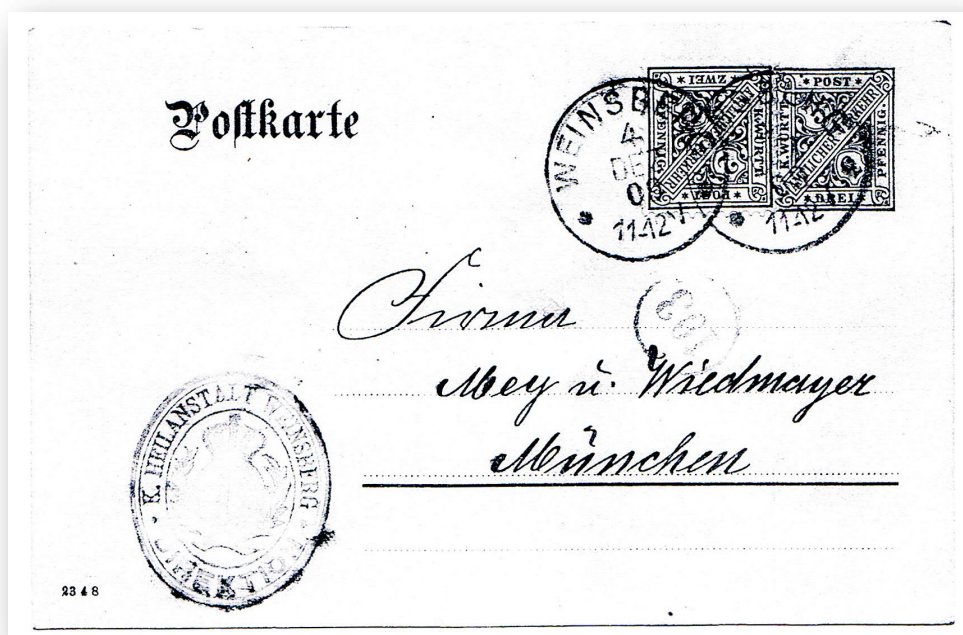


Royal sanatorium Weinsberg

The postcard shown with the postmark Weinsberg 4 Dec. 09, addressed to the firm Mey und Wiedmayer in Munich with "Bitte um zügige Zusendung Ihres Kataloges für Laubsägearbeiten" bears the sender's postmark "K. Heilanstalt Weinsberg Direktion". Actually, the card was intended for my thematic collection "Plants of the Bible" (wine), but the sender's postmark made me curious. My research revealed:



In Württemberg at the end of the 19th century, the four state sanatoriums for the mentally ill were overcrowded. Since there was no "insane asylum" in northern Württemberg, a suitable property was found in the Weißenhof state domain, only two km from Weinsberg railway station and six km from Heilbronn. On 6 July 1899, the Chamber of Deputies approved three million marks for the construction of the asylum. Construction began in the autumn of 1900, and in November 1903 the first patients were able to move into the asylum, which was originally designed for 500 patients and then expanded to 550. In 1905, the asylum was fully occupied.

During the Third Reich, patients from Weinsberg were also taken to the euthanasia institution Schloß Grafeneck (Action T 4), where they were murdered. Later, the Weinsberg sanatorium was assigned to the Hadamar asylum as an intermediate station; this means that mental patients earmarked for killing were collected in the Weinsberg asylum and then taken to Hadamar. From January 1940 to the end of 1941, a total of 908 patients, 426 from Weinsberg and 482 from other asylums, were sent from Weinsberg to the extermination centers.

Towards the end of the war, the Weinsberg sanatorium was converted (thanks to the freed-up capacity) into an emergency hospital and a replacement for the destroyed Heilbronn hospital.

Literature: Wikipedia
Internet portal of the city of Weinsberg