

# THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

By H. M. HANSEN.

The stamps of these two provinces have, like so many other issues of postage stamps, quite an historic interest, apart from their philatelic value. They show us clearly the much-debated history of the two Dukedoms from 1850 up to 1866, and although there are no stamps of very great rarity nor any great number of varieties, yet they do undoubtedly possess considerable philatelic interest, not least because they, in common with many of the other stamps of German States, possess the virtue of finality, for no fresh issues of stamps are likely to take place for these provinces, unless under circumstances which would necessitate a re-arrangement of the map of Europe.

Although the Revolutionary Government was established as early as 24th March, 1848, no issue of stamps was made until November 15th, 1850. An order was issued by the Provisionary Government dated Kiel, 2nd April, 1850, authorizing the issue of stamps for the province of Schleswig-Holstein. The officials had already on the 26th March, 1850, applied to an engraver by the name of Wiener, in Brussels, and an essay was sent by Mr. Wiener to the Schleswig-Holstein authorities, but this essay is unfortunately quite unknown. It did not prove acceptable to the officials. A further essay was made in May, 1850, by a printer's apprentice at Kiel, but proved likewise unsuitable.

Negotiations were then entered into with the firm of H. W. Köbner and Lehmkuhl in Altona. Various essays were produced by Messrs. H. W. Köbner and Lehmkuhl—of which I possess an almost complete set—finally resulting in the acceptance of the design, for which contract was entered into for the production of 2,000,000 stamps, and these were delivered as follows:—

10th Nov., 1850	80,000	1 schilling, blue.
" " "	40,000	2 " red.
25th " "	20,000	1 " blue.
" " "	20,000	2 " red.
24th Dec., "	100,000	1 " blue.
" " "	100,000	2 " red.
14th Feb., 1851	1,100,000	1 " blue.
" " "	540,000	2 " red.

In all 1,300,000 1 schilling, blue, and 700,000 2 schilling, red.

On the 15th November, 1850, these stamps were issued to the public, but only for use in the Dukedom of Holstein, as the Danes had already by that time reoccupied the whole of Schleswig. From the books and accounts still in possession of the postal authorities at Kiel, it appears that in all 8000 stamps at 1 schilling and 4000 at 2 schilling were issued. These 12,000 stamps were used to pay the postage on 8701 letters, which will fully explain the rarity of used specimens of these stamps. The small quantity used of these stamps is further accounted for by the short time they were in actual circulation, as well as by the circumstance that the use of stamps at that period was quite strange to the ordinary public. This is clearly shown by the fact that whereas from the 1st of January until the end of August, 1851, 1,158,002 letters went through the post, only 6589 were actually posted with the new stamps on, the remainder being either paid for across the counter or by the recipients. The balance of these stamps were transferred to Copenhagen after the Danish reoccupation of the two Dukedoms in 1852. Some of these found their way into the hands of

Copenhagen stamp dealers, but a large quantity went back to Kiel in 1864, and were sold there at face value, but not for postal use. This ends the first period of stamp issue of these provinces.

The next we hear about postage stamps in connection with Schleswig-Holstein was an essay printed in Copenhagen in 1860. The first printing consisted of 700 stamps on rather thick paper, and in 1862 a further 1200 were printed. In the last printing the blue net-work is more noticeable and the brown color is much clearer than in the previous printing. I have marked these essay printings 2 and 3, as it is stated that this essay was already in existence in 1850, and that three stamps were then printed of each design on thin paper. I have never seen copies of this first printing. There is nothing very remarkable about these essays. The first one has the head of King Frederick VII, and the second the head of Mercury. It is said that the features of Mercury were made to resemble the Countess Danner, themorganatic wife of King Frederick VII.

After the reoccupation of Schleswig-Holstein by the joint armies of Prussia and Austria in 1864, the first issue of stamps was made by the German Federal Government on March 1st, 1864, printed by H. W. Köbner and Lehmkuhl, Altona. Of this issue three printings or types exist. These stamps were produced in sheets of 100 each, and as soon as the printing of each issue was completed the stones were destroyed, thus necessitating a re-engraving when further orders arrived. Hence the distinct variety of the three printings. These stamps were used for the Province of Holstein only. All three printings were used imperforated, but a rouletted variety exists of the first issue. When used it always bears the postmark "127" inside three circles, which indicates the town of Oldenburg in Holstein. This rouletted variety correctly postmarked is somewhat rare. There are numerous forgeries of this stamp unused and used, with other postmarks. Of the three types, type 2 is distinctly the rarest. Type 3 is quite common.

The first issue of stamps for the Dukedom of Schleswig was made on March 10th, 1864. The first value printed was the 4 schilling, carmine, issued jointly by Austria and Prussia, and printed at the Prussian State Printing Office in Berlin. Of these the following quantities were printed:—

On the 7th March, 1864,	10,000
14th " "	100,000
21st August, 1865,	100,000
In all	210,000.

In spite of these considerable issues this stamp is not at all common in used condition. This is accounted for by the fact that the last 100,000 printed on the 21st August were never issued to the public, but passed mostly into the hands of dealers, as did also the remainder of the previous printings to the number of 99,994, thus leaving only about 10,000 stamps actually sold over the postal counter.

The next value, the 1¼ schilling, green, was printed in April 1864. Of this value no less than 2,000,000 were issued. After the 30th December, 1864, these stamps became also available in Holstein. This issue is known to have been used bisected in Holstein, but was never available in that condition in

Schleswig.

A further issue for Holstein was made in May 1864. Also of 1¼ schilling, but of different design—ronlette 8. This stamp was used provisionally, bisected, from June 1864 until April 1865. I show a copy of this on original letter, and also two copies of the complete stamp with the Bergedorf postmark, which is rather difficult to obtain.

In 1865, after the occupation of both the Dukedoms by the armies of Austria and Prussia, a further joint issue was made by the occupying Powers, and printed in the Prussian State Printing Office in Berlin. The first value was printed in February, namely, the ½ schilling, rose. Of this issue there were delivered in all 3,990,000 between the 15th February and the 13th December, 1865, but no more than about 585,000 of these stamps were issued to the public up to the 31st October, 1865, when they were withdrawn from use, but from November 1866 they were again made available both in Holstein and Schleswig.

In June 1865 a further value was issued, namely, the 1¼ schilling, green, of which altogether 3,407,500 were printed. Of these only about 1,300,000 were sold across the counter up to the end of October 1865, when they were withdrawn from use. These stamps were likewise made available again from November 1866 until the 31st December, 1867.

The next issue, the 1¼ schilling, lilac, was made in August 1865. Of this issue 1,500,000 were printed. This stamp was only in use two and a half months, and not more than 250,000 to 300,000 used. Of this number a good proportion were used on postal orders to Prussia, and therefore destroyed with these. This stamp is therefore not very common in used condition. This issue was made available again from November 1866 until December 31st, 1867.

A further value was issued on the 18th August of the same year, namely, the 2 schilling, blue. One million seven hundred thousand were delivered by the printers in four separate parcels. It is estimated that from 260,000 to 300,000 were used, mostly on letters to Denmark. The last value of these series, namely, the 4 schilling, brown, was issued on the 10th September, 1865, and the sale of this stamp was discontinued on the 31st October in Schleswig and Holstein, and on the 31st December in the small Dukedom of Lauenburg. Five hundred thousand of these stamps were printed, and the printers had a further stock in hand at the time when the same ceased to be used. It is pretty certain that no more than about 50,000 were ever sold, and probably less than this. This stamp is therefore uncommon in used condition.

The next series of stamps was made after Prussia and Austria had quarrelled with regard to the possession of the two Dukedoms which had been torn away from Denmark. This issue was made on the 1st of November, 1865. The stamps were produced by Messrs. Köbner and Lehmkuhl in Altona, and consisted of the following values:

½ schilling, green,	500,000 printed.
1¼ " lilac,	{ 2,000,000 "
	{ 1,500,000 "
2 " blue,	{ 700,000 "
	{ 500,000 "
1½ " rose,	1,000,000 "
4 " light brown,	1,000,000 "

The paper on which this issue is printed is somewhat coarser than that utilized for the previous issue. These stamps were made for use in Holstein, and issued on the 1st November, 1865, and they were current until the close of 1867. They became available in Schleswig also from November 1866, but were rarely used in that Province.

A separate issue for the Dukedom of Schleswig was made on the 1st November, 1865, in the following values:

$\frac{1}{2}$	schilling, green,	500,000
$1\frac{1}{4}$	" lilac,	5,000,000
$1\frac{1}{2}$	" rose,	500,000
2	" blue,	500,000
4	" brown,	500,000

The  $1\frac{1}{4}$  schilling value in this issue

occurs in various shades, from red-lilac to almost grey. Most catalogues mention the  $1\frac{1}{4}$  value under two headings, namely, in the lilac and the grey colour. In reality there were two printings of this stamp. The lilac one was rouletted  $11\frac{1}{2}$  to  $11\frac{3}{4}$ , whereas the grey was rouletted 10. The second printing was undoubtedly made in the same colour as the previous one, but the gum used was different to that used on the previous issue, and absorbed the lilac colour and left the stamp distinctly grey.

In February 1866, a further stamp for use in Holstein was issued, namely, the  $1\frac{1}{4}$  schilling, violet, printed by Messrs. K bner and Lehmkuhl as before. It is estimated that about 2,500,000 of these

stamps were printed. They must have been used very extensively, and unused stamps of this value are not common.

Another value was issued in the beginning of July 1866, namely, the 2 schilling, blue. It is estimated that only 200,000 of these stamps were printed, but the figure is not authentic.

The issue of stamps for these Dukedoms finally ceased after the termination of the war between Austria and Prussia, when the Dukedoms were taken possession of by the latter Power, and the stamps of Prussia and the North German Federation took the place of the former separate issues.—*London Philatelist*.