

## Six Flags over Lehrte Synopsis (Updated February 2025)

**Theme.** Beginning exhibit on the postal history of the city of Lehrte, Kreis Burgdorf, Germany, which was a crossroads city near Hannover.

**Scope.** From the Hannovarian era through the modern day. Lehrte was chosen for two reasons: it was a transportation nexus, and it was the town the exhibitor lived in in the Spring of 1973 as an exchange student. It was also a rural mail hub. It also serves as an example of the major changes in Germany over the past 175 years.

**Importance.** Germany is a major postal system. A city with both rural districts and one which was both a rail crossroads and a highway crossroads is a good exemplar. The main rail line between Cologne and Berlin crosses the main line between Hamburg and the south. In fact the terminus station in Berlin (now the main train station) was once known as the Lehrter Bahnhof.

**Treatment.** Items chosen for this exhibit were the best quality available to the exhibitor at this time. A variety of usages, types of mail, and rates are shown.

**Scarcity:** Postal usages from the inflation era can be hard to find. Best item is a Insepost cover from Crete to Lehrte in 1945, properly authenticated (certificate).

**Research.** The sources shown were consulted. A full search of the 1944 Ortsverzeichnis was done to ascertain all of the possible offices in the Lehrte region in that year. The exhibitor speaks German and can read the original sources.

**Note on Quality.** Use of two hole punches (sometimes one hole) on some items result from a German filing system in use for commercial correspondence, which stored the items this way in a two hole binder or other device. Common for non-philatelic German business mail and does not affect the philatelic value of the pieces shown. This filing system preserved, albeit imperfectly, many usages and town postal markings and cancels that otherwise might have been lost. Items presented in chronological order within their section.

### Selected References (English translation/identification given, where needed, below in smaller type)

Gilbert, K. An Introduction to German Rural Mail (Landpost) Markings and Cancels. *The German Postal Specialist*, 2020: Part 1, March 2020 Vol 71, pp 75-79. Part 2, April 2020, Vol. 71, pp 104-113. Erratum: *The German Postal Specialist*, 2020, May 2020, Vol 71, p 160. E-copy may be found on SESCAL site.

*Ortsverzeichnis I*; Reichsdruckerei: Berlin-Tempelhof, 1944.

Listing of all towns and cities in 1944 Germany with postal facilities and the type of facility

Greise, P. *Poststellen Stempel 1928-1988*; Neue Schriftenreihe der Poststempelgilde, e.V., Band 175; Poststempelgilde: Manching, Germany, 2008.

Poststelle (i.e., rural postal agency) Markings 1928-1988; New Reports from the Postal Marking Guild

*Michel Postgebueren-Handbuch Deutschland*; Schwaneberger Verlag: Munich, Germany, 2001.

Michel Postage Rate Handbook for Germany

Mikus, W. *Lehrte: Die Auswirkung eines Eisenbahnknotenpunktes auf die geographische Struktur eine Siedlung-am speziellen Beispiel von Lehrte*; Buchdruckerei Michael Lassleben: Regensburg, 1966.

Lehrte: The Effect of a Railroad Crossing Point on the Geographic Structure of a Settlement

*Die Post im Hannoverschen*; Oberpostdirektion Hannover: Hannover, 1967. The Post in Hannover (Region)

*Der Landkreis Burgdorf*; Walter Dorn Verlag: Bremen, 1961. The Rural County of Burgdorf



# Six Flags over Lehrte



**Purpose:** Lehrte, a small city in Central Germany, used as an example of the turbulent history experienced by Germany in the last three centuries, as shown by the many postal entities and administrations that served this location, signified by the six flags (representing nine governments) that flew over Lehrte from 1814 to the present.

**Scope:** The 1850s to the 21st Century, showing a wide variety of postal items and uses.

Lehrte was chosen as its location and experience as a crossroads due to the first rail line from Lehrte to Berlin, and the subsequent north/south and east/west crossing of rail and autobahn make it a good place to show German history as it happened. It is also the town the exhibitor visited as an exchange student in high school



Meter slogan cancel depicting Lehrte as the crossroads of Germany