



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



**No. 94**

**2021**



## Introduction

Dear friends,

In the current difficult times, we wish you all good health and, in your free time, the joy of philately. We are already looking forward to the time when the situation will calm down and we will be able to meet for our autumn gathering.

The Knihtisk Society

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Please check that you have paid for 2021, which remain the same, ie.

- for collectors up to 70 years 100 CZK,
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- in exceptional cases, it is possible to put money in an envelope and send it (the risk of losing the letter is up to the sender).

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

## Closed Albums

Just after last Christmas (December 28), another of the founding members of our Society, a colleague and a friend, died at the age of 84.

## Jaroslav Matys

His name appeared in the first official list of members of our Society published in the 4th issue of our Newsletter in 1987. Jarda never had ambitions to lead but he was a very active specialized collector and publicist.

His interest was the Liberated Republic's 60 haler issue, of which he was the guarantor and from his pen came more than a dozen studies focused on flaws in the stamps' clichés and vignettes as well as his subsequent reconstruction of individual printing plates. My colleague Chvalovský and I used them to create the *Specialized Manual* published in 2000.

In addition to stamps, I often talked with Jarda about his beloved home, Šumperk, and its surroundings, where he undertook cross-country skiing when snow conditions were favourable. I was also relatively close to that area; I spent summer and winter holidays in my youth in Ruda nad Moravou, just over the hill from Šumperk, or in the village of Hrabenov where my grandfather came from (FYI – grandmother was from Hostice).

We lost an excellent friend in Jarda, who contributed to the development of our Society, and many collectors will continue to use the results of his research concentrated in study manuals (recently a prominent American collector, Mark Wilson, also asked for their scans).



In honour of his memory.

Jiří Kašpar

Jarda Matys was a long-term member of KF 07-04 in Šumperk. A friend and a hearty person with different hobbies: gardener, athlete – especially winter cross-country skiing, but he was also an avid philatelist. He specialized in the OR 60 haler and published manuals. Studies of this denomination have his unmistakable touch. His findings from the study of OR 60 haler were often the subject of long fruitful discussions.

We will miss you!

In honour of his memory.

## Ladislav Olšina

My father and lifelong philatelic teacher Ladislav Olšina died in mid-March at the age of 82. Readers know him from a number of articles he wrote mainly on the topic of the first Czechoslovak issues. He discovered some hitherto neglected interesting facts on it, the most famous being probably the different form of the right arch on the Hradčany 25 haler (fifth design). However, he also studied other issues and achieved a number of research successes.

He was born at the end of the Second Republic, in January 1939, in Hradec Králové, to a family of professional soldiers. My father graduated from an industrial high school in Prague in the second half of the 1950s, and his profession became building design and construction. In addition to philately, he also liked music, played the violin

and guitar. Half a century ago, he married my mother Květa Olšinová, who was a teacher. They had two children, my sister Jana and I.

When I was a child, he drew me toward collecting stamps and gradually introduced me to the secrets of this beautiful field. I liked it when we sat down with albums and catalogues, because thanks to him we always had something to study and a subject for research. Dad was not only a collector and researcher, but also a successful exhibitor. For perhaps his entire adult life he was a member of SČF, just like me. We went to the bourses together, where I soaked up the atmosphere, and we were always looking for new items to add to our collections, which we then enjoyed talking about. I will never forget these long conversations, his relentless constructive critiques, which was always based on his deep professional knowledge, and guided me as a beginner philatelist, and later as an advanced collector. At Association's events my father introduced me to his colleagues and friends, researchers and connoisseurs. From all of them I remember most his great friend Karel Paděra, with whom he spent many research evenings; I was also able to be present at many. He also knew František Beneš from Pofis well and later from Profil, with whom he worked as a researcher and publicist for years. By the way, in Profil, I bought my first stamps of the Hradčany issue from Mrs. Císařová more than three decades ago, which I am still devoted to in the spirit of family tradition.



It is clear to me that it is difficult to cover all the areas that my father was deeply interested in – these were early issues of Czechoslovak typographic stamps but especially the Hradčany, PČ 1919, TGM 1920, the field post of the Czechoslovak troops in Russia (perhaps because his grandfather was a legionnaire), airmails, SO 1920, and besides, generally on the colonies. He not only collected but also published in these areas. Of his publications, perhaps the most famous is a manual on arch types Hradčany published by *Filatellie*, but in addition to it he published a number of other works, for some of which he won high awards at exhibitions. I even collaborated with some of them, his last work was called *The Third Air Mail Issue*.

Finally, let me thank you briefly. Dear Dad, thank you for every moment you have given me, for the impartial knowledge you have shared with me, for the trust, sincerity, love, and friendship that have accompanied us all along. You will all be missed by all of us who knew and loved you – and I will continue our joint work.

Ladislav Olsina Jr.

PS: Let me also remember my mother, who patiently and with understanding endured our lifelong philatelic passion, even though we necessarily devoted ourselves to it at the expense of time and money that would otherwise belong to the family. She died just a week before Dad did ... both taken by Covid-19.

### Winter Meeting

If all goes well, we are planning an autumn meeting in Prague.

### New Manuals

We would like to draw your attention to new manuals, which are somewhat different from those published so far. Previously published manuals were usually in printed form. Currently, however, the number of collectors who prefer the electronic form is increasing. Many of you subscribe to the *Bulletin* electronically. It has a number of advantages:

- 1) The *Bulletin* can be printed in colour.
- 2) images can be used to create album sheets.
- 3) a side advantage in saving Society fund because email is sent for free, while postage is constantly rising in cost.

It is the electronic method of distribution that has allowed our Society to avoid an increase its annual subscription, despite rising costs and inflation.

Now to the new (old-new) manuals.

Around 2005 Mr. Jindřich Látal published manuals about the 1923 Agriculture and Science issue. Unfortunately, the *Bulletin* did not provide any information about them. Because the Society received these manuals and could distribute them at the same time, it was decided to scan them and permit readers to download them.

The manuals are:

- Agriculture and science 1923 – 100 Haler Type I,
- Agriculture and Science 1923 – 200 Haler (January 2004),
- Agriculture and Science 1923 – 300 Haler (from January 2006).

Our colleague Jaroslav Moravec dealt with the Dove issue and published four manuals, which contain pictures of plate defects occurring on these TDs. However, because of the small number of subscribers, no written descriptions are available. The manuals are:

- Dove 5 Haler Purple, Plate 1,
- Dove 10 Haler Olive, Plate 9,
- Doves 20 Haler Type II, Plate 3,
- Doves 20 Haler Type II, Plate 12.

In addition E. Kolesar has studied the 30 haler postage due (DL6) and proved there were four plates. There is a separate article in the *Bulletin* about this discovery. And again, the manual can be freely downloaded.

You can download all the above manuals from [www.filatelic-liberec.cz](http://www.filatelic-liberec.cz)

If you are interested in receiving a digital version of the *Bulletin*, write to J. Chudoba.

### **Misaligned Hradčany, TGM, and Agriculture and Science Dies**

The printing plates for most of the Hradčany issue were produced from paste-ups, from which a negative was produced and plates taken from it. When there was an uneven or rotated auxiliary print, its shift was transferred to all plates, thus forming a negative defect.

The printing house wanted to increase the quality of the stamps, which it did in the case of the Hradčany issue by changing the design. As the last stamp in the Hradčany issue, the 30 haler was released in purple and produced using a method that differed from the previous stamps.

The 30 haler (fifth design) printing plate was assembled from individual dies. This provided some advantage for the printer because it was possible to replace a die (and this was actually the case) during printing, if it were worn or there was a significant plate defect. More information on die exchanges can be found in the 30 haler manual written by Z. Ryvola.

The disadvantage, however, was that the dies were not precisely aligned on the press and protruded, which caused subsequent problems when perforating the sheets. For the 30 haler dies this can be seen quite clearly. They were not placed at the same height on the plate composed of the dies. This meant that some stamps on the sheet took on more colour than adjacent stamps die. Philatelists at the time referred to these colour differences as a "chessboard".

This was especially evident with dark red-violet, so white was gradually added to the ink during printing. The colour changes ceased to be significant; all stamps were of a light colour.

When the colour differences 30 haler (fifth design) stamp are discussed, few know that the stamp was originally intended to be issued in an olive colour – that of the 30 haler first design. Olive coloured stamps are found relatively often in trial prints on yellowish paper. These stamps form the first printing of this stamp. Purely theoretically – it is possible to expect comparable blocks of olive stamps. However, they have not yet been discovered and described.



Fig. 1: Misaligned trial block of six.

During the Hradčany 30 haler V stamp preparation, the printer found that the individual dies that made up the plates caused shifts and there were problems with poor anchoring. On the other hand, the printer did not want to abandon this method of production.

He therefore constructed the plates for the TGM from larger dies. The 500 and 1000 haler were released on 7 March 1920 to mark TGM's 70th birthday. The 1000 haler was composed of strips of ten dies. As significant plate flaws appeared, especially in the ninth row, the lower four rows were replaced by newly produced strips of ten. At the same time, the 1st and 2nd rows of ten dies were switched. More information about the plate flaws can be found in the Z Ryvola's manuals.

No strip alterations were found for 500 haler.

The 125 haler stamp, which was not released until September 1920, was assembled from 25 dies. There are several negative flaws on them, which were transferred to every set of 25 dies. Printing plates were assembled from these quarter sheets. This means that each negative flaw occurs four times on each pane (for example, positions 1, 6, 51 and 56). The position of the 25 dies was not altered during printing.

For the Dove and Liberated Republic issues no switching of dies is known. The plates were produced only from paste-ups contained 100 clichés. The plates for the booklet release were made other plates where the appropriate blocks were cut out and used for the booklet plates.

For the 1920 Agriculture and Science issue, the plates were composed of ten-die strips for 100, 200 and 400 haler. It can be assumed that this was also the case with the 300 haler stamp. For the 100 and 200 haler, the swap[ping of ten-die strips has been proven and described in previous bulletins. For some strips of the 400 haler, the correction of the digits is reflected in wider zeros.



Fig. 2.  
Misaligned 100 haler Agriculture and Science (1920) stamps.

I recently bought a vertical strip of the 100 haler with a beautifully visible vertical row, which was caused by the inaccurate attachment of the ten-die strips to the base.

The last issue where plates were assembled from dies is the 1923 Agriculture and Science. This issue came out very quickly. The reason was a growth of counterfeits of the 100 haler Liberated Republic in eastern Slovakia at the end of 1922. The postal administration was intimidated by these counterfeits and at the beginning of January 1923 cancelled the validity of all stamps worth 100 haler and higher. It urgently needed to issue a new stamp to replace the now invalid stamps. Therefore, the values of 100 and 300 haler were immediately issued, somewhat later came the 200 haler. They display not only the types listed in catalogues (1st to 3rd), but also characteristic differences in the initial dies (individual dies in the five- and ten-die strips). These defects form subtypes, which are designated, for example, IIa, IIb ... For more details, see the manuals by J. Láta.

For this issue, it was shown that the strips in the plates were changed, even cut and re-inserted into the plates. Therefore, plate flaws cannot be described by position, but only by flaw number.

J Ch

### Hradčany 15 Haler, Plate 6, Position 60

In position 60 on plate 6 6th TD there is a bump on the right frame after the 8th spiral. This bump changed shape during printing and at the same time a large notch appeared. Control flaws are marks between the 2nd and 3rd towers and the rays in general. This note is intended to start a discussion about the possible origin of this anomaly. You may express your opinions via the *Bulletin* pages or directly to the author of the article.



Jiří Krňák, [jiri.krnak@centrum.cz](mailto:jiri.krnak@centrum.cz)



Bump on the right frame after the 8th spiral (comb perforated  $11\frac{3}{4}$ ).



Notch in the right frame after the 8th spiral (comb perforated  $11\frac{3}{4}$ ).

**Notice:**

I am looking for partners to exchange of knowledge or material concerning postcards and other forms of the Hradčany "Prague print" 10 haler I; 10 haler V and postcards with the central coat of arms. Otherwise, I just need to get scans of the above material. Also, will the colleague from our Society with whom I discussed the "Viennese press" in Hradčany postcards please contact me?

Jiří Krňák, Komenského 492, 378 10 České Velenice, phone 723719950,  
email: jiri.krnak@centrum.cz

**Retouch of Position 42 of the 500 Haler TGM 1920**

The most famous retouch of the TGM 1920 issue is the RE 42/1 retouch of 500 haler ( POFIS 141) from position 42. The background of the medallion was retouched making this part of the background appear lighter. Although this retouch has been sufficiently described in the past, I will discuss it in this article from a slightly different perspective. I will not deal with the characteristic features of this position as they are already documented in the literature [1]. The retouch was performed before printing started and it still occurs in the same position, so in this case it is clearly a primary retouch.

In *Monografie* [3], page 158, the retouch in position 42 mark is described in terms that contradict each other. The first paragraph describes that in the electroplated production the lines in the background merged with the disturbed colour spot in the lower right part of the medallion. This defect was carefully corrected before printing. The lines were engraved from the portrait into the frame of the medallion and the contours of the oval were broken in several places. However, the fourth paragraph also states that the original stamp flaw is unknown. Zdeněk Ryvola comments on this in the literature [2]: "However, if this defect was not known, no one could see it and also not even describe its form and the method of its correction." I am inclined to this logical position. How can we describe what defect the repairman was correcting if no one but him saw it and would never see it again?

If we look at this correction of the background lines under the microscope (Fig. 1), we will immediately think that this retouch was done quite insensitively. The right contour of the medallion is repeatedly interrupted by the retouch in six places, and even on the bottom line the engraver not only damaged the inner oval but hit the outer oval of the medallion. Six horizontal gaps were engraved from the collar and chin of the president towards the frame of the medallion which has the effect of lightening the drawing in this part of the stamp. If the said "disturbing stain" were in part of the oval, the traces of the repair would probably be much larger. However, why did the engraver make the correction so drastically that it significantly damaged it as well the inner oval medallion?



Fig. 1.  
Retouched horizontal lines and the damaged medallion outline.

This retouch appears on all material documenting this issue. Subsequently, I will present several examples of trial prints (Fig.2.), postal use (Fig.3.), as well as the use of imperforate stamps overprinted SO 1920 (Fig.4.).



Fig. 2 (left): Trial print with retouch on position 42 on pink coloured paper  
Fig. 3 (right): Parcel clipping with cost, POFIS 141 RE 42/1, IV tariff period, 11.XI.1920 Prague 27.

On this stamp (position 42), in addition to the retouched correction of the background lines, there is also a significant oblique line (Fig.5.) In the lower right corner. "The white line in the lower right corner of the stamp is a flaw unrelated to the retouch. Next to this line, another white line is much weaker, which intermittently advances through the corn, leaves, apples, and lilies into the right frame ..." [2] comments by Zdeněk Ryvola.



Fig.4.

Rare POFIS 141N and SO 24 with overprint SO 1920.



Fig. 5.

Distinctive oblique white line in the lower right part of the stamp

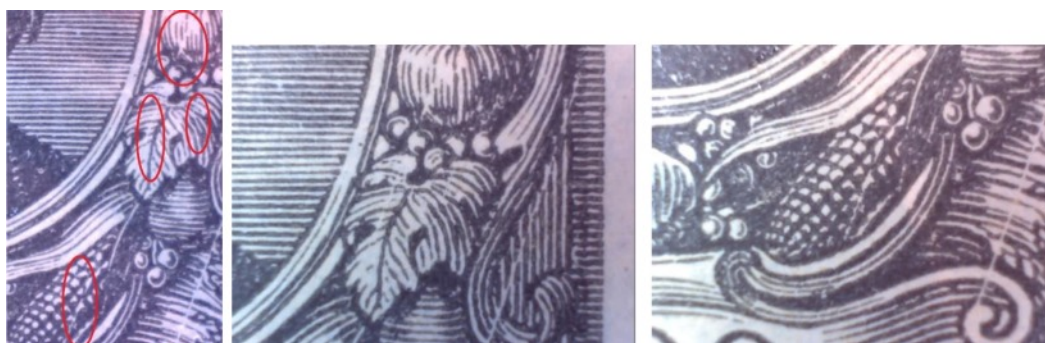


Fig. 6.

Broken parallel lines.

It is not even a single line as a more careful examination of by microscope photograph reveals two dashed lines [4]. These two lines (scratches) are drawn almost parallel to the oblique distinctive white line (Fig. 6). The lines are broken and are more pronounced in the leaf and apple; only the inner line is visible on the corn. As with the correction of the background lines in the medallion, these lines do not make much sense to us. If they were caused by the engraver's inattention after his first background correction, as is usually said, we could admit that the engraver, with his carelessness, cut into the image of the stamp once. In our case, however, the formation of three parallel lines by chance is very highly unlikely. Hypothetically, they could also have arisen by scratching the block when wiping off excess material from the retouching the engraving of the horizontal lines in the medallion's background. However, I would consider quite careless and unlikely.

The TGM 1920 issue has been dealt with by a number of philatelic experts since its release. After many years of investigation, it was found that only this single primary retouch occurred in the 500 and 1000 haler stamps. *Monografie* [3] shows a second retouch on page 158, Fig. 258a by DR JOSEFODOL, a correction of the "colour spot in the collar on a hitherto unknown field", but this retouch was later confirmed as a secondary retouch.

The primary retouch of RE 42/1 is still very popular with collectors. Its price is currently at least forty times the price of an ordinary POFIS 141 stamp, and its occurrence on entires is extremely sought after and highly valued. Specimens with retouching of 141N, SO 24, and SO 24N have prices reaching thousands of euros.

The retouching I described in this article raises legitimate questions even a hundred years after its inception. If there really was a production error in this position and plate, then the extent of this correction by the engraver was disproportionately large. Parallel lines (scratches) on the right side at the bottom of the stamp did not occur by chance and do not occur in any other positions. Its occurrence in position 42 may not be random either; the number 42 could have some symbolic meaning for its creator. I would like other collectors who deal with the TGM 1920 to share their knowledge in connection with this retouching ...

Miroslav Češelka, ceselka@netkosice.sk

[1] Ryvola Z., *Rekonstrukce přepážkového archu TGM 1920*, Havlíčkův Brod, 1998

[2] Ryvola Z., "T.G.Masaryk – I. Retuš", *Zpravodaj knihtisku* č.52 / 2000

[3] Karásek, Michele, Svoboda, *Mono díl II*, Praha 1971

[4] Svoboda Bohuslav, "Zajímavé vady Pof.141-142", *Filatelie* č.13, 1976



## Sheets of the 500 and 600 Haler Agriculture and Science Issue With the Identification of Specific Plate Positions

In this article, I will bring you another of the treasures of the Postal Museum in Prague, thanks to Mr. Jiří Střech and Mr. Martin Řih, who made it available to me and allowed me to document it. It is a printing sheet from 1920 of the 500 and 600 haler denominations. Its existence is briefly mentioned in the literature [2]: "The preserved registration of both values in the Postal Museum also documents their compilation in printed form". To my surprise, I received information from the Postal Museum in Prague that they have two such printing sheets (Fig. 1).

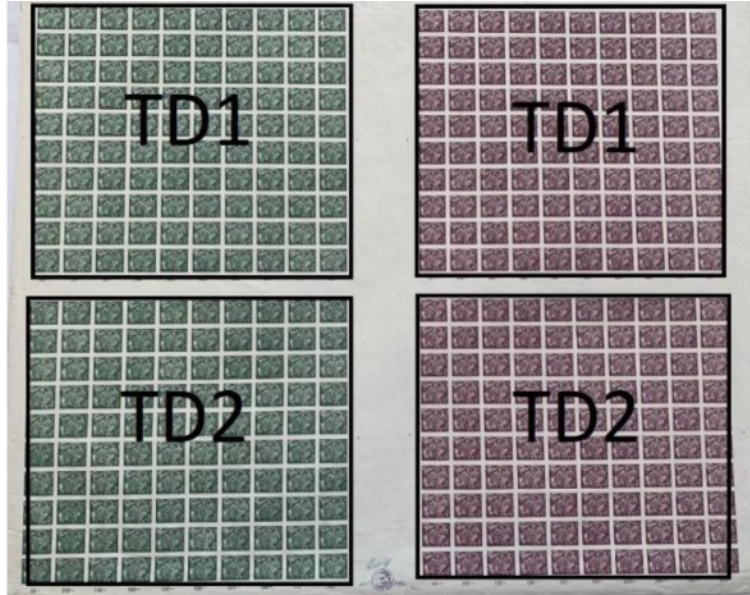


Fig.1.

Printing sheets of the 500/600 Agriculture and Science 1920 issue.  
Prague Postal Museum.

The printing itself was performed using the typographic technique from etched plates, which is described in the literature [1 and 2].

The plates appearing on the left 500 haler sheet are Plate 1 at the top and Plate 2 at the bottom; on the right the 600 haler Plate 1 is at the top right and Plate 2 at the bottom. The sheets are imperforate and the colour of both denominations is in dark shades of green and purple. Below the tenth row of each plate are the tally numbers. In the lower left corner of the first sheet is 1921-22 in manuscript and on the second sheet the number 80. Guide marks are located on the vertical edges between positions 41 and 51, as well as between positions 50 and 60 on both denominations. An interesting finding is that above position 2 on plate 2 of the 500 haler on both sheets there is a conspicuous imprint of a nail or screw (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2.

Imprint of a screw.

As an aid for collectors, after analysing these two sheets, I arranged all the plate flaws of the 500 haler described and known in the literature [2,3,4] and arranged them in the following table (Fig. 3). Explanations of colours and errors are given at the bottom of the figure.

The table shows that plate flaws are located in the same positions on both plates. I identified other known flaws found only on plate 1 (33) and on plate 2 (20). These flaws are marked with different colours. After a detailed examination, I could not find 14 flaws mentioned in the literature. Four positions do not yet have flaws described

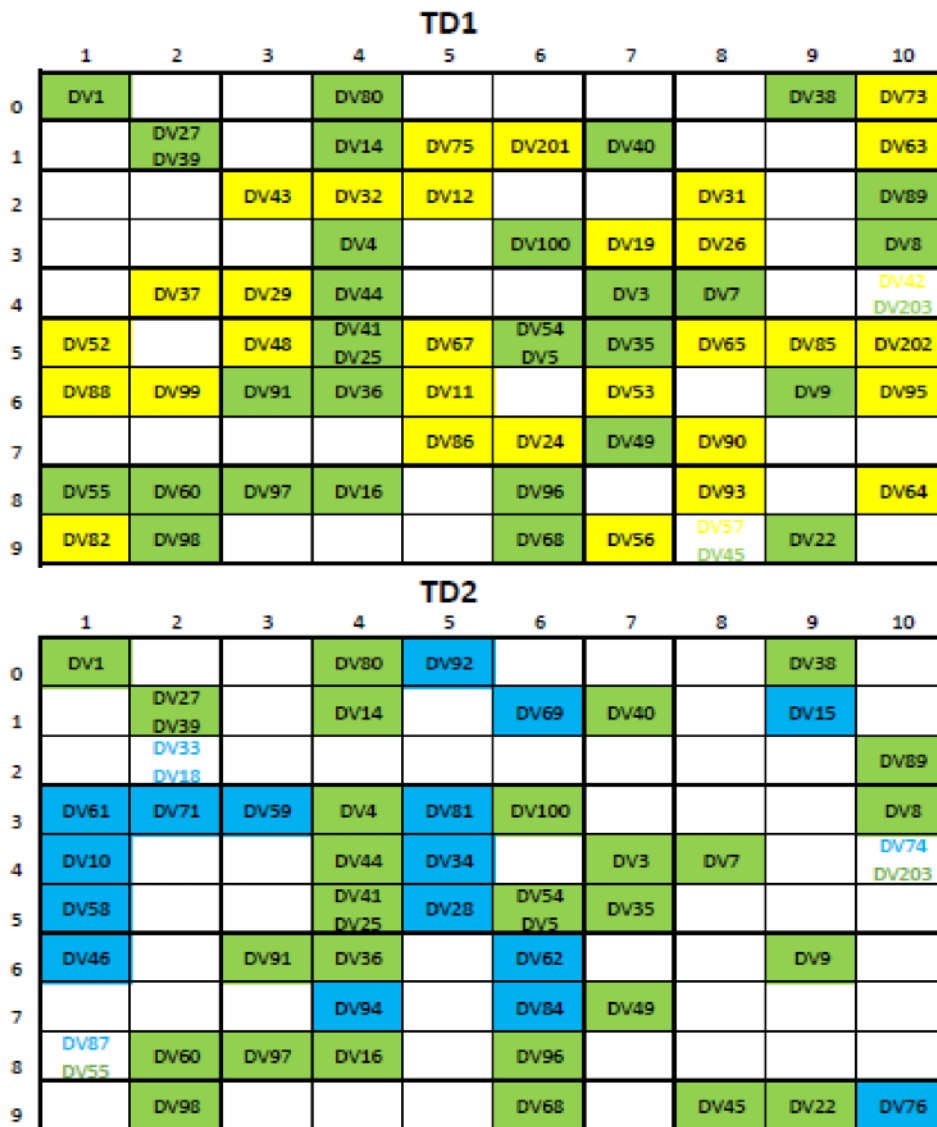
in the literature. There are two flaws described so far at the same time on five positions. On both sheets, there are three significant production errors in the same positions. I marked them with the numbers DV 201-3 and it will be necessary to assess them after obtaining further material as to whether they are just random production or primary plate flaws.

The finding that 33 flaws are located on the same positions on plates 1 and 2 confirms that both 500 haler plates were made by etching from one photographic negative, the so-called auxiliary set of black prints, with additional gluing of tally numbers under the last row of stamps.

I hope that this clear layout of flaws will help collectors of this issue to identify the relevant positions and their plates faster and better. If you have any comments, findings or other knowledge about this issue, I would be very happy if you send them to me.

Miroslav Češelka, ceselka@netkosice.sk

### 500 Haler Agriculture and Science 1920 Flaws



- Only on Plate 1
- Only on Plate 2
- Unidentified (14): DV 2, 13, 17, 20, 21, 23, 30, 47, 51, 66, 70, 72, 77, 101.
- Not defined (4): DV 68, 78, 79, 83.      New? (3): 201, 202, 203.

Fig. 3.  
Location of 500 haler flaws on plates 1 and 2

Literature:

- [1] Karásek J., Michele A., Svoboda B. - *Monografie československých známek Díl II.*, Praha, 1971
- [2] Žampach F., Karásek J., Pittermann P. - *HaV 1920*, Brno, 1988
- [3] Látal J., "HaV", *Zpravodaj SSKV ČS známek*, 38/1995
- [4] Kolesár E., "HaV vydání roku 1920", *Zpravodaj SSČSK známek*, č.90/2019.

### Retouched Postage Due 500 Haler Green (DL12)?

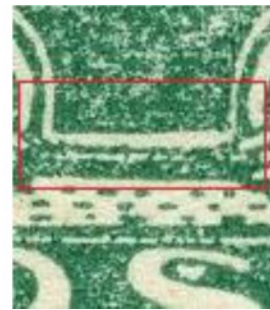
In *Monografie* Part 4, no retouches are mentioned for this denomination. Mr. Zdeněk Ryvola in his work: *Rekonstrukce přepážkového archu*, describes a defect in position 16, which has the appearance of a retouch. Personally, I think retouching is very likely. However, nowhere are the repairs of the spiral connector on positions 46, 66, 70, 71, 85, 86 and 95 mentioned.



Position 16



Normal Connector



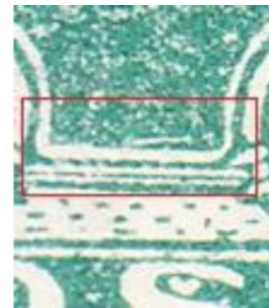
Position 46



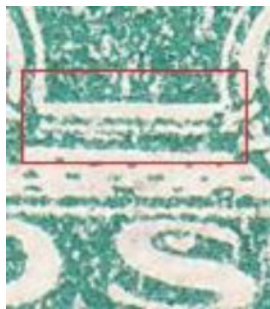
Position 66



Position 70



Position 71



Position 85



Position 86



Position 95



Positions 95-96 Repaired normal connector.

Emil Kolesar

## The Four Plates of the 30 Haler Olive-Brown Postage Due Issue

Four printing plates were used to print this denomination. Two plates might have been enough to print less than 28 million stamps, but a relatively large number of stamps from the edges of the panes show clear signs of heavy wear on both plates. Probably therefore, it was later decided to produce two more plates.

Stamps from the new plates have their earliest cancellations from 1921. Of course, they do not exist with the overprint SO 1920 and there are significantly fewer of them than from stamps printed with the first two TDs. The ratio is about 8:2. It follows from the above that the 3rd and 4th plates were produced at a later stage of production.

*Monografie 4* also states that four plates were used to produce this denomination. It is stated there that the first two printing plates have bevelled digits 3 and 6 in their tally numbers. For plate 1 did not see this bevel and for plate 2 only on part of the release. The *Monografie* further states that the other two plates had along one of the stamp positions at the vertical edge row typographic lines of various lengths which served as an aid in cutting the printing sheets. However, these lines are along both edges of the sheets. On the left they are 7 mm away from the edges of the stamps and 5 mm on the right, while the distance between plates in the printing forme is 3 cm.



Plate 2 without bevelled digits 3 and 6.



Plate 2 with bevelled digits 3 and 6.

Therefore, I believe that these are not dividing lines for cutting sheets, but a test application of stress frames due to the experience with the first plates, which were heavily worn in the edge rows during printing. Because of a complete lack of block material from plates 3 and 4, their reconstruction far from complete. Only the first two plates are fully described by the meritorious work of Mr. Jaroslav Moravec and I hope that another successor will be found so that I may expand my knowledge about plates 3 and 4.

There were several flaws on the original dies for this denomination which then occur on either all or most positions. Therefore, these flaws have no value in determining a specific position. They are:

1. Broken outline of the 3rd leaf of the upper left branch.
2. Interrupted framework between the ES in ČESKO.
3. Broken inner zero contour at 9:00.
4. Small protrusion in S in ČESKO.
5. A small point in Š in POŠTA.





Position 11



Position 11



Position 100

Positions 10 and 20

Examples of typographic lines

and in conclusion I would like to thank Mr. Jaroslav Moravec, Artur Žídek, and Josef Chudob, PhD for help and loan of material.

E. Kolesar

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