

The first Revenue Stamps of Hungary *and the Hungarian „Mauritius”*

The display is about the first Hungarian revenues. These issues contain probably the rarest officially used stamp of Hungary shown here lighted through. It is the ½ kr value with the watermark of 1876.



Five copies are reported with this watermark of 1876 also less then the “Mauritius” stamps are

The following story explains the cause of the rarity.

The face value of ½ krajczár was created in one of the lowest quantities of the series, about 1-2 million stamps. The reason of this is the less value. The highest value is the 20 forint. It is four thousands higher as this! Even so the usage was overestimated at the first producing.

As result a significant inventory remained against the other face values when the leaf under-print was changed from green to brown after 12 years in 1880. That's why the exhibitor could use so many unused stamps to his plate reconstruction.

In May of 1878 was organised a World Exhibit in Paris. A decorative album was printed onto cartoon sheets with all stamps produced in Hungary till that time. The die plate of the ½ krajczár had been out of use for many years at this time so they had to check its usability. It seems that this proofing was performed onto official paper with Hungarian watermark and that one(?) sheet was also put into the inventory and came into the usage later.

The first Hungarian revenues are interesting for philatelic collecting and researches. They show clearly the difficulties and struggle of the new founded Hungarian State Print.

The mother plates were produced in Vienna in 1868 and they were used there in the first two years. The plates were used for nearly three decades in Budapest and the producing was changed many times.

The inverted black middle shown in the right was printed in Vienne, and it is also one of the most wanted misprints of our revenues. It has the similar rarity as the green Hungarian “Mauritius” shown over there. You can see both of them in the exhibit marked with red frames.

The estimated production quantities of the rarest stamps are shown in the exhibit in brackets.

Plan: overview – specialities (paper, wmk, perforation, types, errors) – usage – plating.

Literature: Károly Szücs & co-authors: “Pénzügyi bélyegek a Habsburg birodalomban és Magyarországon”, 2007. Budapest.

Sheet Reconstruction of the Hungarian 1 Krajczár Documentary Revenue Stamp Philatelica 11/1 p.13-34
One frame exhibits in Thailand and Brasiliana in 2013 about the plating of the ½ kr and 1 kr.

