

**Experimental Machine
Postmarks on Mail Sent
to/from
German Colonies**

**by
Jerry H. Miller**

BICKERDIKE

1898 - 1901

BERLIN C2 ... Machine '1'
Postmark Type 3a



RE-DIRECTED OFFICIAL GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE,
COLONIAL DEPARTMENT, FREE-FRANK MAIL



2 MAY 1901

Official German Foreign Office (Berlin), Colonial Department Cover,
sent to a customs official at Kiel,
re-directed, upon arrival, to Hamburg.

Arrival Postmark:

(Reverse)

"Hamburg Emsbüttel,
3 May 1901, 5-6 PM"

Free-Frank Mail cachet-endorsed as 'Reichsdienstsache'
(lower left corner)

BICKERDIKE

CHEMNITZ *1 & MANNHEIM
(Type I)

GERMAN KIAUTSCHOU (CHINA)

Postmark: 25 & 24 mm double-circle dater-dial with
'bridge' & vertical grill along with a
'flag' obliterator having a crown,
banner with tassels and postal horn.

Usage: Chemnitz: 4 July 1903 – 27 March 1906
Mannheim: 29 July 1903 – 29 October 1907

25 AUGUST 1904

View Card
(Baden Military
Litho Card),
sent to a marine
stationed at
Tsingtau,
endorsed "via
naval post office
at Berlin".

Arrival Postmark
"Tsingtau,
Kiautschau,
30 September
1904"



30 AUGUST 1905

'Gruss Aus' Card,
sent to a telegraph-
supervisor employed
with the German Post
Office at Tsingtau.

Arrival Postmark
"Tsingtau,
Kiautschau,
8 October 1906

5 Pfennig...
Domestic postcard-rate valid for mail
to the German Colonies.

BICKERDIKE

LEIPZIG 13 A

GERMAN EAST AFRICA

Postmark: 24 mm single-circle dater-dial with 'horseshoe arch' within dial having the year-date at the bottom of dial between a 'star' & an "A" with a 'flag' obliterator.

Usage: 29 August 1901 – 8 September 1902

GERMAN EAST AFRICA REPLY CARD USAGE



30 SEPTEMBER 1901

Reply-portion of reply-card pair,
acknowledging receipt of a money transfer,
sent to an assistant medical doctor of the German Protection Service
at Dar-es-Salaam, German East Africa.
28-day transit time.

Arrival Mark
"Dar-Es-Salaam,
28 October 1901"

3 Pesa = 5 Pfennig..
Domestic postcard-rate valid for reply mail
sent to German East Africa.

Only known example.

BICKERDIKE

HALLE *(Saale) 2h

GERMAN EAST AFRICA

... Postmark Type I

Postmark: 26 mm double-circle dater-dial with 'bridge' & vertical grill along with a 48mm 'flag' obliterator having a small cross in the crown, banner with tassels and postal horn.

Usage: 14 June 1903 – 11 April 1905



5 MARCH 1904

View-card,
sent to a police sergeant affiliated with the German
Protection Forces at Kilwa, German East Africa.
23-day transit time.

Arrival Mark:
"Dar-Es-Salaam,
28 March 1904"

5 Pfennig..
Domestic postcard-rate valid for mail
to German colonies

BICKERDIKE

LEIPZIG 13B ...
Arrival/Service Postmark

GERMAN EAST AFRICA

Postmark: 24mm single-circle dial with 'horseshoe' or 'arch' within, having the year-date at the bottom of dial between a 'star' & 'B' without an obliterator.

Usage: 6 September 1901 – 12 September 1902



1 JUNE 1902

'German East Africa' Postal Stationary Card,
postmarked at Korogwe, German East Africa, transit at Tanga (3 June),
sent to Leipzig, with arrival postmark
applied by an experimental 'Bickerdike' Machine (2nd machine at Leipzig).
23 day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
"Leipzig 13 B,
24 June 1902, 4-5 PM"

Sender:

George Martienzen, planter and businessman, who arrived in German East Africa in 1895,
built and managed a rubber plantation, various businesses and a hotel;
subsequently became local national guard leader at Mombo 1913-1917,
and interned by the British at Ahmednagar, India in 1917.

5 Pfennig..
German domestic postcard-rate valid for
mail to & from a German colony.

Postmark: 20mm single-circle dater dial with an obliterator having an integrated 'R' in a series of diagonal lines...
(early trial) lines descended to the right,
(later trial) lines ascended to the right.

Usage: Early Trial.. 28 January – 5 March 1904
(obliterator lines descending)
Later Trial.. 11 March – 21 October 1904
(obliterator lines ascending)



18 MARCH 1904

**View-card, sent to a government-employed teacher
in Kilwa, German East Africa.
24-day transit time.**

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:

**"Dar-Es-Salaam,
8 April 1904"**

"Kilwa, 11 April 1904"

5 Pfennig..

**German domestic postcard-rate
valid for mail to German colonies.**

**Only known 'Rüttger' Machine Postmark
on mail to a German Colony.**

BICKERDIKE

BRAUNSCHWEIG *10 ...

GERMAN SOUTHWEST AFRICA

Postmark: 27mm double-circle dater-dial with 'bridge' & vertical grill along with a 'flag' obliterator having a crown, banner with tassels and postal horn.

Usage: 1 March 1903 – 10 February 1905



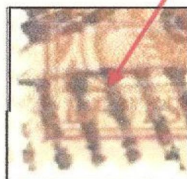
Exp. Jaschke BPP

17 JANUARY 1905

View-card,
sent to a lieutenant serving with the German military in German Southwest Africa
engaged in the revolt of the
Herero Tribe between 20 January 1904 – 31 December 1907.

10 Pfennig ...
UPU International Postcard-Rate.

3 Pfennig value has plate error "DFutsches Reich"



BICKERDIKE

HALLE (Saale) 2h

GERMAN SOUTHWEST AFRICA

Postmark: 26 mm double-circle dater-dial with 'bridge' & vertical grill along with a 'flag' obliterator having a crown, banner with tassels and postal horn.

Usage: 14 June 1903 – 11 April 1905



15 OCTOBER 1904

View-card,
sent to a German naval medical doctor
with the military expedition corps in German Southwest Africa by way of the
Imperial government postal station at Berlin,
re-routed the mail to the Naval Post Office,
Which then forwarded the mail to Okahandja, German Southwest Africa.
28-day transit time.

Arrival Mark (Berlin):
“(Berlin) Post Office 9,
20 October 1904”

Arrival Mark (Africa):
“Okahandja, German Southwest Africa,
17 November 1904”

5 Pfennig..
Domestic postcard-rate for mail sent to German
colonies

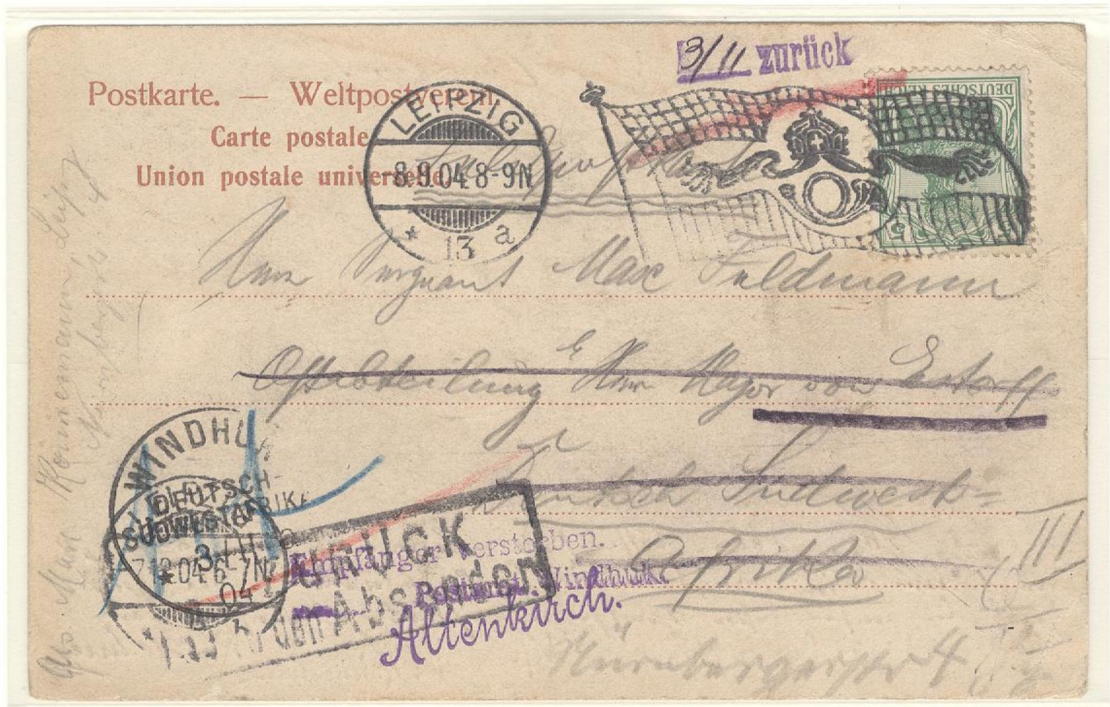
BICKERDIKE

LEIPZIG *13a ...

GERMAN SOUTHWEST AFRICA

Postmark: 24mm double-circle dial with 'bridge' & vertical grill along with a 'flag' obliterator having a crown, banner with tassels and postal horn.

Usage: 25 September 1902 - 22 December 1908



8 AUGUST 1904

View-card,

sent to a sergeant serving with the German forces in German Southwest Africa, engaged in fighting the revolt of the Herero Tribe between 20 January 1904 – 31 December 1907.

Upon arrival at Windhuk,

it was determined that the recipient was deceased and this mail was returned to the sender.

Arrival Postmark (Africa):

"Windhuk, 3 November 1904"

Returned-Mail

Arrival Postmark (Germany):

"Leipzig, 7 December 1904"

Cachet Mark (purple ink):

"Recipient deceased, (signed)
Altenkirch, Post Office Windhuk"

Cachet Mark (black ink):

"Return to Sender"

5 Pfennig...

German domestic postcard-rate
valid for mail to German colonies.

BICKERDIKE

HALLE (Saale) 2h

GERMAN NEW GUINEA

Postmark: 26 mm double-circle date-dial with 'bridge' & vertical grill along with a 'flag' obliterator having a crown, banner with tassels and postal horn.

Usage: 14 June 1903 – 11 April 1905

18 JULY 1903

Bank commercial-mail postcard, sent to "Franz Hellwig" at Peinen on the primary Hermit Island(s), Bismarck Archipelago, German New Guinea. 69+-day transit time.

Transit Postmarks:
"Herbertshöhe.
German New Guinea,
25 September 1903"

"Matupi,
26 September 1903"



29 AUGUST 1904

"Gruss Aus" Halle View-Card, sent to "Franz Hellwig" on Matupi Island, German New Guinea. 71-day transit time.

Arrival Postmark:
"Matupi,
7 November
1904"



5 Pfennig..
Domestic postcard-rate valid
for mail sent to German Colonies.

Franz Emil Hellwig:
Businessman (Hernsheim Company) & ethnologist researcher
who participated in the 'South Seas Expedition of 1908-10'.

BICKERDIKE

BAVARIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

MÜNCHEN 2 B.P. (Munich)

Machine '1' ...

GERMAN SOUTHWEST AFRICA

THE BAVARIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION ACQUIRED TWO BICKERDIKE POSTMARKING MACHINES ...

one in 1905 and a second in 1906.

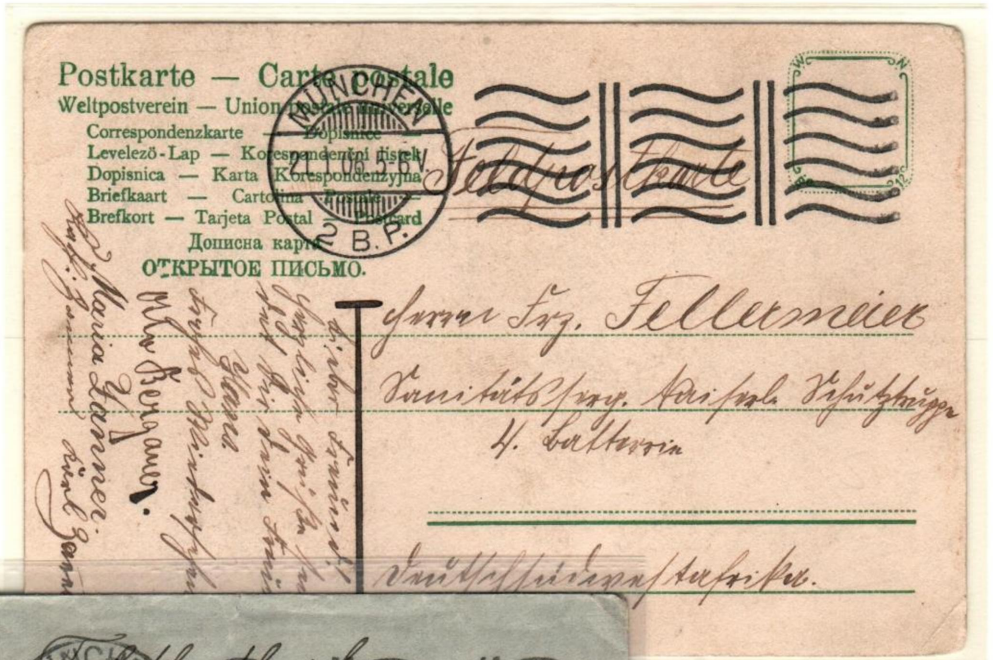
The first machine was in service at 'Munich Post Office 2' while the second was for service at Nuremberg. Both applied postmarks to out-going mail.

Postmark: 27mm double-circle dater-dial with 'bridge' & vertical grill and obliterator having six wavy-lines in three groups separated by two pair of vertical bars.

Usage: 18 February 1905 – 2 September 1907

21 JANUARY 1906

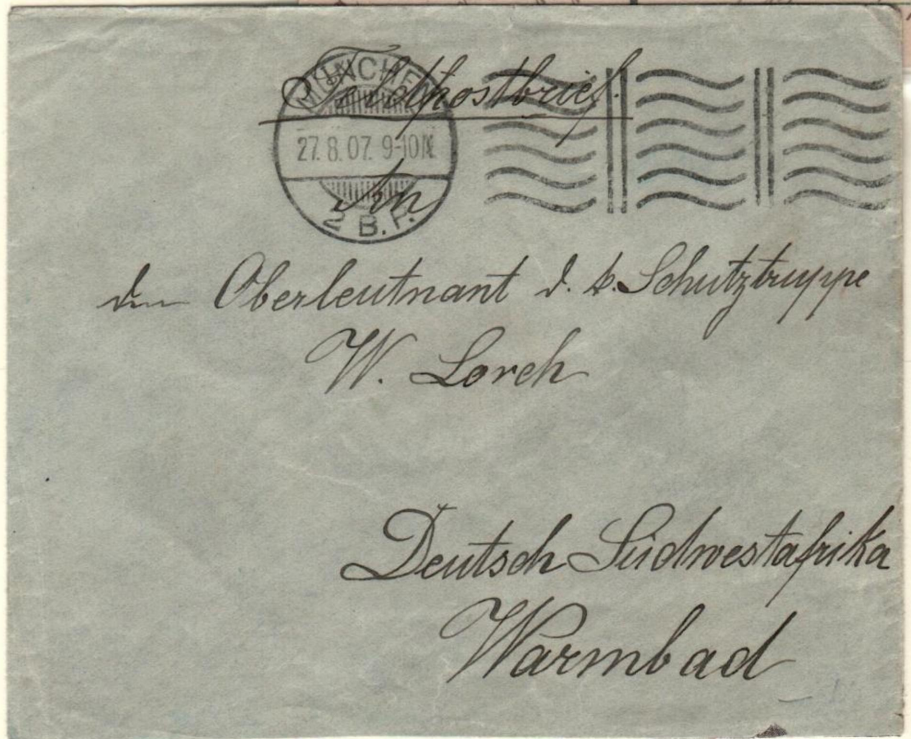
UPU Correspondence Card, postmarked at Munich, sent to a medic serving with the 4th Battery of the Imperial Forces in German Southwest Africa



27 AUGUST 1907

Fieldpost cover, postmarked at Munich, sent to a 1st Lieutenant of the Imperial Forces at Warmbad, German Southwest Africa

Arrival Postmark: (reverse) "Warmbad, German Southwest Africa, 27 September 1907"



BICKERDIKE

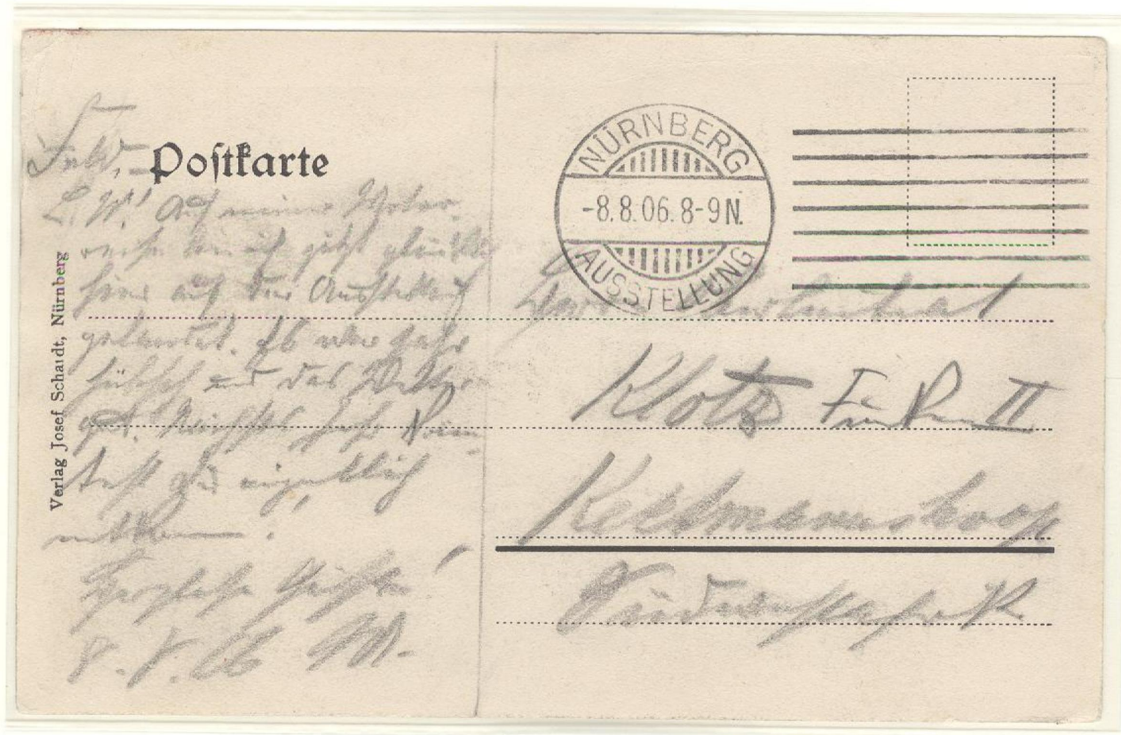
BAVARIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
"NÜRNBERG AUSSTELLUNG"
(Nuremberg Exhibition of 1906)
Machine 2...

GERMAN SOUTHWEST AFRICA

A SECOND 'BICKERDIKE' MACHINE,
purchased by the Bavarian Postal Administration
with operation at Nuremberg,
APPLIED POSTMARKS TO OUT-GOING MAIL AT THE
'NUREMBERG EXHIBITION OF 1906'.

Postmark: 28mm dater-dial with 'bridge' & vertical grill
along with a horizontal seven-line 38mm obliterator.

Usage: 1 May – 30 October 1906



8 AUGUST 1906

'Nuremberg' Viewcard,
sent to a soldier with the Imperial Forces in
German Southwest Africa during the Herero Revolt Period
(1904-1907)

**Free-frank mail to
overseas military personnel.**

BICKERDIKE

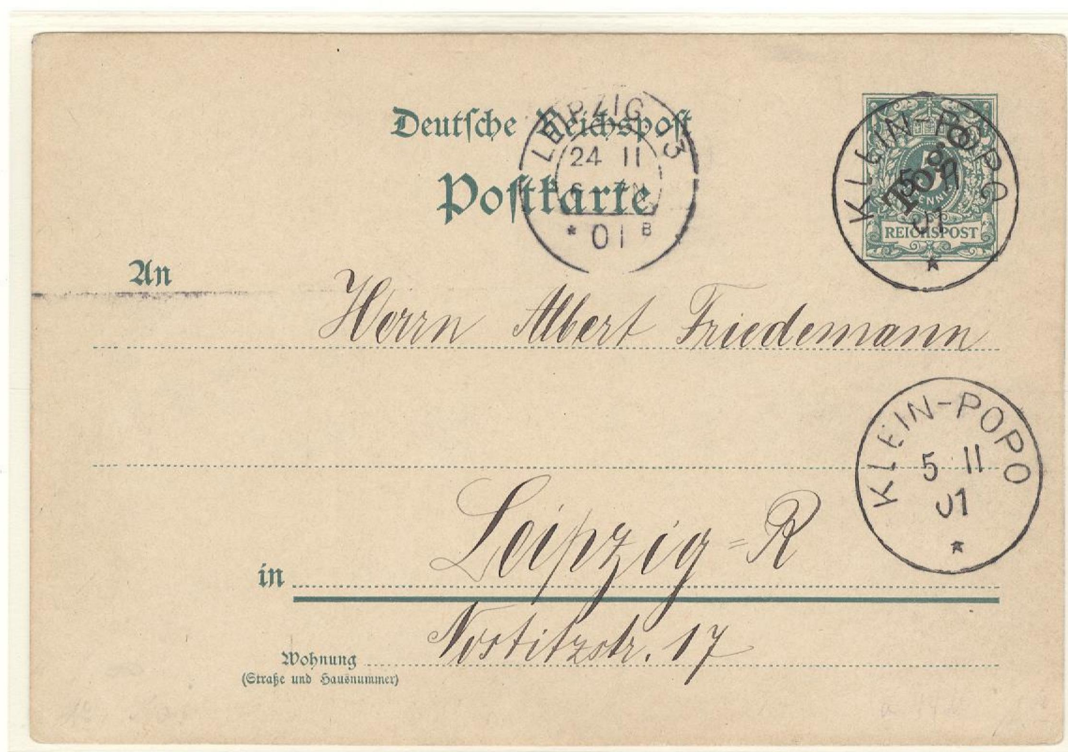
LEIPZIG 13 ...

Arrival/Service Postmark

GERMAN TOGO

Postmark: 24mm single-circle dial with 'horseshoe' or 'arch' within, having the year-date at the bottom of dial between a 'star' & 'b' and without an obliterator combined.

Usage: 6 September 1901 – 12 September 1902



5 NOVEMBER 1901

'Togo' German Colony Postal Stationary Card,
sent from Klein Popo to Leipzig,
where, upon arrival, it received an arrival postmark
applied by an experimental 'Bickerdike' Machine.

Arrival Postmark:
"Leipzig 13 B,
24 November 1901, 9-10 PM"

5 Pfennig..
German domestic postcard-rate valid for
mail to & from a German colony.

BICKERDIKE

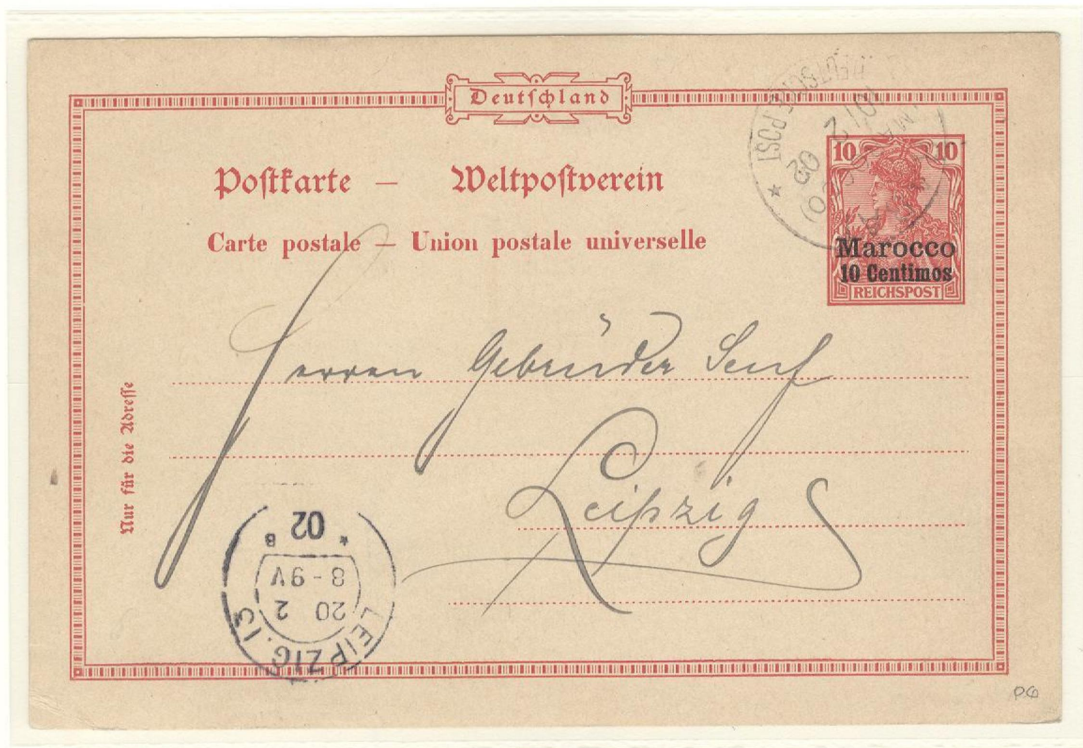
LEIPZIG 13 ...

Arrival/Service Postmark

GERMAN POST OFFICE MOROCCO

Postmark: 24mm single-circle dial with 'horseshoe' or 'arch' within, having the year-date at the bottom of dial between a 'star' & 'b' and without an obliterator combined.

Usage: 6 September 1901 – 12 September 1902



10 FEBRUARY 1902

'Morocco' German Offices UPU Postal Stationary Card, commercial mail, sent from Rabat to Leipzig, where, upon arrival, it received an arrival postmark applied by an experimental 'Bickerdike' Machine.

Arrival Postmark:
"Leipzig 13 B,
20 February 1902, 8-9 AM"

10 day transit time.

10 Centimos..
UPU International Postcard-Rate

