



Hamburg



Hamburg, now one of the wealthiest cities in all the world, hasn't always enjoyed such prosperous times. While Hamburg has been a major player in the history of Germany for quite some time, it certainly didn't start out that way. Hamburg first began when Charlemagne himself ordered the construction of a castle on rocky terrain where the Elbe and the Alster rivers came together as a defensive measure against the Slavs.

Unfortunately, over the next several hundred years, this area also became a place where invaders might show up. Hamburg was overrun during the Viking invasions of the ninth century. During the 11th century Hamburg was destroyed by the Polish. The Danish had their way with the town in the 13th century.

In 1189, Frederick Barbarossa issued an imperial charter declaring Hamburg a free city. This helped open up Hamburg economically. At that time, taxes were much lower in sovereign city-states, thus enabling economic activity to truly take off. Hamburg actually combined forces with Lubec in 1227, marking the beginning of the Hanseatic league of trading cities which last for several hundred years.

As with everything else in Germany, Hamburg was invaded and briefly annexed by Napoleon and his first French Empire, before being finally freed by Russian forces in 1814. The Vienna Congress, Europe's post-Napoleonic meeting to divvy up territory in 1815, confirmed Hamburg's independence and became one of the 39 states the German Confederation.

Hamburg ultimately became a member of the northern German Confederation in 1866, which put it in position to become part of the German Empire in 1871. Most of Hamburg's wealth and population growth occurred during the second half the 19th century, when its population quadrupled to 800,000. Hamburg now has 1.8 million residents, making it one of the larger cities in Germany and in all of Europe.

Currency- 16 Schillings = 1 Mark

The Stamps – Printing began in 1859 with typographed stamps. They were watermarked and were imperforate, as were most of that age. A simple design highlighting the denomination over the city arms was published. The denominations from ½ Schilling to 9 Schilling.



Michel/Scott #1-7 (Taken from Stamp-collecting-world.com)

1859 Issues

Michel #1/Scott #1	½ Schilling	Black
Michel #2/Scott #2	1 Schilling	Brown
Michel #3/ Scott #3	2 Schilling	Red
Michel #4/ Scott #4	3 Schilling	Blue
Michel #5/ Scott #5	4 Schilling	Yellow-green
Michel #6/Scott #6	7 Schilling	Orange
Michel #7/Scott #7	9 Schilling	Yellow

Margins are actually very important for these stamps. The spacing between positions on the printing place with 1.75 millimeters vertically and 0.75 mm horizontally. The Michel catalog recommends collecting these appropriate staff with at least one of the horizontal and one of the vertical margin being equal to or exceeding 1.5 mm. with the vertical separator line showing one of the horizontal margins.

Why is this important? The 1864 issues look pretty much the same. There is one difference: they were perforated. One can therefore see that it would be easy to simply trim it off and represents an 1864 issue as an 1859 issue making it much more valuable. That is why having that vertical line visible so that you know you're dealing with is incredibly important.



F Michel #8/Scott #9

February 1864 Issues

Michel #8/Scott #9	1 ¼ Schilling	Numerous colors (See the Michel catalog!)
Michel #9/Scott #12	2 ½ Schilling	Blue Green

These 1864 issues of 1 ¼ Schilling to 2 ½ Schilling should have both horizontal and vertical lines between the stamps. Just like before it's pretty important that you have one of those to prove that this is not simply inappropriate that someone cut to make with imperfect. Michel recommends that you have margins exceeding 1.5 mm to show that the stamp could not have been a perforated that was cut.

1864-1867 Issues

Michel #10/Scott #13	½ Schilling	Black
Michel #11/Scott #14	1 Schilling	Brown
Michel #12	1 ¼ Schilling	Dark Violet
Michel #13/ Scott #15	2 Schilling	Red
Michel #14(1865)	2 ½ Schilling	Yellow with Blue-green
Michel #15/Scott #17	3 Schilling	Ultramarine
Michel #16/Scott #18	4 Schilling	Green (blue-green variant is much more valuable)
Michel #17/Scott #19	7 Schilling	Orange
Michel #18/ Scott #21	9 Schilling	Yellow-orange

The above issues first printed in 1864 were typographed, perforated, rouletted at 13 ½ , and was issued with no watermark.

Lithographed issues of Michel issues #12 (1 ¼ Schilling) and # 14 (2 ½ Schilling) were made during this time. They are considered to be Scott #22 and #23, respectively. To make matters more confusing, the 1 ¼ Schilling was made on watermarked and unwatermarked paper, while the 2 ½ Schilling is only on unwatermarked paper.

Most of these 1864 issues are fairly common, with the exception of a used 1864 Michel #18 /Scott # 21 the nine Schilling. Finding that used is very uncommon and therefore getting that authenticated the PC one is going to be absolutely mandatory.



Michel 20 and 21/Scott 24 and 25



Michel 22a/ Scott 26 – Deemed genuine by expert opinion

Issues of 1865-1867

Michel #19/ Scott #20 Feb. 1865	7 Schilling	Violet
Michel #20/ Scott #24 April 1866	1 ¼ Schilling	Violet with a gray-red violet variant more valuable
Michel #21/ Scott #25 April 1866	1 ½ Schilling	Rose
Michel #22/ Scott #26 May 1867	2 ½ Schilling	Dark Olive Green

Michel #20 and #21 are embossed, while Michel #22 is typographed.

Reprints- On the **1 ¼ Schilling** the rosettes between the words of the inscription are well-defined and an open circle in the center of the originals, while in the reprints the circle is filled up.

The upper part of the top of the “g” in Schilling, there is a thin vertical line which is missing in the reprints.

The two lower lines of the triangle of the upper left corner are of different thicknesses of the originals while in the reprints, they are of equal thickness.

The labels at the right and left containing inscriptions are 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ millimeters in width in the originals while they are 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm reprints. Small stuff to be sure. (From the Scott catalogue)

On the **1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Schilling**, the originals are printed on thinner paper than the reprints. You can tell by turning the stamp over - the light will go through on the originals and won't go through on the reprints. The vertical stroke of the upper part of the "g" in Schilling is very short on the originals scarcely crossing the top line. In the reprints it almost touches the center of the "g".

The lower part of the "g" in Schilling in the originals barely touches the inner lining of the frame. In the reprints, the whole stroke runs into the inner light of the frame.

The very last Hamburg stamp made was in 1867, typographed, watermarked with the serpentine line perforation at 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. It's 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Schilling dark olive green. After this the stamps of Hamburg were succeeded by the northern German Confederation as of January 1, 1868.

Keep in mind for his cancellations exist on the stamps especially when you look at the catalog and realize use is worth a lot more than. Keep in mind especially for numbers four, seven, 21, and 25.

Happy hunting.