

Theresienstadt

Philatelic Materials

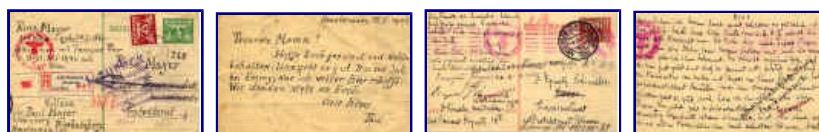
Mail

General

The ghetto had a functioning post office. The postal department was part of the structure of the Jewish self-administration. Mail from or to Theresienstadt was generally handled through the Jewish Council in Prague or the Jewish Administration in Berlin. Beginning in September, 1942, residents were allowed to send a card of 30 words each month to anyone in the Reich or Protectorate.

Postcards to Theresienstadt

Below are thumbnails of the front and back of a few postcards to Theresienstadt. The first postcard is a registered postcard from Amsterdam from a son, Paul Mayer, to his mother, Rosa Mayer, dated February 15, 1943. The card is addressed to the mother at Theresienstadt and lists her transport number from Vienna. The card contains a cachet from Theresienstadt indicating that she had left the camp (probably sent to Auschwitz). The next postcard is postmarked September 9, 1943, from Amsterdam to Theresienstadt. The card contains the two line Theresienstadt Jewish Self Administration cachet and censor cancels of the German army and the Gestapo. Please click on the thumbnail to see the full image, and then click your back key or "Postcards 1-2" in the left frame to return.

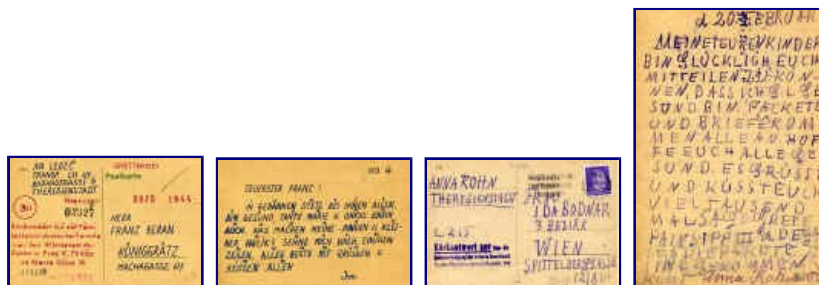


The third postcard is postmarked December 13, 1943, from Prague to Transport 418 which had just arrived at Theresienstadt. The card is addressed to Erwin Ledec at Bauschowitz which was the collection center from which individuals were assigned to Theresienstadt units. The last postcard postmarked June 19, 1944, is from Vienna to an Otto Pollak at Theresienstadt, and contains a Theresienstadt Jewish Self Administration receiving cachet. The card also contains a cachet ordering that after air raids, do not make personal calls. Please click on the thumbnail to see the full image, and then click your back key or "Postcards 3-4" in the left frame to return.



Postcards from Theresienstadt

Below are thumbnails of the front and back of a few postcards from Theresienstadt. The first postcard is dated March 19, 1944, from Iva Ledec at Badhausgasse in Theresienstadt. The card contains a Ghettopost cachet and a five line mailing cachet indicating that return mail should be sent through the Judenrat in Prague (not listed in Simon). Badhausgasse was usually the first stop on arriving in Theresienstadt. The card also contains four different censor markings. Please note how the prisoner numbered each word so that the 30 word limit was not exceeded. The second card is from a prisoner, Anna Kohn, and is postmarked April 29, 1943, from Theresienstadt to Vienna, with a mailing cachet indicating that a reply postcard must be in German language and sent through the Jewish Council in Berlin-Charlottenburg. Please click on the thumbnail to see the full image, and then click your back key or "Postcards 5-6" in the left frame to return.

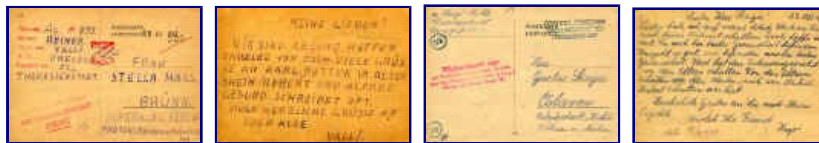


The next postcard dated March 12, 1942, by Rosa Bachrach, who had just arrived at Theresienstadt. The card contains a mailing cachet directing mail through Prague and a stamped "Z" indicating Zid (Jew). The card was forwarded to Prague and then to Pilsen. The next postcard is dated November 21, 1944, from Marie Pergl, a newly arrived prisoner at Theresienstadt. The card was sent through the Judenrat in Prague and contains Ghettopost and Judenrat cachets as well as a five line mailing cachet directing return mail through the Judenrat in Prague. Please click on the thumbnail to see the full image, and then click your back key or "Postcards 7-8" in the left frame to return.





The next postcard is dated March 29, 1942 from a prisoner, Valli Reiner, to Brunn. The letter describes the health of various relatives and the fact that the mother is in an old age home. The card was sent through the Judenrat in Prague and contains an unusual "Z" cachet for Zid (Jew). The next postcard is dated August 23, 1944, from Theresienstadt to Oslavany (a town near Brun). The card contains a mailing cachet indicating that return mail should be sent through the Judenrat in Prague. The card also contains a censor marking and a handstamp of the "Post of the Jewish Development-Section Theresienstadt. Please click on the thumbnail to see the full image, and then click your back key or "Postcards 9-10" in the left frame to return.



The next postcard is from an inmate at Theresienstadt, Betti Oettinger dated September 15, 1944. The card contains a 4 line mailing cachet indicating return mail through Prague. The card is addressed to Saly Mayer, the Joint Distribution Committee representative in Switzerland. According to the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, she died at Auschwitz. Please click on the thumbnail to see the full image, and then click your back key or "Postcard 11" in the left frame to return.



References

- Frantisek Benes and Patricia Tosnerova, *Mail Service in the Ghetto Terezin 1941-45* (1996)
- Sam Simon, *Handbook of the Mail in the Concentration Camps 1933-1945 and Related Material*, (1973)
- Berkely, *Hitler's Gift, The Story of Theresienstadt*, (1993)

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