

Baden

Il 4 aprile a Ginevra sarà battuto l'unico esemplare nuovo disponibile sul mercato dopo 11 anni. E' stimato 1/1.5 milioni di euro

9 kreuzer green - 1851

In 1894, a collector in Germany discovered one 9 Kreuzer printed on the blue-green paper of the 6 Kreuzer rather than the usual rose. As his local dealer thought it must be a forgery (since no mention of it then appeared in the catalogues), the collector submitted it, now cut to piece, to dealer and expert Carl Lindenberg. Shortly after, at a meeting of the philatelic club in Berlin, Baron Türckheim showed a similar error on cover addressed to his father - one of two such letters the Baron owned! Until 1919, there were no unused examples of the error known. That year, at an auction in Berlin by the "Marken und Ganzachenhaus Berlin," lot 783 was a mint example of the error. It was sold to famous collector Trubsbach, then disappeared until 1991.

Cliché Error or Printing Error?

No multiples of this error are known, so philatelists have long wondered how the error came about. The two principal theories are: Error of Cliché, or Error of Paper Colour. As well over 400'000 of the 9 Kreuzer were printed and over 700'000 of the 6 Kreuzer, if there was an inverted cliché in the plate of the 6 Kreuzer throughout the printing, then over 8'000 of the error would have been printed - and more would surely have survived. Thus, most students have discounted the possibility of the error being a constant variety on the plate. If, however, the printer accidentally used blue-green paper instead of rose because he saw "6" instead of "9," then at least four such sheets would have been printed, interfiled and sold as 6 Kreuzer sheets, in order to explain the different towns known on the used examples (Achern, Karlsruhe, Ettenheim, Orschweier). One could speculate that the penny-pinching postal officials would not have wanted "spoiled" sheets to add to their costs, and so, in those early days before philately became a science (and a popular hobby), they went ahead and placed them in stock.

Mitigating against the "complete sheet" theory is the so-called "Simon Error," discovered in the 1930s on a cover by Baden expert and handbook author Siegfried Simon. He discovered a 6 Kreuzer stamp, used on cover from Karlsruhe, and having on its reverse, a full impression of the 9 Kreuzer value! This stamp was offered at auction by Joachim Erhardt in 1993 with a starting price of DM 500'000.

If one were to have, say, a cliché error at the top right of a given plate, and were to print that plate on both sides of a piece of paper, the stamp with the error on the front would have a normal stamp on the back, and vice versa. Thus, the "Simon" error is supportive of a "wrong cliché" theory. If this were the case, then the error must have been discovered early in the printing, and the wrong cliché had to be replaced. Such was clearly the case with the Uruguay 240c error of colour, among other famous classic printing errors. Although the above



Left: the 9 kreuzer green and the original colour in rose paper

Below: cover from Altdorf to Karlsruhe, franked with 9 kreuzer green "error of colour", cancelled with the five rings "41". Alongside Ettenheim double circle dated 25 August 1851. Sold by H.Köhler on March 16, 1985 in Wiesbaden for DM 2'645'000.

is suggestive, the means whereby this error was produced (cliché or full sheet) is still an open question.

The Known Examples

The "Simon" error, despite having been certified by Brettli, Schmitt and Jakubek, has not yet been recorded by cataloguers, not even the specialised Baden catalogue of Peter Sem. The other errors known are:

1. Tied to piece, "2" cancel of Achern, first auctioned in 1908 by Gilbert & Koch, then auctioned in 1919 by Gilbert and sold to dealer Theodore Champion. Now believed to be in the USA.
2. On cover bearing Orschweier postmark of 20 July 1851; discovered by Baron Türckheim and sold by him to the Reichspost Museum, Berlin.
3. Used on cover with Ettenheim postmark of 25 August 1851. Discovered by Baron Türckheim and sold at auction in 1894, subsequently acquired by Ferrary. Sold at the Ferrary sale 8, and acquired by M. Kurt Maier. Sold through Edward Stern of Economist Stamp Co. to Alfred Caspary. In the Caspary auction (sale 4, lot 9), it was purchased by Herbert Bloch, acting for John Boker, Jr. It was sold in the 1985 Boker auction (lot 5) for DM 2'645'000, the highest price up to that time for a European stamp.

4. The unique mint example with full original gum, was first offered in 1919 in Berlin. During World War II, it remained in the Trubsbach collection. Later sold privately to a German dealer; it was then offered at auction by David Feldman SA in November 1991 (lot 80016). Last sold at auction at "Pacific '97" in 1997 for US\$603'750. On next April 4th, 2008, this example will be beaten by David Feldman in Geneva and estimates euro 1.000.000/1.500.000.

Extract from the David Feldman catalogue's of the Baden 9 kreuzer green Auction, April 4, 2008.

Baden - 9 kreuzer verde - 1851

Ancora non è chiaro, a tutt'oggi, se i quattro francobolli noti del 9 kreuzer verde si possono considerare originati da un errore di cliché, se stampati su carta verde del 6 kreuzer oppure da un errore dell'incisore sulla tavola dell'esemplare da 6 kreuzer che avrebbe capovolto la cifra. I quattro esemplari noti si conoscono usati in quattro località diverse della Germania, ma la cosa più straordinaria è che il Barone Türckheim possedeva ben due lettere (le uniche ad oggi note) indirizzate entrambe a suo padre dallo stesso mittente e provenienti una da Orschweier e una da Ettenheim. Come è noto, il colore originale del 9 kreuzer è nero stampato su carta rosa mentre il colore verde appartiene agli esemplari stampati su questo colore di carta. I cataloghi della vendita sono scaricabili dal sito www.davidfeldman.com

