

CATALOGUE OF THE VINEBRE INVERTED CENTER STAMPS
1937

By Carles Prats



Colectalia
Major, 17 - 43373 Cabassers (Tarragona) - Spain
colectalia.com - sales@colectalia.com
2019

The Vinebre inverted center stamps

The Vinebre inverted center stamps are some of the rarest locals of the Spanish civil war philately. The few known are usually on covers addressed to the dealer G. Resten in Paris, truly circulated, or to the company Zumstein & Co in Switzerland, with souvenir postmarks on covers that never went through the mail.

Catalogs listed all these stamps with their varieties and with the pairs that can be formed due to them, but all listings were theoretical. All examples known were on covers, and catalogs reproduced the posmarked stamps, as the images were digitally isolated from pieces stuck to covers. It was thought the inverted error should follow its counterpart with regular centers pattern to form pairs and to have varieties, but it was just a supposition because few inverted centers were seen not tied to covers.

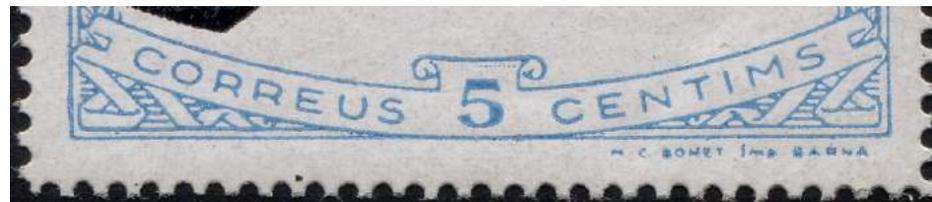
Now, the finding of rose and orange tête-bêche and horizontal pairs (# 15 & 16), unlisted until now, has made possible to reconstruct the positions of the stamps in a sheet, following the pattern of their regular issue counterpart:

| | | | | |
|----------|------|----------|---------|----------|
| 1 D | 2 D | 3 D | 4 D-var | 5 S |
| 6 D | 7 D | 8 D-var | 9 D | 10 S |
| 11 D-var | 12 D | 13 D-var | 14 D | 15 S-var |
| 16 D | 17 D | 18 D-var | 19 D | 20 S |
| 21 D | 22 D | 23 D | 24 D | 25 S |

Positions 5, 10, 15, 20 & 25 have simple characters in "CORREUS" and "CÈNTIMS" (S), while all the rest have double characters there (D).



Example of double characters on the bottom legend



Example of simple characters on the bottom legend

So there were 5 stamps with simple characters and 20 with double characters in a sheet. But with 20 of this stamps, 5 se-tenant pairs and 5 tête-bêche pairs can be formed:

All positions marked in dark and clear blue form se-tenant pairs, one with double characters and another one with double characters.

Positions marked in dark and light green form tête-bêche pairs; despite all the stamps have inverted center, those in the light green column have also their frame inverted, as we also see on regular center stamps of this issue, and this is what creates this double inversion.

In examples:



Regular issue, tête-bêche pair



Inverted center error, tête-bêche pair

As we can see, if we cut a regular issue tête-bêche pair apart, we obtain individual stamps with no alterations, and if we do the same with an inverted center, tête-bêche pair, we also get two separate stamps, both with inverted center.

And finally, stamps in the rose column are double character pieces that can't form any kind of variety pair for their position in the sheet.

There are some additional varieties that can help fixing the position of some stamps in a sheet (marked as *var* on the scheme of the sheet):

Position 4: imprint "M C .. BONET Imp BARNA"

Positions 8 and 13: imprint "M C . BONET Imp BARNA"

Position 11: left sheet centermark

Position 15: right sheet centermark and imprint "M C BONET Imp BARNA."

Position 18: imprint "M C . BONET Imp BARNA."

Left and right centermarks on positions 11 and 15:



Left centermark on position 11



Right centermark on position 15

This issue is also one of the few examples where a picture was used to illustrate a stamp. The legend reads "Riu Ebre", and the picture shows the river going through a canyon known as "Pas de l'Ase".



CATALOGUE OF VINEBRE INVERTED CENTER STAMPS

Blue and black.



1 (Allepuz 1a)
Double characters



2 (Allepuz 9a)
Simple characters



3 (Allepuz 1aii)
Tête-bêche pair



4 (Allepuz 9ba)
Se-tenant pair

Green and black.



5 (Allepuz 2a)
Double characters



6 (Allepuz 10a)
Simple characters



7 (Allepuz 2aii)
Tête-bêche pair



8 (Allepuz 10ba)
Se-tenant pair

Rose and black.



9 (Allepuz 3a)
Double characters



10 (Allepuz 11a)
Simple characters



11 (Allepuz 3a ii)
Tête-bêche pair



12 (Allepuz 11ba)
Se-tenant pair

Rose and orange.



13 (Allepuz 4a)
Double characters



14 (Allepuz 12a)
Simple characters



15 (Allepuz unlisted)
Tête-bêche pair



16 (Allepuz unlisted)
Se-tenant pair