

Lübeck



Lübeck is beautiful city located in north-central part of Germany. Situated at the mouth of the river Trave as it empties into the Baltic Sea, it was in an excellent position to command economic dominance of the area. True to its form, Lübeck was indeed that power for centuries.

Founded in 1143 by Adolph II, Lübeck was started as a settlement on the river island of . It quickly became a very important port city, and was actually the leading city of the Hanseatic league. The Hanseatic league was a league of powerful German cities that was designed to help control trade in the Baltic Sea region. Lübeck became the “Queen of the Hanseatic league”, by being by far the largest most powerful member. However, star faded a bit in the Count’s feud, the Civil War that ranged in Denmark from 1534 to 1536.

This war, along with the devastation in general the Thirty-Years War brought from 1618 to 1648, started a relative decline in Lübeck’s importance. By the time Napoleon had around, he annexed Lübeck as part of the French Empire in 1811.

However, the city was liberated in 1813, and after the Napoleonic wars, the Congress of Vienna in 1815 recognized Lubeck as an independent free city.



Scott/Michel #1- #5; Second row #7; #10(two copies); #11; Bottom row: Michel #13; #14 and two from postal stationary



Lübeck’s monetary system was 16 shillings equals one Mark at the time of independent stamp printing.

Stamps – The first stamp of Lubeck was issued in 1859 part of a series that featured the Lübeck coat of



Lubeck Michel#2/Scott #2

arms. It was in the one half, one, two, 2 ½ and four Schilling denominations. These were lithographed. A watermark was placed with small flowers and they are imperforate, with full margins being three quarters of a millimeter. They are quite valuable unused, and very difficult to find. Unfortunately, once again this leaves the opportunity for forgers to put on the cancellation mark themselves.

Lübeck Stamps of 1859

Michel #1/Scott #1	½ Schilling	Dark violet gray
Michel #2/Scott #2	1 Schilling	Orange
Michel #3/Scott #3	2 Schilling	Brown
Michel #4/Scott #4	2 ½ Schilling	Magenta
Michel #5a/Scott #5	4 Schilling	Dark green with blackish opal-green
Michel #5b	4 Schilling	Blackish, yellowish green



Lubeck Michel/Scott #6

In 1862, a one-half Schilling in lilac and a one Schilling and yellow-orange were done these were unwatermarked. Unused ones are fairly easy to find, while the used ones are quite rare and therefore extensively counterfeited.

Lübeck Stamps of 1862

Michel#6/Scott #6	½ Schilling	Lilac
Michel #7/Scott #7	1 Schilling	Blackish yellow-orange

At the time that these stamps were issued, there also post offices with Thurn and Taxis, Mecklenburg, Hanover, Denmark and Prussia vying for the business of post office services in Lübeck. This might explain why they are now more valuable used, as many old post offices kept the unused stamps on hand.

It should be known that the two Schilling Brown has the words “ZWEI EIN HALB” in rare instances in positions 96 and 97 on a sheet of 100. These are quite valuable, especially used. The remainder of the sheet of 100 had the correct “ZWEI”, meaning two.

These stamps were reprinted. The story goes that a wounded soldier returning from the Franco-Prussian war was asked by the Lübeck royal family what he wanted for his service retirement. He replied that he wanted some old Lübeck stamps like they used to have. Reprinting was done in brighter colors. They were printed on un-watermarked paper.



Lubeck Michel/Scott #10

In 1863 the next set was made. It does show an eagle similar to the one on the coat of arms. However, this emblem is round. It runs from the one-half green to the four Schilling bister issues. They were embossed, rouletted at 11 ½. Reprints of these are made in 1872 that were imperforate and without embossing, and so are fairly easily distinguished.

Lübeck Stamps of 1863

Michel #8/Scott #8	½ Schilling	Green
Michel #9/Scott #9	1 Schilling	Bright to dark reddish orange
Michel #9a (1863)	1 Schilling	Same, Rouletted 12
Michel #9b (1867)	1 Schilling	Same, Rouletted 10
Michel #10/Scott #10	2 Schilling	Carmine
Michel #11/Scott #11	2 ½ Schilling	Dark ultramarine to middle violet ultramarine
Michel #12/Scott #12	4 Schilling	Olive brown (bister)



Michel/Scott #13

In 1864, a 1 ¼ Schilling brown was printed by lithograph, and is imperforate.

Michel #13/Scott #13	1 ¼ Schilling	Michel has 13a average to bright red brown and 13b dark brown
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Finally, in 1865 another issue with the Eagle that appears to be a cross between the 1859 and 1863 emblems was produced. This one was rouletted at 11 ½. The Eagle is embossed:

Michel #14/Scott #14	1 ½ Schilling	Red lilac
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It should be known that there are reprints available that are perforate and without embossing.

The stamps of Lubeck were superseded by those of the north German Confederation on January 1, 1868.

Lubeck Michel/Scott #14

