

KATALOG der Freistempel mit maritimem Bezug

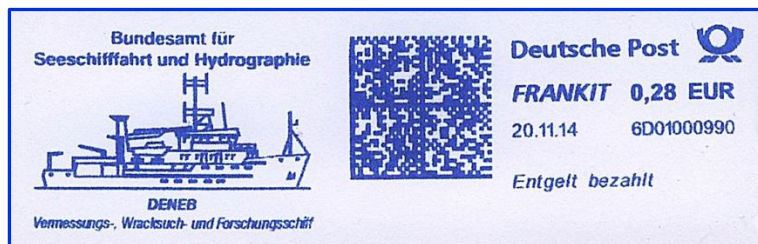
CATALOGUE

Maritime Meter Franks (AFS)

Jos Wessels

in cooperation with Rainer Theobald (former editor)

H. Fabian † / I. Maahz † / U. Tesch † / P. Warneke †



Fifth expanded and revised edition 2024

© Jos Wessels, Lienden (NL), Mail: jos.wessels@online.nl / Rainer Theobald, Vellmar (D)

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FOREWORD to the fifth edition, September 2024

The CD **catalogue of maritime meter franks** (Absender Freistempel, AFS) was first published in 2007 by S.M.S. NAVICULA e.V. as work of the four active members Hans Fabian (†), Ingo Maahz (†), Uwe Tesch (†) and Peter Warneke (†) and further additional work of co-workers, who cannot be named all by name. This first edition showed 1790 meter franks in b/w. Thus, the thematic philatelist with a focus on ships and seafaring was offered the opportunity to be fully oriented in this area. With this catalogue, the collector of maritime themes receives an overview of the many different topics that are depicted on the meter franks. Only letters and copies with AFS enable the detailed description and treatment of the development, the progress and also the changes in the navigation, shipping and in the maritime trade. They bring back memories and give insights into shipbuilding and shipyards, supply industry, ship types, shipping companies and shipping lines, in marine and naval concepts, port operations and maritime services in logistics and trade.

The **2nd edition** was published by Rainer Theobald in April 2018 after a break of more than 10 years and supplemented by 1,720 meter franks (AFS) in colour. The previous numbering system was retained and the numbering of the newly added AFS was seamlessly connected to the existing numbers. The 2nd edition thus contained over 3,500 images of postmarks.

Rainer's decision to publish a **3rd edition** in September 2019 was made soon after contacting the Dutch collector friend and philatelist Jos Wessels. By providing more than 450 documents and scans, he played an important role in the rapid publication of the next version of the catalogue, expanded by around 750 colour illustrations. Jos Wessels also participated intensively in the editorial work and was involved in editing tasks. The third edition comprised around 4,250 meter franks (AFS) shown.

The **4th edition** of the CD catalogue contained around 1,290 further additional images which brought the total to approx. 5,550 illustrated meter franks (AFS) with thematic maritime reference. Jos Wessels again provided images of meter franks (focus: European countries) and participated in the editorial work. Many thanks are due to the shipbuilding engineer Vitaly Fugalewitsch (90), who willingly entrusted the editor with his meter frank collection, which has been created in more than 50 years, together with many historical documents. Shipping companies and shipyards, expired or liquidated long ago and perhaps already forgotten, can so be brought back to mind. In this edition, too, as in the previous editions, a number of b / w illustrations were exchanged and replaced by better ones. The structure of the files was completely revised without changing the previous numbering.

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After the publishing 4th edition, Rainer Theobald decided to withdraw from the publication of the meter frank catalogue and suggested that Jos Wessels would take over the work as editor. There were still many nautical meter franks that could be added, so this offer was accepted. This resulted in the current, **5th, edition**, with now more than 6300 depicted franks. Also the content was streamlined – all items are now ordered by country / city / company / year (no longer with newly added franks in a different chapter). The reader is encouraged to report any addition or correction to the editor.

Another addition is Chapter 10 Index, an Excel sheet with all data of the depicted franks. This enables the user to search or filter on specific words so that he can easily find all franks related to a specific company, ship type or item.

New with this edition is the distribution of the catalogue via the internet avoiding costs and work for burning and mailing CDs. It was decided to make the catalogue available for free – also with idea that a free catalogue can increase the interest in (maritime) meter franks. Note: the catalogue is only free for personal use; it may not be sold or distributed in any other way. See the Copyright notice.

Lienden (NL) September 2024

Jos Wessels

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About the authors:

Jos Wessels (born 1951) has a fascination for ships since his youth, no wonder in a land of seamen. May be too because he had a sailing-boat when he was young. Jos Wessels began collecting ships on stamps around 1980 and did not find it really satisfying to just plug them into albums, and thus it came to a deeper understanding of naval themes. This led first to the elaboration of a thematic exhibition collection, titled "The Blue Riband of the Atlantic". The exhibition rules require versatility in the document types, so he started collecting of postal stationary, ship mail and not least to the meter franks; frankeerstempels, as they are called in the Netherlands. A focus lies on meter franks with identifiable vessels, but he also collects meters from shipping companies, shipyards, marine equipment (such as anchors, ropes), lighthouses and navigation equipment; just "anything that floats" or serves seafaring. Jos Wessels is a member of the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Thematische Filatelie (NVTF) and of Frankeerstempel.nl -a society of collectors of meter franks-. He was a member of the Arge SMS Navicula e.V. and of the Ships on Stamps Society (SSS) – both dissolved now.

Rainer Theobald (born 1944) has been collecting stamps and philatelic documents since 1976, especially Scandinavia and Germany. Since the mid-80s, maritime themes have become the focus of his collecting activities. The interest in seafaring and shipping arose at a young age due to many trips to Scandinavia using numerous ferries. For some time his professional activities included the safety standardization of navigation devices and electrically operated navigation signs with corresponding contacts with the authorities. Several years before his foreseeable retirement, he took his licenses for boat driving in inland waters and on sea, as well as the relevant licenses for radio communication and was an active motor yacht sportsman. Since 1993, he has been interested exclusively in maritime topics. At the end of 2017 he completed a comprehensive thematic collection entitled "History of Maritime Seafaring", ending with the description of the "Specialization at Sea" and the "Current Conception of the German Navy". R. Theobald is a member of the Working Group 'Shipmail' and member in the Association of German Philatelists (BDPh) and was also a member of the dissolved Arge SMS Navicula e.V..

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CONTENTS

The catalogue consists of the following files in PDF format, which can be easily opened with WINDOWS 97 through WINDOWS 11:

- 00 Title, Foreword, Contents and Introduction
- 01A Meter franks (AFS) Germany Part 1 (Aachen to Halle) on 349 pages.
- 01B Meter franks (AFS) Germany Part 2 (Hamburg) on 336 pages.
- 01C Meter franks (AFS) Germany Part 2 (Hameln to Zeitz) on 353 pages.
- 02 Indication of postal locations (local cancellation) for AFS Germany.
- 03A Meter franks (AFS) Europe Part 1(Belgium to Monaco) on 255 pages.
- 03B Meter franks (AFS) Europe Part 2(Niederlande to Cyprus) on 298 pages.
- 04 Indication of postal locations (local cancellation) for AFS Europe.
- 05 Meter franks (AFS) Overseas, divided into Africa, North-, Central- and South America, Asia and Australia and below each, their states on 70 pages.
- 06 Indication of postal locations (local cancellation) for AFS Overseas.
- 07 Annex Tables, selected motifs in good graphic and vivid design: Germany, Europe and Overseas (only for edition 2021)
- 08 A F S, introductory essay by Wolfgang Ehrhardt, in German language
- 09 Rating of meter franks (AFS) in the trade, in German language
- 10 Index, Excel sheet with information of all depicted francs, enabling easy search for specific items

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Introduction

The arrangement of the illustrations is done in alphabetical order according to postal locations (local stamp) and also within the postal address then the sender from A to Z. Within the sender the illustrations are in chronological order. At meter franks (AFS) Europe and overseas, the abbreviation of the country name (vehicle license plate number) is the first alphabetical sorting criterion. After the illustration, two-line information on labelling (numbering) and description follows.

Example:



Bremen H Haeger & Schmidt, Spedition Logo: Schiff am Ladekai
NAV-D-B 374 (occasionally further information, such as stamp variants or company purpose)

Line 1: Postal location (+ perhaps sorting-letter), name of company or organization, logo description: ship at a loading quay

Line 2: Catalogue-no.; occasionally further explanations

NB on some stamps you will find an indication such as HB 30/23. This refers to the *Handbuch der maritimen Freistempel* published by Navicula with more information about the ships depicted. Unfortunately, this book is no longer available due to the dissolution of Navicula.