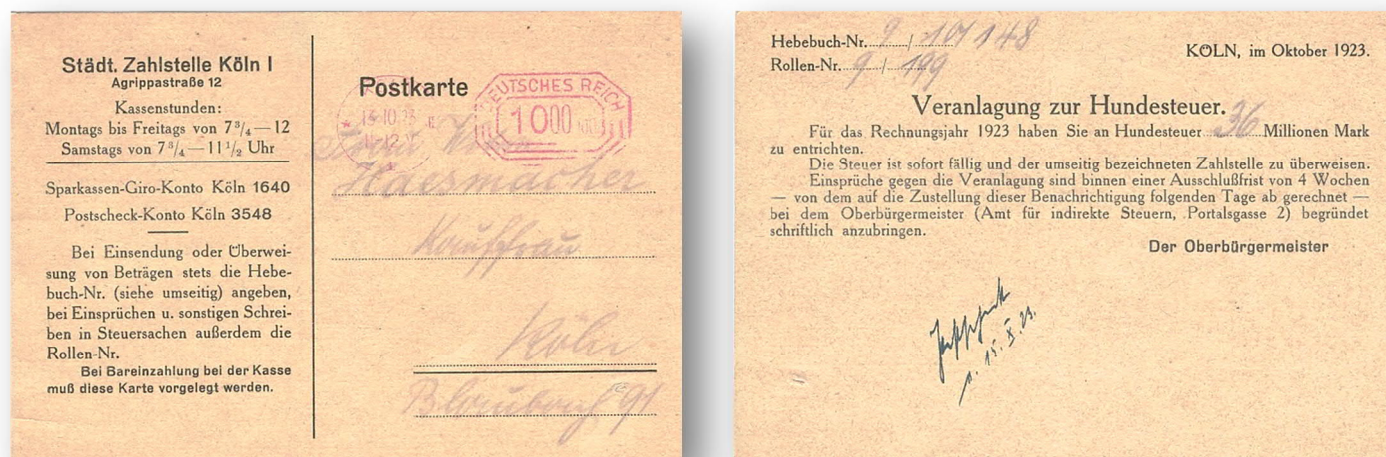


Would you like to have a dog?

Those who occupy themselves with stamps usually do too little physical exercise. Whereby one should distinguish movements: sport is not to be compared with walking, and this kind of movement - mostly in nature - not with the fine motor skills when holding a pair of tweezers or even the movements in the brain when the philatelist thinks about the classification of a stamp in his collection. To do more physical exercise, the acquisition of a dog is often advised. Besides, a dog is said to be man's best friend; unfortunately, a dog's life is shorter than a human life and so one must keep several dogs in succession in order to always have a good friend around.



Let us now go on a philatelic time travel - back to the year 1923 - in October there was galloping hyperinflation in Germany. There were not yet shelves with dozens of different cans of dog food in the stores, and veterinarians were also scarce. People in Germany had other worries. What worked was the administration: for a dog - just like today - a tax had to be paid [the dog tax is a municipal tax and some municipalities today waive its collection if the dog owner visits a dog school with his four-legged friend - evil tongues claim that there mainly the dog owner would be trained]. In any case, the postage for the Cologne local card to the widow Haesmacher of 14.10.1923 cost one million marks and the dog tax demanded by notice 36 million marks. Objections could be submitted to the Lord Mayor within 4 weeks. By the end of November 1923, however, the postage would have cost 100 billion marks.

Further reading: Inflation in Frag Menta! a section on Wibellose.at