

Design errors on stamps

Introduction: Before any stamp is issued it should be checked a number of times at any stage (the design and production phases). There exists numerous examples of stamps with errors on that the designer never imagined could happen. This stamp collection is showing some of the lesser known errors on stamps on motorcars, flight, paintings, buildings, stamps, signs, etc.

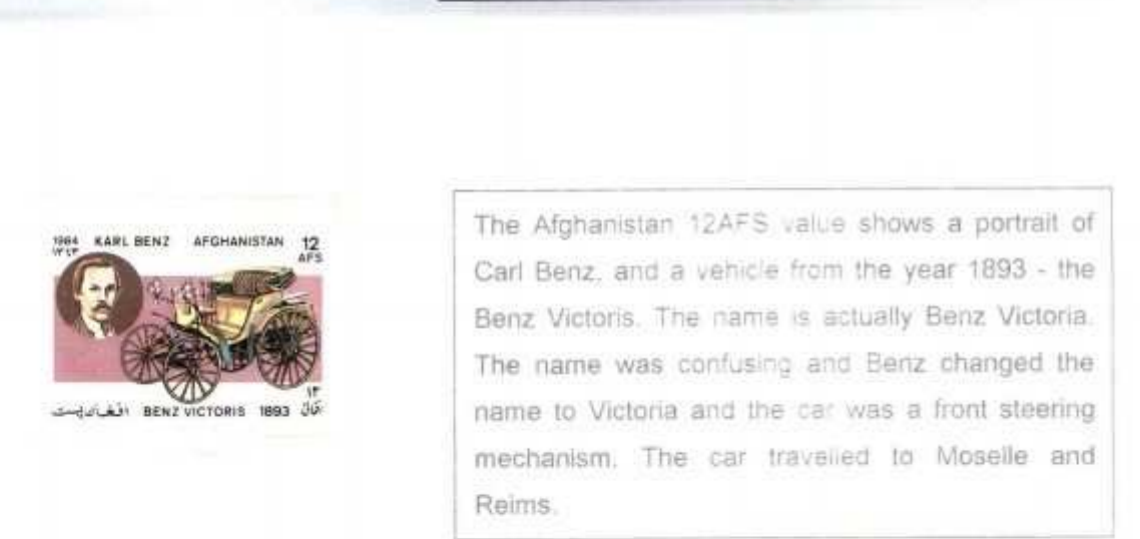
Problem statement: In spite of the quality checks errors appear on stamps, many during the printing process but sometimes also because of a design error. The problem is that the question then arises: Why? Who will take responsibility and when did it happen. The design errors are mostly discovered after the stamp was issued and is difficult to rectify unless it is a major problem such as the Bible stamp (40c) in South Africa where all parties were not consulted. The problem could be solved to start all over again or withdraw the stamp completely.

Layout:

Design errors	1-3	Numerical errors	4-6
Name errors	7-14	Sports errors	15-16

The false Daimlers

The Afghanistan 11AFS value shows a portrait of Gottlieb Daimler, the German inventor and motorcar manufacturer. The car is a Daimler DB 18, built in 1935. The English Daimler motorcar manufacturer were based in Coventry in 1896. When the car was designed it had nothing to do with MB.



The Afghanistan 12AFS value shows a portrait of Carl Benz, and a vehicle from the year 1893 - the Benz Victoria. The name is actually Benz Victoria. The name was confusing and Benz changed the name to Victoria and the car was a front steering mechanism. The car travelled to Moselle and Reims.

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The stamps were issued on 21 September 1847. The edition was 500 of which only 12 survived (6 used - 3 on cover, and 6 unused stamps). The blue Mauritius can be regarded as the paradigm of philately. The Republic of Chad issued a Blue Mauritius on a 10 Franc stamp in 1971. This happened because the engraver of the stamp, the watchmaker Joseph Osmond Barnard could not remember what was required of him. He then went to the post office and saw on the shield Post Office and he then went back to the drawing board and inserted Post Office on the blank tape and voilà, a rare stamp. The stamps printed in the following year was not regarded as valuable as the first error.



The stamp of the blue Mauritius on the 10F Chad stamp for a stamp exhibition in 1971.



Steel-engraving facsimile engraved by Joseph Herrik.

How many times can a country's name change until they are happy

The country name of Albany was changed in different ways over a couple of years. In 1937 they wrote Shqipni, in 1939 it was Shqiptare, in 1947 they used Shqiperia, in 1971 they used R.P.E. Shqiperise but in 1977 they issued a series for the end of the war and they used R.P.S.E Shqiperise and this seemed wrong again on the 80q stamp below.



The Albany stamp (80m) with incorrect name R.P.E. Shqiperise - the stamp shows hands that grip a gun.

The Albany stamp (25m) with correct name R.P.S.E Shqiperise - the stamp still showing hands that grip a gun.

The statue of Liberty - "left handed"

The century of the statue of Liberty was celebrated by many countries all over the world. The two stamps on this page shows the statue on a Grenada stamps and a Maldives stamp. The two stamps were designed and printed by the same studio. The design and printing shows professional quality, but the statue shows the torch in her right hand and not her left-hand as the stamps show.



The Grenada stamp shows the statue and the Columbus monument.

The Maldives stamp shows the statue and the German architect Walter Gropius (1883-1969).

Personal Computer until 1910

Montserrat commemorated the appearance of Halley's Comet with 4 stamps because their island could see the comet well. Montserrat is one of the Leeward Islands and was a British colony until 1963 when they became independent. The stamps heading reads computer photo of Halley's Comet in 1910. Charles Babbage could calculate the speed of the comet with his "automatic" calculator in 1834 he could take no photo. Aiken built a better computer that used binary. The design was from a photo taken in 1910 (black and white) and the artist used his/her imagination but this was not done by a computer.



54 stamp - the highest value of the 4 series of stamps

Too late on the moon

In honor of the first successful flight by the USSR - Luna 2 to the moon, Hungary issued a stamp (5 million copies) on 24 September 1959 for the landing on the moon and showed the time landed on the moon as 2200, 2 minutes and 34 seconds. The real time was 2200, 2 minutes and 24 seconds, 10 seconds earlier. The mistake was never rectified.



Hungarian stamp with the moon and Luna 2.

The Zeppelin that was flying in the wrong way

The Liechtenstein Europa stamp of 1979 (8 March) shows the airship LZ127 - also called Graf Zeppelin over the Valduz castle - the present home of the royal family from about the 11th century. The Graf Zeppelin flew over the castle on 10 June 1931. The photo at the bottom shows an airship over the kingdom of Liechtenstein. According to the photo the Zeppelin could never fly in the position it was drawn (in airship terms they note whisper and not fly) - according to the stamp the airship would had to reverse and then up - not possible in the airship technology. Again, the designer was not an expert and never noticed the error.



The airship over Valduz - a photo



The stamp design that was wrong

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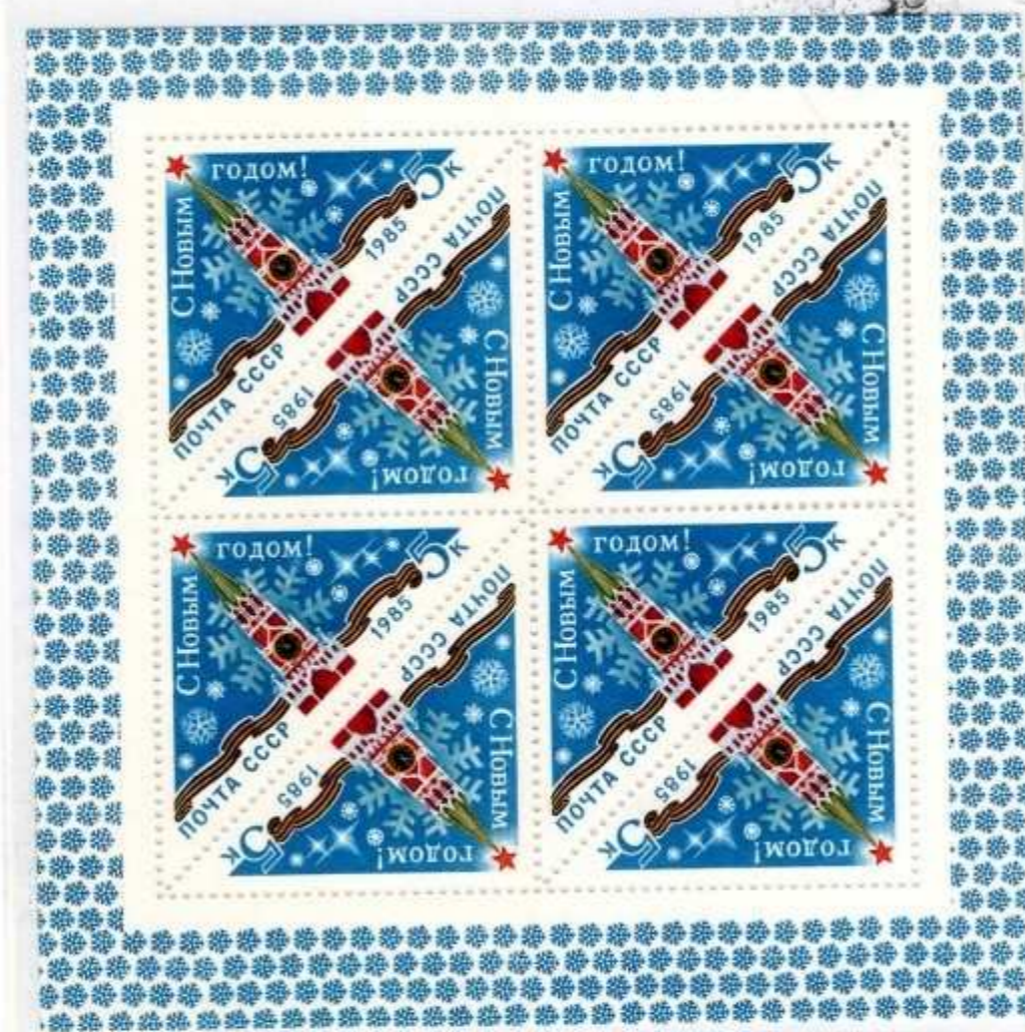
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The miniature sheet issued by the Paraguayan Post for Philatolyo shows number 3702 of 3800 issued miniature sheets. It also shows the Philatolyo emblem, the Paraguayan flag, the United Nations Emblem and the stamp with the name Paraguay.

The clock hits twice

The miniature sheet published on 4 December 1984 by the USSR celebrate Christmas and New Year. Several emblems are shown on the stamps, such as Kenkope, the Spassky-tower in Moscow and crystal snow and the value as 6K. The clock is supposedly stating 11:50pm but also shows the figure 6 twice, once on its normal place and the other instead of IV for 4 it shows VI again.



Miniature sheet of the USSR issued on 4 December 1984 with the clock showing 6 twice on the clock as shown on the figure below.



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As part of the series on youth, published in 1982 by Germany a stamp with the value of 50+25pf. There were 6043000 stamps issued, and the stamp was supposedly to show a Mercedes Station-wagon of the type 28.95. It was a 6 cylinder engine of 7.25 liter that allowed it to travel more than 100km/h. The inscription of the stamp shows Mercedes Benz Station wagon 1913 - not completely correct although this type was built from 1913 to 1914. The vehicle on the picture however was built in 1924 as confirmed by Daimler-Benz, the last of these models. Again the German Postal authorities returned from rectifying the mistake.



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Even Daimler and Benz were incorrect

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The painting by Dürer issued by France.

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Columbus with and without Bart

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1c with Columbus on board the Santa Maria



2c with Columbus having a beard that grew instantly.

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As the second highest value of a series of stamps (8Gs and 35000 copies) on famous musicians, Paraguay issued a painting of Dancers in Green and Pink by Edgar Degas and owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York as part of a tribute to Richard Wagner. They actually confused him with an economist Adolf Wiesst and he was a professor in Freiburg on economics. They showed the wrong person on the stamp.



8Gs stamp showing Adolf Wiesst and not Adolf Wagner

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The Gibraltar Post Office issued a series of stamps to commemorate Raphael. The top value was 60p and the date was 17 November 1983. The work displays Raphael's famous work the Sistine Madonna. The work is hanging in the encyclopedic State Museum in Dresden but Gibraltar placed the work in Stead Liche Art collection, Dresden.



The phenomenal motor

The stamp from Cuba that was issued on 28 June 1985 showed the 100 year of the motorbike. The stamp however shows 3 mistakes: The vehicle is a three-wheel motorcar with the name spelled incorrectly - Fanomovil and should have been Phonomobil with two dots on the e. The DDR issued a stamp on 13 September 1977 with the correct name and the correct year of manufacturing but it was an SS design. The artist changed the colours of the three-wheeler and was built by Gustav Hiller in 1924.



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Goethe seven years older

The Hunarian Postal authorities issued a series of stamps on 16 October 1948 on Goethe as a poem writer. Each stamp had Goethe and some of his works. However Goethe was not born in 1742 but 28 August 1749. The second mistake on the stamp is the dog, not a poodle as in his works.



4f stamp with picture of Goethe

The Olympic Climax

The winter Olympic Games in Grenoble in France, 1968 and was also commemorated by Panama by a 10c stamp (50000 stamps). Again the stamp design shows rock climbing, not an Olympic sport.



The wrong Dietmar

The stamp value 0.30 shows a player Dietmar Eriker from Dortmund and a player from Arsenal but the first name is wrong and is displayed as Hier. The issue was from Paraguay.



Schumann vs Schubert Melody

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The incorrect stamps with the work of Schubert at the back



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The XVII Olympic summer games in Tokyo in 1964 was commemorated by Nicaragua by a series of stamps that was overprinted Olympiade Tokyo 1964. The 4c and the 5c numbers was 500000 and the 1c was 50000. The stamps show interesting mistakes. The 4c shows a skindiver with a fish harpooned but scuba diving was never an Olympic sport. The 5c shows the hands with a piece of wood for a sport that was also not part of the Olympics, the same for the 1c as table tennis was never an Olympic sport.



The 3 stamps with the wrong sports on 4.



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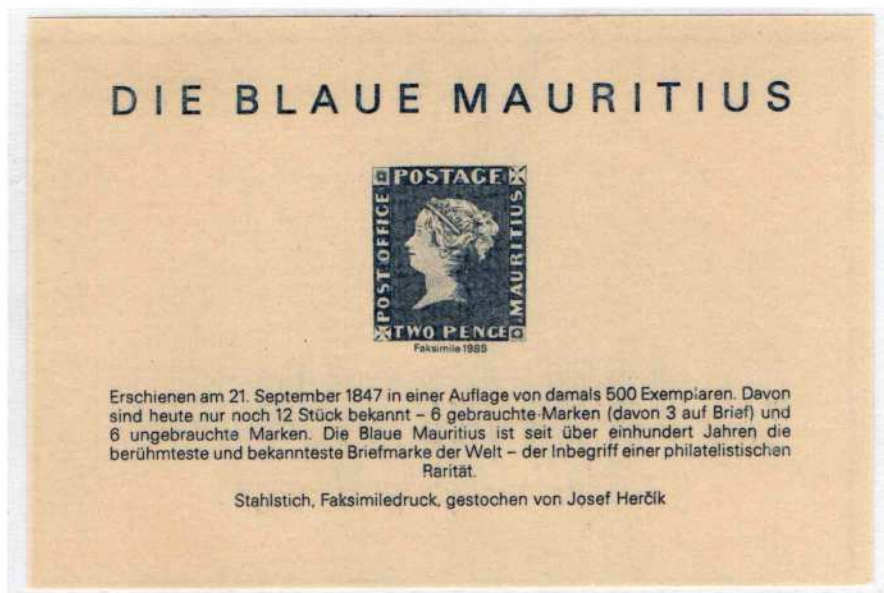
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\$4 stamp - the highest value of the 4 series of stamps

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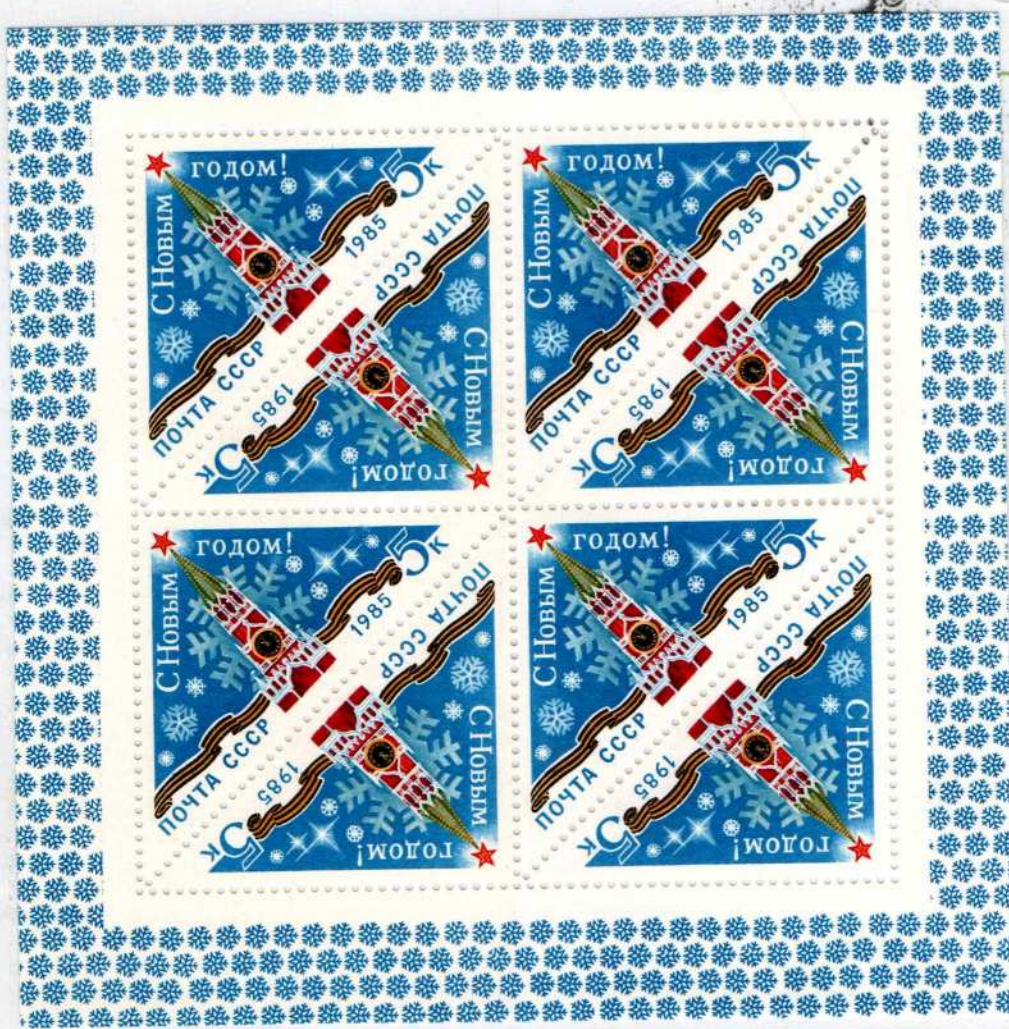
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