



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



**No. 90**

**2019**



## Invitation to the Spring Knihtisk Meeting

23 March 2019 in Pardubice

This year's spring meeting of our Society will take place on Saturday, 23 March 2019, from 9 am to 12 noon in the large lounge of the Pivovarka restaurant, which is part of the Pardubice brewery. The meeting place is about 5 minutes walk from the Pardubice train station and about 2 minutes walk from the bus station. The adjacent restaurant will be in normal operation.

## 2019 Subscription Payments

As of February 8, 2019, 77 out of 154 of our members have not yet paid membership fees for 2019. Membership fees apply to all members, even those who subscribe to the Newsletter only in electronic form.

Membership fees for 2020, which remain the same, i.e.

- for collectors up to 70 years 100 Kč,
- for collectors over 70 years 80 Kč.

Payment can be made either:

- in person at the Autumn Meeting.
- by transfer to account number: 2001115378/2010, where in the message to the recipient state your surname (otherwise we are not able to identify the sender),
- or by postal order to the address: Zdeněk Rákosník, Hlavní 543, 691 67 Šakvice.

Arrange payments from, abroad with the treasurer by e-mail: [zdenek.rakosnik@seznam.cz](mailto:zdenek.rakosnik@seznam.cz).

## Hradčany Monograph Volume 1 Part 2

In January another volume of the Monografie was published – Volume 1, Part 2. It contains high-quality reproductions of all Hradčany printing plates, including the rarest ones. The reproductions of the sheets were created using a classical technique where the sheets were photographed with 1:1 negatives by the State Printing House. These were copied as positives and used for the book's reproductions. The book was therefore not printed with a standard raster offset, but with a line-block offset so it is not troubled by image distortions. We get a real image of the stamp at a 1:1 ratio, such as on the pane itself.

A significant problem in creating the book was obtaining stamp sheets. It took more than five years of detective work and browsing many of collections besides those of the Postal Museum. We also managed to obtain such rare panes as plates 7 and 8 of the 5 haler fifth design, Plate 7 of the 15 haler, and plate 2 of the 500 haler (here with the air mail overprint).

I remember that when Mr. Ryvola proved the existence of the 5 haler plates 7 and 8, he accomplished his reconstruction according to the similarity of the rays with the stamps from plates 5 and 6. He tried to verify his reconstruction with strips, of which he had only 18 at the beginning! Subsequent articles confirmed his discoveries. After a few years, 90 blocks were found – and now we can see the whole sheet. This is proof that new and new things can still be discovered.

## Order Coupon

The Society managed to secure a discount for our members for the purchase of Monograph 1 / II: Hradčany – printing plates with an attachment for the price of 1,198 Kč + packaging 30 Kč + postage according to the valid tariff. The monograph is sent only by cash on delivery and cannot be collected in person. Send the completed coupon to the address: PROFIL Mail Service, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Prague 1, or scan by email to [stamps@stamps.cz](mailto:stamps@stamps.cz)

Name and surname:

Address including postal code:

Phone:

e-mail:

Similarly, it is impossible not to mention the manuals from the 80s and 90s, when the defects were redrawn manually onto an enlargement of the stamp. The notation *characteristic rays* was common, but they were difficult to reproduce and the quality of the images suffered more as the manuals were reproduced. Definitely today the pictures in the *Bulletin* and *Handbooks* are at an incomparably higher level than before. Progress will not stop. I believe that especially for the stamps of the 5th design, the new Monograph is faithful in the readability of the rays and I highly recommend it to all collectors.

The major disadvantage of the book is that it was not created according to black prints, which are usually better printed than stamps. Unfortunately – and this is the judgment of our ancestors – these sheets have not been preserved even in the Postal Museum. Thus, in the book, the merged parts of some stamps appear in a few sheets.

A second disadvantage are the colour smudges on the cheapest sheets (1 and 3 haler), where more emphasis could have been placed on the quality of these sheets.

The book is printed on quality paper and contains 144 pages. Instead of the usual black print, the book contains the imprint of a 16-piece plate of 1 haler intended for the purposes of the Postal Museum. As was said, the Society managed to get a discount for our members, the same as for *Filatelie* subscribers. The usual price of a book is 300 Kč higher.

## **Experience with Identifying Position Using Monographs**

When determining position I usually start with a pile of stamps. Usually, however, I have a problem in that I am not sure whether I will identify the stamp incorrectly because the same flaw occurs in another position. To reduce the risk, I check each designated PO again. The main problem is that I have not lived enough with these flaws and I do not have it so-called "in my eye".

I solved this problem while studying the 5 haler V stamps with an open spiral. I copied pictures of the relevant plates from the new Monograph, then marked each position on the other side and cut the copies. Now came the experimental survey of position, when I had 400 stamps and according to the rules of the puzzle tried to put them in the right place. The advantage is that each position is available just once and after its inclusion I can see where I made a mistake and what positions are similar. I wrote down these similarities, which helped me in the subsequent determination of stamp positions from package material. I probably didn't invent anything world-class or new, but still this way of determining Position helped me in general.

J Ch.

## **A Few Questions for the Authors of the Monograph**

After studying Monografie, Volume 1, Part 2, I would be interested in the answers to several questions:

- 1) Which of the depicted sheets are in the Postal Museum and which in private hands?
- 2) POFIS 4, Plate 1 as shown has perforation C, although so far only the imperforated and perforations A and E are known. Is this a private or ministerial perforation? Who owns the sheet?
- 3) POFIS 7, plate 4 is not often seen perforated. Here, however, I state that the sheet is perforated.
- 4) POFIS 13 does not indicate whether the sheets were scanned were dark or light. Unfortunately, the book also does not show the replacement blocks.
- 5) Does POFIS 22, plate 2 really lack tally numbers or the sheet has been cut in that area?
- 6) On pages 116 and 117, please correct the sheet designation in the upper corners that comes from plate 1 and not plate 2.
- 7) Would it be possible to determine the width of the edges of all reproduced sheets, and whether or not nail and guide marks were cut off during the transmission of the reproduction?

J Ch.

## **What Can be Found on Mucha's Hradčany**

I have been dealing with Hradčany stamps since I was 15 years old. You are probably enlightened by the "Holy Spirit" at that same time. I joined the philatelists' club under the name of my father, which we have in common, and like almost everyone, I subscribed to the stamps sent with the news, first 4 times and then even 5 times thanks to the blocks of four. I put the stamps in my album and then I completed the collection from 1945. It was not very difficult and I must say that it did not satisfy me too much.

At the same time, I began to be interested in our first stamps, the Hradčany. Unfortunately, there was no colleague with the same interest in the club of philatelists, so for a while I became a lone wolf and I had to go through the childhood illnesses of a philatelist who has no older colleague – forced to tread his own path which had long been trodden by others.

Over the years, even in this "industry" I got stuck and settled, but also realized my possibilities and limits. Not to mention the most beautiful pieces, I began to specialize in various types of spirals, partitions, reconstruction of printing plates and entires. This activity really "got" me and I devoted myself to it for many years. In my opinion, this is the most beautiful thing in philately, that even with stamps 100 years old, about which many studies are written, there is still something to discover. I once read somewhere that the culmination of the efforts of every philatelist, whatever field he collects, is the collection of covers, which actually revives an entire exhibit and brings man closer to the time of their creation, that it is such a university of philately.

So I also worked as I grew older with covers and stamps of the train post from the period from the establishment of Czechoslovakia to the end of the validity of Hradčany stamps. In this short time the development of cancellations from nationalized Austrian devices, through temporary cancellations created during the republic and their various mutations to the final cancels emerging in the autumn of 1919. And here I found my "niche", ie, an area that is not very well known and where it is possible to still find and discover new things, and thus contribute to a better understanding of our philately.

I inspected all the Hradčany "scrap" I had collected over the years, individual stamps, blocks, cutouts, etc., and looked for all the atypical cancellations or their fragments and set them aside. It must be said that it took me about two years and I obtained a small number of Hradčany stamps with various parts of temporary cancellations, whether daily, train, or other, and I subjected them to scrutiny in an effort to identify the train cancellations on them. Of course, there were many unusable imprints, which certainly came from train cancellations, but it was not possible to identify them yet. I put them off and maybe they'll come later. I present a few of those identified, including those that have shifted our knowledge in this area.



On the 5 haler is a fragment of the train stamp VP.6 PRAGUE-LOWER EINSIEDEL \* PRAG-NIEDER EINSIEDEL 72. On the pair of 30 haler is part of stamp VP.5 TRUTNOV-PRAGUE 48 \*. It is the only stamp from this line in my collection, and although Ing. Votoček (1) reports it in his monograph, it was not, as far as I know, documented so far. On the 10 haler is a partial print of Bratislava-Prague 802. It was an unknown Slovak line cancel which was not known to Ing. Votoček (1) or Ing. Tekel' (2). A few years later, I managed to get a beautiful whole with a complete cancel from this line which definitely proved its existence.



On the 5 haler is part of the cancel VP.2 Beregszász-Kassa 991. Thanks to this fragment I managed to prove the existence of this cancel. Ing. Tekel' (2) contains only question marks for this cancel. After consultation with my colleague Ing. Bachratý (3), we consider this stamp to be documented.

Another option for obtaining train stamps is to buy them, unfortunately they are currently mostly just auction pieces. Therefore, I see the findings of even fragments helping to determine especially the temporary cancels are very beneficial and inexpensive, but also interesting for collectors.

My effort is to find out the first and last possible use of train cancels in this period for possible cataloguing, because the stamps were put into operation spontaneously and there is no report on them in the Postal Gazette. Therefore, I welcome any scan with a train cancel on Hradčany stamps, but also preliminary or parallel Austrian or Hungarian. Send e-mail to milanstepek@seznam.cz.

Milan Štěpek

#### Literature:

- (1) Ing. Emil Votoček . *Monografie čs. známek* (1988) 17. díl II. (Pages 379-384).
- (2) Ing. Jozef Tekel'. *Merkur-Revue* 2003/4, pages 21-24.
- (3) Ing. Miroslav Bachratý. *Filatelie* 2010/11, pages 2- 5

### Edge Trial Print of the Hradčany 15 Haler

Figure 1 shows an example of an edge trial print in black on white chalk paper of 15 haler Hradčany (POFIS 7) which comes from an un-milled and unprocessed pane. The trial print has a type I spiral without a bar type, but there is an arch subtype IIa. The trial print thus creates a combination of types I-0-II. A great peculiarity and mystery in this trial print is the impossible determination of both its position and the printing plate from which it came.

There are several peculiarities that I want to point out, that make it impossible to agree with certainty about its position and plate. A sample of the trial print was seen by several experts with the capacity for determining positions for Hradčany stamps. Everyone approaches this according to their best conscience and their professional knowledge, the result of several years of experience in assessing all the material available to us, not only on trial prints but also on official prints.

A casual look at this trial print would simply indicate that it is an edge trial print, originating from a position in the range of 10 to 100 from a certain printing plate. In normal examination of rays without deep knowledge it would be 20/4 (fig. 2).





Fig. 1. Edge Trial Print.



Fig. 2. Position 20, Plate 4.

The trial print was compared with a final print of that position from plate 4 with a 30 haler postage due overprint. But our identification does not seem to be accurate, and according to the position's rays, it may correspond to another plate, perhaps also to a different stamp field.

After my first consultation with the experts, their determinations were as follows:

In no case is it an edge trial print, the trial print comes from an unfinished block rather comes from position 39 / 4, its defining features are rays (they are dots not lines), the small dot in the oval above the tip of the number 1 is typical an example of flaw occurring on 39 / 4, the paper on the edge is a still a mystery to us. It may have been part of some test the printers were performing. Determining its purpose would be far more difficult than identifying its position. Fig. 3 shows position 39/4 overprinted Postage Due.

Results of the second consultation

It is certainly a marginal trial print, which comes from plates 7 or 8. Judging from its rays it seems to be from plate 8 when the cliché was removed and used to print postal stationery. During the cutting of the printing plate into individual stamps, many control features of the individual stamp fields disappeared, especially those which were located at the edges of the stamps or in the gaps between the stamps. This makes it difficult to identify individual positions on CDV 14 and CDV 15 compared to stamps - where the most important is the control of the rays of the stamp field of the printing plate and the impression of the block on the postal stationery. The control auxiliary and characteristic features mainly for the plate 7 for all stamps (except) are:

- the presence of 3 dots at the top of the church of St. Nicholas (5th tower),
- the presence of a large number of small dots in the sky between the end of the roof and the 5th tower, these are arranged obliquely from the main rays towards the top of the 5th tower,
- on all positions there is a large number of dots between the 5th and 6th tower.
- plate 7 shows a large number of stamps that have dots (see the trial print) or large smears (these are the result of gap milling in the production of the printing plate) by the frames and opposite the corners.

There are also often hazes (veils) around the left and right bars and below the 3rd and 8th spirals (it is difficult to determine the position here because the ink in the veil areas was poorly applied due to insufficient degreasing of the plate). The right edge of the paper (in the trial print) could have been created by printing from only one plate and therefore the white edge extends to the second following plate, which was not inked and left no imprint, at the same time only the black edge from the unfinished die is visible. It could also be an additional print for philatelic clubs (a lot of waste paper was created), this mystery is definitely a position without identification ...

This trial print (black print) presented in the sample on black coated paper comes from the preparatory phase of printing before the final adjustment (when the type II spiral retouch was performed before the final printing), with a hint of the arc subtype IIa, which has not yet been reported on original prints of the 15 haler. Trial printing in this version does not correspond to reported types because the type I spiral in original prints is not known in this combination. This example is definitely worth thinking about and very interesting for study purposes, but I was not able to determine with certainty which position and plate it is.



Fig. 4.  
Trial print lacking margins.

Ladislav Olsina Jr.





MUCHA





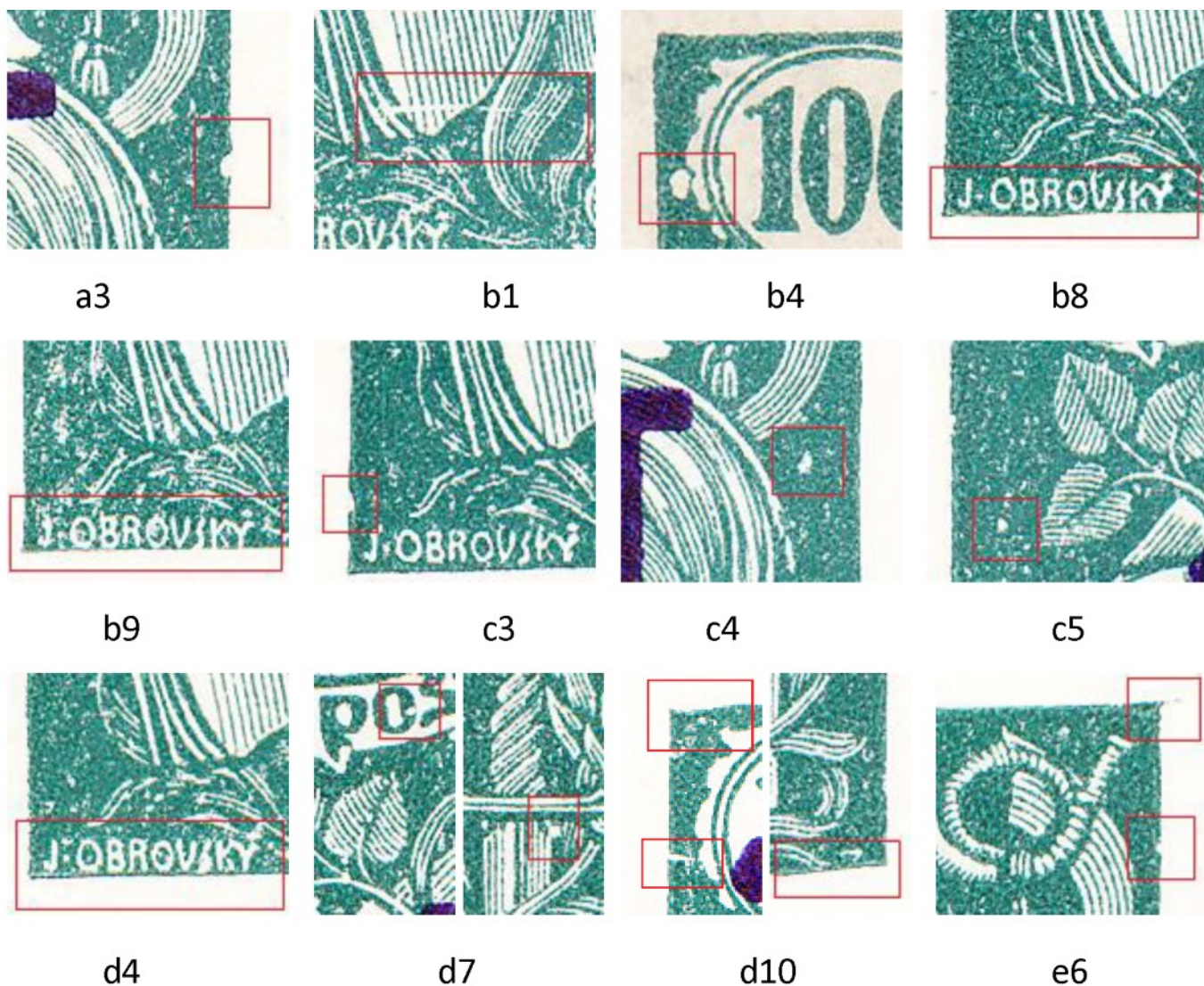
**Agriculture and Science 1920**  
**supplementing existing knowledge**  
**100 haler (POFIS 164)**

As mentioned in [1] and [2], the plates (hereinafter TD) for the 100, 200, 300 and 400 haler were assembled from ten strips produced by electroforming. During their production, deviations arose in some stamp fields (hereinafter ZP), according to which each ten-die-strip can be identified. The attachment of these ten-die-stripss to the TD had to be dismantled, as there are TDs created from the same ten-die-strips, but assembled in a different order.

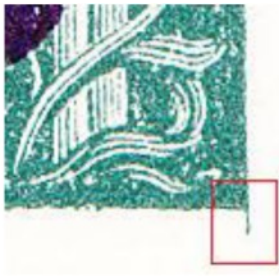
It follows from the above that the determination of ZP in TD is impractical, as they changed during production. From the 100 haler, I have two panes composed of the same ten-die-strip, but assembled in a different order. If I identify the ten strips from one TD sequentially from above a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, ch, and i, then in the second arrangement they are in the order d, ch, g, h, a, i, b, c, f, e. Therefore, I denote the flaws of individual ten-die strips by their respective letter (indicating a series) and the order of the clichés (column) in which they are located. E.g. a1, a2, a3, etc. I marked the two Tds as TD 1 var A and TD 1 var B.

Flaws are found in the ten-die strips of TD 1 var A:

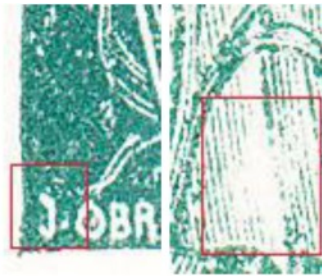
- a3
- b1, b4, b8, b9
- c3, c4, c5, c8, c9
- d4, d7, d10
- e6, e9
- f5, f6, f10
- g3
- h4, h7, h9
- ch6 - (very narrowed edge to the leaves at the sword)
- i6, i9







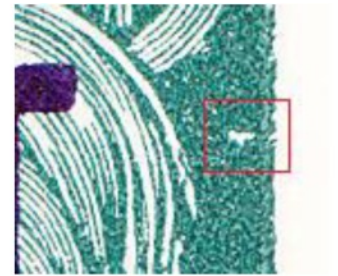
e9



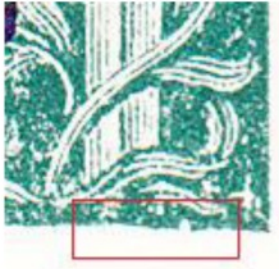
f5



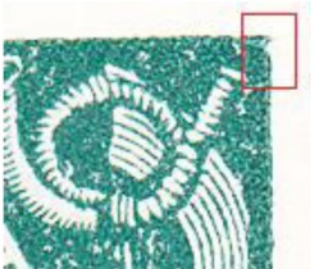
f6



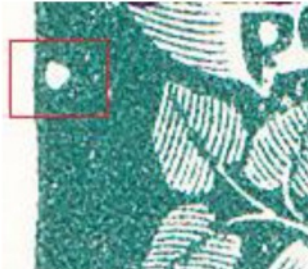
f10



g3



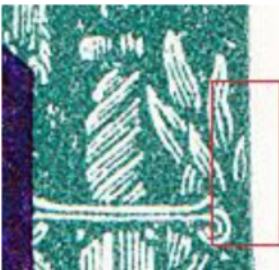
h4



h7



h9



ch6

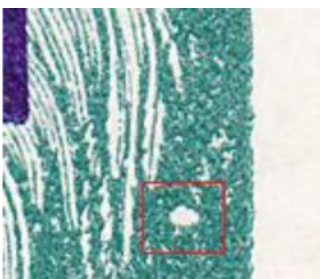


i6



i9

Similarly, on TD 2 we can identify the ten-die-strips in the order j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s. It is theoretically possible to move the strips from TD 1 to TD 2. From TD 2 I can only identify the stamps from the lower two ten-die-strips and identify only these flaws: r3, r9 s2, s9



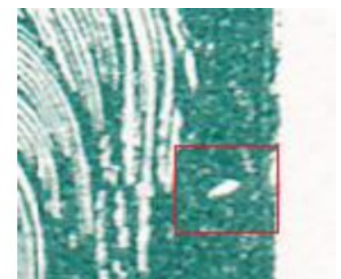
r3



r5



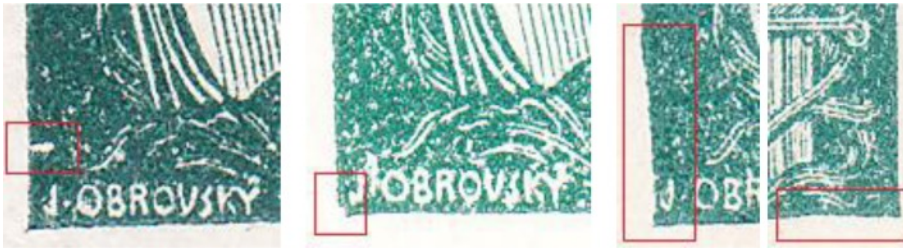
s2



s9



The list of plate flaws of the 100 haler mentioned in [2] and [3] can be extended by the following flaws. The numbering of the flaws follows on from [2] and [3] and does not mean ZP, but the order of finding the flaw.



DV 68

DV 69 (ZP 85)

DV 70 (ZP 71)

For other denominations because of a lack of sheet material, I do not mention the flaws in the ten-die-strips, and I only expand the list of detected flaws.

#### 200 haler (POFIS 165)



DV 79 (ZP 42)



DV 80



DV 81



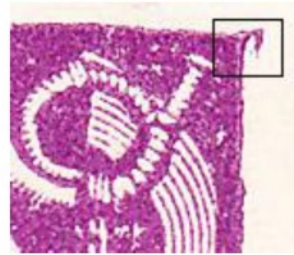
DV 82



DV 83



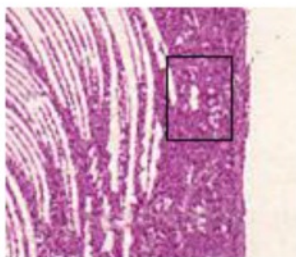
DV 84



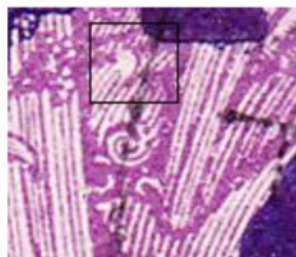
DV 85



DV 86



DV 87



DV 88



DV 89



DV 90 (ZP 44)



DV 91



DV 92



DV 93



DV 94



### 300 haler (POFIS 166)



DV 74 (ZP 11)



DV 75



DV 76

### Value 400 halls (Pof. 167)

#### Type I

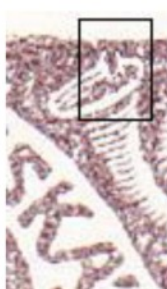
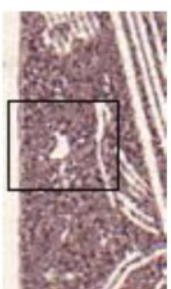
Mr. Látal's article mentions flaw 16, which, however, occurs in two variants and flaw 17, which is transient. However, ZP with this flaw have a constant flaw - a white line above the horn.



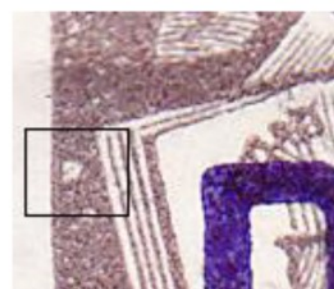
DV 16 varianta a)



DV 16 varianta b)



DV 17



DV 17 NČN



DV 19



DV 20



DV 21



DV 22



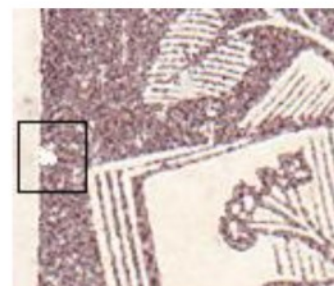
DV 23 (ZP 39)



DV 24



DV 25



DV 26

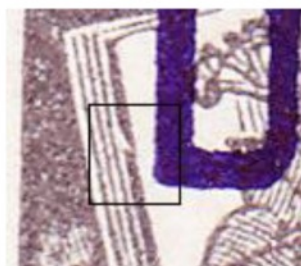




DV 27



DV 28



DV 29



DV 30



DV 31



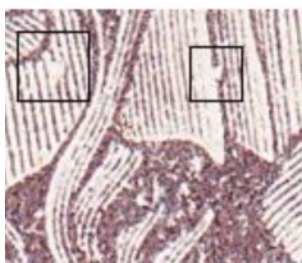
DV 32



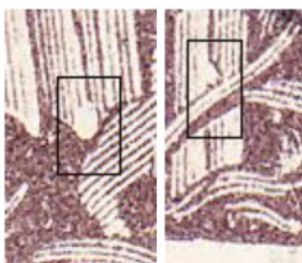
DV 33



DV 34



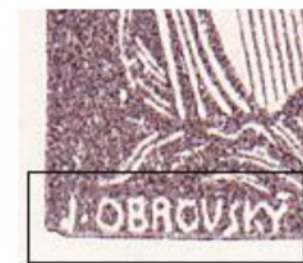
DV 35



DV 36



DV 37



DV 38



DV 39



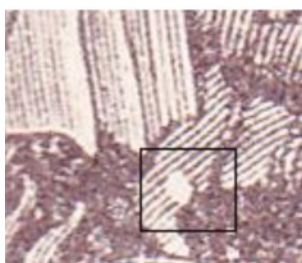
DV 40



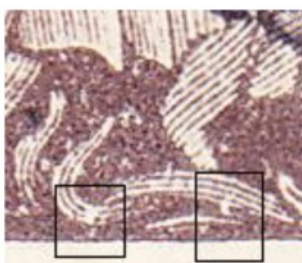
DV 41



DV 42



DV 43



DV 44



DV 45



DV 46

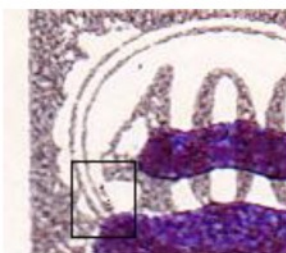


## Type II

In [2] flaws 11 and 12 are on Type II stamps. That is why I present them here as well.



DV 4



DV 5



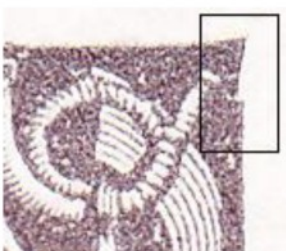
DV 6



DV 7



DV 8



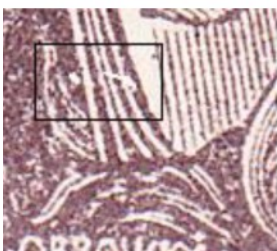
DV 9



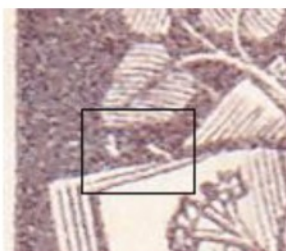
DV 10



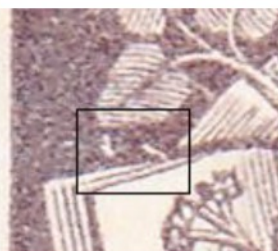
DV 11



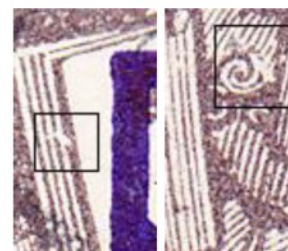
DV 12



DV 13



DV 14



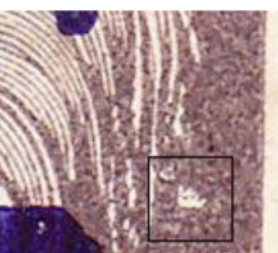
DV 15



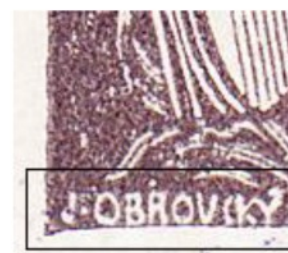
DV 16



DV 17



DV 18



DV 19



DV20



DV 21



DV 22 (ZP 30 TD I)

[1] Monograph of Czechoslovak stamps 2. part;

[2] The study of Mr. Žampach et al. of 1988

[3] Articles by Mr. Jindřich Láta in *Buletins* 38,39,40 and 41





# Národní výstava poštovních známek Liberec 2019

Klub filatelistů 04-01 Liberec byl pověřen SČF pořádáním

## Národní výstavy poštovních známek

ve dnech **25. až 29. září 2019**

v prostorách objektu **Kavárna POŠTA**

(naproti divadlu F. X. Šaldy)

Policie ČR (Krajské ředitelství policie Libereckého kraje)

nám. Dr. E. Beneše 584/24

460 01 Liberec I-Staré Město

Liberecký kraj

**Na výstavě lze spatřit nejlepší české exponáty  
a nejvzácnější československé i zahraniční  
poštovní známky.**

**Výstava navazuje na úspěšné výstavy  
poštovních známek v letech 1952, 1967 a 1978.**

Adresa pro zasílání  
balíků s exponáty:  
bude upřesněna

**Kontaktní údaj:**

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This English language version was prepared by Mark Wilson FRPSL. It has not undergone proofreading.

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