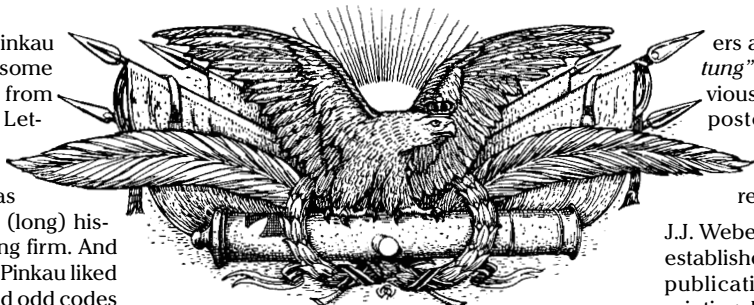


Research on the firm of Emil Pinkau & Co, Leipzig is done for quite some time now. We have learned from George Webber of the "Capital Letter" and also the most unusual "Dot & Dash" codes used by Pinkau. Henk Voskuilen was able to put some light on the (long) history of this big postcard printing firm. And one thing we learned was that Pinkau liked to stay in the dark, not only used odd codes but avoided to put his name on his cards. Only few samples are known where the complete name was imprinted. We know of the early cards pre -1903, with the "Emil Pinkau, Fabrik lithogr. Erzeugnisse, Leipzig" imprint. This is seen more often.



EMIL PINKAU & CO. LEIPZIG

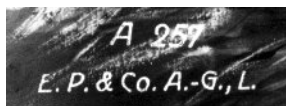
PATRIOTIC WW1 POSTCARDS

ers and printers of the "Illustrirte Zeitung" to use art work/photographs previously published in the magazine for postcards. Indeed a clever idea to have an almost unlimited supply of (popular) patriotic, war-related picture material.

J.J. Weber, Leipzig, Reudnitzerstr. 1-7 was established in 1834, publishers of books / publications who soon added an own printing dept. and latest pre-press machinery. As the name "Illustrated" indicates, Weber filled his weekly magazine with plenty of (halftone) illustrations. A circulation of 26,000 copies was reached by 1903. During WW1 the "Illustrirte Zeitung" was among the most popular illustrated (war) publications, probably the biggest, and J. J. Weber bought reproduction rights from all major and popular German/Austrian artists, to have enough picture material to "feed" the readers. As said before, this was a very good choice of Emil.

My samples are all from the early period of WW1 to early 1916, either postal use or "dated" by the shown military event, battle scenes etc. Surely some cards were reprinted several times. But by 1916 the market was perhaps filled with "too positive" illustrations standing in sharp contrast to the actual situation, and Pinkau may have decided to stop this special series.

I show some samples now, few of many around. I personally do not think these are very exiting. Probably of interest to WW1/artist collectors, although there are indeed better cards/motifs around. Good trivia anyway, and good to take notice of when doing research on Emil Pinkau (codes).



Today I would like to show another type of cards produced by Pinkau and which have Pinkau's initials and L(eipzig): **E. P. & Co. A.-G., L.** (see ill.) always found in picture (A.G. = Aktiengesellschaft = joint-stock company).

WW1 meant big business for postcard printers. It also was the final breakthrough for massive photographic (bromide) card production. Emil Pinkau & Co. had added a new dept. for bromide (rotary) photo printing in 1911 to his factory. By 1917 he even had an own photopaper production running (to be independent from suppliers). So, his photographic production must had been successful/profitable, and I believe, his WW1 cards made a big contribution to the positive development.

Pinkau did of course lots of other WW1 related cards, from (humorous) propaganda in colour to plain views of trenches and tanks printed by colotype. To my actual knowledge they show only the "Capital Letter" code for identification and were not published by Pinkau, although some bear no publisher imprint.

The series I mean shows initials inside picture and I would say that in this case Emil Pinkau acted also as publisher. All cards are numbered with an "A" as prefix. Lowest number I have seen is 'A 64' and the highest is 'A 2556'. My 4-digit samples are not produced by bromide photographic process only but also by duotone collotype (sepia) process. Believe the numbering is consecutive but as I do not intend to collect this series, this can only be a assumption.

Nearly all cards in this series show imprint "Mit Genehmigung der Illustrirten Zeitung", Leipzig" = with permission of ... Think clever Emil Pinkau made quickly arrangements with J.J. Weber, the publish-



Card no. **A 257**, signed (well known maritime artist) Willy Stöwer. Caption reads: *Airplanes and submarines on outpost near the island of Helgoland (North Sea)*. Not postally used. Bromide photo card.

> **A 128:** *Battle of the Turkish Dardanelles forts against the British-France fleet / invasion.* Another Willy Stöwer painting. Photo card. This card was postally used as German fieldpost early December 1915.



> **A 392** *Ammunition supply during an (artillery) battle.* Again reproduced from a painting. No signature, probably cut off. A "universal" motif although German 'spiked' helmets show early WW1 origin. Sizes of these photo cards differ quite often. German fieldpost from July 1917.





A 457: The *Battle of Jutland (Skagerakschlacht)*, the biggest sea battle between British and German naval forces in WW1, was used by many artists as motif. This was painted by *Felix Schwormstädt* (signature half cut) and shows the attempts of an German torpedo-boat destroyer crew to prevent sinking. Try to seal up a leak with a special tarpaulin. This looks a bit more authentic as the other paintings around. Photo card, not p/u.



A 64: *Generaloberst von Gluck*. This high decorated general puzzles me a bit as I do not find any data on him because of lack of military literature. Nevertheless this card is of interest as it does not show the regular "with permission of *Illustrierte Zeitung*" imprint but copyright imprint of "*Hofphotograph Kühlewindt, Königsberg in Preussen*". The name of this (appointed) photographer turns up on many cards from WW1, where he is listed as official war photographer. Try to find out more on this photographer for a coming issue. Photo card, not p/u.



A 2145: *The storming of Lille (France) on Oct. 12, 1914* is not a bromide photo card production but a sepia duotone collotype printing. The bad register makes it difficult to read the captions and signature. Could read "*O.J. Olberts, 1915*". Postally used (fieldpost) July 10, 1915.

> **A 168:** German mountain infantry attack French troops in the Vosges region. Not signed. Photo. Fieldpost mailed on Sept. 14, 1916.

(below) **A 2556:** *Group of German minesweepers* doing their job somewhere in the North Sea. Again not a bromide photo card but printed by duotone collotype process (and of excellent quality). Although the signature is hidden almost entirely, except the year date '1915', it looks very much like the work of *Prof. Willy Stöwer*. He added the year to his signature on most of his paintings. Not postally used.



(below) **This is not** a Emil Pinkau published card from the "A" series. Only printed by Pinkau as card no. 63 for "*Gebrüder Uhlemann, Dresden*" and with "Capital Letter" code **LLL** found in stampbox position. Fieldpost of Sept. 3, 1917. B/w collotype on rough surface card. Caption damaged. Reads: *Destroyed French tanks in front of our lines. The latest from the western front.* I see a single tank only. French?

