



Old Bergedorf

Bergedorf



Bergedorf's Coat of Arms

The city of Bergedorf officially came into being in 1275, receiving town privileges as part of the Duchy of Saxony. The Duchy was partitioned in half in 1296, and then with almost immediate further subsequent divisions, Bergedorf fell into the hand of Eric I.

His older brother, John II, claimed a part of Bergedorf as a right of inheritance. In a resulting agreement between the two, John II took over in 1321.

By 1370, John IV's successor, Eric III, got into substantial financial difficulty. He made an agreement that he would essentially pawn Bergedorf for 16,262.5 Lubeck marks to the city of Lubeck. Eric II was allowed to stay for the rest of his life. Bergedorf was to be Lubeck's unless the family could pay off the debt.



1401, Eric III died, and was succeeded by second cousin, Eric IV. He, along with his sons, forcibly captured Bergedorf without making repayments.

As history has shown, one invasion may be met with another. In 1420, Lubeck and Hamburg recaptured the town and the agreement called the Peace of Perleburg was announced on 23 August 1420. Bergedorf was to be

An overview of Bergedorf location in Germany

ruled by a bi-urban condominium. This simply meant that Hamburg and Lubeck formally agreed to share equal dominion exercising rights jointly over the same area.

This remained Bergedorf's governance until 1811, when the area was annexed by Napoleon and his empire between 1811 and 1814. After Napoleon's defeat in 1814, Bergedorf was restored to Hamburg-Lubeck in the same manner as before.



By 1868 Lubeck and showed sold its share of the bi-urban condominium to Hamburg for 200,000 prescient Thaler. Hamburg ultimately incorporated Bergedorf into its own, and is now the largest section of town.

Figure 1 Bergedorf's relative position today

The stamps of Bergedorf are quite simple, with only five different issues produced. In 1861 the town itself had a population of about 3000 with the adjoining area making it only to approximately 12,000 souls.

Bergedorf used the Schilling and Mark system, where 16 shillings would equate one Mark.

The stamps of Bergedorf are quite simple, with only five different issues produced:



The Bergedorf Series - Of note, the 1/2, 1 and the 4 appear to be reprints (author's opinion, not a professional one).



A legitimate
Scott/Michel
#2 – expert
opinion

The Stamps of Bergedorf

Scott #1/Michel #1	½ Schilling	1a pale blue, 1b (printed 1867) blue
Scott #2/Michel #2	1 Schilling	Black on white
Scott #3/Michel #3	1 ½ Schilling	
Scott #4/ Michel #4	3 Schilling	Black on pink
Scott #5/Michel #5	4 Schilling	Black on Brown

What makes Bergedorf stamps fascinating are some of the exceptions to what's seen in a general stamp catalogue. First of all what needs be known that counterfeit cancellations are plentiful. This is another example of where the key the used is much more valuable than the new. For instance, a complete set of unused stamps can garner somewhere around \$137. The used, if they are indeed legitimate, is around \$4700, inviting counterfeit cancellation.

The number three exists in a tete-beche pair. This simply means that one is upside down compared to the other and printing, as value unused is substantially higher.

The one-half violet and three shilling on Rose, as well as the one shilling and 1 ½ schilling stamps on thick paper, as well as the four shilling on light Rose-Brown came on proof sheets were never placed in use.

*An authentic Michel/ Scott #5 –
expert opinion*



Reprints:



Bergedorf Reprints – The ½ and the 3 may be legitimate (author's opinion, not a professional one)!

On the **one-half shilling** there is a dot on the upper part of the right branch of the N the “EIN”. The other part of the shield is blank or really nearly blank. The horizontal bar of the H in “Halber” is generally not complete.

On the **one-shilling** the one on the corners is generally with a foot attached to it. The central horizontal bar of the E in “EIN” is separated from the vertical branch by a black line. The “a” of “POSTMARKE” has a horizontal bar that’s incomplete or missing. The horizontal bar of the “H” of “schilling” is separated from the vertical branches by a dark line the side with sometimes the bar that can be missing.

On the **1 ½-shilling stamp**, the reprint will have a small triangle on the underside of the right side of the tower, over the left side of the “R” in “postmark”.

With the **three shilling**, the head of the Eagle is shaded. The horizontal bar the second “E” of “Bergedorf” is separated from the vertical branch by a thin line. Also, there is generally a colored dot in the lower half of the “S” of “POSTMARKE”.

On the **four shilling**, the upper part of the shield is blank or perhaps as two or even three small dashes only. Most of the reprints there is a diagonal – across the wavy lines of the groundwork at the right of “I” and “E” of “VIER.”

It should be noted that these reprints are of only nominal value.

These stamps were superseded by those in the Northern German Confederation in 1868.