



Mecklenburg – Strelitz



As was alluded to in the previous section, the House of Mecklenburg, a duchy in northeastern Germany had a crisis in 1701. The Güstrow branch of the House of Mecklenburg had died out with the death of Duke Gustav Adolph in 1695. Duke Frederick William of Mecklenburg-Schwerin claimed heirship. However, his uncle Gustav Frederick also claimed rights. Negotiated compromise sealed with the 1701 Treaty of Hamburg said that there would be two duchies, one of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and the second the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

The Strelitz duchy was probably in one or more backwards area of the entire empire. It was better known for two surprisingly prominent marriages: Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz,



sister of Duke Adolphus Frederick, married England's King George III in 1761, thus becoming the queen consort of Great Britain. The second was Louise of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the daughter of Duke Charles II the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, married Frederick William III of Hohenzollern in 1793, becoming the queen consort of Prussia in 1797.

Mecklenburg – Strelitz during the Napoleonic wars of central Europe (1806-15) was never occupied by the French, but did join the Confederation of the Rhine, a series of near-vassal states to the French empire in 1806. Once the tide turned against the French, Mecklenburg-Strelitz withdrew from it. Subsequently at the Congress of Vienna, where Europe met to split up the post-war world in 1815, and members of the German Confederation. This is where we begin with the stamps of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

The monetary system was 30 Silbergroschen equals 48 shillings to one Thaler.



Only six stamps were produced, all in 1864. They are rouletted to 11 ½, embossed, and unwatermarked.

All six feature their coat of arms. The first three, the one-quarter, one-third, and one Silbergroschen are orange, green, and violet respectively as the standard issues each of the first design. The second design features the one, two and three Silbergroschen and in rose, ultramarine and bister respectively in an octagonal shield.



Figure 1 From L to R, Top to Bottom: #1,#2,#3; #1,#4,#5; #6, #5

Michel/Scott #1	¼ Silbergroschen	orange
Michel/Scott #2	½ Silbergroschen	green
Michel/Scott #3	1 Schilling	violet
Michel/Scott #4	1 Silbergroschen	rose
Michel/Scott #5	2 Silbergroschen	ultra
Michel/Scott #6	3 Silbergroschen	bister

Counterfeit cancellations are everywhere, and these need to be authenticated before trying to sell them at reasonable values as listed in the pricing catalogs. Legitimate ones found on envelopes with cancellations can be worth in the six figures, and are indeed a rarity.

It should be noted that these stamps were superseded by those of the North German Confederation in 1868.