

German Confederation Lions

by GREG BALAGIAN

On July 17, 2017 German Post issued a stamp commemorating 150th anniversary of the establishment of the North German Confederation which existed from July of 1867 until December of 1870, the first step in the transition to the German Empire.

The North German Confederation consisted of 22 member states whose greater coats of arms for four states bear numerous heraldic lions and griffins incorporated in the design.

The 2017 stamp depicts a stylized wax seal with 22 smaller arms matching the number of the member states. Two shields have heraldic lions present; one of them is the Smaller Coat of Arms of Hesse with a lion rampant barry having alternating red and white stripes.

Heraldic lions and griffins rampant are on two other shields, but I am not sure which entities they represent. I believe that the design of the stamp is not an accurate depiction of actual coats of arms, but simply an artistic rendition of the German Confederation. 🐾

North German Confederation, 150th Anniversary, Germany (2017)



Crowned “Lion rampant barry” arms of the German state of Hesse has ten alternating red and white stripes.