

group would make the final decision as to the awards. They alone would be morally responsible and their judgment would not be subject to review by the full jury. Only for the "Grand Prix", the best collection of the show and a few other special prizes, would the different groups of the jury work together to reach a decision.

This seemingly revolutionary method of judging an international exhibition is, by the way, not new and unusual at all and other hobbies which organize competitive exhibitions have for a long time adopted similar principles of judging. Dog shows and flower shows are the best example of this. It would seem absurd to a dog fancier, that an expert on Chihuahuas should have a say in the judging of Great Danes, and a flower enthusiast would laugh at the idea of an expert on lilies judging roses. But the philatelists have for many years allowed an expert on pre-stamp covers to vote on an award for a collection of air post stamps and an expert on airmails to have an important say regarding a specialized collection of a classic issue.

Of course, if we decide to make a small number of experts responsible for the judging of a small number of exhibits, we will have to discard many ideas which govern present judging. We will have to forget "gold", "silver-gilt", "silver" and "bronze" medals and return to an old principle, giving the awards to the "best collection of the group", "second-best collection of the group" and so forth. The organizers of a

large international exhibition will, by way of invitation, which anyhow has become customary in recent years, be able to see to it that every group is well balanced, so that collections of nearly equal importance will be awarded the first prize in each group. The indication of the awards, for example, "Best specialized collection of Old Italian States" or "Best Airmail collection" or "Best postal-historical collection", or "Best topical collection" or "Best Junior collection", etc., etc., would characterize the awards sufficiently, without any discriminatory implication as between groups.

Special provisions should be made for *research collections*. It is impossible for the best judges to ascertain the philatelic value of a research collection by merely looking at the exhibit. Therefore it should be made mandatory for all exhibits in the research collection group that the result of the research they exemplify must be published at least three months before the opening of the exhibition and this publication must be supplied to the three judges who are to judge the group.

We have reached the end of our discussion of the problems which philatelic diversity has created. In most cases, we could only point our finger at them and make a few suggestions to improve conditions and make philately a healthier hobby. Variety may be the spice of life, but in philately diversity has confronted us with problems which require the efforts of all philatelists of good will for a satisfactory solution.

## EUROPEAN CLASSICS

### VII. BERGEDORF \*

*Bergedorf* was by far the smallest of the Old German territories which had its own postal service. It was not an independent state but a territory which was the common property of the Free Cities of Hamburg and Lubeck, which governed it jointly. Situated at the Elbe estuary, the Bergedorf territory which consisted of the town of Bergedorf and the "Vierlanden"—so called because the territory was divided into four parts by branches of the Elbe—and the en-

clave of Geesthacht, to the east in Prussian territory, had an area of only 35 square miles and, in 1861, a population of little over 12,000. It was bounded on the north and north-east by the Duchy of Lauenburg, which until 1864 was under Danish, and after 1864, under Prussian rule, on the north-west by the Free City of Hamburg and on the west, south and south-east by the Kingdom of Hanover. The main town, Bergedorf, had less than 3000 inhabitants in 1861. Fishing was the main occupation of the population and there was little other business in the town.

The *history* of Bergedorf, due to the small size of the territory, is to a large extent dependent upon that of the adjacent

\*) We are greatly indebted to Mr. *John R. Boker* of New York for permission to use a number of unpublished data based on his studies.

territories. The town of Bergedorf is first mentioned in the 13th century when it was the property of the Dukes of Saxony-Lauenburg. In 1420, the small fortified city was conquered by the forces of Hamburg and Lubeck and remained, together with the "Vierlanden" and Geesthacht, from then on the common property of both cities. The territory now had a history similar to that of the adjacent Free City of Hamburg. During the Napoleonic Wars, it was occupied by the French in November 1806 and in 1810 became part of the French department 128, "Bouches de l'Elbe". After the withdrawal of the French, at the end of 1813, the previous allegiance to Hamburg and Lubeck was restored. On Aug. 8, 1867, Hamburg gained by purchase sole possession of the territory. In the same year, Hamburg and with it Bergedorf became a member of the North German Confederation and in 1871 of the German Empire, to which it still belongs.

The *postal history* of Bergedorf was a rather short one. Until 1838, the territory had no postal service, the population being obliged to send their mail by private means to the neighboring territory for forwarding. Only on May 1, 1838, was a *Prussian post office* established at Bergedorf under postmaster Franz Paalzow, but this was abolished on March 31, 1847, when the Berlin-Hamburg railroad, which passed through Bergedorf, opened. On the following day, in the same location and under the same postmaster, a new post office, called "*Lubeck-Hamburgisches Postamt*" was established, to be supervised for alternate periods by the Senates of Lubeck and Hamburg. Aside from its connection with Hamburg and Lubeck, Bergedorf maintained close relations with the Duchy of Lauenburg, with which it concluded its first postal treaty, which came into force on Oct. 1, 1851. Bergedorf did not become a member of the *German-Austrian Postal Union*, although Hamburg and Lubeck joined it on Jan. 1, 1852. But the regulations of the Union were extended to Bergedorf four years later and became effective there on Jan. 1, 1856. The relations with Denmark, by which Lauenburg was ruled at that time, remained close ones and in 1857 a postal treaty was concluded with Denmark, which came into force on Oct. 1, 1857. When in 1864, Schleswig-Holstein and Lauenburg

were occupied by Prussia and Austria, and the Danish rule ended there, this postal treaty was retained, due to the close connection between Bergedorf and the neighboring territory.

In November 1853, a *rural mail service* was established between the town of Bergedorf and the hamlets in the "Vierlanden". The territory was divided for this purpose into six postal districts in which six rural mail carriers collected and distributed mail. In 16 hamlets rural mail agencies were established. On Oct. 1, 1857, the rural mail service was extended to a part of the adjacent Hamburg territory which for this purpose was attached to the Bergedorf postal service. In 15 hamlets in that territory rural mail agencies were established and this increased the total number to 31. This figure remained unchanged until the end of Bergedorf's separate postal existence, although several agencies were transferred from one place to another.

In *Geesthacht*, which was a Bergedorf enclave in Prussian territory, but where no postal service had existed, a Prussian post office was opened about the middle of 1856.

On Sept. 16, 1866, the rural mail agency at *Kirchwerder*, in the "Vierlanden" on the main route from Bergedorf via Winsen to Hanover, was elevated to a post office, the second and only one aside from Bergedorf in the territory.

On Dec. 31, 1867, the separate Bergedorf postal service ended and all rural mail agencies were abolished on the same day. On the following day, Jan. 1, 1868, post offices of the postal administration of the *North German Confederation* started to function in Bergedorf and several places in the "Vierlanden".

Bergedorf had had its own postal service for 20 years and nine months. In 1861, 55,480 pieces of mail were handled, about 150 a day, which certainly does not seem sufficient to justify a separate postal service, which had only become necessary by the special political situation of the territory as a common property of two independent states.

Bergedorf used the same *currency* as Hamburg and Lubeck, namely the mark, divided into 16 schilling. Compared with the neighboring currencies, 1 schilling equalled  $\frac{3}{4}$  Prussian Silbergroschen, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  schilling were equivalent to 4 Danish Skilling. The

unit of *weight* was the pound, which was divided into 32, later 30, loth (1 loth equivalent to about  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce). *Distances* were measured in postal miles, which were equivalent to about  $7\frac{1}{2}$ km.

When *postal stamps* were first introduced in Bergedorf, they were not its own stamps but *Danish postage stamps*, which were sold and used there beginning Oct. 1, 1857. As far as is known, only 4s stamps were sold at the Bergedorf post office, which was the single rate for letters to Denmark. They could be used solely on mail to Denmark, which incorporated at that time Schleswig, Holstein and Lauenburg and constituted a reduced rate, equivalent to  $1\frac{1}{4}$ s, while the regular rate, if paid in cash, was 2s.

Bergedorf issued its own *postage stamps* on Nov. 1, 1861, in the denominations  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 1s,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s, 3s and 4s. This series remained in use until the separate Bergedorf postal service was abolished on Dec. 31, 1867. No other values nor any other postal stamps or any stationery were issued for the territory. It seems that the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s envelopes of Hamburg were also available at the Bergedorf post office because they are known in a comparatively large number of cases used at Bergedorf.

After the Prusso-Austrian war against Denmark in 1864, the use of Danish stamps was replaced by that of stamps of *Schleswig-Holstein*. Only the value of  $1\frac{1}{4}$ s was sold and used at Bergedorf, exclusively for mail to Schleswig-Holstein and Lauenburg. First, from March and April 1864 respectively, the separate issues for Holstein and Schleswig were sold; then, early in 1865, the joint issue for Schleswig-Holstein; from November 1, 1865 again the separate issues for Holstein and Schleswig; and finally, from October 1866, again the joint Schleswig-Holstein issue, until the separate Bergedorf postal administration was abolished on Dec. 31, 1867.

The *use of postage stamps* was obligatory from their introduction for letters and printed matter to domestic destinations, to Hamburg, to Denmark and to the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union. Unfranked letters—printed matter was not accepted unfranked—paid twice the regular rates, but nevertheless, a large percentage of all letters—in 1861 almost 40%—were sent unfranked. Letters and printed matter to other countries could be sent dur-

ing all this time either franked with stamps or unfranked, at the same rates. For money letters and parcels up to 20 pounds which were also handled by the post office, the fees had to be paid in cash. On domestic mail, the fee was 1s for letters and  $\frac{1}{2}$ s for printed matter; city letters paid  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, all up to 16 loth weight, which was the maximum permitted. Mail to Hamburg and suburbs paid 1s up to 1 loth, 2s up to 2 loth, 3s up to 8 loth and 4s up to 5 pound weight. Printed matter to Hamburg cost 1s for 8 loth. From June 15, 1866, the letter rate to Hamburg was reduced to  $\frac{1}{2}$ s for 15 loth weight. Mail to other parts of the Hamburg territory paid twice the above rates. To Lubeck, letters paid 2s for each loth, which was later, on October 1, 1865, reduced to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s. For printed matter,  $\frac{1}{2}$ s for each loth was charged. To the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union, letters up to 10 miles paid  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s for each loth, up to 20 miles 3s for each loth and for more than 20 miles 4s. Printed matter paid  $\frac{1}{2}$ s for each loth. For samples, the fee was the same as for letters, but for every 2 loth. To Denmark (and later to Schleswig-Holstein and Lauenburg), letters paid  $1\frac{1}{4}$ s Bergedorf currency, or 4s Danish currency, for each loth, but only when franked with Danish or Schleswig-Holstein stamps respectively. If franked with Bergedorf stamps or paid in cash, the fee was 2s Bergedorf currency. Printed matter paid 4s Danish currency up to 4 loth and 8s Danish currency up to 8 loth. To other foreign countries, rather complicated fees were charged. The registration fee was 2s for domestic mail and letters to Hamburg and Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and 3s to other countries. There was no delivery fee. The domestic rates were charged not only for mail to Bergedorf territory, the "Vierlanden" and including Geesthacht, but also to that part of Hamburg territory which was served by the Bergedorf post office.

The *design* of the Bergedorf postage stamps showed, as did the stamps of Hamburg and Lubeck, a coat of arms, which was a combination of the arms of these two free cities, formed by the left part of the arms of Lubeck and the right part of the arms of Hamburg. The design of all five values was the same, except for the size of the design and the value indications. Bergedorf was the first of the few countries which

used size as a device for distinguishing between values, by increasing the size in proportion to the face value. It was the original idea of Postmeister Palzow who proposed this device as early as 1859. The adopted sizes of the Bergedorf stamps—design without frame lines—were 15mm. square for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. square for the 1s, 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. square for the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 19mm. square for the 3s and 21mm. square for the 4s. All stamps have the figure of value in the four corners and the letters "L H P A", which stand for "Lubeck-Hamburgisches Post-Amt", in the four corners of the center. "BERGEDORF" at the top, "POST-MARKE" at the bottom, as well as the value indication in letters at the left and right, all in colorless letters on colored ground, form the frame of the design.

The stamps were *lithographed* by the printing works of Carl Fuchs of Hamburg. The design of each value was drawn separately on the same small stone. Each design had a thin "frame line" around the design, in  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ s) to 1mm. (4s) distance. These "frame lines" were used in the printing stones as separating lines between the stamps and therefore are not real frame lines. From this original stone, the printing stones were laid down with the help of transfer blocks which consisted of 8, 10 or 12 designs, arranged in two rows. The transfer blocks were laid down on the same large stone. The blocks of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 1s and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s were vertical, those of the 3s and 4s horizontal;  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s contained twelve designs, 1s and 3s ten designs and 4s eight designs. Several changes were made for the transfer blocks, by way of transitory stones, the most conspicuous one for the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s which on the original stone had the inscription "SCHILLINGE" at right, while on the transfer blocks it was corrected to "SCHILLING". Other values were also improved in a similar way, for example, the rather indistinct figures of value of the 1s. The transfer blocks had the stamps very neatly arranged and the "frame lines" which now acted as separating lines between the stamps were so accurately matched that only a few and very slight duplications of lines can be found.

The *printing stones* of the Bergedorf stamps consisted of 200 designs for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 180 designs for the 1s, 160 designs for the 3s and 80 designs for the

4s. Of each value, except the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, only one stone was used. It seems certain that after printing of the required quantity of each value, the designs on the stones were erased and the stones used by the printers for other printing purposes. Therefore, when a new printing became necessary for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s value—probably because the original printing had erroneously been put out in too small a quantity or had been spoiled—a new stone for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s value had to be laid down for the additional printing. This is the only case where two stones for the same value were used.

The stone of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s was divided into two panes of 100 designs each, side by side, with a vertical gutter of 4mm. to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. between them. To assemble this stone, the transfer block of 12 was laid down eight times (4x2) for each pane which gave 96 (8x12) designs with four additional designs at bottom in a horizontal strip. On the left pane, these four additional designs are below the last four stamps of the pane, while on the right pane they are below the first four stamps. Both stones of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s were identical in this layout but small differences can be found in the position of the transfer blocks in respect to each other. A quite odd arrangement was used for the stone of the 1s. It was divided into six panes. Four of them had 40 (8x5) designs, each formed of four transfer blocks, side by side, the four panes arranged as a block of 4, with a horizontal gutter of 1mm. to 2mm. and a vertical gutter of 2mm. to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. In the pane at bottom right, all four transfer blocks were placed in an inverted position. The two additional panes consisted each of only one transfer block and were placed to the left of the other panes, with a horizontal gutter of about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. between them and a 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. to 2mm. gutter separating them from the other panes. The 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s stone was similar to that of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s. It consisted also of two panes of 100 designs each, side by side, laid down by eight transfer blocks (4x2) for each pane which gave 96 (8x12) designs. But the additional four designs were added here as a vertical strip in the middle on the left side of both panes and were inverted. The vertical gutter was 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. wide, where the four additional designs were added, and 23mm. in the other places. The stone of the 3s value was divided into two

panes of 80 (10x8) designs each, one above the other, with a horizontal gutter of 4mm. to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. Each pane was obtained by laying down eight transfer blocks (2x4). The stone of the 4s also consisted of two panes one above the other, but of only 40 (8x5) designs each, with a horizontal gutter of 5mm. between them. Each pane was formed by four transfer blocks and two bottom halves of the transfer block, forming a fifth row of designs at the bottom.

The *printing* was done on hand presses. There was only one printing of each value, except of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, of which one additional printing was made. The original idea was to print all stamps in black on different colored papers and except for the 3s, which, due to a last-minute change, was printed in blue, this idea was carried out. The black printing was sometimes more or less grayish, due to insufficient inking and the blue of the 3s varies slightly, showing somewhat lighter and darker shades. In general, the printing was a careful one and there are no major printing varieties.

The *paper* used for the Bergedorf stamps was machine-made and was supplied by the printers, who obtained it from an unknown source. The colors of the paper chosen for the issued stamps were blue for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, white for the 1s, yellow for the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s, rose for the 3s and light brown for the 4s. There are very slight shades noticeable in the colors of the paper, except of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, of which the first printing was on a light blue shade, while an additional printing, in all probability also made in 1861—but issued only in 1867—is on a darker blue paper and printed from a new stone. This second printing must have been considerably smaller than the original one, as in unused condition the darker blue stamps come in a ratio of at least 1 to 4 of the light blue stamps. There also exist  $\frac{1}{2}$ s on lilac and 3s on dark rose, the latter printed as all other values in black. These two items were originally considered issued stamps—although they are known unused only—later they were believed to be unissued stamps and as such listed in most catalogs. In fact, they are proofs which come from a series of proof sheets, of which one or possibly two of all values were printed from the original stones in June 1861. The 1s on white and  $\frac{1}{2}$ s on yellow are on considerably thicker paper (0.095mm. with gum) than that of

the issued stamps, and the 4s is on a brownish salmon shade of paper. These proofs, and they must all be so considered, are scarce, although the existing quantities are greatly underestimated in philatelic literature and, considering the frequency in which they come into the market, must be much larger than the figures given.

The printed sheets were gummed before delivery. The *gum* which was applied by hand with broad brushes was a vegetable glue and often brownish. The gumming was responsible for slight differences in the size of the sheets, on which the printed space varies up to 7mm. These differences were considered important enough by earlier authors to be described in detail, but actually they are the result of uneven shrinkage when the sheets were dried after the gumming and are of no significance at all.

The Bergedorf stamps were issued *imperfectorate* and the sheets were not divided after the printing, the printed and issued sheets being the same size. There was no printing of any kind on the sheet margins. Of all values, gutter pairs can be cut from the sheets, horizontal ones of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 1s and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s, vertical ones of 1s, 3s and 4s. Of two values, 1s and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s, there exist tete beche pairs. There were eight horizontal tete beche pairs in each sheet of the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s, but four gutter tete beche pairs were also possible. Of the 1s, only gutter tete beche pairs can be obtained, namely five horizontal ones and seven vertical ones or four horizontal ones and eight vertical ones. There is also the possibility of obtaining a block of 4, with horizontal and vertical gutter, the bottom right stamp being inverted. The proof sheets of June 1861 contained the same tete beche combinations of the 1s and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s; they are rare.

The *remainders* of the Bergedorf stamps, supposedly about 300,000 stamps of all denominations including the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s in both shades, were offered in 1868 to the highest bidder and acquired in June 1868 by the Brussels dealer J. B. Moens. Therefore, about 250,000 stamps would have been used for mail, but we doubt this figure for several reasons and rather believe that Moens stated the figures for the remainders too low in order to increase their market value. With the stamps, Moens obtained the original stone and a bar canceller which was prepared but never used, as well as a num-

ber of proofs of which nothing definite is known. Moens, after using the original stone for the manufacture of several reprints, sold it, together with the bar canceller, in 1895 for a nominal amount to the Berlin Reichspostmuseum, where both were preserved.

Due to the sale of the remainders, all Bergedorf stamps are rather common in *unused* condition. The original printing was 200,000 copies of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s (of which about 40,000 were the darker shade), 90,000 copies of the 1s, 100,000 copies of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s and 80,000 copies each of the 3s and 4s. The remainders consisted, according to Moens, of about 53,000 copies of  $\frac{1}{2}$ s (about one fifth of it in the darker shade), 40,000 copies of 1s, 75,000 copies of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s and 64,000 copies each of 3s and 4s. Therefore, it is not surprising that the stamps unused are not rare and blocks deserve no considerable premium. The same is true for gutter pairs, while *tete beche* pairs, although far from rare, are not too plentiful and command higher prices. Full sheets of all values also exist and, although today scarcer than thirty years ago, can still be found rather frequently.

*Used* Bergedorf stamps belong to the scarcest items of the Old German States and they are all rarities on *entires*. Due to the rather difficult task the expert has in checking on the fragments of the cancella-

tion on used Bergedorf stamps off cover, they are rather unpopular. Although all used Bergedorf stamps are rare, the high prices are paid only for these stamps on covers and, to some extent, on pieces. It has been estimated that not more than about 300 genuine Bergedorf covers exist. The rarest value on cover is the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s in the dark blue shade of which about a dozen copies are known. Not many more covers are known of the 3s and 4s and statistics show that, contrary to general belief, the former is somewhat rarer than the latter. Next on the list is the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s, of which about three dozen copies on cover may exist. The least rare are  $\frac{1}{2}$ s in the light blue shade and 1s, with about 75 copies of the former and little more than 100 copies of latter known on covers. Covers which bear two different values are known, namely  $\frac{1}{2}$ s+1s, 3s+1s and 4s+3s. No covers with three or more different values are reported. Covers to countries outside the German-Austrian Postal Union are the rarest, a cover (of which the front only is preserved), with three 3s and two 4s, addressed to Paris, being the most outstanding item known (Fig. 30). Due to the rarity of *entires*, no first day covers (Nov. 1, 1861) or last day covers (Dec. 31, 1867) are recorded.

*Used multiples* are rarities in all values. Horizontal pairs are recorded of all five values, vertical ones of  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 1s and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s



Fig. 30

only. Of strips, of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s a strip of four and of the 1s strips of three and four are known. Used blocks of four are recorded as great rarities of  $\frac{1}{2}$ s, 1s and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s, they are partly unique. No larger used multiples seem to exist and all recorded used gutter and tete-beche pairs proved to have faked cancellations.

Of the *foreign stamps* which can be found used at Bergedorf, those of Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein have a special status, due to the fact that they were sold at the Bergedorf post office and used on mail to Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein. The Danish stamps were in use at Bergedorf for this purpose from Oct. 1, 1857, to Feb. 29, 1864 and the Schleswig-Holstein stamps from March 1, 1864 to the end of the separate Bergedorf post office, on Dec. 31, 1867. Of *Denmark*, only 4s stamps were sold at Bergedorf and the first stamps sold there were the 4s stamps of 1854 with dotted background. Two copies of the 4rs of 1851 and one copy of the 2s of 1854 are also known with Bergedorf cancellation, but they were in all probability not sold at the Bergedorf post office and are of accidental usage. After the 4s stamps of 1854 were used up, the 4s stamp of 1857, with wavy lines background and, only for a few months, the rouletted 4s of 1863 came into use. The latter is the rarest of the 4s stamps with Bergedorf cancellation, while the 4s of 1857 is the least rare. The use of *Schleswig-Holstein* stamps was a continuation of the use of Denmark stamps. Of the Schleswig-Holstein stamps only the  $1\frac{1}{4}$ s values which were the equivalent of the Danish 4s stamps were sold at Bergedorf. All  $1\frac{1}{4}$ s stamps of Schleswig-Holstein, Schleswig and Holstein are known used at Bergedorf except the scarce Type II of the Holstein 1864 issue. The use of *Prussia* stamps in Bergedorf is connected with the use of Schleswig-Holstein stamps there. When on Jan. 1, 1867, Prussia took over the postal administration of Schleswig-Holstein, the use of the Schleswig-Holstein stamps was continued, but Prussia values of 10sg and 30sg, not sold at the stamps, although they were, except the high Schleswig-Holstein post offices, became valid for postage in Schleswig-Holstein. Similar conditions must have existed in Bergedorf; Prussia stamps were not sold there but accepted on mail. It is improbable that 30sg stamps were sold, but perhaps 10sg stamps.

All values of the Prussia issue 1861, except the 3pf, but including the 10sg of 1866 and envelopes of 1sg and 3sg, both also used as cut squares to pay postage, of the 1861 issue, the latter also of the 1853-60 issue, can be found used in Bergedorf. This is the case not only on mail to Schleswig-Holstein, but also to other parts of Prussia. They are all scarce and considerably rarer than the Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein stamps used at Bergedorf. The use of *Hamburg* stamps at Bergedorf is a somewhat unsolved problem. It is believed that no Hamburg stamps were ever sold at the Bergedorf post office, except possibly the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s Hamburg envelopes, because Bergedorf had no postal stationery of its own. It is also claimed that before the special Bergedorf stamps were issued, some merchants used 1s Hamburg stamps for their letters to Hamburg. In any case, most Hamburg stamps which can be found with Bergedorf cancellation, were on covers to Bergedorf and were cancelled on arrival, but there are cases known, where they are used on covers from Bergedorf, even to other countries. Of the imperforate issue,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  and 2s are known with Bergedorf cancellation; of the perforated issue  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ s and of the 1866-67 issue  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ s, the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s curiously only with Kirchwerder cancellation. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ s envelope, unwatermarked and watermarked, is the most frequent Hamburg item seen used at Bergedorf; it exists also with additional frankings of Hamburg or Bergedorf stamps.

All Bergedorf stamps—as well as the Schleswig-Holstein stamps sold at the Bergedorf Post Office for mail to Schleswig-Holstein—were *withdrawn* Dec. 31, 1867. On the following day, the stamps of the North German Confederation were introduced and became the only stamps valid for postage. Mixed frankings between the two kinds of stamps do not exist.

All Bergedorf stamps have been extensively *reprinted*. The first reprint was made as early as 1867 and is an official reprint, ordered by Postmaster Paalzow for the Brussels dealer J. B. Moens. It included no regular stamps but only the proofs  $\frac{1}{2}$ s black on lilac and 3s black on rose which at that time were considered issued stamps. The printing was 2,400 copies of the former and 1,920 copies of the latter. The reprints which followed were privately made for

J. B. Moens with the help of the original stone which Moens had obtained from Postmaster Paalzow in 1868. The quantities are unknown but were certainly large. In 1872 and 1887 all five values, in 1874 the 4s only and, in 1888, 1s and 3s were reprinted. For the official reprints, new stones of the same size as the original printing stones were used, which were laid down for both values with the help of the original transfer stones but which were reduced to 8 stamps each. For the private reprints, the original stone was used and new transfer stones laid down, from which new printing stones were assembled, mostly in arrangements different from those of the original printing stones. The 1½s has on all reprints the inscription "SCHILLINGE", but exists (of the 1872 reprints) also in pair with a reprint inscribed "SCHILLING". The sheet of the 1872 reprints of the 1½s contained four horizontal tete beche pairs. No other tete beches exist in the reprints. Almost all reprints are quite easy to distinguish from the originals, mainly by flaws in the design, which became more and more numerous when the condition of the original stone used for laying down the printing stones deteriorated, and also by the printing and the paper.

Although the unused originals of the Bergedorf stamps were never rarities and the manufacture of reprints provided sufficient substitutes for originals, there exist nevertheless a number of more or less crude *forgeries* of all values. Much more dangerous are *fakes* of the used stamps, manufactured by applying faked cancellations on originals or reprints. Even full covers have been faked, usually by using stampless covers, to which stamps were "tied" by a faked cancellation. It cannot be strongly enough advised that all used Bergedorf stamps, on and off cover, should be acquired only when accompanied by the certificate of an expert committee.

In regard to *condition*, the collector of unused Bergedorf stamps can be quite particular as there are plenty of full-margined copies available. Even stamps with super-margins, showing the dividing lines on all four sides, are obtainable without much difficulty. The collector of used stamps and especially of stamps on cover must be much more reasonable and even if his collecting standard is high will have to be satisfied

with stamps which have uneven margins as long as the frame lines are not cut. Used stamps which are close on one or two sides or even the frame lines slightly cut on one side must be considered above average.

The use of *postmarks* started in Bergedorf in all probability with the opening of the first post office in 1838. The first postmark was a straight line BERGEDORFF (with double "F"), without date indication, of a type similar to those used at other Prussian post offices of the period. When the new post office, administered by Lubeck and Hamburg, took over in 1847, a new straight line postmark BERGEDORFF (with double "F"), much smaller than that of 1838 and with the date added in a second line, was introduced. Simultaneously, another new postmark, a straight line postmark BERGEDORF (with one "F"), with date on a second line and the time of the day on a third line was introduced and both postmarks used concurrently until 1852. Early in that year, a new curved BERGEDORFF postmark (with double "F") replaced the straight line postmarks, which from then on were only used for the marking of postal forms and not on letters. This new curved postmark had the date on a second line and an indication "IT", "IIT", etc. on a third one; the latter indicated the various mailings of the day, "T" standing for "Tour". In July 1854, the second "F" was removed from this postmark to give the correct spelling and the corrected postmark remained in use until after the Bergedorf post office was taken over by the North German Postal Administration early in 1868. Geesthacht used from the opening of the post office in 1856 a double circle GEESTHACHT of the same type as those which had previously been introduced at other Prussian post offices. Several additional markings were used during the early period, the oldest one, with the letters "B. P. A." from 1844 on letters to Bergedorf, but of which the exact meaning is unknown. From 1859, letters handled by the rural mail service obtained markings "B. L. P. A." (meaning "Bergedorfer Land-Post-Amt"), in a double line rectangle with oblique corners. No other postmarks are known from the pre-stamp period. The ink used for the first Bergedorf postmarks was either black or red, both being used simultaneously without any discernable system.



The curved postmark comes in black, only for short periods in red (1852/54) and blue (1855). The Geesthacht postmark was black, but also comes in bluish black and red.

When the Bergedorf stamps were introduced on Nov. 1, 1861, on the same day a *special canceller* was introduced, consisting of five thin lines (each about  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. thick) of 19mm. length, about 4mm. apart. This canceller was used to cancel all stamps at the Bergedorf post office and the curved town postmark was put alongside the stamps on the mail. This regulation remained in force until the end of the use of Bergedorf stamps, but the town postmark was also occasionally used as canceller. The canceller of bars comes with bars of different thickness, but only one such canceller was used and the differences in thickness are the result of more or less heavy impression and the condition of the handstamp which after each cleaning showed thinner lines than before. Bar and town cancellations come only in black on stamps. Geesthacht continued to use its double circle postmark, in black, but it is not known on Bergedorf stamps, which is not surprising as they were not available at the Geesthacht post office. The Kirchwerder post office, which was opened in 1866, obtained a single circle postmark KIRCHWERDER, which was also used as canceller; it is known in blue only. Of the additional markings, the B. L. P. A. postmark, always in black, was used until Dec. 31, 1867, but it is scarce on covers with stamps. A similar marking, but inscribed "Kw. L. P. A." ("Kirchwerder Land-Post-Amt") was used from 1866 at Kirchwerder for mail collected there by the rural mail service. It comes in blue only and is very rare. In 1866, another marking, "Aus Vierlanden", in two lines in an oval, can be found, but on stampless covers from the Bergedorf rural district only. On mail collected by the rural mail carriers and delivered on the same trip without touching the post office, the stamps should be obliterated by pen crosses. No such covers are known; stamps off cover with such pen cancellations cannot be ascertained as really used and are not worth more than unused copies.

No *foreign cancellations* are known on Bergedorf stamps, the only exception being the straight line postmark HAMBURG BERLIN of the Prussian travelling post

office on the Berlin-Hamburg railroad, which passed through Bergedorf; this is known on Bergedorf stamps and is a great rarity.

There was, according to documentary evidence, *another canceller of bars* prepared, with five thick bars of  $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. thickness and  $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. length,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. apart. This canceller was never used and in 1868, together with the remainders of the stamps, it was given to J. B. Moens, who in turn in 1895 gave it to the Reichspostmuseum.

Summarizing the *cancellations* on stamps used at Bergedorf, the Bergedorf stamps normally come with the bar canceller, which was frequently stamped twice on the stamps. The curved BERGEDORF postmark is rare, but known on all values, especially  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and 1s, while only few copies of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s, 3s and 4s seem to exist cancelled in that way. The blue circle KIRCHWERDER is known on 1s,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s and 4s, all being rarities. The Hamburg-Berlin railroad cancellation is known on the 3s. No other genuine cancellations are recorded on Bergedorf stamps; straight line BERGEDORF cancellations as well as GEESTHACHT cancellations have proved to be faked. Of foreign stamps, Denmark stamps were cancelled before Nov. 1, 1861 with the curved BERGEDORF, from then on with the canceller of bars. On Schleswig-Holstein stamps, BERGEDORF bar cancellations and, much scarcer, town cancellations are known, as well as occasional and rare cancellations of GEESTHACHT and KIRCHWERDER. Prussia stamps can be found with bar and town cancellation; KIRCHWERDER cancellation is also known. Hamburg stamps are known with BERGEDORF town as well as bar cancellation, the former being frequent on imperforate Hamburg stamps but very rare on perforated Hamburg stamps except the  $\frac{1}{2}$ s. The blue KIRCHWERDER cancellation is known on  $\frac{1}{2}$ s envelopes and on  $1\frac{1}{2}$ s stamps, the latter curiously enough not known with any other Bergedorf cancellation. One perforated 2s is known with GEESTHACHT cancellation, probably an accidental strike.

When the North German Confederation took over the postal service at Bergedorf on Jan. 1, 1868, the bar cancellation was discarded and does not come on stamps of the North German Confederation. But the curved BERGEDORF was used for a short time in 1868 as canceller and is known on

¼g, ½g, 1g and 2g stamps as well as on the 1g envelope.

*Collecting Bergedorf* is an easy task if a collector concentrates on the issued stamps in unused condition, because the large remainders enable him to buy them for a few dollars. Scott lists the five values altogether at less than ten dollars and even including the color variety of the ½s and the tete beches of 1s and 1½s the catalog value amounts only to a little over \$30. If a collector wants to add proofs, reprints, etc., he can still complete the collection for a moderate amount, within the reach of the average collector. An entirely different story is presented to the collector of used stamps and stamps on cover. Scott lists the five values used at \$470 and genuinely used copies in fine condition are even harder to get than this figure indicates. But used copies off cover are not popular, as most collectors are afraid of the dangerous faked cancellations, which can be found on these stamps and most general collectors are satisfied with unused copies. The cover collector has the hardest time to get all five values on cover and he will have to spend many times catalog quotations if he wants to succeed in obtaining genuine covers with fine copies. Due to the small supply on covers—there are almost none on the market and almost all material is concentrated in a few specialized Bergedorf collections—even if the collector is willing to spend a good deal of money, he will have a difficult time to get the dark shade of the ½s as well as 3s and 4s on covers. Bergedorf collecting is therefore an easy task for the collector of unused stamps—too easy to attract any ambitious collector—and a difficult one for the collector of used stamps, who will not be happy either, because any expert will advise him to buy these stamps only on cover. But collecting Bergedorf covers is feasible only for wealthier collectors, who have ample means, as only then will they be able to compete for the possession of the few covers which are offered from time to time. The philatelic student can only concentrate on postmarks, cancellations and the

use of the various stamps, while the stamps themselves have been thoroughly studied and no important new discoveries seem possible. But even on the used material, not much rewarding research is possible any more and the philatelic student may get discouraged by the lack of sufficient material and the difficulty of obtaining specific information about the existing items.

The philatelic *literature* concerning Bergedorf is rather extensive, but mostly sixty to seventy years old. For documentary information, J. B. Moens monograph in French "Timbres des Duchés de Schleswig-Holstein et Lauenburg et de la Ville de Bergedorf" (1884) is still valuable, especially because of the connections between Moens and Postmaster Paalzow which existed when the Bergedorf stamps were still in use and which eventually led to the purchase of the remainders by Moens. Basic information is also contained in two books in German, "Die Postwertzeichen des Bergedorfer Postbezirkes" by O. Rommel (1892) and especially "Die Postfreimarken des beiderstaedtischen Postamtes Bergedorf" by H. Kroetzsch (1896). Dr. Munk's Kohl Handbook contains an excellent compilation of all known facts, by Dr. A. Werner, who was the foremost student of these stamps, about which he published a number of important articles in German philatelic magazines. A good translation of the Bergedorf part of the Kohl Handbook was published in 1929 and 1930 in "The Collectors Club Philatelist", enabling collectors who cannot read German to get all the important facts about the stamps and cancellations. The specialized Michel Catalog of Germany contains in its last edition (1940) also a number of valuable data. Altogether, the collector who is interested in Bergedorf stamps will find it rather easy to obtain sufficient literature and material on unused stamps. His difficulties will only begin when he tries to get used items and covers. But if he is young, has substantial means and plenty of patience, he may even have a chance to succeed in this field.

(Next: VIII. Bremen)

If you want information not connected with business matters, please enclose a franked self-addressed envelope.