

## The Saar Plebiscite

Following Germany's defeat in World War II, the Paris Peace Conference resulted in the Treaty of Versailles. France's desire to acquire the Saar Basin, with its valuable coal mines, surprised the Allies and was rejected by Woodrow Wilson of the United States, on the grounds that Saar was very nearly completely German. A compromise was reached in which France would not gain control, yet Germany would lose sovereignty over the Saar.

The League of Nations gained trusteeship over the region, with headquarters in Saarbrücken, France took possession of the coal mines, and French currency would be used. A plebiscite would be held fifteen years later to determine the fate of the Saar.



Local cover posted in Saarbrücken, 13<sup>th</sup> January 1935, the date set by the Council of the League of Nations for the people to vote on their future. Known as the "Saar Plebiscite," 90.5 % voted for a return to Germany. The label on the cover promotes the idea that Saar is German.



Saar

\*\*186 (UR corner block of 4)



16.80

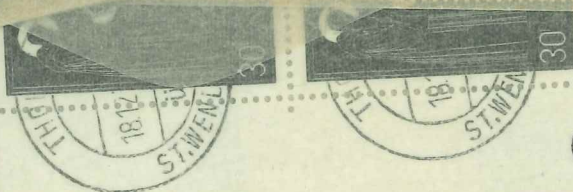
8.40



or Michel 2111

(UR corner block of 4)

Saar \*\*6 (Vertical block of 6)



Saar B99 (LL corner block of 6)

1227

53

L84