The Saarland as a Collecting Area: A Brief Historical Overview

After the end of World War I, as a result of the Treaty of Versailles, in 1920 the Saar region was separated from the German Empire and placed under the mandate administration of the League of Nations for 15 years. In 1921, the French Franc was introduced as the legal tender, initially alongside the Reichsmark, and from 1921 onward as the sole currency. In the mandate territory, its own postage stamps were issued.

The mandate territory encompassed areas that had previously been under Prussian administration (the industrial center). However, it also included areas that had previously belonged to the Bavarian territory as part of the Palatinate region (residential areas of the industrial center workforce). This is the reason why the provisional overprint stamps of the Saar region in 1920 partially relied on Bavarian stamps, in addition to the Germania-issues of the German Empire.

According to the Treaty of Versailles, a plebiscite on the future status of the Saar region after the expiration of the 15-year mandate administration by the League of Nations was held on January 13, 1935. In this plebiscite, 90.7 percent of the voters voted in favor of the Saar region's return to the German Empire. This took effect on March 1, 1935, and from that point onwards, no further Saar postage stamps were issued – at least initially.

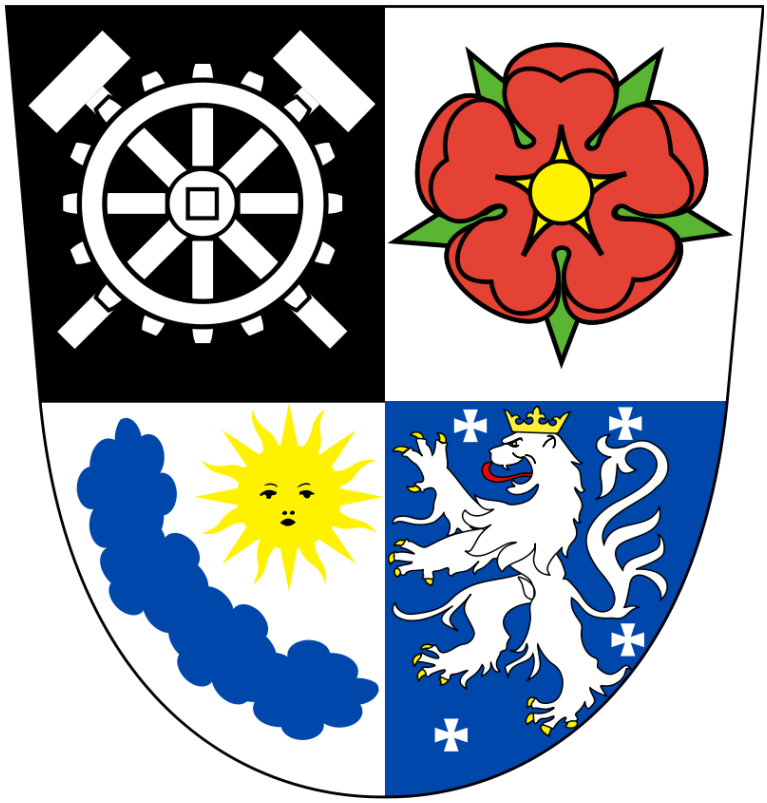
After the end of World War II, along with Baden, Wuerttemberg-Hohenzollern, Rhineland, Palatinate (both then merged to Rhineland-Palatinate), the Saar region initially belonged to the French occupation zone and was therefore under the joint authority of the four Allied occupying powers. Initially, joint postage stamps were issued for the entire French occupation zone.

In January 1946, the Saarland was removed from the jurisdiction of the Allied Control Council and placed under sole French administration. In 1947, France introduced an own constitution for the region and an own nationality for its inhabitants. On June 16, 1947, the Saar-Mark was introduced as legal tender, which was replaced by the French Franc on November 20, 1947. This necessitated the issuance of separate postage stamps for the Saar region once again. The diverse definitive stamp series depicting laborers and views of the Saarland in the Mark currency, with first and second printings and additional overprints of new denominations in Franc, resulted from these rapid currency conversions.

On October 23, 1955, a popular vote was held to determine whether the Saarland should obtain a European status in the future. This proposal, based on an agreement between the West German and the French government, was rejected by 67.7 percent of the Saarland's voters. As a result, the French government agreed to the Saarland's accession to the Federal Republic of Germany, which took effect on January 1, 1957. However, until July 6, 1959, the French Franc remained the legal tender in the Saarland. During this transitional period, separate postage stamps in Franc currency were issued by the German Federal Post (Deutsche Bundespost) for the Saarland. With the introduction of the Deutsche Mark in the Saarland, there was no longer a need for separate Saarland postage stamps.

The postage stamps of the Saarland often exhibit a wide range of varieties or errors in perforation, paper, printing types, overprints, and colors. This album text can only provide a general overview of this collecting area.

Saar

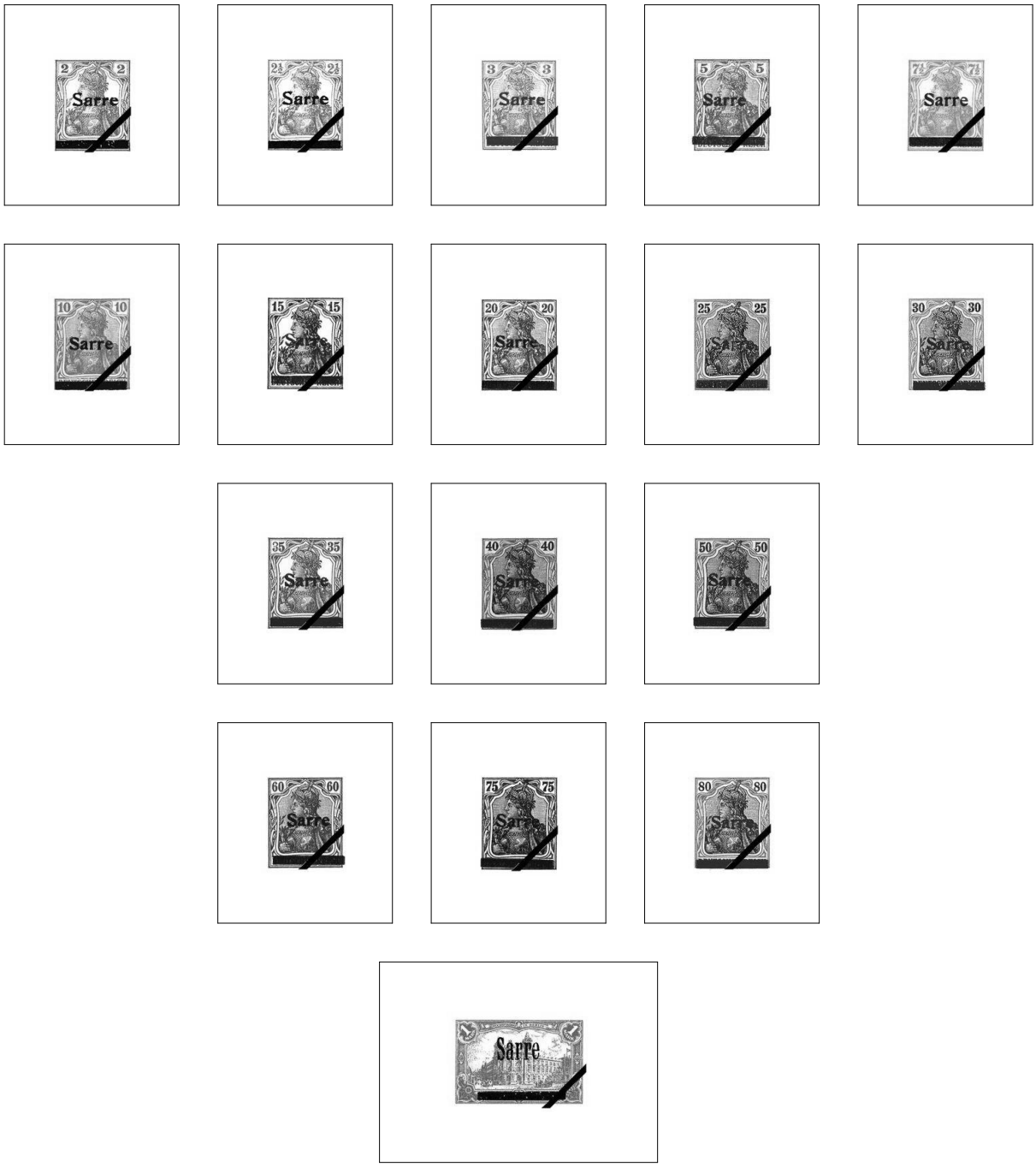


Coat of Arms of Saar
as League of Nations Mandate Territory
1920 to 1935

Saar

1920

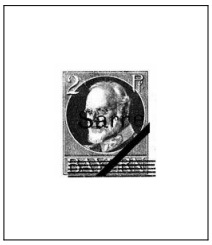
Germania Issue of German Empire, Overprint 'Sarre' and Bar



Saar

1920

Ludwig III Issues of Bavaria, Overprint 'Sarre' and Lines



no regular over-the-counter sales



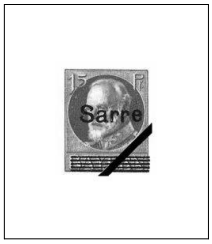
no regular over-the-counter sales





no regular over-the-counter sales

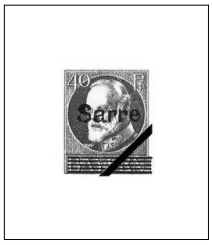




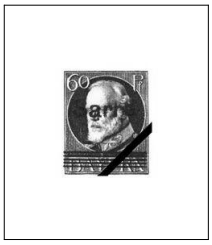


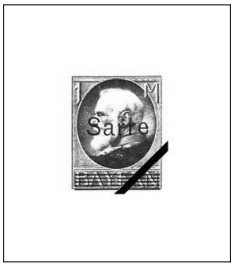


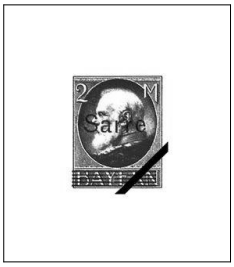


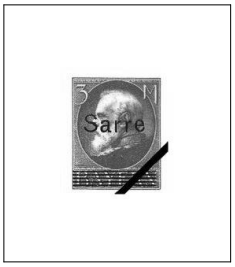


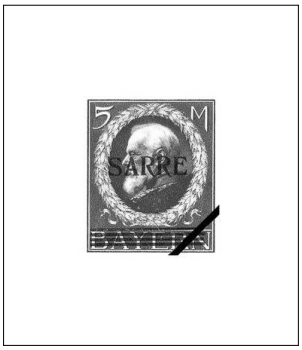


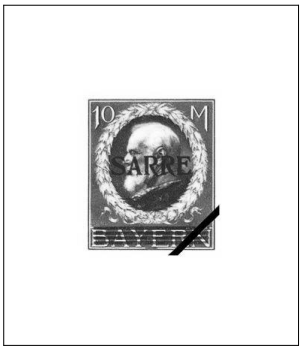


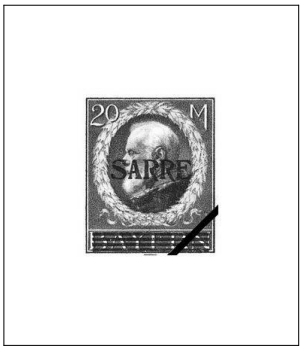












no regular over-the-counter sales

Saar

1920

Germania Issues of German Empire, Overprint 'Saargebiet'


green


carmine




ultramarine

















Germania Issues (Additional Values), Overprint 'Saargebiet'


brown


orange


green







Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

Saar

1921

Landscapes, Mark Currency









olive/brown-gray



green/grey

























Germania Issues, Overprint 'Saargebiet,'
Coat of Arms, and New Denominations in Pfennig and Mark







Saar

1921

Landscapes in Mark Currency, Overprint of New Face Value in Franc Currency





























Saar

1922/1923

Landscapes in Franc Currency







deep brown



orange



dark blue/lemon



bright blue/straw



red/yellow



magenta/straw









deep green/straw



black/straw







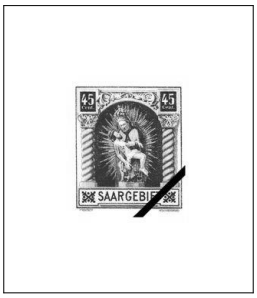


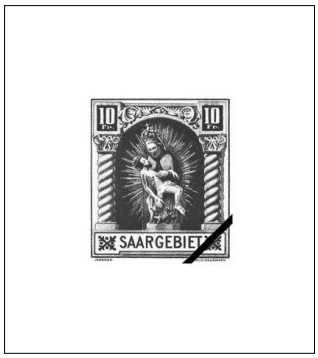


Saar

1925

Madonna of Blieskastel



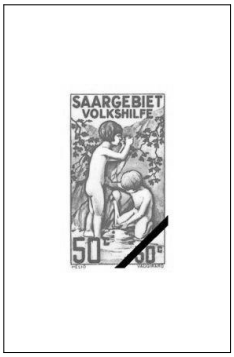


1926

Charity Stamps: Help and Support for Those in Need



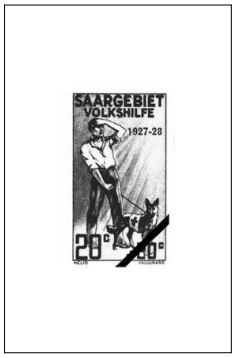






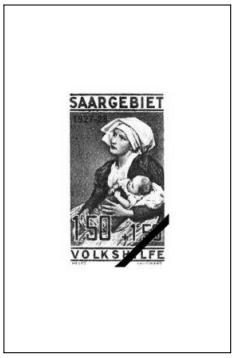
1927

Charity Stamps of 1926 with Overprint '1927 - 28'









Saar

1926/1934

Landscapes in New Design, Some with Overprint of New Face Value

































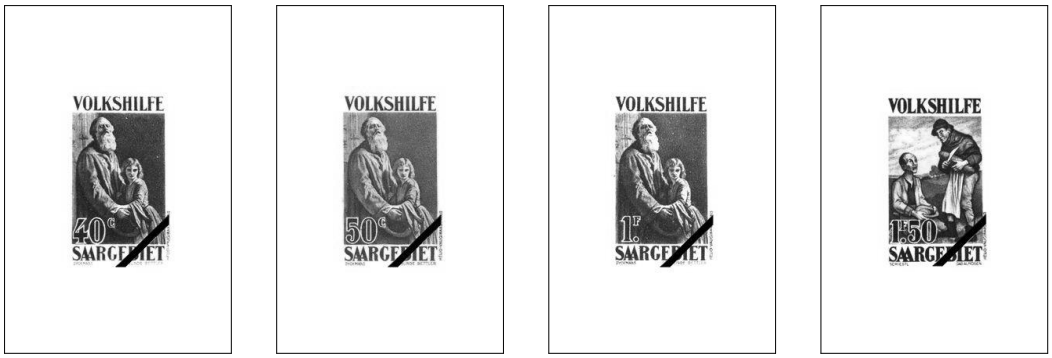


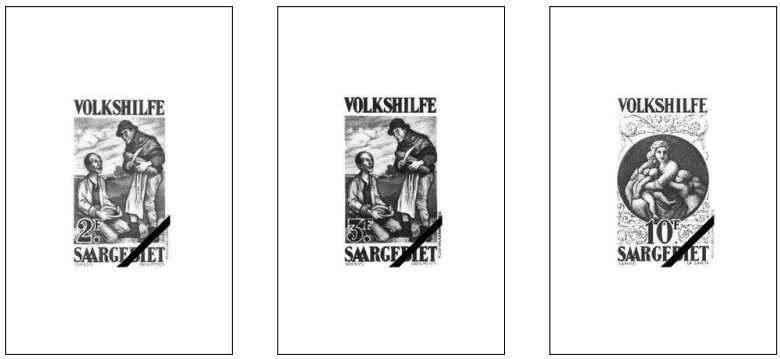


Saar

1928

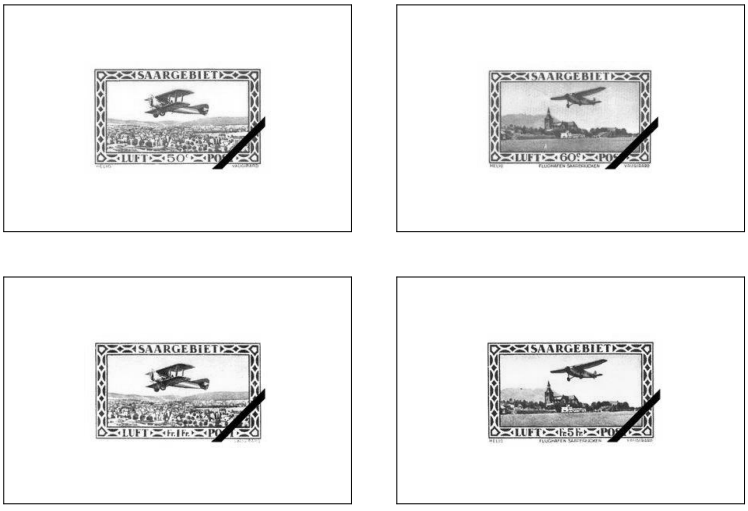
Cherity Stamps: Paintings (I)





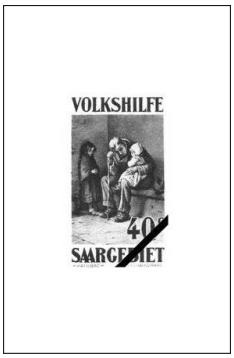
1928/1932

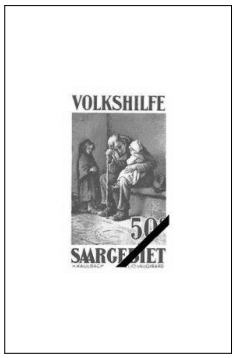
Air Mail Stamps

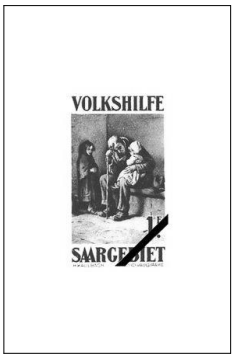


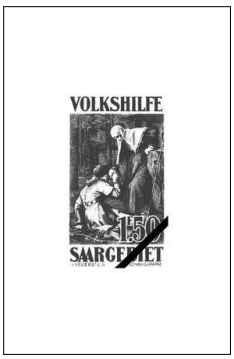
1929

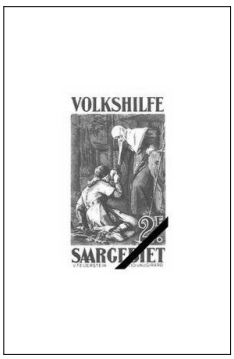
Cherity Stamps: Paintings (II)

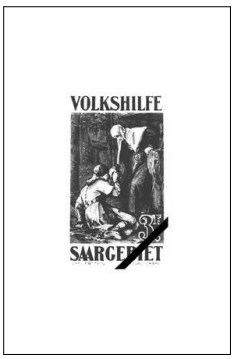


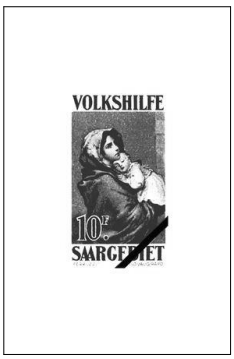






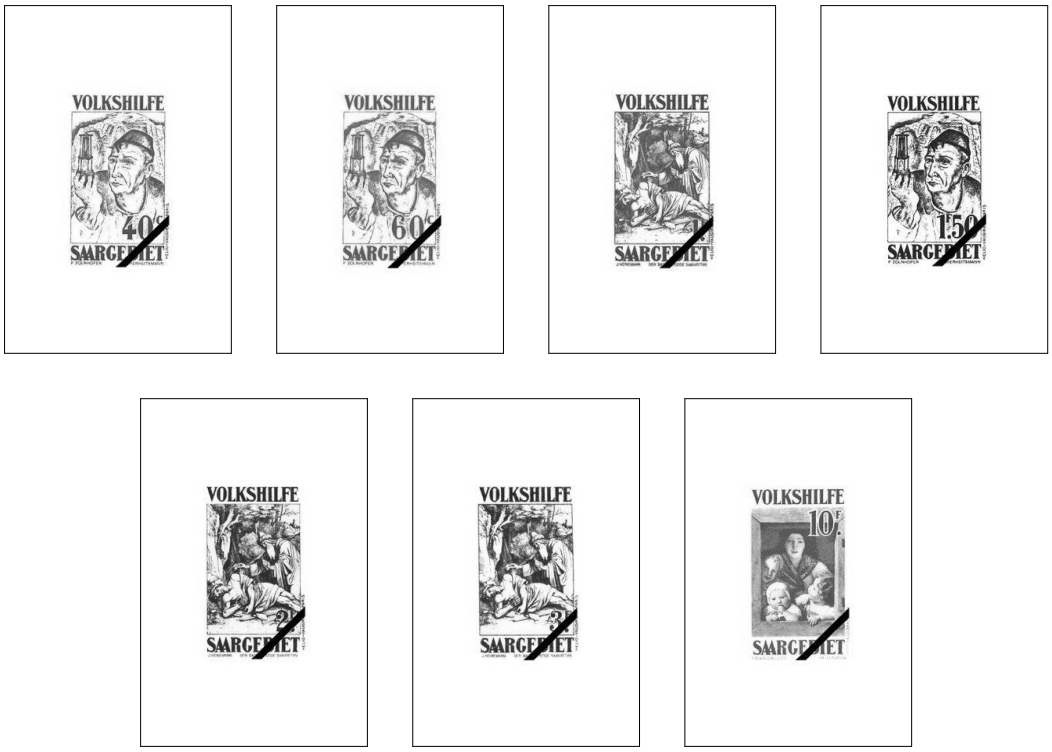






1931

Cherity Stamps: Paintings (III)



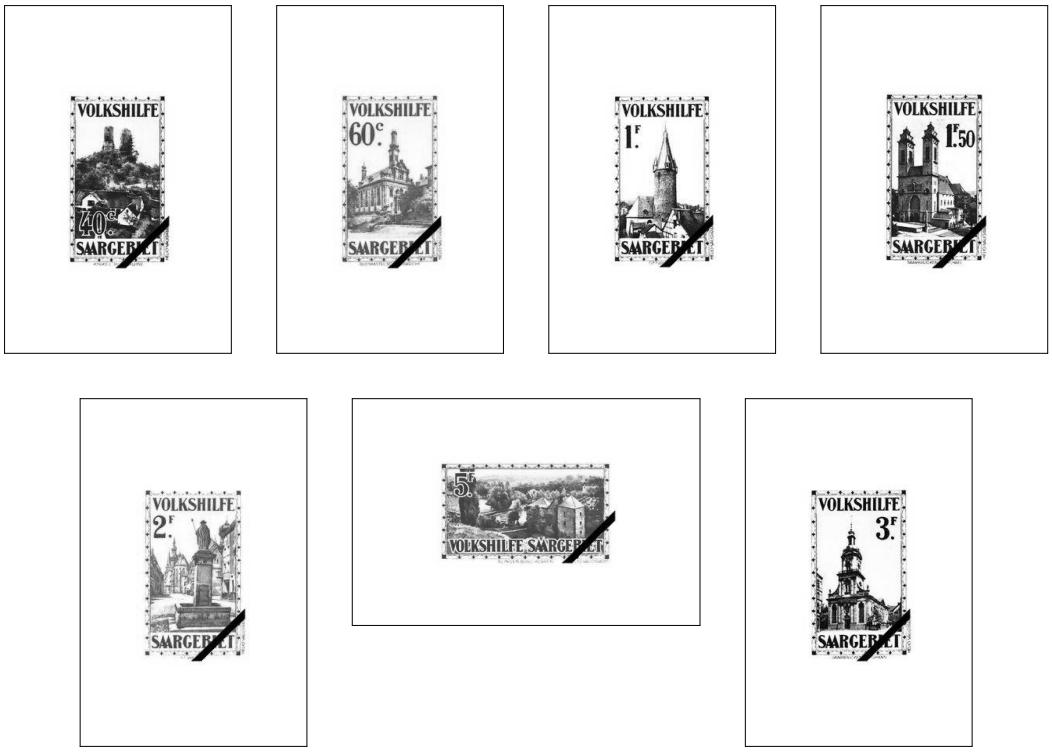
Cherity Stamps: Paintings (IV)



Saar

1932

Charity Stamps: Castles and Churches



1933

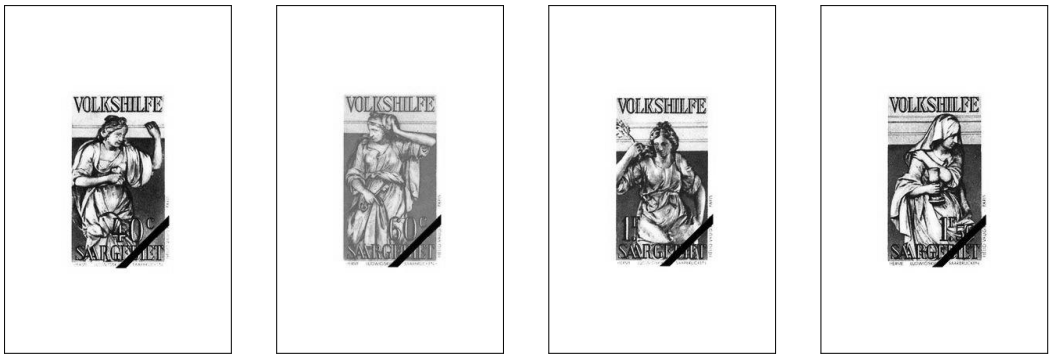
Charity Stamps: Aid to the Victims
of Neunkirchen Explosion Desaster

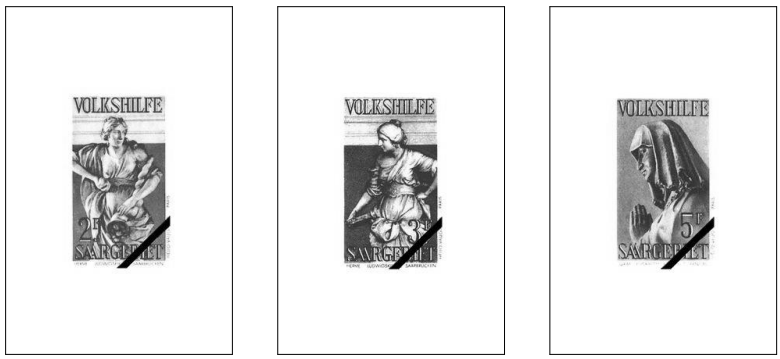


Saar

1934

Charity Stamps: Statues from Saarbruecken Churches





Air Mail Stamps, Overprint 'VOLKSABSTIMMUNG 1935'



Saar

1934

Landscape Issues in New Design and Maria Issue, Overprint 'VOLKSABSTIMMUNG 1935'





























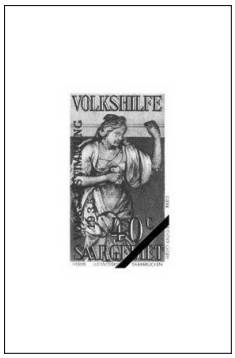


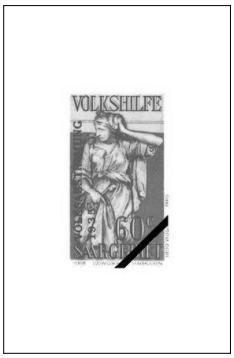


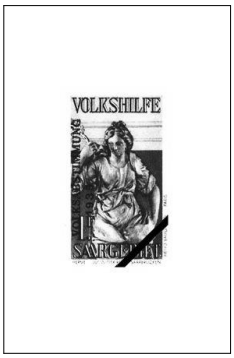
Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

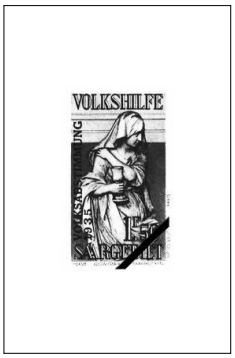
1934

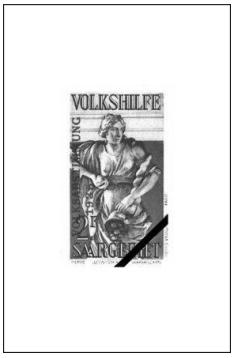
Statues from Saarbruecken Churches, Overprint 'VOLKSABSTIMMUNG 1935'

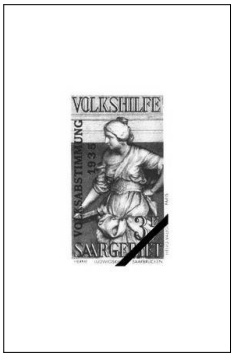


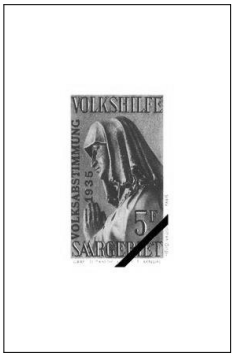












Saar

Official Stamps

1922/1923

Landscapes (First Design, French Currency), Diagonal Overprint 'DIENSTMARKE'









deep brown



orange



dark blue/lemon



bright blue/straw



red/yellow



magenta/straw









deep green/straw



black/straw



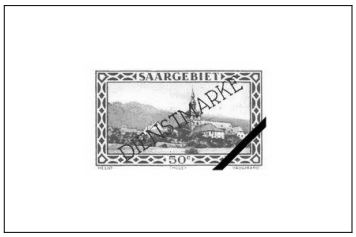
Saar

Official Stamps

1927

Landscapes (New Design), Steep Overprint 'DIENSTMARKE'













Saar

Official Stamps

1929/1934

Landscapes (New Design), Diagonal Overprint 'DIENSTMARKE'















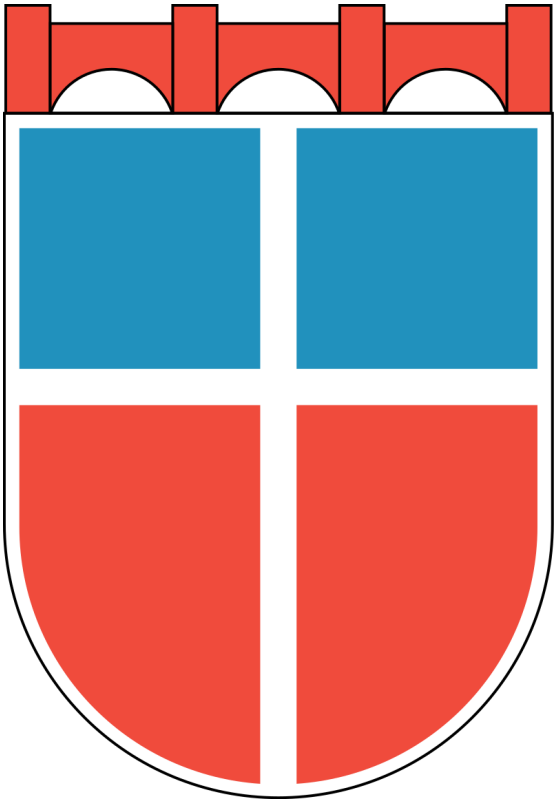








Saar



Coat of Arms of Saar
under French Administration
1947 to 1956

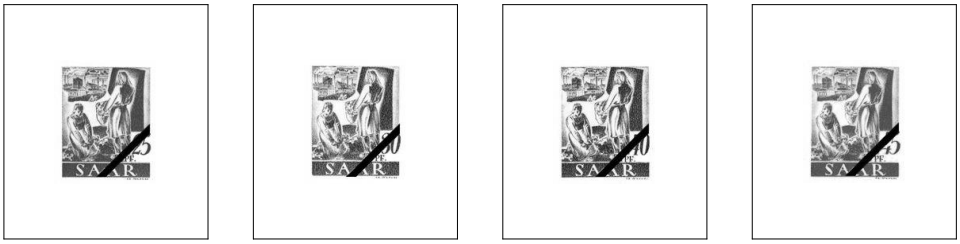
Saar

1947

Laborers and Views from Saar,
Denomination in Pfennig and Mark, First Issue on Yellowish Paper with Brownish Gum







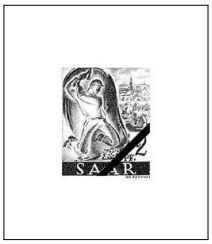


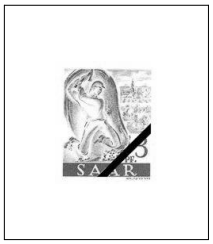


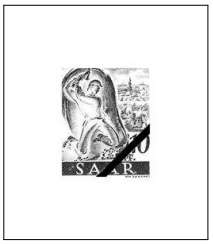
Saar

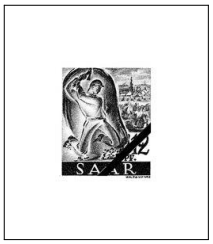
1947

Laborers and Views from Saar,
Denomination in Pfennig and Mark, Second Issue on White Paper with White Gum

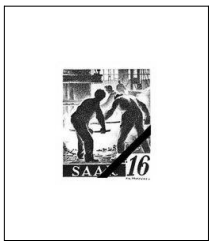

horizontal crossline of A lower


horizontal crossline of A lower

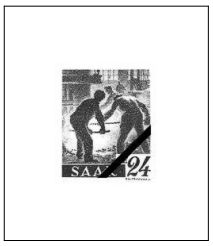

horizontal crossline of A lower

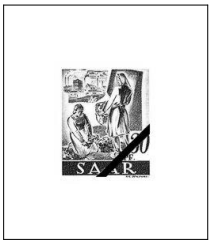

horizontal crossline of A lower

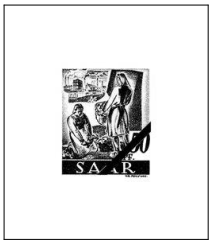

horizontal crossline of A thicker

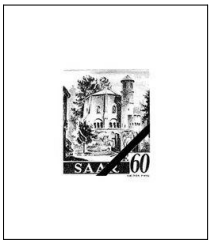

horizontal crossline of A thicker

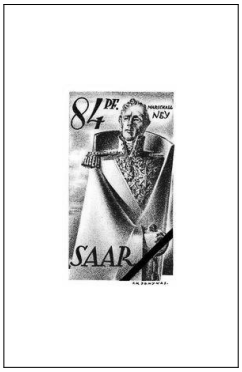

horizontal crossline of A thicker

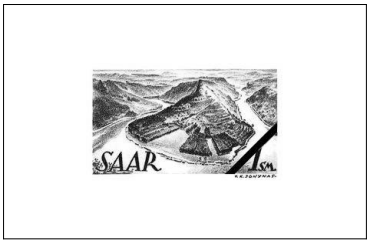

horizontal crossline of A thicker


horizontal crossline of A lower


horizontal crossline of A lower


narrow space between
vignette and SAAR panel


straight furrowed brow


currency denomination Saar-Mark (SM)
instead of Mark (M)

These stamps were explicitly printed as a basis for further surcharges in Franc currency, but some were also available without such overprint at some post offices. In addition to the differences in paper and gum, there are also design variations from the first issue. Some of these are listed above.

Saar

1947

Laborers and Views from Saar,
Surcharge in French Currency on Stamps of First Printing



Saar

1947

Laborers and Views from Saar,
Surcharge in French Currency on Stamps of Second Printing



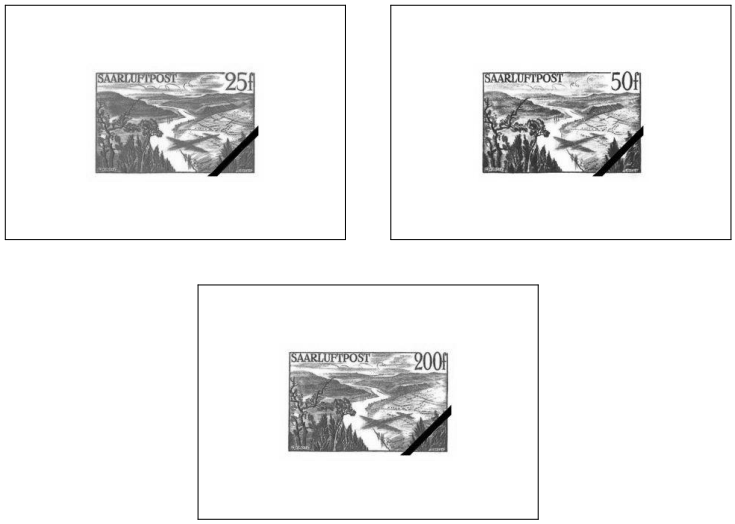
Saar

1948

Reconstruction of Saar



Air Mail Stamps



Saar

1948

Flood Relief, Perforated, from Sheets (25 F + 25 F also from Souvenir Sheet)











Flood Relief, Imperforate, from Souvenir Sheet









1st Anniversary of Saar Constitution





1948

Flood Relief





Saar

1949

Youth Hostel Association





Saar University



Cherity Stamps: Paintings (V) and Madonna of Blieskastel





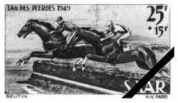






Day of the Horse



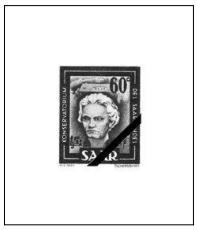


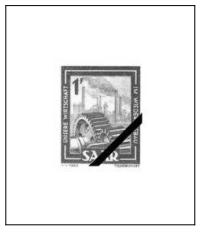
Saar

1949/1951

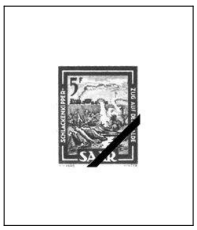
Scenes from Industry, Trade, Agriculture, Landscape, and Culture













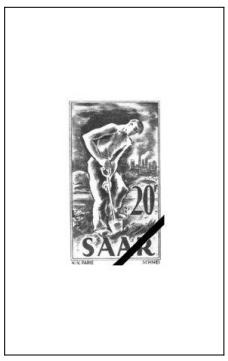


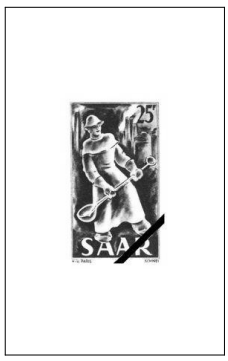


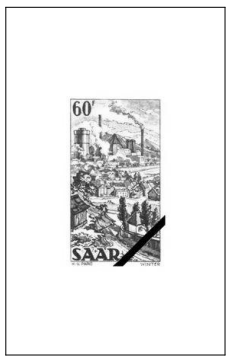


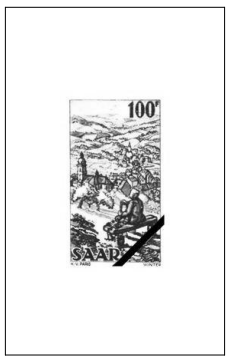


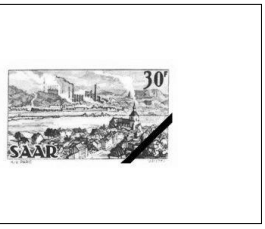


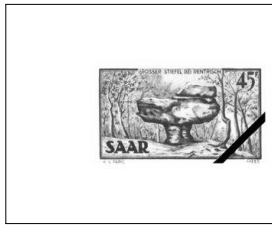












Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

Saar

1950

10th Death Anniversary of Peter Wust



Red Cross



400th Anniversary of Ottweiler



Holy Year







Stamp Day



Saar

1950

Charity Stamps: Scenes from Saint Leudwinus Legend











Saar's Admission to the Council of Europe; 200 F Air Mail Stamp





Adolf Kolping



Saar

1951

Red Cross



Saar Fair



Exhibition
Garden and Flowers



375th Anniversary
of the Reformation



Cherity Stamps: Paintings (VI)











Stamp Day



Saar

1952

Summer Olympics in Helsinki





Saar Fair



Red Cross



Cherity Stamps: Paintings (VII)







Stamp Day



Saar

1952/1955

Scenic Views of Saar









without picture inscription



with picture inscription









without picture inscription



reddish black



dark rose red



with picture inscription





Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

Saar

1953

Cherity Stamps: Paintings (VIII)







Interna-
tional Saar Fair



125th Birth Anniver-
sary of Henri Dunant



Tholey
Benedictine Abbey



Stamp Day



Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

Saar

1954

Marian Year







Interna-
tional Saar Fair



Stamp Day



Red Cross



Cherity Stamps: Paintings (IX)







Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

Saar

1955

Scenic Views, Overprint 'VOLKSBEFRAGUNG 1955'







Cyclo-cross World Championships



50th Anniversary of Rotary International



Interna-tional Saar Fair



Red Cross



Saar

1955

Charity Stamps: Duerer Drawings







Stamp Day



Saar

1956

Interna-
tional Saar Fair



Summer Olympics in Melbourne





Stamp Day



Stamps with Surtax for Reconstruction of Winterberg Memorial







Cherity Stamps: Paintings (X)







Red Cross



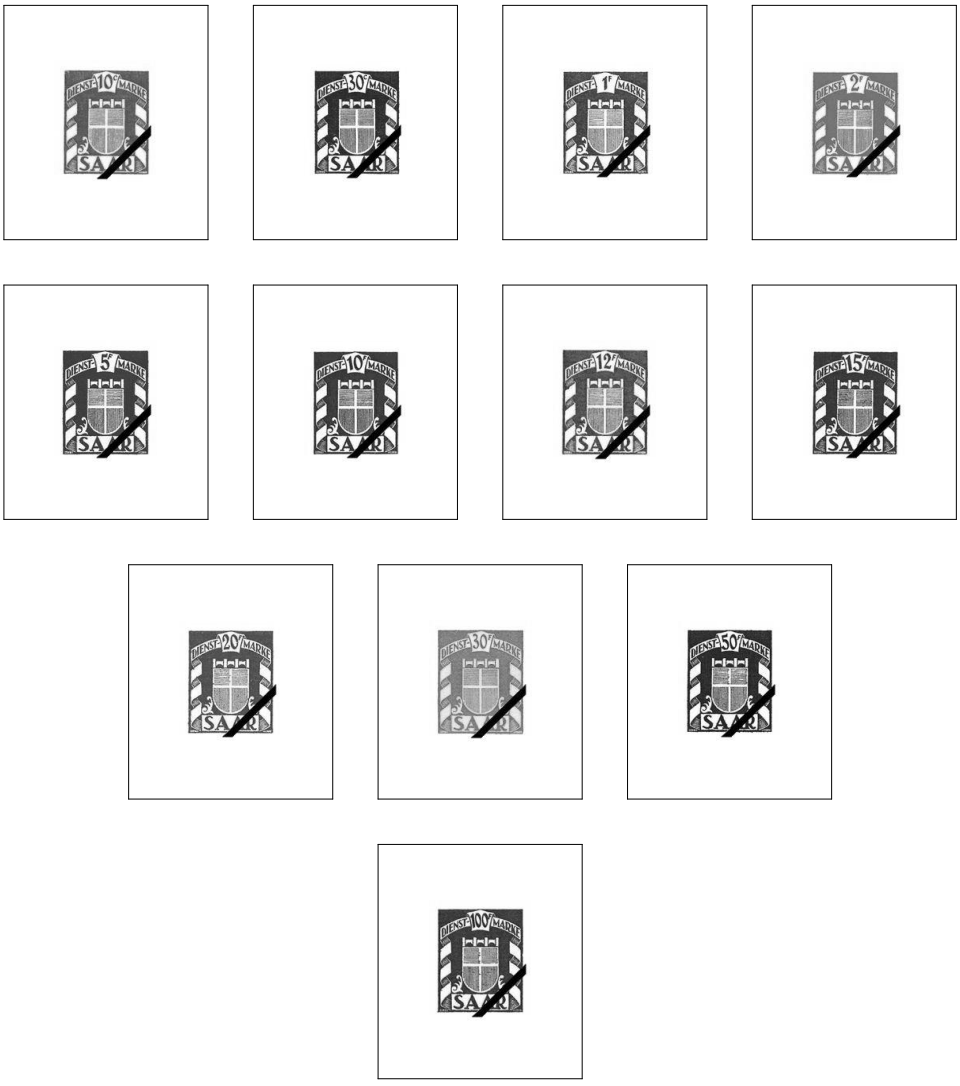
Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

Saar

Official Stamps

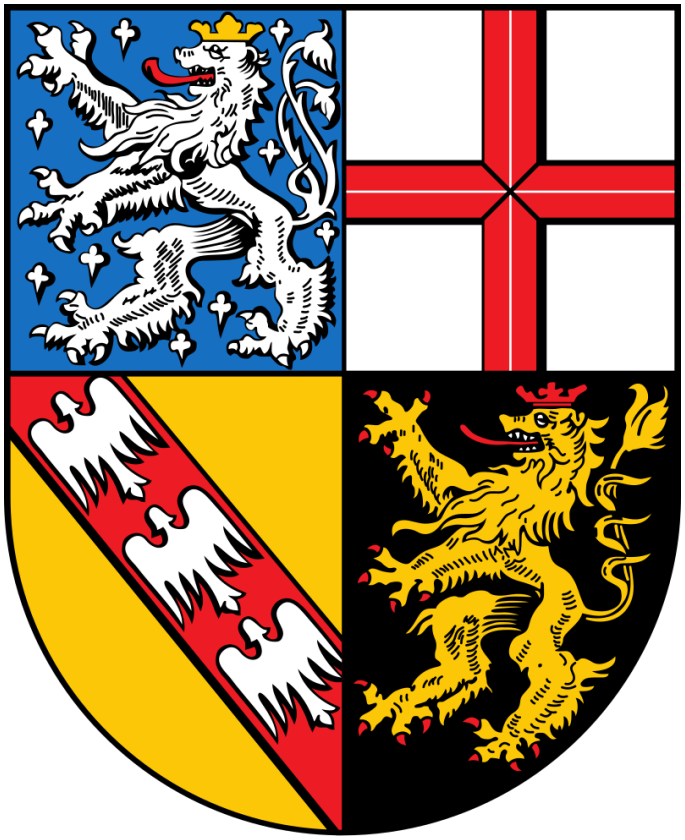
1949

Coat of Arms of Saar



Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

Saar

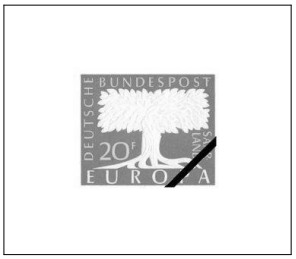


Coat of Arms of Saar
as State of Federal Republic of Germany
since 1957

Saar

1957

Europe Stamps





International
Letter Writing Week



Return of
Saar to Germany



Centennial of Merzig

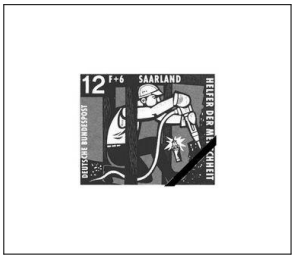


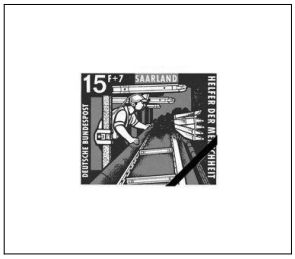
International Saar Fair



Charity Stamps: Coal Mining







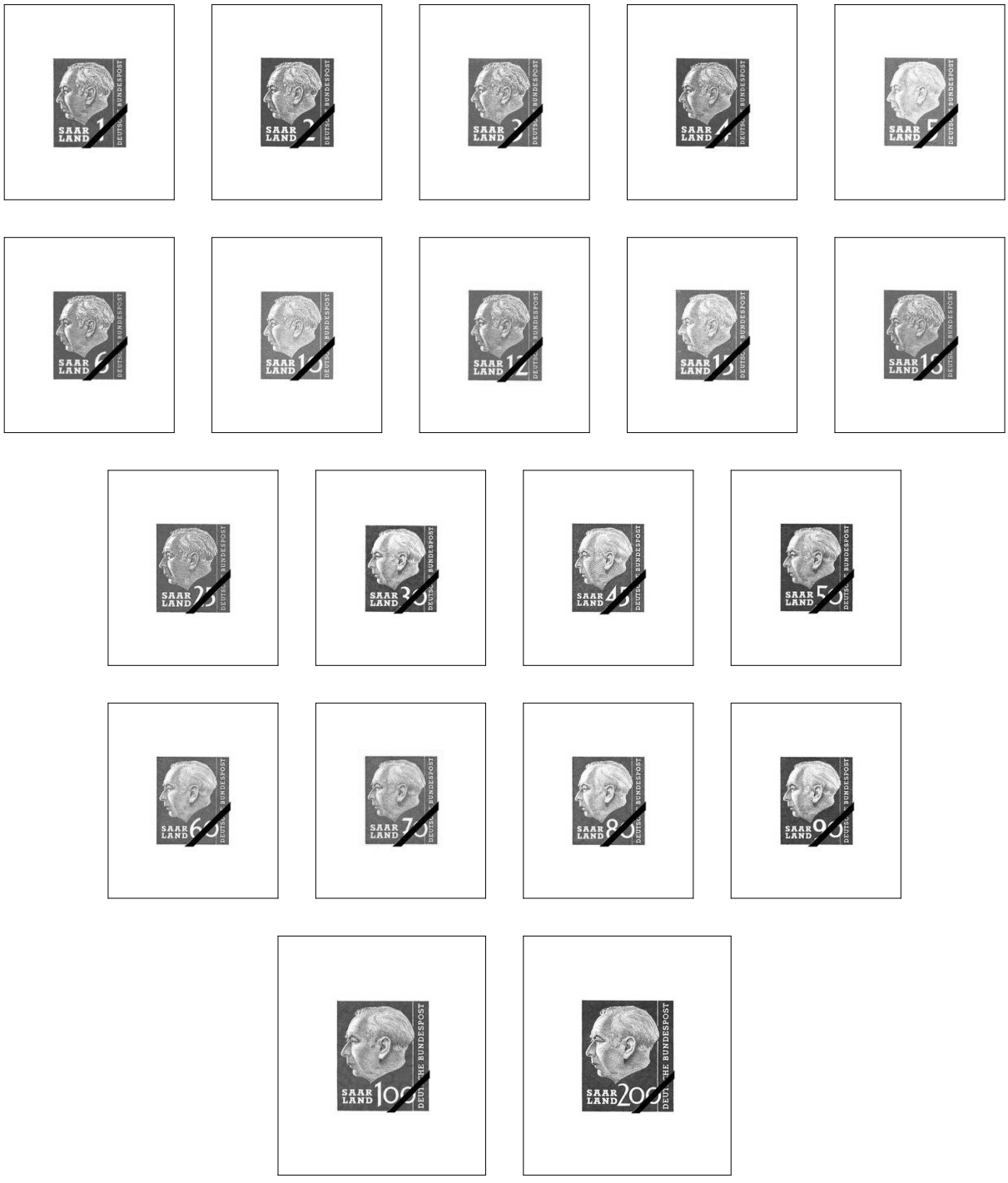


Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

Saar

1957

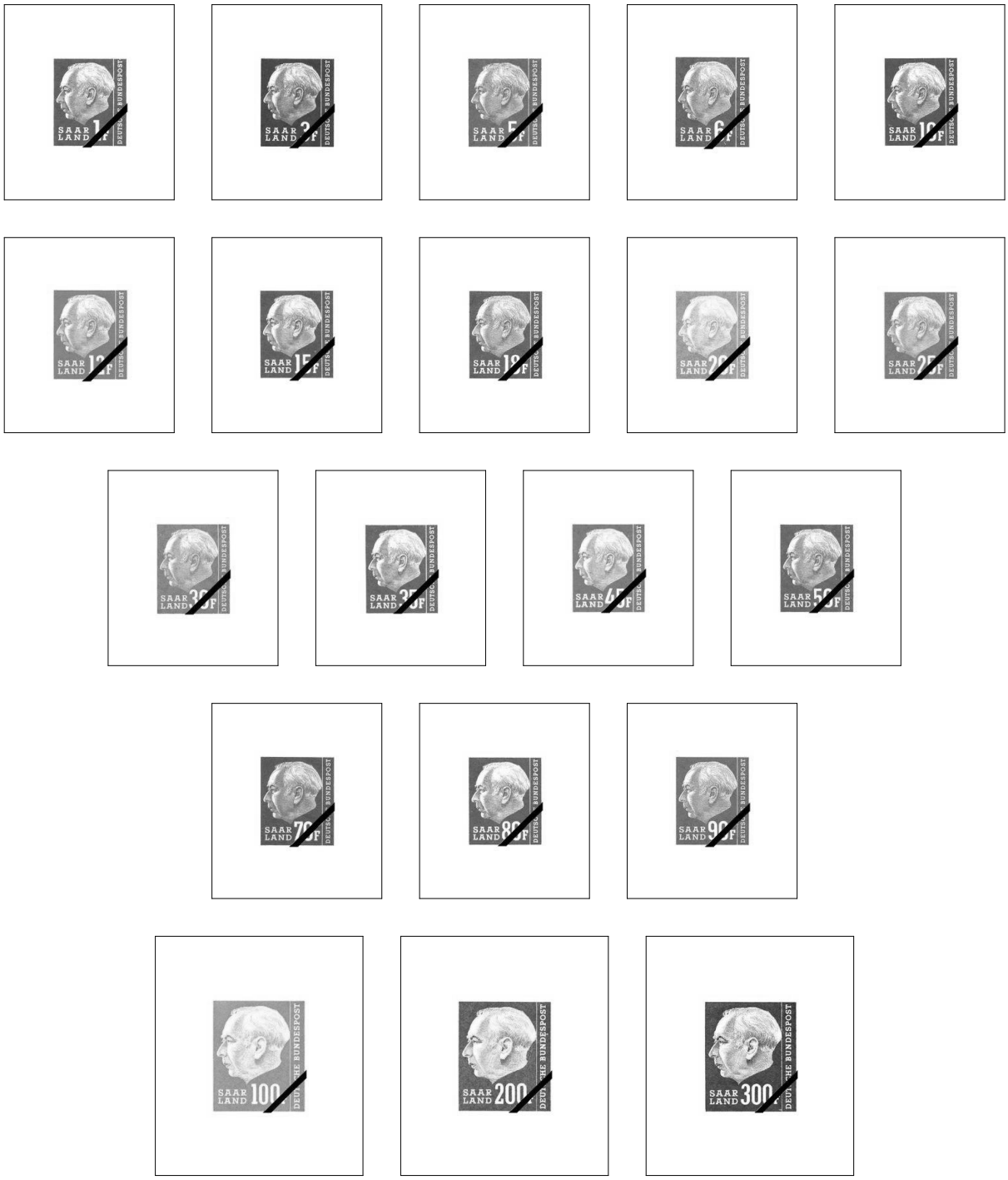
Federal President Theodor Heuss, no Currency Denomination



Saar

1957

Federal President Theodor Heuss, Currency Denomination in Franc



Saar

1958

50th Death Anniversary of Wilhelm Busch





Forest Fire Prevention



International Saar Fair



400th Anni-
versary of Homburg



150 Years of
German Turners



Youth Stamps: Folk Songs





Centennial of
Birth of Rudolf Diesel

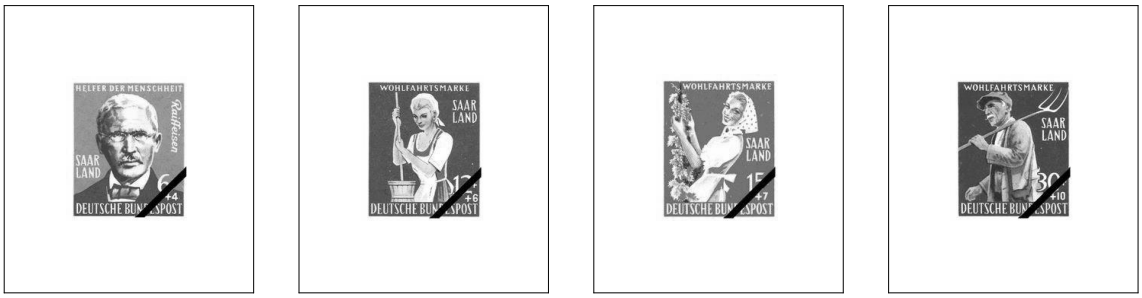


Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

Saar

1958

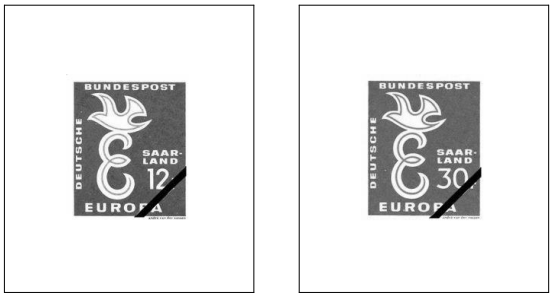
Charity Stamps: Agriculture



150th Birth Anniversary of H. Schulze-Delitzsch



Europe Stamps



1959

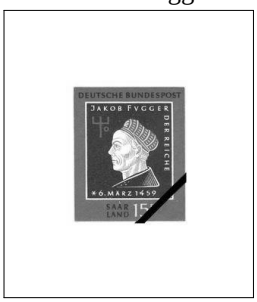
50th Anniversary of Greater Saarbruecken



International Saar Fair



500th Anniversary of Birth of Jakob Fugger



Death Centennial of Alexander von Humboldt

