The
MICHEL
Stamp Catalogue

An Introduction for English-speaking readers

Schwaneberger Verlag · München

Contents

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 adminstrations 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 AN 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 Tansania.

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

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

Stamp illustration

Perforation

Currency unit

alc) Schloß Rheydt

Illustration code letters and descriptions

Colour

★★   ⊙   Illustration code letters

1028   60 (Pf)   dunkelrosakarmin GA . . . . alc

MICHEL catalogue number

A   vierseitig gezähnt

Mint price

Used price

Basic stamp

I   Bdr. (14. 11. 1979) (B) (R) . . . .   −,80   −,20
II   Ldr. (1987) (R).   1,20   −,30

Varieties of printing process

C I   oben geschnitten,
          Bdr. (Okt. 1980) (MH)   4,50   4,50

Date of issue

Varieties from booklets (partly imperf)

D I   unten geschnitten,
          Bdr. (Okt. 1980) (MH)   4,50   4,50

Face value

                              FDC (A I)   1,80
          ETB 23/1979 (mit MiNr. 1028 A I)   −,50

FDC price

ETB price

Unterscheidungsmerkmale Bdr. und Ldr. siehe bei MiNr. 913–920!

Prices for pairs

Waagerechtes Paar (aus Bogen):

★★   ⊙

1028 A I/1028 A I   1,80   1,80

Cross-reference to vertical Pair

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 II R	2,50	−,50

Numbers issued

Auflagen: MiNr. 1028 A II = 89 500 000 Stück, ETB = 427 000 Stück

Cross-reference to other stamps in the same set

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 **(Welt-postverein)**; 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 **(Einschreibmarken)** 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 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 subheading **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 capitel 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 numercial 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, offsets 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 Pfa 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 substandard 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 Zeichenerklärungen** (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: **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.

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
mittelolivbraun	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

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
lebhaft	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
siena	Sienna
silber	Silver (used for an overprint or surcharge and usually shown as **Si**)
smaragdgrün	Emerald-green

türkis	Turquoise
ultram.	Ultramarine (abbreviation of **ultramarin**)
ultramarin	Ultramarine
V	Violet overprint or surcharge
vio.	Violet (abbreviation of **violett**)
violett	Violet
weiß	White
weißgrau	White-grey
zinnober	Vermilion

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**
Austria	**Österreich**
Cambodia	**Kambodscha**
Cameroon	**Kamerun**
Canada	**Kanada**
Cayman Islands	**Kaiman-Inseln**
Cent. African Republic	**Zentralafrikanische Republik**
Chad	**Tschad**
Channel Islands	**Kanalinseln**
Christmas Island	**Weihnachts-Insel**
Cocos Islands	**Kokos-Inseln**
Colombia	**Kolumbien**
Comoro Islands	**Komoren**
Confederate States	**Konföderierte Staaten von Amerika**
Congo	**Kongo**
Crete	**Kreta**
Cuba	**Kuba**
Croatia	**Kroatien**
Cyprus	**Zypern**
Czechoslovakia	**Tschechoslowakei**

East Germany	**Deutsche Demokratische Republik**
Egypt	**Ägypten**
Equatorial Guinea	**Äquatorial-Guinea**
Estonia	**Estland**
Ethiopia	**Äthiopien**
Fiji	**Fidschi-Inseln**
France	**Frankreich**
French Polynesia	**Französisch-Polynesien**
French Southern and Antarctic Territories	**Französische Gebiete in der Antarktis**
Germany	**Deutschland**
Great Britain	**Großbritannien**
Greece	**Griechenland**
Hungary	**Ungarn**
Ivory Coast	**Elfenbeinküste**
Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika	**Ostafrikanische Gemeinschaft**
Latvia	**Lettland**
Lithuania	**Litauen**
New Zealand	**Neuseeland**
Nova Scotia	**Neuschottland**
Russia	**Rußland**
Soviet Union	**Sowjetunion**
Switzerland	**Schweiz**
United States	**Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika**
United Arab Emirates	**Vereinigte Arabische Emirate**
United Nations	**Vereinte Nationen**
Upper Volta	**Obervolta**
Virgin Islands	**Jungferninseln**
West Germany	**Bundesrepublik Deutschland**
Yemen	**Jemen**
Yugoslavia	**Jugoslawien**
Zambia	**Sambia**
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
GA	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
①	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 bisects)
FALSCH	Forgery
𝓕𝓪	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
ND	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 Phosphoraufdruck	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
besondere Bezeichnung	Special Title or designation
Bild	Image (used to denote the printed area of a stamp)
Bildgröße	Image size
billigst	Cheapest
bl.	Blue (abbreviation of **blau**)
Bl	Blue overprint or surcharge
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)
Blockform	Miniature sheet format
Blockausgabe	Issue in a miniature sheet or sheetlet
Bogenplatz	Sheet position
Bogen	Sheet
Bogenrand	Sheet margin
Bogenwasser- zeichen	Sheet watermark
br. or **br'n**	Brown (abbreviation of **braun**)
breit	Wide
Brief	Letter, cover
Briefmarke	Postage stamp (adhesive)
Briefstück	Piece (as in "on piece")
Briefumschlag	Envelope / Cover
Buchdruck	Letterpress (typography or surface-printing)
Buchstabe	Letter (of the alphabet)
bzw.	Respectively
d' or **dkl'**	Dark (abbreviation of **dunkel**)
Datum	Date
Datumsstempel	Datestamp
DD	Double Print (used as a suffix to a catalogue number)
Deckel	Cover (as in booklet cover). Not as in envelope.
dick	Thick
Dienstmarke	Official stamp
DGK	The German Postal Stationery volume of the MICHEL catalogue **(MICHEL-Deutschland-Ganz-sachen-Katalog)**
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)**
DM	Deutschmark

Doppeldruck	Double print
doppelt	Double or doubled
Druck	Printing
Druckabart	Printing variety
Druckerei	Printing works
Druckprobe	Proof
Druckvermerk	Printer's imprint
DSK	The Germany Specialized volume MICHEL catalogue **(MICHEL-Deutschland-Spezial-Katalog)**
dunkel	Dark
dünn	Thin
durchsichtig	Transparent
Durchstich	Roulette
durchstochen	Rouletted
echt	Genuine
Eckbuchstabe	Corner letter
Eckrandstück	Corner stamp with sheet margins attached
EGK	The European Postal Stationery volumes of the MICHEL catalogue **(MICHEL-Europa-Ganz-sachen-Katalog)**
Eilmarke	Express letter or special delivery stamp
einfarbig	In one colour (also **zweifarbig, dreifarbig**)
Einheits- zeichnung	Omnibus design
Einschreib- marke or **Einschr.- Marke**	Registered letter stamp (also used for a registration label)
einseitig □	Imperf / cut on one side (also **zwei-seitig** □, **dreiseitig** □)
einzeilig	In one line (also **zweizeilig, drei-zeilig** and so on)
Einzelmarke	Single (stamp)
Eisenbahnmarke	Railway postage stamp
Eisenbahn- paketmarke	Railway parcel stamp
EK	The Europe volumes of the MICHEL catalogue **(MICHEL-Europa-Katalog)**
Entwerfer	Designer
entwertet	Cancelled
Entwertung	Cancellation
Entwurf	Design
Erg. or **Ergänzungs- wert**	Additional value (a new stamp added to a set)
Ersttag	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)
Fabrikwasser- **zeichen**	Papermaker's watermark
falsch	Forged
Falschstempel	Forged postmark
Fälschung	Forgery
Falz	Stamp hinge
falzlos	Hingeless
Farbampeln	Traffic lights
Farbänderung	Change of colour
Farbe	Colour
Farbenabart	Colour variety
farbig	Coloured
Farbwechsel	Change of colour
Faserpapier	Paper with silk fibres ("granite paper")
FDC	First day cover
Federstrich- **entwertung**	Pen cancellation
Fehldruck	Printing error
fehlend	Missing or omitted
Fehlfarbe	Error of colour
Feldpost- **marke**	Military post stamp
fiskalisch	Fiscal (adjective)
Flp.-Ausg.	Airmail issue
Flp.-So.-Ausg.	Commemorative airmail issue
Flugpost	Airmail
Flugpostbrief	Airmail letter
Flugpost- **marke**	Airmail stamp
fluoreszierend	Fluorescent
Format	Size or format
frankatur- **gültig**	Valid for postage
Frankierung	Franking
Freim.-Ah.-Ausg.	Provisional issue
Freim.-Erg.- **Wert**	Additional definitive value
Freimarke	Postage stamp (usually denotes a definitive)
Freim.-Ausg.	Definitive issue
G	Gold overprint or surcharge; if used as a suffix to a catalogue number it indicates a variety printed on the gummed side
ganzflächiger **Phosphor-** **aufdruck**	All-over phosphor
Ganzsache	Postal stationery
geänderte **Farben**	Changed colours
Gebiet	Subject
Geburtstag	Birthday (**100. Geburtstag** = birth centenary)
gebraucht	Used
gedruckt	Printed
gefälligkeits- **gestempelt**	Cancelled to order
gefärbt	Tinted
Gemälde	Painting
Geschenk- **päckchen**	Presentation pack
geschnitten	Cut
gestempelt	Postmarked
gestreift	Laid
gestreiftes **Papier**	Laid paper
gestrichen	Coated
gestrichenes **Papier**	Coated paper
getönt	Toned
gezähnt or **gez.**	Perforated
gez. K	Comb perforated
gez. Ks	Harrow perforated
Glanzpapier	Glossy paper
glatt	Smooth, shiny
glb.	Yellow (abbreviation of **gelb**)
gleich	Same (**in gleicher Zeichnung** = in the same design)
gr.	Grey (abbreviation of **grau**)
Gr	Green overprint or surcharge
graviert	Engraved
gr'n	Green (abbreviation of **grün**)
Großformat	Large size or format
Grund	Background
GSK	The Great Britain Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue (**MICHEL-Groß-** **britannien-Spezial-Katalog**)
gültig	Valid
gültig bis	Valid until
Gummi	Gum
Gummi- **riffelung**	Ribbed gum
h'	Light (abbreviation of **hell**)
Halb	Half
halbiert	Bisected
halbamtlich	Semi-official
Handpapier	Hand-made paper
Handstempel	Handstamp
H-Blatt (Hbl.)	Booklet pane
Heftchen	Stamp booklet
Heftchenblatt	Booklet pane
hell	Light or pale
Hochformat	Vertical format
Inschrift	Inscription
Jahr	Year (also used for anniversary: **25 Jahre** = 25th anniversary)
Jahrestag	Anniversary (100. Jahrestag = centenary)
Jahreszahl	Date (the year only)

Jahrgangs-werttabelle	List of year sets
K	Comb (perforation); if used as a suffix to a catalogue number it indicates a tête-bêche variety
Kammzähnung	Comb perforation
karm.	Carmine (abbreviation of **karmin**)
Kartonpapier	Thick paper ("carton" paper)
Kasten-zähnung	Harrow perforation
Katalog-nummer	Catalogue number
Kehrdruck	Tête-bêche (one stamp inverted in relation to an adjacent one)
Kenn-Nr.	Identification number
Kleinbogen	Small sheet or sheetlet
Kleinbogen-satz	Set of sheetlets
Kleinformat	Small size or format
komb.	Combined (*not* comb perforated)
Kontroll-zeichen	Control mark
kopfstehend	Inverted
Kopftype	Head type
Kreidepapier	Chalk-surfaced paper
Kriegsdruck	Wartime printing
Kriegsmarke	War stamp
Kriegssteuer-marke	War tax stamp
Kreisstempel	Circular cancellation
Ks	Harrow (perforation)
L	Line perforation; if used as a suffix to a catalogue number it indicates a blank label
Landesname	Country name
Ldr.	Offset letterpress printing
liegend	Horizontal or sideways
lil.	Lilac (abbreviation of **lila**)
Linie	Line or stroke
Linienzähnung	Line perforation
Lokalaufdruck	Local overprint or surcharge
Lokalausgabe	Local issue
Luftpost	Airmail
Makulatur	Printer's waste
mangelhaft	Defective
Marken-heftchen	Stamp booklet
Markenheftchen-bogen	specially printed sheet, from which booklet panes are produced
Markenrand	Stamp margin
Markenrolle	Stamp roll or coil
Maschinen-papier	Machine-made paper
matt	Dull

Maximumkarte	Maximum card
mehrfach	Multiple
mehrfarbig or **mfg.**	Multicoloured (three or more colours)
MH	Stamp booklet
MHB	Booklet sheet (abbreviation for **Markenheftchenbogen**)
Militärpost-marke	Military postage stamp
MiR	The monthly MICHEL magazine, **MICHEL-Rundschau**
Mischzähnung	Compound perforation
MK	Maximum card
Muster	Specimen
NA	New printing, reissue
Nachdruck	Reprint
nachgraviert	Retouched or re-engraved
nachgummiert	Regummed
Naphthadag-Leiste	Graphite line
Netz	Network (burélage)
Neuauflage	New printing, reissue
Neudruck	Reprint
neugraviert	Retouched or re-engraved
Neuheiten	New issues
Nominale	Face value (of a stamp)
Notausgabe	Emergency issue
Nr.	Number or numbers
Nr. xxx fallen aus	Catalogue Nos. xxx are vacant
Nr. xxx stammen aus …	Catalogue Nos. xxx come from …
Nr. xxx stammt aus …	Catalogue No. xxx comes from …
numeriert	Numbered
Oberfläche	Surface (the face of a stamp)
Odr. or **Offsetdruck**	Offset litho
o.G.	Unused, issued without gum (abbreviation of **ohne Gummi**)
ol.	Olive (appreviation of **oliv**)
or.	Orange (abbreviation of **orange**)
Originalgummi	Original gum
ÖSK	The Austria Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue **(MICHEL-Österreich-Spezial-Katalog)**
oWz.	No watermark (abbreviation of **ohne Wasserzeichen**). If no watermark is specified, an issue is always assumed to be unwatermarked
Paar	Pair
Paketmarke	Parcel post stamp
Papier	Paper

Papier fl.	Fluorescent paper
Papier normal	Ordinary paper
Papier ph.	Phosphor paper
Papiersorte	Type of paper
Pf.	Pfennig
Phosphor	Phosphor (noun)
Phosphor-balken	Phosphor bar
phosphor-be-schichtetes Papier	Phosphorised paper
phosphores-zierend	Phosphor (adjective)
Phosphor-streifen	Phosphor band
Pl. or **Platte**	Plate
Plattennummer or **Pl.-Nr.**	Plate number
Portofreiheits-marke	Free frank stamp
Portomarke	Postage due stamp
postalisch	Postal
Postamt	Post office
postfrisch	Unmounted mint
Postkarte	Postcard
Postpreis	Franking value
PP	Presentation pack
Prägedruck	Embossing
Preis	Catalogue price
Probedruck	Proof
Propaganda-fälschung	Propaganda forgery
Prüfung	Expertization
Querformat	Horizontal format
R	Red overprint or surcharge. Also used as an abbreviation of **Rolle** (coil)
Rabattmarke	Stamp sold at a discount
Rand	Border or margin
Randbe-druckung	Printed border
Rastertiefdruck or **RaTdr.**	Photogravure
Reihe	Row
repariert	Repaired
retuschiert	Retouched
Rolle	Coil
Rollen-zähnung	Coil perforation
ros.	Pink (abbreviation of **rosa**)
rückseitig	On the back/reverse
S	Black overprint or surcharge (but note that if no colour is specified an overprint or surcharge is assumed to be in black)

S.	Page
s.	See
Satz	Set
Satzpreis	Price for a complete set. The number of stamps in the set is usually shown: **Satzpreis (6 W.)** = set of 6
schwz.	Black (abbreviation of **schwarz**)
Seite	Page
senkrecht	Vertical
Si	Silver overprint or surcharge
siehe nach Nr. xxx	See after catalogue No. xxx
So.-Ausg. or **Sonderaus-gabe**	Commemorative or special issue
Sorte	Type, kind of (typical usage: **ver-schiedene Papiersorten** = various types of paper)
Spezial	Specialized
SSK	The Switzerland and Liechtenstein Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue **(MICHEL-Schweiz/Liechtenstein-Spezial-Katalog)**
Staat	State
Staats-druckerei	State Printing Works
Stdr. or **Steindruck**	Lithography (direct, not offset)
stehend	Upright
Stempel	Cancellation
Steuermarke	Tax or fiscal stamp
Stich	Engraving
Stichtiefdruck or **StTdr.**	Intaglio (recess printing)
Streifen	Strip
Stück	Item, copy, example or piece (as in "on piece")
T	Type (abbreviation of **Type**)
Tabelle	List or table
teilgezähnt	Partly perforated
Telegrafen-marke	Telegraph stamp
Telegrafen-stempel	Telegraph cancellation
Todestag	Death anniversary (**100. Todestag** = death centenary)
Ton	Shade
Type	Type (variety or printer's type)
U	Imperforate variety (used as a suffix to a catalogue number)
Übersichts-tabelle	Checklist summarizing the stamps in a series
Udr	Imperf on three sides
Umschlag	Envelope/cover

ungebraucht	Mint
ungestempelt	Unused
ungezähnt	Not perforated
ungummiert	Without gum
unregelmäßig	Irregular
Unterdruck	Underprint (burélage)
USK	The United States Specialized volume of the MICHEL catalogue **(MICHEL-USA-Spezial-Katalog)**
ÜK	The Overseas volumes of the MICHEL-catalogue **(MICHEL-Übersee-Katalog)**
V	Printing Essay
V	Violet overprint or surcharge
verfälscht	Forged
verfärbt	Discoloured
vergrößert	Enlarged
verkehrt	Inverted
versch.	Various or variously (abbreviation of **verschieden**)
Verzeichnis	Checklist
Viererblock	Block of four
Viertel	Quarter
viol.	Violet (abbreviation of **violett**)
Voraus-entwertung	Precancellation
Vorläufer	Precursor, forerunner
W.	Value or values
waagerecht	Horizontal
Währung	Currency (monetary unit)
Wappen	Coat of arms
Wasserzeichen	Watermark
Wasser-zeichenabart	Watermark variety
Weitere Werte	Other similar values
Wellenlinien	Wavy lines
Weltpostverein	Universal Postal Union
Wert	Value

Wertangabe	Face value
Wertziffer	Figure of value
Wertaufdruck	Surcharge
Wohltätigkeits-ausgabe, Wohlt.-Ausg. or **Wohlt.-So.Ausg.**	Charity issue
Wz.	Watermark (if this abbreviation is printed upside down or on its side it refers to an inverted or sideways watermark)
Zahl	Number, figure
Zähnung	Perforation
Zeichnung	Design
Zeitungs-marke	Newspaper stamp
zentriert	Centred
Zentrierung	Centering (of a stamp picture)
Zierfeld	Printed label
Ziffer	Number or numeral
Zufälligkeit	Error
Zusammen-druck	Se-tenant printing
zusammen-hängend	Se-tenant
Zuschlags-marke	Stamp with a charity or other premium
Zw.	Gutter pair (used as a suffix to a catalogue number)
Zwangs-zuschlags-marke	Compulsory tax stamp
zweifarbig	Bi-coloured
Zwischensteg	Gutter
Zwischensteg-paar	Gutter pair
Zf.	Printed label (used as a suffix to a catalogue number)