



## German Colonies Collectors Group

The German colonies and post offices abroad provide a wonderfully rich and varied collecting area which can be narrowed or broadened to suit any collector's taste.



Material for this area dates from 1871 to 1921, beginning with *vorläufer* (forerunners) – German stamps without any overprints or surcharges which were ‘used abroad’ and are thus identifiable only by the cancellation. Other interesting varieties include overprinted, surcharged, and bisected stamps. Perforated initials, covers with various ‘no stamps available’ markings, postal stationery (both official and printed-to-private-order), flight covers, and stamp booklets are known from the colonies. Some collectors focus on the cancels, other postal markings and postal forms. Others collect provisionals, issued after natural disasters occurred. Police actions, rebellions, and the Great War also generated collectibles – stamps and postal markings – from everyone associated with these events, including soldiers, sailors, prisoners of war, internees and civilians.

There are two major study groups for the German Colonies – the Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Sammler deutscher Kolonialpostwertzeichen (based in Germany) and the German Colonies Collectors Group (GCCG), based in the U.S. The GCCG is a Study Group of the Germany Philatelic Society, and an Affiliate of the APS.



The GCCG was founded in 1968, and has been in continuous operation since 1973. We have more than 220 members, principally in the United States, Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom, with members in several other countries. We publish our quarterly journal, **VORLÄUFER**, in English.

The 160 issues of **VORLÄUFER** to date have totaled more than 4,150 pages. Each 36-page issue combines original research, expository, and feature articles, selected translations from less accessible journals, and regular features. These include “Auctions Under the Glass” (selected auction lots and realizations, including unusual items), “The Philatelic Library” (reports on books and articles of interest to the German colonies collector), “Exhibits and Exhibitions” (reports of German colonies exhibits in exhibitions), “German Colonial History”, “The Road Less Taken” (reports on cards and covers to, through and from unusual destinations), and “Surf’s Up” (German Colonies on the Internet). We also publish a cumulative index every eighteen months. A sample copy of **VORLÄUFER** may be obtained from the GCCG (5815 Lenox Rd, Lisle, IL 60532-3138; please include \$5 for shipping and handling). **VORLÄUFER** consistently earns Gold or Vermeil awards in national and international Philatelic Literature competitions.



Several of our members have world-class collections of specialties within the German Colonies area (e.g., Pacific Islands postal history, cancels of the African colonies, Boxer Rebellion, WWI Japanese POW Mail, Togo postal history, GEA during WWI) and have garnered Vermeil, Gold, Large Gold and Grand in national and international exhibitions.



Please join us!