

Occupation of the Baltic Countries and White Russia

Beginning November 4, 1941, German stamps overprinted OSTLAND were sold at civilian post offices in occupied Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Belarus.

The 6-pfennig stamp on a postally worthless Soviet postal card canceled May 18, 1942, at Jaunpils is a civilian domestic usage. The two 12-pfennig stamps on the July 3, 1942, censored letter to Germany reflect an official usage from a Nazi construction unit. Postal rates in Ostland were the same as German Reich rates, except that official post received no concessions. The envelope canceled at Reval (Tallinn, Estonia) appears to be a double rate, but the air mail etiquette may have been a concession; it is affixed over the censor tape.

The 12-pfennig stamps are engraved, from the original 1941 printing. The 6-pfennig stamp is typographed, from the 1943 reprint.

According to Karl Heinz Riemer's authoritative reference, the red handstamped censor markings of Königsberg on the back of the official cover are rare. He dated their period of use from April to June 1942, so this July example is later than previously reported.

