

## Archive for Molluscology

Actually, there is not much to write about this cover, if one respected the regulations for thematic philately: A letter of the German Reich, mailed on 14.9.1923 from Frankfurt am Main. It is a machine cancel, the letter was fed to the cancellation in a 90° twist, so the printed return address has been preserved quite nicely. It was franked with 75,000 Marks - there is no arrival postmark.

From the 1922 membership directory, we can see that the recipient was a Dr. K. Singer, a railroad doctor in Aschaffenburg. But now we want to know something about the "Archiv für Molluskenkunde": it is the journal of the German Malacozoological Society, which was published for the first time in 1868. The journal was introduced at that time as follows: The present journal is to be sent to a larger number of specialists... We can see from this sentence that at that time mollusc research was firmly in the hands of the male world. The malacologists deal with the molluscs (Mollusca, vulgo snails), including cephalopods, as well as bivalves or nudibranchs. The number of species of "snails" varies from 50,000 to 150,000, depending on the author - we can see that the door is still open to research today and suspect that species become extinct before they are described.



In 1936, the editors place themselves in the legal hands of the "Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung" (SGN) in order to escape the influence of the National Socialists. Today, the SGN operates museums in Frankfurt/Main, Dresden and Görlitz. The SGN was particularly promoted through the foundation of Arthur von Weinberg, who was the elected director of the SGN from 1909. He was persecuted by the Nazis, expropriated and died in the Theresienstadt concentration camp on March 20, 1943.

Further reading: Wikipedia: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senckenberg\\_Gesellschaft\\_f%C3%BCr\\_Naturforschung](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senckenberg_Gesellschaft_f%C3%BCr_Naturforschung)