LEIPZIGER MESSE

(Leipzig Fair)

The city of Leipzig, Germany has hosted trade shows since the 12th century. Its location in Saxony, where trade routes met, made it the center of trade in Europe.

Merchants were guaranteed safe passage and, in 1507, the fair received an imperial charter which prohibited competing fairs within 15 miles of the city. As time went on, Leipzig became the marketplace of Europe.

Before World War II, stamps, including those produced by the Third Reich, were issued promoting the fair. Stamps continued to be issued after the war even though Germany was divided into four zones of occupation – American, British, French and Soviet – with Leipzig being in the Soviet zone.

While many stamps were issued to promote and celebrate the Leipzig fairs before and after World War II, we are only showing those stamps issued during the occupation years and the very beginning of the two Germanys; the Federal Republic of Germany May 1949 (then more commonly known as West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic October 1949 (East Germany).

The double M symbol in the lower left of each stamp was first featured prior to World War II but has become a tradition of Leipzig Fair stamps.

From the collection of David A. Kiehn
dakiehn@comcast.net

Issued by
Allied Occupation or
Federal Republic of Germany
(West Germany)

Issued by
German Democratic Republic
(East Germany)

1947 Spring – B296
Proclaimed a Market Place

1947 Spring – B297
Displaying Wares

1948 Autumn – 10NB1
First New Year at the Fair

1948 Autumn – 10NB2
Cloth Makers

1947 Autumn – 580
Granting the Charter

1947 Autumn – 581
Collecting Taxes

1949 Spring – 10NB4
New Town Hall

1949 Spring 10NB5
Italians at the Fair

1948 Spring – 582
Customs Barrier

1948 Spring – 583
Arranging Merchandise

1949 Autumn – 10NB12
Russian Merchants

1949 Autumn – 10NB13
Goethe at the Fair

1950 Spring – B15
Porcelain at the Fair

1950 Spring – B16
Public Store

Detail of the stamps is amazing. Images slightly modified for fit and clarity.