

# How about Occupation Stamps

by Josh Furman

A few weeks ago, for one of our Central Florida Stamp Club meetings via ZOOM, Newton Kulp presented a neat program on the U. S. stamp alphabet. Stamp designs with a prefix of A are regular postage stamps; items with numbers prefixed by a U are postal stationery; those with C are airmail, with J are postage due, and so forth. Newt went through the whole alphabet showing us what letters were used to identify various issues of U. S. stamps, covers, postal cards, seals, revenues and so forth. But there was a letter missing from this discussion: The letter N!

Well, the United States never used the letter N for postage stamps of any kind for domestic use. But there were stamps printed by the United States that did use the prefix N, and those stamps used to be included in the Scotts Specialized Catalog of U. S. Stamps, and there were pages for them in the Scott National Album. N was used to designate Occupation Issues after World War II. These stamps are now represented in the pages of albums and catalogs that represent these countries but are no longer listed in the Specialized catalog or in the Scott National album pages. But my Scott National Album has copyright dates from the time just after World War II and includes pages with spaces for U. S. - issued occupation stamps for use in four countries.

Beginning in February 1946 and continuing through June 1948, Allied occupation stamps were issued for general usage throughout the American, British, and Soviet occupation zones. During this period, the French occupation zone issued their own stamps. So here are the stamps listed with “N” numbers in my Scott National album. The stamps with a 1N prefix were for Italy; with a 2N prefix for France; with a 3N prefix for Germany; and with a 4N prefix for Austria. Many of us probably have some of these stamps in the back pages of those countries in our international albums.



Let's start with **Figure D1**. Catalog numbers 1N1 through 1N5 look like the stamp on the left, but in different colors. 1N6 – 1N8 are similar, but the values are in Lire instead of Centesimi. 1N10, 1N11 and 1N13 are different stamps, but have the overprint GOVERNO MILITARE ALLEATO, for Allied Military Government like the middle stamp in **Figure D1**. The right-hand stamp in the

**Figure D1** same illustration carries the overprint A. M. G./ V. G. The V.G. of course stands for Venezia Giulia, a district around Venice that had its own postal service beginning after World War I. It included parts of Austria and Slovenia. Their catalog numbers in my album are 1LN1 to 1LN12. Of course, many more Venezia Giulia stamps exist in pages for Italian stamps.

Now let's look at the occupation stamps that the U. S. provided for France in 1944. See **Figure D2**. Catalog numbers 2N1 to 2N10 represent various values and colors of this stamp in centimes. Numbers 2N11 to 2N20 are a similar design with various colors but have values in francs. Note that these guys are included in the catalog pages for France as regular issues Nos. 475 to 476H and 523A to 523J. Why? Because, although they were printed by the U. S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing and intended to be used by an Allied Military Government in the liberated areas of France, the allies recognized the authority of Gen. de Gaulle's Provisional Government over these territories. The stamps were transferred to the Free French and put on sale in liberated areas as the Allies advanced. They were issued officially in Paris on October 9<sup>th</sup>.<sup>1</sup>



**Figure D2**

<sup>1</sup> Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalog, Volume 2, 2013.

Now let's turn to Germany. The A. M. G. stamps were issued jointly by the Allied Military Government of the U.S. and Great Britain for civilian use in areas under allied occupation. See **Figure D3**. This is the most complicated issue of the four, since it was printed three times in three different places:



Brunswick, Washington and London. As a result, the stamps differ in size, paper thickness and in gum color (so you'd better collect these in MNH condition). The smaller sizes are numbers 3N1 to 3N13, but those printed in Washington add an "a", and those printed in London add a "b". And just to add a little confusion, not all values were printed in each location. The larger size stamps carry numbers 3N14 to 3N19, and one, 3N20, the one Mark version shown on the right in **Figure D3** is in an even larger size, 25 x 29 1/2 mm.

Now take a look at **Figure D4**. Like the stamps for use in French liberated territories, the Occupation stamps of Austria were issued by the Allied Military Government of the U. S. and Britain. They were for civilian use in areas under American, British and French occupation. These carry catalog numbers 4N1 to 4N17. Like other stamps of this type, they were printed in different colors and indicated different values from 1g to 5s.



**Figure D4**

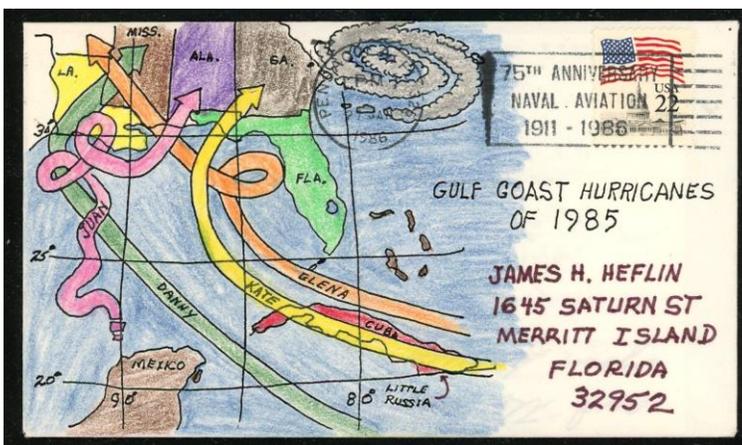
What about the values in today's dollars of these four issues? There really isn't much to talk about. Most stamps carry a Scott catalog value in cents, some in dollars. There are two outliers, the high value German occupation stamps. The highest value, at \$500 you can see in **Figure D3**, the used 1-mark olive green. (The mint one has very little value.) If I were to sell this collection, I'd have to have that one expertized, so I'm not counting any chickens.

There is only one footnote, citing the Scott catalog from the 2013 set. You may assume that other information in this piece also comes from other Scott catalogs from the same year.

## What a Year in the Gulf of Mexico!

by Phil Fettig

Wait a minute, I don't mean 2020 – I don't even want to think about this one for many reasons! How about 1985? The homemade cachet pictured below shows the storms.



- **Bob** – Although not the 1<sup>st</sup> storm of the year, it was 1<sup>st</sup> to hit Florida on 7/24. (Not shown on cachet).
- **Danny** – Pretty much a straight shot until turning Northeast & hitting Louisiana and Mississippi 8/15.
- **Elena** – Made a sharp turn toward Florida before looping back into Mississippi 9/2.
- **Juan** – Looped through the Gulf before reaching Louisiana on October 29.
- **Kate** – Ran over Cuba & got to Florida on 11/29. (Not on some lists due to Hurricane Season officially being over.)