

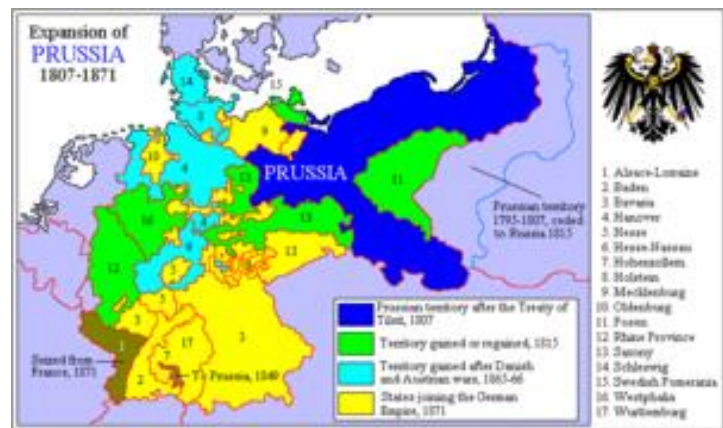


Prussia

Of all the German states that are covered on this website, perhaps Prussia has had the most extensive historical study. It was the largest and the most important of the German states, as Prussia led the way to German reunification. For centuries, the House of Hohenzollern ruled Prussia, often expanding its size through a very well-organized and effective army. Prussian soldiers throughout history were some of the most feared in the world.

Prussia can be thought of as a result of the Teutonic Knights. This German order of Knights, previously headquartered in Jerusalem during the crusades, was invited by Konrad I to invade Prusa. After 60 years of sporadic fighting with a couple of uprisings, the Christian Teutons were able to subdue, and help ultimately convert, the pagan Old Prussians.

Prussia continued to expand, until having their power checked by an alliance of Lithuania and Poland at the Battle of Grunwold (Tannenberg) in 1410. Subsequent wars against the Hanseatic League, a coalition of Baltic Sea cities that put a stranglehold on area trade and commerce, forced Prussia to split in two in 1466. The reality of two Prussias did not end until 1701 when King Frederick I was able to reunify Prussia.



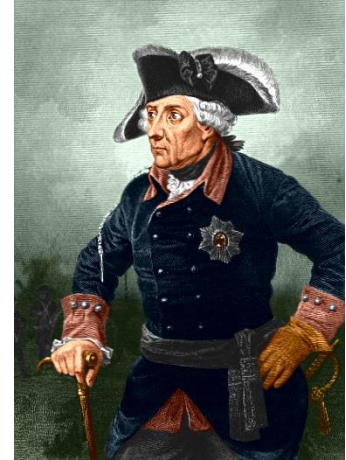
His son made Prussia a power. King Frederick II became appropriately known as Frederick the Great. Reigning from 1740-86, he fought often and consistently with Austria, expanding Prussian territory and power. Furthermore, he brought in a civil code, allowed immigration of oppressed minorities, started a universal education system, and developed the industry and commerce of Prussia.

Frederick the Great's successor, his son, Frederick William II ruled from 1786-97, his grandson, Frederick William III (ruled 1797-1840) guided Prussia through the Napoleonic wars. This ultimately led to a further expansion of its territories from the Congress of Vienna in 1815. Prussia was ultimately able to re-expand her armies after the decimation of the French wars.

Frederick William III's successor, Wilhelm I, most lasting decision was to take on Otto von Bismarck as Chancellor. Bismarck took advantage of revolutionary fervor of Germany to ultimately pursue a policy of German reunification, excluding Austria.

That wasn't easy. Austria understandably didn't want a powerful neighbor, and so unification could not take place until only three different wars were fought: The First (1848-52) and Second (1864) War of Schleswig, as well as the Austro-Prussian War (1866), which established Prussian dominance over the other German states.

Reunification could finally take place – and it did, in 1871.



Frederick the Great

Once inside the German Empire in 1871, Prussia became the kingdom of Prussia, a semiautonomous area inside of Germany. Since Prussia was the most influential part of Germany, it was safe to say that in most matters what Prussia wanted, Prussia got.



Otto von Bismarck

After the German revolution of 1918 on the heels of a disastrous World War I, Prussia became the free state of Prussia, which actually had much less autonomy than before. It lost nearly all of its importance following the 1933 Reichstag elections. After that, the Nazis dismantled what was left of Prussia, and made it into simply just another region of Germany, with only historical significance. Ceremonially, Hitler called himself the governor of Prussia, and Herman Goring became prime minister of Prussia until the end of World War II.

The money – Prussia's monetary system was 12 pfennigs for one Silbergroschen and 60 Kreuzer for one Gulden.

The stamps:



Michel #1/Scott #2

Prussia Issues of 1850



Michel #2 and #4

Michel#1/Scott#2	½ Silbergroschen/6 Pfennig	Red-orange
Michel#2/Scott#3	1 Silbergroschen	Black – Michel has a -rose; b -dark rose; c -fire-red (May 1851) and d -lilac rose (11-15-1850)
Michel#3/Scott#4	2 Silbergroschen	Black with blue
Michel#4/Scott#5	3 Silbergroschen	Black with yellow – Michel has black with a -yellow (11-15-1850) and b - corn-yellow (1851)

These first issues had King Frederick Wilhelm IV in profile. Full margins are considered to be ½ mm. These are engraved and watermarked. The watermark was a laurel wreath. They do have a background of crossed lines. They are imperforate. Reprints have both watermarked and unwatermarked paper.

Michel 5a- Prussia



Prussia Issue of 1856

Michel#5/Scott #1	4 Pfennig	Yellow-green – Michel has a -green and b - dark green
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Like the above, it has King Frederick Wilhelm IV in profile. It is engraved, watermarked, and is imperforate.



Prussia Issues of 1857

Michel 6b-
Prussia

Michel#6/Scott#6	1 Silbergroschen	Rose- Michel has a -rose and b -rose-carmine
Michel#7/Scott#7	2 Silbergroschen	Blue – Michel has a - blue; b -light blue and c -dark blue
Michel#8/Scott#8	3 Silbergroschen	Orange – Michel has a - yellow-orange; b - yellow and c - dark orange



1857 brought more issues. These stamps, printed in April 1857, again show King Frederick Wilhelm IV in profile. These are typographic and un-watermarked with a solid background. As evident from the chart, each issue has variations in color that substantially affect pricing. Check your pricing guide!

Michel #9a

Prussia Issues of 1858-60

Michel#9/Scott#9	4 Pfennig	Green – Michel has a - bright green and b - dark green
Michel#10/Scott#11	1 Silbergroschen	Rose – Michel has a - rose and b -carmine rose
Michel#11/Scott#12	2 Silbergroschen	Blue Michel has a - blue; b - dark blue, and c - black-blue
Michel#12/Scott#13	3 Silbergroschen	Orange -Michel has a - yellow-orange with orange and b -yellow with orange-yellow

In 1858 we have more issues with King Frederick William IV in profile. This time we have a background of crossed lines. All the above is typographed.

Prussia Issue of 1859

Michel #13/Scott#10	½ Silbergroschen/6 Pfennig	Orange Michel has a -bright red-orange and b - red-light orange
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This stamp is similar to Michel #9-12 except that it is engraved.



Prussia Issues of 1861(Octagonal)

Michel
14b

Michel#14/Scott#15	4 Pfennig	Yellow-Green Michel has a -yellow green (1861 issue) and b -dark green (1864)
Michel#15/Scott#16	6 Pfennig	Orange Michel has a -orange (1861 issue) and b -brown-red (1865)

1861 brought more stamps from Prussia: a four pfennig and a six pfennig issues. They depict the coat of arms of Prussia in octagonal shape. They are embossed and rouletted at 11 ½.



Prussia Issues of 1861 (Oval)

Michel 16a

Michel#16/Scott#17	1 Silbergroschen	Rose – Michel has a -rose with carmine and b -lilac-red
Michel#17/Scott#18	2 Silbergroschen	Ultramarine – Michel has a -dark ultramarine and b -Prussian blue
Michel#18/Scott#20	3 Silbergroschen	Bister – Michel has a -pale brown and b -gray-brown

These are also embossed and rouletted at 11 ½ . However, the coat of arms is put inside an oval shape.



Prussia's Michel
#19

Prussia Issue of 1865

Michel#19/Scott#14	3 Pfennig	Red-lilac - Michel has a -rose-lilac with gray-lilac and b -brown-lilac
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Also embossed and rouletted at 11 ½ , the lighter version **a** was printed in 1865 (in Scott called **14a**), and the darker version, **b**, printed in 1867 (in Scott called simply **14**).

Prussia Issues of 1866

Michel#20/Scott#21	10 Silbergroschen	Dark rose-red
Michel#21/Scott#22	20 Silbergroschen	Dark green blue with gray-blue

These two issues have a very distinctive look, as they are typographed n reverse on paper resembling Goldbeater's skin. Printed in 1866, they are rouletted at 10. As Scott says, "Perfect examples of Nos. #21-22 are extremely rare."



Prussia Michel 22-26

Prussia Issues of 1867

Michel#22/Scott#23	1 Kreuzer	Emerald green
Michel#23/Scott#24	2 Kreuzer	Orange
Michel#24/Scott#25	3 Kreuzer	Bright carmine with bright rose-carmine
Michel#25/Scott#26	6 Kreuzer	Michel has a -ultramarine and b -blue
Michel#26/Scott#27	9 Kreuzer	Michel has a -ochre (brighter) And b -ochre-brown (darker)

These are rouletted to 16 and embossed. If you have an imperforate stamp, you have the proof.

Be aware that the color of the 2 Kreuzer orange can change colors and presumably darken due to oxidation.

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