

Who is Hahn?

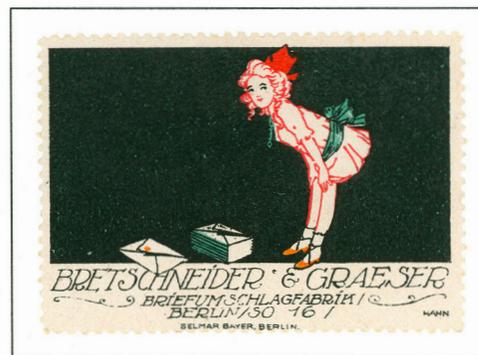
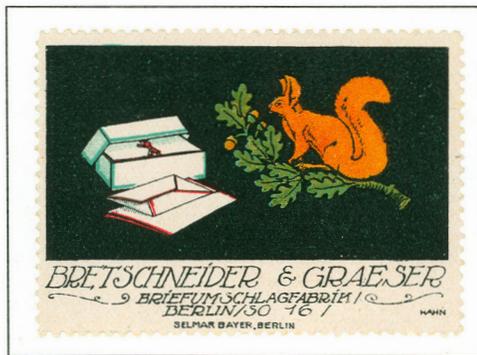
Or more properly, Which Hahn? The only Hahn listed in *Das Fruhe Plakat* is Paul Hahn of Stuttgart (July 1883 - April 1952) whose interesting biography is presented on the next page. There is also Robert Hahn, a Dresden-based artist who is known to have designed posters and stamps for a Dresden scissors manufacturer. But the five-stamp sets shown on this and the next page are for Berlin clients—are they by one of these two Hahns? There is also an architect, Hans Hahn, who worked in Berlin. While some of the more famous graphic artists drew commissions from out-of-town clients, the lesser known people tended to work locally, and this argues— but not conclusively— for Hans the architect being the designer of these two sets. Charles Kiddle credits these to Hans Hahn in his catalog *Graphic Artists The Best of the Rest vol. 2*.



Dr. J. & E. Cassel Elite Perfumery: *Perfume samples, Eucalyptus mouth and teeth wash, Menthol birch balm; Alcohol-free floral oils; Wash and bath eau de cologne.* Kiddle rates this and the next page sets all 40 points rarity, although the second is slightly more difficult.

Paul Hahn?

Since it is not inconceivable that Paul Hahn is the designer, here is some biographical information about him. He trained as a school teacher and taught for five years before undertaking a four year study at the Kunstgewerbeschule Kunstakademie in Stuttgart. In 1911 he founded a graphic arts studio. He served in the army during World War One, was severely wounded in 1915 and finished the war doing military police work. Social Democrats formed the Provisional Government of Württemberg the day the war ended, and Hahn was soon made Chief of Police. A few years later he worked in business. He managed to retain his employment despite trouble with the National Socialist regime until he was arrested in 1944 and sentenced to four years of prison for a minor role in the resistance.



Bretschneider & Graeser Envelope factory, Berlin. Note that this set and the previous page set have a "HAHN" signature, and both were printed by Selmar Bayer of Berlin, and both are stylistically similar enough to be the same designer.

Robert Hahn

Robert Hahn was a painter of portraits and landscapes born 1883 in Naumberg and based in Dresden, and was also a lithographer trained at the Kunstschule of Weimar from 1896 through 1900. Two designs for Favorit Scissors (a Dresden firm) which in the last few years are now attributed to him exist as posters recorded as anonymous in *Das Fruhe Plakat*. Poster stamp versions in a variety of colors are fairly common as singles. Se-tenant pieces are rare.



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Robert Hahn is included for this set in *Graphics Artists: The Best of the Rest, 1, 2 or 3 Designs* (vol. 5) without showing all colors. See next page. Rarity points are 30. Note the "red" color is a bright, light, red.

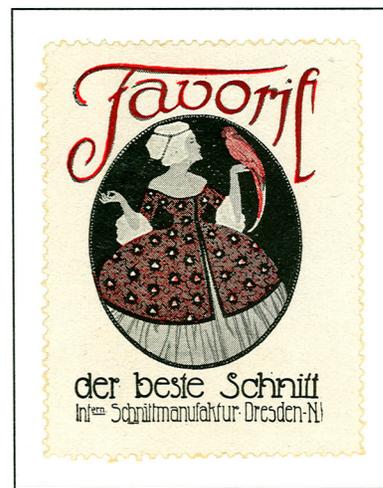
For both Favorit designs, printing is black with a highlight of second color. According to Kiddle there are 6 colors; green, violet, red, orange, blue, and yellow- but not for both designs. This is unlikely now that a se-tenant strips have been found: one would think that all colors exist in both “big scissors” and “woman with bird” designs.



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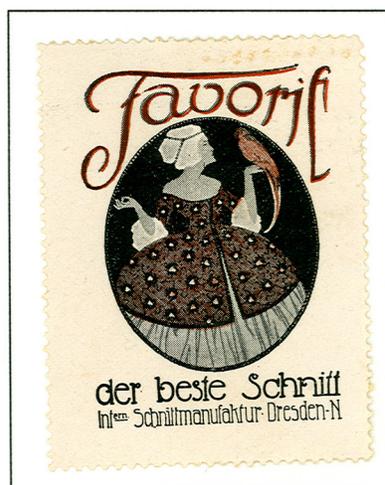
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Shown above green, violet, red; below are two orangish[?] stamps with shifted ink example. The use of overlapping black and highlight inks makes color recognition confusing.

With thanks to Nick Follansbee for permission to use pages & text from his album, which show rare stamps, all arranged by artist. Most of his focus has been on German poster stamps from the golden era prior to World War One, and these “Hahn” stamps are all of that time. Believe it or not, one last Hahn, Theo-Otto, has not been shown here.

Note that the Caption notes “DfP” refer to the three volume book *Das Frühe Plakat in Europa und den USA* (The Early Poster in Europe and the USA), published in Germany from 1973 to 1980. DfP does not illustrate or note poster stamps, only the large scale posters that are sometimes the design source for the small. Follansbee (and expert German collectors) have been able to find artist names and other data using DfP. The numbers refer to the poster listings in this book.