German Demokratic Republic



Official Stamps for Administrative Value Post

Official Stamps for Central Courier Service

Value Labels and Course Control Labels of Central Courier Service

Labels for Confidential Service Matters and for Delivery Confirmation

Postal Registation Labels and Parcel Post Labels for Self-Service Post Offices

Donation Stamps with Face Value

Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

Service Stamps of the German Democratic Republic, a Brief Overview

Initially, for particularly important or valuable postal shipments of public institutions, the administrative value post (Verwaltungswertpost) was introduced in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) on October 1, 1952. The German Post of the GDR was responsible for the implementation within its usual procedures. It was a simplified procedure for official value post, which omitted the value declaration.

As of July 1, 1954, all authorities, administrations, state-owned enterprises, trade cooperatives, as well as institutions and establishments of state organs, were obliged to send documents that were not classified as confidential matter as administrative value post.

Initially, all common franking options were allowed for administrative value post. However, from August 15, 1954, special official stamps (hammer and compass in a wreath of ears in a total of 4 different set variants) were mandatory. These official stamps could only be used for shipments within the GDR and East Berlin.

Since the procedures for administrative value post no longer met the security requirements of the GDR government, the Central Courier Service (Zentraler Kurierdienst, ZDK) was introduced on October 10, 1955. From that point onwards, all correspondence of state and economic institutions, as well as other administrative bodies, was transported through a special courier service. The Central Courier Service was carried out by the GDR Post, but was under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior of the GDR.

On April 1, 1956, the Ministry of Post of the GDR issued a separate set of official stamps for this Central Courier Service (numerical design). They were followed by value labels from October 1, 1956, which were no longer issued by the Ministry of Post but by the Ministry of the Interior of the GDR. The official stamps with emblem design were only used for shipments from state institutions to recipients for whom the Central Courier Service was not responsible. The Scott Catalogue mentions a large part of these value labels only briefly and without further specifications.

Starting from September 1960, all official correspondence in the GDR was handled through sender's franking imprint. Therefore, no official stamps or value labels were issued in the following years.

On August 10, 1963, so-called course control labels of the Central Courier Service were introduced for the first time. They were used in the area of the People's Police and were intended to provide more accurate tracking of the delivery time of shipments. The three subsequent issues of these control labels, which were variations of the first issue series, were all used in the area of the Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises. The Michel Catalogue counts the control labels as official stamps of the GDR, while they are not included in the Scott Catalogue.

As of April 1, 1965, confidential service matters (Vertrauliche Dienstsachen, VD) and deliveries with delivery confirmation (Zustellungsurkunde, ZU) were allowed as special shipment forms of the Central Courier Service. These additional services were temporarily to be paid with specific value labels. From November 15, 1967, a stamp impression of 'VD' or 'ZU' on the envelopes replaced these labels. They remained valid until September 1, 1969.

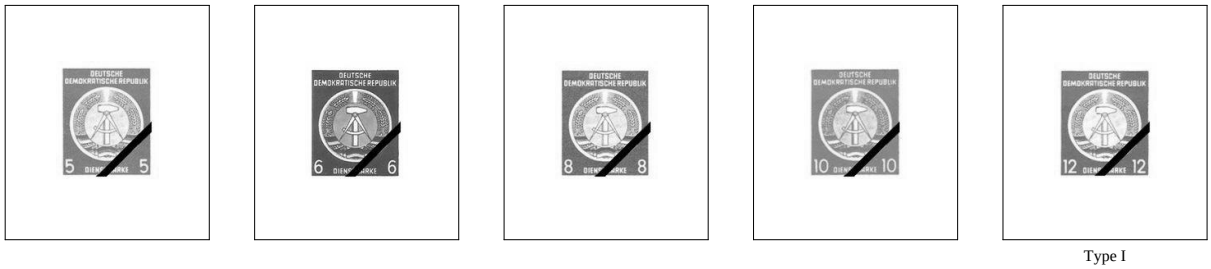
This album text - which also considers registration labels and package labels for self-service post offices, as well as donation stamps with face value - provides an overview of this collecting area based on the systematic of the Michel Catalogue. The numerous variants of official stamps and value labels in terms of watermarks, perforation, or printing type are partially taken into account but are often only mentioned to maintain clarity. Plate flaws remain unmentioned. The official stamps and value labels were often reprinted by the GDR authorities and also exported for foreign currency procurement. Only general references are made to these reprints and the characteristics that distinguish them from the respective original issues.

German Demokratic Republic

Official Stamps for Administrative Value Post

1954

Coat of Arms, Arc of Compass to the Left, Offset Lithography, Post Horn Watermark



Type I



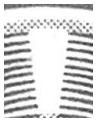
Type II



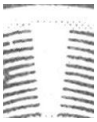




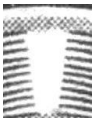
Lithography



Original Printing, 12 Pf Type I



12 Pf Type II

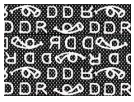


Reprint 1957

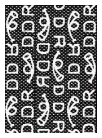


Typography

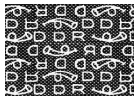
Variants of post horn watermark in this issue



horizontal narrow letters and short post horn



vertical narrow letters and short post horn



horizontal wide letters and long post horn

All stamps of the original printing exist with a horizontal watermark in both variants. The vertical watermark can only be found on the denominations of 5 Pf, 15 Pf, 20 Pf, 25 Pf, and 50 Pf.

The series was reprinted in 1957 with slight modifications (see illustration). The stamps of 12 Pf in Type II, 48 Pf, and 84 Pf were not reprinted. All reprints are exclusively available with a horizontal watermark in both variants. All reprints remained ungummed and were canceled with a cliché stamp. Only the reprints of 12 Pf and 70 Pf denominations are known to exist without cancellation marks.

Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

German Demokratic Republic

Official Stamps for Administrative Value Post

1954/1955

Coat of Arms, Arc of Compass to the Right (20 Pf Also to the Left),
Typography, Post Horn Watermark, Regular Paper, Type I





coated paper



Likewise, Type II



coated paper

Variants of post horn watermark in this issue



Type I

horizontal
narrow letters and
short post horn

vertical
narrow letters and
short post horn

horizontal
wide letters and
long post horn

Type II

All stamps in Type I and Type II [see illustration] exist in both variants of the horizontal watermark. The vertical watermark can only be found on the denominations of 5 Pf (Type I) and 70 Pf.

The reprints for the denominations of 5 Pf, 10 Pf, 15 Pf, and 20 Pf [arc of compass to the right] were created from the original printing plate of Type II, with retouching to restore Type I. This resulted in irregular patterns of the circular arc. The reprints of the denominations 12 Pf, 20 Pf [arc of compass to the left], 25 Pf, 30 Pf, 40 Pf, 50 Pf, and 70 Pf are visually identical to the original prints. All reprints are only available canceled.

German Demokratic Republic

Official Stamps for Administrative Value Post

1956

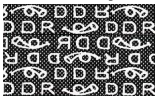
Coat of Arms, Arc of Compass to the Right,
Typography, Post Horn Watermark, Granite Paper, Type II



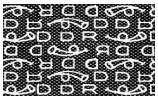
Likewise, Type I



Variants of post horn watermark in this issue



horizontal
narrow letters and
short post horn



horizontal
wide letters and
long post horn

All denominations of Type II and the denomination of 40 Pf of Type I have the horizontal watermark in both variants. The denomination of 20 Pf of Type I is only available in the watermark variant with narrow letters and short posthorn.

This issue with posthorn watermark on granite paper was not reprinted.

German Demokratic Republic

Official Stamps for Administrative Value Post

1957/1960

Coat or Arms, Arc of Compass to the Right,
Typography, Quatrefoil Watermark, Granite Papier, Perforated 13:12½

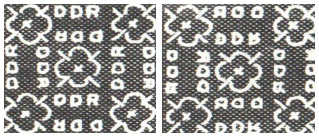




Likewise, Perforated 14



Variants of quatrefoil
watermark in this issue



correct watermark reversed watermark

The official stamps of this series were all printed in Type II. All denominations of the original print in both perforation variants are available only with a reversed watermark.

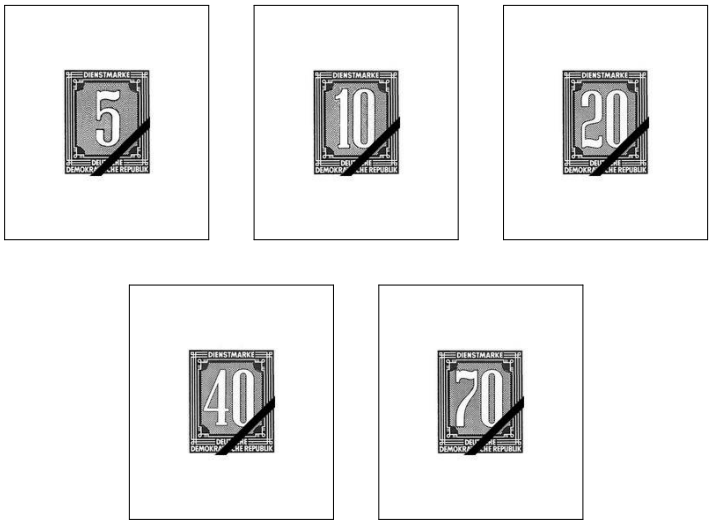
Reprints were made for all denominations except the 70 Pf stamp, but only in the 13:12½ perforation and in both watermark variants. These reprints were all canceled with a cliché stamp.

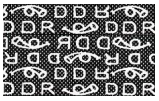
German Demokratic Republic

Official Stamps for Central Courier Service

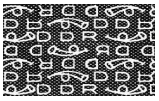
1956

Numerals, Post Horn Watermark





Wm 2XI horizontal narrow letters and short post horn



Wm 2XII horizontal wide letters and long post horn

All stamps of the original print have the horizontal watermark with narrow letters and short post horn.

For the reprinted stamps, both watermark variants are known. The only exception is the 5 Pf value, which is reprinted only with the horizontal watermark variant featuring wide letters and long post horn. The reprints often have poorer perforation quality compared to the original prints. They are all canceled with a cliché stamp and are ungummed.

German Demokratic Republic

Value Labels of Central Courier Service

1956

Country Name in Hatched Background and Inscription,
Post Horn Watermark (Wide Letters and Long Post Horn)









1957

Likewise, Overprint of Control Numbers by Hand Using a Rubber Roller

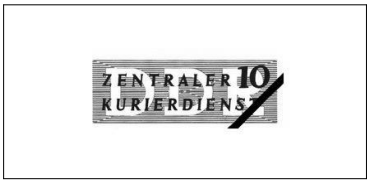








Unissued, Quatrefoil Watermark (Correct Orientation)





Likewise, Quatrefoil Watermark (Correct Orientation),
Overprint of Control Numbers by Hand Using a Rubber Roller





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German Demokratic Republic

Value Labels of Central Courier Service

1958

Narrow value labels, orange-yellow/orange-red, thin value bars





Narrow value labels, orange-yellow/orange-red, thick value bars





Narrow value labels, violet-ultramarine/brown-red





Narrow value labels, orange/brown-violet





For all value labels: one bar = 10 Pfennig, two bars = 20 Pfennig.

The letters A to P (excluding I) represent the districts of the GDR and East Berlin. Each district was assigned specific control numbers. Based on these control numbers, original prints and reprints can be distinguished.

Specialized collectors differentiate between wide and narrow letters for the districts in issues with narrow value labels.

Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

German Demokratic Republic

Value Labels of Central Courier Service

1959

Wide value labels, emerald green/brown-violet/red
and orange-yellow/red-brown/lilac-ultramarine





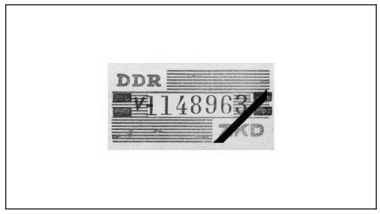
Wide value labels, gray-blue/black
and vermilion/lilac-ultramarine/emerald green





Wide value labels, gray-blue/brownish-red/black
and brown-orange/black/red-violet





Narrow value labels, emerald green/gray-red





For the wide value labels, the district letters differ between the original print (tilted to the right) and the reprints (vertical).

For the narrow value labels on this page, specialized collectors distinguish, among other things, between different lengths of the value bars.

German Demokratic Republic

Value Labels of Central Courier Service

1960

Unissued Value Labels

Wide value labels, medium blue/black/vermilion
and brown-violet/dark vermillion/black





Wide value labels, orange/brown-carmine/red
and brown-violet/orange-brown/red





Wide value labels, emerald green/orange-brown/black
and red/orange-brown/gray-black





Wide value labels, orange/red/black
and vermilion/black/dark cobalt blue





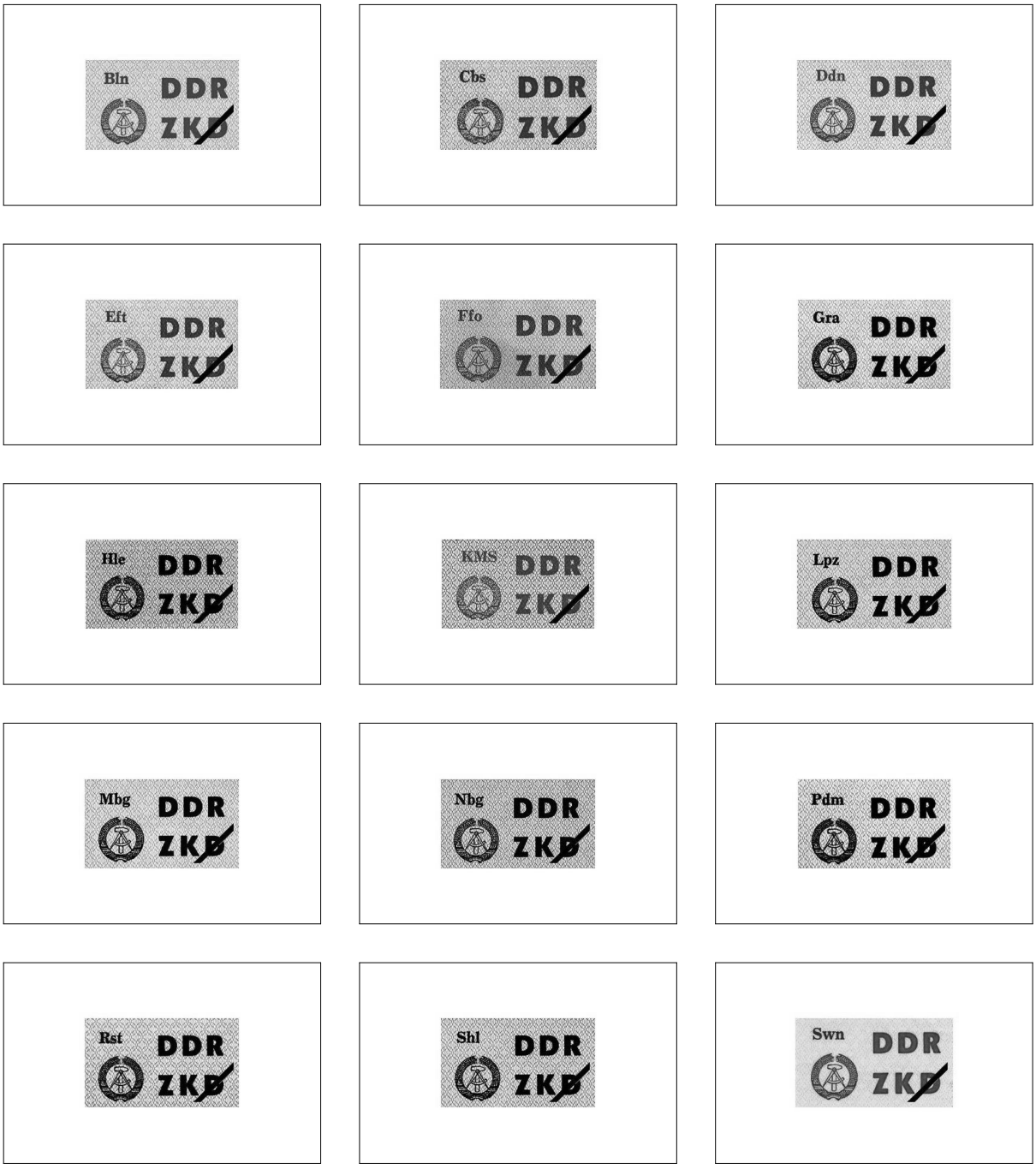
Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

German Demokratic Republic

Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1963

For People's Police District Offices, Coat of Arms and District Identification Letters



District identification letters: Bln = Berlin, Cbs = Cottbus, Ddn = Dresden, Eft = Erfurt, Ffo = Frankfurt(Oder), Gra = Gera, Hle = Halle, KMS = Karl-Marx-Stadt (Chemnitz), Lpz = Leipzig, Mbg = Magdeburg, Nbg = Neubrandenburg, Pdm = Potsdam, Rst = Rostock, Shl = Suhl, Swn = Swinemünde

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Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1964

For Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises, Red Overprint of Four-digit Control Numbers



































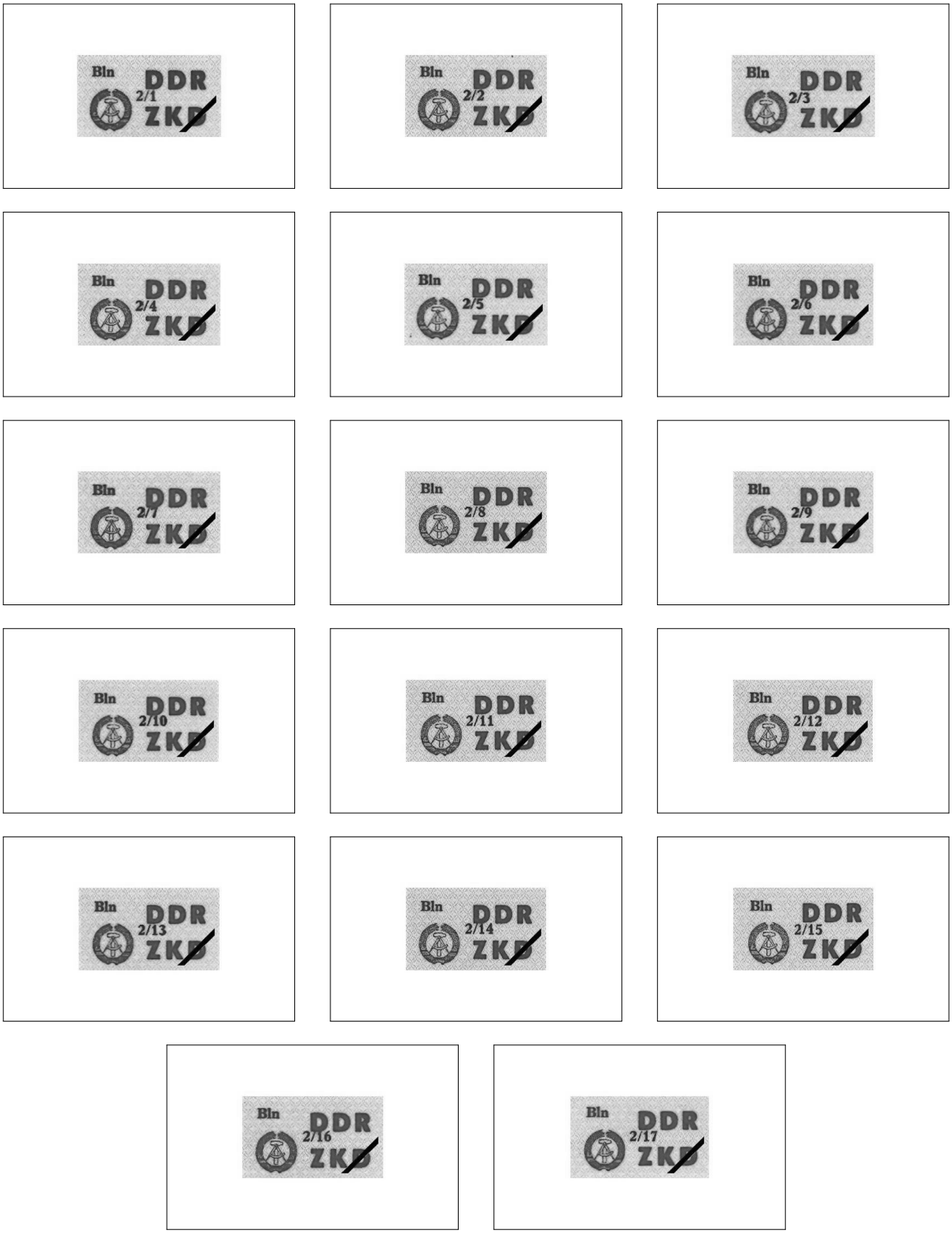
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German Demokratic Republic

Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1964

For Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises,
Lilac-red Overprint of Control Numbers Separated by a Diagonal Slash (1)



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Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1964

For Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises,
Lilac-red Overprint of Control Numbers Separated by a Diagonal Slash (2)





































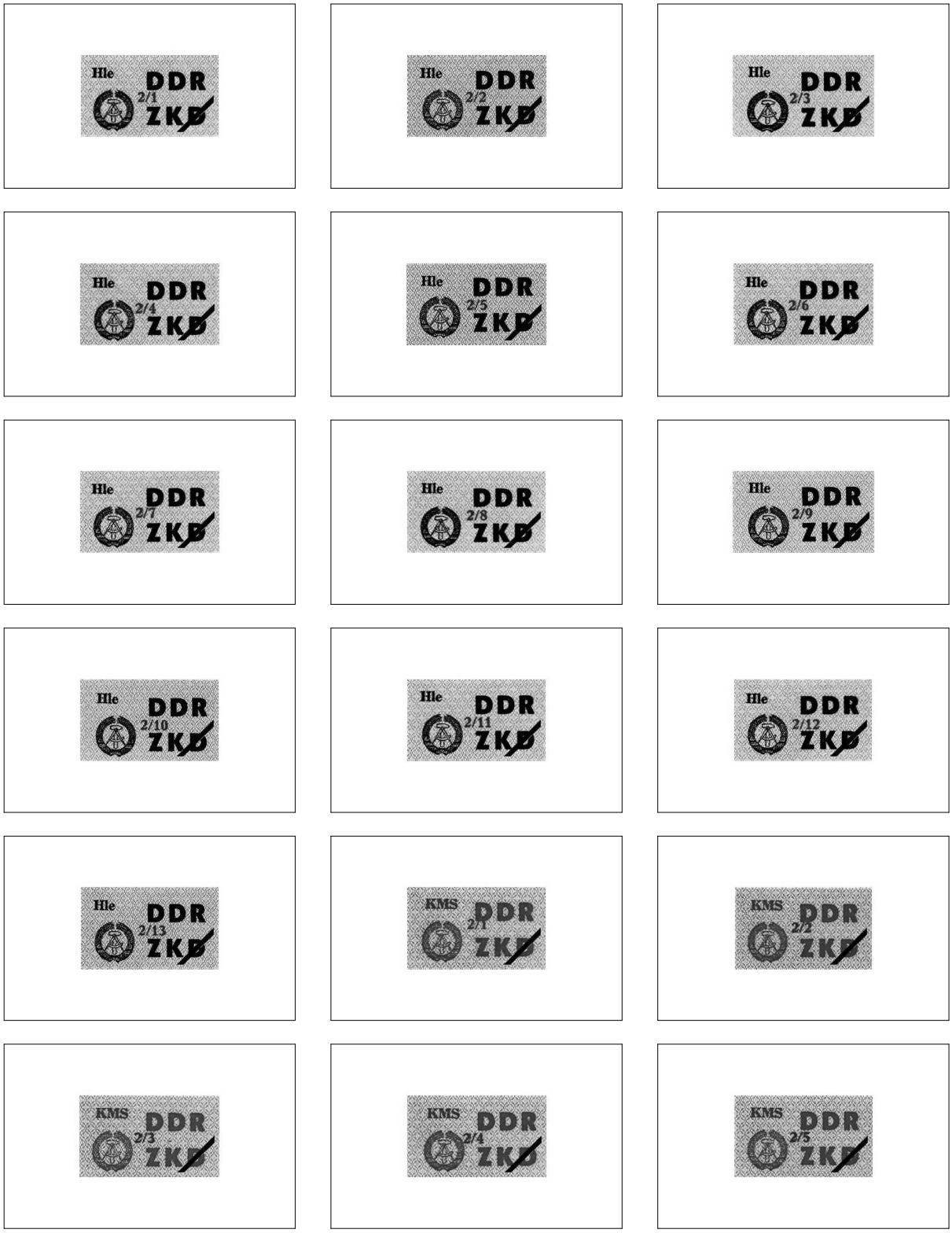
Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

German Demokratic Republic

Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1964

For Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises,
Lilac-red Overprint of Control Numbers Separated by a Diagonal Slash (3)



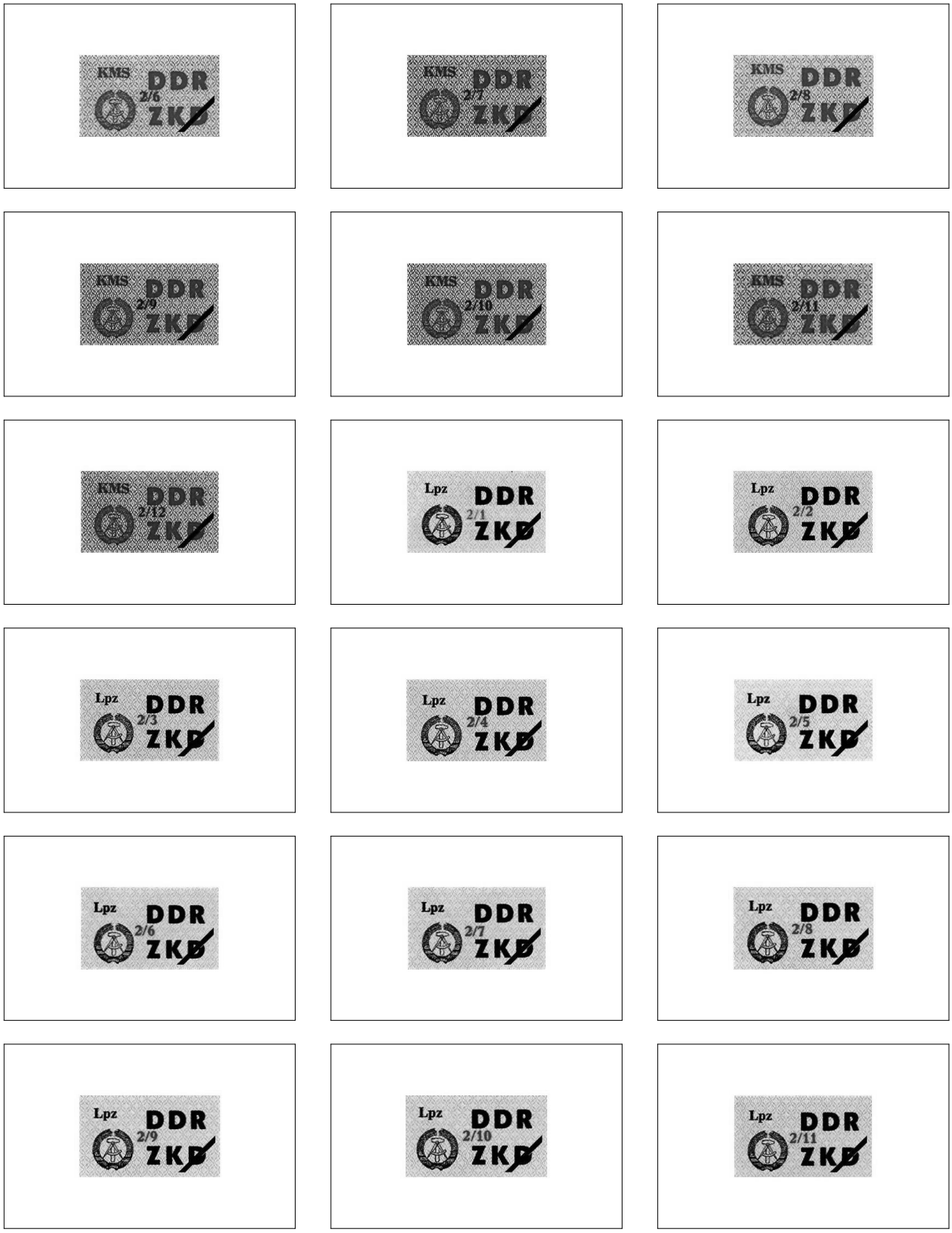
Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

German Demokratic Republic

Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1964

For Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises,
Lilac-red Overprint of Control Numbers Separated by a Diagonal Slash (4)



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German Demokratic Republic

Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1964

For Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises,
Lilac-red Overprint of Control Numbers Separated by a Diagonal Slash (5)

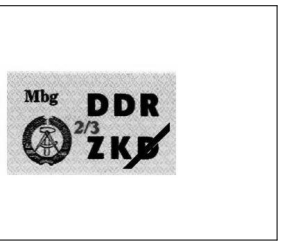




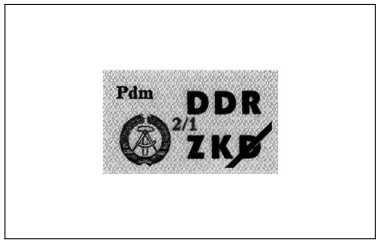


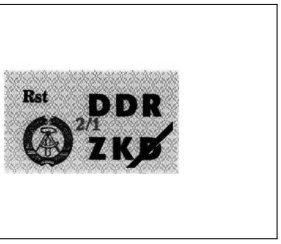






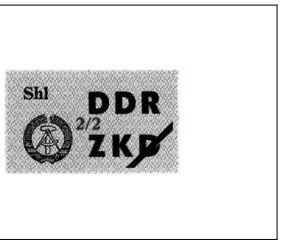














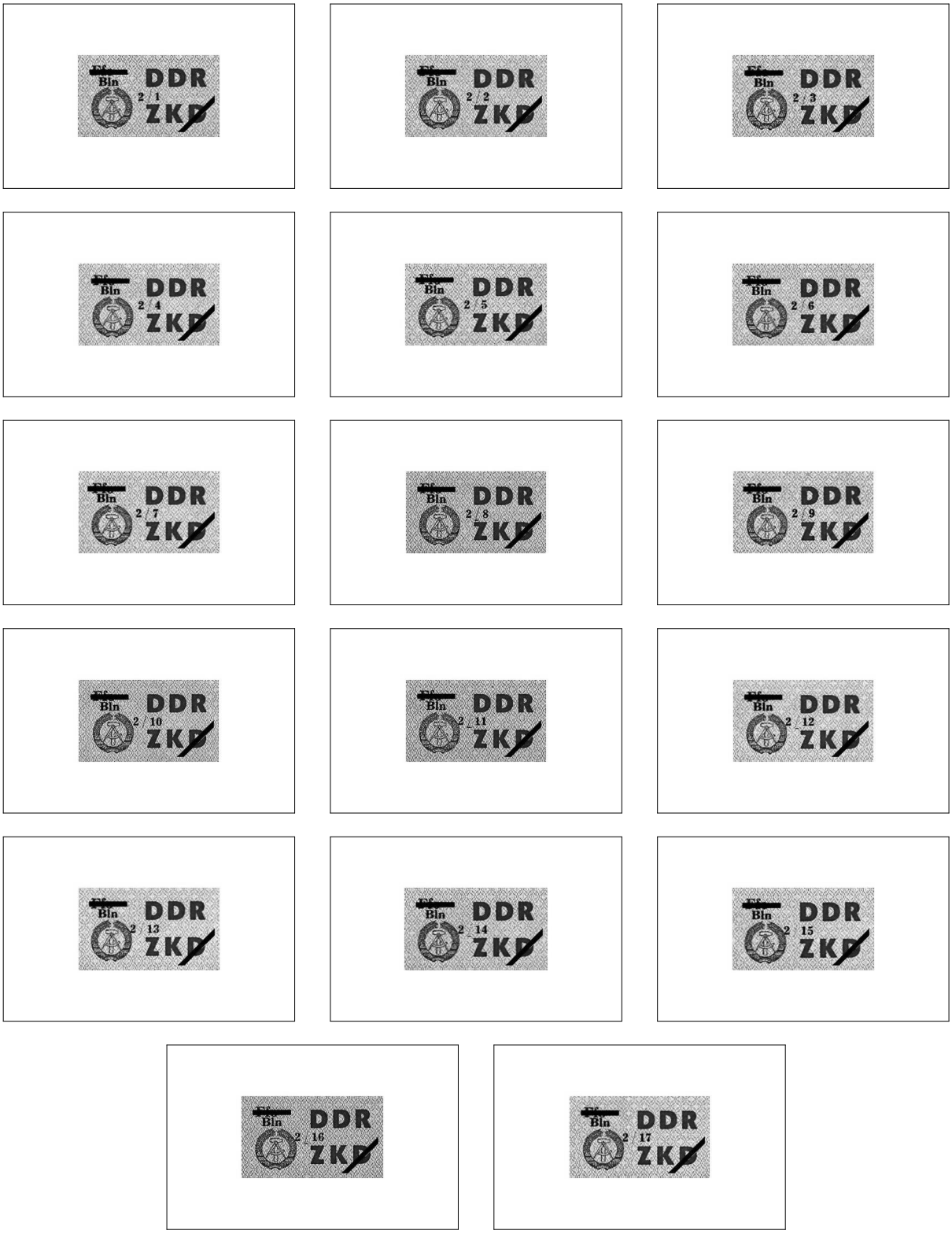
Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

German Demokratic Republic

Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1964

For Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises, Black Overprint of Control Numbers Separated by a Diagonal Slash, Partly with New Overprint of District Identification Letters (1)



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German Demokratic Republic

Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1964

For Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises, Black Overprint of Control Numbers Separated by a Diagonal Slash, Partly with New Overprint of District Identification Letters (2)





































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German Demokratic Republic

Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1964

For Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises, Black Overprint of Control Numbers Separated by a Diagonal Slash, Partly with New Overprint of District Identification Letters (3)



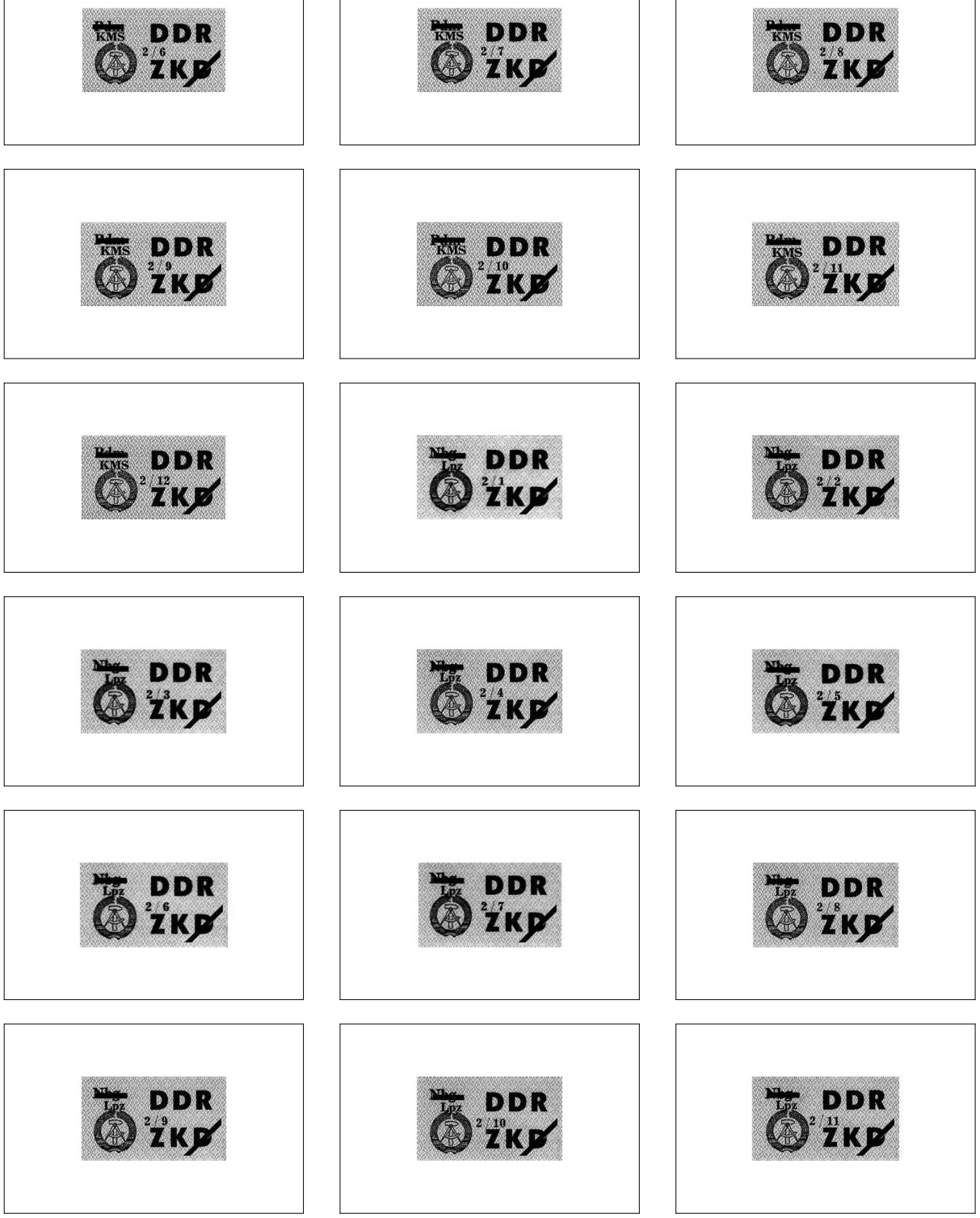
Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

German Demokratic Republic

Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1964

For Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises, Black Overprint of Control Numbers Separated by a Diagonal Slash, Partly with New Overprint of District Identification Letters (4)



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German Demokratic Republic

Cours Control Labels of Central Courier Service

1964

For Associations of Publicly Owned Enterprises, Black Overprint of Control Numbers Separated by a Diagonal Slash, Partly with New Overprint of District Identification Letters (5)















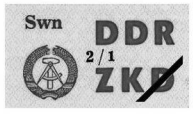












Designed by Alexander Barthel with AlbumEasy

German Demokratic Republic

Labels for Confidential Service Matters and for Delivery Confirmation

1965

Label for Confidential Service Matters in Wide Format on White Paper



vertical perforated 9½



vertical perforated 9½ and 12¼

Likewise, on Colored Paper



Label for Confidential Service Matters in Narrow Format



regular papier



coated paper

Labels for Delivery Confirmation in Wide Format



Likewise, in Narrow Format



regular paper



coated paper

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German Demokratic Republic

Registration Labels for Self-service Post Offices

1967

Both Parts in Same Design



1968/1983

Both Parts in Different Design



Special Edition for SOZPHILEX
Stamp Exhibition 1977 in Berlin



Special Edition for AEROSOZPHILEX
Stamp Exhibition 1980 in Berlin



Specialized collectors differentiate the registration labels for self-service post offices (Selbstbedienungs-Postamt, SbPA) of the 1967 and 1968-1983 issues based on paper type (thick gray-white fiber paper or translucent parchment paper), postal code printing type (bold, thin, small, and very small), and perforation (vertical 9½, vertical 12½, vertical 12½:9½:12½, vertical 9½:12½:9½, horizontal and vertical 11, or horizontal and vertical 10).

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German Demokratic Republic

Registration Labels for Self-service Post Offices

1983/1989

Modified Design



Special Edition for Stamp Exhibition
JUNIOR-SOZPHILEX 1984 in Berlin



Special Edition for Stamp Exhibition DDR 1984 in Halle



Special Edition for 90th IOC Session 1985 in Berlin



Special Edition for Stamp Exhibition
SOZPHILEX Postal History 1985 in Berlin



German Demokratic Republic

Registration Labels for Self-service Post Offices

1983/1989

Special Edition for 9th Youth Stamp
Exhibition 1986 in Berlin-Karlshorst.



Special Edition for 44th World
Shooting Championship 1986 in Suhl.



Special Edition for Otto von Guericke
Commemoration 1986 in Magdeburg



Special Edition for Stamp Exhibition
'Peace and Culture' 1987 in Karl-Marx-Stadt (Chemnitz)



Special Edition for 750th Anniversary of Berlin in 1987



German Demokratic Republic

Registration Labels and Parcel Fee Labels for Self-service Post Offices

1983/1989

Special Edition for 10th Youth Stamp Exhibition 1988 in Erfurt

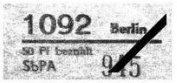


Special Issue for Stamp
Exhibition DDR 1989 in Magdeburg



1968

Parcel Fee Labels for Self-service Post Offices (Only Two Post Offices)





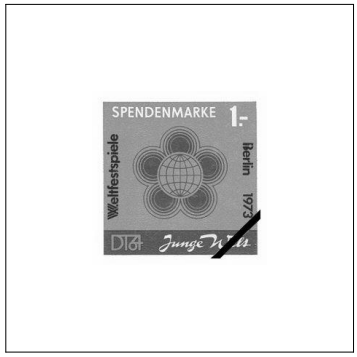
German Demokratic Republic

Donation Stamps with Face Value

1972/1973

Donation Stamps in Support of
10th World Festival of Youth and Students in Berlin





1971

Unissued



With the donation stamps from 1972/1973, submissions for a competition organized by the newspaper 'Junge Welt' and the youth program of the DDR Radio 'DT 64' for the 10th World Festival of Youth and Students in 1973 in East Berlin could be franked. They were not to be postmarked by the postal service.

The donation stamp planned for 1971 was intended to be used to frank submissions for a competition organized by the newspaper 'Junge Welt' and the Society for the Promotion of the Olympic Idea. It was withdrawn in favor of the donation stamps that were actually issued, after it had already been distributed to post offices and sold in limited quantities.