
The
MICHEL
Stamp Catalogue

An Introduction for English-speaking readers

Schwaneberger Verlag · München

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 13 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 400,000 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 Muthmannstraße 4, D-80939 München, Germany. All the volumes and other MICHEL products are available from good stamp dealers or, in case of difficulty, directly by mail order from the following MICHEL agents:

United Kingdom Safe Albums (UK) Ltd, 16 Falcon Business Park, Ivanhoe Road, Hogwood Lane, Finchampstead, Berkshire.

United States Lighthouse Publications Inc., 274 Washington Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601.

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.

The MICHEL Stamp Catalogues

The 15 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.

WEST- AND CENTRAL EUROPE (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog, Band 1) contains Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, France, Monaco, countries of the Iberian Peninsula and UNO Geneva and Vienna.

SOUTHERN EUROPE (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog, Band 2) contains Italy with San Marino and Vatican, the countries of the Balcan Peninsula, Bulgaria, Turkey and Cyprus.

NORTH AND NORTHWEST EUROPE (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog, Band 3) contains Scandinavia, the Baltic States, Great Britain, Ireland and the Benelux States.

EASTERN EUROPE (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog, Band 4) contains Moldavia, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary and Belarus.

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA (MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog Band 1, Nord- und Mittelamerika) covering continental countries from Panama northwards.

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

SOUTH AMERICA (MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog Band 3, Südamerika) does not include the Falkland Islands and antarctic territories.

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

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

SOUTHERN AFRICA (MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog Band 6, Südliches Afrika). 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 Band 7, Australien, Ozeanien, Antarktis).

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA (MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog Band 8 Süd- und Südost-Asien) additionally covering Indonesia and the Philippines.

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

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

Other MICHEL Catalogues

Apart from the main catalogue, MICHEL publishes almost thirty 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:

Austria Specialized
 CEPT
 United Nations Specialized
 Germany Junior Catalogue (simplified and in colour)
 Germany Specialized
 Great Britain Specialized
 Croatia Specialized
 Postal Stationery – Germany
 Postal Stationery – Western Europe/Eastern Europe
 Scandinavia/The Baltic States
 Switzerland and Liechtenstein Specialized
 United States Specialized

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

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 North and Northwest 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 Eastern 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) Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia are in the Southern Europe volume.
- 3) The Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira are regarded as part of Western Europe and grouped after Portugal or Spain as appropriate.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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 Western Europe volume.

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 catalogues, 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).

Typical Set Listing

Dates of issue Designer Description of the issue Printing methods

Stamp illustration

Illustration code letters and descriptions

MICHEL catalogue number

Basic stamp

Varieties of printing process

Varieties from booklets (partly imperf)

Face value

Prices for pairs

Cross-reference to vertical Pair

Numbers issued

Cross-reference to other stamps in the same set

Perforation

Currency unit

Colour

Illustration code letters

Mint price


Used price



Date of issue

FDC price


ETB price

al) Schloß Rheydt

1979, 14. Nov./1987. Freimarke: **Burgen und Schlösser (III)**.  **Schillinger; I = Bdr., II = Ldr.; Bogen (B) (10×10), Markenheftchen (MH) und Rollen (R); A = vierseitig, C und D = dreiseitig gez. K 14.**



60 (Pf) dunkelrosakarmin  alc ******  **1028**
A vierseitig gezähnt
 Bdr. (14. 11. 1979) (B) (R) - ,80 - ,20
II Ldr. (1987) (R) 1,20 - ,30
C I oben geschnitten,
 Bdr. (Okt. 1980) (MH) 4,50 4,50
D I 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

Senkrechtcs 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

Cross-reference to West Berlin

- 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.

The Catalogue Listings

The Start of Each Country

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**); an index showing where to find each miniature sheet or sheetlet (**Block**); 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.

The End of Each Country

At the end of a country come price lists for se-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).

Stamp Listings

Within each country stamps are arranged in sets and the sets are arranged in chronological order. Included in this sequence are express letter stamps (**Eilmarken**), airmail stamps (look for the **✈** symbol), registration stamps (**Einschreibemarken**) and newspaper stamps (**Zeitungsmarken**).

A typical set listing is shown in the illustration on the page opposite, 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 de-

finitive 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**.

Catalogue Numbers

Each stamp listed has a MICHEL catalogue number assigned to it. This number is unique and is universally recognised.

Major shade varieties are coded by adding letters to the number, for example: 79a, 79b, 79c and so on. Varieties of paper usually start at "x", thus: 23x, 23y, 23z. Perforation varieties have capital letters: 406A, 406B, 406C would denote the same stamp with three different gauges of perforation. Different types (of print, design, etc) have roman numerals: 8 I, 8 II, 8 III. Sometimes these variety code letters are used as headings where there are multiple price columns.

In the few cases where new stamps have been inserted into the numerical sequence a capital letter precedes the number, so the order might be: 305, A305, B305, 306, 307. The MICHEL catalogue avoids this practice wherever possible.

Miniature sheets and sheetlets have their own sequences of numbers, beginning at 1. They are indexed in a checklist at the start or the end of each country, where the phrase **siehe nach Nr.** refers you to the catalogue number of the stamp each one follows.

Irregular items, such as stamps prepared for use but not issued, have their own sequences of Roman numbers: I, II, III, IV and so on.

Face Value Indication

The face value of a stamp is always given in numerals. Currency designations are abbreviated within the listing of one collecting field/country in a unified matter regardless how they are written on the stamps themselves. If a currency designation is given in brackets there is no indication on the stamp.

Colours

See the special glossary.

Varieties

Misprintings, flaws, etc. are inevitable also in the stamp printing process. All these varieties are listed in accordance with the MICHEL-Abartenführer in the specialized catalogues.

These varieties must not be confused with flaws by chance which appear only on parts of the whole issue and cannot be listed.

Major errors and varieties are included in the MICHEL catalogue. They fall into various categories. Printing errors, cover errors of colour, missing colours, errors in overprints and surcharges, missing values, errors in control numbers and watermark errors. You will also find plate flaws and other printing imperfections, off-sets and set-offs, double impressions and blurred printings and printer's waste.

Forgeries

Two warning Symbols indicate the existence of forgeries: **FALSCH** indicates forgeries or fakes intended to deceive collectors, whereas **FZ** refers to forgeries intended to deceive the postal authorities.

Paper Used for Stamp Printing

Normally for the stamp fabrication kinds of paper are chosen, which meet special requirements and which are often prepared against counterfeiting (e.g. by silk thread or watermark).

Provisional or wartime issues may be printed on sub-standard paper, and this is indicated in the listings.

Descriptions of older issues may include the use of silk-fibre paper, glossy paper, hand-made paper, tinted paper, and so on.

Today there are also kinds of paper in use with a fluorescent or phosphorescent additive which flashes under ultraviolet radiation (fluorescent) or which glows for a short period after the end of the radiation. Both kinds of paper can easily be detected by use of an UV-lamp.

A hint for the kind of paper normally is only given if one stamp issue exists in different papers.

Perforations

Perforations are given to the nearest quarter. Examples of the forms in which they are expressed are as follows:

gez. 13	Perf 13
gez. 14:13	Perf 14x13
gez. K 14½	Comb perf 14½
gez. L 12¼	Line perf 12¼
gez. 10-12	Perf 10 to 12

Note also the use of **Durchstich** (☐) for roulette and the ☐ symbol for cut stamps.

Catalogue Prices

Prices in the left-hand column are for mint stamps, and those in the right-hand column are for used stamps.

Watch the column headings to check whether the mint prices are for unmounted (★★) or mounted (★) stamps. Remember that the prices are quoted throughout in Euro.

There may be multiple price columns – for example in the early issues of Austria where various gauges of perforation exist for each stamp – but the column headings will make these clear. The symbol –,- is used to denote an item for which a catalogue price cannot be assessed. Italics indicate a fluctuating price; a blank indicates that an item does not exist (in the "mint" column against a first day cover, for example).

Methods of Printing

Indications are given for each stamp or set. The vast majority of modern stamps listed in the catalogue will have been printed by one of three processes – **RaTdr.** (photogravure), **Odr.** (offset litho) or **StTdr.** (intaglio) – or perhaps by two of these in combination. Other processes which have been used for printing stamps are covered in the glossary.

The different methods of printing should be looked after in special manuals.

Watermarks

Most modern stamps are unwatermarked, though some countries still use watermarked paper for security reasons. Watermarks are illustrated at the beginning of each country, and numbered **Wz. 1, Wz. 2** and so on. They are always depicted as seen from the back of the stamp.

The Front and Back of the Catalogue

At the front of each catalogue, after the title-page, comes a section headed **Preisnotierungen**, which indicates which years unmounted or mounted mint prices apply to, and how to calculate prices for stamps on cover. Next is the **Vorwort** (foreword) written by the editor and the **Einführung** (introduction). All the important points dealt with in the introduction are also covered in this booklet. Following the introduction is a page of **Abkürzungen und Zeichen-erklärungen** (abbreviations and symbols). Again, the most important of these are covered in this booklet. The other item usually appearing at the front of the catalogue is headed **Bitte der Redaktion** and tells you how to contact the catalogue's editor.

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. You will need to check the beginning of the index for abbreviations used in it, such as **DK** for **Deutschland-Katalog** (a reference to the Germany volume). Some of the specialized catalogues contain a stamp design index (**Alphabetisches Register**) as well.

Glossary of 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 **3 Sch. 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: **grau-blau** = 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.

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 1992 (36th) edition is a much improved and expanded version. This glossary and all references to stamp colours in this booklet are based on this 1992 edition.

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, over 370 further colours are shown, and these are formed by adding one of the following four prefixes to a basic colour:

hell-	pale
mittel-	mid
lebhaft-	bright
dunkel-	dark

So, for example, based on **olivbraun** (olive brown), we have the following five colours, ranging from the palest to the deepest:

hellolivbraun	pale olive brown
mittellolivbraun	mid olive brown
lebhaftolivbraun	bright olive brown
olivbraun	olive brown
dunkelolivbraun	dark olive brown

Note that hyphens are not used in these 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.

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.

Bl	Blue overprint or surcharge
Bl.	Blue (abbreviation of blau)
blau	Blue
bläulich	Bluish (used in combination with other colours)
Br	Brown overprint or surcharge
Br.	Brown (abbreviation of braun)
br'n	Brown (abbreviation of braun)
braun	Brown
bräunlich	Brownish (used in combination with other colours)
bronze	Bronze (used for an overprint or surcharge and usually shown as Bz)
Bz	Bronze overprint or surcharge

chrom	Chrome (used in combination with other colours)
cyanblau	Cyan
d'	Dark/deep (abbreviation of dunkel)
dkl'	Dark/deep (abbreviation of dunkel)
dunkelgrau	Dark/deep grey

G	Gold overprint or surcharge
Gb	Yellow overprint or surcharge
gelb	Yellow
gelblich	Yellowish (used in combination with other colours)
glb.	Yellow (abbreviation of gelb)
gold	Gold (used for an overprint or surcharge and usually shown as G)
Gr	Green overprint or surcharge
gr.	Grey (abbreviation of grau)
gr'n	Green (abbreviation of grün)
Gra	Grey overprint or surcharge
grau	Grey
grün	Green
grünlich	Greenish (used in combination with other colours)

h'	Pale/light (abbreviation of hell)
hell	Pale/light (used in combination with other colours)

indigo	Indigo
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K	Carmine overprint or surcharge
kar.	Carmine (abbreviation of karmin)
karmin	Carmine
kobalt	Cobalt
Ku	Copper overprint or surcharge
kupfer	Copper (used for an overprint or surcharge and usually shown as Ku)

L	Lilac overprint or surcharge
lebhaf	Bright (used in combination with colour names)

lil.	Lilac (abbreviation of lila)
lila	Lilac
magenta	Magenta
matt	Dull (used in combination with colour names)
mehrfarbig	Multicoloured (printed in three or more colours)
mfg.	Multicoloured (abbreviation of mehrfarbig)
mittel	Mid (used in combination with colour names)

ocker	Ochre
ol.	Olive (abbreviation of oliv)
oliv	Olive
opalgrün	Opal-green
Or	Orange overprint or surcharge
or.	Orange (abbreviation of orange)
orange	Orange

preußischblau	Prussian blue
purpur	Purple

R	Red overprint or surcharge
ros.	Pink (abbreviation of rosa)
rosa	Pink
rot	Red
rötlich	Reddish (used in combination with other colours)

S	Black overprint or surcharge
schw.	Black or deep (abbreviation of schwarz)
schwärzlich	Blackish (used in combination with other colours)

schwarz	Black
Si	Silver overprint or surcharge
sienna	Sienna
silber	Silver (used for an overprint or surcharge and usually shown as Si)
smaragdgrün	Emerald-green

türkis	Turquoise	East Germany	Deutsche Demokratische Republik
ultram.	Ultramarine (abbreviation of ultra- marin)	Egypt	Ägypten
ultramarin	Ultramarine	Equatorial Guinea	Äquatorial-Guinea
V	Violet overprint or surcharge	Estonia	Estland
vio.	Violet (abbreviation of violett)	Ethiopia	Äthiopien
violett	Violet	Fiji	Fidschi-Inseln
weiß	White	France	Frankreich
weißgrau	White-grey	French Polynesia	Französisch-Polynesien
zinnober	Vermilion	French Southern and Antarctic Territories	Französische Gebiete in der Antarktis
		Germany	Deutschland
		Great Britain	Großbritannien
		Greece	Griechenland

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. These are given below. Unlike the other glossaries, the English names are shown first.

























Aegean Islands	Ägäische Inseln	Hungary	Ungarn
Austria	Österreich	Ivory Coast	Elfenbeinküste
Cambodia	Kambodscha	Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika	Ostafrikanische Gemeinschaft
Cameroon	Kamerun	Latvia	Lettland
Canada	Kanada	Lithuania	Litauen
Cayman Islands	Kaiman-Inseln	New Zealand	Neuseeland
Cent. African Republic	Zentralafrikanische Republik	Nova Scotia	Neuschottland
Chad	Tschad	Russia	Rußland
Channel Islands	Kanalinselfn	Soviet Union	Sowjetunion
Christmas Island	Weihnachts-Insel	Switzerland	Schweiz
Cocos Islands	Kokos-Inseln	United States	Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika
Colombia	Kolumbien	United Arab Emirates	Vereinigte Arabische Emirate
Comoro Islands	Komoren	United Nations	Vereinte Nationen
Confederate States	Konföderierte Staaten von Amerika	Upper Volta	Obervolta
Congo	Kongo	Virgin Islands	Jungferninseln
Crete	Kreta	West Germany	Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Cuba	Kuba	Yemen	Jemen
Croatia	Kroatien	Yugoslavia	Jugoslawien
Cyprus	Zypern	Zambia	Sambia
Czechoslovakia	Tschechoslowakei	Zimbabwe	Simbabwe






Glossary of Philatelic Terms, Symbols and Abbreviations

A few abbreviations and symbols which occur very infrequently have been omitted from this list, but these do all appear in the introduction to each catalogue.

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

Symbols and Abbreviations used with MICHEL-Catalogue

	Colour which appears by use of a UV-lamp
	the stamp picture is used identically on postal stationary
	Revenue cancellation
	Cancellation by punching
	Cancellation by pen stroke
	other cancellation
	Cancellation on occasion of a special event
	Cancellation with datestamp (regular cancellation)
	Cut
	Airmail
	Tête-bêche
	Normal overprint or surcharge (if this symbol is doubled, inverted or sideways it refers to a double, inverted or sideways overprint or surcharge)
	Mounted mint
	Unmounted mint
	Mint with only part of the original gum intact
	Postally used
	Cancelled to order
	On cover
	On piece
	Bisect (the symbol is appropriately altered for vertical or horizontal bisections)
	Forgery
	Postal forgery
	Forged postmark/cancellation
	“The other way around” (for example, after a stamp described as gez. 14:13 (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)

	Designer
	Engraver
	Official reprint
	Block of four
	No catalogue price quotation possible

a.	On (abbreviation of auf)
Abart	Variety
abgenutzt	Worn
Abstimmung	Plebiscite
Ah.-Ausg.	Provisional issue
ähnlich	Similar
allgemein	General
allseitig	On all sides
alphabetisches Register	Design index
Amt	Office
amtlich	Official
Anhängsel	Attached label
Aufdruck	Overprint or surcharge (sometimes Wertaufdruck is used specifically to indicate “surcharge”)
Aufdruckfarbe	Colour of overprint (overprints and surcharges are understood to be in black unless otherwise indicated)
Aufdrucktype	Type of overprint
Auflage	Issue or edition (used in the sense of “quantity issued”)
Ausführung	Style
Ausgabe	Issue (set or single)
Aushilfsausgabe	Provisional issue
Aushilfsmarke	Provisional stamp
Ausland	Overseas, abroad
Ausschnitt	Cut square or cut out
Ausstellung	Exhibition
Automatenmarken	Variable rate stamp (“Frama” labels)
B	Sheet (abbreviation of Bogen)
Bahnpost	Railway post
Balken	Bar
balkenförmiger Phosphoraufrdruck	Phosphor bars
Balkenstempel	Bar cancellation
Band	A volume of the MICHEL-catalogue
Bdr.	Letterpress (typography or surface-printing)
berichtigt	Corrected
beschnitten	Close cut (margins)
Besetzung	Occupation (as in military occupation)

Besetzungs- ausgabe	Occupation issue	Doppeldruck	Double print
besondere Bezeichnung	Special Title or designation	doppelt	Double or doubled
Bild	Image (used to denote the printed area of a stamp)	Druck	Printing
Bildgröße	Image size	Druckabart	Printing variety
billigst	Cheapest	Druckerei	Printing works
bl.	Blue (abbreviation of blau)	Druckprobe	Proof
Bl	Blue overprint or surcharge	Druckvermerk	Printer's imprint
Block	This has two separate meanings, which will usually be clear from the context. The more usual meaning is miniature sheet, souvenir sheet or sheetlet. However, it sometimes means block (a group of stamps joined together)	DSK	The Germany Specialized volume MICHEL catalogue (MICHEL-Deutschland-Spezial-Katalog)
Blockform	Miniature sheet format	dunkel	Dark
Blockausgabe	Issue in a miniature sheet or sheetlet	dünn	Thin
Bogenplatz	Sheet position	durchsichtig	Transparent
Bogen	Sheet	Durchstich	Roulette
Bogenrand	Sheet margin	durchstochen	Rouletted
Bogenwasser- zeichen	Sheet watermark	echt	Genuine
br. or br'n	Brown (abbreviation of braun)	Eckbuchstabe	Corner letter
breit	Wide	Eckrandstück	Corner stamp with sheet margins attached
Brief	Letter, cover	EGK	The European Postal Stationery volumes of the MICHEL catalogue (MICHEL-Europa-Ganzsachen-Katalog)
Briefmarke	Postage stamp (adhesive)	Eilmarke	Express letter or special delivery stamp
Briefstück	Piece (as in "on piece")	einfarbig	In one colour (also zweifärbig , dreifärbig)
Briefumschlag	Envelope / Cover	Einheits- zeichnung	Omnibus design
Buchdruck	Letterpress (typography or surface-printing)	Einschreib- marke	Registered letter stamp (also used for a registration label)
Buchstabe	Letter (of the alphabet)	or Einschr.- Marke	
bzw.	Respectively	einseitig □	Imperf / cut on one side (also zwei- seitig □, dreieitig □)
d' or dkl'	Dark (abbreviation of dunkel)	einzeilig	In one line (also zweizeilig , drei- zeilig and so on)
Datum	Date	Einzelmarke	Single (stamp)
Datumsstempel	Datestamp	Eisenbahnmarke	Railway postage stamp
DD	Double Print (used as a suffix to a catalogue number)	Eisenbahn- paketmarke	Railway parcel stamp
Deckel	Cover (as in booklet cover). Not as in envelope.	EK	The Europe volumes of the MICHEL catalogue (MICHEL-Europa-Katalog)
dick	Thick	Entwerfer	Designer
Dienstmarke	Official stamp	entwertet	Cancelled
DGK	The German Postal Stationery volume of the MICHEL catalogue (MICHEL-Deutschland-Ganzsachen-Katalog)	Entwertung	Cancellation
DK	This abbreviation has two uses. As a suffix to a catalogue number it indicates printed twice, one impression inverted. Used on its own it stands for the Germany volume of the MICHEL catalogue (MICHEL-Deutschland-Katalog)	Entwurf	Design
DM	Deutschmark	Erg. or Ergänzungs- wert	Additional value (a new stamp added to a set)
		Erstag	First day
		Ersttagsbrief	First day cover (usually abbreviated to FDC , which avoids confusion with ETB)
		ETB	First day sheet or first day card (abbreviation of Ersttagsblatt)

F	Printing or colour error (used as a suffix to a catalogue number)	gefälligkeits-gestempelt	Cancelled to order
Fabrikwasserzeichen	Papermaker's watermark	gefärbt	Tinted
falsch	Forged	Gemälde	Painting
Falschstempel	Forged postmark	Geschenk-päckchen	Presentation pack
Fälschung	Forgery	geschnitten	Cut
Falz	Stamp hinge	gestempelt	Postmarked
falzlos	Hingeless	gestreift	Laid
Farbampeln	Traffic lights	gestreiftes Papier	Laid paper
Farbänderung	Change of colour	gestrichen	Coated
Farbe	Colour	gestrichenes Papier	Coated paper
Farbenabart	Colour variety	getönt	Toned
farbig	Coloured	gezähnt or gez.	Perforated
Farbwechsel	Change of colour	gez. K	Comb perforated
Faserpapier	Paper with silk fibres ("granite paper")	gez. Ks	Harrow perforated
FDC	First day cover	Glanzpapier	Glossy paper
Federstrich-entwertung	Pen cancellation	glatt	Smooth, shiny
Fehldruck	Printing error	glb.	Yellow (abbreviation of gelb)
fehlend	Missing or omitted	gleich	Same (in gleicher Zeichnung = in the same design)
Fehlfarbe	Error of colour	gr.	Grey (abbreviation of grau)
Feldpostmarke	Military post stamp	Gr	Green overprint or surcharge
fiskalisch	Fiscal (adjective)	graviert	Engraved
Flp.-Ausg.	Airmail issue	gr'n	Green (abbreviation of grün)
Flp.-So.-Ausg.	Commemorative airmail issue	Großformat	Large size or format
Flugpost	Airmail	Grund	Background
Flugpostbrief	Airmail letter	GSK	The Great Britain Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue (MICHEL-Großbritannien-Spezial-Katalog)
Flugpostmarke	Airmail stamp	gültig	Valid
fluoreszierend	Fluorescent	gültig bis	Valid until
Format	Size or format	Gummi	Gum
frankaturgültig	Valid for postage	Gummi-riffelung	Ribbed gum
Frankierung	Franking	h'	Light (abbreviation of hell)
Freim.-Ah.-Ausg.	Provisional issue	Halb	Half
Freim.-Erg.-Wert	Additional definitive value	halbiert	Bisected
Freimarke	Postage stamp (usually denotes a definitive)	halbamtlich	Semi-official
Freim.-Ausg.	Definitive issue	Handpapier	Hand-made paper
G	Gold overprint or surcharge; if used as a suffix to a catalogue number it indicates a variety printed on the gummed side	Handstempel	Handstamp
ganzflächiger Phosphor-aufdruck	All-over phosphor	H-Blatt (Hbl.)	Booklet pane
Ganzsache	Postal stationery	Heftchen	Stamp booklet
geänderte Farben	Changed colours	Heftchenblatt	Booklet pane
Gebiet	Subject	hell	Light or pale
Geburtstag	Birthday (100. Geburtstag = birth centenary)	Hochformat	Vertical format
gebraucht	Used	Inschrift	Inscription
gedruckt	Printed	Jahr	Year (also used for anniversary: 25 Jahre = 25th anniversary)
		Jahrestag	Anniversary (100. Jahrestag = centenary)
		Jahreszahl	Date (the year only)

Jahgangs- werttabelle	List of year sets	Maximumkarte	Maximum card
K	Comb (perforation); if used as a suffix to a catalogue number it indicates a tête-bêche variety	mehrfach	Multiple
Kammzählung	Comb perforation	mehrfarbig or mfg.	Multicoloured (three or more colours)
karm.	Carmine (abbreviation of karmin)	MH	Stamp booklet
Kartonpapier	Thick paper ("carton" paper)	MHB	Booklet sheet (abbreviation for Markenheftchenbogen)
Kasten- zählung	Harrow perforation	Militärpost- marke	Military postage stamp
Katalog- nummer	Catalogue number	MiR	The monthly MICHEL magazine, MICHEL-Rundschau
Kehrdruck	Tête-bêche (one stamp inverted in relation to an adjacent one)	Mischzählung	Compound perforation
Kenn-Nr.	Identification number	MK	Maximum card
Kleinbogen	Small sheet or sheetlet	Muster	Specimen
Kleinbogen- satz	Set of sheetlets	NA	New printing, reissue
Kleinformat	Small size or format	Nachdruck	Reprint
komb.	Combined (<i>not</i> comb perforated)	nachgraviert	Retouched or re-engraved
Kontroll- zeichen	Control mark	nachgummiert	Regummed
kopfstehend	Inverted	Naphthadag- Leiste	Graphite line
Kopftype	Head type	Netz	Network (burélage)
Kreidepapier	Chalk-surfaced paper	Neuaufgabe	New printing, reissue
Kriegsdruck	Wartime printing	Neudruck	Reprint
Kriegsmarke	War stamp	neugraviert	Retouched or re-engraved
Kriegssteuer- marke	War tax stamp	Neuheiten	New issues
Kreisstempel	Circular cancellation	Nominale	Face value (of a stamp)
Ks	Harrow (perforation)	Notausgabe	Emergency issue
L	Line perforation; if used as a suffix to a catalogue number it indicates a blank label	Nr.	Number or numbers
Landesname	Country name	Nr. xxx fallen aus	Catalogue Nos. xxx are vacant
Ldr.	Offset letterpress printing	Nr. xxx stammen aus ...	Catalogue Nos. xxx come from ...
liegend	Horizontal or sideways	Nr. xxx stammt aus ...	Catalogue No. xxx comes from ...
lil.	Lilac (abbreviation of lila)	numeriert	Numbered
Linie	Line or stroke	Oberfläche	Surface (the face of a stamp)
Linienzählung	Line perforation	Odr. or Offsetdruck	Offset litho
Lokalaufdruck	Local overprint or surcharge	o.G.	Unused, issued without gum (abbreviation of ohne Gummi)
Lokalausgabe	Local issue	ol.	Olive (appreivation of oliv)
Luftpost	Airmail	or.	Orange (abbreviation of orange)
Makulatur	Printer's waste	Originalgummi	Original gum
mangelhaft	Defective	ÖSK	The Austria Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue (MICHEL-Österreich-Spezial-Katalog)
Marken- heftchen	Stamp booklet	oWz.	No watermark (abbreviation of ohne Wasserzeichen). If no watermark is specified, an issue is always assumed to be unwatermarked
Markenheftchen- bogen	pecially printed sheet, from which booklet panes are produced	Paar	Pair
Markenrand	Stamp margin	Paketmarke	Parcel post stamp
Markenrolle	Stamp roll or coil	Papier	Paper
Maschinen- papier	Machine-made paper		
matt	Dull		

Papier fl.	Fluorescent paper	S.	Page
Papier normal	Ordinary paper	s.	See
Papier ph.	Phosphor paper	Satz	Set
Papiersorte	Type of paper	Satzpreis	Price for a complete set. The number of stamps in the set is usually shown: Satzpreis (6 W.) = set of 6
Pf.	Pfennig	schwz.	Black (abbreviation of schwarz)
Phosphor	Phosphor (noun)	Seite	Page
Phosphor-balken	Phosphor bar	senkrecht	Vertical
phosphor-beschichtetes Papier	Phosphorised paper	Si	Silver overprint or surcharge
phosphoreszierend	Phosphor (adjective)	siehe nach Nr. xxx	See after catalogue No. xxx
Phosphorstreifen	Phosphor band	So.-Ausg. or Sonderausgabe	Commemorative or special issue
Pl. or Platte	Plate	Sorte	Type, kind of (typical usage: verschiedene Papiersorten = various types of paper)
Plattennummer or Pl.-Nr.	Plate number	Spezial	Specialized
Portofreiheitsmarke	Free frank stamp	SSK	The Switzerland and Liechtenstein Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue (MICHEL-Schweiz/Liechtenstein-Spezial-Katalog)
Portomark postalisch	Postage due stamp	Staat	State
Postamt	Postal	Staatsdruckerei	State Printing Works
postfrisch	Post office	Str.	Lithography (direct, not offset)
Postkarte	Unmounted mint	or Steindruck	
Postpreis	Postcard	stehend	Upright
PP	Franking value	Stempel	Cancellation
Prägedruck	Presentation pack	Steuermarke	Tax or fiscal stamp
Preis	Embossing	Stich	Engraving
Probedruck	Catalogue price	Stichtiefdruck or StTdr.	Intaglio (recess printing)
Propaganda-fälschung	Proof	Streifen	Strip
Prüfung	Propaganda forgery	Stück	Item, copy, example or piece (as in "on piece")
Querformat	Expertization	T	Type (abbreviation of Type)
R	Horizontal format	Tabelle	List or table
Rabattmarke	Red overprint or surcharge. Also used as an abbreviation of Rolle (coil)	teilgezähnt	Partly perforated
Rand	Stamp sold at a discount	Telegrafmarke	Telegraph stamp
Randbedruckung	Border or margin	Telegrafstempel	Telegraph cancellation
Rastertiefdruck or RaTdr.	Printed border	Todestag	Death anniversary (100. Todestag = death centenary)
Reihe	Photogravure	Ton	Shade
repariert	Row	Type	Type (variety or printer's type)
retuschiert	Repaired	U	Imperforate variety (used as a suffix to a catalogue number)
Rolle	Retouched	Übersichtstabelle	Checklist summarizing the stamps in a series
Rollen-zählung	Coil	Udr	Imperf on three sides
ros.	Coil perforation	Umschlag	Envelope/cover
rückseitig	Pink (abbreviation of rosa)		
S	On the back/reverse		
	Black overprint or surcharge (but note that if no colour is specified an overprint or surcharge is assumed to be in black)		

ungebraucht	Mint	Wertangabe	Face value
ungestempelt	Unused	Wertziffer	Figure of value
ungezähnt	Not perforated	Wertaufdruck	Surcharge
ungummiert	Without gum	Wohltätigkeits-	Charity issue
unregelmäßig	Irregular	ausgabe,	
Unterdruck	Underprint (burélage)	Wohlt.-	
USK	The United States Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue (MICHEL-USA-Spezial-Katalog)	Ausg. or Wohlt.-So.Ausg.	
ÜK	The Overseas volumes of the MICHEL-catalogue (MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog)	Wz.	Watermark (if this abbreviation is printed upside down or on its side it refers to an inverted or sideways watermark)
V	Printing Essay	Zahl	Number, figure
V	Violet overprint or surcharge	Zählung	Perforation
verfälscht	Forged	Zeichnung	Design
verfärbt	Discoloured	Zeitungs-	Newspaper stamp
vergrößert	Enlarged	marke	
verkehrt	Inverted	zentriert	Centred
versch.	Various or variously (abbreviation of verschieden)	Zentrierung	Centering (of a stamp picture)
Verzeichnis	Checklist	Zierfeld	Printed label
Viererblock	Block of four	Ziffer	Number or numeral
Viertel	Quarter	Zufälligkeit	Error
viol.	Violet (abbreviation of violett)	Zusammen-	Se-tenant printing
Voraus-	Precancellation	druck	
entwertung		zusammen-	Se-tenant
Vorläufer	Precursor, forerunner	hängend	
W.	Value or values	Zuschlags-	Stamp with a charity or other premium
waagrecht	Horizontal	marke	
Währung	Currency (monetary unit)	Zw.	Gutter pair (used as a suffix to a catalogue number)
Wappen	Coat of arms	Zwangs-	Compulsory tax stamp
Wasserzeichen	Watermark	zuschlags-	
Wasser-	Watermark variety	marke	
zeichenabart		zweifärbig	Bi-coloured
Weitere Werte	Other similar values	Zwischensteg	Gutter
Wellenlinien	Wavy lines	Zwischensteg-	Gutter pair
Weltpostverein	Universal Postal Union	paar	
Wert	Value	Zf.	Printed label (used as a suffix to a catalogue number)