territories which came, for a time, under the German postal administration (Sudetenland, Austria, Poland).

This first part has proved to be the most difficult part of the catalogue. The reason for this is that official publications concerning the establishment of temporary special post offices, didn't give any description of the handstamp used for years. There is also an almost total lack of official information about propaganda and slogan cancels, and available sources are either incomplete or even contradictory.

In spite of great care and effort, there will be gaps and errors in this work. Will all users please make allowance for these, and help to fill the gaps, and gradually eradicate the mistakes ?

At this point, may I thank all those who have helped me to compile this catalogue and also to Bryan Hunt who supplied the translation for the English supplement.

It remains for me to hope that this work will find a welcome reception among music philatelists, and that it will be of assistance to those who are looking for confirmation or verification of cancellations - and that the catalogue will be imitated in other countries; that would lead to greater overall knowledge of music postmarks.

Kirchheim, March 1989

Peter Lang

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## Introduction to the Catalogue

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### 1) Selecting the Cancels

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It is not easy to set criteria to justify the inclusion of a cancellation in the catalogue, especially when dealing with a theme like music, which has so many variations.

Naturally, this catalogue includes all cancels which have a direct bearing on the subject of music, e.g.

- \* All special event and propaganda cancels incorporating a text or illustration which refer directly to music: thus - composers, musicians, musical instruments, festivals etc.
- \* Special cancels issued in respect of a musical event, even if the cancel does not refer specifically to the event (e.g. the "classical" cancellations issued for song festivals in the 19th century).
- \* Everyday cancellations, if they have some musical connotation which wouldn't be necessary to describe the place concerned (e.g. Wittenberg, Luther's town).

This catalogue also contains a number of cancels which only have an indirect connection with music: thus -

- \* References to works of literature which have been set to music or have served as subject matter for a musical composition.
- \* Illustrations referring to a musical work, or portraying persons from some composition.
- \* Historical personalities who play some role in a composition or to whom a work was dedicated.
- \* Poets and authors who provided the basis for a composition or who provided the text for such a work in collaboration with the composer.
- \* Illustrations of theatres, or textual references to them, because the word "Theatre" in German includes the concept of Opera, Operetta, Musical Comedy etc.
- \* References to radio, TV, gramophone records, films and film festivals, where the musical connection is not excluded by the cancellation itself.
- \* References and illustrations to/of professions in which a musical instrument is part of the job (e.g. The Postilion, night- or tower- watchman).
- \* Chimes and bells

We do not include in this catalogue:

- \* Special post offices for musical events, where the normal day postmark was used.
- \* Cancellations from towns where only the name could be related to music (e.g. "Singen").
- \* Cancels with geographical expressions or monuments which could in theory be related to music (e.g. Berlin, Wartburg, Rhein, Kyffhäuser etc.).
- \* Illustrations of the Posthorn as a postal symbol or for philatelic societies or events.

In the case of these cancels, which have only an indirect connection with music, the catalogue is influenced by the musical knowledge of the author and the publications referred to. So the catalogue cannot be complete and we will gratefully accept every hint to complete it.

## 2) Sub-division into Subjects

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In order to give the catalogue a suitable form, the available material is divided into thirteen subjects.

The theme of each subject is described at the beginning of each chapter. You will also find corresponding references in the index.

Each cancellation appears only once in the catalogue, even if it relates to more than one subject. The attribution of a cancellation to a subject or theme is indicated in the following order:

- I) Reason for issue, providing it has a musical connection
- II) The wording on the postmark, always assuming it has a music connotation
- III) The illustration

Thus, for example, there is a cancel issued for a Wagner festival depicting a lyre: you will find this in chapter six (music festivals), though it could be given in chapter three (composers), or even in chapter two (instruments).

If a cancellation fulfils several equal criteria, it is classified according to the most important theme.

Any cancel which belongs to several different subjects is shown under all possible key-words in the index.

### 3) Catalogue Numbering

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Each cancellation has been given a number, consisting of three parts:

- I) The country mark - here "D" for Germany
- II) The number of one of the thirteen subjects
- III) Consecutive numbers

Example: The catalogue number D-3-17 identifies (in the German section) the 17th postmark in part 3 (composers).

In order to avoid having to alter catalogue numbers when finding additional issues of cancellations, no chronology is shown in respect of the numbers. Each additional cancel will be given the next number within the appropriate section.

### 4) Description of the Cancels

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Each catalogue entry shows seven headings, labelled a) to g). If a certain cancel does not call for a letter, it is shown with a minus sign "-", behind the appropriate letter.

Additional information is given in brackets "<>".

Reference to another letter is given by the symbol "->".  
E.g. ->a = see letter a).

Here is the meaning of the seven letter headings:

#### a) The Place Name

This sometimes includes information about the geographical location of the place; information about the issuing post office and the postal code in use since 1943. The place name is always in the same form as used on the cancel.

If a cancellation was used by several post offices (so-called cancel-series), they are listed serially. This can also occur when the same handstamp has been used with a slight modification of the place name (e.g. with or without a postal code).

We do not catalogue very minor different letters nor unimportant characteristics such as stars, decorative features etc. That type of minor variety should be looked up in a specialised catalogue of postmarks.



b) The Types of Cancellation

These are described by one of the following abbreviations:

Sst	Hand cancel for a special event
MSst	Machine cancel for a special event
BSst	Continuous or coil cancel for a special event
ESst	First day cancel
H	Hand cancel for propaganda / slogans
M	Machine cancel for propaganda / slogans
B	Continuous cancel for propaganda / slogans (by hand or machine)
Bv	Continuous cancel with various propaganda / slogan messages
Fst	postage paid cancel
Hn	Secondary or supplementary hand cancel

We do not differentiate about the position of the propaganda message, as to whether it is on the right or the left of the postmark of the place concerned, nor whether the latter is a single or double circle with or without dateline. We also omit minor details of wavy line cancels, as information is available in specialised catalogues.

The colour of cancellations usually is black, otherwise it will be described.

c) Period of Usage

This is noted, as far as possible, with the first and last dates of use. However, exact information is not available for many propaganda / slogan postmarks: for these, only the year of issue is noted.

If a cancel was used several times without any variations in the wording or illustration, all the known periods of use are indicated, as far as possible. If there is any variation in the wording or illustration, you will find another catalogue entry.

d) Reason for Issue

This is only shown when a musical occasion is involved, which is not clear from the wording or text of the handstamp, or if further data seems to be required.

e) Wording of the Handstamp / Cancellation

This includes all the wording of the cancel. We have tried to reproduce the wording of a circular cancel in the most logical and comprehensible form. Please note that the line spacing in the catalogue does not necessarily reflect the spacing in the postmark itself.

f) Illustration of the Cancellation

As far as possible, we have tried to give an exact description of the illustration of the cancel's musical connection. However, in many cases we did not have an original or a reproduction of the cancel. So we have had to rely only on the information given in official publications, or from other valid sources.

#### g) Other Remarks

Further comments are only made where, in addition to the remarks under the headings a) to f), more explanation is required. In general, these are indications to assist relating the cancellation to a music theme in the index.

Thus:

N-> see index of names  
W-> see index of compositions  
S-> see index of subjects and key-words

### 5) Reproduction of the Cancels

As far as possible, we have included a reproduction of the cancel with each description. But please note that readers must not try to ascertain the size of the original from the reproduction. Nor it is possible to compare sizes of different cancels.

Some cancels are only proofs, where the datestamp does not correspond with the known period of usage. Also, some reproductions of cancels show minor variations compared to the original; this is deliberately done to prevent forgery of cancels, based on our illustrations.

### 6) Valuation

No attempt has been made to value any of the cancellations. That is really quite impossible, because no firm or agreed market has been established; prices are all over the place, and they can vary by 500% for a given postmark, so even a middle price would make a nonsense. Furthermore, to give any prices would involve this catalogue in updating - a monumental task - the sort of work better employed in other directions. It is therefore up to the collector to examine prices from various sources... an exchange partner, a professional dealer, club sheets, auction houses etc., and decide if the price is right.



## 7) How to use the Catalogue

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As well as dividing the postmarks into various categories, the index is intended to make the catalogue a useful source of reference.

- \* The location index contains a register of all places where a music-related cancel was used.
- \* The index of compositions contains key words, to assist references to a specific composition.
  - The titles of musical compositions in which the cancel directly reflects a specific work.
  - The titles of literary works, where the cancel refers to the work concerned which has been set to music.
  - The names of composers, where the cancel shows a portrait of the composer, if his music has been re-worked by other composers.
  - The names of poets and authors whose work has been set to music or forms a basis for works of music. In selecting these cancels, we have restricted them to those which actually depict the person concerned.
  - The names of historical persons to whom a composition was dedicated, or who play a major role in it. Similarly, a picture of the person concerned must appear.
  - Other subjects which may be woven into a musical composition.
- \* The index of names contains the names of all composers, musicians, singers, dancers, instrument makers, music promoters etc. who can be documented by means of the catalogued cancels. Each name has either a direct catalogue entry or a reference to an entry appearing in the index of compositions - in so far as the person can be documented via a cancellation referring to a musical work.
- \* The index of subjects and key-words contains references to the classification of the cancels under the subject heading, as well as music-related terms used in the wording on the postmark or in its illustration.

Examples:

- 1) You are looking for a cancellation about which you only know the place where it was used:  
-> So -, look up the place concerned in the location index and the catalogue numbers shown there.
- 2) You are looking for all cancels concerning a particular item (e.g. the organ):  
-> Look up the item in the index of subjects and key-words and note the catalogue number(s).
- 3) You are looking for all cancellations relating to a certain composer: -> Look up the composer in the index of names.  
-> If there is a cancel relating directly to the composer, look under the catalogue number.  
-> In the case of most composers, there are references in the index of compositions, so look there for the corresponding catalogue numbers, and then discover whether your composer has written an opera, a song, a symphonie etc. about the indicated theme.
- 4) You want to know the musical treatment or connection of a specific subject:  
-> Look in the index of compositions - there you will find the catalogue numbers connected with your subject; you will also find a list of all composers who produced works on that subject.

## 8) An Appeal to all Users of the Catalogue

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This is the first endeavour to compile a catalogue on the far-ranging subject of postmarks on the theme of music. In order that it may become a comprehensive and faultless work of reference, we need the collaboration of everyone.

Hence my request; please let me know if you...

- notice any mistakes in the index or the contents.
- can offer more detailed information about individual postmarks.
- have postmarks not illustrated in the catalogue.
- have postmarks, of which the impression is better than the catalogue illustration.
- have postmarks which are not included in the catalogue.

Even the smallest indication would be gratefully received; in the case of poor illustrations, you could send me a good copy of your postmark, or lend me the original.

The catalogue will be continued: work on the second part (West Germany 1949-1969) is already well in hand, and a third part (1970-1989) will bring it up to the point where the cataloguing of new issues can be pursued.

A catalogue of meter-postmarks is planned, but requests some intensive research.

In respect of all these points, it would be very helpful if you could assist me thus; -

look out your treasures, so often undiscovered, perhaps reposing in a shoebox. Send me good copies, or lend me the original.

My current address is:

Peter Lang, Heckenkirschenweg 10, D-8011 Kirchheim

Any future change of address will be notified in the Motivgruppe "Musik".

In conclusion, a personal matter:

I am not a stamp dealer, and cannot provide you with the postmarks listed in the catalogue, so please do not address enquiries of that sort to me - they will usually fall on deaf ears. If you are looking for a specific postmark, make use of a small advertisement in "Musikus", the journal of the Motivgruppe "Musik". You can gladly use my catalogue numbers, for reference purposes.

I will be pleased to answer any other queries about the catalogue or the postmarks, if I can: but please remember the return postage.