

Welcome to Philatelic.Experts



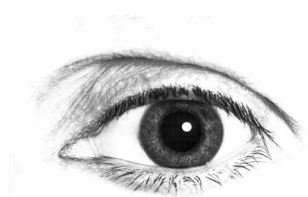
We are Tobias Huylmans, Michael Jäschke-Lantelme, Till Neumann and Franz Stegmüller. As long-standing experts in the Bund Philatelistischer Prüfer e.V. (BPP) and the AIEP, we have set up the **Philatelic.Experts** expertizing committee.

Philatelic.Experts was founded in 2023. Our passion and expertise are the expertizing of rare stamps and postal history from all philatelic collecting areas – from A for Aden to Z for Zululand. Our primary emphasis is on the earliest philatelic treasures up to the end of the nineteenth century.

Why a (new) committee for philatelic expertizing?

For decades, German expertizing has been dominated by specialists in what are sometimes niche areas. **Philatelic.Experts** have set out to assess a broader range of philatelic rarities, in the tradition of renowned experts such as Herbert Bloch, Giulio Bolaffi, Theodore Champion, Robson Lowe, Heinrich Köhler, Franz Pfenninger and Max Thier. At the same time, we believe that a group of experienced experts can do this more convincingly than a lone individual. Our aim is to provide a fast, professional, and exceptionally competent assessment of particularly rare stamps.

condition/quality assessment of items and the expertizing of surcharges and overprints, genuine examples of which can often turn worthless mass-produced items into philatelic rarities. The first step, however, is to examine the piece about its plausibility. Has a genuine stamp been used correctly? Does the stamp, the overprint and/or the postmark match? In the case of covers/letters, does the franking match, or have any stamps been exchanged or improved? And generally, in the case of high-quality items: Is the stamp or cover registered or even known to literature? And broadly speaking, particularly when it comes to high-quality, world rarities, is the stamp or cover recorded in specialist literature, or otherwise previously known to the philatelic community?



MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION WITH REFLECTED AND TRANSMITTED LIGHT

With a reflected light microscope, the light falls on the stamp from above. This allows stamps and overprints to be examined very well in terms of gloss, structure, and ink distribution. Ideally, impressions and perforations in the paper or in the gum are also visible. In relation to a genuine comparison piece, fake stamps or overprints may appear more watery or drier or even less contoured when enlarged accordingly. Colors may look duller or shinier, and the crimped edges may also differ in comparison to genuine examples.

A transmitted light micro-

scope illuminates the piece from below. This allows the pigment composition of stamps and overprints to be analyzed. Is the graininess correct? Are pure colors interspersed with pigments of other colors? Is the distribution of the various pigments correct for colored inks? All these aspects must be considered by the diligent examiner.



CONGRUENCE CHECK USING A COMPARISON MACROSCOPE

A comparison microscope may also be used, for example, to check the optical congruence of the stamp or the imprint or overprint with a genuine piece. Both sectional images and overlays can be displayed. The two images are displayed in complementary colors (red/green) so that deviations are clearly visible. In contrast to regular image processing programs, the comparative microscope is a court-approved procedure.

VSC 8000 – THE PINNACLE OF FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION

The same approach discussed above also applies to the “Video Spectral Comparator”, a market-leading device which can provide even further evidence to the examiner. **Philatelic.Experts** has exclusive use of the VSC 8000 owned by the philatelic auction house Heinrich Köhler. This state-of-the-art system combines sophisticated digital image capture with multi-wavelength LED technology for the expertizing of historical documents. The VSC 8000 is used by forensic examiners, government agencies and immigration authorities world-

wide, including, for example, by state criminal investigation departments. The VSC 8000's multispectral light sources, ranging from UV to the visible spectrum and infrared, also make details perceptible that are invisible to the human eye. Furthermore, the video spectral comparator also creates a reference file that enables pieces of the same type to be compared precisely by visually superimposing them. The VSC 8000's 3-D analysis is another informative expertizing option. The 3D software uses the photometric stereo method and involves capturing images using three different lighting angles. Topographical details of the surface are then revealed from the analysis of the three images. A kind of height map of the stamp is displayed in a 3D model image. This allows, for example, embossing on postage stamps to be compared in detail with the originals.

THE PROVENANCE FINDER – A GROUND-BREAKING INNOVATION IN PHILATELY

The classic paper-based card index has a very long and successful tradition in philatelic expertizing. However, in 2023, digital transformation brought about a groundbreaking innovation in philately – ProFi, the “Provenance Finder” – an ever-growing digital philatelic archive developed by the auction house Heinrich Köhler under the leadership of its Managing Director, Tobias Huylmans. As a result, **Philatelic.Experts** has unrestricted access to this unparalleled resource. Data available worldwide on individual philatelic lots from various sources was and is collected and compiled – for example, information from a wide-range of international auction catalogs. This is how the unique web-based database was created. Artificial intelligence turns ProFi into a learning system that can create further links with each new entry. More than 2 million entries have now been digitized, including, for example, over 100,000 index cards from the Köhler “Karteiregistratur” of the German States. With every query, the **Philatelic.Experts** access the meticulously collected illustrations, descriptions, hammer prices and auction fees, creating a broad-based historical record of worldwide stamps and covers. With ProFi, the provenance and pedigree of high-quality postage stamps can be determined in a matter of seconds. At the same time, the rarity of a piece can be assessed in comparison to the

number of recorded comparable stamps, covers with similar frankings, corresponding postmarks, or covers to or from the same origin or destination. Above all, however, potential alterations to the stamp or letter, such as restoration work, can be validly determined from the various illustrations and descriptions from over 100 years of philatelic literature.



OUR MISSION

Old postage stamps and other philatelic material can be surprisingly expensive collector's items. The historical significance, rarity, and the quality of a particular item can at times result in considerable financial value. Over the course of many years, our enthusiasm for these sometimes-unique contemporary witnesses to the history of communication has resulted in a sound knowledge of authenticity and condition. This enables us to combat counterfeiting and tampering competently and consistently.



Tobias Huylmans (b. 1983)

At the tender age of 15, **Tobias Huylmans** already knew: “I’m going to be a professional philatelist.” After graduating from high school in 2002, he trained as a foreign trade merchant until 2004, when he took his first job as a philatelist with Ulrich Felzmann in Düsseldorf. Since 2007, he has been a philatelic expert for Germany’s oldest stamp auction house, Heinrich Köhler in Wiesbaden. In 2019, due to his exceptional achievements and special aptitude, Dieter Michelson and Karl Louis, the Managing Partners, appointed him Managing Director at Heinrich Köhler. Since July 1, 2023, Tobias Huylmans has also been the new Managing Director and shareholder of Köhler & Corinphila Holding GmbH – also known as the “Global Philatelic Network” – and is therefore



EXPERTIZING TECHNOLOGY

Harnessing cutting-edge technology to demonstrate authenticity and assess quality. In today’s expertizing world, high-quality magnifying glasses and high-magnification microscopes, as well as a suitable reference collection and well-developed reference library still form the basis of this exacting work. However, the emphasis is on “basis”. This is because state-of-the-art technology is also required – especially when it comes to the supreme discipline of expertizing – the

jointly responsible for all four companies in the group, including Corinphila Auctions in Zurich, H.R. Harmer in New York, John Bull Auctions in Hong Kong and Corinphila Veilingen in the Netherlands. His specialist knowledge is exemplified by his authorship of the publication “Memelgebiet – Handbuch der Stempel 1920–1925,” in addition to numerous specialist articles in philatelic journals and study group newsletters. Tobias’s broad knowledge of various collecting areas has also led to his appointment as an expertizer in the BPP, for whom he expertizes Old Hamburg, Memel, Lithuania (1918–1940), World War II Occupation of Lithuania, Western Ukraine, Libau, and the 10th Army’s Regional Carrier Mail. Recognized throughout the industry for his exceptional knowledge and contributions to the BPP, Tobias also serves as a mentor and advisor to new BPP experts. He is also a member of the Association Internationale des Experts en Philatelie (AIEP), the Royal Philatelic Society London and various study groups and specialist societies. He is also a recipient of the Köhler Medal.

Michael Jäschke-Lantelme was born into philately. In the 1970’s, as a “young badger”, he gained his first experience of professional philately from his parents’ mail-order stamp business “Helga Jäschke”. In 1982, he graduated from high school, and from 1985 to 1987 trained as a wholesale and foreign trade merchant and philatelic examiner. His mentor was none other than his father, Paul-Peter Jäschke, who had been expertizing the Germania issues of the German Reich since the early 1980s. In 1988, Michael Jäschke-Lantelme gained further experience as an intern at auction houses Heinrich Köhler in Wiesbaden



Michael Jäschke-Lantelme (b. 1962)

and Dr. Heinrich Wittmann in Munich. Throughout the 1990s, he worked as a philatelist at a number of auctions in Munich, describing many

thousands of lots professionally and expertly. Michael Jäschke-Lantelme has been a member of the BPP since 1989. Like his father, his first area of expertise was the Germania stamps (German Reich Nos. 53 to 97). In 1991, he was trained by his father-in-law, Dr. Horst Walter Lantelme, as an expertizer for German colonial stamps, and has worked exclusively as a philatelic expertizer ever since. He has been a publicly appointed and sworn expert of the Berlin Chamber of Industry and Commerce since 1995. As an IHK expert, Michael Jäschke-Lantelme appraises and evaluates stamps and collections from all over the world. His areas of expertise at the BPP are the German colonies and foreign post offices, including forerunners, the German Reich No. 1 to 97, the German Airmail 1912, and the old German areas of Hanover, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Strelitz and Prussia. His philatelic publications – including “Die Handstempelaufdrucke von Tientsin”, “Dienstzweige und Posttarife der Deutschen Kolonien und Auslandspostämter”, “100 Jahre Germania” and “Die Postfälschungen des Deutschen Kaiserreichs” – are without exception among the standard works of philately. Michael Jäschke-Lantelme is a member of several philatelic study groups and specialist societies. He has also been awarded the Köhler Medal.

Till Neumann is also a philatelist at heart. At the age of seven, his father showed him his great-great-grandfather Prof. Dr. Friedrich Rathgen’s “Alle Welt” collection for the first time, which had been created by the famous chemist in the 1920s. The boy was hooked! At the age of twelve, he met an accomplished stamp dealer who taught him a lot about classic philately. Till Neumann bought stamps from him and sold them on – initially to his father, also an enthusiastic collector, and later to other customers. By the age of 14, Till Neumann had already registered his first business and learned bookkeeping. Although he regularly attended stamp auctions from 1986 onwards, joined his first working groups and continued his philatelic education, he had not yet decided that philately would actually be his professional future, so after graduating from high school he first studied law, but on January 1, 1992 he started his final business as a stamp dealer. Till Neumann and his company have been based in Bremen since 1998.

At the International World Stamp Exhibition IBRA 99 in Nuremberg, he presented a remarkable sales offer in catalog form – his masterpiece as a rarities dealer. Later, Till Neumann also conducted stamp auctions, most recently as majority shareholder of Wilhelm Sellschopp Auctions in Hamburg. For many years he has been a renowned philatelic advisor to important collectors from all over the



Till Neumann (b. 1972)

world. His broad and detailed knowledge of philately is internationally recognized. True to the motto “Knowledge makes connoisseurs and experts”, he has an extensive specialist library, whose works he studies and expands continuously. Till Neumann has been a member of the BPP since 1997. His areas of expertise are the old Swiss cantonal issues – Basel, Geneva and Zurich as well as the stamps of the so-called transition period – and last but not least the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen. Till Neumann is a member of the Association Internationale des Experts en Philatelie, the Swiss Stamp Validators Association, the Royal Philatelic Society London and the Collectors Club of New York.

After graduating from high school in 1992, **Franz Stegmüller** began working as an auction describer. Until 2003, he worked for the auction companies Kirstein-Larisch and Deider in Munich. At the same time, he worked for the well-known and highly respected BPP expert Maria Brettel, learning the finer points of stamp expertizing from scratch. Like his mentor, Franz Stegmüller specialized, among other things, in the postage stamps and cancellations of the old German states of Baden and Bavaria from 1849 to 1875 (Kreuzer period). He has been a member of the Munich Stamp Club 1905 e.V. since 1996, where he has given numerous specialist lectures. In 1998 he joined the Baden Working Group of the Association of German Philatelists (BDPh). In 1999, he published an extremely well-researched

and detailed article on the special features of correspondence between the Grand Duchy of Baden and the United States of America in the specialist journal “POSTGESCHICHTE”, which attracted a great deal of attention among philatelists and postal historians alike. In the same year, Franz Stegmüller became a BPP expertizer for the stamps and postal stationery of the Grand Duchy of Baden, including the Baden Landpost. He has been a member of the Association Internationale des Experts en Philatelie and the BDPh’s Bavarian Working Group since 2002. Just one year later, he took up his work in the



Franz Stegmüller (b. 1972)

BPP as an expertizer for the postage stamps of the Kingdom of Bavaria (Kreuzer period). He has been a member of the Oldenburg working group of the BDPh since 2004. In 2007, he was appointed BPP expertizer for the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg. Franz Stegmüller is an internationally renowned philatelic expert with extensive knowledge and exceptional experience.

EXPERTIZING AND EXPERTIZING AREAS

Together, the members of **Philatelic.Experts** have more than a century of philatelic expertizing experience. The entire breadth of experience is made available to our clients, as every item submitted to us for examination will be reviewed by all four members of the **Philatelic.Experts** team. Our focus is on the expertization of rare philatelic items of the world typically with a commercial value of 2,000 Euros

and up. We will, however, not expertize items which are currently expertized by a member of the German Philatelic Experts Association (BPP). Furthermore, BPP expertizing fields currently handled by members of **Philatelic.Experts** will continue to be handled as individuals under the BPP format; details and a current list of BPP expertizers may be found at www.bpp.de.

As BPP members, we follow the organization’s guidelines, philatelic definitions, and quality standards, and make use of the latest technology available to us. Through the extensive resources available to us, we also highlight the provenance of your philatelic items whenever possible. With our strict quality standards, trend-setting technology, and world-class research tools, collectors benefit from an expertizing experience that is ahead of its time.

With a clear focus on philatelic classics up to around 1900, our areas of expertise cover almost the entire world. Do you have questions about a potential specific specimen? Then please contact us in advance.

Our emphasis is on worldwide classics, up to the end of the nineteenth century. Do you have questions about a particular philatelic item you would like examined? If so, we welcome your inquiries prior to forwarding material.

Notes on shipping

We expertize rare and high-value postage stamps and entires with a net commercial value of EUR 2,000 or more. Our minimum expertizing fee is 150 euros. You are welcome to send us your items by courier service. If you would prefer to hand over your item to us in person, please contact us in advance. We would be happy to arrange an appointment.

Tobias Huylmans, Michael Jäschke-Lantelme, Till Neumann and Franz Stegmüller, to be found and reached at philatelic-experts.com.

