



Watercraft Philately



Journal of the ships on Stamps Unit, American Topical Association

Port of Hamburg offers lots for ship buffs

By Dan Rodlie

On a recent trip to Europe we visited Hamburg where we did a bit of ‘ship spotting’ as it is the world’s 14th largest port and just about anywhere along the river Elbe is a good spot.

Our hotel was in the Reeperbahn in the St. Pauli district which is only a few minutes’ walk from the harbor and several floating maritime museums. This is also the place where the Beatles played before they became famous in the early 60s. We took a harbor cruise onboard the **HAMMONIA** from Landungsbrücken where you can find more than 20 boats running.

I am always looking for ships that have been featured on stamps, and a few were seen during our stay in Hamburg. Right across the Elbe river from the dock was the famous German shipyard Blohm & Voss and in one of the dry-docks was the passenger ship **EUROPA** [Pitcairn Isl. #532 (2000) \$1.50; Tonga #1242a (2013) \$2.40]. Several other ships were also in the yard, including: FSOP ship **PETROJARL BANFF**, the new German Navy’s **BERLIN**-class replenishment ship **BERLIN (A 1411)** and more.

We cruised down the river and into Hamburg’s container port where **NOR FEERDER**, **CHARLOTTE B**, **CGM TURQUOISE**, **HANJIN HARMONY**, **JESSICA B**, **ICE CRYSTAL** and more could be seen working containers. The container ship **MAERSK TANKING** was coming up the Elbe River – something I have done many times during my work on cargo ships.



RICKMER RICKMERS (centre ship) rests along the pier in Hamburg harbour. Below, is a stamp featuring Hamburg’s famous harbour, and the container ship **HAMBURG EXPRESS**.



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