

Ludwig Hesshaimer (1872-1956)

— *Passion for Philately*

BIOGRAPHY

Summary: As written by Wolfgang Maassen*, President of the Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatélistes (AIJP):

Ludwig Hesshaimer, a born German Saxon in Romania, in his time was well-known as both an artist and a club philatelist. As an Austrian, he tended the German body of thought, founded the first Association of Austrian Philatelists Clubs in 1921 and united it with the later Reichs Association of philatelists in Germany. After his career as an officer in the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy and the First World War, which had a major impression on him, he turned to arts, the muse he had loved from his childhood days. The commercial and free artist produced various postcard and ex libris illustrations and put down his experiences in etchings and paintings.

Philatelic achievements: In 1926 he was one of the principal founders of the *Federation Internationale de Philatelie* (F.I.P.)

The highlight of his life occurred 1931-33 as principal organizer of Europe's most important stamp exhibition of its time, Vienna's WIPA 1933.

From the 1920s to the end of his life, he produced numerous essays for stamps, yet only a few of them became stamps of Iceland, Colombia, and Liechtenstein. Neither his native Austria nor Germany ever accepted any of his designs.

His only true success as a designer of stamps occurred with Iceland's 1930 Parliament issue—the main subject of this exhibit—which soon was to become overshadowed by a shocking scandal not of his making.

After World War II: In 1945, he lost almost all his life's works to pillaging Russian troops and Austrian villains. Precious philatelic material, sketches, etchings, watercolors, large oil paintings, special prizes and medals received during the three decades before were destroyed and/or scattered around the globe. Just a tiny amount remained in his hands. He produced no more philatelic sketches.

TRACK RECORD

APS AmeriStamp Expo 2008 : *Silver*
 National Topical StampShow 2008 : *Vermeil*
 APS STAMPSHOW 2008 : *Silver*

Emigration: In 1950 he joined his daughter's family in Brazil. There, he resumed sketching, produced postcards and watercolors for sale, *and even designed stamps again—but just for his own pleasure.*

His 80th birthday was honored with an exhibition of his works in Rio de Janeiro.

On January 10, 1956, he passed away, ending a long life filled with *Passion for Philately.*

EXTANT PHILATELIC MATERIAL

According to Maassen* most significant items are held in just four known collections, worldwide.

Internet searches show availability of etchings, watercolors, and small graphic works but hardly anything philatelic other than regular stamps, F.I.P. seals, WIPA 1933 labels—and 'Brazilian essays'.

This exhibitor was fortunate to obtain several items shown here, earlier owned by a Brazilian collector, from a specialist U.S. dealer some 35 years ago.

SHOWN PHILATELIC ELEMENTS

ALL the postage stamps realized from his designs, as issued by Iceland, Colombia, and Liechtenstein—except for a few overprinted/official specimens—and some of the publicity seals and fundraising labels produced during the 1920s and 1930s, as well as several post-humous tributes issued in later years, *plus:*

KEY ITEMS

Trial color proof with his very first essays:

- Six unissued 'stamps' to benefit POWs, 1919.

Large *unique* artist's sketches:

- For essay presentation album cover, 1928/29.
- Preliminary sketch for the 5 Aurar value, 1929.
- Approved sketch for 5 Aurar Viking Ship, 1929.
- Preliminary sketch made in Brazil, 1950/51.

Proofs made during the production process:

- Two large 16-stamp plate proofs, 1929.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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* Phil*Creativ Verlag, 184 pages, 404 illus. Germany (2006).

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