

OPFERTAG activities in GERMANY 1915-1918 and manifest through POSTCARDS

"**Opfertag**", literally refers to a "sacrifice day" and was promoted as a concept throughout Germany during WWI. In English-speaking countries similar occasions were commonly called "flag days". The notion was promoted as a patriotic action, even duty. Fundraising events were parochially organized in German towns and cities throughout the land where citizens were encouraged to donate money and resources to support the war effort.

The geographic focus of this collection is Hamburg Altona and Mitte. An attempt has been made to create a catalogue of Opfertag postcards issued; and an embryo collection of these postcards is presented. Where possible the artist has been identified and a soupçon of biographical data supplied.



A few postcards generated in **other geographical regions are included** in the collection. Their solitary presence holds no significance other than that they were available for purchase.

The following organisations and groups relevant to this postcard collection (**1915-1918**) have been beneficiaries of collection campaigns: The German Red Cross, Infantry, and Navy Ensigns and Seamen, facilities for War Wounded, funds for Widows and Orphans, and the Bavarian Arts and Crafts Association.

OPFERTAG

1915

Photograph: Großherzog Friedrich II. von Baden, Luise von Preußen, Hilda von Nassau, Opfertag 20 Sept 1915. Badischer Opertag zum Besten der Truppen im Feld (for the benefit of the troops in the field). Badischer Landesverein vom Roten Kreuz. Dr Haasische druckerei Mannheim (Baden State Association of the Red Cross. Dr Haasische printing works Mannheim)

Soldier in winter Artist: Otto Weil (1884-1929), Hamburger Opertag, 1 November 1915 für Weihnachts an unfere im felde ftehenden Truppen (for Christmas to our troopers in the field)

1916

Etchings: Altona Opfertag 1916 series, 18 January 1916 zum Besten der Altonaer Kriegshilfe (for the benefit of the Altoner's War Fund)

1/ Artist Postcard Hamburg Altona, Malerischer Hof der in der Fischerstraße, Altonas Opfertag 1916 (Picturesque courtyard of the Fischerstraße, Altona's Sacrifice Day 1916)

2/ Artist Postcard Hamburg Altona, Partie in der Kirchenstraße mit Blick zur Kirche, Opfertag Kriegshilfe 1916 (Part of Kirchenstraße with a view to the Altona Hauptkirche, Sacrifice Day War Fund 1916)

3/ Artist Postcard Hamburg Altona, Blick auf das Bismarck Denkmal, Gesamtansicht Opfertag 1916 (General view of the Bismarck Monument, Sacrifice Day War Fund 1916)

Bismarck Monument: The architect was Johann Emil Schaudt (1871-1957); the sculptor was Hugo Lederer (1871-1940). It was completed in 1906.

4/ Artist Postcard Hamburg Othmarschen, Teich, Zeichnung, Uferpanorama, Opfertag 1916 (Othmarschen pond - first pond at the Große Flottbek at the Jenischpark - panorama, Sacrifice Day War Fund 1916). The Flottbek is a river that flows into the Elbe near Hamburg-Othmarschen.

5/ Artist Postcard Hamburg Altona Ottensen, Ottenser Kirche, Gesamtansicht, Opfertag 1916 (General view of the Ottenser Church, Sacrifice Day War Fund 1916)

6/ Artist Postcard Hamburg Altona, Rathaus mit Kaiser Wilhelm Denkmal, Gesamtansicht, Opfertag 1916 (General view of Town Hall with Kaiser Wilhelm I monument in foreground, Sacrifice Day War Fund 1916)

7/ Artist Postcard Hamburg Altona, Donnerschloss, mit Garten / Parkanlage, Opfertag 1916 (Donnerschloss, built 1853-1855, owner Bernhard Donner (1809-1865) and wife Helene Donner (1819-1909), parkland bought by Hamburg in 1911 named Donner's Park, Sacrifice Day War Fund 1916)

8/ Artist Postcard Hamburg Altona, Altes Altonaer Rathaus, Gesamtansicht, Pferdekuetsche, Opfertag 1916 (Old Altona town hall, general view, horse-drawn carriage, Sacrifice Day War Fund 1916)

9/ Artist Postcard Hamburg, Altona Hauptkirche, Gesamtansicht, Wohnhäuser, Passanten, Opfertag 1916 (Hauptkirche Sankt Michaelis - general view, residential buildings, passers-by, Sacrifice Day War Fund 1916)

Artist Postcard Opfertag Breslau 1916, Mutter mit Kindern, Soldaten (Mother with children, soldiers)

Artist Postcard Hamburg, Soldat m. Pferd u. Gewehr, Schneelandschaft, Gedicht, Altona's Opfertag 18. Jan. 1916, Altonaer Kriegshilfe, (Soldier with. Horse and. Rifle, snowscape, poem, Altona War Assistance 1916)

Artist Postcard Richard Klein (1890-1967), Opfertag 1916, Bayerischer Kunstgewerbeverein, Rotes Kreuz (Sacrifice Day 1916, Bavarian Arts and Crafts Association for the Red Cross)

Artist Postcard Hamburg Altona, Soldat, Gewehr, Frau m. Kindern, Altona's Opfertag 1916 (Artist Postcard, Soldier, Rifle, Woman with Children, Altona War Assistance 1916)

Artist Postcard Hamburger Opfertag 5. Okt. 1916, Kriegshilfe, Infanterie, Marine Fahne, Mastrose (Artist Postcard Hamburger Sacrifice Day 5 Oct. 1916, War Aid, Infantry, Navy Flag, Sailor)

1917

Postcard zum Marine Opfertag, Gedicht, Georg Herwegh, Anna Michaelis (Postcard in aid of the Navy Sacrifice Day, poems by Georg Herwegh and Anna Michaelis)

The contribution of poets and writers made to the shaping of a national identity in nineteenth-century Germany and Flanders is illustrated in this card.

Georg Herwegh. Georg Friedrich Rudolph Theodor Herwegh (1817–1875) "Noch ruht der Geist des Schöpfers auf den Wogen, Und in den Furchen, die Kolumb gezogen, Geht Deutschlands zukunfft auf!" (The spirit of the Creator still rests on the waves, And in the furrows that Columbus pulled, Germany's future is on its way!)

Anna Michaelis (details unknown) "Was ist prophetisch aus Dichtermunde, Im Stillen, kaum gehört, verklungen, Das hat erneut zu rechter Stunde, Als Kaiserwort sich durchgerungen! ...

Artist Postcard Opfertag 1917, Bayer. Landeskomitee vom Roten Kreuz (National Committee of the Red Cross) Artist Postcard Richard Klein (1890-1967), Opfertag 1917, Bayer.

Landeskomitee vom Deutsches Roten Kreuz (National Committee of the German Red Cross). Famous Printer/Publisher Dr C. Wolf und Sohn, München.

Richard Klein was a German artist, known for his work as a medallist from the start of World War I in 1914, and mainly for his work as a favoured artist of the Nazi regime. Klein was director of the Munich School of Applied Arts and was one of Adolf Hitler's favourite painters. Klein was one of the artists exhibited at the "Great German Art Exhibition" held at the Haus der Kunst in Munich in 1937, meant as a contrast to the modern art condemned by the Third Reich as Degenerate art (Entartete Kunst). Klein's work at the exhibition included plaques contributed from Hitler's private collection. The poster for the exhibition, "The Awakening", was designed by Klein and also used as the front cover for the Nazi art review Art in the Third Reich. Klein was also the designer of Nazi decorations including, the Sudetenland Medal, Anschluss Medal and Memel Medal, collectively known as the German Occupation Medals, plus the War Merit Medal and the Wehrmacht Long Service Award.