

(W. Greve con't)

Here now some figures to give you an idea about the size of the Greve business. Klimsch 1913: their production plant consisted of 8 Linotype composing machines, 3 rotary (bookprinting) presses, 26 letterpress flatbed presses plus 4 platen presses, 8 litho flatbed presses and 17 litho handpresses, 1 gravure press and 24 other machines for bookbinding etc. Employed were 300 people. According Klimsch 1921 Greve's printing capacity increased. Now 34 letterpress flatbed and 7 smaller machines, another litho flatbed and handpress were added (plus other above mentioned machinery) Not to forget the Hadorff & Co collotype business which was still run separately.

Then in 1927 Wilhelm Greve business was converted into a AG (joint-stock company), no Pasch family members more around. Greve AG came under the control of the publishing house of the "Deutschen Allgemeinen Zeitung" which appears to had been a nationwide operating firm looking for an own

printing place in Berlin. Klimsch 1928 reports another increase of production means. Now 22 Linotype composers, 5 rotary presses, the above mentioned letterpress and litho presses, but 5 gravure presses and the 8 collotype machines of Hadorff & Co. which was now fully integrated. Workforce: 400+ people. No changes in Klimsch 1930 with Greve AG, but the new owners had their own plans. Some time in late 1930 it was decided to convert Greve AG into a newspaper/magazine printing house. The production area was enlarged by a great deal and covered now Ritterstr. 50-51. to house the rotary presses and the necessary modern pre-press dept's. Klimsch 1933 lists 26 Linotype's, 3 rotary presses for newsprint, 4 rotary presses for illustration (magazine/catalogue) printing, a total of 16 letterpress machines plus 2 modern offset presses. Employed were 360 people.

The photo of the building shown comes from "Zeitschrift für Deutschlands Buchdrucker und verwandte Gewerbe" Nov. 3, 1938. Here

we find also some data on their machinery plant. 3 huge rotary presses for newsprint plus 8 rotary presses for illustration printing, 13 letterpress machines, 3 offset presses (single and multi-colour) and 2 rotary gravure presses. About 400 workers. WW2 air-raids meant the end of the Ritterstr. location. Guess some of the machinery was saved and repaired as the Polygraph printing trade directory 1950 edition lists a new Wilh. Greve GmbH (Ltd) at Berlin SW 29, Zossener Str. 55. Some familiar names of the former managing board turn up again. 9 letterpress plus a single offset press were at hand and a some 53 people employed. Wilhelm Greve GmbH is also still listed in Polygraph 1960/61 edition.

The information on the history of this firm of post 1927 years has nothing to do with ppc's anymore, but I thought it would be interesting to know what had happened to the Greve business as a whole. The role of this firm played during the ppc boom years however, is worth further research.

1 Osnabrücker Papierwaren-Fabrik

FABRIK[®] MARKE.

— PART TWO —

Some progress was made, especially with OPF cards, see also George Webber's article. However, I had also a set-back with research. As I mentioned in last issue I did know that there is an article on the OPF history, on occasion of their 25th year in business, found in PZ January 1906. I tried to get access to archives copies and failed. I try to buy PZ issues and failed again. Then during one of my searches in the internet world I came accross a second hand book dealer in Austria offering the entire 1906 volume of PZ in his set sale lists. Although the asking price was impressive I ordered the books at once. When I opened the parcel I had to learn that the first five issues (weekly) were missing, and with it the OPF story. Therefor the first 5 issues of 1907 which I have already were bound in. The title says complete 1906 volume, the half-title too, but well this was bad luck. But only with OPF. The PZ 1906 volume is again a rich source of information for research. Perhaps I simply expect too much from this OPF article, but I want to see it now.

Another purchase via internet was cheaper and now I am the proud owner of an envelope with samples of steel engraved letterheads (of small and huge German firms, one from Greece) printed by the follow-up firm of OPF = A. & O. Formstecher. From c. 1912

there was no OPF name anymore. (see TPA #20, page 10-11). Guess this sample envelope dates from the early 1920's, superb printing quality indeed, and a logo I haven't seen before is imprinted (embossed) which I illustrate. No idea if this Formstecher logo is found on any (greeting) cards. Readers help appreciated.

A collector of paper items from Germany sent me note that there had been a firm in the city of Osnabrück with the name "Osnabrücker Postkarten-Industrie, Ortmann & Co." He had a greeting card for some time with such an imprint and thinks to remember it was p/u in 1908. First research produced not much results. There was indeed a firm with this name set up in late 1906. Owned by a Gustav Ortmann and Carl Otto Früh, book printing business proprietor. Probably a short-lived enterprise. Why a firm from Berlin used the name of a city hundreds of kilometres away is still unclear.

OPF printed (and published) a wide range of picture as well as subject/greeting cards. My search for samples was partly successful and readers also sent in photocopies as well as original cards. Fact is that many OPF products do not bear their name or logo. But the

OPF was big in all types of writing paper, blank cards, envelopes etc. Here is an details from a postcard (not ppc) with thin grey-blue border and embossed crest. Card board has a fine linen structure. Crest difficult to reproduce (white on white). Guess this was a fantasy motif, but was surely available also made to order.



Floral ornamented frame with view of Amsterdam. Picture occupies less than half of picture side. Of pre-1905 origin? Dark blue collotype ("Delft") on rough surface, sandbrown card. Divided back with OPF trefoil logo found twice, and design protected by law imprint.



"thick" luxury, white bordered cards with photo inserts, hand-painting, often with steel-engraved captions, are meanwhile easy to identify. I show several samples of OPF cards and some "suspects" I found / or was given. See also colour pages and article of G. Webber for additional illustrations.

