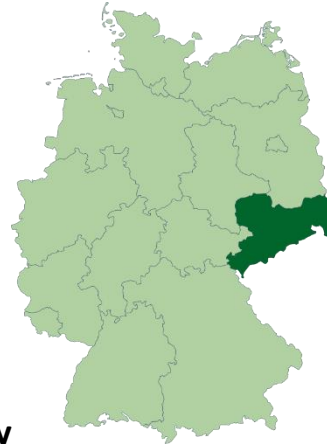


Saxony's flag from 1806-1918



Saxony

Saxony was a free German until 1871 at the reunification of Germany. It is now called the free state of Saxony, and, is at present, a landlocked federal state of Germany in the east. An apt description of Saxony's complicated history may be of one who antagonized and opposed Prussia, much to its detriment.

For example, in 1756 Saxony aligned itself against Prussia and with France, Austria, and Russia in the Seven Years War. Prussia invaded, taking the entire territory and even forcing the Saxon army to fight with them. Fortunately, the Saxons did recover their independence in the Treaty of Hubertusburg.



Saxony's coat of arms from 1806-1918

During the Napoleonic wars Saxony through their lot in with Napoleon. In 1806 Napoleon abolished Holy Roman Empire and established the electorate of Saxony as a kingdom in exchange for military support. The current elector became King Frederick Augustus, the first of Saxony. He remained loyal to Napoleon during the wars. Unfortunately for him, he was taken prisoner after the Battle of Leipzig and his territories were declared forfeited to the Allies in 1813.

Russian wanted to annex Saxony as its own, but due to the opposition of Austria at the Congress of Vienna, Saxony remained a viable independent state. However, Saxony lost more territory in treaty negotiations, a trend that actually began with the Treaty of Hubertusburg.

The southern part of Saxony, now called the state of Saxony, joined the German Confederation in 1815. By 1848, constitutionalist revolutionaries in Germany found Saxony a welcoming place. The May Uprising

in Dresden took place in Saxony in 1849. (Richard Wagner actually participated!) This forced governmental concessions, resulting in a more progressive and democratic Saxon government.

King John of Saxony, who by 1854 had succeeded to the throne, followed a pro-Austrian policy, trying to keep the revolutionary ideas at bay. With the outbreak of the Austro-Prussian war, King John found himself on the wrong side of history again. Prussian troops overran Saxony without resistance and then invaded Austria.

After that fiasco, Saxony was forced to pay indemnity and join the northern German Confederation in 1867. By this time Prussia and Saxony were finally united in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, finally fighting alongside one another. This paved the way for Saxony to smoothly join the German Empire in 1871.

The currency: 10 pfennigs equals one neu-groschen

30 neu-groschen equals one Thaler



Saxony #1 (From Stamp-Collecting-World) one of only 3-4,00 copies known

The stamps – Saxony philately is not for the weak of heart. While some issues are affordable, multiple variations exist for most, making it a very challenging area. This is true despite the fact both Scott and Michel list different 19 issues, with multiple varieties for each issue.

Saxony 1850 Issue

Michel #1/Scott#1	3 Pfennig	Michel 1a-Scott 1 – brick red Michel 1b-Scott 1a- cherry red Michel 1c-Scott 1b – brown red
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The first was made in 1850 as an un-watermarked typographic imperforate three pfennig red that comes in several variations a brick red cherry red and brown red all of which are quite valuable. Vertical lines are between each stamp in the full margin should be 1 mm.

Saxony 1851 issue

Michel #2/Scott #2	3 Pfennig	Green Michel has a I and II for first and subsequent printings with very fine impressions from the first printing having much more value
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The second stamp was in 1851 featuring the coat of arms. It should be noted that this stamp also has several variations which are, quite frankly above and beyond description in this general piece. But one thing to remember on the number two is that for any variation, if the margins are wide all the way around and don't really touch the design, it sells for considerably more than those with narrow margins.

Saxony 1851-55 Issues

Saxony Michel/Scott #2

Michel #3/Scott #3	½ Neugroschen	Michel #3a- dull gray and Michel#3b dull green. Scott lists a rare pale blue error
Michel #4/Scott #5	1 Neugroschen	Michel lists a I – first printing and a II for later printings, with a being dull gray red and b being a dull carman
Michel #5/Scott #6	2 Neugroschen	Scott #7 published 1852 with dark blue
Michel #6/Scott #8	3 Neugroschen	Black with yellow
Michel #7/Scott #7	2 Neugroschen	Black with dark blue

1851 also saw Michel numbers 3-7 printed. Consequently, Scott doesn't have a number four, so the numbering between the two systems subsequently diverges. These featured the side profile of Frederick Augustus the second. They should have full margins of three quarters of a millimeter.

1855 saw the printing of the next six with King John I in profile to his right. They include the following:



Michel 3-5, 7 and 6 (top to bottom, left to right)

Saxony 1855-56 Issues

Michel #8/Scott #9	½ Neugroschen	Black and gray Michel I issued in 1855 and Type II in 1859
Michel#9/ Scott #10	1 Neugroschen	Black and rose Michel has Type I printed in 1855 and Type II in 1859, Type II has a - light gray-red; b – light carmen; c – light fire-red
Michel #10/ Scott #11	2 Neugroschen	Black – Michel has a - blue with bright cobalt and b -gray-ultramarine
Michel #11/ Scott #12	3 Neugroschen	Black and yellow

Saxony 1856-63 Issues

Michel #12/Scott #13	5 Neugroschen	Reds and Oranges – Many variations exist- Please see the Michel guide
Michel #13/Scott #14	10 Neugroschen	Michel has a -milky blue; b -dark blue; and c - blue on shiny paper



1Michel Saxony 8-12 (left to right, top to bottom)

1863 saw a new typographed stamp with the coat of arms in white, embossed, and perforated at 13. They are as follows:

Saxony 1863 Issues

Michel #14/Scott #15	3 Pfennig	Blue-green (4 variations exist)
Michel #15/Scott #16	½ Neugroschen	Orange (6 variations exist)
Michel #16/Scott #17	1 Neugroschen	Michel: a -bright lilac red and b -magenta
Michel #17/Scott #18	2 Neugroschen	Michel: a -blue; b -dark ultramarine; c -dark violet-ultramarine
Michel #18/Scott #19	3 Neugroschen	Red-brown (Michel has 4 variations)
Michel #19/Scott #20	5 Neugroschen	Dull Violet (Michel has 8 variations)



Michel Saxony #14-#19

Variations are absolutely numerous on these, mainly according to color. The Michel guide is the best source for this, but suffice it to say that values can be considerably different based on what you find.

For most of these it needs to be said that the used is worth more than the unused. Consequently, forgeries of these with dubious post markings abound. It needs to be said that the values for copies without gum are at about 50 to 60% of standard values that are usually quoted.