

'Bickerdike' Experimental Machine Postmarks on Mail to the German Colonies

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APS Stampshow 2007

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'BICKERDIKE' EXPERIMENTAL POSTMARKS IN GERMANY 1898 - 1916

In an effort to more effectively handle the postmarking of both out-bound and in-bound mail, the German Postal Services tested or evaluated no fewer than thirteen German or foreign-manufactured postmarking machines between 1898 - 1914. One of those machines tested was the so-called 'Bickerdike' developed by Brooks Young of Montreal, Canada, and manufactured by the 'Canadian Postal Supply Company'.

The first eight machines tested by the German Reichspost were North American-built machines, while subsequent machines would be manufactured under license in Germany by the 'Deutsche Wärfen- und Mäntelmaschinen' of Berlin & Karlsruhe.

The 'Bickerdike' became the first widely used and effective postmarking machine in Germany with forty-one machines having been purchased for use widely in the country. Many of its postmarks are some of the most attractive ever applied by a postmarking machine.



ILLUSTRATION OF THE ELECTRICALLY-OPERATED 'BICKERDIKE' POSTMARKING MACHINE HAVING THE ABILITY TO POSTMARK UP TO ABOUT 1000+ UNITS (HOW AT A COST TO THE REICHSPOST OF 225.00 RM/EACH MACHINE.

BICKERDIKE

1898 - 1901

Berlin C2 - Machine '1'
Postmark Type 3a



REDIRECTED OFFICIAL GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE,
COLONIAL DEPARTMENT, FREE-FRANK MAIL



2 May 1901

Official Government Mail sent from the German Foreign Office, Colonial Department, of Berlin to a customs official at Kiel, Germany, where, upon arrival, it was re-directed to Hamburg.

Receival Postmark: (Reverse)

"Hamburg Emböbel, 3 May 1901, 5-4 PM"

Postmark:

Free-Frank Mail cachet endorsed as 'Reichsdienstsache' (never tell come).

BICKERDIKE 'Chernoff' 1

German Kiautschou, China

Postmark: 24 mm variable-circle date-stamp with bridge and vertical gill along with a Rog' abtillerator having a crown banner with tassels and postal beam-type 1

Usage: 11 July 1903 - 8 March 1904



30 August 1905

"Gust Aus" card sent to a telegraph-supervisor employed with the German Post Office of Tsingtau, Kiautschou, China.

Receival Postmark: "Tsingtau, Kiautschou, 8 October 1905"

Postmark: 3 Hering... Germanic postcard-rate valid for mail to the German colony of Kiautschou.

BICKERDIKE
Halle (Saale) 2h

German East Africa

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

Usage: 14 June 1903 - 11 April 1905

5 March 1904

View-card sent from Halle to a police sergeant affiliated with the German protection forces at Kilwa, German East Africa. 23-day transit time.

Received Mark: "Dar-Es-Salaam, 26 March 1904"

Postmark: 3 Pfennig... Germanic postcard-rate for mail sent to German East Africa.

BICKERDIKE
Braunschweig 11a

German Southwest Africa

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

Usage: 1 March 1903 - 10 February 1905

17 January 1906

View-card sent from Braunschweig, Germany, 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.

Postmark: 10 Pfennig... UPU postcard-rate for avarose-amount mail.

3 Pfennig surcharge plus public stamp "Dahlesches Bismarck".

BICKERDIKE
Halle (Saale) 2h

German Southwest Africa

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

Usage: 14 June 1903 - 11 April 1905

14 October 1904

View-card sent from the City of Halle to a German naval medical doctor with the military expedition corps in German Southwest Africa by way of the imperial governmental post station of Berlin which, upon receipt, routed the mail to the Naval Post Office, which forwarded it to Okavango, German Southwest Africa, 26-day transit time.

Received Mark (Berlin): "Delivered from (Berlin) Post Office 9, 20 October 1904"

Received Mark (Africa): "Okavango, German Southwest Africa, 17 November 1904"

Postmark: 3 Pfennig... Germanic postcard-rate (normal sent to German Southwest Africa).

BICKERDIKE
Leipzig 11a

German Southwest Africa

Postmark: 24mm double-circle dial with 'bridge' and 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 Windhoek, German Southwest Africa, it was determined that the recipient was deceased and the mail was returned to the sender.

Received Postmark (Africa): "Windhoek, 3 November 1904"

Returned-Mail

Received Postmark (Germany): "Leipzig, 7 December 1904"

Catchel Mark (purple ink): "Recipient deceased, (signed) Altenbach, Post Office Windhoek"

Catchel Mark (black ink): "Return to Sender"

Postmark: 3 Pfennig... German domestic postcard-rate applicable for mail to German Southwest Africa.

BICKERDIKE
Halle (Scale) 2h

German New Guinea

Postmark: 28 mm double-circle date-dial with 'bridge' and vertical grill along with a flag obliterator having a crown, banner with tassels and postal horn.

Usage: 14 June 1903 – 11 April 1905



Postkarte — Carte postale
Welpenhorn — Union postale universelle
Lithographie — Lithographie
Karte Lithographie — Lithographie
Erbsen — Post art — Post art
Für die gelbe Papierrolle
Ovalpoststempel 18mm x 25mm

21 August 1904

View card sent from the City of Halle to "Franz Hellwig" of Malupu, German New Guinea. 71-day transit time.

Serial No. Mark: "Malupu, 7 November 1904"

From: Emil Hellwig, Businessman & ethnologist researcher who participated in the "South Seas Expedition of 1903-10".

Postage: 5 Pfennig. Domestic postcard rate valid for mail sent to German Southwest Africa.

BICKERDIKE

SAVARIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
München 2, R.F. (Munich)

German Southwest Africa

Machine: 1' —
Postmark (type): J

THE SAVARIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION PURCHASED TWO BICKERDIKE POSTMARKING MACHINES — one in 1905 and another in 1906. The first machine was sent to Munich Post Office '2' while the second was sent to the Nuremberg Post Office. Both applied postmarks to out-going mail.

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

Usage: 20 February 1905 – 18 July 1907



Postkarte — Carte postale
Welpenhorn — Union postale universelle
Lithographie — Lithographie
Karte Lithographie — Lithographie
Erbsen — Post art — Post art
Für die gelbe Papierrolle
Ovalpoststempel 18mm x 25mm

21 January 1906

Correspondence card sent from Munich to a medic serving with the 4th Battery of the Imperial Forces in German Southwest Africa.

Postage: Reduced free-rate mail during the Herero Revolt/Rebellion.

BICKERDIKE

SAVARIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
Nürnberg Ausstellung
(Nuremberg Exhibition of 1904)

German New Guinea

A BICKERDIKE MACHINE purchased by the Bavarian Postal Administration was operational at the Nuremberg Post Office where it APPLIED POSTMARKS TO OUT-GOING MAIL AT THE NUREMBERG EXHIBITION OF 1904.

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

Usage: 1 May – 30 October 1904



Postkarte
2h

21 July 1904

Exhibition commemorative postcard sent from Nuremberg to "Ernst Heine", Imperial Government Secretary of Hererothöhe, German New Guinea. 75-day transit time!

Received Postmark: "Hererothöhe, German New Guinea, 12 October 1904"

Postage: 10 Pfennig ...
IPU postcard-rate for overseas-bound mail.

BICKERDIKE
LEIPZIG 13

Service/Received Postmark

German Togo

Postmark: 24mm single-circle dial with 'serpentine' or 'arch' within and having the year-date at the bottom of dial between a 'star' & 'B' with an obliterator contained.

Usage: 4 September 1901 – 12 September 1902



Postkarte
2h

3 November 1901

Postal stationery card sent from Klein Papp, German Togo, to Leipzig, where, upon arrival, it received an arrival/received postmark applied by the experimental BickerdiKe Machine operating there.

Received Postmark: "Leipzig 13 8. 24 November 1901, 9-10 PM"

Postage: 5 Pfennig. German domestic postcard rate applicable for mail sent to German Togo.

COLUMBIA
HAMBURG 1904 German Post Office in Turkey

Postmark: 25mm double-ring date dial with a flag design having a 'DK' as the stillstander.
 Usage: 23 April 1904 - 9 January 1907

28 September 1904
 View-card sent from Hamburg to a recipient in Constantinople (now Istanbul) in Turkey. Upon arrival, the mail was transferred from the German Post Office in Constantinople to the local Turkish post office.
 Received Postmark (German Post Office): "Constantinople, 27 September 1904."
 Received Postmark (Turkish Post Office): "Constantinople 3, 27 September 1904"
 Postmark: 10 Pfennig ... (UPJ postcard-rate for overseas-bound mail)

RÜTTGER
BERLIN, G.2. German East Africa

Postmark: 25mm single-circle date dial with an stillstander having an integrated 'R' in a series of diagonal lines... (early 1904) then descendered to the right. (later 1904) lines extended to the right.

Usage: Early 1904: 28 January - 8 March 1904 (oblique lines descending)
 Later 1904: 11 March - 21 October 1904 (oblique lines ascending)

Postkarte - Carte postale
 Wertpostkarte - Value postage stamp
 Compensation - Dime per 100 marks
 Lübeck-Leg - Kampenburgen 14 Pf.
 Bremen - Köln 10 Pf.
 Berlin - Leipzig - Frankfurt 2-3 Pf.
 Tübingen - Straßburg
 (GERMAN POST OFFICES)

11 March 1904
 View-card, postmarked at Berlin, sent to Kilwa, German East Africa, 24-day transit time.
 Transit & Arrival Postmarks:
 "Dol-E-Saleem, 8 April 1904"
 "Kilwa, 11 April 1904"
 Only known "Rüttger" Machine Postmark on Mail to a German Colony.
 Postmark:
 5 Pfennig.
 German domestic postcard rate, valid for mail to German colonies.