Plating Guide for the HRADČANY 3 H

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by
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Hradčany 3h 1. kresba
Rekonstrukce přepážkových archů 1. a 2. tiskové desky

Translated into English with the permission of the
Společnosti sběratelů československých knihtiskových známek
by Dr. Mark Wilson

Additional text from the studies of
Johan Sevenhuijsen

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In addition to the original Czech text, this publication also refers to the work of John Velek in The American Philatelist and contains an essay on the various printings by J. A. Sevenhuijsen. All of the original illustrations have been replaced with scans of stamps from full sheets.

Caveat:
This is an amateur translation by a collector who professes no special knowledge of the Czech language. In this particular instance, the original text – a somewhat distressed photocopy – added to the difficulty of translation by obscuring letters and in some cases entire words. As a result, there may be unintentional misrepresentations of the meaning of the original text. The alternative would have been to keep the translation private rather than sharing it with other interested collectors. Suggestions for corrections, clarifications, or additional information should be emailed to info@knihtisk.com or sent via ordinary mail to Knihtisk, 316 Devland Drive, Winchester, Virginia 22603.

The Translator.

Cover Illustration: Unidirectional gutter in the Czech style “meziarší řezana”.

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April 2004 – Title page and title normalization. Series renumbered from No. 5 to No. 4.
Although frequently the center of collectors’ basic Hradčany studies, no work with respect to reconstructing sheets of the 3h value had been done until now.\footnote{Mention is rarely made in early Czech publications, perhaps because of the Iron Curtain or the lack of access to English writings, of the work done by John Velek in the United States. He published plating details for both 3h plates in 1953, some 34 years before the publication of this Ryvola study.} Some collectors believe that Plate I was repaired several times during the early stages.\footnote{See Velek’s comment on Plate I, Stamp 9 for an example. Ryvola appears to have it correct because Velek seems to have the printing sequence wrong.} No one has submitted evidence in support of these suppositions. The repair of the broken right branch at position 90 on Plate II is the only correction that occurred during the course of printing.

Both plates share a common mark at every position – the first leaf is open at the top. Plate I has another mark common to every position – a bump on the upper frame above the fourth spiral. The size of this bump differs. These common marks are not in the verbal descriptions or the detail drawings.

Most positions on Plate I have a dot over the sixth tower and well delineated rays behind the right branch. Most positions on Plate II lack the dot over the sixth tower, while the rays behind the right branch are slight or faint for half the positions, and for the other half they are simply missing.

Especially striking rays are mentioned in the text. Their exact orientation is indicated by the partial drawings.

The curved bent line reported in the text is probably a nail mark.

The forty-eighth position on both plates has the fewest identifying marks. The flaws mentioned in Monografie I for the 41st position on Plate I, such as the peculiar O in Pošta, occur only in some printings.

F. and S. Zampach’s report in Filateli (1967, page 286) mentions other flaws in the 10th stamp on the glass negative of the first plate. As for the 16th stamp, the flaw was found on one stamp. That flaw was found once on a trial print on chalk paper. The Monografie does not mention it.

These finding were verified using normal sheets, postage-due overprints, and SO 1920 stamps.

Havlíčkův Brod
September 1987
Zdeněk Ryvola
Stamp 1

- Dot beside, sometimes attached to, the upper right corner. Dot on the lower right of the main ray. Large gap in the ray behind the right branch. Slight gap in the top of the fourth heart. Bump on the frame under the right side of the value tablet. Line opposite the lower right corner. Somewhat longer right leg on the A in CHA. Some printings have a curved line (nail mark) in the margin above PO, another in the margin opposite the decoration in front of the Č. Dot under the line near the lower right corner.

- Bumps on the frame above the fourth spiral and the Š. Dot to the right of the top of the second tower. Gap in the top of the second heart. Gaps in the lower frame under the decoration near the left dove, the fourth heart, and the right dove’s foot. Blunted lower right corner.
Common to both plates: Gap above the roof in the left edge of the left branch.

- Gap above the roof in the left edge of the left branch. The P is longer and extends downward through the arch. Gap in the left leg of the A above the crossbar. A line with a dot under it near the upper right of the main ray. Gap in the bottom of the eighth leaf. Bump on the left frame above the E. White spot between the shrub and the Č. White spot above the second wave. Some printings have a bent line in the margin above the left forked line.

- Gap above the roof in the left edge of the left branch. Bump on the frame above the left forked line. Gap in the frame opposite the decoration following KO. Gaps in the left dove on its neck, breast, and stomach. Dot beside the center of the outline of the left dove’s wing. Dot and a line in the center right of the value tablet. Gap in the right dove’s wing just below the bend. Gap on the lower right side of the fourth leaf.
Nick, perhaps a break, on the left inside of the O in PO. Dot to the left of the small turret on the left side of the third tower. Dot, sometimes connected, above the fourth tower. Gap in the colored line under the shrub’s first branch. Gap in the top of the right dove’s little fan. Some printings have a bent line in the margin above the ŠT.

Gap in the frame above the S in SL. Chip from the flat part of the roof within the sun. Two breaks in the top, and another in the right side, of the tenth leaf. White bump extends to the left from the left side of the O in SLOV. Several gaps in the frame above the ČE and the frame bevels inward near the second spiral. Gap in the frame above the center of the P. Gap in the bottom left of the left dove’s little fan. Gaps in the oval at 11:00 and 11:45. Short right leg on the A in MUCHA. Some printings show breaks in the frame above EN.
Common to both plates: Slanted line extends upward and to the left from the tip of the fourth tower. Gap near the top of the main ray.

- Slanted line extends upward and to the left from the tip of the fourth tower. Gap near the top of the main ray. Bumps on the sun at 10:15 and 2:00. The white line is shifted inward and touches the sixth spiral and the letters SLOVENS. Right frame thicker from the upper corner to the K. Gap in the oval at 5:15.

- Slanted line extends upward and to the left from the tip of the fourth tower. Gap near the top of the main ray. Gap in the frame under the decoration near the fourth heart. Some printing show a bump above the right forked line. Dot above the left turret on the third tower. Cracks in the left frame above the lower corner. CHA beveled upward to the right.

- On Plate I, a bump on the frame between the N and S. On Plate II, the legs of the M are quite short. – Knihtisk.
Stamp 5

- Dot over the tip of the fourth tower. Dot to the lower right of the main ray. Bump on the sun at 3:00. Gap in the lower left side of the tenth leaf. Dots on the right dove’s throat and tail. Dot in the bush’s second branch. Only the lower line extends inward from the edge of the left dove’s tail.

- Formless white splotch mars the sixth spiral and S in SLO. Roof peak only extends into the left quarter of the sun and is deformed in the lower part of the sun. Gap in the inside top of the right branch. Left frame rough from the E to the lower corner. Small spot above the seventh wave. Gap in the right side of the right dove’s little fan. Lower left corner points downward. Bumps on the frame under the tip of the right dove’s wing and the right corner. Dots in the margin under the right dove’s wing and lower right corner. MUC cut off. Some printings show a chip, sometimes a gap, in the frame under the fourth heart.
**Stamp 6**

- Upper left corner points to the left and the inner frame has a gap. Upper right corner points to the right. Upper rays to the left of the first tower. Dot, sometimes connected, above the fourth tower. Two dots, one above the other, to the upper right of the dot above the sixth tower. Right frame bumpy between the sixth spiral and the S, and above the S in SL, the Á, the seventh spiral and behind the dove. Lower right corner points downward. Rough frame behind the left dove. Gap in the oval at 10:00. Dots, perhaps bumps on the oval, in the value tablet at 4:00 and 5:00. The T’s leg is quite short.

- Bump on the frame above the right forked line. Line parallel and to the right of the main ray. Dot near the sun at 9:30. Tip of the fifth tower leans toward the left. Dot above the sixth tower. Bump on the frame above the K in KÁ. Gap in the left dove’s wing under its little fan. Gaps in the oval at 10:30, 12:30 and 1:45. Some printings show a horizontal line in the margin above the T.
• Gap in the frame between the T and A. Chips in the top left and inside right of the P’s loop. A number of dots about the tops of the third and fourth towers. White spot in the roof between the second and third towers. Dot to the left of the dot over the sixth tower. Dot next to the A in CHA. Small lines in the seventh and eight leaves. **Some printings have a bump on the frame below the first heart.**

• Frame and Inner frame broken above the O in SLOV. Bump on the upper right side of the fifth tower. Dot above, perhaps attached to, the top of the value tablet at 12:00. Gap in the right side of the third heart. Frame thins under the first heart and bends under the value tablet.
• The entire leg of the P has the same thickness. Chips, perhaps breaks, on the lower right side of the O and Š. A line of six dots runs upward from the tip of the second tower to under the O in PO. Dot, sometimes a blotch, above the fourth tower. Dot inside the sun at 10:45. A vertical line replaces the dot above the sixth tower. Bump on the right frame behind the dove. Gap in the frame below the decoration near the first heart. Some printing have a smear under the sixth tower.

• The sun begins at 9:45 and ends at 3:30. Two white bumps on the bottom of the right branch. White bump on the inside bottom tip of the Č. Dot over the value tablet at 12:00. Dot inside the top of the numeral three – not observed by Knihtisk. Gap in the top right of the fourth heart. Gap in the frame under the decoration near the left dove. Some printings have a gap in the frame over the left forked line and a dot in the margin over the O in SLOV.
Common to both plates: White stem on the seventh and eighth leaves. White splotch on the roof under the sun.

- White stem on the seventh and eighth leaves. White splotch on the roof under the sun. Two dots in the top of the third leaf. Bump on the inside of the sun’s rim at 2:30. Chips in the lower frame under the right side of the value tablet, the decoration, the right dove’s feet, and below the corner. **Some printings have a gap in the left frame above the E. Velek contends that this is a retouch and does not appear on later printings.**

- White stem on the seventh and eighth leaves, which are connected by a gap. White splotch on the roof under the sun. Dot in the top of the third leaf. Dot above the sun at 10:00. Rough frame in front of the Č. Rough frame over the V and E, and the frame thins between the V and E. Bump on the inside of the oval at 1:45. Gap in the frame under the value tablet. **Some printings have a dot opposite the upper left corner. Dot in the bottom of the fourth heart. Dot under the K’s shorter leg.**
Stamp 10

- Two dots near the upper left corner. Bump on the frame opposite the decoration that follows KO. Gap in the right frame above the S in SL and is cut above the L. Bump on the frame under the right dove’s wing. Some printings have a bent line in the margin above the left forked line (nail mark). Gap in the frame over the second spiral. Two white slit marks in the panel above the beginning of the right forked line.

- Gap above the roof in the left side of the left branch. Gap in the line under the decoration near the sixth leaf. Gap in the bottom left of the tenth leaf. Sun begins at 10:00. Dot in the lower right of the bush’s first branch. Gap in the top of the first heart. Gap in the colored line above and to the right of the value tablet. Gap in the upper frame over the O. Some printings have a dot above the sun at 1:00. Bent line in the margin above the S in SL (nail mark).