



## On the Rough Road of Independence

Beginnings of Domestic Stamp Production in Hungary

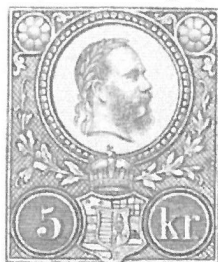


The exhibit summarizes the existing knowledge of the early lithographic and recess (copper) print issues of Hungary and also adds several results of new research by exhibitor.

For more than a century this was an ongoing project in Hungarian philately. Modern computer technique allows us today to identify and use for plating all characteristics of the engraved mother plates.

The history of postal services in Hungary covers about two centuries before the introduction of postage stamps, and then 17 years of sharing Austrian stamps in a long oppression period after a lost freedom-fight.

As result of a 'Compromise' the **first** Hungarian stamps were issued only in 1867 but still printed in Vienna by *typographic* printing techniques and despite the original intent also for use in Austria. That's why Hungary so quickly founded its own State Printing House and issued new definitive postage stamps in 1871. The original dies were created also still in Jacoby's workshop in Vienna. They were multiplied for two kind of mother plate temporary with *lithographic* and continued *copper print* as **second and third** definitive issues and have been printed in Hungary soon.



1871 Portrait issues



1874 Envelope issues

The portrait-design has been quickly changed to a **fourth** issue in 1874. It emphasizes our gained independence by showing only the Hungarian "Holy" Crown and omitting the portrait of the ruler who was also emperor of Austria.

The early perforating machines and the too fine engraving caused many significant manufacturing problems. The regularly corrections gave an extraordinary rich option in plating and in other characteristics for researchers and collectors.

The history of the development of independent stamp production and the reasons for the characteristics of the issues has always been tied up with the historical background of the fight for independence of Hungary, and also with non-postal revenue stamps. The latter not only have the same philatelic characteristics, but are also closely related to the changes.

This collection attempts an innovative approach with the help of some non-postal objects indicating connections, in order to give a more complete view of peculiarities of early Hungarian postage stamp production with lithographic and recess copper printing methods. **The exhibitor's goal** is proving and presenting the extraordinary richness of this philatelic field.

### Plan of exhibit

1. **Prelude**
  - a) *Historical overview of Austrian forerunners in Hungary and*
  - b) *following separate stamps for Hungary still printed in Vienna.*
2. **Philatelic Overview** 1870-1890 (fr.1-2)  
*History of domestic issues; traditional aspects like papers; watermarks; perforations; errors and usage.*
3. **Portrait Issues** 1871 (fr. 2-3)
  - a) *Lithographic issue (2<sup>nd</sup> postage issue)*
  - b) *Engraved issue (3<sup>rd</sup> postage issue)*
4. **Telegraph Stamps** 1873-1874 (fr. 3)
5. **Envelope Issues** 1874-1890 (fr.4-5)
  - 1874 *New design without watermark (4<sup>th</sup> postage issue)*
  - 1881 *First watermark Issue (5<sup>th</sup> postage issue)*
  - 1890 *The 2<sup>nd</sup> plates and switching to typography in 1888*
  - The inexhaustible wealth of envelope issues in specialties and use*

### Highlights

- Frame 1:** 1868 50 kr postage stamp used as revenue on document  
1868 Newspaper stamp of Military Border & concession stamp of ZSGT  
1878 ½kr denomination: rarest stamp issue of Hungarian State
- Frame 2:** 1868-1871 Die proof and trial prints  
1871 First litho 2kr in 1871 & first print of 1874 10 kr envelope design  
1872 Mixed usage of 5kr stationary + 3kr lithograph + 2kr engraved stamp  
1873 Franking with 18 lithographic 5kr postages (block of 12 among them)  
1872 Advertisement with 1kr advertising stamp of Military Border
- Frames 2-5:** 1871-1891 Plating of **all issues** in the period

### Used literature

- Monograph of Hungarian Stamps Vol. III. 1968 Budapest  
available free in English [www.mafitt.hu/monograph](http://www.mafitt.hu/monograph)
- Magyar Bélyegek Kézikönyve 1986 Budapest (so called Black Book)
- Károly Szűcs: Fiscal Philately of Hungary 2018 Budapest  
[www.mabeosz.hu/ora/groups/fiscal/pdf/revision.htm](http://www.mabeosz.hu/ora/groups/fiscal/pdf/revision.htm)
- Károly Szűcs: a set of articles about the plating of all denominations of the 1871 copper print issue in "Bélyegvilág" monthly from number 2020/7 to 2021/4

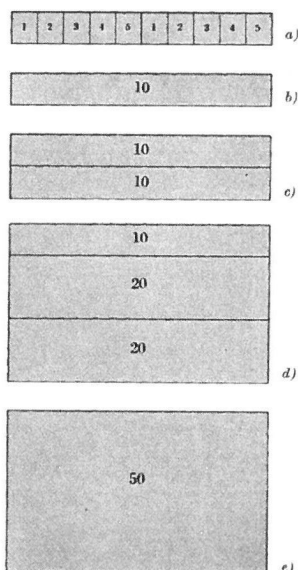
Key items existing less than 20 *estimated* copies by literature are presented in **coloured borders**. Special attention notations are in *colour bold or italics*. **(R)** marks the especially rare and **(c)** certified items. „**p##**” under the stamps indicates distinct position(s) in the sheet. QR codes point to additive information.

## Synopsis

After regaining independence through a long struggle, a printing technique that caused many problems was chosen for domestic stamp production in Hungary: the engraved copper printing. The lack of experience had to overcome many difficulties, which resulted unbelievable philatelic riches. Most of the stamps can also be identified which position of the sheet they come from. The collection summarizes the accumulated knowledge of philatelists researching over a century and a half these early lithographic and engraved copper print issues.

### The method of creating plates for the original die

It was written first by Béla Payer in his Monograph. The process was the same for all issues from 1871 until 1888.



a) Multiplication of first caused column types. The markers of the types repeat underneath in the plate mostly ten times.

b)-d) In the following steps appeared new markers repeating less than ten times underneath.

e) When the partial plate of 50 images was copied and soldered to its original 'twin markers' appear. They can be seen in 5 position distance under each other.

Additional information to exhibit '*On the Rough Road of Independence*'

The markers of types make possible the identification of columns in the sheet. The other markers help in finding the distinct position. In addition the known shape of frame perforation of the 1871<sup>th</sup> issues makes sure the identification because the location of teeth and holes are different in every position.

### Research

The plating of 1871 engravings are based on results of a new philatelic research of plating characteristics by the exhibitor in 2020-2021. Hundreds of new characteristic were developed and published in the number of journal '*Bélyegvilág*' between July 2020 and April 2021.

### Gravure repairs

The most interesting specialties of the issues of the years 1874-1881 were the printing plate repairs. In previous research, they have been called 'later carving' or 'carving repairs'; however, since these were gravures, we must call them 'gravure repairs' or 'printing plate repairs'.

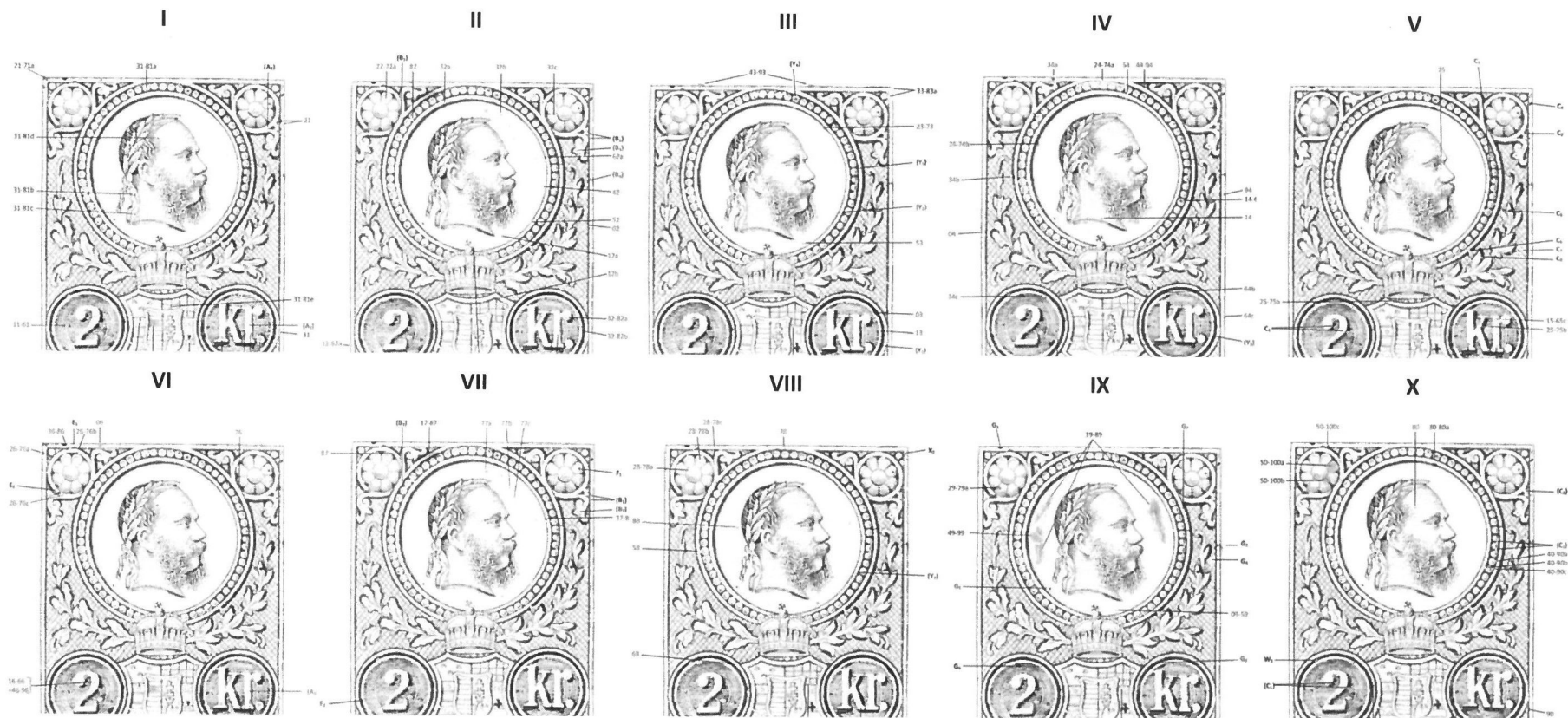
We can find such repairs on the postage stamps of other states, for example England, Belgium, Brazil, and especially Switzerland (the so-called 'standing Helvetia' postage stamps released between 1882 and 1905). However, such quantity and variety of repairs as in case of the Hungarian postage stamps of 1874-1881 was unique.

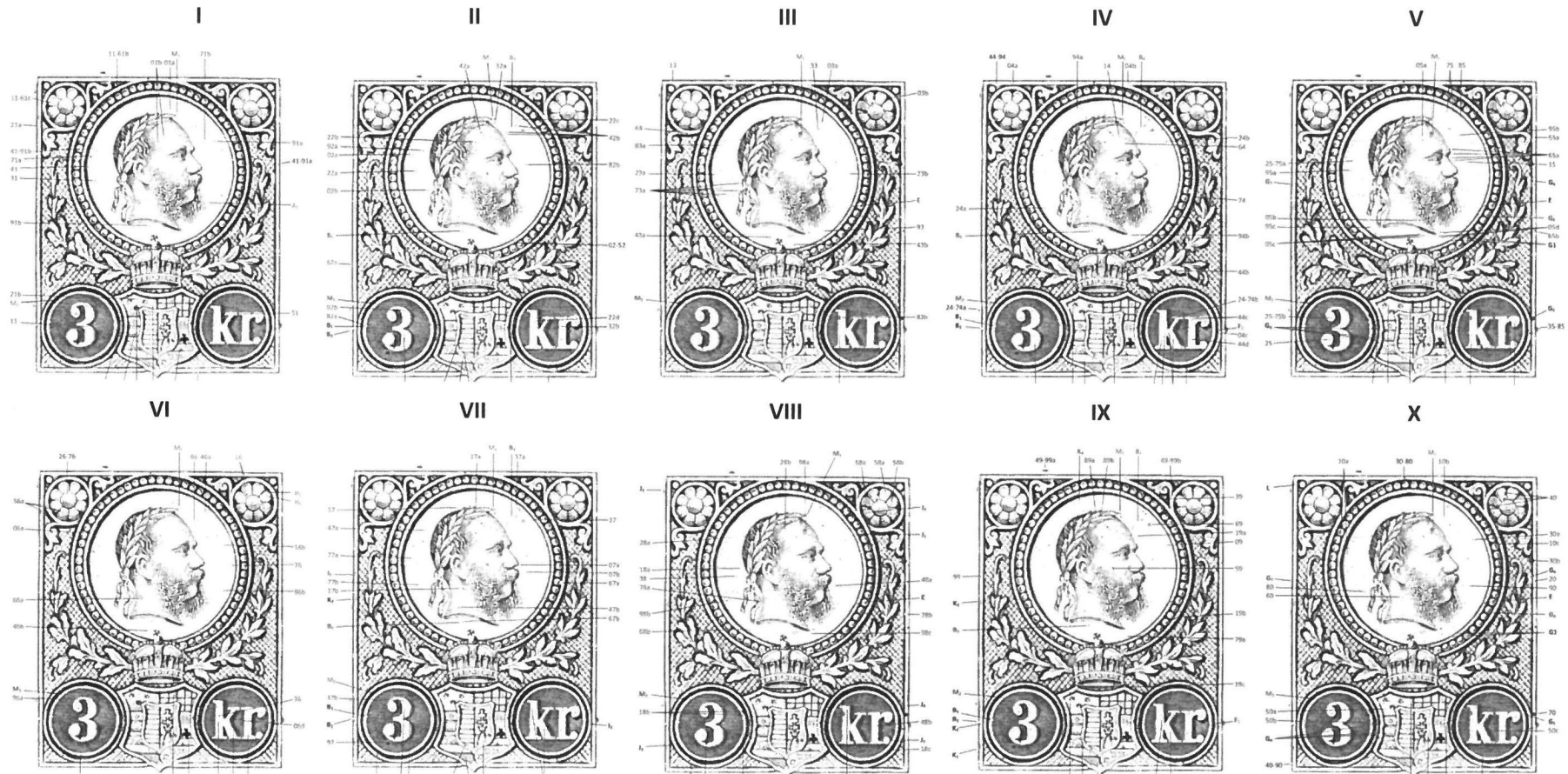
### Extension

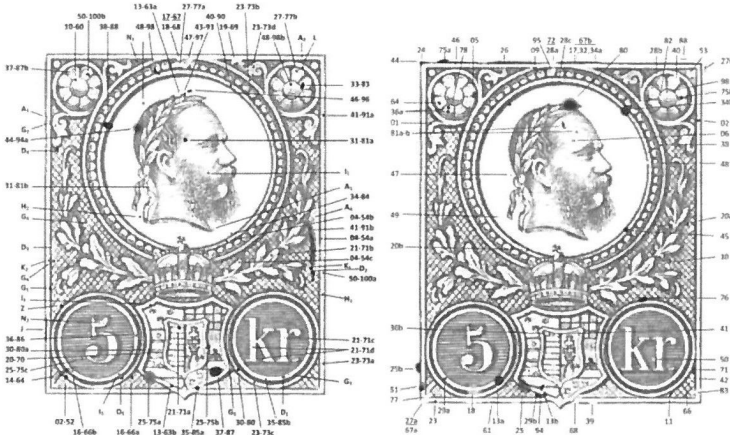
The recent exhibit is extended after the first shows in 2021 to the lithographic issue of 1871 for the FEPA exhibition in Liberec 2022.

## To Frame 2 and 3

Summary of the exhibitor's research with copper print issue of 1871.

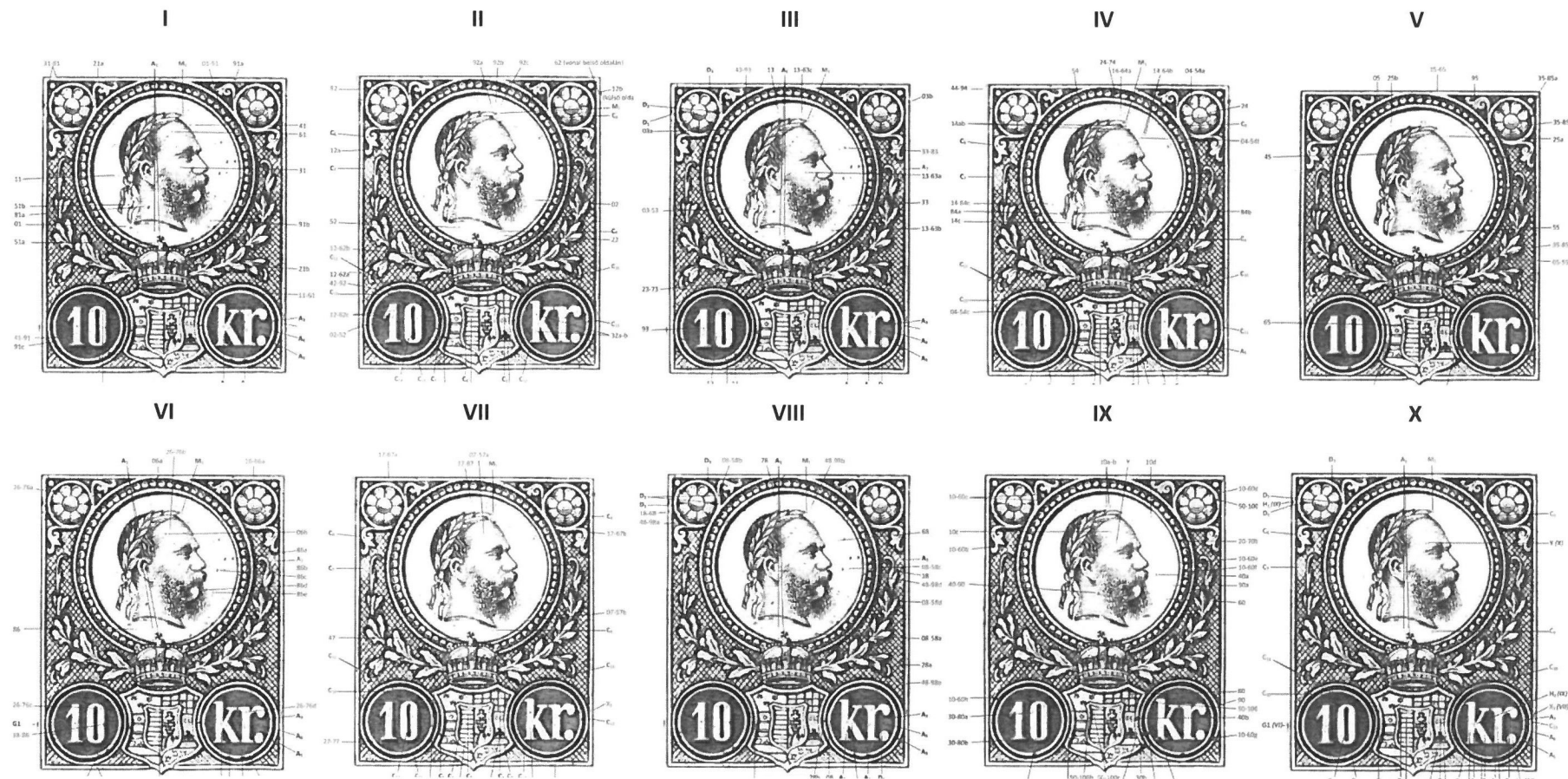






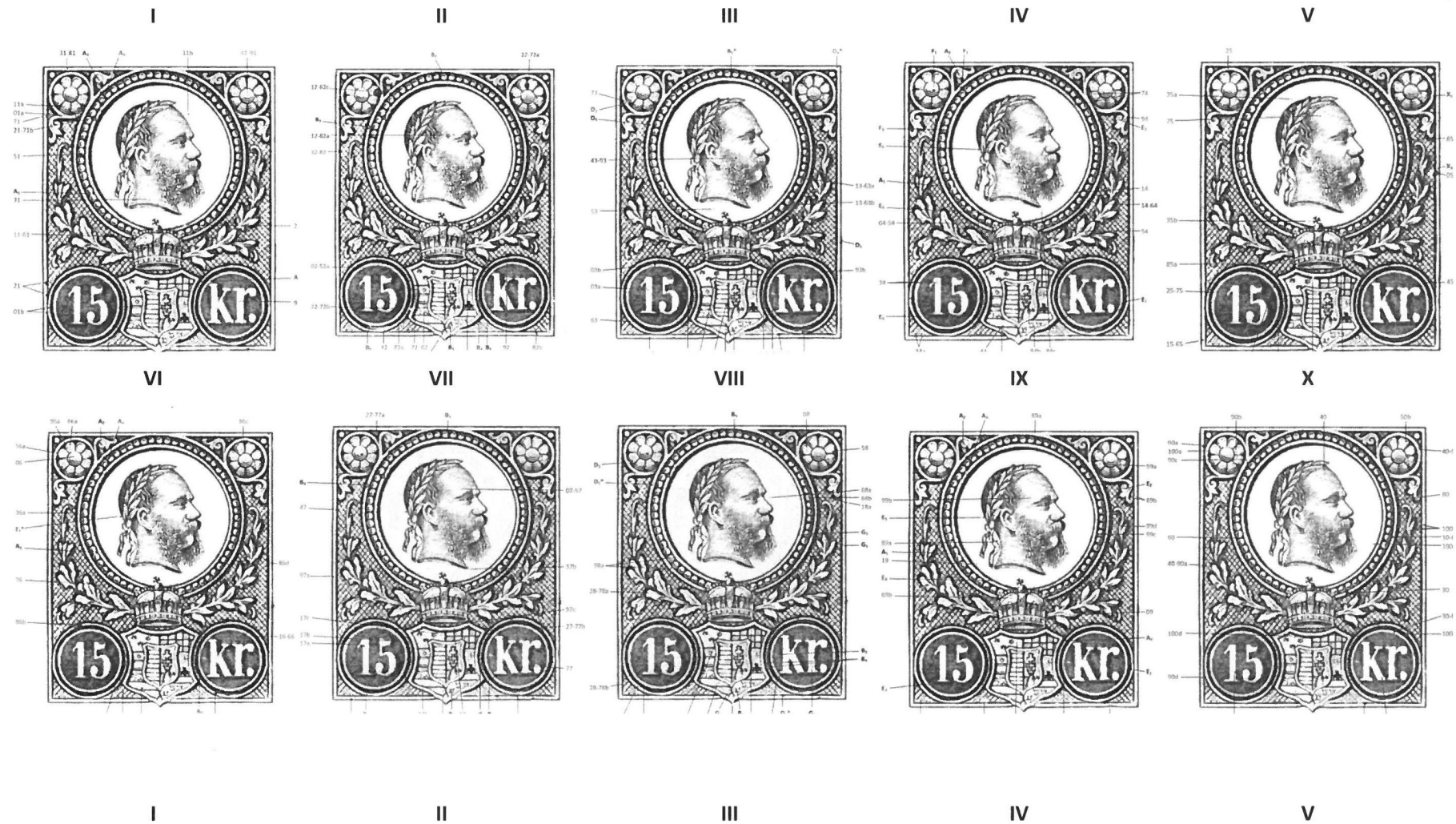
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.	
01	A	D 02-52	G <sub>1-5</sub> D	H <sub>1</sub> A 04-54	I <sub>1-2</sub>	N <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1-2</sub>	JD <sub>1-2,5</sub>	KA <sub>1-2</sub>	D <sub>1-2</sub> G <sub>1-5</sub>	LI <sub>1-2</sub> 10-60	10
11	A 11-61	D	GD 13-63	H <sub>1</sub> A 14-64	I	NA <sub>1-2</sub> I <sub>3</sub> 16-66	JD <sub>1-2</sub> 17-67	K <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1-2</sub> H <sub>1</sub> 18-68	ZD <sub>1-2</sub> G <sub>1-5</sub> 19-69	LI <sub>1-2</sub> 20-70	20
21	A 21-71	D	G <sub>1-5</sub> D 23-73	H <sub>1</sub> A	I <sub>1-2</sub> 25-75	N <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1-2</sub>	JD <sub>1-2,5</sub> 27-77	KA <sub>1-2</sub> H <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>1-2</sub> G <sub>1-5</sub>	LI <sub>1-2</sub> 30-80	30
31	A 31-81	D	G <sub>1-5</sub> D 33-83	H <sub>1</sub> A 34-84	I <sub>1-2</sub> 35-85	N <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1-2</sub>	JD <sub>1-2</sub> 37-87	KA <sub>1-2</sub> H <sub>1</sub>	ZD <sub>1-2</sub> G <sub>1-5</sub>	LI <sub>1-2</sub> 40-90	40
41	A 41-91	D	GD 43-93	HA 44-94	I	NA <sub>1-2</sub>	JD <sub>1-2,5</sub> 47-97	K <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1-2</sub> H <sub>1</sub> 48-98	D <sub>1-2</sub> G <sub>1-5</sub>	LI <sub>1-2</sub> 50-100	50
51	A	D 02-52	G <sub>1-5</sub> D	HA 04-54	I <sub>1-2</sub>	N <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1-2</sub>	JD <sub>1-2,5</sub>	KA <sub>1-2</sub> H <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>1-2</sub> G <sub>1-5</sub>	LI <sub>1-2</sub> 10-60	60
61	A 11-61	D	GD 13-63	H <sub>1</sub> A 14-64	I	NA <sub>1-2</sub> I <sub>3</sub> 16-66	JD <sub>1-2</sub> 17-67	K <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1-2</sub> H <sub>1</sub> 18-68	ZD <sub>1-2</sub> G <sub>1-5</sub> 19-69	LI <sub>1-2</sub> 20-70	70
71	A 21-71	D	G <sub>1-5</sub> D 23-73	HA	I <sub>1-2</sub> 25-75	N <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1-2</sub>	JD <sub>1-2,5</sub> 27-77	KA <sub>1-2</sub> H <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>1-2</sub> G <sub>1-5</sub>	LI <sub>1-2</sub> 30-80	80
81	A 31-81	D	G <sub>1-5</sub> D 33-83	HA 34-84	I <sub>1-2</sub> 35-85	N <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1-2</sub>	JD <sub>1-2</sub> 37-87	KA <sub>1-2</sub> H <sub>1</sub> 38-88	ZD <sub>1-2</sub> G <sub>1-5</sub>	LI <sub>1-2</sub> 40-90	90
91	A 41-91	D	GD 43-93	HA 44-94	I	NA <sub>1-2</sub>	JD <sub>1-2,5</sub> 47-97	K <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1-2</sub> 48-98	D <sub>1-2</sub> G <sub>1-5</sub>	LI <sub>1-2</sub> 50-100	100





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