

## KP-inverted stamps «Tête-bêche»

### INTRO (EN)

Inverted stamps is a common term in philately, also referred to by collectors as an inverted print. This phenomenon can occur with both complete stamps and parts of them. An inverted stamp may be intentionally created when the designer chooses to place one or more stamps upside down in a sheet or stamp booklet, but it can also happen accidentally due to a printing error.

#### Upside Down

A tête-bêche occurs when one cliché is placed upside down in the printing plate, resulting in a stamp being depicted incorrectly on the printed sheet.

#### Reasons

An inverted print can also occur if two prints are made on the same stamp sheet, where the second print is placed upside down relative to the first. In such cases, the inverted stamps are connected by a central strip, which is actually the sheet margin.

Another possibility is that in the design of the stamp sheet or stamp booklet, one or more stamps are intentionally positioned upside down.

#### Printing Error

In the case of an upside-down printing error, it usually involves an upside-down central piece. When stamps are produced in different printing runs, it can happen that a sheet is incorrectly placed in the printing press. Sometimes, a cliché is mounted upside down, resulting in a stamp with an error that is only noticed later. Such stamps are rare and belong to the rarities of philately, as there are often only a few copies in existence. A well-known example is the 1918 U.S. airmail stamp, which depicts the Curtiss JN-4 airplane. This is a very rare and expensive American printing error.

#### Collecting Area

However, collecting inverted stamps is also accessible to many philatelists. For some collectors, this forms a specific collecting area that is not too costly, as there are many stamps that have been issued in an inverted version. This phenomenon was, for example, common in stamp booklets. Both in Germany and Belgium, booklets regularly appeared in which the stamps were connected in an upside-down position. These stamps are typically collected in pairs, but it is also possible to collect inverted stamps in blocks of four.

#### Inverted Overprint Stamps (see stamps PRE for a lot of inverted overprints)

Inverted Overprint Stamps with a printing error were usually removed from stock by the printing houses of the postal services during quality control. Misprints were not allowed to be sold, but sometimes a sheet or part of the print run escaped control, ending up at the post office

An inverted overprint occurs when a sheet of stamps is placed upside down in the printing press for the application of an overprint. These stamps are essentially considered printing waste. Although misprints are supposed to be destroyed, they sometimes go unnoticed and continue to exist.