Carl Zeiss (1816–88)

Carl Zeiss studied medicine and was also apprenticed to various instrument makers in Weimar, Stuttgart, and Vienna. In 1846 he opened a shop in Jena in Germany which produced and repaired optical equipment. Initially he specialised in the manufacture of microscopes. In 1866, with Otto Schott and Ernst Abbe, a German mathematician and physicist, he worked on the microscope, perfecting the homogeneous immersion lens in 1878. The Zeiss workshop soon acquired a world wide reputation for the manufacture of high quality optical equipment, embracing every kind of optic instrument but especially cameras and microscopes.

He was honoured philately by East Germany in 1956 on a stamp issued to commemorate the founding of the 110th Anniversary of the Zeiss Optical Works in Jena. (Stanley Gibbons E283, Scott 313). Abbe was also honoured on a stamp issued in the same series.