

A GERMAN STAMP PERFORATED "TOKIO 1964"

By Brian Birch

The only information I can find about this item is in "The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Stamp Collecting" by Otto Humunga. I quote the first paragraph of the section entitled, "MARIA 1, RULER OF SEDANG",

"The history of philately knows of many attempts to defraud stamp collectors. A group of enterprising dealers in West Germany bought large quantities of official stamp sets issued for the 18th Olympic Games in Tokyo. They had them perforated with the text "TOKIO 1964" and they even managed to find some postal officials at the Bonn Post Office who cancelled them large numbers of first-day covers with these forgeries.

They also obtained some declaration from an official of the German Olympic Committee authorising them to issue this set of perforated stamps. And they then started to sell their 'stamps' from Liechtenstein, at a handsome profit. According to private estimates the organisers made a profit of about 400,000 Deutschmarks (over £40,000)."

If anyone has any further information to add to the above would they please contact Brian Birch.