



THE BULLETIN
The Society of Collectors of
Czechoslovak Typographic Stamps



No. 93

2020



Introduction

Dear friends,

In the current difficult times, we wish you all good health and, in your free time, the joy of stamps. Unfortunately, the autumn meeting which most of you were looking forward to cannot take place again due to regulations. We are already looking forward to the time when the situation will calm down and we will be able to meet at the spring meeting.

The Knihovna Society

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Please note that you must pay contributions, even if you subscribe to the newsletter in electronic form.

New Retouch on the 75 Haler Hradčany - Plate 1, Position 15

In this stamp there is a difference in the drawing of the first triangle. This may indicate the possibility of a retouch. In my collection, all the stamps I have from this position have this modification, so I believe that the retouch might have been done before printing started.



Normal

Retouch

If someone has a stamp with the original flaw, please send me a scan. Finding the original flaw is found on a test print from an would even prove whether this is a plate flaw, a retouch, or retouch done after printing began.

Emil Kolesar

Advertisement

I am looking for quality scans (1200 DPI) of colour trial prints of 300 haler for the purpose of reconstruction, or I will buy them. Jan Springer, Na Uboci 17, Jablonec nad Nisou, 46605, email: jan.springer@seznam.cz.

TGM 125 Haler Plates and Nail Marks

This year, one hundred years have passed since the release of POFIS 140, the TGM President of the Republic's portrait commemorating his 70th birthday. Given a full century, it may seem that everything in this area has already been found by researchers and collectors and it no longer of interest. As this is not entirely true in my opinion, I have taken the liberty of writing a series of short articles with which I would like to draw attention to a few facts and procedures that are still not fully clarified.

The production of the 125 haler TGM 1920 plates TGM 1920 used a photographic negative of a twenty-five stamp block of 5 × 5 stamps from which eight separate dies were etched (Fig. 1). These were assembled into four plates with two placed horizontally next to each other. Their horizontal placement is clearly evidenced by the gutters on rare coloured paper trial prints which are probably the only existing evidence to support this claim. Fig. 2 shows such a registration from positions 79, 80 (plate 1) and positions 71,72 (plate 2).

“Most likely, the two plates were assembled on a wooden base. This way of assembling the plate seems to be confirmed by the second plate, on which the second quarter is mounted 0.75 mm higher. Further confirmation of this method are the nail marks on positions 56, 61, 91, and partly also on the 26 stamp. See the plate diagram (Fig. 3), on which these traces are marked with coloured dots with arrows” [1].



Fig. 1.
Photo of the imprint of one 25 cliché block.



Fig. 2.
Trial print of the plates 1 and 2 interval.

“However, the nail marks and the doubling of the number in the 1st position are not on the sheet material of the stamps printed in blue and were probably removed before the start of the final print. Also, the print quality in ultramarine ink did not reach the required level, so the printer started printing in blue ink ...” [2].

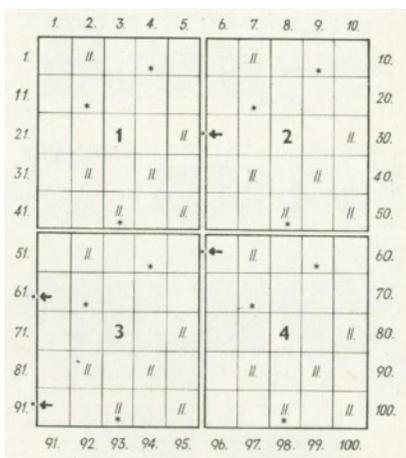


Fig. 3.
Plate diagram showing nail marks.



Fig. 4.
Nails marks on the ultramarine 125 haler TGM 1920.

In recent years, I have focused on this issue and watched these stamps at auctions and bourses, and all indications are that these claims are true. There were, although relatively rarely, only ultramarine stamps in circulation with traces of the so-called "nails", which I would rather call the screws, but I will continue to stick to the traditional use of the term nail. Some examples of these 125 haler ultramarine stamps appear in Fig. 4.

According to these photographs of the TGM 1920 ultramarine stamps, in my opinion, there is at first sight, a clear discrepancy with the above diagram. The positions of the nail marks are at the top centre of the first stamp, at the bottom of the second, and at the centre right of the third stamp, and at the upper left of the fourth stamp.

None of these examples correspond to the above diagram, and another logical drawback is that two such diagrams should be created, separately for plates 1 and 2. So far, I have managed to find nail marks on the following position on the ultramarine stamps: positions 1, 10, 15, 16, 26, 35, 41, 66, 91, and 95. All of these marks are on 19 stamps from plate 2. I did not find a single imprint on plate 1. I also did not find nail marks on any of the unissued imperforate ultramarine stamps. All this became even more complicated after the discovery of a 125 haler TGM 1920 stamp in a grey-blue colour (Fig. 6), which I managed to obtain and use for further comparison.



Fig. 5.
Ultramarine.

Fig. 6.
Grey-blue.

Based on the literature [3], I identified this grey-blue stamp as position 35 on plate 2. The type I stamp is marked with negative flaw E and on the right is significant damage to the number 5. It is a big coincidence that I also have my own ultramarine stamp from this position and another from a photo gallery, in ultramarine, that also have this nail mark (Fig. 5).

Another possible confirmation of the occurrence of nail mark remnants on grey-blue stamps is the mark in the middle of the upper part of the position 1 plate 2 stamp which is located on ultramarine stamps and is also a typical plate flaw for this grey-blue position. [3]



Fig. 7.
Nail mark in the middle of the upper edge above "SL".

These findings confront the previous belief that after the printing of ultramarine stamps, these plates were probably milled before the final printing in blue. Based on position 35 plate 2, which is so far unique to me, I dare to say that after the beginning of the final printing of grey-blue stamps, these nail were still present and only then were they definitively removed.

If your collection contains stamps with such nail marks, please send me photos of them in the highest possible resolution. This would be very helpful for me to supplement or revise the scheme of Mr Žampach / Šnoflák, which was published forty-five years ago.

Miroslav Češelka, ceselka@netkosice.sk

[1] Žampach, Šnoflák. *Filatelie Č.12/XXV*, ročník.75, str.367-368., Praha, 1975

[2] Radomil Květon. *Emisia TGM 1920 známky a celistvosti*. Znalecká práca, Bratislava 2015

[3] Šnoflák, Žampach. *Plating Guide for the TGM 125 h*, Winchester WI, 2007

[4] Klim, Štolfa, Filípek a kol. *Spec. Katalóg ČSR 1918-1939*, Brno 2016

[5] Karásek, Michele, Svoboda. *Monografie československých známek Díl II*, Praha 1971

125 Haler TGM 1920 Stamps and Entires in Ultramarine

POFIS 140: 125 haler TGM, typographic, comb perforated 13¾ were reportedly released as 17.590 million stamps in September 1920. Despite almost a century since their release, however, the role of ultramarine colour in this issue has not been unambiguously determined.

First of all, a few quotations from the professional literature: “For the 125 haler stamps, we also know of several shades of grey-blue (mistakenly referred to as light blue) and dark blue. A smaller unknown number of sheets were issued in a significantly different colour, light or bright blue, which was referred to as ultramarine (or light ultramarine)” [1]. “... and, on a very small part of the release, also in a light blue colour which is traditionally referred to as ultramarine. This shade is extremely interesting to collectors” [2].

The literature [3] states that “the 125 haler in an ultramarine colour was never released but nevertheless it was placed on philatelic motivated entires (mostly with favour cancels)”; this note was not yet put in the 1999 catalog.

In collections and on the market the ultramarine 125 haler are basically mint and are popular with collectors and rated at up to sixteen times the price of the grey and dark blue shades; edge and corner stamps at an even higher price. With the combined types of these ultramarine stamps, demand already far exceeds catalog valuations. It is also worth mentioning a comment made in the literature “... in the case of more expensive stamps (eg the 125 haler ultramarine), manufacturing and perforation defects may reduce their price” [4].

The ultramarine shades can be divided into ultramarine and light ultramarine. The ultramarine shades are demonstrably not preparatory or test prints, as they have all the identification features of individual positions, including primary plate flaws, are on the correct paper, and with the original glue. The stamps do not show any signs of manufacturing errors, which did not become apparent until later printings. In a previous article on nail marks, I also gave logical facts that indicate that this colour was the first printed, and only then was it printed in grey and dark blue.

If we compare the colour range of this issue with other typographic issues released during this period such as the OR, Holubice and HaV, for many the colour range is much more diverse than for 125 haler TGM and the literature does not mention their rarer colour shades.

Some claims that ultramarine shades of blue are considered unreleased are therefore debatable in the confrontation of these facts. However, if we recognize these stamps as issued, then it is logical that their postal use should also be in order.

Postal use of an ultramarine stamp: “Similar to the unissued ultramarine 25 haler Hradčany, the 125 haler ultramarine stamp was also seldom used to pay postage” [1, p.183]. Occurrence of used ultramarine postage stamps and entires is really rare but occasionally occurs.

Fig. 1 – used ultramarine stamps with a significant shift of perforations outside the image of the stamp, the stamp is illegible, and the serration is dirty. Such perforation or manufacturing defects are practically non-existent on ultramarine stamps. The photo comes only from my photo archive and to verify it, it would be necessary to examine the actual stamp in more detail.



Fig. 1.

2 x 125 haler ultramarine used stamps dated 14.VII.1922 .



Fig. 2.

Used ultramarine stamp.

Rare items also appear at auctions, so I chose the following entires for a detailed analysis



Registered letter sent abroad, postage paid 250 haler in correct amount, POFIS 140 Type II marginal and 140 Type Ia (Stupka type II and ultramarine, type I), postmark M.41 Prague 13, Reg label Prague 13, no. 577, blue handwritten number probably 1769, sent from Prague 13, on 27.VI.1921 - in the fourth tariff period.

The addressee was not found and the letter was "sent" on June 29, 21, "Dolt unterwegs to (on the road) Den Solder in Austria. The addressee was Dr. Jac van de Spek, Groningen, The Netherlands. On the reverse side the name of the sender (Otokar Kindera, Prague VI - Vyšehrad) and delivery stamp Groningen 29.VII.1921. Additional 10K stamp. I briefly checked the names on the envelope using www.google.com. Dr. Jacobus van der Speck was a chemist born in 1888 and at the time at the University of Groningen. The Klinder family was a wealthy family living in Prague during this period. This item was sold by the Majer auction in 12/2018.



Domestic registered letter Express sent from Prague 2 to Reichenberg (Liberec), illegible date (?), Year 1920 mentioned in description of the item, franked with stamps of various issues, mixed franking - 240 haler. Correct for fourth tariff period for R-E by weight was 285 haler to 20g and over + 20 haler / 20 g. The franking is wrong. This entire with a Pof. 140a, 125 h TGM ultramarine Type II was sold at the 33rd Burda auction.

As with every 125 haler sheet, the position 80 plate 2 in ultramarine has the popular "number 2 with short bar" plate flaw. If we look at domestic auctions for the last ten years, a maximum of 10 pieces of these rare stamps have been sold. Each printing sheet contained 200 stamps, so its incidence is 1:200. So on this basis, we can assume that ultramarine stamps could have been printed in the order of several thousand pieces. The release of grey-blue was 17.590 million pieces. If I put a ratio with a rough estimate of 5,000 ultramarine, then the ratio of ultramarine to grey blue is 1:3500.

Even then, it was probably clear to the owners of these ultramarine stamps that these were not ordinary shades and that they themselves avoided their postal use. Ultramarine stamps really appeared rarely at the post office, it was probably not because there was no interest in "favour cancels". Couldn't it have been their rarity?

Miroslav Češelka, ceselka@netkosice.sk

[1] Karásek, Michele, Svoboda. *Monografie československých známek* Díl II, Praha 1971

[2] Klim, Štolfa, Filípek a kol. *Spec. Katalóg ČSR 1918-1939*, Brno 2016

(3) Beneš, *ČSR Pofis 1918 - 1939*, 2012

1926 DOPLATIT Overprint on the Agriculture and Science Issue

The *Monografie* Part 4 states that the overprint was typographic and done with five copper plates. Thus, one plate was used for each denomination. The stamps were surcharged with the denominations of 30, 40, 50, 60, and 100 haler. Overprints on some stamp positions show plate flaws, which subsequently help to determine the position of the underling stamp.

The 30/100 haler overprint:

The overprint has several flaws, which are present for the entire release as well as a large number of random flaws that only occur on a part of the release. Many of the paper chads that fell out of the perforation holes stuck to the platen. During the printing they manifested themselves in the form of round spots in various places on the overprint.

Persistent 30 haler flaws:

- On positions 43 to 47, the digits 30 have damaged lower edges. However, due to printing, their appearance changes, which makes it difficult to determine them accurately on individual marks.
- On ZP 61, the last T in DOPLATIT has the form of a hammer.
- ZP 94 has the central wavy line covering the original value stretched to the left.
- ZP 98 has a noticeable notch on the bottom to the number 3.



Position 43



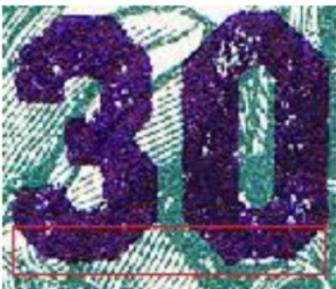
Position 44



Position 45



Position 46



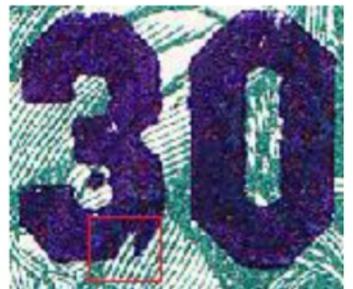
Position 47



Position 61



Position 94



Position 98

Transient flaws:



Position 10



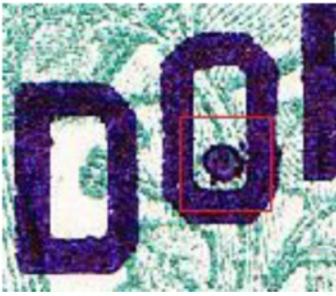
Position 14



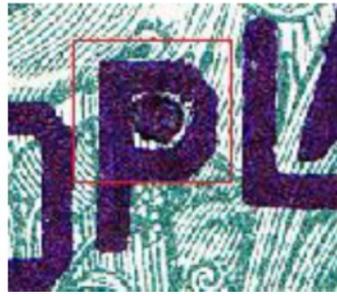
Position 84



Position 22



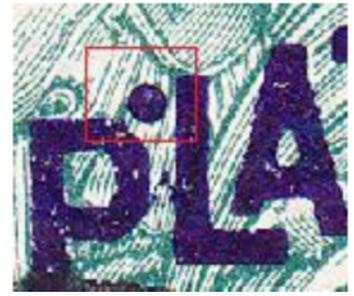
Position 56



Positions 15,19,24,30,39,40



Position 30



Position 22



Position 9



Position 15



Position 35



Position 29



Position 85



Position 79



Position 6



Position 83



Position 7



Position 92



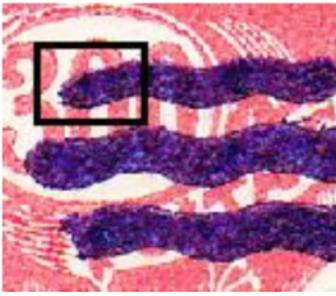
Position 83



Position ?

The 40/200 and 40/300:

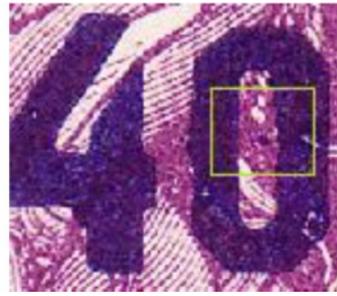
For this overprint plate, I found only two permanent flaws occurring on the stamps of both denominations. This is the case with position 51, which has a truncated upper wavy line covering the original digits, and position 100 with a damaged number 40 in the lower part. For the 200 haler stamps there is a minor overprint flaw on positions 11 and 49, which appeared on all stamps examined, but did not appear on the 300 haler stamps.



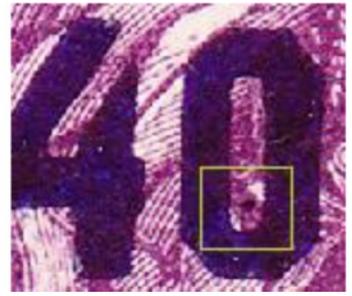
Position 51



Position 100



Position 11



Position 49

The following flaws appeared on part of the release, although the flaws on positions 74 and 77 are on both denominations of stamps.



Position 74



Position 74



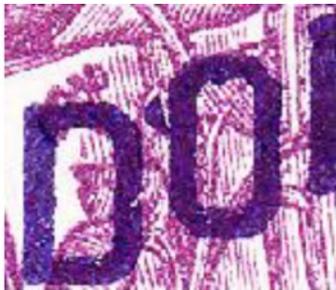
Position 77



Position 77



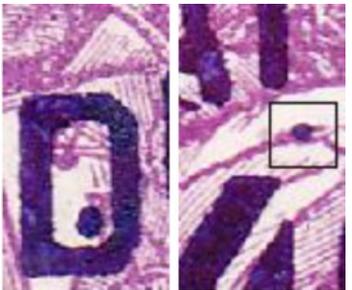
Position 14



Position 25



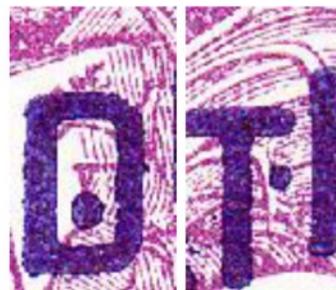
Position 32



Position 34



Position 38



Position 43



Position 50



Position 54



Position 59



Position 61



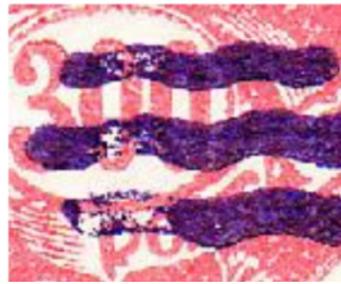
Position 69



Position 100



Position ?



Position 41



Position ?

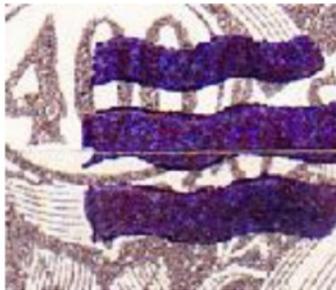


Position ? (From column 10)

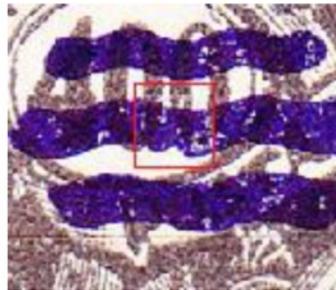
On the 200 haler stamps there are many differently shaped spots between letters and numbers.

60/400 overprint:

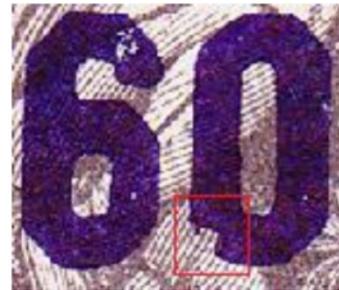
For this denomination most flaws appear only for part of the release. Due to a lack of block material, I usually can't determine the position. I consider only the following to be permanent overprinting flaws:



Position ?



Position ?



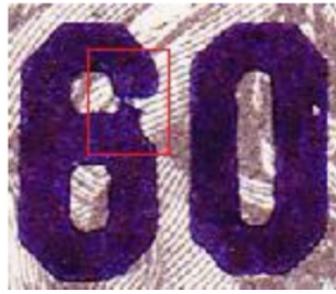
Position ?

These others are probably only transient. When I do not know the position, I have not made a note.

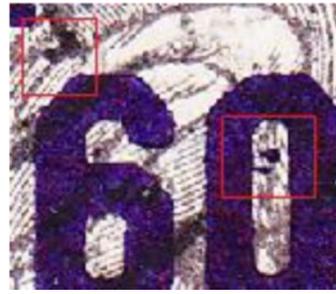




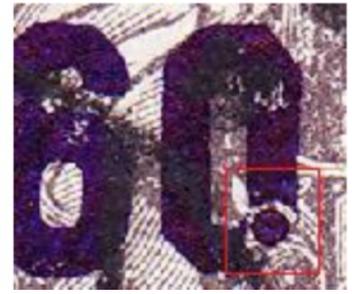
(Bottom row)



Position 50



(Bottom row)



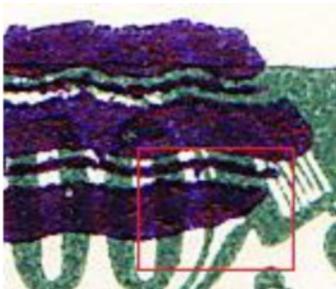
For the 60 haler overprint, overprinting the 500 or 600 haler stamps was probably also considered. A bottom bar was added to the overprint plate to cover the tally numbers on those denomination. Some of the 400 haler release received an overprint with that bottom bar, part did not.



Panes with and without the bar.

50/500 overprint:

For this overprint, I found a constant flaw only on position 91 – the lower wavy line cut off at the bottom right, covering the original value. Other reported flaws are transient. There are also relatively few significant flaws.



Position 91



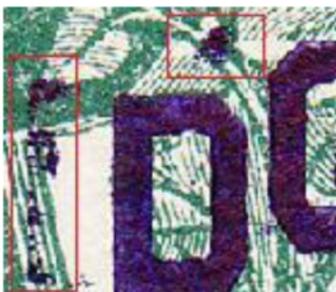
Position 51



Position ?



Position 26



Position ?



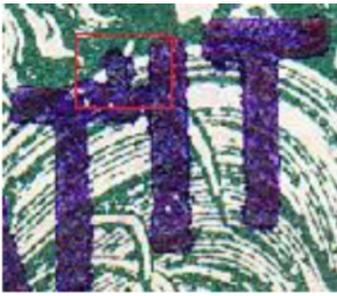
Position 7



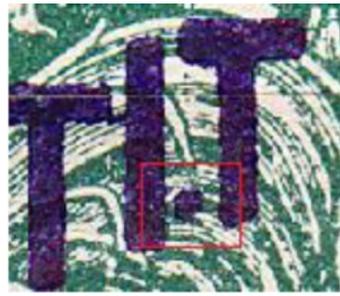
Position 92



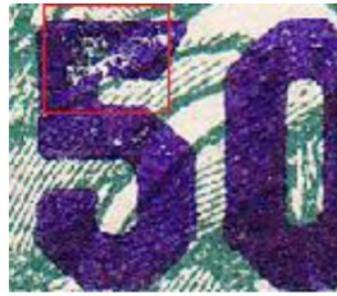
Position 4



Position 30



Position ?



Position 37

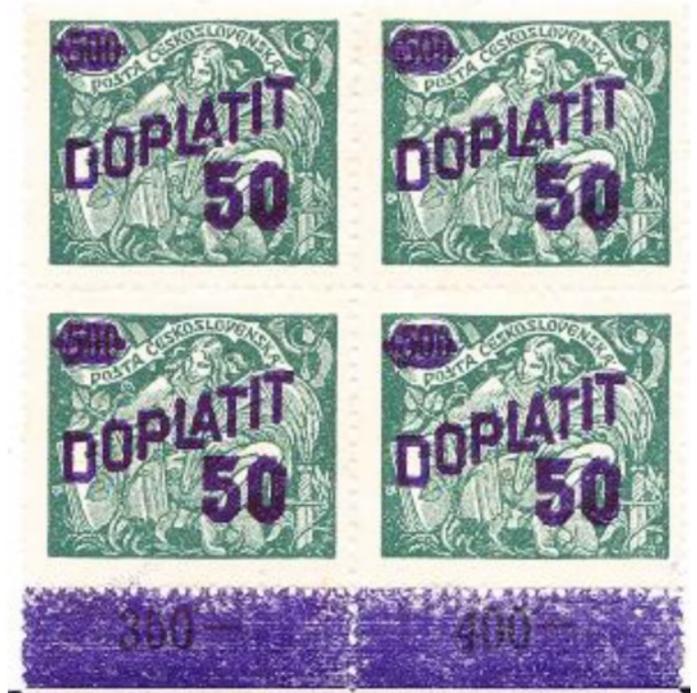


Position 92

Two types of bottom bars were used to obscure tally numbers. One consists of three horizontal lines, the other is solid.



Three lines



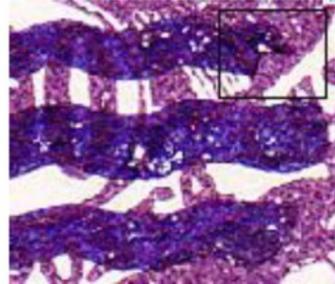
Solid

10/600 overprint:

For this value I found two constant flaws. Position 31 has a notch on the right in the middle wave covering the original digits. Position 71 has a notch on the right in the upper wave.

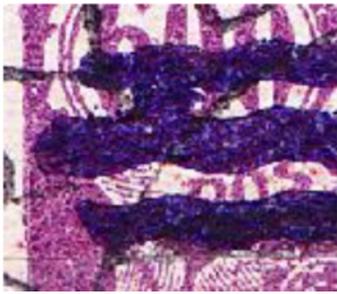


Position 31



Position 71

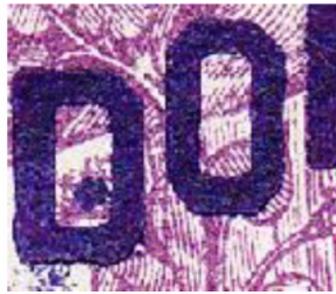
Transient flaws:



Position 11



Position ?



Position 97



Position 3



Position 68



Position 4



Position 6



Position 34



Position 35



Position 25



Position 89



Position ?

No bottom bar covering the tally numbers was added here. The tally numbers therefore remained in their original state and indicated the sum for the original value of 600 haler. For all denomination, it is true that the overprinted panes were always pierced in the lower right corner of the stamps in position 30 and 93.



Unobscured tally numbers

Hole by position 30

Hole by position 93

Emil Kolesar

Newspaper Falcon in Flight 30 Haler Type II stamps – Identifying Plates

The beauty of collecting stamps produced by the printing technology generally known as "typography" is sufficiently common throughout the existence Czechoslovak, and therefore Czech, philately. We see this in the current course of individual auctions organized by department stores, but also in the popularity of individual stamps sold through Internet portals such as Aukro, ebay and many others. Examples are Hradčany, Osvobozená republika, Holubice and many others.

With respect to the release of individual printed stamps, the number of plates used, used and destroyed, when valid for postal use, and extraordinary interesting facts from the point of view of postal history, the Sokol newspaper issue is undoubtedly central here. These stamps were gradually overprinted VZOREC, SO 1920, surcharged 5/2" and 5/66, OT (stamps for business forms), and "Wir sind frei!" (So-called Rumburk edition).

Another special feature of this issue is its period of validity – the 2 and 10 haler were issued together with Hradčany 5 and 10 haler as the first Czechoslovak stamps on 18 December 1918 and were valid despite all changes in tariffs, even after the end of their printing sometimes in 1936/37. Their validity was finally terminated during the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia on 15 December 1939.

A number of collectors researched this issue and their findings were summarized by the Žampach brothers in the now historical and in many respects obsolete publication *Monografie* Part 4 (hereinafter referred to as the "*Monografie*"). Mr. Emil Kolesar summarized the current findings after the immense efforts of several collectors and researchers in his study, where he describes not only some production methods, but especially the identification features of partial positions of individual plates. Unfortunately, this publication is not freely available and only a few collectors have access to that information. Some parts of his study are freely mentioned in the text below.

The stamp with a nominal value of 30 haler was issued in 1919; 13 plates were used over time for its printing. The *Monografie* states that 14 plates were used, but mistakenly considers the plate with a gap decimal line in the counter 3.- - to be the second plate. It was the first plate, which was marked this way at a later time during cleaning and subsequent printing.

A single negative was used to produce all of the plates. Therefore, all plates have common defects, whether they come from the auxiliary prints or the negative. Plates 1-3 were etched and the others were electroplated. Among collectors the most popular for this denomination are the type II stamps II found in the 1st and 2nd positions. Another design was mistakenly inserted into the paste-up's first two positions, the one used for 20 haler stamps. During the production of the plate 1-29, the entire 1st row of stamps in the upper part was damaged and the 1st position was probably damaged to such an extent that it had to be replaced. As a replacement, position 90 from the original second plate (2 in the right stress bar). However, this led to position 1 being replaced with a type 1 stamp, which permitted the existence of combined types I + II (in that order). This, of course, increased the popularity of these stamps.

The individual plates can be distinguished according to the plate numbers in their lower corners, plate 1 has no stress bars specific, plates 2 and 3 have the numbers 2 and 3 engraved in the right stress bar by position 100.

The facts mentioned in the previous paragraph are certainly nice and, in the case of the examining panes, sufficient to identify their source plates, but how does one determine the plate when presented with individual corner blocks of four with type II stamps? Of course individual plates can be determined according to characteristic defects on individual stamp fields. However, this only applies to plates coming from the 1st matrix (plates 1 to 7). Plates made from the 2nd matrix (years 35 and 36) suffer from the absence of partial identification features and are almost indistinguishable according to the individual stamp positions. It was therefore necessary to help resolve this problem in another way, and thanks to the protective frames on the edge of the panes, it is available. Let's go through them together.



Figs. 1 and 2
Plate 1 – without stress bars.



Fig. 3.

There are occasional accidental flaws such as offsets, or imprints on glue, etc.

Note: Stamps from this plate were also overprinted VZOREC – I saw the stamp from the position 2 with this overprint. This is an extremely rare occurrence of a type II stamp which should also be properly valued.



Figs 4 and 5.

Plates 2 and 3. The wide uninterrupted stress bars are clearly distinguishable from one another. On plate 2 the frame is slightly narrower; on plate 3 in the stress bar there is a clearly visible vertical scratch next to position 1 that is nearly the same length as the stamp.

Note: The *Monografie* listing of plate flaws incorrectly incorrectly says those from the plate with a 3 in the stress bar are from plate 2 .



Figs. 6 and 7.

Plates 1-29 and 2-29.

Their narrow stress bars have gaps between each row and a small notch in the right side about 2 mm from the top; the upper ends differ.



Figs. 8 and 9.

Detail of the zeros position 1's right value tablets for 1-29 and 2-29

Note: With the exception of plate 1-29, the zero in position 1's right value tablet has a gap in its top. The lack of a gap absolutely identifies plate 1-29. Plate 1-29 was, among several others, overprinted in 1938 with *Wir sind frei!* as part of the release of the so-called Rumburk overprints. In addition to the stamp from position 100 with its plate identifier, a specimen from position 1 is also known where the overprint is on a Type I stamp – an extraordinary philatelic affair.



Figs. 10 and 11.

Plates 1-32 and 2-32 have narrower and wider stress bars with a notch about 2 mm from the top on the right side.

Plate 1-32 can be easily distinguished from plate 2-29:

The stress bar opposite position 1 is the same width along its entire length and its internal lines parallel.



Figs. 12 and 13.

Plates 1-35 and 2-35 have a stress bar on their upper side, the only such case for the 30 halers of the printing plates. The internal lines on the left side of position 1 is identical; it is not possible to unambiguously determine and distinguish a plate.

The only clear and characteristic distinguishing feature is the white mark above position 1 in the plate marked as 1-35HR;



Figs. 14 and 15.

Detail showing the white line above the Š in POŠTA for plate 1-35

And the lack of that line for plate 2-35.

Note: To date, an entire pane or its reconstruction are not available, according to which it would be possible to clearly determine which variant is from 1-35HR and which is the second.



Fig. 16.

Plate 1-35 without a stress bar on its upper side. Unfortunately, the author of this article does not have an image of the upper left corner with position 1 and 2 from plate 2-35 and can not determine whether the frames can be clearly distinguished from each other or whether, similarly to variants with an upper protective frame, the protective frames were manufactured together with the plate.



Figs. 17 and 18

Plates 1-36 and 2-36 have narrow and slightly wider protective frame without notches on their inner side. Stamps may usually be distinguished from previous releases by their different ink, which appears brighter.

What to say in conclusion? This article certainly does not bring anything new to top specialists and will probably not be entirely interesting to traditional collectors who are only interested in the filling in blanks in their collections. However, it could be a guide to specialists who do not have access to information shared by a small, very specialized group of collectors who have spent decades studying this issue and to whom we can thank for the knowledge I used in this presentation. The author expressly thanks Mr. Emil Kolesar for providing a study with the identification of individual stamp positions and general data about the printing of this issue and for his the picture of plate 2-35 with the upper frame. Other material is from the author's archive.

Michal Hauzr

30 Haler Postage Due Manual (DL6)

Our colleague Moravec has reconstructed panes of the last, as yet unprocessed denomination of postage due stamps from the 1919 issue. The stamp was printed with two plates. The manual contains only pictures, according to which it is possible to find plate defects and determine a stamp's position.

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