

**Germany, Ludwig M. Schwanthaler
By Greg Balagian**

The lion, a traditional symbol of Bavaria, is part of a sculpture in Munich, Germany titled *Bavaria*. A female personification of the Bavarian homeland is accompanied by a sitting lion. She is depicted as an Amazon in bearskin with a wreath of entwined oak leaves in her left hand and her right hand on a sword.



Munich's *Bavaria* statue has a lion.

Leo von Klenze, court architect to King Ludwig I of Bavaria, proposed the original design in 1824.

On May 28, 1837, a contract to produce the statue was signed. Ludwig Michael Schwanthaler would be the sculptor and Johann Baptist Stigmaier and Ferdinand von Miller the metal founders.

Because of its size, *Bavaria* was produced in several parts and considered a technological masterpiece. The 61-foot statue (~19 meters) weighs about 87 tons.

An internal circular stairway leads up to a platform in the head, where four openings in the helmet provide a view of the Theresienwiese area of Munich.

The official unveiling of the statue took place on October 9, 1850, a part of an architectural ensemble which also includes the Hall of Fame (Ruhmeshalle).

Fortunately plans by the Nazis to demolish the Hall of Fame and the *Bavaria* statue were thwarted in the 1930s. ♣



***Bavaria*, by sculptor Ludwig Michael Schwanthaler, is shown on one of four stamps issued by Germany, Scott 1525 (1987). A lion is by her right side.**

***Bavaria* Lion Statue
Preliminary Checklist
By Greg Balagian, 2011**

Country	Year	Scott	Notes
Equa. Guinea	1972	7248	
Germany	1970	B462	
	1987	1525	
	1991	1661	booklet
Germany-Berlin	1987	9N549	
Haiti	1972	1211	
Hungary	1969	1958	s/s*
Liberia	1971	557	
Ras Al Khaima	1972	--	Mic. 725
	1972	--	Mic.900
			silver foil, also issued as a s/s
	1972	--	Mic. 901
			gold foil, also issued as a s/s
Sharjah	1966	--	Mic. 267, strip/3
Yemen (North)	1970	--	Mic. 1248 gold foil

s/s, souvenir sheet; Mic., Michel catalogue