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

*An Introduction for English-speaking readers*

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*Schwaneberger Verlag · München*

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The use of the MICHEL numbering system in catalogues, albums and other systematic listings of postage stamps is only allowed with the express permission of the publishing company.

## 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 central 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(c) Schloß Rheydt

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

|             |         |  |      |      |
|-------------|---------|--|------|------|
| <b>1028</b> | 60 (Pf) | dunkelrosakarmin  . . . . alc | **   | ⊙    |
| <b>A</b>    |         | vierseitig gezähnt   |      |      |
| <b>II</b>   |         | Bdr. (14. 11. 1979) (B) (R) . . .  | -,80 | -,20 |
| <b>CI</b>   |         | Ldr. (1987) (R) . . . . .  | 1,20 | -,30 |
| <b>DI</b>   |         | oben geschnitten,<br>Bdr. (Okt. 1980) (MH) . . . . .   | 4,50 | 4,50 |
|             |         | unten geschnitten,<br>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 AI/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 II 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:

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>gez. 13</b>    | Perf 13       |
| <b>gez. 14:13</b> | Perf 14x13    |
| <b>gez. K 14½</b> | Comb perf 14½ |
| <b>gez. L 12¼</b> | Line perf 12¼ |
| <b>gez. 10-12</b> | 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:

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

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

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>hellolivbraun</b>    | pale olive brown   |
| <b>mittellolivbraun</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 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.

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

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

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

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>h'</b>   | Pale/light (abbreviation of <b>hell</b> )           |
| <b>hell</b> | Pale/light (used in combination with other colours) |

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| <b>indigo</b> | Indigo |
|---------------|--------|

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>K</b>      | Carmine overprint or surcharge  |
| <b>kar.</b>   | Carmine (abbreviation of <b>karmin</b> )                                    |
| <b>karmin</b> | Carmine   |
| <b>kobalt</b> | Cobalt  |
| <b>Ku</b>     | Copper overprint or surcharge   |
| <b>kupfer</b> | Copper (used for an overprint or surcharge and usually shown as <b>Ku</b> ) |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>L</b>      | Lilac overprint or surcharge                   |
| <b>lebhaf</b> | Bright (used in combination with colour names) |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>lil.</b>    | Lilac (abbreviation of <b>lila</b> )         |
| <b>lila</b>    | Lilac  |
| <b>magenta</b> | Magenta                                      |
| <b>matt</b>    | Dull (used in combination with colour names) |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>mehrfarbig</b> | Multicoloured (printed in three or more colours) |
|-------------------|--|

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>mfg.</b> | Multicoloured (abbreviation of <b>mehrfarbig</b> ) |
|-------------|--|

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>mittel</b> | Mid (used in combination with colour names) |
|---------------|---|

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

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>preußischblau</b> | Prussian blue |
| <b>purpur</b>        | Purple        |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>R</b>       | Red overprint or surcharge                       |
| <b>ros.</b>    | Pink (abbreviation of <b>rosa</b> )              |
| <b>rosa</b>    | Pink   |
| <b>rot</b>     | Red  |
| <b>rötlich</b> | Reddish (used in combination with other colours) |

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>S</b>           | Black overprint or surcharge                      |
| <b>schw.</b>       | Black or deep (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>sienna</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  | East Germany                              | <b>Deutsche Demokratische Republik</b>       |
| <b>ultram.</b>    | Ultramarine (abbreviation of <b>ultra-</b><br><b>marin</b> ) | Egypt                                     | <b>Ägypten</b>                               |
| <b>ultramarin</b> | Ultramarine  | Equatorial Guinea                         | <b>Äquatorial-Guinea</b>                     |
| <b>V</b>          | Violet overprint or surcharge                                | Estonia                                   | <b>Estland</b>                               |
| <b>vio.</b>       | Violet (abbreviation of <b>violett</b> )                     | Ethiopia                                  | <b>Äthiopien</b>                             |
| <b>violett</b>    | Violet   | Fiji                                      | <b>Fidschi-Inseln</b>                        |
| <b>weiß</b>       | White  | France                                    | <b>Frankreich</b>                            |
| <b>weißgrau</b>   | White-grey   | French Polynesia                          | <b>Französisch-Polynesien</b>                |
| <b>zinnober</b>   | Vermilion  | French Southern and Antarctic Territories | <b>Französische Gebiete in der Antarktis</b> |
|                   |  | Germany                                   | <b>Deutschland</b>                           |
|                   |  | Great Britain                             | <b>Großbritannien</b>                        |
|                   |  | Greece                                    | <b>Griechenland</b>                          |
|                   |  | Hungary                                   | <b>Ungarn</b>                                |
|                   |  | Ivory Coast                               | <b>Elfenbeinküste</b>                        |
|                   |  | Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika              | <b>Ostafrikanische Gemeinschaft</b>          |
|                   |  | Latvia                                    | <b>Lettland</b>                              |
|                   |  | Lithuania                                 | <b>Litauen</b>                               |
|                   |  | New Zealand                               | <b>Neuseeland</b>                            |
|                   |  | Nova Scotia                               | <b>Neuschottland</b>                         |
|                   |  | Russia                                    | <b>Rußland</b>                               |
|                   |  | Soviet Union                              | <b>Sowjetunion</b>                           |
|                   |  | Switzerland                               | <b>Schweiz</b>                               |
|                   |  | United States                             | <b>Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika</b>        |
|                   |  | United Arab Emirates                      | <b>Vereinigte Arabische Emirate</b>          |
|                   |  | United Nations                            | <b>Vereinte Nationen</b>                     |
|                   |  | Upper Volta                               | <b>Obervolta</b>                             |
|                   |  | Virgin Islands                            | <b>Jungferninseln</b>                        |
|                   |  | West Germany                              | <b>Bundesrepublik Deutschland</b>            |
|                   |  | Yemen                                     | <b>Jemen</b>                                 |
|                   |  | Yugoslavia                                | <b>Jugoslawien</b>                           |
|                   |  | Zambia                                    | <b>Sambia</b>                                |
|                   |  | Zimbabwe                                  | <b>Simbabwe</b>                              |

## 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         | <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>                     |
| Cent. African Republic | <b>Zentralafrikanische Republik</b>      |
| Chad                   | <b>Tschad</b>                            |
| Channel Islands        | <b>KanalinseIn</b>                       |
| Christmas Island       | <b>Weihnachts-Insel</b>                  |
| Cocos Islands          | <b>Kokos-Inseln</b>                      |
| Colombia               | <b>Kolumbien</b>                         |
| Comoro Islands         | <b>Komoren</b>                           |
| Confederate States     | <b>Konföderierte Staaten 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>                  |






## 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 <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) |

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

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

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

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

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

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