

MESSRS OTTO BOESSNECK & CO.

The CORRESPONDENCE SERIES is an investigation into the background of recipients of British pre-stamped postal stationery. The "collection" was purchased in South Africa in 1999 as a job lot, the which took me six months to sort and mount, creating a collection spanning 140 years. I have no idea of the provenance.

The Reference work is British Postal Stationery, A K Huggins.1970. The first date with catalogue number refers to the year when the pre-stamped envelope was first issued; the second, the year when the envelope was actually used.

Philatelic Description of the item of Postal Stationery:

1912 (CP62)_Messrs Otto Boessneck & Co. Glanchau, SAXONY (actually used 14 APR 13)

Comment:

Messrs Otto Boessneck & Co. of Glanchau, Saxony was woollen mill, details unknown. Glauchau is a town in Saxony, on the right bank of the Mulde. The name Otto Boessneck is associated today with a street in Mülsen, a municipality near Glauchau.

The New York Times published 25th July, 1914 an article (Ref. 3) which offers the following insights:

"Boessneck, Broesel & Co. is composed of Otto B. Boessneck, Hugo E. Boessneck, Curt Loewel, and Herman Wedergartner. The firm of Boessneck, Broesel & Co. was formed in 1892, succeeding the old firm of O.J. Wygong & Co., which was established in 1882. Prior to 1912 Herman Broesel was the active partner here. He died in 1912, and the business was continued by the remaining partners, including Otto and Hugo Boessneck, who live abroad, having large interests in woolen [sic] mills in Glauchau, Saxony, and in Moscow, Russia. Soon after his death his son, Herman Broesel Jr. was admitted to the firm. The latter was at one time Treasurer of the Simplex Automobile Company¹, of which Otto Boessneck now [1914] is First Vice President."

References:

1. Family Search. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. <http://www.familysearch.org>
2. FreeBMD <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>
3. Big Woolens House in Assignee's Hands; Boessneck, Broesel & Co. <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=9B03E7D8113FE633A25756C2A9619C946596D6CF>
4. American Textile Industry Museum <http://mail.athm.org>
5. Crane-Simplex From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crane-Simplex>

¹ The Smith and Mabley Manufacturing Co. of New York City built their first car in 1904, called the S&M Simplex. The company went bankrupt in 1906. By 1907 the firm's assets were absorbed into the Simplex Automobile Co. by Herman Broesel, who, passionate about racing, had purchased the company and redesigned the "Simplex". The firm became Crane-Simplex after purchase of the Crane Motor Car Company in 1915. The Crane-Simplex Company was finally purchased by the Mercer Automobile Company.