

Plating Guide for the HRADČANY 500H

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by
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Rekonstrukce tiskových desek

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KNHŘISK

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Series I: Plating the Hradčany. Vol. 5: Fifth Design. No. 11: 500h.

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The Translator

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Stamps in the 500h denomination were printed in the so-called Fifth design, which was derived from the fifth modification to Mucha's second draft. The plates were manufactured using the auxiliary setup for the 25h denomination, but by replacing the numerals in the value tablet with new ones. Initially, only one plate was manufactured, and it had control numbers under the lowest row of stamps. Not until the printing of the overprinted airmail stamps was the second plate created, but it was entirely without control numbers. For the printing of the airmail stamps, the control numbers were also removed from Plate I.

It is possible to identify stamps as having been printed with Plate I or Plate II by the appearance of the fourth spiral, which was open on Plate I – Spiral Type I. For Plate II, the fourth spiral was corrected for every position except positions 32 and 35. Those positions provide for the paired types which are sought after by everyone.

While studying stamps printed in the Fifth design, I discovered an interesting variation in the implementation of the bottom of the left inner white frame line. A full report may be found in *Filateli*, No. 14, 1983, page 424. While reconstructing the panes of the 500h denomination, I discovered a further variation that had never been described. Here I merely make a declaration that illustrates a variation for individual stamp positions.

The bottom part of the left inner white line under the lower wrap on the trunk is only indicated by a short white line. For position Plate II, stamp 46, it is also greatly extended, but does not touch the lower horizontal white frame line. For positions 2 and 15 on Plate II, it is extended such that the implementation connects the lower end of of this line with the horizontal white frame line.

In the same manner the right inner right frame line is in two parts, the upper part extends downward to the bottom of the top wrap and the lower part runs upward from the horizontal inner white frame line to the bottom of the lower wrap. For position 82 on Plate II, the lower part extends upward past the lower wrap almost to the upper part of the left inner white frame line.

Of the plate flaws described in the *Monografie*, I found the following:

- I/1: Two cracks in the upper left corner; this occurred only on some printings. One might also infer from the color, only on those stamps where Plates I and II were used in the same printing matrix.
- I/41: White spot in the numerals – this occurred only for some printings.
- II/7: Gap in the oval under the first zero – this really occurs under the second zero.
- II/12: Damaged right branch – this only occurs for some printings.
- II/33: Spot under the lower left corner – this actually occurs at several stamp positions.
- II/50: MUCHA cut off – this actually occurs at several stamp positions.

As for the smear on position I/71, this occurs only on certain printings, and from the color, one may assume only for those printings where both plates were in the printing matrix.

The only secondary flaws I found described in the *Monograph* were:

- Position 16: Colored spot by the upper right corner.
- Position 23: Colored line on the bottom of the numeral 5.
- Position 61: Bold colored blotch in the sky.

To assist in this study I used the full sheets archived in the Postal Museum in Prague and used them for the reconstructions. These were done by my scanning the stamps in the Postal Museum.

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Fifth Design Schema