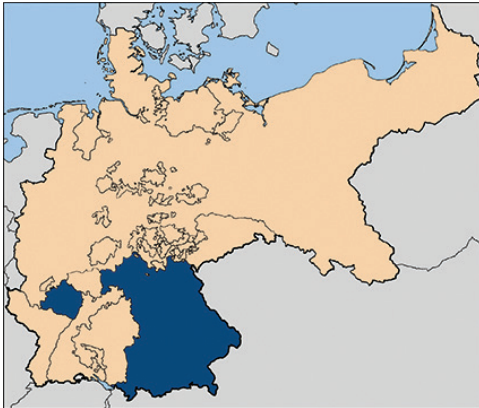


World of Stamps:

Landlocked Countries: Bavaria

by Geir Sør-Reime

Bavaria is the largest German state by land area (27,239 square miles) and the second largest in population with over 13 million. The state capital is Munich. Its official title is the Free State of Bavaria.



Map of Bavaria and the German Empire in 1871

Bavaria became a kingdom in 1806 but joined the newly founded German Empire in 1871 retaining its monarchy and being granted special rights within the Empire such as army, railways, and postal service.



Map of Germany and surrounding area today, with Bavaria highlighted

After World War I, the monarchy was abolished, and a republic or free state was established. There was a short-lived communist republic between April 6, 1919, and May 1919, which was replaced by the Free State of Bavaria within the German republic.

After WW II, most of pre-war Bavaria became part of the U.S. Zone of occupation and was incorporated into the German Federal Republic in 1949.

Bavaria was the first German state to issue postage stamps, the first stamp was released November 1, 1849.



A Plate I example showing complete dividing lines, tied by Würzburg "396" mill wheel cancel on an 1852 folded cover to Dahier, also with "Würzburg 19 Oct. 1852" circular datestamp.



1849, Sc. 1

This was a black 1 Kreuzer stamp with a simple design with the numeral "1" in the center within a square. A modified design, with the

central numerals in a circle within the square was also introduced in 1849 (Sc. 2, 3, next column). The stamps in this design were used until 1867.

At first, between 1849 and 1862, 1 Kreuzer pink, 3 Kreuzer blue, 6 Kreuzer brown to reddish brown, 9 Kreuzer yellow green, 12 Kreuzer

red, and 18 Kreuzer yellow were issued. (See Sc. 4-8, below.)



1849, Numerals in circle, Sc. 2-3



1850-58 issue, Sc. 4-8

1849-50 1kr black, Sc. 1, plate 2 plus horizontal pair of 1kr rose, plate 1 (pale original shade), Sc. 4, with "243" mill-wheel cancels on December 13, 1850, folded letter from Nuremberg to Berching. This is the finer of the two known covers showing a combination franking of the 1kr.



In 1862, stamps in the same design, but with different colors were issued: 1 Kreuzer yellow, 3 Kreuzer rose, 6 Kreuzer blue, 9 Kreuzer bis-ter, 12 Kreuzer yellowish green, and 18 Kreuzer red. (Sc. 9-14, below.)



All stamps of this design were issued imperforate and on unwatermarked paper.

In 1867 the simple numeral design was replaced by a design featuring the state arms and this design was used for all stamps up till 1911. The 1867-68 issues of this design were also imperforate



1867 12k, Sc. 21



1870 3k, Sc. 24

and on unwatermarked paper. There were several types of watermarks but all consisting of wavy lines in different patterns.

In 1870, both perforation and watermark were introduced. In 1874, a 1 Mark stamp in the same design but larger was issued.



1876 10p, Sc. 41

In 1876 Bavaria replaced its Gulden currency, divided into 60 Kreuzer, with a decimal currency of 1 Mark divided into 100 Pfennig.



1874 1m, Sc. 31

Then, the state arms design was re-issued with Pfennig and Mark values.



1911 10m, Sc. 76

On March 10, 1911, a series celebrating the 90th birthday of the Prince Regent Luitpold and featuring a portrait of him was issued. The Pfennig values, in two different sizes, featured a bareheaded portrait facing left and the Mark values a portrait facing right and with the Prince Regent with a hat.



1900 3m, Sc. 56

The same date, two stamps commemorating Luitpold's 25th anniversary as Prince Regent were issued.



Luitpold 90th Birthday, Sc. 77, 91 invert variety



Luitpold 25th Anniv., Sc. 93

In 1912 and 1913, a semi-official air post service operated in Bavaria,



1912 Airpost service semi-official, Michel F1

and in addition to ordinary stamps, mail to be carried by the air service needed an additional air post stamp.

A new series with a portrait of the new king Ludwig III was is-

sued March 10, 1914. This pre-war issue was issued perforate and with clear impressions, whereas later printings made during WWI were issued on different papers, different perforation gauges, and both perforate and imperforate. The last printings were made in 1920.



1914 Leopold III, Sc. 112; 1916, Sc. 101 (Scott treats these as part of one 1914-20 set, Sc. 94-114)



Already in March 1919, the WWI King Ludwig III printings were issued overprinted "Volksstaat Bayern" ("People's State Bavaria"). This set also included two values that had not been issued without the overprint. The "Volksstaat" overprints were valid until June 30, 1920.

Later, the same WWI printings were overprinted "Freistaat Bayern" ("Free State Bavaria") and stamps of the German Empire were also overprinted with the same overprint.

In December 1919/January 1920, three of these stamps were further surcharged with new values, and in August-December 1919 three of these stamps were further overprinted converting them into semi-postal stamps benefiting wounded war veterans. January 28, 1920, a single state arms issue, the 1888 printing 3 Pfennig was surcharged 20 Pfennig. All these overprinted stamps were valid until June 30, 1920.



1919 Volksstaat overprint on 1914 1m, Sc. 150



1919 Freistaat overprint on 1919 10m, Sc. 210



1919 Bavaria overprint on Germany 5 mark, Sc. 191

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1919 1,25m on 1m Sc. 231



1919 semi-postal 10p, Sc. B1



1920 Surcharge, 20pf on 3pf, Sc. 237

Also in 1919, stamps of the German Empire were overprinted "Freistaat Bayern". These stamps were valid until January 1, 1920, only.

From February 16, 1920, a definitive issue with different motifs was issued, but this was valid for postage only until June 30, 1920, as Bavaria had given up its separate post rights in favor of that of the German republic.

The motifs of this issue were Plowman, allegorical 'Electricity' harnessing light to a water wheel, Sower, Madonna and child, and Goddess and state arms.



1920 issue, Sc. 251

The 1920 definitive series was overprinted "Deutsches Reich" (German Reich) during April-June 1920 and were valid for postage throughout Germany until September 30, 1923, but as most of them were used in Bavaria, Scott catalogs them as Bavaria.

In addition to ordinary postage stamps, Bavaria also issued official stamps. In 1908, several stamps were overprinted "E" (abbreviation of "Eisenbahn", the German word of railway). Later, stamps perforated "E" served the same purpose.



Left, 1908 service railways, Sc. 01; right, 1914 E perfin on 1914 Ludwig III issue

overprinted "Deutsches Reich" in April 1920.



Left, 1916 Official, Sc. 07; right, 1919 with overprint, Sc. 021



Official stamps: left, 1920 Service 30pf, Sc. 036; right, with Deutsches Reich overprint, Sc. 058

Bavaria also issued postage due stamps, the first in 1862 in a design similar to the first postage stamps. In 1876, state



"Saar" on Bavaria 1920 10m, Saar Sc. 39



Postage Dues, left, 1862, Sc. J1; right, 1876, Sc. J4

arms definitive stamps were overprinted to serve as postage due stamps, a practice that continued until 1903.

In 1920, Bavarian stamps with the effigy of king Ludwig III were overprinted Saar primarily for the part of Saar that was Bavarian prior to the war.



1920, with overprint, Sc. 275

In 1916 official stamps for general use were issued, featuring the state arms. These were overprinted "Volksstaat Bayern" in 1919, and in March 1920, a definitive set of official stamps was issued. The latter was

It is also worth mentioning that Bavaria issued several postal stationery items: postal cards from 1873, letter cards from 1897, pre-stamped envelopes from 1869, wrappers from 1874, and pre-stamped money orders from 1874.

The indicia on the first pre-stamped envelopes was circular showing the national arms, later issues have indicia either as contemporary stamps, or a special indicium for postal stationery introduced in 1883.

For the 90th birthday of the Prince Regent, a postcard with a commemorative indicium was issued in 1911. A new coat of arms design for postal stationery issues was introduced in 1914. Items with this imprint also exist overprinted "Volksstaat Bayern" and "Freistaat Bayern", the latter overprint was also applied to German Imperial stationery. In 1920 items with an indicium showing the national arms of an oak tree were issued.



1885 newspaper wrapper, Higgins & Gage E7



1901 5p postal card, H&G 56



1906 postal card printed to private order, celebrating the centenary of the Kingdom of Bavaria



1911 definitive postal card, H&G 88



1911 postal card front and back, celebrating the 90th birthday of the Prince Regent Luitpold, with illustration back sides

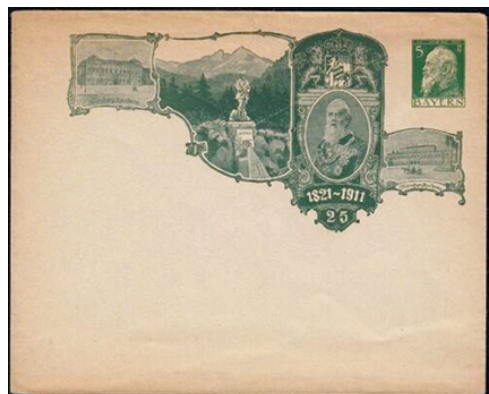
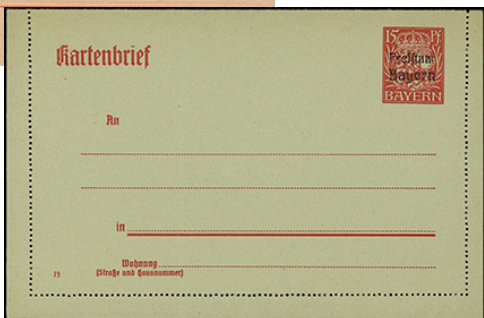
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1912 air post card,
H&G K15A



1920 postal card,
H&G Germany 131

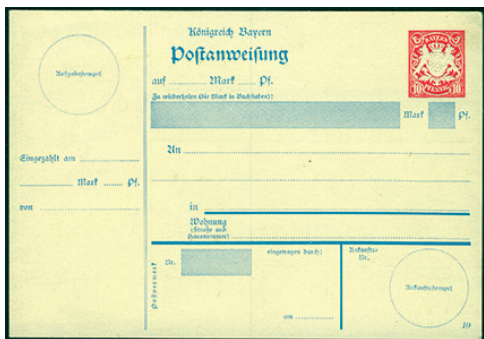
1919 letter-card,
H&G A10



1919 letter-cards



1907 money order,
H&G J88



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