

**Plating Guide for the  
HRADČANY 120 H**

***Knihřisk***

Series 1: Vol. 5, No 8



by  
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1990

Originally published as  
**STUDIJNI FILATELISTICKÉ PŘÍRUČKY**  
4/1998  
120 Halěřu Hradčany  
Deskové odchylky I. a II. tiskové desky

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**Společnosti sběratelů československých knihřiskových známek**  
by **Dr. Mark Wilson**

**KNHŘISK**

Winchester Virginia

## **KNHTISK**

Series I: Plating the Hradčany. Vol. 5: Fifth Design. No. 8: 120h.

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*The Translator*

**Cover Illustration:** Reverse image transfer to the gummed side of a top-edge strip.

March 2004

March 2004 renumbered from No. 5 to No. 8

April 2004 – Title page and title normalized.

**Preface<sup>1</sup>**

The 120h denomination stamps were released in the so-called Fifth Design which was based upon the Mucha's second design's fifth draft. The plates were made from the auxiliary set up for the 25h stamp by pasting over the value tablet with the new denomination. The size of the auxiliary set up was approximately double that of a printing plate. A prism was used to convert the photographs of the auxiliary set up into a reduced size used for fabricating the printing plates in their normal size. A negative was used to print a reversed (mirror) image on a copper plate which, after etching, was used to manufacture both printing plates.

Abnormalities in the control numbers printed along the lower part of the sheet distinguish which plate was used:

Plate I: For control number 24.–, the numeral 4 is normal and in the stamp over it, the right dove's tail has the pattern + –.<sup>2</sup>

Plate II: For control number 24.–, the numeral 4 has a chip in its base and in the stamp over it, the right dove's tail has the pattern – –.

It is possible to distinguish stamps printed from Plate I or Plate II by the rays in the sky. The rays from Plate I are formed from short colored lines that suggest shading lines. The stamps from Plate II, on the contrary, have rays that are mostly made of colored spots, and when there are lines between them, they are always thicker. In addition, there are substantially fewer rays on the stamps printed from Plate II.

Neither do these stamps have variant types of the fourth spiral as they are all Type I. Nor do they have the lower part of the left inner white frame Types as described in *Filatellii*, Number 14, 1983 on page 424 as do other denominations printed with a Type I spiral. This may imply the sequence of corrective work that led to the presence of Type I fourth spirals and the changes to the lower part of the left inner white frame.

While studying stamps of this denomination, I found all of the variations in the drawing of the bottom of the right inner white line. These flaws were published in *Filatellii* Number 14, 9171 and Number 24, 1972 by František Fryč. I detected flaws that were not mentioned. For these positions:

- I/17 The bottom part of the inner white line extends as far as the lower wrap.
- I/68 The bottom of the upper inner white line is split.
- II/3 The bottom of the upper inner white line is thicker.
- II/79 The bottom of the upper inner white line is extended.

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<sup>1</sup>This is actually the conclusion in the original.

<sup>2</sup>This denotes the open or closed status of the frame and outline of tail of the right dove.  
+ – indicates the frame is closed and the tail is open, whereas – – indicates both are open.

Whether the engravers mended the printing plates first, or the engraving caused the flaws, is not impossible to determine. The fact of the matter is, that for stamps from positions I/68 and II/79, inspection under a magnifying glass demonstrates that these variations are nicks in the engraving.

Other interesting findings are abnormalities from erasures on the stamps from positions I/64 and II/74 in the upper left corner of the stamp. I detected stamps, which in their upper left hand corner, were without any signs of corrections or damage. Correct analysis of these stamp positions was proven by using flaws as controls (shown in the descriptions and image sections of printing abnormalities in this study). Accordingly, my opinion is that the damaged upper left corner of these stamps is from the printing process, and occurred during the assembling of a printing form when removing and replacing the plates. This is supported by the fact that, after printing 40,000 sheets, the four plates in the printing form were removed, cleaned, then remounted in the printing form. Panes, in which the above mentioned stamp positions contained stamps without damaged upper left corners, and with corrections and subsequent worn down metal repairs, are archived in the Postal Museum in Prague.

I found previously unmentioned notable secondary printing flaws. Of the outstanding tertiary flaws, I might mention:

- |          |           |  |
|----------|-----------|--|
| Plate I. | 8:        | colored spot on the roof.                              |
|          | 10:       | frame chipped behind the right dove.                   |
|          | 29:       | chip in the middle of the right frame.                 |
|          | 34:       | curved line under the M in MUCHA.                      |
|          | 40:       | colored spot on the fifth tower.                       |
|          | 53:       | two colored spots on the left frame opposite the dove. |
|          | 91:       | underlined U in MUCHA.                                 |
|          | 98:       | longer left leg on the M in MUCHA.                     |
|          | 100:      | colored spot under the M in MUCHA.                     |
|          | Plate II. | 11:  |
| 47:      |           | colored mark in the lower margin under the right dove. |
| 51:      |           | colored mark on the upper frame over the T.            |
| 54:      |           | colored mark on the upper frame over the T.            |
| 90:      |           | colored mark in front of MUCHA.                        |
|          | 98:       | colored mark in the lower margin under the oval.       |

Printing began on July 23, 1919 and imperforate stamps were released on July 28, 1919. Some 20,370,000 stamps were printed. Of this quantity, only 390,000 stamps were perforated, and those in a line perforation of 11½. The final release of imperforate stamps was 5,250,000 stamps. Another 160,000 stamps were overprinted for SO 1920 and what remained of those printed were surcharged as a 100h denomination for provisional postage due stamps.

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Stamps soaked from paper were used to reconstruct the panes for this study. Stamps surcharged as provisional postage due stamps were also used. We assume that we examined various stamps from both plates. Panes from both plates found at the Postal Museum were used for comparison. Information about the printing was drawn from *Monographs on Czechoslovakian Stamps*, Volume I, by Dr. František Kubát. The contents of this memorable work about the Hradčany issues suggested and enabled this more practical study of the stamps.

Prague. January, 1988.

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Fifth Design Schema