

Plating Guide for the  
HRADČANY 75 H

**Knihtisk**

Series 1: Vol. 5, No. 5



by  
Jiří Krňák  
1989

Originally published as  
STUDIJNÍ FILATELISTICKÉ PŘÍRUČKY  
8/1989

Rekonstrukce tiskových desek hodnoty 75h Hradčany

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

**KNIHTISK**

Winchester Virginia

## **KNHTISK**

Series I: Plating the Hradčany. Vol. 5: Fifth Design. No. 5: 75h.

Copyright © 2004 by Lunasa LLC. All rights reserved.

Translated from the original Czech with the special permission of the Society for Collectors of Typographic Stamps, Prague.

**Knihřisk** is the imprint of Lunasa LLC, of Winchester, Virginia. [www.knihtisk.com](http://www.knihtisk.com)

**Knihřisk** is a labor of love. Its publications represent the volunteer work of fellow collectors and are sold at prices that merely sustain production. Manufacturing or accepting unauthorized copies undercuts the efforts of contributors and may discourage further work. The only authorized source for copies of **Knihřisk** publications is Lunasa LLC. Please support this effort to bring out-of-print, highly specialized, or materials hidden behind the veil of other languages into the hands of collectors by refusing to accept copies from unauthorized sources. Of course, you may make print or make electronic copies for your personal use, but you must never release or keep a copy to avoid payment.

Please note that series, volumes within series, and numbers within each volume may be published non-sequentially and at irregular intervals. Suggestions for future publications or your own contributions should be sent to the published address of **Knihřisk**.

### **Caveat:**

This is an amateur translation by a collector who professes no special knowledge of the Czech language. In addition, **the phrasing of the descriptions** in this specific work use terminology not found in other plating studies. 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](mailto:info@knihtisk.com) or sent via ordinary mail to **Knihřisk**, 316 Devland Drive, Winchester, Virginia 22603.

*The Translator*

**Cover Illustration:** Trial prints in various colors on stamp paper.

March 2004

March 2004 – Renumbered from No. 2 to No. 5

April 2004 – Title page and title normalized.

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

This study continues the work on the plates of the Hradčany denominations begun by Mr. John Velec in the USA and H. P. Voush in the DDR on the 25h denomination, Mr. Larsen in Denmark on the 100h denomination, Mr. Pellant in Prague on the 40h, Mr. Hamr in Soběslav on the 20h V and 500h, and Mr. Ryvola in Havlíčkův Brod on the 1000h. I patterned my study after them.

The preliminary part I gathered from published information in the *Monographs on Czechoslovakian Stamps*, Volume I, by Dr. František Kubát.

I cross checked all of my findings against sheet materials and against large collections, such as those of the Postal Museum in Prague. Further checking was done with those experts familiar with the Hradčany issues.

The designation of flaws and stamp positions was done by comparing at least ten loose stamps and two panes.

The images of flaws in the descriptive part are photographic enlargements of the stamp positions.

I got the nomenclature I used from the *Monographs*, Volume I. However, when nomenclature could not be found there, I used the terms set by Mr. Pellant for the First and Second designs, and Mr. Hamr for the Fifth Design. This nomenclature is set out at the beginning of this study.

Finally, I must whole-heartedly thank all the experts for their help with this work on these stamps from the first Czechoslovakian issue.

Jiří Krňák  
České Velenice  
May 1989

---

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

## **KNHTISK**

Series I: Plating the Hradčany. Vol. 5: Fifth Design. No. 5: 75h.

### **Previously Published Information**

This information was taken from the *Monographs on Czechoslovakian Stamps*, Volume I, written by Františk Kubát.

Stamps in the 75h denomination were printed in the so-called Fifth Design. This design came from Mucha's fifth revision of the second draft. Two plates, fabricated from a single auxiliary setup, were used for printing. The auxiliary setup was made from the auxiliary setup for the 25h denomination by pasting in a new value. The auxiliary setup was twice the size of the printing plate. A negative was made by photographing the auxiliary setup and using a reduction lens to take the image to the proper size for a plate. A mirror image from the negative was imprinted on the metal plates which were etched where there was no paint, and from which were taken the first and second plates. In the end, the value numerals proved unsuitable and were modified for the 75h denomination. This was because the numeral 7 was created using an inverted 2.

The printing plates consisted of a matrix of 10 x 10 stamps and in the lower part, under the last row of stamps, control numbers were placed to aid in speeding up handling of the stamps.

There occurred an immediate need for stamps in the 75h denomination for registered letters, so this denomination overtook use of the 25h stamps, whose earlier auxiliary setup was pressed into service for this stamp.

The two plates were used in a printing form that required four plates. Thus, the 20h stamp and the 2h newspaper stamp were printed alongside the 75h stamp.

Printing began on June 30, 1919 and the stamps were released on July 3, 1919.

In all, 31,420,000 imperforate stamps were released. After they were issued, some 9,096,000 stamps were overprinted for postage due use and another 220,000 were overprinted SO 1920.

**Interesting Variations in the Stamps**

1. Types
  - a) Spirals
 

Type I (open 4 <sup>th</sup> spiral)	– II/82	
Type II (closed 4 <sup>th</sup> spiral)	– All other stamps on Plates I and II.	
  - b) Numerals (clipped, on both plates)<sup>2</sup>

Type I	– All unmentioned positions	
Type II (upper part of the seven shaved on the left)	– 40	<i>(Monog. XIII)</i>
Type III (horizontal slice from the bottom of the 5)	– 45, 46, 63, 94	<i>(Monog. XIV)</i>
Type IV (slanted slice from the bottom of the 5)	– 26	<i>(Monog. XV)</i>
Type V (crossbar on the 5 sliced slanted to the right)	– 76	<i>(Monog. XVI)</i>
  - c) Positions – The positions of the value within the oval<sup>3</sup>

Type I	– All unmentioned positions
Type II (numerals tilted downward)	– 40, 97
Type III (numerals tilted upward)	– 45
Type IV (low numerals)	– 33
Type V (high numerals)	– 41, 44, 95, 98, 99
Type VI (numerals shifted to the left)	– 18, 86
Type VI (numerals shifted to the right)	– 20, 51, 95
2. Repairs before printing
  - a) Right dove's tail closed on top, open on the right (+ –) – All unmentioned positions
  - b) Right dove's tail open on the top and right (– –)
 

– I: 37, 39, 59, 95, 98
– II: 39, 42, 86, 88
  - c) Right dove's tail closed on the top and right (++) – I: 56. II: 28, 60
3. Retouches after printing – none reported so far.
4. Colors – black green No. 553, – variations : dark green, gray green, black green
5. Paper – from 0.03 to 0.1 mm thick
6. Plate errors
  - a) Secondary (on both plates) – 49
  - b) Tertiary – Plate I: 5, 49, 50, 59, 85, 86, 96
 

– Plate II: 11, 28, 34, 36, 38, 44, 49, 62, 67, 70, 74, 87
--
7. Printing Flaws

---

<sup>2</sup>The positions do not agree with those listed in the *Monographs*, Volume I, page150.

<sup>3</sup>The positions do not agree with those listed in the *Monographs*, Volume I, page152.

## KNHTISK

Series I: Plating the Hradčany. Vol. 5: Fifth Design. No. 5: 75h.

- a) In the design – equal double prints
- b) Transfers – in part, and in whole
- c) Smears – on the right part of the value tablet – Plate II, 22
- d) White splotches – on the left dove – Plate I, 62
- e) Wandering rings – in various places
- f) In the color – color too thick or too thin
- g) In the paper – wrinkled, folded

8. Forgeries – None detected so far.

### **Secondary flaws found but not mentioned in the *Monographs*:**

- 8 Slice in the right frame near the upper corner.
- 13 Two bumps on the bottom of the 5's loop.
- 14 Gap in the fourth spiral.
- 16 White mark (dot) in the p's loop.
- 22 Doubled fourth spiral.
- 24 White mark in front of the Č.
- 28 Notch in the left frame under the first spiral.
- 38 White dot behind the seventh spiral.
- 50 White dot at 2:00 behind the O in SKO.
- 53 MUCHA cut off.
- 65 Notch in the oval at 3:00.
- 71 Dot and mark to the right of the third tower.
- 72 Colored spot over the 5's crossbar
- 80 Bulge on the outside of the 5's loop.
- 89 Pointed upper left corner.
- 100 Bump on the underside of the 5's crossbar.

### **Of the plate faults mentioned in the *Monographs*, I discovered that:**

Plate I: 59 – closed spiral in front of the P – could not be found.

**KNHTISK**

Series I: Plating the Hradčany. Vol. 5: Fifth Design. No. 5: 75h.



Fifth Design Schema