

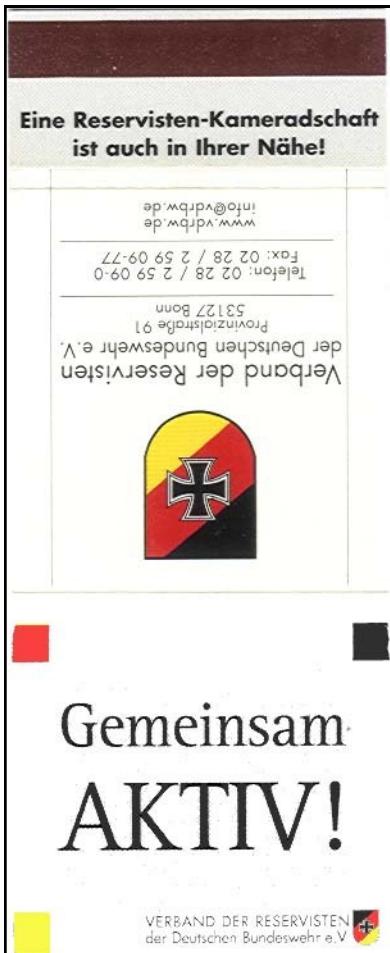
## Deutschen Bundeswehr

For those of you into Military, how about German Army covers? Seems like a natural to me, and that's why I collect all Military, domestic *and* foreign.

It's very rewarding, but there are some special problems the collector must deal with if he or she is going to collect foreign military--There's the invariable language problem, for one, but the most immediate would be how to find them in the first place. Since these aren't covers you're likely to get in trade or find in the auctions or on freebie tables, you almost certainly have to have an overseas contact. Someone who's where those covers are more common and who can filter them right into your collection.

In my case, John Bachochin is my source for these beauties. John's wife, Helga, is German, and thus John has in-laws right where they're needed (in this case). Plus, John and Helga make occasional trips back to Germany, themselves. The result is that John has been a great source for European covers. Normally, though, you'd have to find a contact overseas. If you have e-mail, the Collectors On-Line listing on the RMS web site lists collectors from all over the world...and they all have e-mail. That would be a good place to start such a search.

Normally, you'd also have to be willing to absorb the increased postage necessary, and, what I find really annoying, you're probably going to have to make a special trip down to the post office each time because you can never figure out what overseas postage is ahead of time! Still, to a dedicated collector, it's all part of the 'hunt'!



Plus, I'll put in my standard warning about expectations. Collectors overseas are not as picky as we are about struck material and flats, and that's often what you'll get in your return trade. So, you should set out your trading parameters right at the beginning, so neither of you is disappointed.

These German Army covers make me wonder, though. Would there possibly be any such covers issued during Hitler's regime? Wouldn't those be the crowning glory of such a collection? Hmmmmmm....

'fraid not! Europe in the 1930s and 1940s would have almost invariably issued boxes. But, that means that there might well be labels.

In any event, foreign military are covers, just like foreign navy ship covers, are certainly available and would make nice collections.

