



THE BULLETIN **The Society of Collectors of** **Czechoslovak Typographic Stamps**



No. 86

2017



Translator's Notice

In the interest of sharing the hard-won information found in the *Bulletin*, the Typographic Collectors Society agreed to my translating and posting them on the Typographic Study Group's website: <https://knihtisk.org/09-group/group.htm>. Readers should carefully consult this notice to insure an understanding of how the translations were accomplished and what their shortcomings might be. In addition to the translated copies of the *Bulletin*, a topical index to the *Bulletin* also appears on the Typographic Study Group's website.

My translations of the *Bulletin* began with the then current issue (#94) and worked backward. Issues published after #86 were fully translated including sections concerning the operation of the Society and most advertisements. Many well-known Czech philatelic abbreviations were translated to their full English equivalents (ZP – position, TD – plate, and so on).

Bulletin 86 (and earlier issues) do not contain non-philatelic information (Society business and advertisements). Readers seeking that information are directed to the Czech and Slovak language originals. In addition, common Czech philatelic abbreviations have not been translated. When the first instance of an uncommon abbreviation is encountered in an article, a translator's note will indicate its meaning (if known).

Because of the press of time, translations have been carried out using Google Translate. While reasonable attempts have been made to insure the integrity of these translations, errors have likely occurred. Readers should note that the translations have not been proofread. Note also that active hyperlinks and email addresses are a soft grey, not the standard blue.

Mark Wilson mark@knihtisk.org

Sad News

On September 27, 2016, at the age of 93, our colleague, an excellent Hradčany expert and the author of a number of manuals, publicist and friend, Philatelist Zdeněk Ryvola left the philatelic world. It is an honour and with respect I write these few lines about a man with whom I had a common hobby, namely philately. His civilian job was a teacher. He was simply perfect in all activities, both professional and hobby. He must have acted in this way on everyone who knew him. And this is also reflected in his publications, which he created and left to us here. From a human point of view, a modest and quiet person.

But he was an expert in the things he worked for. That's why I allowed myself to write a philatelist with a capital "P" in the title. In his first studies of the Hradčany issue he proved it to us to the greatest extent. But he was not only an expert on Hradčany, but he was actually a real book printer. He was no stranger to this technique of creating our first issues. He processed almost all issues for study.

My first contacts with him in the early eighties of the last century was, through an advertisement in *Filatelie* related to the Hradčany issue. We exchanged material and knowledge. At the same time, both of us, Mr. Pellant, and Mr. Hanák worked



in this way. After several tens of months and letters exchanged in this way, at the instigation of Mr. Pellant, we met at the Prague Stock Exchange. At that time all four of us were only working on compiling reconstructions of Hradčany panes. There we were introduced to E. Larsen picture study of 100 haler and the first design 25 haler I. Only Pellant, Ryvola, and I worked on the written studies. Later other authors joined. And my colleague Mr. Ryvola had already started to excel in this field. Mainly due to his precision processing of technique and fact. At first, with the help of Mr. Pellant, we obtained information from the Postal Museum, but later Mr. Ryvola negotiated it for himself. Here he obtained the most accurate information for his studies. To this day they are unbeatable!

With a change in my job classification, I started driving all over the country. And when travelling to Pardubice or Chrudim, I agreed to pass through Havlíčkův Brod, so to speak. It was always a warm and "short" meeting. Because by talking in his office, time passed so fast that we were both amazed. After the so-called mapping of the Hradčany issue, he embarked on others. But it is probably less known that he studied the issue of the 70th anniversary of the birth of T.G.M. Among other things, he also started the newspaper Sokol in Flight. But later he left his entire collection to me because I bragged about how I did it with him. I have already redesigned it to my needs and knowledge, but I am proud to have it from Mr. Ryvola. I am proud that our life and hobby paths have ever crossed. Our last meeting was at the last meeting in Agropol in Prague.

This memory of our colleague Mr. Zdeněk Ryvol was very difficult for me to write, because there were too many ideas and small bits of interesting information from over the years. I hereby pay tribute to his readers for myself and for you.

Jiří Krňák

[I too remember Mr Ryvola's kindness and hospitality. I visited him at his home long ago – Translator.]

Sad News

Not so long ago, I wrote in *Bulletin* 83 about colleague, Bohumír Pospíšil, turning 90, a great collector of the Liberated Republic, a successful exhibitor, and the author of manuals for the OR 30, 185, and 250 haler. Now I have received the sad news that he died at the age of 91 on February 2, 2017.



I only met Bohumír personally a few years ago, but I always looking forward to meeting with him, for his pleasant humanity, beautiful literary speech in the Brno dialect, and also his Haná culture hospitality. Talking about stamps was always wonderful because his deep knowledge. I always learned a number of interesting things that I had no idea about. From many memories, it suddenly comes to mind, for example, his narration about the beginnings of exhibiting the OR, the complexity of creating study manuals, or the non-philatelic life in his narration of a cottage by the water. Bohumír, we will miss you.

Pepa Chudoba

The 10 Haler Red – The Development of Position 91 on All Four Plates

The 10 haler red (POFIS 5) was together with 5 haler light green (POFIS 3) the first stamp of the newly formed Czechoslovakia, issued on December 18, 1918 (printing was started on 16.12.1918). 10 haler red stamps were printed in large quantities. The literature lists more than 110 million produced. Only 1% of the release was officially perforated (11½ – D, line perforation).

Due to the use of typographic technology, where more or less each stamp field of a sheet of 100 stamps is original, a large number of flaws occurred. Some significant plate flaws were chosen by Dr. Kubát in the publication *Monografie* published in 1968. We call this selection of flaws the *Monografie* flaws.

One of these *Monografie* flaws is the popular *clock* on the 10 haler red in position (Fig. 1). This is a negative flaw, ie from the first phase of the production of the plate when the line drawing of the original was photographed and the mirror image – the negative – was copied to the metal plate and then etched. The clock can be found on all plates for this denomination; in the case of 10 haler red there were 4 printing plates.



Fig. 1: Clock on the Tower.



Fig. 2: Retouched Clock.

During printing, it was decided to retouch this white spot – the clock – on all 4 plates. The *Monografie* says that metal was embedded in plate 1. In the case of plates 2 and 3, the depression was partially filled with metal and levelled by squeezing both towers.

This article aims to describe the retouch in the fourth plate. Dr. Kubát writes in the *Monografie* that the flaw was removed by squeezing the towers rather brutally, which deformed them into the shape of scissors (Fig. 2). From my point of view, this procedure was impossible. If you look at the picture with the DV, there is not enough material in the area of the first two towers – metal – to create the effect of scissors. There is nothing to squeeze. Personally, I think that the entire area of the first two towers of the cathedral was cut out, then a new piece of ‘forked’ metal was put in, ie, a retouch, was affixed. The fact that the rays on the left and above the first tower are significantly shorter in the forked variant and the towers do not touch also leads me to this belief. The nearest space around the towers is empty. Stamps with plate flaws having fork retouching are relatively common. [Translator's note: I do not completely understand the use of the term *fork*.]

In contrast to the *Monografie*, the POFIS catalog lists 2 variants of retouching without further explanation. The fork is listed there as retouch number 2. What is and what retouch number 1 looks like, according to this catalog, can be seen in Figure 3.

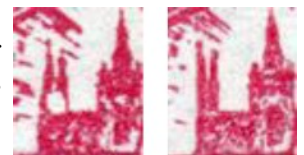




Fig. 3.
Damage to the original retouch.

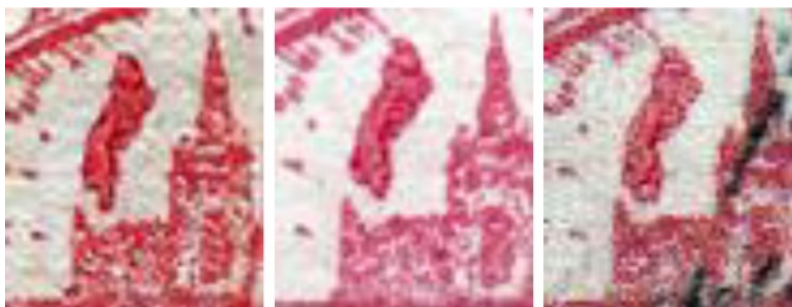


Fig. 4.
Further damage to the original retouch.

Stamps with this variant are very rare. As you can see in the picture, the repair is very bad. But is it a repair at all – a retouch? Isn't it more damage to the original retouch in the form of a fork? I tried to get more copies of the stamp with this form and I attach pictures with a detail of the first two towers:



The development of the whole area around the first two towers is clearly visible. In my opinion, this is not another retouch, but a development phase of the original fork the only retouch performed on plate 4 position 91. However, this development continued. As the plate was stressed during printing, the part glued during the retouching process was broken off and deformed (Fig. 4).



So far, I have had the opportunity to see only three copies of the stamp with this form of damage to the original retouch. I think this is the stage that occurred during the final stage of printing. It is also possible that there are stamps from the phase when the whole part of the originally glued piece on the plate broke off and the towers are completely missing. Below you can see the details of the damage from the 3 specimens in the pictures. It can be seen here that the deformation does not move. The "sharpness" of the lower part of the original towers changes as much as possible. I will be grateful for constructive comments and other scenario suggestions for what the past development of this interesting stamp may have looked like.

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<http://www.hradcany-stamps.com>

Editor's Reaction to the Article

Colleague Matoušek nicely worked out the issue of retouch damage on the 1st and 2nd towers for plate 4, position 91 of the 10 haler Hradčany and he collected really very rare material. However, I do not agree that it would be technically impossible to take pliers and press the towers together on the printing plate. Because he calls for proposals for other scenarios, I do so.

One of my colleague Matoušek's main arguments is that there is little metal in the given area. If we look at the stamp, ie from a two dimensional point of view, we see that there is really little metal. However, we have to look at the issue from a three dimensional point of view of the plate, which has relief and where the depth of the non-printing areas are not reflected in the printed stamp – it simply does not print. The original flaw could have a small non-printing depression, and then there would be enough metal after squeezing the metal to the middle. In the typographic process I see a resemblance to dactyloscopy

[? Translator]. Pressing the metal together would mainly cause shear stress in the base of the towers, ie here the material is the least strong. Due to the impact of printing and the low strength of the material at a given location, a gradual release of the towers on the plate and would be expected. This was also reflected in the printing and here my colleague Matoušek writes very interestingly about it.

On the other hand, the addition of metal is a very problematic operation, without any certainty of the result. The plate must be sanded, metal added, and then the area shaped. Impacts from the platen can cause the added metal to gradually come loose and the original flaw will reappear. However, the strength of the material is low on the plate/added metal interface. Any damage will result in metal falling off, not breaking the towers.

I also welcome the discussion on this view, because after 100 years, it is often very difficult to find out the truth.

Pepa Chudoba

Pleasure from Ordinary Clippings

Excerpts of postal orders, vouchers, and other forms of postal stationery after the expiration of the storage period were sold per kilo as a scrap by the post office. This was overlooked by some collectors, even called junk in the days of the First Republic. For collectors who like to discover interesting combinations of stamps, seals, or forms, it is interesting collector's material. Catalogues usually value only larger parts of the so-called two-thirds forms, but there are not so many of them and their price is disproportionately higher.

In the following pictures I want to show what can be found on these clippings. Figure 1 shows examples of one-stamp frankings. In this way, a whole range can be assembled from the value of 25 haler up to 1000 haler plates (with the 4th spiral closed). You can also find the opposite, multiple frankings with a single denomination stamp. As Figure 2 shows, not only for lower values, where it is possible to note a lack of higher value stamps, but also for a relatively high value of 100 haler.



Fig. 1:
Examples of one-stamp frankings.



Fig. 1:
Multiple frankings (both sides of the clipping)..

More colour frankings can be found, ranging from three colours to, for example, five colours. This is shown in Fig. 3. These can be compiled from only the Hradčany issue or as a combination of other, concurrently issued stamps.



Fig. 3: Multi-colour Franking.



Fig. 4: Postal Order Vouchers.

In addition to the clippings shown here, which are pleasing to the eye, you can also find other interesting, but not so artistic and suitable for reproduction. There are clippings where with stamps showing a plate flaw, unofficial (private) perforation, perfins, spiral and bar types. Popular are post-revolutionary, train, conductor stamps, post offices, and more. It depends on what material you have and what interests you.

Also interesting are clippings from unusual postal stationery or forms. Such are, on the whole, quite expensive and perhaps even unavailable. Figure 4 shows an example of snippets from vouchers to postal orders. These were intended for the collection of small amounts for which an invoice or bill did not have to be attached. More details can be found in the Catalog of Postal Stationery, Part II published by POFIS. There is also a mention of shredded cuttings.

Even more interesting are the so-called military postal orders. They are little known and do not fully clarify the purpose of the use for which they were issued. They were used to pay a maintenance allowance, as the text on the voucher shows, apparently for a family member of a long-serving soldier. They looked like ordinary Austrian postal orders with a slightly modified text, but in addition to the right was another part separated by a puncture. It contains the name, rank of the soldier, his department and other information used to verify the reason for providing maintenance.

Alimony was probably paid only in peacetime, so after the outbreak of the war, more military postal orders remained, and the postal administration, after tearing off the right identification slip, put them at the post counters like ordinary postal orders. In this way, it also used up other Austrian forms and stationery.

All the clippings I have were used in February 1919 and have stamps from 25 to 120 haler, both Austrian stamps and Hradčany, or both as mixed frankings. Postage corresponds to the first tariff period when the smallest fee was 25 haler for an amount sent up to 50 Kč. For each additional 50 Kč, the postage was increased by 5 haler. These are no rarities, but viewing the clippings gave me many fun evenings.

Hamr František



Fig. 4: Military Postal Orders.

5 Haler Sokol in Flight Plate Marks in 1924 and 1925

[DZ – plate marks or plate identifiers – Trans.]

It's been ages since I decided to collect Sokol in Flight newspaper stamps by specializing in plate markings. As one who knows the big problem with this issue better, my naivety at the time is now clear. It is absolutely impossible to reach any ending! Today it is obvious to me, but then I was youthful and reckless (it is said that it does not get better with increasing age). On the other hand, isn't it nice to know that I will never use my tongs to insert the last missing stamp into a blank space and snap the album shut with a sigh of "And that's it!"

With increasing age, I bought a collection here and there from which I drew according to the missing needs, added new intermediate lines or guillotine lines. I bought individual stamps and blocks and watched out of nowhere the album slowly filled up and comfortably got fat.

Times are also changing — after all, I remember how wonderful it was to come to the philately shop in Prague in Palmovka to Mr. Kovář and dig through 3 boxes literally packed with material at prices in the order of crowns. Today's reality? I try to go through the Prague shops at least twice a year and when I am offered more than ten corner pieces, it's a lot. When you look at a stamp bourse, this material is not on the tables today, or even under them. It's similar in auctions, at least until recently. In the last written auction held under the heading Majer & Thraumb, a number of very interesting items with various folds or translations on most denomination and several entire panes were for sale. In addition to these separate items, there was also for sale an extraordinary collection containing mainly corner pieces with plate markings. I was very pleased that I could buy it for the acceptable price (in my opinion) of about 80,000 Kč including auction fees (the starting price was a ridiculous 5,000 thousand Kč).

With this brief introduction, I finally got to the essence of this article. The vast majority of collectors this issue's plate marks are aware of the deplorable situation of material with DZ For the 5 haler denomination from 1924 and 1925. The catalogues do not show these DZ (or at least I do not have them) and nor put them in except for minor exceptions.

Personally, I was lucky enough to get the information published by the Žampach brothers a long time ago, on which the individual DZs were shown, albeit in relatively poor resolution in the layout (mutual positions of the left and right sides) as they thought to the best of their knowledge these couples belonged together. I present both documents in Figures 1 and 2.

Information about DZ Known to the Žampach Brothers for the Year 1924

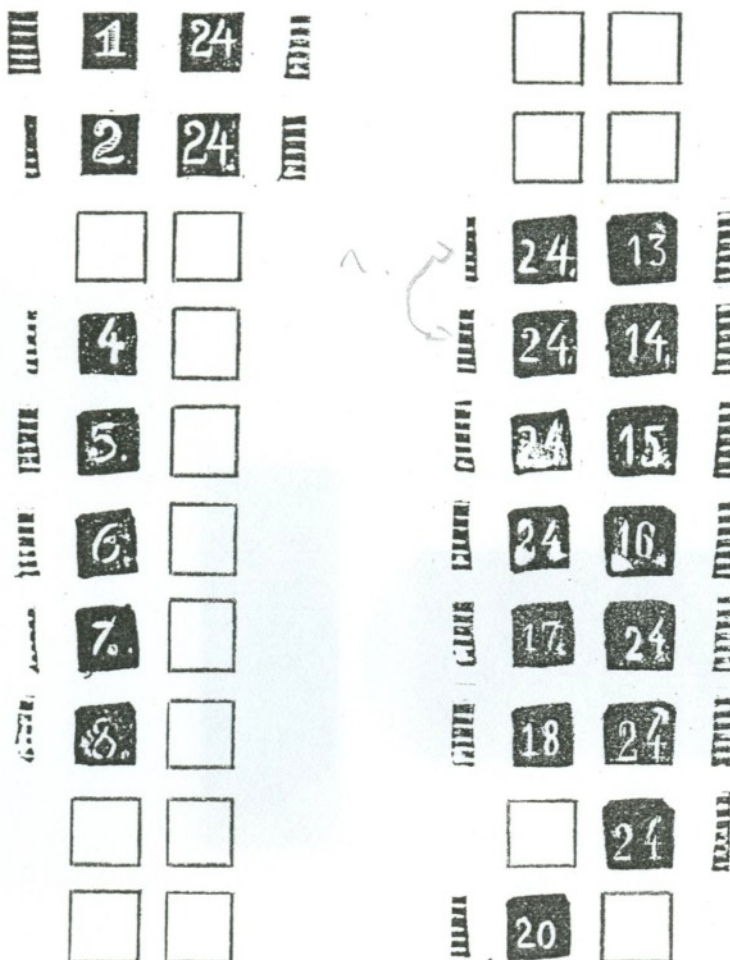


Fig. 1:
Distribution of DZ according to
the Žampach brothers for the
year 1924 (author's archive).

Note:
Unfortunately, I have never seen
the 4-24 plate, mentioned in the
notes of the Žampach brothers,
with my own eyes, so I cannot
confirm its existence.

Information about DZ Known to the Žampach Brothers for the Year 1925

1	25	13	25
2	25	14	25
3	25	15	25
4	25	16	25
5	25	17	25
6	25	18	25
7	25	19	25
8	25	20	25
9	25	21	26
10	25		26
11	25		25
12	25		25

Fig. 2:
Distribution of DZ according to
the Žampach brothers for the
year 1925 (author's archive).

Over time, and thanks to the rich experience of my friend Vladimír Malovík, I slowly managed to penetrate into some secrets of this issue. I will try to share the information that I currently have available on the following pages and, of course, I will be happy if other collectors add to it, either with their knowledge or pictorial material.

First, I will describe the current state according to the knowledge of the Žampach brothers. Subsequently, I will present the results of collectors of newspaper stamps, for which there was a consensus on the assignment of stamps with the designation of the plate and the year (ZP 91 and 100). As not all lower ten-stamp strips with DZ are known, changes will be made when demonstrable evidence (at least in the form of lower strips) of a different arrangement of plate marks is presented. All known ten-stamp strips are illustrated in this article.

For the sake of completeness, I state that I intentionally display entire stamps, including stress bars, tally numbers with decimal lines, as these in some cases help to distinguish the plate more effectively than the tally number itself. The similarity of some markings is sometimes very high.

List of DZ Known to the Author's Team

As can be seen from the figures below, the corresponding TD and year pairs are not assigned in all the cases shown. Our team is not aware of other corner blocks with DZ which could fill in the missing material. For missing TD panes, their appearance is not known, so it is possible that due to imperfections in the printing process or damage to the TD, these parts of the sheets were removed (cut off), or these sheets did not bear the TD mark.

With a high degree of probability, 2 TDs were printed in 1924 without marking (a forme with stress bars or fields for marking TD). This fact is indicated by both the TD production technology and the stress bars used, as well as the ink.

Plate Marks from 1924

Note 1 Applies to all DZ.



DZ 1-24.

DZ 2-24.

DZ 5-[24].
See notes 2 and 6.

DZ 6-[24].
See notes 2 and 6.



DZ 7-[24].
See notes 2 and 6.



DZ 8-[24].
See notes 2, 3, and 6.



DZ 24-13.



DZ 14-24.
See notes 2 and 6.



DZ 24-15.
See note 5.



DZ 24-16.
See note 3.



DZ 17-24.
See note 3.



DZ 17-24.
With a complete guillotine line.



DZ 19-[24].



DZ 20-[24].

Plate Marks from 1925

Note 1 Applies to all DZ.



DZ 1-25.



DZ 2-25.
See note 3.



DZ 3-25.



DZ 4-25.



DZ 5-25.
See notes 3 and 6.



DZ 6-25.
See notes 5 and 6.



DZ 7-25.
See notes 5 and 6.

DZ 8-25.
See note 6.

DZ 9-25.
See note 3.



DZ 10-25.

DZ 11-25.
See note 4.



DZ 12-25.
See note 4.



DZ 13-25.
See note 3.

DZ 14-25.

DZ 15-25.
See note 5.



DZ 16-25.
See note 5.

DZ 17-25.
See note 3.

DZ 18-25.



DZ 17-25.
With a complete guillotine line.



DZ [19]-25.
See note 7



DZ 20-25.
See note 5.



DZ [21]-25.
See note 8.



DZ [22]-25.
See note 8.

Note 1: The problem remains the assignment of the year designation to the serial number of the plate mark – here I repeatedly encounter dating in one way or another (year designation left or right) and without documenting the entire lower strip we can not move further one way or the other.

Note 2: So far I have not been fortunate to talk to anyone who could explain the absence of right corners in some plates in 1924 as well as left ones in 1925 (this is clear in the illustrations).

Note 3: I have so far managed to prove the use of a guillotine line in 1924 only for three plates: 8-24, 24-16 and 17-24. The dividing line on plate 8 is demonstrably different in shape than the other two. It is possible that it was bent and subsequently reused during the manufacturing process. It can be assumed that the plates 24-16 and 17-24 are an imprint of the same guillotine line – it will definitely be possible to confirm this only after finding a lower left corner of sufficient size with the imprint of the entire guillotine line. Guillotine lines in 1925 occur on plates 2-25, 5-25, 9-25, 13-25 and 17-25.

Note 4: For TD 11-25 and 12-25, there is a high probability of technological difficulties during printing, most likely due to imperfect impressions of the plate on the paper. The solution to this problem was to put gaps in the stress bars. For the 5 haler we know only in these two TDs both solid and gapped stress bars. We encourage all readers to review their collections and compare the displayed material with their collection to supplement our knowledge.

Note 5: DZ 24-14 left, 24-15 right, 18-24 left, 6-25 right, 7-25 left, 15-25 right, 16-25 left, 20-25 are known to us exclusively with the gapped stress bar as shown. As it is possible that this is a case similar to the one described in note 4 above, we would be pleased for collectors to inspect their collections and send us their findings. At the same time, we call for caution and monitoring of possible gaps or, conversely, solid of stress bars.

Note 6: Due to the presentation of pictorial material in the form of the lower strip of TD 6-25, in our opinion, long-standing disputes over the form of the left sides of TD 5, 6, 7 and 8 were resolved, when it was not clear which group of these marks dates from 1924 and which from 1925. Due to the existence of the ten-stamp strips, the above-shown shift can be considered unquestionable.

Note 7: For DZ 19-25, the group of collectors does not have the image of the left plate mark with the number 19, the appearance of which is, however, evident from the materials of the Žampach brothers, see Figure 2. The existence of this DZ was confirmed at an auction.

Note 8: It is highly probable that TDs marked 21-26 and ? -26 (the form of the left side of the TD is not known) were printed as early as 1925. This fact is also indicated by the TD production technology and the stress bars used, as well as the ink.

Examples of Existing Ten-Stamp Strips



DZ 1-24.



DZ 2-24.



DZ 24-13.



DZ 6-25.



DZ 17-25.

We invite the general collecting community to submit pictorial material plate marks, guillotine lines, or spacers (in any pictorial form) not mentioned here, for items listed but not shown. For large blocks please send a scan (minimum 600 DPI).

It is a sad chapter in philatelic history that while other completely secondary (at least according to the author of the article) chapters of philately are mapped to the smallest detail, the stamp released in the largest numbers in Czechoslovak history (3,606,330,000) has so far received minimal attention. It may be that our predecessors had more pressing worries in the post-coup period. In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Josef Chudob for the kind correction of the text and Mr. Malovík and Mr. Kolesar for factual comments and findings.

Michal Hauzr

Contents *Bulletin* #86

The 10 Haler Red – The Development of Position 91 on All Four Plates	3
Pleasure from Ordinary Clippings	5
5 Haler Sokol in Flight Plate Marks in 1924 and 1925	7

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