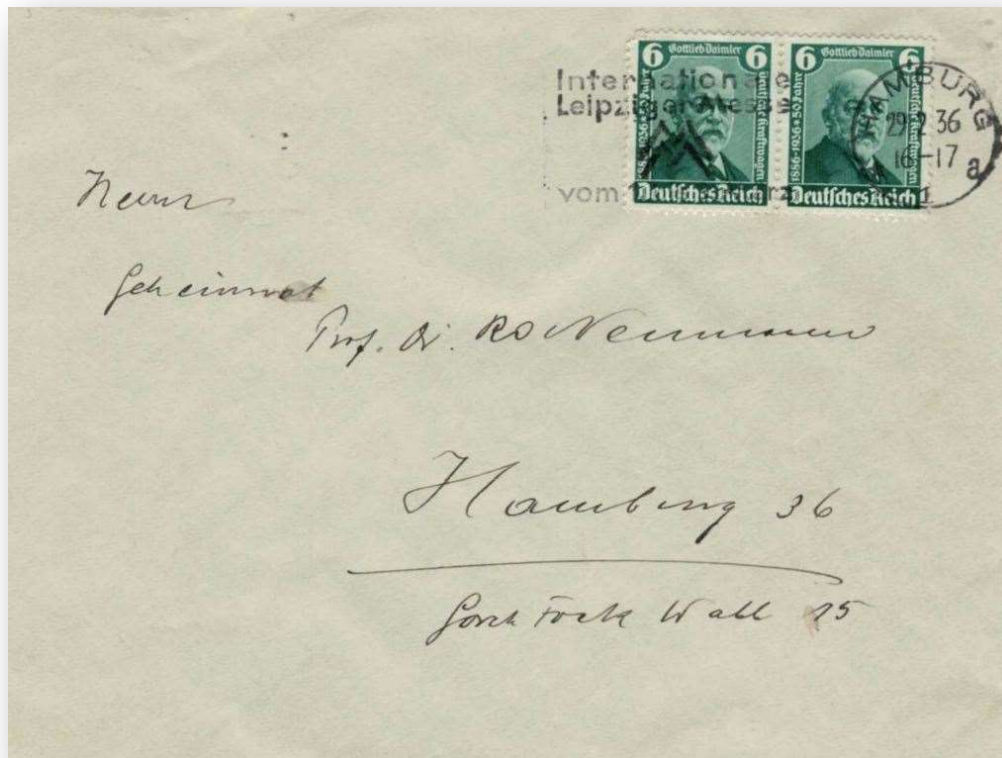


Rudolf Otto Neumann

As it often happens, fate did not mean well for Rudolf Neumann, who was born in Saxony in 1868. He grew up in a poor family, but his father sharpened his powers of observation for nature. As a teenager, he worked for several years as a pharmacist's assistant in various German cities. This is how the boy gains access to the universities of Greifswald and Leipzig - today we would say - through a second-chance education. In 1893 he passed the state examination and in 1894 he received his doctorate with distinction from the University of Erlangen.



In 1895, the young Neumann joined Karl Bernhard Lehmann at the University of Würzburg as an assistant, later as an assistant. One year later they jointly published "Atlas und Grundriss der Bakteriologie", Lehmann writing, Neumann drawing. In 1898, he took his Abitur and received his doctorate in medicine in 1899. As early as 1904 he was able to take part in a research trip to Brazil by the Hamburg Tropical Institute. Together with Martin Mayer, he published the "Atlas und Lehrbuch wichtiger tierischer Parasiten und ihrer Überträger mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Tropenpathologie" in 1914. Mayer writes, Neumann makes 1300 drawings. From 1912 he studies rabies infections. As director of the Hygiene Institute of the University of Bonn, he undertakes a research trip to East Africa in 1914, which, however, has to be aborted due to the onset of hostilities. During the First World War, he is stationed in Allenstein on a wartime mission in the field of "hygiene". In 1923 he became a member of the Reich Health Council and moved to the Hygiene Institute in Hamburg, ending his work in 1937 for reasons of age. As his successor was called up for military service, Neumann returned to the Institute between 1940 and 1943.

The local letter from 1896 could not be used in a philatelic competition unless comparisons were made with personalities such as Gottlieb Daimler.

Further reading: Holm-Jürgen Schwarz 1999: Rudolf Otto Neumann - Neue Deutsche Biographie.