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**The**  
**MICHEL**  
**Stamp Catalogue**

*An Introduction for English-Speaking Readers*

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*Schwaneberger Verlag · [www.michel.de](http://www.michel.de)*

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Printed in Germany

## 1 Introduction

Hugo Michel's first stamp catalogue was published in Apolda, a town some 10 miles north-east of Weimar, in 1910. By today's standards it was a slim volume – its 112 pages listed the stamps of European countries and their post offices abroad.

The MICHEL catalogue rapidly became a standard work of reference, used by dealers to identify their stock, by philatelists to check their collections and as a reference for buying and exchanging stamps. Hugo Michel subsequently sold the rights to his catalogue to the stamp album publishers Schwaneberger Verlag, who still retain them.

The basic catalogue now occupies 18 volumes covering the stamps of all countries – despite its vast increase in size its basic structure has never been altered. Over the years it has won more than 200 medals at national and international stamp exhibitions, including 20 gold medals. More than 200,000 MICHEL catalogues are printed every year, and they find their way to collectors all over the world.

MICHEL catalogue numbers are used by most collectors in German-speaking countries and in eastern Europe, and they are the standard reference numbers for stamps of these countries. Because of the clear and authoritative listings which they provide, MICHEL catalogues are gaining in popularity in many other countries too. New editions appear regularly, and each one includes detailed editorial changes, embracing new philatelic research, newly listed errors and varieties, revised catalogue prices and new issues.

The MICHEL catalogue is published in German by Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH, whose offices are at Ohmstraße 1, D-85716 Unterschleißheim, Germany. All the volumes and other MICHEL products are available from good stamp dealers or, in case of difficulty, direct by mail order from the following MICHEL agents:

*United Kingdom:* Prinz Publications UK Ltd, Unit 3a, Hayle Industrial Park, Hayle Cornwall TR 27 5JR, Great Britain, Phone: (0 17 36) 75 19 10, Fax: (0 17 36) 75 19 11, E-mail: info@stampaccessories.net.

*United States:* Lighthouse Publications Inc., P.O. Box 705, Hackensack NJ 07602-0705, Phone: (201) 342-1513, E-mail: info@lighthouse.us.

or

LINDNER Publications Inc., P.O. Box 5056, Syracuse, NY 13220, Mrs. Tina Heitmann, Phone: (315) 437-0463, Fax: (315) 437-4832, E-mail: lindner@lindner-usa.com.

The MICHEL catalogue is supplemented by the monthly publication **MICHEL-Rundschau**. It contains useful articles on collecting, but for English-speaking catalogue users the more important part is its listing of new issues, presented in a matching style.

## 2 The MICHEL Stamp Catalogues

### 2.1 Basic Catalogues

The 18 volumes of the main MICHEL stamp catalogue are as follows:

**GERMANY (MICHEL-Deutschland-Katalog)** covering all German stamp issues. These include German States, colonies, mandated territories, protectorates, post offices abroad, occupation issues, Danzig, Saar, and the former postal administrations of West Berlin and East Germany. Published with colour illustrations throughout.

**CENTRAL EUROPE (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog, Volume 1: Mitteleuropa)** Liechtenstein, Austria, Switzerland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, UN Geneva, UN Vienna, West Hungary.

**SOUTH-WEST EUROPE (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog, Volume 2: Südwesteuropa)** Andorra (French), Andorra (Spanish), France, Gibraltar, Monaco, Portugal, Spain.

**SOUTHERN EUROPE (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog, Volume 3: Südeuropa)** Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Fiume, Italy, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Trieste, Vatican.

**SOUTH-EAST EUROPE (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog, Volume 4: Südosteuropa)** Aegean Islands, Bulgaria, Epirus, Greece, Icaria, Ionian Islands, Crete, Eastern Rumelia, Romania, Samos, Thrace, Turkey, Turkish Cyprus, Cyprus.

**NORTHERN EUROPE (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog, Volume 5: Nordeuropa)** Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Karelia, Latvia, Lithuania, Central Lithuania, North Ingria, Norway, Sweden.

**WESTERN EUROPE (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog, Volume 6: Westeuropa)** Belgium, Great Britain, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands.

**EASTERN EUROPE (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog, Volume 7: Osteuropa)** Carpathian Ruthenia, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Russia, Soviet Union, Ukraine, Belarus, Western Ukraine.

**NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA (MICHEL-**

**Übersee-Katalog, Volume 1: Nord- und Mittelamerika**) covering continental countries from Panama north-wards.

CARIBBEAN ISLANDS (**MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog, Volume 2: Karibische Inseln**) covering the islands round the Caribbean Sea as well as the Bahamas and the Bermudas.

SOUTH AMERICA (**MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog, Volume 3: Südamerika**) does not include the Falkland Islands and Antarctic territories.

NORTH AND EAST AFRICA (**MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog, Volume 4: Nord- und Ostafrika**) covering Africa north of the Sahara and the east coast countries from Egypt to Tansania.

WEST AFRICA (**MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog, Volume 5: Westafrika**) covering Africa south of the Sahara from Cape Verde to the former French Congo.

SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA (**MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog, Volume 6: Süd- und Zentralafrika**). The remaining countries of Africa as well as the islands in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Guinea.

AUSTRALIA, OCEANIA, ANTARCTIC TERRITORIES (**MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog, Volume 7: Australien, Ozeanien, Antarktis**).

SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA (**MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog, Volume 8: Süd- und Südostasien**) additionally covering Indonesia and the Philippines.

CENTRAL AND EAST ASIA (**MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog, Volume 9: Mittel- und Ostasien**) covering Asia north of the Himalaya, also including Iran, Afghanistan and Japan.

MIDDLE EAST (**MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog, Volume 10, Naher Osten**).

## 2.2 Other MICHEL Catalogues

Apart from the main catalogue, MICHEL publishes over forty other philatelic titles. There is a range of specialized catalogues and other books covering specific subjects, ranging from postal stationery to miniature sheets. They include the following collecting areas:

Germany Junior Catalogue (simplified version)  
 Germany Specialized  
 Europe (CEPT)  
 Austria Specialized  
 Switzerland and Liechtenstein Specialized  
 Great Britain Specialized  
 Guernsey, Man, Jersey Specialized

United States Specialized  
 United Nations Specialized  
 Soviet Union Specialized  
 Russia Specialized  
 Postal Stationery  
 Stamp Booklets  
 Vending Machine Stamps  
 et cetera

The following catalogues are available in English language: Zeppelin Specialized, United Nations Specialized, United States Specialized, Gulf States, Germany Specialized and Northern Europe.

A full colour brochure showing the complete range of MICHEL publications is available from your local dealer or MICHEL agent.

## 2.3 How to Find the Country You Want

As you see from the list above, the arrangement of the volumes is on a straightforward geographical basis. Thus you will find Belgium in the Western Europe volume, Chile in the South America volume, Japan in the East Asia volume and so on. You should, however, keep the following in mind:

- 1) German spellings of country names result in an alphabetical order which differs from the English order, so for example in the Central Europe volume you will find Czechoslovakia under T (for **Tschechoslowakei**) and Hungary under U (for **Ungarn**). For more German country names look in the glossary.
- 2) The Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira are regarded as part of South-West Europe and are grouped after Portugal or Spain as appropriate.
- 3) German colonies (for example Cameroon) and issues for territories occupied by Germany (such as Bohemia and Moravia) are in the Germany volume, irrespective of their geographical location.
- 4) Issues for "post offices abroad" follow the country which ran the post offices, so that the section for Spanish Post Offices in Morocco follows Spain in the South-West Europe volume.

## 3 Basic German


This introductory guide has been specially written for MICHEL and is designed to help English-speaking collectors use the catalogue to the fullest extent, even those who have no knowledge of the German language.

If you do not read and understand German fluently, you will of course not be able to decipher every last piece of information presented in the MICHEL cata-

# Typical set listing

Dates of issue  
 Designer  
 Description of the issue  
 Printing Methods  
 Stamp illustration  
 Illustration code letters and description  
 MICHEL catalogue number  
 Basic stamp  
 Different printing methods  
 Different perforations from stamp booklets  
 Face value  
 Horizontal pair from sheets  
 Vertical pair  
 Quantities  
 Cross-reference to other stamps in the same series

Perforation  
 Currency unit  
 Colour  
 Illustration code letters  
 Mint price  
 Used price  
 Date of issue  
 Price for a First Day Cover  
 Price for a First Day Sheet  
 Price for a used pair of stamps  
 Cross-reference to West Berlin



**1979-14. Nov./1987. Freimarke: Bürgen und Schlösser (III). [E] Schillingler; I = Bdr., II = Ldr.; Bogen (B) (10×10), Markenheftchen (MH) und Rollen (R); A = vierseitig, C und D = dreiseitig gez. K 14.**  
 alc) Schloß Rheydt

<b>1028</b>	60 (Pf)	dunkelrosakarmin [E] . . . . alc	**	○
<b>A</b>		vierseitig gezähnt		
<b>I</b>		Bdr. (14. 11. 1979) (B) (R) . . . .	-.80	-.20
<b>C I</b>		Ldr. (1987) (R) . . . . .	1,20	-.30
<b>D I</b>		oben geschnitten, Bdr. (Okt. 1980) (MH) . . . . .	4,50	4,50
		unten geschnitten, Bdr. (Okt. 1980) (MH) . . . . .	4,50	4,50
		FDC (A I)		1,80
		ETB 23/1979 (mit MiNr. 1028 A I)		-.50

Unterscheidungsmerkmale Bdr. und Ldr. siehe bei MiNr. 913-920!  
**Waagerechtes Paar** (aus Bogen):  
 1028 A I/1028 A I . . . . . \*\* ○ 1,80 1,80  
 Einzelmarke mit anhängendem Bogenrand 50% vorstehender Paarpreise  
 Senkrechtes Paar (C/D) siehe bei MH 23

**Rollenmarken (R):**  

	Marke mit Nr.		Marke mit Nr.
	**	○	**
1028 A I R . . . .	2,—	-.30	1028 A I I R . . . .
			2,50
			-.50

Auflagen: MiNr. 1028 A II = 89 500 000 Stück, ETB = 427 000 Stück  
 Weitere Werte siehe Zusammenfassung nach Blockaufstellung  
 Bildgleiche Marke mit zusätzlicher Inschrift „BERLIN“ siehe Berlin (West) MiNr. 611

logues, which are the result of decades of editorial work and philatelic research. Yet they are much easier to understand than most German publications, because of their clear layout, the widespread use of symbols and the frequent repetition of many common words, phrases and philatelic terms. Much of the text is devoted to stamp listings in a standard format.

Persevere – do not be put off! Look up unfamiliar words as you find them, and you will soon build up a useful vocabulary. Look first of all in the glossaries at the end of this booklet, then in a German/English dictionary (just a pocket sized one will do).

A dictionary is necessary if, for example, you need to translate the description of a stamp design. Use it for ordinary German words and phrases not included in the glossaries. Use a notebook to record those which often occur, to save you looking them up each time. You will be surprised how quickly you begin to make sense of the German text. If you collect German or Austrian stamps the words and phrases you learn will also be a great aid to deciphering stamp inscriptions.

The following clues will also help you:

- 1) All German nouns (not just proper names) start with a capital letter. Other parts of speech – adjectives, pronouns, verbs and so on – start with a small letter unless they begin a sentence. Words ending in **-ich** or **-ig** are most likely adjectives.
- 2) Many words are inflected, that is they change their ending or add an ending depending on their context within a sentence. For example you may see the word **braun** (brown) printed as **braunen** or **braunes**, but the meaning is the same. Plurals are usually formed by adding **-e** or **-en** and sometimes with the addition of an accent: the plural of **Satz** (set) is **Sätze** (sets).
- 3) Ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th ... ) are indicated merely by a full stop (or period) after the number, so **1.** means “**1st**”. In sentences containing a lot of punctuation this is quite easy to miss.
- 4) Remember that long words are often made up from combinations of shorter words that you will recognize more easily, for example **Briefmarkenausstellung** (stamp exhibition), or **Fußballweltmeisterschaft** (World Cup). Watch for abbreviations, which in German are always punctuated. Commonly used abbreviations are **MiNr.** (MICHEL catalogue number), **usw.** (and so on) and **z. B.** (for example). For more abbreviations and symbols look in the glossary.
- 5) Always keep an eye open for Latin words (such as bird names) or other non-German words (like foreign placenames) in the text. Your dictionary will not be of much help here!

If you wish to go further, the *German-English Philatelic Dictionary* is published by the Germany Philatelic Society Inc. and is available at the GPS Service Center, PO Box 779, Arnold, MD 21012, USA. This would be invaluable for collectors researching into German philately in some detail, and is particularly helpful on abbreviations and technical terms used by the military and the postal services.

## 4 Principles of Cataloguing

### 4.1 Country Chapters

Each country section starts with certain general information: the country name in German; its location, historical and political divisions, currency and date of membership of the Universal Postal Union (**Weltpostverein**); clarification of how mounted (**\***) and unmounted (**\*\***) mint prices apply; and illustrations of all relevant watermarks, which are shown as seen when the stamp is face down. At the end of a country come an index showing where to find each miniature sheet (**Block**), price lists for set-tenant combinations (**Zusammendrucke**), booklets (**Heftchen**) and booklet panes (**Heftchenblätter**).

Then, as in most catalogues, there will be listings of subsidiary groups such as official stamps (**Dienstmarken**), parcel post stamps (**Paketmarken**), postage due labels (**Portomarken**); also some local issues (**Lokalausgaben**) and occupation issues (**Besetzungsausgaben**). These are each listed in chronological order and have their own sequences of catalogue numbers and illustration code letters. You may find that the text refers you back to the main stamp section (in the case of overprints, for example).

### 4.2 Stamp Listings

A typical set listing is shown in the illustration on page 7, where its structure is labelled in English. It starts with a bold heading, giving the date of issue; the purpose, for example the phrase for definitive set (**Freimarken**) or an indication of the event or anniversary commemorated; and the printing process, paper, watermark and perforation. Below this heading the stamp designs are illustrated. You will notice that these illustrations have code letters which start at the beginning of each country with a), b), c), and so on. When the letters reach z) they start again with aa), ab). In some cases they reach three letters: aaa), aab), aac).

Once you get used to this code system you will find it very helpful, because you will not confuse the codes with the catalogue numbers. Also, you will find that many more stamps are illustrated than in most other catalogues, and generally every design in a set is shown, together with any accompanying printed label (**Zierfeld**) and the whole of each miniature sheet or

sheetlet. If you collect by theme or topic you will find this invaluable.

Next in the set listing comes the classification of the stamps: from left to right each has the unique MICHEL catalogue number, the face value with the currency unit (in brackets if not actually shown on the stamp), the colour or colours, the illustration code, the mint price and the used price.

The classification usually ends with prices for complete sets and, for modern issues, a first day cover (**FDC**). Footnotes may follow, giving additional information such as quantities issued (**Auflagen**), prices for stamps with printed labels attached, for imperforate stamps or errors, and cross-references to other stamps in similar designs (**in ähnlichen Zeichnungen ...**).

If the issue is accompanied by miniature sheets or sheetlets the listing of these follows, under the sub-heading **Blockausgabe**.

### 4.3 The Front and Back of the Catalogue

At the front of each catalogue, after the title-page, comes a section headed **Bewertungshinweise**, which indicates which years unmounted or mounted mint prices apply to, and how to calculate prices for stamps on cover. Next is the foreword (**Vorwort**) written by the editor, followed by some advice for the catalogue user and the introduction (**Einführung**). All the important points dealt with in the introduction are also covered in this booklet. Following the introduction is a page of abbreviations and symbols (**Abkürzungen und Zeichenerklärungen**). Again, the most important of these are covered in this booklet.

At the back of the catalogue you will find a section headed **Prüfordnung**, which explains in some detail the system of authentication or expertization used in Germany and gives names and addresses for the recognized experts in different fields. There is also an index (**Inhalts- und Stichwortverzeichnis**) to help you to find countries in the catalogue you have or in other volumes. Some of the specialized catalogues contain a stamp design index as well.

## 5 Glossary of Colours

### 5.1 Stamp Colours

Every basic catalogue entry gives the colour or colours of the stamp, immediately following its face value (and currency).

Stamps printed in more than one colour have the colours separated by an oblique stroke, for example **schwarz/blau**. Note that this means “black and

blue”, not “black on blue paper” as it might in some catalogues; the German for the latter would be **schwarz a. blau**. Stamps printed in three or more colours may simply be described as **mehrfarbig** (multicoloured).

You will find that you soon recognize most of the commonly used colour descriptions. As all colour names are adjectives, they always start with a small letter.

Compound colour names are formed in much the same way as they are in English, but without hyphens. Simple compounds are formed like this: **graublau** = grey-blue, **olivgelb** = olive-yellow.

To save space in the catalogue listings, colours are often abbreviated. These abbreviations will include a full stop or an apostrophe. Abbreviations are also used for the colours of overprints and surcharges, but note that these are always assumed to be black if no colour is specified.

### 5.2 The MICHEL Colour Guide

The MICHEL Colour Guide (**MICHEL-Farbenführer**) has been published for many years, and is an essential accessory to the MICHEL catalogues. The 36th and following editions are much improved and expanded. This glossary and all references to stamp colours in this booklet are based on the 36th and following editions.

The MICHEL Colour Guide is available from good stamp dealers or directly from your MICHEL agent. It contains more than 570 square patches of colour, similar in style to a paint chart. Each patch is captioned with the colour name in German and has a circular hole in it, through which you can view the stamp to get a good match.

The main list in this appendix shows the basic colours included in the Colour Guide. In addition, a variety of further colours are shown, and these are formed by adding one of the following four prefixes to a basic colour:

<b>hell-</b>	pale
<b>mittel-</b>	mid
<b>lebhaft-</b>	bright
<b>dunkel-</b>	dark

So, for example, based on **olivbraun** (olive-brown), the Colour Guide shows the following five colours, ranging from the palest to the deepest:

<b>hellolivbraun</b>	pale olive-brown
<b>mittelolivbraun</b>	mid olive-brown
<b>lebhaftolivbraun</b>	bright olive-brown
<b>olivbraun</b>	olive-brown
<b>dunkelolivbraun</b>	dark olive-brown

Note that hyphens are not used in the German compound colour names. These five colours will be arranged in a single horizontal row on the Colour Guide (the palest at the left) so that you can compare them easily.

### 5.3 List of Colours

The following alphabetical list includes the basic colours shown in the MICHEL Colour Guide, the abbreviations used for colour names, and the abbreviations used for the colours of overprints and surcharges. All other colour names given in the MICHEL colour guide may be derived by combination of the respective colour designations given below.

<b>Bl</b>	Blue overprint or surcharge	<b>hell</b>	Pale/light (used in combination with other colours)
<b>bl.</b>	Blue (abbreviation of <b>blau</b> )	<b>K</b>	Carmine overprint or surcharge
<b>blau</b>	Blue	<b>kar.</b>	Carmine (abbreviation of <b>karmin</b> )
<b>bläulich</b>	Bluish (used in combination with other colours)	<b>kobalt</b>	Cobalt
<b>Br</b>	Brown overprint or surcharge	<b>Ku</b>	Copper overprint of surcharge
<b>br.</b>	Brown (abbreviation of <b>braun</b> )	<b>kupfer</b>	Copper (used for an overprint or surcharge and usually shown as <b>Ku</b> )
<b>br'n</b>	Brown (abbreviation of <b>braun</b> )	<b>L</b>	Lilac overprint or surcharge
<b>braun</b>	Brown	<b>lebhaft</b>	Bright (used in combination with other colours)
<b>bräunlich</b>	Brownish (used in combination with other colours)	<b>lil.</b>	Lilac (abbreviation of <b>lila</b> )
<b>bronze</b>	Bronze (used for an overprint or surcharge and usually shown as <b>Bz</b> )	<b>lila</b>	Lilac
<b>Bz</b>	Bronze overprint or surcharge	<b>magenta</b>	Magenta
<b>chromgelb</b>	Chrome yellow	<b>matt</b>	Dull (used in combination with other colours)
<b>cyanblau</b>	Cyan blue	<b>mehrfarbig</b>	Multicoloured (printed in three or more colours)
<b>d'</b>	Dark/deep (abbreviation of <b>dunkel</b> )	<b>mfg.</b>	Multicoloured (abbreviation of <b>mehrfarbig</b> )
<b>dkl'</b>	Dark/deep (abbreviation of <b>dunkel</b> )	<b>mittel</b>	Mid (used in combination with other colours)
<b>dunkel</b>	Dark/deep (used in combination with other colours)	<b>ocker</b>	Ochre
<b>G</b>	Gold overprint or surcharge	<b>ol.</b>	Olive (abbreviation of <b>oliv</b> )
<b>Gb</b>	Yellow overprint or surcharge	<b>oliv</b>	Olive
<b>gelb</b>	Yellow	<b>opalgrün</b>	Opal green
<b>gelblich</b>	Yellowish (used in combination with other colours)	<b>Or</b>	Orange overprint or surcharge
<b>glb.</b>	Yellow (abbreviation of <b>gelb</b> )	<b>or.</b>	Orange (abbreviation of <b>orange</b> )
<b>gold</b>	Gold (used for an overprint or surcharge and usually shown as <b>G</b> )	<b>orange</b>	Orange
<b>Gr</b>	Green overprint or surcharge	<b>preußischblau</b>	Prussian blue
<b>gr.</b>	Grey (abbreviation of <b>grau</b> )	<b>purpur</b>	Purple
<b>gr'n</b>	Green (abbreviation of <b>grün</b> )	<b>R</b>	Red overprint or surcharge
<b>Gra</b>	Grey overprint or surcharge	<b>ros.</b>	Pink (abbreviation of <b>rosa</b> )
<b>grau</b>	Grey	<b>rosa</b>	Pink
<b>grün</b>	Green	<b>rot</b>	Red
<b>grünlich</b>	Greenish (used in combination with other colours)	<b>rötlich</b>	Reddish (used in combination with other colours)
<b>h'</b>	Pale/light (abbreviation of <b>hell</b> )	<b>S</b>	Black overprint or surcharge
		<b>schw.</b>	Black (abbreviation of <b>schwarz</b> )
		<b>schwärzlich</b>	Blackish (used in combination with other colours)
		<b>schwarz</b>	Black
		<b>Si</b>	Silver overprint or surcharge
		<b>siena</b>	Sienna
		<b>silber</b>	Silver (used for an overprint or surcharge and usually shown as <b>Si</b> )
		<b>smaragdgrün</b>	Emerald green
		<b>türkis</b>	Turquoise

<b>ultram.</b>	Ultramarine (abbreviation of <b>ultra-</b> <b>marin</b> )
<b>ultramarin</b>	Ultramarine
<b>V</b>	Violet overprint or surcharge
<b>vio.</b>	Violet (abbreviation of <b>violett</b> )
<b>violett</b>	Violet
<b>weiß</b>	White
<b>zinnober</b>	Vermilion

Equatorial Guinea  
Estonia  
Ethiopia

**Äquatorial-Guinea**  
**Estland**  
**Äthiopien**

Fiji  
France  
French Polynesia  
French Southern and  
Antarctic Territories

**Fidschi-Inseln**  
**Frankreich**  
**Französisch-Polynesien**  
**Französische Gebiete in**  
**der Antarktis**

Germany  
Great Britain  
Greece

**Deutschland**  
**Großbritannien**  
**Griechenland**

Hungary  
Ivory Coast  
Kenya, Uganda  
and Tanganyika

**Ungarn**  
**Elfenbeinküste**  
**Ostafrikanische Gemein-**  
**schaft**

Latvia  
Lithuania

**Lettland**  
**Litauen**

New Zealand  
Nova Scotia  
Russia  
Soviet Union  
Switzerland

**Neuseeland**  
**Neuschottland**  
**Rußland**  
**Sowjetunion**  
**Schweiz**

United States

**Vereinigte Staaten von**  
**Amerika**

United Arab Emirates

**Vereinigte Arabische**  
**Emirate**

United Nations  
Upper Volta

**Vereinte Nationen**  
**Obervolta**

Virgin Islands

**Jungferninseln**

West Germany

**Bundesrepublik**  
**Deutschland**

Yemen  
Yugoslavia

**Jemen**  
**Jugoslawien**

Zambia  
Zimbabwe

**Sambia**  
**Simbabwe**

## 6 Glossary of Country Names

The majority of country names in German are very similar to the English equivalents, for example **Libanon** (Lebanon), **Mexiko** (Mexico) and **Schweden** (Sweden). Because of this, they are easy to find in the catalogues. First, find the correct geographical volume, then look up the page number using the contents list on the outside back cover.









































There are, however, a few common country names where the German and English names are significantly different or where they start with a different letter of the alphabet. A selection of these is given below. Unlike the other glossaries, the English names are shown first.

Aegean Islands	<b>Ägäische Inseln</b>
Austria	<b>Österreich</b>
Cambodia	<b>Kambodscha</b>
Cameroon	<b>Kamerun</b>
Canada	<b>Kanada</b>
Cayman Islands	<b>Kaiman-Inseln</b>
Central African Republic	<b>Zentralafrikanische</b> <b>Republik</b>
Chad	<b>Tschad</b>
Channel Islands	<b>Kanalinseln</b>
Christmas Island	<b>Weihnachts-Insel</b>
Cocos Islands	<b>Kokos-Inseln</b>
Colombia	<b>Kolumbien</b>
Comoro Islands	<b>Komoren</b>
Confederate States of America	<b>Konföderierte Staaten</b> <b>von Amerika</b>
Congo	<b>Kongo</b>
Crete	<b>Kreta</b>
Cuba	<b>Kuba</b>
Croatia	<b>Kroatien</b>
Cyprus	<b>Zypern</b>
Czechoslovakia	<b>Tschechoslowakei</b>
East Germany	<b>Deutsche Demokratische</b> <b>Republik</b>
Egypt	<b>Ägypten</b>

## 7 Glossary of Philatelic Terms, Symbols and Abbreviations

This list contains the most frequent symbols, abbreviations and philatelic terms from the MICHEL Catalogues. For further symbols see introduction section of each catalogue.

The English translations given are appropriate to the philatelic usage of the German terms – some of the words may have different meaning when used in a non-philatelic context.

	Colour which appears by use of a UV-lamp	<b>amtlich</b>	Official
	the stamp picture is used identically on postal stationary	<b>Anhängsel</b>	Attached label
	Revenue cancellation	<b>Aufdruck</b>	Overprint or surcharge (sometimes <b>Wertaufdruck</b> is used specifically to indicate "surcharge")
	Cancellation by punching	<b>Aufdruckfarbe</b>	Colour of overprint (overprints and surcharges are understood to be in black unless otherwise indicated)
	Cancellation by pen stroke	<b>Aufdrucktype</b>	Type of overprint
	Other cancellation	<b>Auflage</b>	Quantity issued
	Cancellation on occasion of a special event	<b>Ausführung</b>	Style
	Cancellation with datestamp (regular cancellation)	<b>Ausgabe</b>	Issue (set or single)
	Rouletted	<b>Aushilfsmarke</b>	Provisional stamp
	Imperforate, cut	<b>Ausland</b>	Overseas, abroad
	Airmail	<b>Ausschnitt</b>	Cut square or cutout
	Tête-bêche	<b>Ausstellung</b>	Exhibition
	Normal overprint or surcharge (if this symbol is doubled, inverted or sideways it refers to a double, inverted or sideways overprint or surcharge)	<b>Automatenmarken</b>	Vending machine stamps
	Mounted mint	<b>B</b>	Sheet (abbreviation of <b>Bogen</b> )
	Unmounted mint	<b>Bahnpost</b>	Railway post
	Mint with only part of the original gum intact	<b>Balken</b>	Bar
	Postally used	<b>balkenförmiger Phosphor-aufdruck</b>	Phosphor bars
	Cancelled to order	<b>Balkenstempel</b>	Bar cancellation
	On cover	<b>Band</b>	A volume of the MICHEL-catalogue
	On piece of cover	<b>Bdr.</b>	Letterpress (typography or surface-printing)
	Bisect (the symbol is appropriately altered for vertical or horizontal bisects)	<b>berichtigt</b>	Corrected
	Forgery, fake	<b>beschnitten</b>	Close cut (margins)
	Postal forgery	<b>Besetzung</b>	Occupation (as in military occupation)
	Forged or faked postmark/cancellation	<b>Besetzungsausgabe</b>	Occupation issue
	"The other way around" (for example, after a stamp described as <b>gez. 14:13</b> (perf 14x13) then if the next is given as ~ it is perf 13x14 – this may occur where some stamps in a set are in a horizontal format and others are vertical)	<b>Bild</b>	Image (used to denote the printed area of a stamp)
	Designer	<b>Bildgröße</b>	Image size
	Engraver	<b>billigst</b>	Cheapest
	Official reprint	<b>bl.</b>	Blue (abbreviation of <b>blau</b> )
	Block of four	<b>Bl</b>	Blue overprint or surcharge
	No catalogue price quotation possible	<b>Bl.</b>	miniature sheet (abbreviation of <b>Block</b> )
	Designer	<b>Block</b>	This has two separate meanings, which will usually be clear from the context. The more usual meaning is miniature sheet or souvenir sheet. However, it sometimes means block (a group of stamps joined together)
	Engraver	<b>Blockform</b>	Miniature sheet format
	Official reprint	<b>Blockausgabe</b>	Issue in a miniature sheet
	Block of four	<b>Bogenplatz</b>	Sheet position
	No catalogue price quotation possible	<b>Bogen</b>	Sheet
	Designer	<b>Bogenrand</b>	Sheet margin
	Engraver	<b>Bogenwasserzeichen</b>	Sheet watermark
	Official reprint	<b>br. or br'n</b>	Brown (abbreviation of <b>braun</b> )
	Block of four	<b>breit</b>	Wide
	No catalogue price quotation possible		
<b>a.</b>	On (abbreviation of <b>auf</b> )		
<b>Abart</b>	Variety		
<b>abgenutzt</b>	Worn		
<b>Abstimmung</b>	Plebiscite		
<b>ähnlich</b>	Similar		
<b>allgemein</b>	General		
<b>allseitig</b>	On all sides		
<b>Amt</b>	Office		

<b>Brief</b>	Letter, cover	<b>Einheits-</b>	Omnibus design
<b>Briefmarke</b>	Postage stamp	<b>zeichnung</b>	
<b>Briefstück</b>	Piece of cover	<b>Einschreib-</b>	Registered letter stamp (also used
<b>Briefumschlag</b>	Envelope / Cover	<b>marke</b>	for a registration label)
<b>Buchdruck</b>	Letterpress (typography or surface-	or <b>Einschr.-</b>	
	printing)	<b>Marke</b>	
<b>Buchstabe</b>	Letter (of the alphabet)	<b>einseitig</b> □	Imperf on one side (also <b>zweiseitig</b>
<b>bzw.</b>	Respectively	□, <b>dreiseitig</b> □)	
<b>d' or dkl'</b>	Dark (abbreviation of <b>dunkel</b> )	<b>einzeilig</b>	In one line (also <b>zweizeilig</b> ,
<b>Datum</b>	Date	<b>Einzelmarke</b>	Single stamp
<b>Datumsstempel</b>	Datestamp	<b>Eisenbahnmarke</b>	Railway postage stamp
<b>DD</b>	Double Print (used as a suffix to	<b>Eisenbahn-</b>	Railway parcel stamp
	a catalogue number)	<b>paketmarke</b>	
<b>Deckel</b>	Cover (as in booklet cover). Not as	<b>EK</b>	The Europe volumes of the
	in envelope.		MICHEL catalogue ( <b>MICHEL-</b>
<b>dick</b>	Thick		<b>Europa-Katalog</b> )
<b>Dienstmarke</b>	Official stamp	<b>Entwerfer</b>	Designer
<b>DGK</b>	The German Postal Stationery	<b>entwertet</b>	Cancelled
	volume of the MICHEL catalogue	<b>Entwertung</b>	Cancellation
	( <b>MICHEL-Deutschland-Ganz-</b>	<b>Entwurf</b>	Design
	<b>sachen-Katalog</b> )	<b>Ersttag</b>	First day
<b>DK</b>	This abbreviation has two uses.	<b>Ersttagsbrief</b>	First day cover (usually abbreviated
	As a suffix to a catalogue num-		to <b>FDC</b> , which avoids confusion
	ber it indicates printed twice,		with <b>ETB</b> )
	one impression inverted. Used	<b>ETB</b>	First day sheet or first day card
	on its own it stands for the		(abbreviation of <b>Ersttagsblatt</b> )
	Germany volume of the MICHEL		
	catalogue ( <b>MICHEL-</b>	<b>F</b>	Printing or colour error (used as a
	<b>Deutschland-Katalog</b> )		suffix to a catalogue number)
<b>DM</b>	Deutschmark	<b>Fabrikwasser-</b>	Papermaker's watermark
<b>Doppeldruck</b>	Double print	<b>zeichen</b>	
<b>doppelt</b>	Double or doubled	<b>falsch</b>	Forged, faked
<b>Druck</b>	Printing	<b>Falschstempel</b>	Forged postmark
<b>Druckabart</b>	Printing variety	<b>Fälschung</b>	Forgery, fake
<b>Druckerei</b>	Printing works	<b>Falz</b>	Stamp hinge
<b>Druckprobe</b>	Proof	<b>falzlos</b>	Hingeless
<b>Druckvermerk</b>	Printer's imprint	<b>Farbänderung</b>	Change of colour
<b>DSK</b>	The Germany Specialized volume	<b>Farbe</b>	Colour
	of the MICHEL catalogue	<b>Farbenabart</b>	Colour variety
	( <b>MICHEL-Deutschland-</b>	<b>farbig</b>	Coloured
	<b>Spezial-Katalog</b> )	<b>Farbwechsel</b>	Change of colour
<b>dunkel</b>	Dark	<b>Faserpapier</b>	Paper with silk fibres ("granite
<b>dünn</b>	Thin		paper")
<b>durchsichtig</b>	Transparent	<b>FDC</b>	First day cover
<b>Durchstich</b>	Roulette	<b>Federstrich-</b>	Pen cancellation
<b>durchstoehen</b>	Rouletted	<b>entwertung</b>	
<b>echt</b>	Genuine	<b>Fehlbruck</b>	Printing error
<b>Eckbuchstabe</b>	Corner letter	<b>fehlend</b>	Missing or omitted
<b>Eckrandstück</b>	Corner stamp with sheet margins	<b>Fehlfarbe</b>	Error of colour
	attached	<b>Feldpost-</b>	Military post stamp
<b>EGK</b>	The European Postal Stationery	<b>marke</b>	
	volumes of the MICHEL cata-	<b>fiskalisch</b>	Fiscal (adjective)
	logue ( <b>MICHEL-Europa-</b>	<b>Flugpost</b>	Airmail
	<b>Ganzsachen-Katalog</b> )	<b>Flugpostbrief</b>	Airmail letter
<b>Eilmarke</b>	Express letter or special delivery	<b>Flugpost-</b>	Airmail stamp
	stamp	<b>marke</b>	
<b>einfarbig</b>	In one colour (also <b>zweifarbig</b> ,	<b>fluoreszierend</b>	Fluorescent
	<b>dreifarbig</b> )	<b>Format</b>	Size or format

<b>frankatur-gültig</b>	Valid for postage	<b>h'</b>	Light (abbreviation of <b>hell</b> )
<b>Frankierung</b>	Franking	<b>Halb</b>	Half
<b>Freimarke</b>	Definitive	<b>halbiert</b>	Bisected
<b>G</b>	Gold overprint or surcharge; if used as a suffix to a catalogue number it indicates a variety printed on the gummed side	<b>halbamtlich</b>	Semi-official
<b>ganzflächiger Phosphor-aufdruck</b>	All-over phosphor	<b>HAN</b>	Job number ( <b>Hausauftragsnummer</b> )
<b>Ganzsache</b>	Postal stationery	<b>Handpapier</b>	Hand-made paper
<b>geänderte Farben</b>	Changed colours	<b>Handstempel</b>	Handstamp
<b>Gebiet</b>	Subject	<b>H-BI.</b>	Booklet pane (abbreviation of <b>Heftchenblatt</b> )
<b>Geburtstag</b>	Birthday ( <b>100. Geburtstag</b> = birthcentenary)	<b>H-Blatt</b>	Booklet pane
<b>gebraucht</b>	Used	<b>Heftchen</b>	Stamp booklet
<b>gedruckt</b>	Printed	<b>Heftchenblatt</b>	Booklet pane
<b>gefälligkeits-gestempelt</b>	Cancelled to order	<b>hell</b>	Light or pale
<b>gefärbt</b>	Tinted	<b>Hochformat</b>	Vertical format
<b>Gemälde</b>	Painting	<b>Inschrift</b>	Inscription
<b>Geschenk-päckchen</b>	Presentation pack	<b>Jahr</b>	Year (also used for anniversary: <b>25 Jahre</b> = 25th anniversary)
<b>geschnitten</b>	Imperforate or cut	<b>Jahrestag</b>	Anniversary (100. Jahrestag = centenary)
<b>gestempelt</b>	Postmarked, cancelled	<b>Jahreszahl</b>	Date (the year only)
<b>gestreift</b>	Laid	<b>Jahrgangswerttabelle</b>	List of year sets
<b>gestreiftes Papier</b>	Laid paper	<b>K</b>	Comb (perforation); if used as a suffix to a catalogue number it indicates a tête-bêche variety
<b>gestrichen</b>	Coated	<b>Kammzählung</b>	Comb perforation
<b>gestrichenes Papier</b>	Coated paper	<b>karm.</b>	Carmine (abbreviation of <b>karmin</b> )
<b>getönt</b>	Toned	<b>Kartonpapier</b>	Thick paper ("carton" paper)
<b>gezähnt or gez.</b>	Perforated	<b>Kasten-zählung</b>	Harrow perforation
<b>gez. K</b>	Comb perforation	<b>Katalognummer</b>	Catalogue number
<b>gez. Ks</b>	Harrow perforation	<b>Kehrdruck</b>	Tête-bêche (one stamp inverted in relation to an adjacent one)
<b>gez. L</b>	Line perforation	<b>Kenn-Nr.</b>	Identification number
<b>Glanzpapier</b>	Glossy paper	<b>Klb.</b>	sheetlet (abbreviation of <b>Kleinbogen</b> )
<b>glatt</b>	Smooth, shiny	<b>Kleinbogen</b>	Small sheet or sheetlet
<b>glb.</b>	Yellow (abbreviation of <b>gelb</b> )	<b>Kleinbogen-satz</b>	Set of sheetlets
<b>gleich</b>	Same ( <b>in gleicher Zeichnung</b> = in the same design)	<b>Kleinformat</b>	Small size or format
<b>gr.</b>	Grey (abbreviation of <b>grau</b> )	<b>komb.</b>	Combined ( <i>not</i> comb perforated)
<b>Gr</b>	Green overprint or surcharge	<b>Kontrollzeichen</b>	Control mark
<b>graviert</b>	Engraved	<b>kopfstehend</b>	Inverted
<b>gr'n</b>	Green (abbreviation of <b>grün</b> )	<b>Kopftype</b>	Head type
<b>Großformat</b>	Large size or format	<b>Kreidepapier</b>	Chalk-surfaced paper
<b>Grund</b>	Background	<b>Kriegsdruck</b>	Wartime printing
<b>GSK</b>	The Great Britain Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue ( <b>MICHEL-Großbritannien-Spezial-Katalog</b> )	<b>Kriegsmarke</b>	War stamp
<b>gültig</b>	Valid	<b>Kriegssteuermarke</b>	War tax stamp
<b>gültig bis</b>	Valid until	<b>Kreisstempel</b>	Circular cancellation
<b>Gummi</b>	Gum	<b>Ks</b>	Harrow (perforation)
<b>Gummi-riffelung</b>	Ribbed gum		

<b>L</b>	Line perforation; if used as a suffix to a catalogue number it indicates a blank label	<b>Oberfläche</b>	Surface (the face of a stamp)
<b>Landesname</b>	Country name	<b>Odr.</b>	Offset printing
<b>Ldr.</b>	Letterset printing	<b>Offsetdruck</b>	Offset printing
<b>liegend</b>	Horizontal or sideways	<b>o.G.</b>	Unused, issued without gum (abbreviation of <b>ohne Gummi</b> )
<b>lil.</b>	Lilac (abbreviation of <b>lila</b> )	<b>ol.</b>	Olive (abbreviation of <b>oliv</b> )
<b>Linie</b>	Line or stroke	<b>or.</b>	Orange (abbreviation of <b>orange</b> )
<b>Linienzählung</b>	Line perforation	<b>Originalgummi</b>	Original gum
<b>Lokalaufdruck</b>	Local overprint or surcharge	<b>ÖSK</b>	The Austria Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue ( <b>MICHEL-Österreich-Spezial-Katalog</b> )
<b>Lokalausgabe</b>	Local issue	<b>oWz.</b>	No watermark (abbreviation of <b>ohne Wasserzeichen</b> ). If no watermark is specified an issue is always assumed to be unwatermarked
<b>Luftpost</b>	Airmail		
<b>Makulatur</b>	Printer's waste	<b>P</b>	Plate printing
<b>mangelhaft</b>	Defective	<b>Paar</b>	Pair
<b>Markenheftchen</b>	Stamp booklet	<b>Paketmarke</b>	Parcel post stamp
<b>Markenheftchen-bogen</b>	Specially printed sheet, from which booklet panes are produced	<b>Papier</b>	Paper
<b>Markenrand</b>	Stamp margin	<b>Papier fl.</b>	Fluorescent paper
<b>Markenrolle</b>	Stamp roll or coil	<b>Papier normal</b>	Ordinary paper
<b>Maschinenpapier</b>	Machine-made paper	<b>Papier ph.</b>	Phosphor paper
<b>matt</b>	Dull	<b>Papiersorte</b>	Type of paper
<b>Maximumkarte</b>	Maximum card	<b>Pdr.</b>	Embossing
<b>mehrfach</b>	Multiple	<b>Pf.</b>	Pfennig
<b>mehrfarbig</b>	Multicoloured (three or more colours)	<b>Phosphor</b>	Phosphor (noun)
<b>mfg.</b>	Multicoloured (abbreviation of <b>mehrfarbig</b> )	<b>Phosphor-balken</b>	Phosphor bar
<b>MH</b>	Stamp booklet	<b>phosphoreszierend</b>	Phosphor (adjective)
<b>MHB</b>	Booklet sheet (abbreviation for <b>Markenheftchenbogen</b> )	<b>Phosphorstreifen</b>	Phosphor band
<b>Militärpostmarke</b>	Military postage stamp	<b>Pl. or Platte</b>	Plate
<b>MiR</b>	The monthly MICHEL magazine, <b>MICHEL-Rundschau</b>	<b>Plattenummer</b>	Plate number
<b>Mischzählung</b>	Compound perforation	<b>Pl.-Nr.</b>	Plate number
<b>MK</b>	Maximum card	<b>Portofreiheitsmarke</b>	Franchise stamp
<b>Muster</b>	Specimen	<b>Portomärke</b>	Postage due stamp
<b>NA</b>	New printing, reissue	<b>postalisch</b>	Postal
<b>Nachdruck</b>	Reprint	<b>Postamt</b>	Post office
<b>nachgraviert</b>	Retouched or re-engraved	<b>postfrisch</b>	Unmounted mint
<b>nachgummiert</b>	Regummed	<b>Postkarte</b>	Postcard
<b>Netz</b>	Network (burelage)	<b>Postpreis</b>	Post office price
<b>Neuaufgabe</b>	New printing, reissue	<b>PP</b>	Presentation pack
<b>Neudruck</b>	Reprint	<b>Prägedruck</b>	Embossing
<b>neugraviert</b>	Retouched or re-engraved	<b>Preis</b>	Catalogue price
<b>Neuheiten</b>	New issues	<b>Probedruck</b>	Proof
<b>Nominale</b>	Face value (of a stamp)	<b>Propaganda-fälschung</b>	Propaganda forgery
<b>Notausgabe</b>	Emergency issue	<b>Prüfung</b>	Expertization
<b>MiNr.</b>	MICHEL number or numbers	<b>Querformat</b>	Horizontal format
<b>MiNr. xxx fallen aus</b>	Catalogue Nos. xxx not assigned	<b>R</b>	Red overprint or surcharge. Also used as an abbreviation of <b>Rolle</b> (coil)
<b>MiNr. xxx stammen aus ...</b>	Catalogue Nos. xxx come from ...		
<b>MiNr. xxx stammt aus ...</b>	Catalogue No. xxx comes from ...		
<b>numeriert</b>	Numbered		

<b>Rabattmarke</b>	Stamp sold at a discount	<b>Telegrafentstempel</b>	Telegraph cancellation
<b>Rand</b>	Border or margin	<b>Todestag</b>	Death anniversary ( <b>100. Todestag</b> = death centenary)
<b>Randbedruckung</b>	Printed border	<b>Ton</b>	Shade
<b>Rastertiefdruck</b>	Photogravure	<b>Type</b>	Type (variety or printer's type)
<b>RaTdr.</b>	Photogravure	<b>U</b>	Imperforate variety (used as a suffix to a catalogue number. UI = imperforate on the left, Ur = imperforate on the right, Uo = top imperforate, Uu = bottom imperforate, Us = vertically imperforate, Uw = horizontally imperforate, Uzw = imperforate on two sides, Udr = imperforate on three sides)
<b>Reihe</b>	Row	<b>Übersichtstabelle</b>	Checklist summarizing the stamps in a series
<b>repariert</b>	Repaired	<b>Umschlag</b>	Envelope/Cover
<b>retuschiert</b>	Retouched	<b>ungebraucht</b>	Unused
<b>Rolle</b>	Coil	<b>ungestempelt</b>	Unused
<b>Rollenzählung</b>	Coil perforation	<b>ungezähnt</b>	Not perforated
<b>ros.</b>	Pink (abbreviation of <b>rosa</b> )	<b>ungummiert</b>	Without gum
<b>rückseitig</b>	On the back/reverse	<b>unregelmäßig</b>	Irregular
<b>S</b>	Black overprint or surcharge (but note that if no colour is specified an overprint or surcharge is assumed to be in black)	<b>Unterdruck</b>	Underprint (burélage)
<b>S.</b>	Page	<b>USK</b>	The United States Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue ( <b>MICHEL-USA-Spezial-Katalog</b> )
<b>s.</b>	See	<b>ÜK</b>	The Overseas volumes of the MICHEL-catalogue ( <b>MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog</b> )
<b>Satz</b>	Set	<b>V</b>	Printing Essay
<b>Satzpreis</b>	Price for a complete set. The number of stamps in the set is usually shown: <b>Satzpreis (6 W.)</b> = set of 6	<b>V</b>	Violet overprint or surcharge
<b>schw.</b>	Black (abbreviation of <b>schwarz</b> )	<b>verfälscht</b>	Faked
<b>Seite</b>	Page	<b>verfärbt</b>	Discoloured
<b>senkrecht</b>	Vertical	<b>vergrößert</b>	Enlarged
<b>Si</b>	Silver overprint or surcharge	<b>verkehrt</b>	Inverted
<b>siehe nach</b>	See after catalogue No. xxx	<b>versch.</b>	Various or variously (abbreviation of <b>verschieden</b> )
<b>MiNr. xxx</b>		<b>Verzeichnis</b>	Checklist
<b>Sorte</b>	Type, kind of (typical usage: <b>verschiedene Papiersorten</b> = various types of paper)	<b>Viererblock</b>	Block of four
<b>Spezial</b>	Specialized	<b>Viertel</b>	Quarter
<b>SSK</b>	The Switzerland and Liechtenstein Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue ( <b>MICHEL-Schweiz/Liechtenstein-Spezial-Katalog</b> )	<b>vio.</b>	Violet (abbreviation of <b>violett</b> )
<b>Staat</b>	State	<b>Vorauswertung</b>	Precancellation
<b>Staatsdruckerei</b>	State Printing Works	<b>Vorläufer</b>	Precursor, forerunner
<b>Steindruck</b>	Lithography	<b>W</b>	Cylinder Printing
<b>Stdr.</b>	Lithography	<b>W.</b>	Value or values
<b>stehend</b>	Upright	<b>waagrecht</b>	Horizontal
<b>Stempel</b>	Cancellation	<b>Währung</b>	Currency (monetary unit)
<b>Steuermarke</b>	Tax or fiscal stamp, revenue stamp	<b>Wappen</b>	Coat of arms
<b>Stichtiefdruck</b>	Engraving	<b>Wasserzeichen</b>	Watermark
<b>Streifen</b>	Strip	<b>Wasserzeichenabart</b>	Watermark variety
<b>StTdr.</b>	Engraving	<b>Weitere Werte</b>	Other similar values
<b>Stück</b>	Copy, example or piece		
<b>T</b>	Type (abbreviation of <b>Type</b> )		
<b>Tabelle</b>	List or table		
<b>teilgezähnt</b>	Partly perforated		
<b>Telegrafentmarke</b>	Telegraph stamp		

<b>Wellenlinien</b>	Wavy lines
<b>Weltpostverein</b>	Universal Postal Union
<b>Wert</b>	Value
<b>Wertangabe</b>	Face value
<b>Wertziffer</b>	Figure of value
<b>Wertaufdruck</b>	Surcharge
<b>Wohltätigkeitsmarke</b>	Charity stamp
<b>Wz.</b>	Watermark (if this abbreviation is printed upside down or on its side it refers to an inverted or sideways watermark)
<b>Zahl</b>	Number, figure
<b>Zählung</b>	Perforation
<b>Zd</b>	Se-tenant
<b>Zeichnung</b>	Design
<b>Zeitungs-marke</b>	Newspaper stamp
<b>zentriert</b>	Centred
<b>Zentrierung</b>	Centering (of a stamp picture)
<b>Zierfeld</b>	Printed label, ornamental field
<b>Ziffer</b>	Number or numeral
<b>Zufälligkeit</b>	Irregularity
<b>Zusammen-druck</b>	Se-tenant
<b>zusammen-hängend</b>	Se-tenant
<b>Zuschlags-marke</b>	Stamp with a charity or other premium
<b>Zw.</b>	Gutter pair (used as a suffix to a catalogue number)
<b>Zwangs-zuschlags-marke</b>	Compulsory surtax stamp
<b>zweifarbig</b>	Bi-coloured
<b>Zwischensteg</b>	Gutter
<b>Zwischensteg-paar</b>	Gutter pair
<b>Zf</b>	Printed label, ornamental field (used as a suffix to a catalogue number)



## Introduction to the MICHEL Catalogues

### General Information for the User

#### Organization of the MICHEL Catalogs

#### Classification of the Different Types of Stamps

Within a country or territory those stamps which are used by the sender to prepay postal fees are numbered in chronological order without special headings; included are express mail stamps, airmail stamps (characterized by ✈), Registered, Newspaper, etc. Following are Official, Parcel, Postage Due, Compulsory Surtax, etc. In addition special manufactured items follow with their own heading and numbering; for example, stamp booklets with their booklet panes and se-tenants.

#### MICHEL Numbering

The stamps are numbered in chronological order within their categories. Single stamps issued at a later date are inserted with their year of issue. When necessary, overview tables or information in italics are added. In exceptional cases, major variations that are added later, take on the numbers of the preceding stamps with the letters A, B, C, etc. in front of the number. The numbering of the blocks is in cursive type font for the non-revised areas and semi-bold for interim revised areas, while the main numbers are in thin font for the first instance and in semi-bold for the latter.

Within a collectible field, certain types of stamps receive their own chronological numbering with prefixed letter combinations to distinguish them from regular issues.

The most important ones are:

- D = Official stamp
- H-BI. = Stamp Booklet page
- H<sub>z</sub> = Center piece (block of 4 to 9) of a booklet sheet
- K = Tête-bêche (from stamp booklet sheet)
- KZ = Tête-bêche with gutter (from stamp booklet sheet)
- MH = Stamp Booklet
- MHB = Stamp Booklet sheet
- P = Postage Due stamp
- S = vertical se-tenant (from stamp booklet sheet)
- SZ = vertical se-tenant withgutter (from stamp booklet sheet)
- SZd = vertical se-tenant (from counter sheet)

- W = horizontal se-tenant (from stamp booklet sheet)
- WZ = horizontal se-tenant withgutter from stamp booklet sheet
- WZd = horizontal se-tenant (from counter sheet)

#### Suffix Letters and Letter Combinations used with Minor Varieties

A, B, C, D, E ... (the first upper case letters of the alphabet) after the number indicate the perforation type of the stamp.

a, b, c, d, e ... (the first lower case letters of the alphabet) after the number indicate important color differences.

... V, W, X, Y, Z (the last upper case letters of the alphabet) after the number indicate the watermark varieties.

... v, w, x, y, z (the last lower case letters of the alphabet) after the number indicate differences in paper and gum.

I, II, III, IV, V ... (Roman numerals after Arabic numerals) indicate printing and type differences.

- L = Empty field in same size as stamp
- P = Flat Plate printing (sheet printing) or Proof
- R = Coil stamp
- W = Rotary Press printing (Roller printing)
- Zf = empty spaces (sometimes with ornamentation) in same size as stamp
- ZS = vertical gutter pair
- ZW = horizontal gutter pair

#### Suffix Letters and Letter Combinations used with Variations

- DD = double (-image) -print or double overprint
- DK = double overprint, one inverted
- F = printing error or color error
- G = printed on the gummed side
- K = Tête-bêche or inverted overprint
- Pa = on glued paper web (two pieces of paper glued together to form continuous printing process)
- U = imperforate (for Uo, etc., see abbreviation listing)

I, II, III, IV, V ... (Roman numerals at the end of the MICHEL Number) number the plate flaws.

Stamps that were not issued for whatever reason, receive Roman numerals without further additions.

From issue to issue, the sequence of sub-listings can be different because in the cataloging process the categories are arranged in a way that is easiest to understand. Variation designations are generally listed last.

For example:

Old Germany Bavaria MiNr. 25 X b U: 25 (major listing number) X (watermark) b (color) U (imperforate).

## Denominations

Designations of face value for stamps are usually given in numbers. Units of currency designations are uniformly abbreviated within each listed area without considering what is actually printed on the stamp. If unit of currency is in parentheses, there is no designation on the stamp itself. Denomination overprints are identified in bold type.

## Illustrations

Unless otherwise indicated, stamps are shown at z or i normal size (not yet revised sections) and blocks in various size reductions. The block sizes given are average measurements because block sizes are not uniform. With varieties and peculiarities, the scale of enlargement is chosen so the greatest practical clarity of detail can be achieved. Catalog illustrations should not be used as a comparative guide for expertisation.

## Cliché Symbols

Sequential letters (= cliché symbols) at the stamp image and at price listing make it very easy to relate the illustrations to the MICHEL numbers.

## Picture Descriptions

The picture descriptions are as informative as possible, but they do not take the place of a lexicon, nor do they claim to.

In philately, the words „right“ or „left“ always refer to the face (image side) of the stamp as it appears to the observer. This applies even if it seemingly contradicts the facts; for example, the left eye of a person pictured on a stamp is physically that person's right eye.

## Price Columns

In MICHEL Specialized catalogs, the prices in the left-hand column apply to unused items (**\***, (**\***), **\*\***), while those in the right-hand column are for used items (⊗, ⊙, ~, ⊠). In some cases additional price columns are added (for example for units and for special cancellations (or franking)). These are clearly identified by symbols explained in the List of Abbreviations. The basis of valuation is given in the introduction to each collecting area, and when necessary also before individual issues.

A price in italics indicates that the supporting data are not sufficient to establish a clear price for the item. The designation „—, —“ in the price columns means that the stamp exists but a value can not be determined because there is insufficient information available. It does not necessarily mean that the stamp is very expensive or rare.

If neither —, — nor the price are listed, either the item does not exist or has not been presented for evaluation.

## Pricing

All prices in the German language MICHEL Catalog are approximate values in Euros (E) and are for stamps with the quality described in each area. As a rule, defects cause price reductions. Details and exceptions are listed at the beginning of each chapter or with the specific issue. Unless otherwise specified, prices for complete sets are based on the lowest priced variety of the single stamps within the set. Individual stamps from sets can be more expensive than the price shown in the catalog, and set prices can be rounded off below the sum of the single stamp prices. Price movements are based on supply and demand and can move up or down. The MICHEL catalog considers the market situation for each printing and dramatic price adjustments are shown in the monthly MICHEL-Rundschau publication.

Pricing is determined by stamp trade documents, working papers from collectors as well as domestic and foreign study groups.

### Cover Prices:

⊠-prices are for properly franked items which have been legitimately carried through the postal system, and/or with additional postage applied to underfranked items.

Unless otherwise specified in the MICHEL Germany Specialized Catalog, only the least expensive franking is considered, however with issues of Old German States or German Empire special franking is listed separately.

For further information on single- multiple- and mixed-franking, see the MICHEL Germany Cover catalog.

While overfranking up to 10% for multiple frankings generally cause small reductions in the P-price, as a rule, single stamps and mixed frankings must be properly franked on covers. Overfrankings (covers carrying the complete set of an issue and such), are priced at most 15% higher than the most expensive H stamp when genuinely postally used (with the exception of particularly rare stamps). In a few cases, where the proper franking rarely occurs, values are given for philatelically initiated covers with the complete set of an issue.

### First Day Covers

Pricing for a First Day Cover (FDC) is for an item with a first day cancellation without considering the correctness of postage.

Legitimate covers on the first day of issue, with appropriate franking, often command considerable price increases.

### Stamp Condition

When judging stamp quality, the astute philatelist will always begin with the condition of the stamp at the time of issue and take into account the characteristics of its basic components (paper, colors, gum), the characteristics of production and its ability to withstand external influences and handling in the postal system (perforation, cancellation, etc.). Quality determination is dependent on these prerequisites. For example, one can not expect wide margins on imperforate stamps that were produced with thin borders; nor can one expect perfect rouletting or perforations on stamps that were produced on paper that is difficult to tear.

Unless otherwise mentioned, perforated issues must have full perforations on 4 sides, imperforate stamps should have four margins, post office fresh items should have perfect gum, hinged stamps should have a single, clean hinge mark and cancelled stamps should exhibit clean and readable cancels. However, it should be considered that quality is determined by age and the local conditions which can affect color. For this reason blurry, lightly smudged cancels from particular times and/or areas can be considered at full value. All stamps with less than perfect quality should be discounted accordingly, depending on condition. Above average stamps, which are rarer, should be priced higher.

Repairs are intended to stop any further deterioration of a stamp that is still collectible. According to

philatelic definitions, repaired stamps are in a collectible condition if the intent of the repair is not a deceptive change in the catalog number (for example, falsely inserted centerpieces). Since the drop in value varies according to the degree of improvement or repair, recognized expertisers should be consulted in cases of doubt.

Please note that the publishers of the MICHEL catalog do not perform examinations of stamps.

## Technical and Important Philatelic Definitions

### Varieties

Printing errors, misprints, plate errors, etc., are of course, unavoidable when printing stamps. **For precise descriptions and illustrations, see the MICHEL Variety Guide (MICHEL-Abartenführer). Varieties are cataloged according to the principles described there.**

### Overprint Errors

Especially in the case of overprints, a number of variations can be caused during production: an overprint on the wrong stamp or in the wrong color; missing overprints (a pair, one with and one without overprint); typesetting errors or plate errors in overprints; overprints that are inverted, sideways, backwards, multiple overprints and much more.

### Missed Printing Operation

When a printing step is missed during production, stamps are printed short one color, so that part of the design is missing. This can also occur with stamps of a single color if they were printed in at least two printing steps.

### Double Impression

A true double impression requires that the printed sheet be run through the machine twice; in this way the stamp design can be seen as a double image.

Only in offset printing does the so-called double design impression occur, which because of its similarity to a double impression and its frequent occurrence, finds great interest among collectors. It occurs when ink from the printing cylinder gets onto the opposite cylinder and is picked up by the next sheet. It would only be recognized when a second contour is clearly off center. Since this is really a case of a printing accident, as of 1992 double design impressions are no longer certified and since that time they are no longer listed in MICHEL catalogs.

### Color Errors

A color error occurs when stamps, or parts of stamps, are printed in the wrong color, or on the wrong colored paper.

### Glued Paper Web

This variation occurs when the end of one roll of paper is pasted to the beginning of another roll, or when one roll which has been torn during the printing process is pasted back together.

### Inverted Parts of a Design

This error occurs when a stamp design is put together from several printing blocks and one of them was mounted upside down.

### Printing on the Gummed Side

This happens when the gummed sheet or paper roll is placed in the printing machine incorrectly.

### Plate Flaws

These are defects that occur in the printing form as a result of duplication of the printing block or through wear and tear during printing. They are unchanged through entire printing runs or large partial printing runs. Plate errors are only cataloged if official confirmation is made that there is, indeed, a true plate error and not a printing accident. Furthermore, the aberration must be easily recognizable.

### Watermark Varieties

When a stamp is printed on watermarked paper that was not intended for this stamp, it is considered a watermark variety. Incorrect positioning of watermarks by error are also recognized as variations.

### Perforation Varieties

If perforation machines break down totally or partially, this can result in sheets that are completely or partially imperforate. Due to the risk of counterfeit, such stamps should be collected only as margin pieces or in pairs.

## Overprints

Stamps are given overprints for various reasons:

A change in stamp classification (for example, a regular issue becomes an Official or Postage Due stamp), a change in denomination or currency designation, a change in the reason for the issue, or designating the stamp for use in a different or new region.

In the case of overprinted stamps, numbers in parentheses before the price column indicate the catalog numbers of the original stamps; lower case letters indicate the corresponding illustrations. The upper case letters inserted after them are the abbreviations for the overprint colors. If none are given, then the overprint is black.

## Tagging

Chemicals are added to the paper pulp which cause the paper to appear whiter, and thus make the colors more brilliant. These stamps glow in a bluish color under a UV-lamp.

## Sheet Position of a Stamp

Normally, when printing sheets, a full printed sheet consists of several (usually four) counter-sheets. In the MICHEL Germany Specialized catalog the counter-sheet size is indicated in parentheses following the print method in the headings for revised sections. An example would be 10 x 5; the first number (10) means the number of stamps in a horizontal row, the second number (5) indicates the number of rows (vertical).

Aside from the margin (selvage), the normally positioned stamp design is the basis for this philatelic counting method. A philatelist counts horizontally from left to right as opposed to the post office method of counting (from top to bottom).

## Printer's Symbols

On the sheet margin there are letters, numbers or symbols that indicate the printer or the printing house responsible for that sheet.

## Proofs

During production, trial printings are made to verify that the printing machine is operating properly.

## Printing Methods

There are several different printing methods: Letterpress (typography, flexographic, embossing), Indirect Letterpress (letterset), Offset (lithography, offset lithography, photo lithography), Itaglio or Gravure (engraved, photogravure) and Screen printing.

Frequently you can find combinations of two different printing processes on the same stamp.



Typography



Letterset

## Letterpress Printing (or Relief Printing)

### Typography

In letterpress, the printing plate has raised (printed) parts and recessed (non-printed) parts. The raised printing elements are uniformly inked and then pressed against the paper with relatively strong pressure. This results in the following identifying characteristics:

Squashed edges in lettering and lines

Colored surfaces appear uneven under magnification and usually a light embossment is visible on the gummed side.

### Embossing

For the stamp design that is to be produced, two compatible printing forms are prepared; on one form the embossed design is raised, on the other it is recessed. During the printing process, the paper lies between both forms which are pressed against one another with great pressure, resulting in the embossment being transferred onto the paper.

Embossing almost always occurs in combination with other printing methods. An identifying characteristic: on the front side there is positive relief, on the reverse side negative relief.

## Indirect Letterpress

### Letterset

Indirect letterpress is also called letterset or dry offset. It differs from direct lithography in that printing is not transferred directly from the printing form onto the paper, but rather the lithography plate presses on a cylinder covered with a rubber platen. From there, the print motif is transferred onto the paper. The type on the printing plate has to be positive. This process of transferring is also common in the offset method. Identifying characteristics: the same as in offset printing.

### Offset

In offset printing, the printing and non-printing surfaces are situated at almost the same level. The printing areas are prepared so that they repel water; in doing so they take on the oily printing ink while the non-printing areas are water-friendly and repel the ink. This offset printing process relies on this essential contrast between oil and water. The more this contrast can be enhanced, the easier and better the final printed product will turn out.

**Photolithography**

In photolithography (also known as Phototype), the printing form consists of a glass plate coated with a gelatin-chrome layer which is exposed with a (positive) halftone negative. Based on tonal qualities, the gelatin is hardened to varying degrees and then moistened so that a relief is formed on the plate. The unexposed areas repel the ink while the exposed areas take it on.

A characteristic of photolithography is the so-called grainy wrinkled effect visible under magnification that replaces the raster screen. Under magnification a fuzzy picture emerges.



Photolithography



Lithography



Offset Lithography

**Lithography**

Lithography is the oldest offset printing process, and is no longer used for printing stamps today. Limestone or slate plates serve as the printing surfaces. The designs are transferred onto these plates manually or by means of photolithography; in both cases the images are reversed. The printing occurs directly from the stone onto the paper. In contrast to offset printing, this is a direct printing process.

In lithography, the following identifying characteristics are evident:

- Unclear pictures, often with broken lines.
- Dull, soft colors (thin application of ink).
- Unclear contours.

**Offset Lithography**

Flexible metal plates affixed to the printing cylinder are used as plate carriers. Print is transferred to the paper by means of rubber platen cylinders. Offset printing is an indirect printing process. The design on the plate has to be positive.



combined engraved and photogravure



combined engraved and offset lithography

Halftones have to be screened. The screen simulates various nuances of tone by means of different sized dots. Light spots in the picture (light nuances) are created by small dots; dark spots are created by large dots.

Because the offset process does not require any particular quality of paper and because it is a fast process, it has replaced typography for large printing runs, especially when they entail multi-color printing. Identifying characteristics:

- Color surfaces are evenly inked
- Clean edges that are not squashed and do not look like there are loose fibers sticking out
- No embossment is visible on the gummed side
- Tone shading by means of screening
- Screen dots of various sizes but with the same color intensity

**Itaglio or Gravure**

In itaglio or gravure printing, the ink is transferred into the recessed parts of the design by inking cylinders. In this process the ink remaining on the surface of the cylinder is removed by a wiping mechanism (scraper). The paper roll picks up the ink from the recesses in the printing cylinder.



Engraved printing



Photogravure

**Engraved printing**

In the process of copper plate printing – the oldest technique in recess printing – the design is engraved into a copper plate with an engraving tool; in the process of steel plate printing, it is done into a steel plate.

After the plate has been hardened, the recessed design is transferred onto a steel transfer roll (molette). In this process, the design is impressed in relief. It is then transferred from the molette onto a printing cylinder which is lightly coated with a layer of copper, which has been hardened through the process of chrome plating. The image appears on the printing cylinder recessed and in reverse.

During the printing process, thick ink is pressed onto moist absorbent paper where it is mounted, and dries slightly raised. The drying paper shrinks, often resulting in measurable differences in the size of the design.

A scraping technique called mezzotint makes use of a stylus to create additional small recesses in the plate; this was the first technique in halftone reproductions.

Engraving is preferred for stamp designs which require very close work on every detail of the image; because of its high cost, it is used mostly for the higher denominations; of course it also provides the greatest possible protection against counterfeiting to the detriment of the post office. The identifying characteristics are:

Ink application is discernible in relief

Design consists of fine lines and dots

Colored surfaces are achieved by means of lines running very close together and/or crisscrossing lines, design is clear and rich in detail

### Photogravure

Photogravure is also called recess print or rotogravure. In contrast to engraving, the design is transferred onto a copper plate by means of photography. The oldest forms of recess print are heliogravure or photogravure.

Before producing the negative design with pigment paper, a coating of asphalt or resin is glazed onto the copper plate as screening. The plate is etched through the pigment paper in several steps; in this way recesses are created.

Photogravure as it is used today is a further development of heliogravure. Here the screen and design are transferred onto the pigment paper in two processes by means of exposure. The pigment is then developed on the printing cylinder. The etching process which follows creates the recesses.

In heliogravure and photogravure, the actual printing processes are identical: the recesses are filled with thin ink and the excess ink is wiped away with scrapers. The ink is pressed onto the paper where it dries evenly in contrast to engraving.

Since the paper is not as moist as it is in the engraving process, the differences in the size of the design are barely discernible.

Identifying characteristics of photogravure:

Sawtooth effect in lines, type and edges of the image, screen dots are about the same size, often with the color toning down towards the middle of the screened dot

The design appears out of focus under magnification  
High intensity of color is possible, with a wide range of shades

Pearly appearance in many areas (ink quality and blotting capacity)

## Cancellations

Cancellations are accomplished by postmark, pen or pencil stroke and less frequently by overprint, punching, scissor cut, official seal or similar means. Postally used is defined as canceled by postmark (in contrast with use for fiscal or taxing purposes).

**Rare cancellations.** Rare cancellations, cancellations that vary in form or color, or cancellations that infrequently occur for a variety of reasons, often command very high premium prices, especially in the case of older issues.

**Cancellations for philatelic purposes** are provided by postal authorities with unchanged or sometimes private cancels specifically for collectors. Sometimes special overprinted cancels were used during or after the validity period of the stamp. Both types are noted by K in the MICHEL catalog. Cancellations from the German Federal Mail (Deutschen Bundespost) Philatelic Agency are not valued separately.

**Forged cancels** are those which were applied by unauthorized persons, with the intent to defraud and to increase the value of less expensive, unused stamps. Reference is made to the occurrence of forged postmarks in this catalog with the Z symbol.

**Counterfeit postmarks** are cancels which were applied after the circulation period by private or unauthorized persons with genuine postmarks that have been backdated.

The statement "without obligo" means that the postmark can not be expertised, and is possibly forged or counterfeit.

## First Day Sheetlet (ETB)

These are sheets issued and sold by the post office, with a newly issued stamp and a first day postmark, as well as a description of the theme and technical data. Private ETB's are not listed.

## First Day Covers (FDC)

These are envelopes or cards which were postmarked on the first day of issue of the stamp(s) affixed to them. Some postal services issue special envelopes (with cachets) often with special postmarks related to the occasion of the issue. Only in exceptional cases do we differentiate between official and private covers.

## Essays

In order to find the most appropriate format for a stamp issue with regard to design, printing, color, etc., samples are requested by the postal service. Occasionally, proofs such as those that are not accepted, find their way into the market. They are called essays.

## Forgeries

There are several types of forgeries:

### 1. Forgeries to the detriment of collectors and dealers FALSCH

There can be total or partial forgeries, e. g. forged rouletting, forged, falsified or removed perforations, forged cancellations, forged overprints, chemical alteration of paper and color, falsely inserted center pieces in the course of repair work, etc. In addition, overprints, postmarks and the like that have been chemically or mechanically removed.

### 2. Forgeries to the detriment of the post office FZK

Only those forgeries that were produced during the stamp's circulation period to the detriment of the postal authorities.

**3. Forgeries during wartime FZK** that were produced by countries for the purpose of causing harm to the enemy. We differentiate between wartime postal forgeries that are deceptive imitations of the original stamps and propaganda forgeries where the original design was changed but remained similar to the original stamp.

## Facsimile

These are privately produced imitations of rare stamps which deviate from the original in color, paper and/or printing process.

## Determining the Field (or Position) of a Stamp

Determining the field of a stamp can be important for identifying cataloged types or plate errors on a sheet. Using a sheet size example of 10 x 5, field 27 indicates that the stamp is in the 7th from the left in the 3rd row from the top.

## Fluorescence and Phosphorescence

To improve automation in the post office, chemicals are mixed into the stamp paper; less frequently they are applied after the stamp has already been printed. Fluorescent materials glow yellowish to greenish under a UV-lamp. Phosphorescent materials continue to glow for a short time after the UV-lamp has been turned off. Differences in fluorescent and phosphorescent materials will be noted in MICHEL catalogs only in narrowly defined exceptional cases.

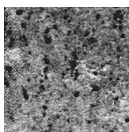
## Postal Stationery

Postal stationery refer to certain envelopes, card letters, postcards and the like that were printed with prepaid postage stamp impressions for postal use. All postal stationery are considered as postage stamps just as regular stamps used on mail. Inasmuch as official postal stationery exists with printed postal stamp impressions in the same design, the indication a follows the color notation for the relevant stamp.

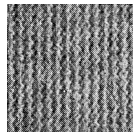
## Gum

Gum is usually applied to sheets of paper and paper rolls for printing postage stamps. For technical reasons this is done by machine before printing. In earlier years it was sometimes applied by hand with a brush. Gum was not applied to some classical imperforate stamps until after they were printed. Occasionally, stamps were issued without gum.

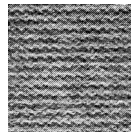
Formerly, the main ingredients were glue from animals, then plant substances (e. g. dextrin and gum Arabic). For a long time now, mainly artificial substances (e. g. PVA) have been used. Composition and appearances can be very different: smooth, brittle, grainy, flaky, dull or shiny, white, yellowish, brownish, reddish, bluish or almost invisible (dry gum). For the so-called economy gum which was used in some areas (for example, in the Soviet Zone, Thuringia), circular areas were not gummed to save cost and resources.



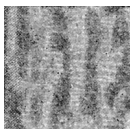
grainy gum



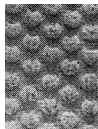
vertically ribbed



horizontally ribbed



flaky gum



economy gum

There are also stamps with gum containing sulfuric acid which can quickly damage stamps. With such stamps, it is recommended that the gum be removed immediately. With older stamps, the composition of the gum (dangerous chemical compounds or danger of cracking) can also cause scaling.

**Gum ribbing** is the breaking up of the gum after drying from rotary press printing. The breaking up occurs in different directions (horizontal or vertical ribbing) and is intended to prevent the paper from curling.

The significance that original gum has in present day printing is discussed in another section ("Unused")

## Job Number (HAN)

Formerly, numbers could be found on the lower sheet margin with stamps produced in flat plate printing. With these numbers, all the job orders submitted to a particular printing house were numbered sequentially.

## Tête-bêche

For the philatelist, this expression means horizontal or vertical pairs where one stamp is upside down; the pair may be attached directly or separated by a gutter. In MICHEL catalogs, either the symbol ! or the letter K is used to denote tête-bêche. Most tête-bêche pairs come from stamp booklets.

## Literature

The possibility of making the almost inexhaustible and ever-expanding sources of philatelic literature available to collectors and dealers is limited to only a few central specialized libraries today. The Philatelic Department of the Munich Municipal Library, Rosenheimer Strasse 5, 81667 Munich, and the Hamburg Philatelic Library, e. V., Schloßstrasse 12, 22041 Hamburg make their extensive book and magazine collections available to the public in their reading rooms and also through interlibrary loans. Members of the Association of German Philatelists can borrow materials directly from the Philatelic Library in Munich. All others can get books or photocopies with the assistance of a public library within the framework of national and international interlibrary loans.

## Punchings (perfins)

**Official punchings** usually change the character of a stamp or limit their operating parameters. For example, Bavarian stamps of 1911 were punched to make them official stamps. For internal official reasons, some Police authorities punched their stamps „Pol“ up to 1965.

Only these official perfins are listed in the MICHEL catalog.

Private users who kept a substantial inventory of stamps, often used unofficial punchings of letters or trademarks to prevent theft or unauthorized use by third parties. As protection against theft, official offices sometimes also used punchings to mark the stamps on postal forms.

Stamps, especially those from inflationary issues, with trademark punchings are considered at full value when genuinely used on covers with cancel and stamp.

## Printer's Waste

These are printed sheets that can no longer be used due to poor printing, errors in materials or perforations, or for other reasons, which have been withdrawn from sale at the post office and are scheduled to be destroyed. Occasionally items such as these get into the market illegally. Values for these items are not listed in this catalog.

## Arrangement of Stamps on a Sheet

In general, stamps are arranged uniformly with regular spaces in between. This distance normally allows adequate room for a separation method (rouletting or perforations). However, the sheets are sometimes positioned too close to one another; in this case, the perforations (or roulette) cut into the stamp design, which results in poor centering of the single stamp. As for imperforate stamps that are positioned too closely on the sheet, margins that are slightly touched in the cutting process are an example of average quality.

## Stamps on Cover



All articles of mail franked with postage stamps that were delivered by the postal system in the usual way, receive the catalog symbol P, if they are legitimate mail with the correct postage according to valid postal rates at the time. These are in contrast to philatelic covers that were sent for collectors. Covers with older issues and many covers legitimately delivered

with airmail stamps have a value many times higher than for the same stamps off paper. The value for stamps on paper (piece) lies between the price for a canceled stamp and for that of a cover, depending on the size and clarity of detail of the piece. Stamps on paper that contain no other information than the complete postmark are not much more expensive than a canceled stamp. The complete front side of a letter can come pretty close to the cover price. Valuation of stamps on paper must always be done on an individual basis.

**First day cancels** on special envelopes or cards produced by the postal service or private companies for this purpose are used on the first day of use for new stamp issues.

The term first day“ or „FDC“ in the MICHEL catalog refers to all covers that were canceled on the first day the affixed stamps were valid. This term does not refer to canceled stamps off paper. In this regard, it doesn't make any difference whether the covers bear a special cancel or a date cancel of any post office; it also doesn't make any difference whether the covers have been cancelled to order, or whether they have been treated as a legitimate mailing.

#### Note:

**If the FDC price is lower than the -price, it is only for collector's covers and covers that did not go through the postal service legitimately. The prices for FDCs with the correct postage that have gone through the mail legitimately are at least the same as those for legitimate mail-.**

Special cancels that are related to the postage stamp on which they were placed are only given a value if the special cancel has considerably more value than the usual postal cancel.

## Stamp Colors

The various shades of color are a technical side effect in the printing of stamps. They can often be observed in the course of several printing runs. Such differences in color are only mentioned when they can be attributed to specific printing runs or when price differences are associated with them.

**Color Names.** Names of colors are determined in accordance with Oswald's Color Guide. Fanciful names such as buff, cream or combined words such as brick red, cornflower blue, light blue, sea blue, May green, sea green, etc., expanded the earlier color palettes. In order to avoid incorrect associations, these types of imprecise terms are gradually being eliminated.

The MICHEL Color Guide (MICHEL-Farbenführer) is indispensable in determining the colors of stamps. In this guide all the new color designations since the 1980's have been added. Older color names are gradually being changed in new editions of the Color Guide, starting in 1991.

We would particularly like to call your attention to the fact that the MICHEL Color Guide can not take the place of a formal examination by an expertiser, especially when it comes to the expensive color variations!

Please be aware that many more colors and shades of color can be used for printing stamps than can be illustrated and described in a comprehensible way with names or definitions. The color in the MICHEL Color Guide which most closely matches the stamp should be chosen.

In the case of multicolored stamps, the color description, as a rule, begins at the frame and continues inward, towards the center of the stamp. A stamp is listed as „multicolored“ in the MICHEL catalog if it has more than two colors.

## Maximum Card

The prerequisite for a maximum card is that the theme or topic of the stamp and the picture on the card must be significantly related. The stamp is attached to the picture side of the card and it is canceled with a special postmark or a town and date postmark. In MICHEL catalogs, only official maximum cards are listed.

## Reprints

These are printings that were run by official job orders, where a modified or renewed printing plate was used after the postal validity of similar stamps had ended. Reprints that were not officially produced are equated with forgeries.

## New Printings

New issues of a stamp for postal usage, which differs in any characteristic from the original first printing, are called new printings. They are listed and numbered as minor variations according to the differences.

## Official Reprint

This is a term for all new official printings of a stamp which were produced by the postal administration

with unchanged, original printing blocks or plates, after the postal validity of the original stamp had ended. Official reprints are identified with the symbol  $\_$ . Because they are so difficult to distinguish from the originals, comments as to the differences in their characteristics have been intentionally omitted, as they can easily be misleading. Official reprints are often collected for study purposes and they are indispensable for the specialist. With regard to official reprints that were not officially produced, the term „private official reprint“ is used.

The term „official reprint“ can not be used for forgeries, fantasy printings, reprints or the like.

## Stamp Paper

Normally, types of paper are chosen that meet the technical requirements of the printing process and often come with security features to prevent counterfeiting (silk threads, watermarks). Of course, in hard economic times, lower quality paper is also used.

Frequently used paper types include glossy, coated, smooth, satinated (smoothed) and chalky, with or without fibers. Additional qualities are thin, thick, cardboard-like, translucent, coarse, laid and ribbed.

With colored paper, the paper mass itself contains the color; with dyed paper, the color is only applied to the surface.

Today, paper used for stamps has a fluorescent or phosphorescent substance added (or coated). This material glows brightly under an ultraviolet (UV) lamp (fluorescence) or has an after-glow (phosphorescence). A UV-lamp is an indispensable aid when examining these stamps. Optical brighteners that have been added to the paper can also be seen with the lamp; they glow bluish-white under the lamp. However, these stamps are not listed individually.

Only if a stamp issue exists on various types of paper will it be referenced in the listings.

## Proofs

During production, trial printings are made in order to verify that the printing machine is operating properly.

## Expertisation and Guidelines for Examination

The best protection against purchasing forged or poor quality stamps is to purchase the stamp at a reputable specialized dealer. In cases of doubt, it is advisable to consult an expert.

**Guidelines for Examination.** There are recognized experts for stamps, cancellations and condition from the leading collector and dealer organizations who use uniform guidelines which every philatelist should be aware of. A list of these guidelines can be found online at <http://www.bpp.de>.

## Retouching

Re-engraving or improving an entire printing plate, or on individual clichés are often made when the engraver wishes to achieve a better picture effect by reworking it, or when he wants to eliminate original engraving errors as well as wear and tear and print faults.

## Type Styles

The range of type styles and forms on stamps is so great that only the most important main groups will be discussed here. The most commonly used type style is derived from Roman capitalization: Antiqua with its different subtypes, e. g. Medieval (linear Antiqua, Egyptian (Antiqua with serifs) and grotesque or block type (without serifs)). Another form is cursive type (italics) which as a print type is modeled after old Roman handwritten cursive script. Additional type styles include written styles (e. g. English script) and, especially on older stamps, Gothic and Schwabacher. Occasionally you can also find non-Latin types such as Cyrillic. All type styles come in a variety of sizes (graduations) and forms (from thick to thin, narrow to wide, etc.).

## Specimen

The overprint or cancel SPECIMEN, SAMPLE on original stamps indicates that these items were used as official samples for demonstration purposes, usually when a new issue for a given series has been printed. The overprint is intended to prevent the use of these stamps as postage. Specimen stamps are not always cheaper than the same stamps without the overprint because specialized collectors are interested in them and the quantity produced is usually small.

## Separation Methods

The three methods of separating stamps are cutting, rouletting and perforating. In the MICHEL catalogue, the symbol for imperforate is #, for rouletting 4 and perforated stamps are shown as perf.

**Cutting**

During the early days of stamp production, stamp sheets were produced without any means of separating the stamps, so the stamps had to be cut out with scissors. Later on, this was done only in hard economic times or for collecting purposes.

In philately, the only those stamps called cut (imperforate) are those that were issued regularly without rouletting or perforations.

Stamps that are inadvertently not perforated are labeled imperforate (U) and are listed as variations.

**Rouletting**

Efforts were made to find a means of separating stamps from the sheet. Using a fine knife, the paper between the rows of stamps was partially cut through so that paper bridges between the individual cuts remained. The most common kinds of rouletting are line-, pin-, sawtooth-, serrated- and sheet roulettes, occasionally underlaid with color.



sawtooth roulette      serrated roulette      line roulette

Stamps that are inadvertently not rouletted are labeled imperforate (U) and are listed as variations.

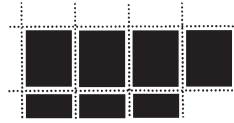
Tearing rouletted stamps will always result in unclean and uneven separations. Because of this, the quality standards used for the condition of the edges of perforated stamps can not be used for rouletted stamps.

In hard economic times, especially after World War II (circa 1945), private roulettings were produced in large numbers (which are not listed in the catalog), in contrast to postmaster separations which were made at the instigation of lower level officials.

**Perforations**

Today, the most common type of separation is the perforation. Depending on production methods, philately designates perforations as line-, comb- or harrow perforations.

With line perforations, the perforations are first made in one direction (e. g. horizontal) and then in the other direction (e. g. vertical). In this process, the corner perforations of individual stamps usually come out irregular. Line perforations also create stamps of varying sizes as the punching rulers are not always set at the same distance.



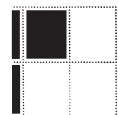
line perforations

In comb perforations, the width and height of one row in the sheet is punched at the same time. With harrow perforations, the entire sheet is punched by the perforating machine. With both of these methods, the corner perforations of the stamps are uniform.

In single comb perforations, all stamps in a horizontal row are perforated on three sides (top or bottom, left and right). With cross-comb perforations, the comb is shaped like an "H", so that one horizontal row is perforated and the left and right vertical rows are punched half the height of the stamps.

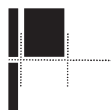


comb perforations

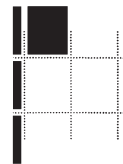


double comb perforations

In double-comb perforations and double cross-comb perforations, two horizontal rows are perforated at the same time.



cross-comb perforations



double cross-comb perforations

**Number of Perforation Holes.** Perforation holes are measured internationally in 2 cm intervals, e.g. perf. 12 means there are 12 holes every 2 cm. When there are varying perforations on a stamp (mixed perforations) the first number is for the (horizontal) width and the second number is for the (vertical) height. As an example, perf. 14z:15 means that for every 2 cm of stamp width there are 14 perforation holes and for every 2 cm of height there are 15.

In compound perforations (varying perforations on at least 3 sides), the perforation is first measured at the top, then on the right, then the bottom and finally on the left. If there is a hyphen between the perforation

numbers (e.g. 9-11), it indicates that the perforations can vary from stamp to stamp between 9 and 11.

Determining perforations precisely is only possible with the aid of a reliable perforation gauge which is a must for every collector.

Perforation edges have to correspond with the vertical dividing lines on the perforation gauge from left to right. The perforations listed in this catalog have been measured with a MICHEL perforation gauge. **It should be noted that even the best perforation gauge can not take the place of an examination by an Association expert?iser when it comes to expensive perforation varieties.**

**Perforation quality.** If the perforations are equidistant from the stamp design, the stamp is described as well-centered; poor centering occurs when the sheet is placed in the perforation machine imprecisely or when there is insufficient space for perforations between the stamps on the sheet.

When the nature of the paper (too soft, woolly, thick) makes it impossible to achieve a clean perforation, it is referred to as an imperfect perforation.

If the centering is so far off or if the perforation runs through another spot or in a direction other than originally intended, it is referred to as a misperforation.

For total or partial imperforate stamp, look under the Variations listing for each stamp.

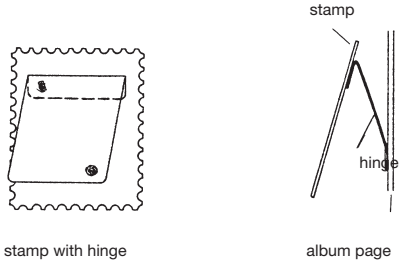
## Unused

A term for all stamps that have not been cancelled. Different types include:

**Post Office Fresh = ★★:** all postage stamps issued with gum that are in the same condition as they were when they were available over the counter at the post office.

With some stamps (especially older ones), the gum had to be removed because it destroyed the stamps due to its chemical properties. **Beware of partial or total gummed forgeries (regummed)!**

**Unused with hinge = ★:** uncanceled stamps with a hinge (remnant) attached. These stamps are preferable to stamps that have been regummed. Warning: statements such as „mint never hinged with gum“ are often euphemisms for regummed stamps!



● = adhesive areas

**Unused without gum = (★):** this indicates all stamps that were either issued without gum or had their original gum removed for specific reasons.

## Watermarks

During stamp production, watermarks are applied by pressure with forms in the paper mass, before it dries. Differences in watermarks include single or multiple, vertical or horizontal (normal and reversed), rising or falling, inverted or reversed sides. The complete watermark image is either on each stamp, distributed over several stamps, as a whole-sheet watermark or as an additional watermark on the edge of the sheet. Watermarks are abbreviated wmk. in this catalog and they are shown as viewed from the back of the stamp. If wmk. is not in the stamp's description, the stamps are printed on unwatermarked paper.

A watermark can often be seen if you hold the stamp up to a light, gummed side facing you. If this method fails, there are two other possibilities: first is the traditional method using watermark fluid and a watermark tray, which are available at any stamp shop. The stamp is placed image side down on the tray and a few drops of watermark fluid are dropped onto the stamp. After a few seconds the watermark should appear. For stamps on chalky paper you may have to leave the stamp in the watermark fluid for several minutes before the watermark appears. Watermark fluid usually does not damage the gum. However, watermark fluid must not be used on fluid-sensitive stamps. The other option is to use an electronic watermark detector which works without chemicals, on an electro-optical basis viewing a stamp under pressure. With stamps on cover the watermark can sometimes be seen by allowing light to fall on the stamp at an angle and viewing it from the side.

## Errors

The following errors are not considered varieties in this catalog:

Offset (inverse image on the back of the stamp)

Flaking color (with Engraved stamps)

Mutilation of an overprint

Folded sheet (stamp design partially missing)

Double impression of the design

Color bubbles, color stripes and splotches

Paper wrinkles

Register displacement/shift

Spots and other printing imperfections

Blurred print

Miscut and misperforated stamps

## Abbreviations and Symbols

### Abbreviations of Printing Methods:

Bdr.	= Typography
Ldr.	= Indirect Lithography (Letterset)
Odr.	= Offset Lithography
Pdr.	= Embossing
RaTdr.	= Photogravure
Strdr.	= Lithography
STdr.	= Engraved (steel or copper engraving)

### Abbreviations of Colors:

bl.	= blue
bräunl'	= brownish
dkl'	= dark-
gelbl'	= yellowish-
grünl'	= greenish-
lieb'	= bright-
or.	= orange
rötl'	= reddish-
schw.	= black
schwärzl'	= blackish-
ultram.	= ultramarine
vio.	= violet
mfg.	= multicolored

### Other Abbreviations:

#### Plate, Type and Separations:

Pl	= Plate
T	= Type
gez.	= perforation
K	= comb perforation
Ks	= harrow perforation
L	= line perforation
t	= reversed perforation
4	= roulette
#	= imperforate
U	= not perforated
Ul	= left not perforated
Ur	= right not perforated
Uo	= top not perforated
Uu	= bottom not perforated
Us	= vertical not perforated
Uw	= horizontal not perforated
Udr	= three sides not perforated
Uzw	= two sides not perforated
UMs	= horizontal pair, without perforation between
UMw	= vertical pair, without perforation between

#### Watermarks:

oWz	= without watermark (only designated in special cases)
Wmk	= Watermark




#### Gum:

(★)	= unused without gum or with partial gum
★	= unused with original gum (hinge)
★★	= unused with original gum (post office fresh)
o.G.	= without gum



#### Cancellations:

⊖	= with postmark cancel
⊗	= pen cancel (pen and ink)
⊘	= revenue cancel
⊙	= cancellation to order (CTO)
⊚	= punched cancel
≡	= other special cancel (e.g. DDR)
⊛	= special event cancel
Ⓣ	= date stamp







#### Forgeries:

	= Forgery (partial forgery) (to the detriment of the collector)
	= Forged cancel, expertisation necessary
	= Forgery to the detriment of the post office

#### Covers and Cover Pieces:

	= Stamp on legitimate letter, postcard, package card or printed matter, with Airmail stamp on Airmail cover or card
	= Stamp on piece
FDC	= First Day Cover

#### Miscellaneous:

Ak	= Announcement card
AkB	= Announcement sheetlet with printer's mark
Bl.	= Block
Br l/u	= Sheet margin left/bottom
DD	= Double overprint and/or double print
DPrä	= Double embossment
DDD	= Triple overprint and/or triple print
DK	= Double overprint, one inverted
DKV	= Printer's control mark
DV	= Printer's mark
DZ	= Printer's symbol
EB	= Commemorative sheetlet
ETB	= First Day sheetlet
Erg.	= Supplement
F	= Printing error, color error or misuse
FStr.	= Strip of foil/film
FZ	= Airmail admission
G	= Printed on the gummed side
GB	= Printed sheet
HAN	= Job number
H-BI.	= Booklet pane
Hz	= Center piece (block of 4 or 9) of a booklet sheet
K	= Tête-bêche and/or inverted overprint
Klb.	= Miniature sheet
KZ	= Tête-bêche pair with gutter
L	= Blank field and/or attached perforated field with printed margin
M	= Preferential printing (for VIP's) (minister block)
MH	= Stamp booklet
MHB	= Stamp booklet sheet
MK	= Maximum card
NA	= New printing
—	= Official reprint
Nachdr. (N)	= Reprint
Neudr. (N)	= Private reprint
OR	= Upper margin
P	= Flat Plate printing (sheet printing) or Proof
Pa	= On glued paper web
Papier fl.	= Fluorescent paper
Papier ph.	= Phosphorescent paper
PF	= Plate flaw
PH	= Partial proof
Pl.-Nr.	= Plate number
POL	= Perfins used by the Police Department
R	= Roller printing or coil stamp
RWZ	= Row value number
S	= Special printing or black printing
s.	= see
SD	= Black printing
SP	= Specimen
SZ	= Vertical se-tenant with gutter
T	= Part of issue
V	= Sample or trial printing
W	= Rotary Press printing (Roller print) or horizontal se-tenant
WZ	= horizontal se-tenant with gutter
Zd	= se-tenant
Zf	= Empty field
ZS	= Gutter pair (vertical)
ZW	= Gutter pair (horizontal)
	= Designer
	= Official postal stationery exists with printed stamp impression in the same design
	= Engraver
	= Stamp glows under UV-lamp ...
	= Block of four
—, —	= pricing unknown
	= Airmail stamp

**Additional abbreviations are given with the relevant catalog listing**